

2011 RESNET Priorities

Adopted by the RESNET Board of Directors October 26, 2010

- **Tap the Retrofit Market** – Seventy-five percent of buildings that will exist in the year 2050 have already been built. Clearly, if the U.S. is to meet its energy and climate change goals, the energy performance of existing buildings must be improved. This initiative will be addressed through the consumer focus of the new RESNET web site, strategic partnerships with allied trade associations, building supply companies, full implementation of the RESNET National Energy Audit Standard and EnergySmart Contractor guidelines, advocating for innovative financing option, and support of the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program, the Department of Energy's emphasis on existing homes in the Building America Program, and developing a closer working relationship with the Building Performance Institute. This effort will include linking raters and contractors in teams together for comprehensive retrofits.
- **Position RESNET as an Organization to Take Advantage of the Opportunities and Meet the Challenges of the Future** – The building performance industry is at a cross roads. The current economic downturn, increased interest in increasing building energy performance of buildings by government agencies, and the convergence of interests with homebuilders and contractors have created new opportunities and challenges to RESNET as an organization. Another development is the inclusion of COMNET and the commercial building sector into RESNET. To review the opportunities and threats created in these times and to recommend revisions to the RESNET strategic planning framework, RESNET has created a RESNET Strategic Positioning Task Force. The task force has been tasked with undertaking a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis (SWOT). Based upon this analysis the task force will recommend revisions to the RESNET Strategic Planning Framework. It will also consider what restructuring of the organization is necessary to meet the strategic planning framework. This effort will be assisted by the new RESNET Industry Advisory Committee composed on leaders in the home building, real estate and mortgage industries and public policy experts.
- **Make RESNET Standards Compliant with American National Standard Institute (ANSI) Protocols** – There is increasing interest in ramping up the performance of energy codes and labeling the energy performance of buildings. The RESNET Standards would be the logical foundation for such initiatives. In order to have the credibility to be referenced in codes and regulations, RESNET standards must be in compliance with procedures adopted by ANSI for the development of consensus standards. RESNET has secured professional services to develop recommendations on making

RESNET's process compliant with the ANSI process. In 2010 RESNET will revise its procedures to be ANSI compliant and apply to be an ANSI Standards Development Organization. After RESNET is accredited as a Standards Development Organization, it will adopt the revised standards as ANSI standards. The RESNET Standards Committee will oversee this process.

- **Enhance Quality Assurance Oversight of Rating a Building's Energy Performance** – RESNET's mission is to set the standard of quality for rating a building's energy performance. It must always be a priority for the organization to maintain high quality oversight of the standards. In 2011 RESNET will complete a file documentation of provider compliance with RESNET's quality assurance procedures and field monitoring of 25% of accredited rating providers. RESNET will also implement the newly enhanced RESNET quality assurance procedures.
- **Expand RESNET Members Business Opportunities** – As a market driven organization not reliant upon government funding, the success of RESNET is determined by the business success of RESNET's members. In 2010 RESNET ramped up this effort through development of a new web site aimed at consumers and that serves as a portal for linking RESNET certified raters and auditors with contractors and a media marketing effort. In 2011 these efforts will be continued and new business opportunities presented through partnerships with such initiatives as WaterSense, green building programs, and code compliance verification.
- **COMNET Recognized as the Commercial Building Energy Performance Rating Standard** – In 2010 COMNET was incorporated into RESNET. COMNET activities are coordinated by the RESNET COMNET Standing Committee. With funding from the Energy Foundation the "COMNET Commercial Buildings Energy Modeling Guidelines and Procedures" were drafted. RESNET has adopted and posted the guidelines and procedures. In 2011 COMNET's efforts will be focused on working with such organizations as U.S. Green Building Council, ASHREA, the U.S. Department of Energy, Environment Protection Agency and Internal Revenue Service to recognize the guidelines for their programs. In addition, the COMNET committee will develop standards for the training and certification of commercial building raters and recommend an organizational and financing structure to the RESNET Board.
- **Foster Strategic Partnerships with the Private Sector** – As a membership based, standards setting, not-for-profit organization, RESNET does not have the resources to undertake the marketing efforts to change markets and encourage efficiency unless it works with partners with large advertising and direct selling budgets. The key to bringing these market forces into play is developing strategic partnerships with the private sector. In 2010 RESNET

created strategic partnerships with the PulteGroup, Lennar Homes, the Home Depot, the U.S. Green Building Council, the Insulation Contractors Association of America and the Air Conditioning Contractors of America. In 2011 these partnerships will be deployed and additional partners will be recruited. Enhanced relationships with the Building Performance Institute and Efficiency First will also be developed.

