PERFORMANCE MATTERS

Winter 2025 Issue

In This Issue

Building Analyst Professional and Energy Auditor Recognized as Energy Skilled™ on Google Search

BPI's Building Analyst Professional (BA-P) and Energy Auditor (EA) certifications are now recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy as Energy Skilled™ for Single Family Home Energy Audits.

Google Search and Maps will now show a label on Google Business Profiles when a contracting company employs one or more employees with a workforce credential that is recognized as Energy Skilled.™

A Message from the CEO

Amanda Hatherly, Chief Executive Officer, BPI

Like many of you, BPI shares concerns about the current changes and uncertainties in our industry. We would like to recognize the valuable work of our friends at the Building Performance Association (BPA) who are actively organizing the home performance industry's response to the changing environment.

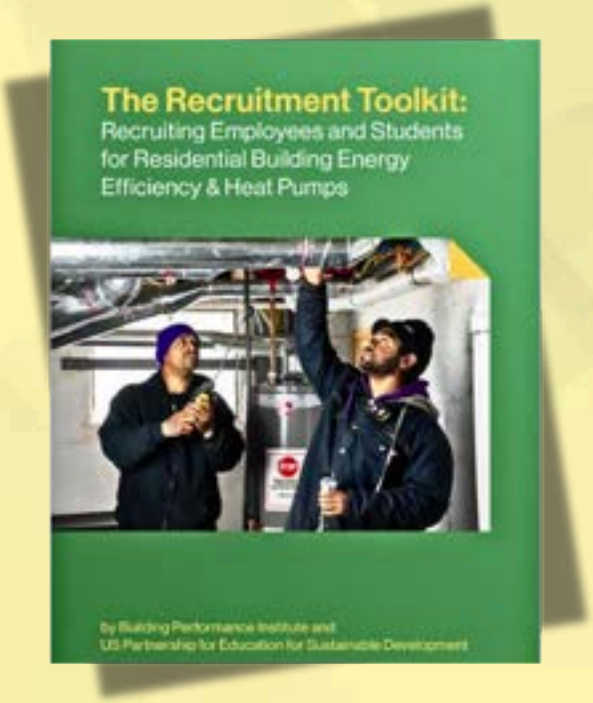
We invite you to explore how BPA is mobilizing the industry to advocate for contractor needs. Please lend them your support!

The Recruitment Toolkit

Nearly 2.2 million Americans now work in energy efficiency—more than any other sector of the U.S. energy industry. The Recruitment Toolkit can take your recruitment capacity to the next level!

It's filled with recruitment messages, graphics, and strategies to get the students and the workers you need. **IT'S FREE!**

Free Download



BPI Welcomes New Staff

Bland Newman is a BPI Technical Relations Representative based in Virginia. He previously worked as a Building Science Trainer and BPI Proctor, where he trained building professionals from all over the US. In his spare time, Bland enjoys fishing and supporting local non-profit organizations.

Casey Smith is a BPI Technical Relations Representative based in North Carolina. He worked as an energy auditor, Project Manager and Building Science Trainer prior to BPI. Fun fact: When Casey was around 19, he was the singer in a Viking metal band.

Brigitte Toussaint is a BPI Customer Relations Representative. She served in the same role from 2011-2015 and we are pleased to welcome her back. In her spare time, Brigitte enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time in nature.

FREE

Study Modules Available from Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP)

Access Here

Total Building Performance Certificate of Knowledge

Would you like to lead the planning and design of deep energy retrofit projects, coordinating the process to meet your customer's needs and budget? The Total Building Performance (TBP) Certificate of Knowledge will determine if you are prepared for success.

The certificate of knowledge covers deep energy retrofits that achieve household energy reductions of at least 50% by addressing all major energy loads.

