

## **DOE and EPA Accepting Comments on Residential Retrofit Protocols and Standards**

*NASEO*

On Nov. 9, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released protocols and guidance for residential retrofits and home energy upgrades. The [\*Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades\*](#) drafted by EPA and the [\*Workforce Guidelines for Home Energy Upgrades\*](#) drafted by DOE are complementary documents intended to provide practical resources for contractors, trainers, and program administrators. These companion voluntary protocols and standards are designed to foster a stronger residential retrofit market. Both documents are open to public review and comment.

EPA's [\*Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades\*](#) outlines assessment protocols, minimum prescriptive actions, and additional expanded actions, supplemented by recommended standards and best practices. These voluntary protocols can be incorporated into other standards, training, and revisions to program funding. The protocols address both single-family and multi-family low-rise buildings and place high priority on maintaining or improving occupant and contractor health while making energy efficiency home improvements and ensuring the quality of the work performed.

**Deadline for comments is December 9, 2010.** Read [more about the indoor air quality project](#) at the EPA website, and [download a comment form](#).

DOE's [\*Workforce Guidelines for Home Energy Upgrades\*](#) includes standards and work specifications for four common home-performance job classifications: Energy Auditor, Installer/Technician, Crew Chief, and Quality Assurance Professional/Inspector. These voluntary standards are a positive step forward in creating a new clean energy workforce through national guidelines while strengthening demand for residential retrofits by enabling transparent and consistent expectations for work performed, bolstering confidence for both homeowners and the finance community in the quality of energy upgrades.

**Deadline for comments is January 7, 2011.** Interested parties can [submit comments online](#). [See the DOE Residential Retrofit Guidelines page](#) for more information.