



**April 5th 2010**

**Hello BPCA Members,**

I would like to welcome you all to the first edition of the BPCA/NYS monthly newsletter. There have been a lot of new developments recently and we'll be looking for your feedback and involvement on many of these initiatives. This newsletter and its stories will be evolving; this issue focuses on both federal and state policy initiatives, as well as other opportunities and announcements from BPCA.

BPCA is strategically positioned within the expanding building performance industry to be a voice for building performance professionals. BPCA has recently grown its membership over the last two years to over 300 individuals throughout NYS. In addition to our work as a trade association for professionals to share and develop best practices in applied building science, we have become a strong representative for our membership at both the state and national levels in our industry. This has been a critical role given all of the new programs emerging in New York State and from the federal government.

I hope you find the topics covered in this issue of value. I would appreciate your feedback on this newsletter and would be glad to provide any additional information requested. I will also be looking for suggestions for topics to be highlighted in future issues.

Thank you,

Jenna Dern  
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### **ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

#### **Annual Meeting of Members and Election of Board Members**

BPCA is holding its Annual Meeting of Members on Monday, **April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010** from **4:00 to 5:30 p.m.** at the [Albany Marriott](#) at 189 Wolf Road in Albany, NY. This important meeting will be an important opportunity for members to discuss and prepare for upcoming changes in the industry. The agenda for the meeting includes an update on the organization, status of federal and state energy efficiency and incentive programs, as well as the election of eight new Board members. After the meeting, you are welcome to join us for some informal networking at a Dutch-Treat Dinner at the Marriott Restaurant.

**Board Election:** This year, the Board intends to expand the number of Directors from nine (9) Directors currently to the maximum of fifteen (15). Since two (2) of the existing are at the end of their terms, there are eight (8) seats to be filled. The Nominating Committee has posted the information provided by the candidates available for your review on our [website](#).

Before the Annual Meeting, BPCA/NYS is offering [two optional training sessions](#) from **1:00 to 3:45 pm**. The first session, **Advanced REMRate** with Robert Kahabka, will be for Certified Raters using REM/Rate Software and will focus on advanced features of software modeling. The second, **Energy Audits & IR** with Gary Goodman is tailored for Home Performance Contractors who will learn how to use infrared thermography for diagnostic work in residential buildings. If you would like to attend one of the Training sessions, please [Pre-Register Online](#).

### **Position Announcement: Executive Director**

The Building Performance Contractors Association of New York State (BPCA/NYS) is seeking candidates for a new permanent Executive Director position. The position requires a dynamic individual who can continue the development and growth of the organization and further its mission, oversee services for the membership, and work with the Board to implement organizational policies. The Executive Director will represent BPCA/NYS at the regional, state and national levels of the building performance industry. This is a great opportunity for an experienced professional to lead our organization at this critical time of growth. Please read the full announcement on the [website](#).

### **Home Performance Contractor Survey**

The Home Performance Contractor Committee was recently sent out to all BPCA members. The survey is a part of BPCA's initiative to engage members and address their concerns. This survey is completely **anonymous** and will take less than 5 minutes to fill out.

We request that you please take a few minutes to complete it by Tuesday, April 6th 2010. To fill out the survey, click here (or copy the following address into your web browser): [www.surveymonkey.com/s/YJKSFTK](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YJKSFTK)

If you have specific questions or comments and would like follow-up information, please don't hesitate to contact me at [jenna@home-performance.org](mailto:jenna@home-performance.org).

### **NYS Chapter of Efficiency First**

BPCA/NYS has been working with [Efficiency First](#) in a joint partnership to develop the New York State Chapter of Efficiency First. Efficiency First, is a national nonprofit trade association that unites the Home Performance workforce, building product manufacturers and related businesses to be a voice for the Home Performance industry, and to advocate for policies that will create the foundation for a sustainable and scalable home retrofit market.

The NYS Chapter of Efficiency First will have its first meeting via webinar/conference call on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The agenda will be sent out to members shortly, topics will include: Home Star, PACE and New York State's Energy Programs. We encourage all BPCA members to become a member of Efficiency First, contact Damian Hodkinson ([Damian@trueenergysolutions.com](mailto:Damian@trueenergysolutions.com)) or Jenna Dern ([jenna@home-performance.org](mailto:jenna@home-performance.org)) for more information.



