NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATE COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

2022
WINTER TRAINING CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 2

EMPOWERING PEOPLE – CHANGING LIVES

Weatherization Updates from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory
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Chuck Kurnik, Jal Desai, Allison Moe, Cory Chovanec, Juliana Williams
NASCSP 2022 Winter Conference
February 28-March 2, 2022
Welcome and Introduction

Chuck Kurnik
Weatherization Team

NREL provides technical assistance and research to support high-quality work and highly qualified workers in the weatherization and home performance industry.

- Maintaining technical specifications and tools
- Developing innovative approaches to strengthen workforce skills and qualifications
- Collaborating with training providers
- Fostering continuous improvement throughout WAP.

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) aims to reduce energy costs for low-income households by increasing their home energy efficiency, while ensuring health and safety standards.

**Contact the weatherization team:** workforce.guidelines@nrel.gov

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**Technical**

- Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals (GHEP):
  - Standard Work Specifications (SWS)
  - Worker Credentials.
- Weatherization Assistant Tool.

**Programmatic**

- Continuous Improvement Workshops
- WAP Administrative Trainings
- Stakeholder Coordination.
SWS and Certifications

Jal Desai and Kimberly Nelson
The SWS represent consent-based guidance developed in accordance with industry best practices and intended to achieve higher-quality outcomes for home weatherization.

Periodically reviewed to capture current best practices recommended by the network, as well as to promote consistency across the industry, including training centers.

SWS field guides are used to implement Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)-funded work that aligns with SWS content.

SWS Website Activity Overview

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FY 21 Statistics (Oct 2020-Sep 2021)</th>
<th>Pageviews:</th>
<th>Total Visits:</th>
<th>Total Visitors:</th>
<th>Average Time on Site:</th>
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<td>28,913</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• Released February 2021
• Details, subtopics, and specifications.

Use the Standard Work Specifications (SWS) tool as an industry guide to ensure work performed during home energy upgrades is effective, durable, and safe. To view SWS 2017, please visit the [SWS 2017 legacy website](#).

Subtopic 2.0101 Detectores de humo

**2.0101.1 Detectores de humo cableados (interconectados)**

Desired Outcome: Detectores de humo interconectados correctamente seleccionados e instalados

Available In: Single Family Site-Built Housing, Manufactured Housing, Multifamily Housing

**2.0101.2 Detectores de humo a batería**

Desired Outcome: Detectores de humo a batería correctamente seleccionados e instalados

Available In: Single Family Site-Built Housing, Manufactured Housing, Multifamily Housing
SWS Field Guide

• Create and customize a field guide
• Field guide customization:
  – Title
  – Housing type
  – Public or private
  – Organization/authority name
  – Logo
  – Cover page
  – Disclaimer
  – Detail images
  – Detail custom text.
• Downloadable as a PDF
• Sign up for a free account to create a field guide and access community field guides
• Learn how to create a field guide on the SWS Help page: https://sws.nrel.gov/help.
Updates

• The SWS Version 2017 (SWS v.2017) legacy website will no longer be available from October 1, 2022.
• The 2017 SWS version can be accessed as a PDF for each housing type until then.
• .CSV and .XSLX export options for the 2020 SWS version are coming soon.
• The SWS are maintained to ensure they continue to reflect industry-accepted practices. Industry stakeholders are encouraged to suggest revisions to the SWS by submitting comments. The deadline to submit comments is September 30, 2022.

To provide feedback, email: workforce.guidelines@nrel.gov.
DOE WAP
Installer Badges Toolkit

Jal Desai
The Badges Toolkit for home retrofits consists of 25 "badges."

Each badge defines a task or measures an installer could perform on a home.

The badges encourage greater flexibility in the training of installers by allowing them to focus only on those measures that are installed in their program or profession.
Installer Badges

• Feedback received from users who have downloaded the toolkit so far:

  - Organize a conference to work one-on-one with training centers or grantees to help them customize the content or process and motivate the end users.
  - Create multimedia training for each badge.
  - Badges Toolkit’s implementation depends on how employers integrate the Badges Toolkit to motivate their crews.
  - Badges Toolkit should be promoted as webinars using case studies.
  - Include best practices for each badge along with visualizations.
  - Badges Toolkit will help in overall program improvement as it places the responsibility of the skills back on the worker.
  - Concerns over how to define a "qualified supervisor".
Resources and Updates

- Aligned with updated SWS version and other relevant standards. Since 2019, 225+ users have downloaded the Badges Toolkit.