As a TBP certificate holder, you will be able to plan and design deep energy retrofit projects as a single, smartly phased, comprehensive project that will please customers. Learn More

IT CAME FROM THE SWAMP! (OR SMELLS LIKE IT, ANYWAY)

Linda and Jon are an elderly couple enjoying their golden years. Linda, a talented baker, is always whipping up a fresh batch of chocolate chip cookies or a pineapple upside-down cake for her community events. Now retired, Jon tried his hand at woodworking and discovered he had a real knack for it. With no pets or children living with them, this adventurous couple takes to the open road often to visit family.

Their lovely home is located in the Hudson Valley, New York: it's a 1985 Ranch-stye house with aluminum siding: one story, three bedrooms, 8 foot ceilings and 1,850 square feet of conditioned floor over a full basement. They have an attached garage, which is insulated as well.

On a sunny spring day, Jon and Linda called to have an energy assessment done. While in their home, their auditor, Samuel, noticed a foul odor coming from inside the house while the blower door was running. Linda shared with him that she noticed this at different times throughout the day: even with the scent of golden-brown pastries in the oven and the kitchen exhaust hood running. Jon wondered if there could be a leak in the natural gas piping causing the smell.

Before running the blower door, Samuel found no combustible gas in the basement or on the main floor of the home, and there were no gas leaks found on the gas line during the pre-combustion safety testing assessment. After the blower door had been operating, though, some combustible gas was detected near the guest bedroom and bathroom.

Determined to help this charming couple live their best years comfortably, Samuel mulled over the problem. Drumming his fingers against his clipboard, he thought long and hard about it. He studied the facts. And then it hit him like a flash!

Samuel was able to locate the issue and rectify the problem. (See Samuel's clipboard on the next page for hints.) He was rewarded with one of Linda's delicious caramel-drizzled brownies.

What was causing the foul odor in Jon and Linda's home?

IT CAME FROM THE SWAMP! (OR SMELLS LIKE IT, ANYWAY)

- Home located in Hudson Valley, New York
- Assessment completed on a spring day
- 1985 Ranch style house with aluminum siding.
- One story above ground, 8' ceilings, 1850 square feet of conditioned floor over a full basement.
- House has an attached garage that is insulated.
- No air sealing completed in the home.
- Three bedrooms.
- Accessible attic has 10" fiberglass batts in fair condition.
- New roof installed in 2015 with ridge ventilation, soffit ventilation, and air baffles.
- Wood frame 2X6 house walls with fiberglass batt insulation.
- Double pane windows; Solid wood entry doors.
- Master bedroom has full bath with a tub/shower.
- Second bedroom has full bath with a stand-up shower only and toilet.
- Third bedroom has no bath.
- Hardwood, linoleum, and carpeted floors.
- Recessed lighting in kitchen, living room, and baths.
- Standard bulbs with mix of incandescent/CFLs in rest of home.
- 600 CFM Under Cabinet Exhaust fan in the kitchen vented to the outside.
- Exhaust fans in both bathrooms are vented to the outside.
- Original 1985 furnace: 80% Induced Draft, gas-fired, forced air.
- SEER 13 Air Conditioning installed in 1993.
- A supply register is in every room with one central return.
- Ductwork located in basement is not sealed or insulated.
- Gas meter and exposed plumbing piping are in the basement.
- Wood- working shop located in partitioned area in the basement.
- Low level landscaping with adequate spacing from house.
- Homeowner Information: A retired couple with family living elsewhere, so they travel and are away from home periodically. Woodworking and baking are their main hobbies.
- No pets live in this home.

Assessment Results:
Insulation: R-30 attic floor, R-19 walls, no foundation insulation
Windows: Default U Value 0.55
Doors: Default U Value 0.5
Air Leakage: 6 ACH/50 (1480 cfm@50)

The first respondent with the correct answer will receive 1 CEU.

Send us an entry for our next Stump the Chump!
If you're selected, you'll earn 3 CEUs.

Send your answers and/or entries to Dani Freeman, dfreeman@bpi.org.

HPXML Seeking Input During Public Review Period

The Building Performance Institute, Inc. (BPI) is seeking input from the public on BPI 2100, Home Performance Related Data Transfer (the HPXML Transfer Standard). BPI's Data and Modeling Standards Technical Committee (DM-STC) has approved the release of the draft Version 4.1, for a 45 day public comment period ending on February 28, 2025.

