

Builder call script

To get the right person:

My name is Lauren with Performance Systems Development, and we are implementing a research project with the Department of Energy regarding the energy efficiency in new homes. Who would I speak to about potentially evaluating one (or maybe more) of your homes?

When talking to the right person:

My name is Lauren with Performance Systems Development, and we are implementing a research project with the Department of Energy to measure and improve the energy efficiency in new homes. The goal of the project is to establish a long-term source of funding to support low-cost energy code training, education, and support for builders, code officials and others construction industry professionals. For this project, we will be making observations of energy efficiency-related items in new homes followed by a two-year program of energy code training, education, and support, and then a post-program evaluation of energy efficiency to see if we've made a difference.

We randomly selected 45 municipalities in Pennsylvania and [Township/Borough/City] was one of those 45. We then randomly selected several homes from a list of recently permitted homes that we obtained from [Township/Borough/City] to participate in an on-site evaluation, and one (or more) of your homes was selected. We'd like to schedule one of our energy experts for a brief inspection at Address sometime between [Date and Date].

Follow-up questions:

- I have here that this home was permitted on [DATE] and we're interested in knowing more about the phase of construction it's in (e.g. foundation, rough-framing, rough mechanical, insulation, drywall, finish work/final). Can you tell me how far along the home is?
- We anticipate inspections taking 30 minutes or less to go through a checklist of energy code inspection items. [If the home is at final inspection phase, note that...] For homes at the final inspection phase, we plan to do performance testing including blower door and duct leakage testing, which could take up to three hours.
- Who should we contact about scheduling a specific time/date for an inspection?
- Who should our field staff ask for when arriving on-site?

Assurances:

- Builder name, municipality name, home address, or other identifying information will NOT be included in data reported to DOE (or anyone else). All of this information will be kept strictly confidential.
- Field staff will arrive with personal protective equipment (PPE) and check in with the agreed-upon on-site contact.

If they ask:

- Inspection items include: Insulation R-values, window/door U-factors, air sealing details, HVAC units, ducts, lighting
- This project has NOTHING to do with adoption of new code versions (e.g. 2012, 2015)

Benefits to builders

For sampled homes we can provide:

- Blower door and duct leakage test results when applicable.

The program (starting around April) will:

- Supply low cost energy code training and webinars
- Provide a limited number of free energy code consultations by HERS Raters
- Help foster a level playing field through increased uniformity

General advantages of new homes built to code:

- Documented advantage over existing homes (comfort, lower bills)
- Reduced risk/liability