- Job aids associated with Badges (single-family) will be published on the website soon.
Resources and Updates

• Installer Badges: https://sws.nrel.gov/installerbadges.
• Webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plt-wRPBy_A.
Home Energy Professional (HEP) Certifications

Jal Desai
Energy Auditor (EA) and Quality Control Inspector (QCI)

• The EA/QCI scheme committee is responsible for the continued maintenance of the scheme in accordance with the ISO/IEC 17024 and additional requirements (for, e.g., identifying the appropriate assessment method, prerequisites, code of conduct, etc.). A new EA/QCI scheme committee has been selected for the 2022-26 term.

• The EA/QCI scheme committee has begun the revision process for the Single-Family EA and QCI Job Task Analyses (JTAs), which will be completed by the end of this year. The revised JTAs will be validated and rolled out in the EA and QCI exams by the end of next year.

• NOTE: “Site supervisor” credential recently rolled out by BPI is not required or endorsed by DOE for the WAP work.

Resources:
https://www.energy.gov/eere/wipo/guidelines-home-energy-professionals-accredited-training
Continuous Improvement and Program Support

Allison Moe
Allison Moe
Project Manager
Through NREL, DOE is continuing to engage with the WAP network on improving program implementation through the Continuous Improvement Workshops.

In 2022 there will be two workshops, both virtual, and both open to all WAP stakeholders:

- Workshop #1: Wednesday May 4, 2022
  • Topic: Workforce Development

- Workshop #2: Wednesday, August 17, 2022
  • Topic: The Future of WAP

Workshop Applications are due March 16.
NREL coordinated with NASCSP to develop a series of weatherization careers flyers to assist WAP agencies in recruiting employees.

– Basic information about weatherization careers
– State-specific wage data for different field and administrative positions
– Editable and noneditable versions for individual agencies.

NASCSP will make the flyers available to Grantees that responded to the 2021 wage survey.
In the fall of 2021, NREL convened a technical review panel of WAP stakeholders to provide feedback on new Priority Lists drafted by DOE.

The Priority Lists establish a set of Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) that can be completed on small multifamily buildings without an energy audit.

There are three regional Priority Lists for hot, moderate, and cold climates.

The new small multifamily Priority Lists are currently under final review by DOE.
Workforce Support

Cory Chovanec
Cory Chovanec
Energy Market and Policy Analyst
• Home Energy Professional EA and QCI Learning Pathways
• 13 pre-approved courses (pending)
• Eligible courses:
  • 9 EA = 2.41 CEUs
  • 13 QCI = 3.41 CEUs.
• Learners to earn CEUs upon course completion and successful quiz score.
• NREL will submit earned CEUs to the Building Performance Institute (BPI) monthly.
Administrative Training CEUs

- Create an account for free access to WAP training: https://wap.litmos.com/self-signup.
- Self-paced (average 15 minutes per course).
EA/QCI-Aligned Course Titles:

- Federal Statutes, Regulations, and Grant Guidance
- Weatherization Budget Basics
- Managing Multiple Funding Streams
- It’s a Deferral, What Next?
- The House as a System
- Understanding the Savings to Investment Ratio
- Is Your Work Order in Order?
- Managing Subcontractors
- Maintaining Complete Job Files.
QCI-Aligned Course Titles:

• Show me the Money! Reconciling Invoices
• Support Quality Work Through Training and Technical Assistance Funds
• Request the Right Training for Your Agency
• Identifying Work Quality Issues.
NREL will be engaging the WAP network to better understand current and future workforce staffing needs.

- Data collection planned for late spring/early summer 2022:
  - Grantees
  - Subgrantees
  - Contractors
  - Training Providers.
Grantee Training

Juliana Williams
Grantee Trainings

NREL, with support from IREC and NASCSP, is developing a series of online Grantee Trainings, to be available at: https://wap.litmos.com. Course topics include:

- Grantee Plan Development
- Monitoring
- Quality Work Plan
- Technical Resources.

The courses will be piloted in April 2022. To participate in the pilot, email Laure Jeanne Davignon at laurejeanne@irecusa.org.
Sign up for Weatherization updates from DOE at: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USEERE/subscribe/new.