



Entry Form 2017 Annual Awards for Program Excellence

Entry Deadline: Thursday, June 15, 2017, Midnight ET

Each entry must include a completed entry form. Please complete a form for each entry your HFA is submitting. The completed entry form will become the first page of your entry.

This form is a fillable PDF. Type your information into the entry form and save it as a PDF. Please do not write on or scan the entry form. **Questions: Call 202-624-7710 or email awards@ncsha.org.**

Entry Title: Enter your entry's title exactly as you wish it to be published on the NCSHA website and in the awards program.

Category:

Subcategory:

Entry Summary: A 15-word (max) summary of the program, project, or practice you are entering.

HFA:

HFA Staff Contact:

Phone:

Email:

Visual Aids:

Are you mailing to NCSHA 10 copies of any visual aids that cannot be included in your entry PDF? Yes No

Payment:

My HFA is mailing a check to NCSHA.
My HFA is emailing the credit card authorization form to awards@ncsha.org.

Overview

Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) invests in quality housing solutions to strengthen families and communities across the state. We help families purchase homes so they can have more stability and live more financially secure. We also help families maintain their homes, create safer environments, and preserve their investment by educating them about energy efficient improvements that reduce home energy use, thus making the home more affordable. As the economy changes and costs of goods, services, and other necessities increase, it is essential for many families to reduce other costs, and making home energy improvements is one solution with longer-term impacts.

KHC has created a multifaceted approach to improving the health, comfort, safety, and energy efficiency of Kentucky homes. In addition to educating energy consumers, offering certification trainings for professionals helps strengthen the state's economy, and helps developers and families get quality, certified work for home energy improvements to multifamily and residential homes in the state.

Background

KHC is home to the Residential Energy Efficiency (REE) Training Initiatives, which is a multifaceted approach to energy efficiency education.

KHC's [REE Training Center](#) offers an array of [training courses](#) for professionals in the building and energy efficiency industries. The 7,200 square foot training facility is equipped with high-tech classrooms and state-of-the-art training labs to provide students with a high-quality learning environment. SMART technology allows students to participate in the instructional process in the classroom while fully functioning training labs provide students with hands-on application of the techniques learned.

In addition to training and certification for professionals, REE offers education opportunities for public school educators, and homeowners seeking to understand how a home functions as a comprehensive system and to lower their energy consumption.

Through public education, workforce growth, and energy efficiency financing, KHC is committed to supporting and expanding the energy-efficiency industry.

Response to a Need

KHC's Design and Construction Review Department (DCR) identified a problem multifamily developers were having in understanding and meeting the ventilation requirements for multifamily construction. REE instructors worked with DCR to provide consulting and mentoring to developers to correct ventilation deficiencies in current construction projects to achieve final construction approval. REE also provided in-house training to DCR inspectors to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide guidance to multifamily developers on future projects.

The REE training center partners with Solar Kentucky to provide free home energy efficiency education workshops to the public through a series of community events throughout Kentucky. Solar Kentucky is a collaborative effort between Clean Power Planet, Kentucky Habitat for Humanity, and KHC. In conjunction with Solar Kentucky's efforts to bring awareness about alternative energy sources and to incorporate solar arrays on Habitat for Humanity builds, REE has coordinated free educational workshops at community events including topics such as Basic Home Energy Efficiency, Solar 101, and Energy Efficiency and Solar Incentives.

**Kentucky Housing Corporation
Special Achievement
Residential Energy Efficiency (REE)**

The REE training center hosted the [Kentucky Chapter of the National Energy Education Development \(NEED\) Project](#) tour to provide energy education to K-12 teachers. REE instructors provided education on basic building science and presented an overview of the Kentucky Home Performance (KHP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). Providing training to K-12 educators allows them to take that knowledge back to their schools to start early education of the next generation of homeowners and energy consumers. For more information please visit the [NEED Project website](#).