HPXML is a data transfer protocol that can be used to exchange information between different software systems using an open, technology-neutral solution developed through BPI's ANSI-accredited standards development procedures, with openness, transparency, and a consensus-based approach at its core.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) Open Studio HPXML Modeling Toolkit relies on HPXML, and some of the schema changes have been motivated by the changes to this platform. BPI and NREL are working together to synch up the release of Open Studio HPXML with the HPXML V4.1 release.

In addition to the standard, a complete list of changes to the HPXML standard can be found here: HPXML Version 4.1 draft:
https://github.com/hpxmlwg/hpxml/releases/tag/v4.1

To submit comments on HPXML, please download the BPI Standards Comment Form. Completed forms must be submitted to standards@bpi.org by February 28, 2025, in order for comments to be considered by the DM-STC.

Help Shape the Future of hpxml

1. View the Standard and Proposed Changes
2. Download the Comment Form
3. Submit Your Comments

Wildfire Resources

The recent wildfires in Los Angeles are at the top of many minds right now, and everyone at BPI is sending our heartfelt sympathies to all affected by them. To keep our BPI community in the know, here are some resources. We hope you find them useful and insightful.

- ASHRAE Journal podcast on wildfire smoke
- Lessons from Two Surviving LA Fire Homes (YouTube video)
- ASHRAE Guideline 44, Protecting Building Occupants from Smoke During Wildfire and Prescribed Burn Events

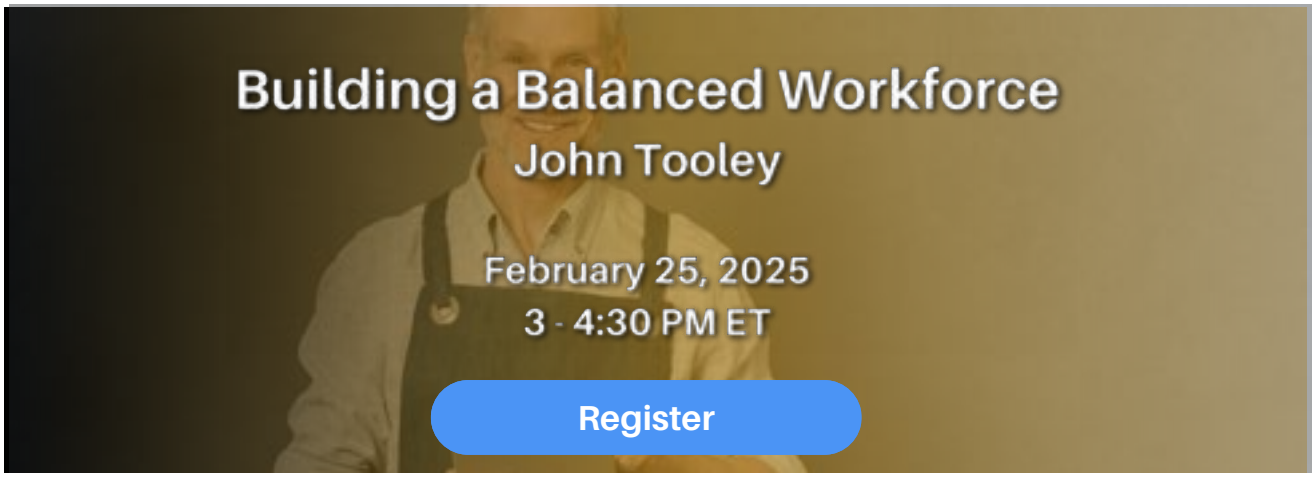
  This is free to read online until February 14 (you do have to create a free account)
- The Disaster After the Disaster: LA Air Quality (Podcast)

Upcoming Events

National Home Performance Conference

GoldStar Webinars

FREE for GoldStar Contractors, their Candidates, and employees, and Test Centers, their Proctors, and employees. The cost is $50 for all others.



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