



*Seeking a
sustainable future
realized by
achieving
harmony between
the natural and
built
environments,
while providing
for the health and
comfort of
building
occupants.*

November 3, 2014

Scott Dimetrosky, EEB Evaluation Consultant
scottd@apexanalyticsllc.com

Dear Mr. Dimetrosky:

The Home Performance Alliance of Connecticut (HPACT) has reviewed "R48:HES Additional Measure Review" and is pleased to provide the following comments on the October 16, 2014 document, for your consideration. HPACT has several members who are Home Energy Solutions (and HES-IE) contractors to the programs that are referenced in this review. Their day to day involvement from the field affords them a view of the program implementation and needs from the customer's level. We welcome the opportunity to bring that field knowledge to your attention with our comments herein.

The four measures specifically outlined in this review are:

- Wi-Fi Thermostats
- Foundation wall insulation
- Water heater tank wrap insulation
- Solar-assisted hot water systems

Taken as a whole, we support the recommendations to further research and consider these measures for future energy savings opportunities, especially for the Home Energy Solutions program.

Taken individually, there are few matters we suggest be kept in mind in regards to implementation of these measures.

- **Wi-Fi Thermostats** - if the measure is incentivized, and added to the HES program, making this a self install program and not an installed measure at the time of HES will be critical in cost savings to the EEB, as there will need to be additional costs for the installation and customer education on how to use if part of the program. That may lower the benefit cost ratio and make it prohibitive to implement. A consideration for a different incentive level for either a self install or contractor installed thermostat may be an option.
- **Foundation wall insulation** - we concur that this would make a much desired incentive for the 18% of CT single-family homes that have uninsulated foundation walls. We assume that this incentive would be implemented via the wrap up of the HES program and thus the valid concerns about potential moisture problems as a result of installation would be appropriately screened by an insulation contractor.

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We suggest that this particular incentive only be accessed by BPI certified insulation contractors to ensure the moisture barrier issues is appropriately addressed.

- **Water heater tank wrap insulation** - noting your challenges to self-installation, HPACT concurs that there are valid reasons to have this product installed by a qualified installer, typically BPI Analyst or higher. However, we encourage further evaluation of this measure to include the additional costs associated with this measure being installed at the time of a HES assessment (which you point out in your potential study findings). It may no longer meet the CT b/c ratio. Another thought on including this measure with the HES appointment is the concern about having appropriate data on what the existing model currently has for insulation. There are so many models with inconsistent product labels noting interior insulation levels, which will be key to whether or not to make the recommendation for a wrap. The logistics of having the right size tank cover for the exact model in the customers' home at the time of a HES appointment also limits the ability to add this to a HES visit. If a second visit is required, the b/c will again drop.
- **Solar-assisted hot water systems** - HPACT supports the recommendation that the emphasis continue to be on heat pump water heaters and high efficiency gas water heaters. We are assuming that oil water heaters are out of the scope of EEB funds.

We most appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on evaluations and/or reviews, completed for programs we are so intimately associated with. HPACT would be happy to provide any additional information that would be helpful to further review of these additional measures. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Theresa R. Lavoie
Executive Director