

## Towards National Standards for Workforce Certification and Training Program Accreditation

NEEP  
Workforce  
Development  
Forum

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Boston, MA

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- Good morning.
- My name is Benjamin Goldstein, Office of EERE in U.S. DOE
- Serve as the DOE liaison to the Recovery through Retrofit Interagency Process, and coordinator of EERE's retrofit workforce development activities
- Thanks to NEEP for organizing this workforce forum.
- Thanks to Sue Coakley and Ed Schmidt for the invitation to be here
- Thanks to all of you for being here and for your dedication to this noble endeavor

# Objectives Today

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**ENERGY** | Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy

Identify the challenges

Outline a path forward

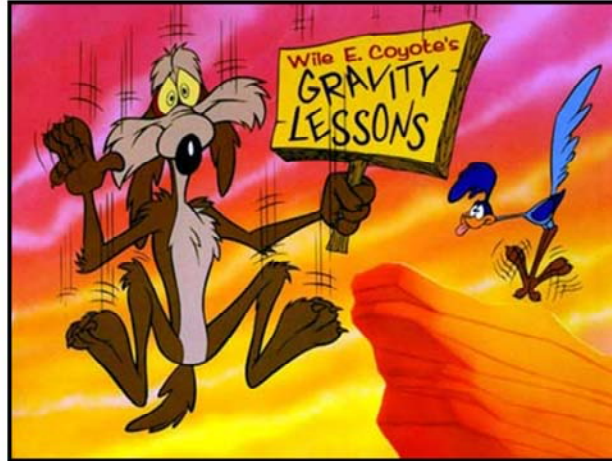
Listen to your suggestions

Discuss

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- Promise to not talk about global warming or unemployment—we all know why energy efficiency retrofits are a win-win-win
- Note that our path forward is still being developed. That's one reason I'm here. To solicit your input. I'll be in front of a slightly different crowd at ACI in Austin in April, and we'll also be issuing a Request for Information to collect public comments. So this is really the first of many listening sessions to come.



Picture worth a 1000 words

Housing market collapse

Construction industry employment numbers

What happens to the residential energy efficiency retrofit industry after the Recovery Act funding phases out?

What happens to all the WAP workers hired for Recovery Act jobs?

*May, 2009: Vice President Biden called on the Council of Environmental Quality to develop a plan for Federal action to lay the architecture for a self-sustaining home energy efficiency retrofit industry.*



Vice President and Middle Class Task force identified this challenge

## Interagency Taskforce – Headed by CEQ and OVP

- Office of the Vice President
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Labor
- Department of Treasury
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- General Services Administration
- Small Business Administration
- Executive Office of the President
  - Council of Economic Advisers
  - Domestic Policy Council
  - National Economic Council
  - Office of Management and Budget
  - Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs
  - Office of Science and Technology Policy



## Recovery through Retrofit

### Consumer Information

Consumers do not have access to straightforward and reliable information.

### Worker Certification & Training

Consumers and industry want access to consistent workforce standards and a national certification.

### Financing

Homeowners need access to financing to pursue investments in energy efficiency.

## RTR Six Recommendations

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Develop a National Home Energy Performance Measure and Tool

Develop Energy Performance Scale & Label for Homes

Support Municipal Energy Finance Programs

Improve Energy Efficiency Mortgages

Expand State Energy Revolving Loan Funds

Establish Voluntary National Standards for Workforce Certification and Training Program Accreditation

## Recovery through Retrofit

“Establish a uniform set of (voluntary) national standards to qualify energy efficiency and retrofit workers and industry training providers.”

- **\$5 billion for the Weatherization Assistance Program**
- \$3.1 billion for the State Energy Program
- \$3.2 billion for EECBG
  - \$454 Million for retrofit ramp-ups in energy efficiency
- \$1,500 tax credit for energy efficiency improvements
- GSA = \$4.5 billion; HUD Public Housing Capital Fund = \$4 billion
- **WAP Training and Technical Assistance Plan**

## WAP Training and Technical Assistance Plan

1. “Develop a national weatherization worker certification framework.”
2. “Develop a national weatherization training accreditation program and trainer certification program.”

