

# Building a More Efficient Future

## Our Mission

To advance environmental and economic well-being by providing unmatched energy services, products, education and information based on world-class research.

## Overview

Our staff of approximately 100 people (energy engineers, energy specialists, technical experts, software developers, energy research librarians and more) works out of our Olympia, Spokane and other satellite offices. Operating similar to a consulting firm, the WSU Extension Energy Program is a self-supported department within the University.

Our customers include large and small businesses, public and private utilities, local and state governments, tribes, federal agencies and facilities, manufacturing plants, professional and trade associations, schools, universities, national laboratories, and consumers.

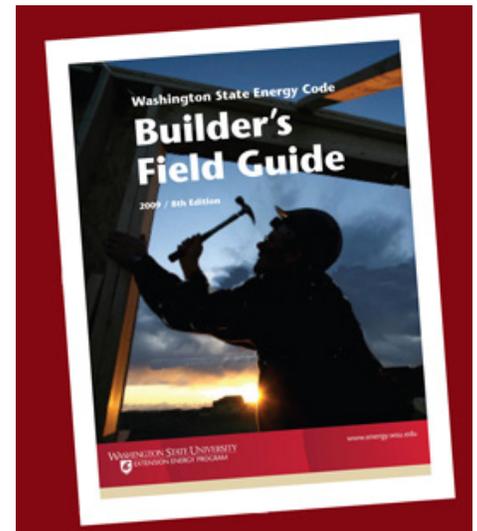
For more information, visit our website at [www.energy.wsu.edu](http://www.energy.wsu.edu).

Buildings in the United States consume more energy than any other sector of the economy. Energy efficient buildings can help lower energy operating costs and benefit the environment by reducing energy demand. The Washington State University (WSU) Extension Energy Program has a team of specialists working to promote energy efficiency in buildings – across the Northwest and beyond – through the use of applied building science techniques.

## Energy Code Support

Our energy code specialists provide training and support for the residential sections of the Washington State Energy Code. They travel around Washington teaching classes to industry and building department personnel. The classes provide useful information on the requirements of the code and how to build and test houses that meet these requirements. The energy code specialists also answer questions that are received on the Washington State Residential Energy Code Hotline.

Our website contains many tools and publications that we have developed to help users understand and comply with the requirements of the energy code. The *Builder's Field Guide* is especially helpful to individuals designing and constructing homes. It contains practical descriptions and illustrations of building methods that meet the standards of the energy



The *Builder's Field Guide* is updated every other year and is available for free download.

code. The prescriptive and component performance worksheets are used by designers, builders and individuals to document compliance with the energy code for building permit applications.

Our specialists have also developed two videos that teach the fundamentals of duct sealing and air sealing homes. *Duct Sealing for Comfort, Energy and Indoor Air Quality* and *Air Leakage in Homes: The Invisible Thief* are available on our website and offer information that is useful for homeowners as well as industry professionals.

## Community Energy Efficiency Pilot Program

When the U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program and the American Recovery and



An air sealing test is now required in Washington state.

Reinvestment Act allocated funds to the State of Washington, the Washington State Legislature created the *Community Energy Efficiency Pilot Program*. The WSU Extension Energy Program was designated to oversee this program.

Eight projects in communities across the state received funding to use for residential and small commercial energy efficiency retrofits and upgrades. The projects include performing home energy audits, as well as weatherizing and retrofitting existing homes and commercial buildings.

## Northwest ENERGY STAR Homes

ENERGY STAR® is a national program administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Department of Energy to encourage the use of energy efficient technologies and practices that will help save money and protect the environment by reducing energy use. Northwest ENERGY STAR Homes is a regional

project that promotes the construction of energy efficient homes built to meet EPA guidelines in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Our building science specialists administer the Northwest ENERGY STAR program and provide quality assurance inspections for homes built to meet ENERGY STAR standards.

## Building America Builders Challenge

We partner with manufacturers of ventilation equipment on heat recovery and non-heat recovery ventilation systems as part of the Building America Builders Challenge Program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The program centers on the research and deployment of ventilation equipment. It also includes working with not-for-profit organizations and military family housing projects to offer education on the commissioning of ventilation equipment and related issues. The goal is to encourage builders to "build tight and ventilate right."

## Certification Training

Our specialists offer training opportunities for Home Energy Raters (HERS), Performance Tested Comfort Systems (PTCS), Building Performance Institute (BPI) Auditors and Infrared Building Applications. Participants who complete the classes become certified professionals in the specialty area.

## Developing National Standards

Our specialists sit on national committees and aid in the development of national indoor air quality and home energy efficiency retrofit standards. We have been nationally recognized for our contributions on these committees.

### Contact Information

Website:

[www.energy.wsu.edu](http://www.energy.wsu.edu)

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