



Home Energy Labeling Information Exchange (HELIX)

The U.S. DOE announced on September 15, 2015 an award of \$786,103 (for three years) to the Vermont Public Service Department under the State Energy Program (SEP) to advance “innovative approaches for local clean energy development” for HELIX. NEEP will manage the project. A summary follows.

Team Member Organizations	Project States
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vermont Public Service Department (PSD) • Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) • Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) • National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) • Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (MA DOER) • Energy Futures Group (EFG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecticut • Maine • Massachusetts • New Hampshire • New York • Rhode Island • Vermont

The overall project goal is to expedite the creation of large-scale home energy labeling policies and programs that support the market valuation of energy efficiency in homes by making U.S. DOE [Home Energy Score](#) (HES) data accessible to local Multiple Listing Services (MLS) and other market interests (e.g., assessors, appraisers, energy efficiency programs and service providers, lenders, energy code officials) through a publicly accessible database – the Home Energy Labeling Information Exchange (HELIX). HELIX will serve as a database for U.S. DOE HES data and as conduit for incorporating this information into local MLSs while providing appropriate data security and privacy protections. The project builds upon recent efforts to “Green the MLS” that have created standard fields in MLS data structure for energy efficiency data. This project takes the next step by developing a path to transmit the HES data from efficiency programs to MLSs.



Through HELIX, the project will provide a common, easy to use, publicly accessible database of home energy scores that enables wide, consistent and correct use of such information in the appraisal and marketing of homes (both rated and unrated) and aid home owners, buyers, landlords, tenants, Realtors and lenders to incorporate the value of home energy attributes into their financial equations. With ready access to home energy ratings, supported by training and coordinated marketing, such market interests are more likely to value home energy efficiency similar to how vehicle miles per gallon (MPG) has made fuel efficiency a key consideration in the purchase and sale of cars and trucks. Propelled by market demand for such information to guide home sales and purchases, real estate professionals will then have a strong incentive to make home energy rating a standard practice in property listing, evaluations and sales. It will also facilitate consistent use of and common public access to home energy scores across the seven participating states, each of which have pursued, piloted, or deployed a home energy rating program, or passed enabling legislation to do so.