- No comprehensive set of standards for entire range of whole-home energy retrofit interventions.
- BPI Technical Standards are really an assortment of technical standards, core competencies, Standard Work Specifications, and a few best practices.
- Time for a major update; resource-intensive process
- No Standards Development Organization dedicated exclusively to home energy efficiency retrofit industry

## Challenges: Certification

- 1) Lack of skilled and credentialed workforce is a major impediment for WAP and the home performance industry
- 2) No nationally-recognized workforce certification for WAP and market-rate retrofits (impedes mobility)
- 3) Wide range of WAP certifications across states
- 4) BPI certification based on “Technical Standards” in need of major revisions
- 5) No existing EE personnel certification entity accredited to ISO 17024 standard

## Challenges: Training

- 1) Proliferation of training and credentialing programs for WAP and the home performance workforce
- 2) Major infusion of WAP training dollars with no standards
- 3) Major infusion of DOL training dollars with no standards
- 4) No objective measure of training program effectiveness
- 5) No uniform way for workers seeking training to assess the quality of the program or provider

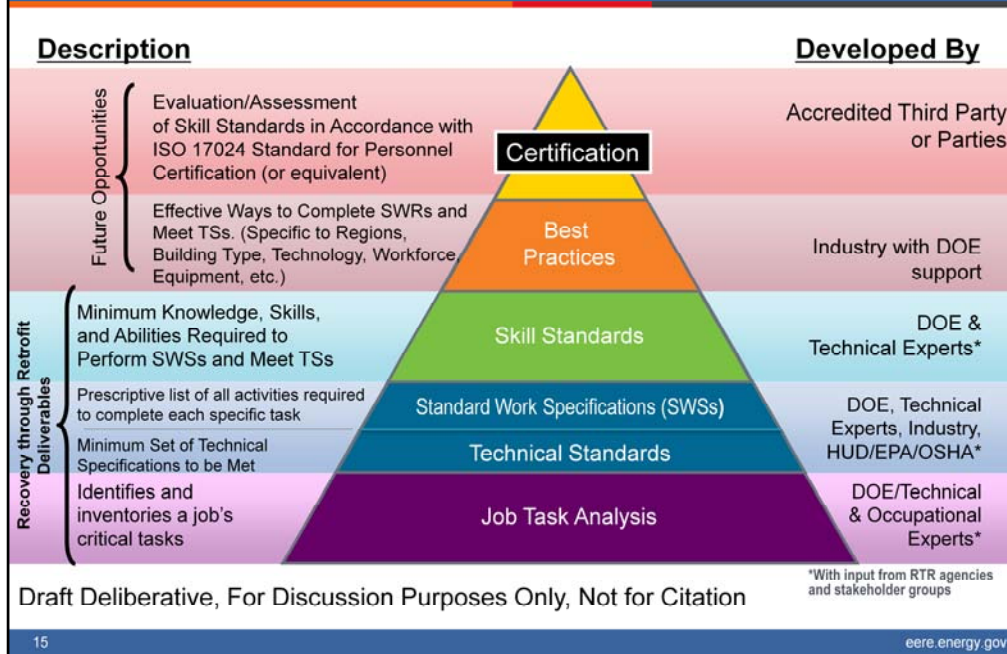
# Deliverables

Nationally Recognized Retrofit Standards

