The Value for High Performance Homes Campaign is a group of real estate and energy efficiency professionals working together to remove barriers toward the fair value of energy efficient homes. We'll use this regular alert to keep you up-to-date on the latest news and developments. For more, visit the campaign website at [http://www.elevateenergy.org/value-high-performance-homes-campaign/home/](http://www.elevateenergy.org/value-high-performance-homes-campaign/home/).

**A High Performance Home Could Mean a Better Loan**

As of this year, the Federal Housing Administration’s Energy Efficient Homes policy, which provides better loan terms to buyers of newly constructed energy efficient homes, is now available to buyers of existing homes as well. Those refinancing or looking to buy energy efficient homes may be rewarded with higher loan limits. For more information, read Joan Glickman’s guest post on the Better Buildings Solution Center.

**Going for the Gold (Or in this Case, Silver)**

The Real Estate Standards Organization’s (RESO) Executive Director Jeremy Crawford blogs about its commitment to help make “green” decisions a factor in real estate transactions by making home performance data easy to find. Crawford writes that RESO’s involvement in the Home Energy Information Accelerator was a catalyst to incorporate the energy efficient fields in the Silver certification, rather than wait until the final level of Platinum certification as originally planned. This accelerated deadline will encourage vendors to build more standard tools that bridge energy efficiency info into real estate listings and bring the capability of searching by energy efficiency characteristics to more markets.

To learn more about the quality and consistency of green data fields across MLSes, reference the [Green MLS Implementation Guide](#). The guide helps everyone involved in the green real estate transaction speak the same language when it comes to recognizing the value of high performance homes. For more on using the fields, read step four in Elevate Energy’s blueprint, “Unlocking the Value of an Energy Efficient Home”.

**Documenting the Inventory**

To make the value of high performance homes visible in the marketplace, energy efficiency programs have a key role to play in making sure the local real estate market understands how the inventory of energy efficient homes is growing. Programs can do this by consistently tracking data and disseminating efficiency trends in the local housing inventory.

A [market study done in North Carolina](#) did just that. The North Carolina Building Performance Association and UNC Charlotte’s Energy Production and Infrastructure Center collected data from more than 80,000 new and existing homes and buildings to determine which ones qualify as energy efficient or high performing based on certification and verification programs and methods available in North Carolina. To learn more about tracking the supply of energy efficiency homes, read step two in Elevate Energy’s blueprint, “Unlocking the Value of an Energy Efficient Home.”
Mark Your Calendars
Two upcoming conferences will offer ample opportunities to network, learn new skills, and meet stakeholders from both the energy efficiency and real estate sides of the aisle.

ACI National Home Performance Conference and Trade Show
April 4–7, Austin, Texas

In addition to the usual jam-packed educational agenda, ACI is offering multiple sessions that cover the intersection between real estate and energy efficiency. Read more about the conference and register here.

Better Buildings Summit
May 9–11, Washington, DC

For those headed to the Better Buildings Summit, this is a unique year in that the National Association of Realtors’ (NAR) annual meeting overlaps with the Summit. Conference attendees will be able to take advantage of this fortuitous event in two sessions that feature prominent voices from the real estate and energy efficiency communities. Don’t miss the following sessions:

**On the Horizon: Making Home Energy Data Meaningful Beyond the MLS**
*Tuesday, May 10, 11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
This unique session brings together experts from brokerage, lending, and other segments to kick start a dialogue about what data transfer is possible right now and what needs to happen to get reliable energy information into the hands of key decision makers. The discussion will also consider the types of policy and technical changes needed to make energy information as useful as possible within the real estate transaction.

**Uncover the Hidden: Making Home Energy Data Accessible in the Real Estate Market**
*Wednesday, May 11, 11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
At this session, three Home Energy Information Accelerator pilot locations highlight the work they are doing to bring together the disparate groups that are needed to develop, expand, and make home energy data available in the marketplace. Lauren Hansen, CEO of IRES MLS in Colorado, will offer her perspective on the challenges and opportunities from an MLS point of view.

Read more about the single family residential track and check out the exciting line-up of speakers.

If you have any questions, please contact us at Info@ElevateEnergy.org.

You’re receiving this update because you have expressed interest in the topic. We’ll continue to alert you with news and developments. Please feel free to share; others can sign up to receive regular alerts here and you can follow the conversation on Twitter at #VisibleValue.