### **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:**

#### **HOME STAR legislation Introduced in the Senate**

The [Home Star Energy Retrofit Act of 2010](#) (S.3177) was officially introduced in the Senate on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2010, marking another important step in the legislative process that could establish a powerful new energy retrofit incentive and financing program for American homeowners. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico, a Democrat, but has already gained bipartisan support, with South Carolina Republican Lindsey Graham and Virginia Democrat Mark Warner signing on as cosponsors of the legislation.

The bill now resides in the Senate Finance Committee. Last week the House Subcommittee on Energy and Environment completed its markup of the Home Star Retrofit Act of 2010 and passed the bill to the full House Committee on Energy and Commerce. We expect approval by the Committee and then bill introduction in the House shortly after the April recess, which ends on April 9<sup>th</sup>. With such distinct bipartisan support so early on with the draft and committee votes on the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act of 2010 (S.3177), stay tuned for more updates and action steps.

For more information on Home Star, please take a look at the following links: [Home Star Coalition](#), [Efficiency First](#), and [RESNET](#).

### **EPAct Energy Efficiency Tax Credit for Home Builders**

The \$2000 Federal Tax Credit for Home Builders which expired at the end of 2009 is still on hold within the legislative process. The new energy efficiency home credit, located within [H.R. 4213 the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010](#) extends the eligibility of obtaining this credit until December 31, 2010. This bill was approved by the Senate on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and by the House December 9<sup>th</sup> 2009. Now the two chambers are working out the differences between each approved version. Following this, the bill can go to the President for signing and become law.

### **NYS LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:**

#### **Green Jobs Green NY**

NYSERDA is rapidly approaching the launch of Green Jobs Green NY later this spring. “GJGNY targets New York State residential building owners, small businesses, and not-for-profits, offering financing through a revolving loan fund and job training to support the growth of a workforce deployed to deliver and implement energy-efficiency projects” (NYSERDA). Richard Kornbluth, President of the Board of Directors on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 was invited to participate within the Green Jobs Green NY (GJGNY) Advisory Council. Kornbluth, also sitting on the Workforce Development and the 1-4 Family Buildings Working Groups, has been advocating for building performance professionals and the application building science, to include that contractors performing comprehensive audits are working within BPI or equivalent standards.

“It is anticipated that the (majority of the) [Green Jobs/Green NY](#) initiative will fall in step with the current NYSERDA Home Performance with ENERGY STAR (HPwES) program” ([NYSERDA](#)). A target of 70 % of the program resources will go to residential retrofits and 30 % for small businesses. The draft [Outreach and Marketing Operating Plan](#) provides a detailed description of how all the program partners, contractors, and communities will be able to make this program a success.

#### **PACE- Property Accessed Clean Energy**

[Property Assessed Clean Energy \(PACE\)](#) is one of the most talked about finance mechanisms of the GJGNY program. PACE bonds or sustainable energy loans are programs set up by a municipality, municipal economic development agency, or state authority to finance energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy installations for residential and small businesses. Homeowners can be eligible to opt in for a low-interest fixed interest rate loan/bond, capped at 10 % of the property value that could have a repayment plan of 15-20 years via an annual assessment on the owner's property tax bill.

[PACE loans/bonds](#) can assist homeowners overcome the lack of access to capital funds to perform comprehensive home assessments which can increase the comfort, health and safety of the occupants, as well as the building's structural durability. BPCA's Government Relations Working Group (GRWG) has been working with the Pace Climate and Energy Center, the National Resource Defense Council (NRDC), and other related organizations to promote additional amendments to the State legislation that will be discussed in the near future.

**OTHER NEWS:**

**Affordable Comfort Annual Conference**

The ACI Home Performance Conference creates a forum where forward-thinking people meet to explore building science know-how and high growth career prospects. This year, conference will be held Austin, TX April 19 – 23, 2010. [The program](#) will address both hot and cold climate issues, with a focus on energy retrofit for “whole house” solutions. For more details on the conference, visit [Affordable Comfort](#).