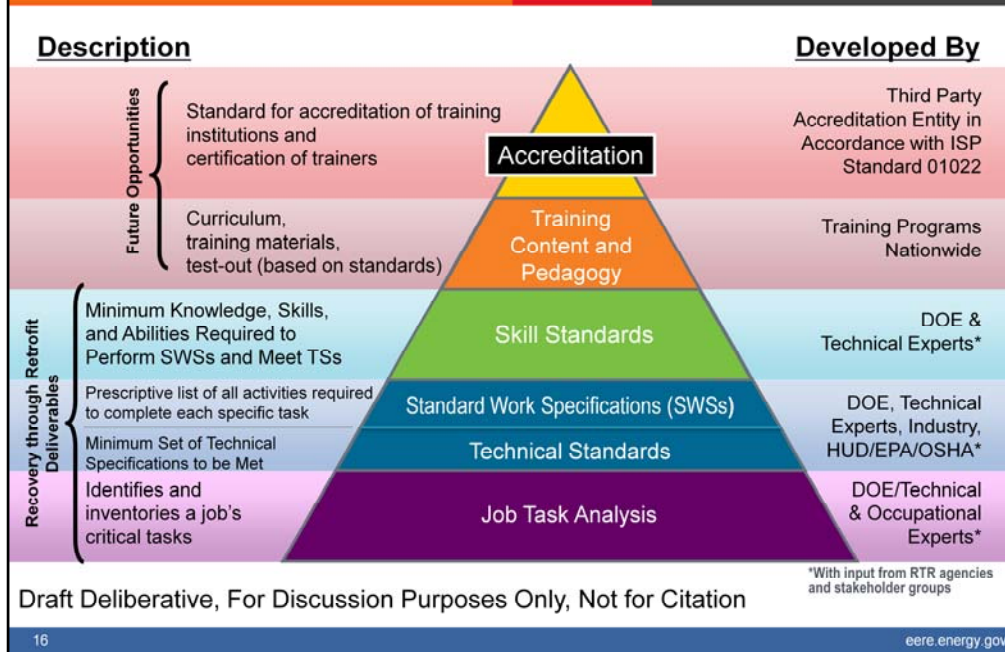
Worker Certification Architecture

Training Program Accreditation  
Architecture

# Workforce Pyramid



# Training Pyramid



## Standards Facilitation Process Deliverables

Job Task Analyses

Technical Standards

Standard Work Specifications

Skills Standards

# Opportunities to Engage

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RFI on  
Standards

Technical  
Committees

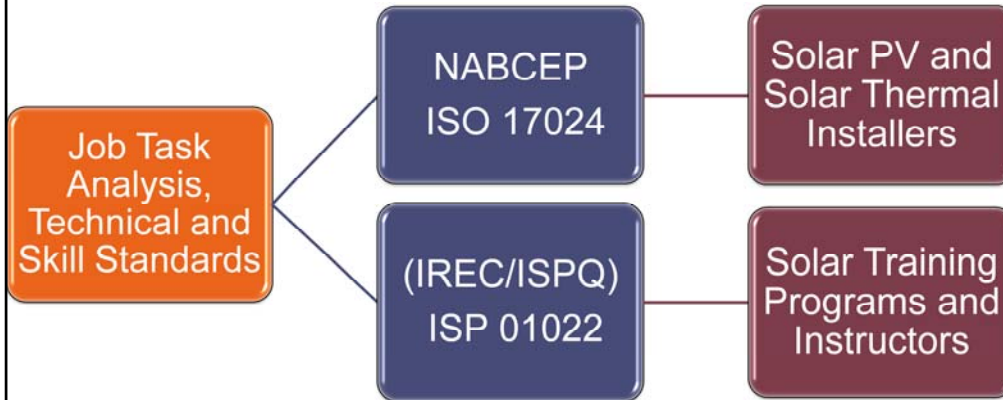
## **Standards Facilitation: Considerations**

- National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act
- OMB Circular A-119
- DOE Technical Standards Program
- Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA)
- ANSI Accreditation of Standards Development Organizations
- Where do standards live and how are they implemented?
- Who maintains them over time?

## Certification and Accreditation Vision

Help establish a national legacy architecture of workforce certification and training program accreditation to enable a vibrant and enduring market for home energy efficiency retrofits.

# Solar Industry Architecture

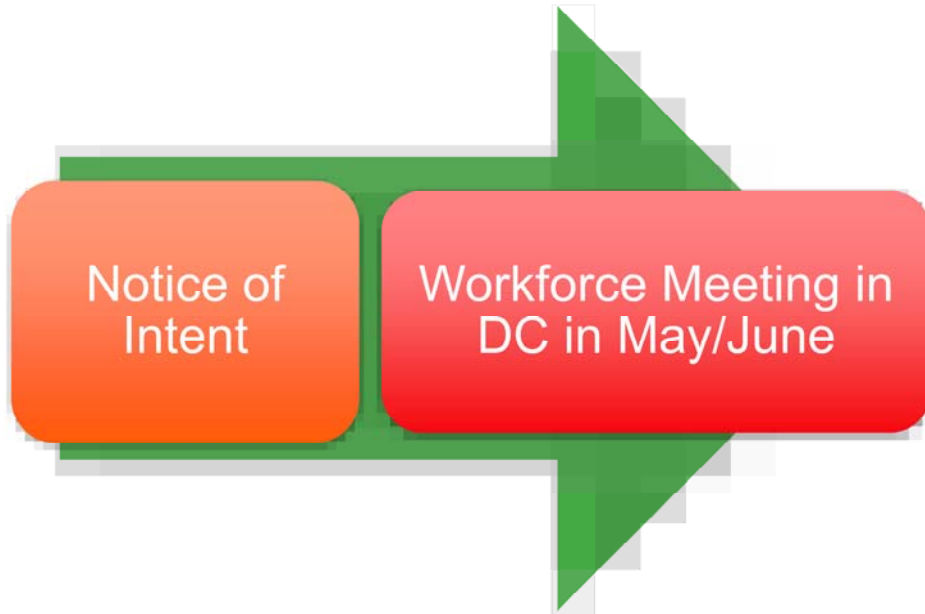


## Certification and Accreditation Architecture



# Opportunities to Engage

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<http://www.eere.energy.gov/>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/retrofit>