Happy New Year! Thank you for being a part of the Value for High Performance Homes Campaign. If you’re new to this alert, the 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/.

We’re excited to start 2015 with a great roundup. First, we see significant progress toward incorporating high performance home data into the appraisal process (see step five our blueprint). A groundbreaking collaboration between two major players brings renewed focus on an important but underused appraisal tool – the Green and Energy Efficiency Addendum. Also of note, builders in a green certification program will now receive a partially-filled Addendum for every certified single family home, further contributing to fair and consistent valuation of green features. We’re also excited to see progress for a critical home energy auditing standard that provides auditors, contractors, and energy efficiency programs with a consistent point of reference on the “what” of the home energy auditing process. Finally, a landmark report brings it all together by showing that home buyers consistently have been willing to pay more for a certain type of high performance home.

**Modifying the Green and Energy Efficiency Addendum to Better Serve Appraisers**
The Building America Research Alliance facilitated discussions between the Appraisal Institute and RESNET, paving the way for a groundbreaking agreement between the two organizations that allows RESNET-approved Home Energy Rating System (HERS) software to auto-populate data from third-party home energy raters. This has many benefits, including better substantiation for appraisers and more widespread use of the Addendum. In addition, this breakthrough will help with market research, boost consumer awareness of green features, and increase demand for qualified appraisers. Read the full story here.

**Helping Builders Translate Value to Residential Appraisals**
Through a partnership with the Appraisal Institute, Home Innovation Research Labs is helping builders translate the value of National Green Building Standard (NGBS) Green Certification to residential
appraisals. Builders in the NGBS program will receive a partially-completed version of the Addendum for every certified single family home. Builders will be encouraged to add additional information about the home’s features and provide the Addendum to the appraiser assigned to the home. Read the press release here.

Defining High Standards on Home Energy Audits
The Building Performance Institute, Inc. (BPI) published BPI-1100-T-2014: Home Energy Auditing Standard as an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard. This standard defines the requirements for a building science-based evaluation, or audit, of existing detached single family homes. Standards are crucial to making sure the audit results are clear, consistent, and trustworthy. Read the press release here.

Valuing the Financial Benefits of Energy Efficiency in the Multifamily Sector
A new white paper from Elevate Energy focuses on how efficiency upgrades affect the financial performance of buildings. The paper examines building owners’ motivations for investing in energy efficiency, including potential increases in property value. Download the full report here.

Selling into the Sun: Solar Homes Have Value in Real Estate
Lawrence Berkeley National Labs worked closely with the Appraisal Institute to create the largest solar photovoltaic (PV) value study to date. The key finding is that home buyers consistently have been willing to pay more for a property with PV across a variety of states, housing and PV markets, and home types. Read the study here.

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