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/.

Solar Ready with STEP
In an effort to close the knowledge gap, Elevate Energy received a cooperative award from the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative to lead the development of online training programs that will teach real estate professionals, appraisers, and regulators how to value residential solar PV systems. Delivering on fair resale value for these arrays will help promote further homeowner investments in solar.

Elevate’s work on the SunShot Initiative will complement the national work occurring with U.S. Department of Energy’s Better Buildings Home Energy Information Accelerator, an effort to expand the availability and use of reliable home energy information at relevant points in residential real estate transactions. Accelerator partners are working to improve access to and use of reliable energy information, as well as developing strategies to create a sustainable pipeline of reliable energy information on local housing stock. As energy efficiency information becomes available in the marketplace, we set in motion the potential for a virtuous cycle in which homeowners are eager to pay for energy efficiency improvements because they know that they can recover some or all of the value of their investment at the time of home sale.

A Reinvented Energy Efficiency Mortgage Option
Financing options can be a crucial piece of the energy efficiency upgrade puzzle. With that in mind, Fannie Mae recently modified its energy improvement mortgage loan program to encourage homeowners to make energy-saving upgrades to their homes. HomeStyle Energy provides opportunities to finance new energy improvements or pay off previous debt incurred to increase the efficiency of their homes. A key adjustment to the program is the addition of U.S. Department of Energy’s Home Energy Score reports to the line-up of approved reports when one is needed. This addition offers homeowners a quick, reliable, affordable approach for estimating a home’s expected energy use. The Home Energy Score also provides recommendations for cost-effective energy improvements.

In addition to these energy efficiency benefits, Jamie Johnson blogs about HomeStyle Energy’s potential to be a game changer in regards to growing solar installations across the country.

The Green Sheet
Working with the U.S. Department of Energy Better Buildings Home Energy Information Accelerator, the Council of Multiple Listing Services (CMLS) published a resource to educate MLS organizations about the growing number of Automated Energy Models (AEM’s). These models predict a home’s energy usage by using public data such as square footage, location,
and heating and cooling systems. CMLS’s Green Sheet on AEM’s answers questions that MLSs likely have about these tools.

**Tapping High Impact Home Improvements**

The Home Improvement Catalyst (HI-Cat) is a new U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) initiative focused on high impact opportunities to achieve energy savings in home improvements already planned or being undertaken by homeowners. The home improvement market represents $150 billion in annual investment, with over 14 million projects that involve energy efficiency upgrades. Through HI-Cat, DOE will work with partners to guide homeowners to solutions that will achieve greater energy savings over time.

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.