



# Finding a Home for Independent Raters

The Energy and Environmental Ratings Alliance

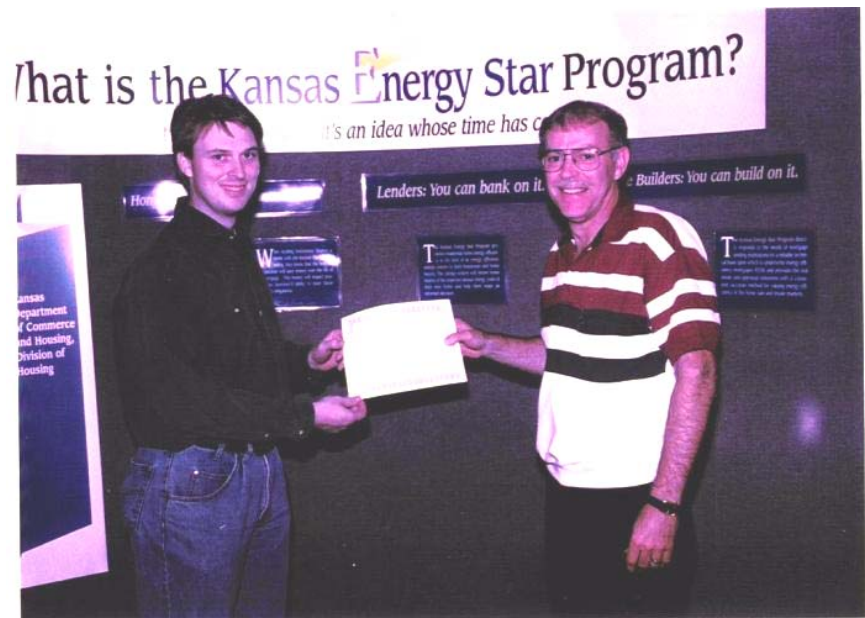
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RESNET 2010



# The Kansas Energy Star Program

- Established in 1996, Kansas Energy Star was Kansas' first statewide home energy rating system. It was housed in the Kansas Department of Housing and Commerce.
- Kansas Building Science Institute (KBSI) was the sole accredited trainer for Kansas Energy Star.
- KBSI also reviewed and archived all ratings for Kansas Energy Star.
- One rating was archived in 1996.



Larry Haugh (right) receiving rater certificate from Stan Butler, Kansas Energy Star Retreat, March 1997, KBSI

# EERA replaces Kansas Energy Star

- The Energy and Environmental Ratings Alliance (EERA) was established and KES disbanded in 1998 because the vast majority of raters KBSI was training and recommending for certification were from outside of Kansas.
- KBSI had quickly established a national training audience, and an organization was needed to provide a home for independent raters who did not have access to a provider in their home states, or who could find a provider who would support independent raters.

- In RESNET's early years, quality assurance was carried out according to a plan proposed by the provider in its accreditation application.
- KBSI/EERA completed desk reviews of 100 percent of member ratings and did field reviews when indicated by rating errors. This was rarely needed as raters generally had strong backgrounds and experience in the energy auditing field.

- As membership grew, KBSI/EERA focused on ensuring that only qualified candidates moved on to certification through comprehensive technical training and a rigorous probationary process.
- Under-qualified candidates generally failed the test or dropped out during the probationary process.
- Those who persisted through re-testing and satisfactorily working through the probationary process generally became excellent raters.

- Several years ago, KBSI/EERA began accepting rater candidates trained by other organizations. All candidates, even though currently certified by another provider, must go through KBSI/EERA's rigorous probationary process.

Today, KBSI/EERA has 150 partner-raters in 26 states.

Arizona	Illinois	Missouri	Pennsylvania
Arkansas	Kansas	Nebraska	Rhode Island
Colorado	Maine	New Hampshire	South Dakota
Connecticut	Maryland	New Mexico	Texas
Delaware	Massachusetts	North Carolina	Virginia
Hawaii	Michigan	North Dakota	
Iowa	Minnesota	Oklahoma	

- As independent raters, KBSI/EERA raters are responsible for plan analysis, takeoffs, data entry, field testing and field confirmation of rated features.
- Building files along with required digital documentation of key features are submitted to KBSI/EERA's QAD for review. For new and low-volume raters, 100% of the first 25 ratings thorough desk reviews.
- At our discretion, more may be reviewed until we are comfortable with the rater's skills.

- The rater must address any anomalies, supply any missing information, and correct any errors identified by the QAD's review.
- Once the rating is error-free, the building file is saved with full print permissions and returned to the rater.
- The rater prints all needed reports, certificates and labels.



- KBSI/EERA focuses on providing strong technical support for its raters.
- It also will be developing and offering rater professional development courses this year.
  - Advanced REM/Rate
  - Advanced diagnostics
  - Energy Star 2011



[www.ratingsalliance.org](http://www.ratingsalliance.org)



[www.KansasBuildingScience.com](http://www.KansasBuildingScience.com)



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