- **Advocate for Federal Energy, Climate Change and Tax Incentive Legislation** – Congress is in the process of creating a number of policy initiatives that address improving the energy performance of buildings. These initiatives include ramping up building energy codes, creating rebates for improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings, labeling the energy performance of buildings, adopting federal standards for utility energy efficiency standards and designing creative financing for building energy performance. In 2011 RESNET will play an active role in working with other energy efficiency and environmental advocacy organizations in providing decision makers with the information needed to craft effective programs that build upon the success of existing efforts. RESNET efforts will be enhanced by its new Washington representative.
- **Influence Initiatives on Building Energy Performance Labeling, Energy Efficient Mortgages and Creative Financing** – The Obama Administration and local government and utility programs are interested in creating programs for the labeling of energy performance of buildings, revitalizing energy and location efficient mortgage products and creating innovative financing mechanisms such as loan guarantees, on-bill financing and property tax financing. With its decades of experience with energy efficient mortgages and its active dialog with the European Union's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive labeling efforts, RESNET can provide an important resource to the federal government in the design and implementation of these efforts. A key element of this effort will be to ensure that the initiatives support and expand current efforts rather than replacing them.
- **Adopt Comprehensive Retrofit Energy Audit Software Standard** – With the emergence of such efforts in support of comprehensive retrofits such as the proposed Home Star's Gold Star program there is a need to develop a standard for comprehensive retrofit energy audit standards. RESNET has formed a task force composed of representatives of the nation's leading energy modeling software programs, the national energy research laboratories and the Building Performance Institute. In 2011 the standard will be completed and adopted. In addition, RESNET will work with the U.S. Department of Energy and Environment Protection Agency in recognizing the standard for the Gold Star program and the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program.

- **Adopt Standard on Performance Testing** – With the growing sophistication of energy raters and auditors, a standard that sets RESNET procedures for the performance testing of building performance is needed. The RESNET Technical Committee is currently drafting the standards that will address air leakage, duct leakage, thermographic, appliance combustion safety testing and developing a work order. The standards will be adopted and implemented in 2011.
- **Implement the RESNET National Building Registry** – Previously there has been no national repository of information on homes that have been rated or assessed following the protocols contained in the RESNET standards or qualified for the federal tax credits. To fill this vacuum, RESNET has developed a RESNET National Building Registry. The registry is an electronic database where accredited providers will upload basic information on homes rated, assessed, or otherwise inspected and tested to meet any program guidelines requiring RESNET quality assurance oversight. The registry is currently undergoing beta testing and will be online in early 2011. In 2011 RESNET staff will also work with The U.S. Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency and Fannie Mae on using the national building registry for the National Builders Challenge, the ENERGY STAR for Homes Program, and energy efficient mortgages.
- **Assist the Environmental Protection Agency in Implementing Version 3 of the ENERGY STAR for Homes Program** – In 2012 the Environmental Protection (EPA) will fully implement Version 3 of the ENERGY STAR for Homes program. This version makes significant changes to the program which will change the role of the home energy rater in the verification of ENERGY STAR Homes. RESNET will work with EPA on the training of raters on the new program requirements as well as work with the Air Conditioning Contractors of America and the quality review of contractors' calculation of the proper sizing of the HVAC systems for ENERGY STAR labeled homes.
- **Position Building Performance for the Emerging Global Carbon Market** – The United Nations is convening the international negotiations for the successor to the Kyoto Climate Accord. It is probable that the U.S. will become a party of the new international treaty. In addition it is possible that the U.S. will adopt a mandatory greenhouse gas cap and trade system in the near future. This will create the foundations for a dynamic global carbon market. The United Nations is pushing to include improving building energy performance as a key principle of the Copenhagen treaty. A global carbon market with the right provisions could provide a key boost in measuring, calculating and improving building energy performance. In 2011 RESNET will work to advocate that the new international climate treaty addresses building performance and to ensure its standards will comply with the new international protocols. RESNET's membership in the United Nations Environmental Program, active involvement in the ISO process of developing

standards for rating building energy performance and dialog with the European Unions Energy Performance of Building Directive, positions the organization to be effective in this effort