REE partnered with the Kentucky Department of Housing Buildings and Construction (HBC) to develop a training course to meet a specific need in the Kentucky Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) industry in response to recent regulatory changes. REE worked with HBC to become an approved continuing education unit (CEU) provider for the Kentucky HVAC industry.

Innovative

REE seeks out every opportunity to educate about energy efficiency and its financial impacts. From WAP employees, multifamily developers, general public, and KHC's staff, REE has taken energy efficiency education beyond traditional boundaries to effect change at every level.

KHC took advantage of the small training program it inherited with the WAP in 2009 and grew it into a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to energy efficiency education. The REE training center was originally housed in a small garage and has since grown to a 7,200 square foot facility; which will soon be expanded to 7,800 square feet with the completion of a new multifamily training lab in June 2017.

KHC spent two years working toward obtaining national accreditation from the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) for the full suite of Home Energy Professional (HEP) training curricula, which includes Energy Auditor, Retrofit Installer Technician, Crew Leader, and Quality Control Inspector courses. IREC is the premiere credentialing body in the energy industry. REE received accreditation for its Energy Auditor and Quality Control Inspector curricula in September 2015 and for the remaining two courses in December 2016.

REE also became a certified test facility for Building Performance Institute (BPI) certifications in February 2016. This process included building specific test props for use in field practical exams. Currently, REE is one of only four facilities in the country certified to provide testing for all four BPI HEP certifications.

KHC is using REE's certification as a BPI test facility and its IREC accreditation to develop a new revenue stream for the Corporation. Certification testing is offered to industry professionals outside of the Kentucky WAP at market rate. We also develop and deliver training courses and provide consulting services to partners and industry professionals outside of the Kentucky WAP.

Replicable

KHC's REE Training Initiatives concept is replicable though the facility itself would be difficult to duplicate. With the right stakeholders, efforts can be made to educate the public on energy efficiency and its positive economic impacts on all homeowners, especially low-income.

Results

KHC's multifamily developers were educated on ventilation requirements and together with DCR, determined an acceptable course of action to resolve deficiencies allowing the project to be completed.

The two largest urban areas in the state, Louisville and Lexington Solar Kentucky events, each saw attendance double from the previous year. Attendees and coordinators attributed the increased attendance to the free education sessions offered. REE is currently planning an event in Berea, a more rural, southern area, with others planned in Elizabethtown and Bowling Green to reach the western region of the state.

Twenty-two K-12 educators attended the NEED tour at REE. All were excited to learn about the REE center, building science, WAP, and other KHC efforts to keep housing affordable for Kentuckians.

Benefits Outweigh Costs

Ventilation training for multifamily developers:

Cost - limited to staff time of REE trainer.

Benefit - educated developers, compliance with requirements, healthier living conditions for tenants.

Solar Kentucky education sessions:

Cost - limited to staff time to coordinate speakers and present sessions.

Benefit - public education, empowering homeowners to improve the efficiency of their homes and lower their utility bills; marketing opportunities for KHC, REE and partners; new partnerships with speakers; publicity for Solar Kentucky partners. Link to Herald Leader article about Solar Kentucky here <http://www.kentucky.com/news/business/article116971368.html>

KY NEED project tour:

Cost - staff time to host tour, including trainers to present building science training.

Benefit - knowledge that the teachers can take back to the classrooms; partnership building with DEDI, LGE&KU, KY NEED coordinator and participants; marketing opportunity for KHP.

Home energy efficiency workshop for internal KHC staff:

Cost - limited to the trainer's time to present the home energy efficiency workshop.

Benefit – understanding of the impacts of energy inefficiency on low-income families (food insecurity, health, financial); public education, empowering homeowners to improve the efficiency of homes and lower utility bills.

Effectively Use Resources

KHC tapped into existing resources developed for the Weatherization Assistance Program and grew them into a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach to educating the public, retrofit industry, developers, and staff to promote awareness of, challenges to, and benefits of energy efficiency.

Visual Aids:

1. [IREC Certificates](#)
2. [BPI Test Center Agreement](#)
3. [REE Training Center Images](#)