



## "A Marriage That Works"

### The Linkage Between HERS and Energy Codes

#### The Vermont Experience

RESNET Conference 2001  
Florida Solar Energy Center

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## Key Points of Presentation

- History of Vermont Code
- Vermont experience with implementation
- Successful initiatives
- HERS business opportunities

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## History of Vermont Code

- Governor's Task Force in 1996
- Included most stakeholders
  - Some wanted higher standard
  - Some wanted voluntary instead of mandatory
- Residential Building Energy Standards ("RBES") adopted 1998
  - MEC-95 plus 10%
  - HERS as compliance mechanism
- Energy Code Assistance Center created
  - Code Compliance Manual
  - Builder Hotline

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## History of Vermont RNC Programs

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- Utility programs
- Vermont Star Homes Program
- EPA ENERGY STAR Program
- Established infrastructure in VEIC

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- Skeptical of Code initially
- Quickly changed our minds
- Offer Code compliance support to builders, architects, home buyers
- Ratings used regularly to demonstrate compliance
- Other Code support services offered

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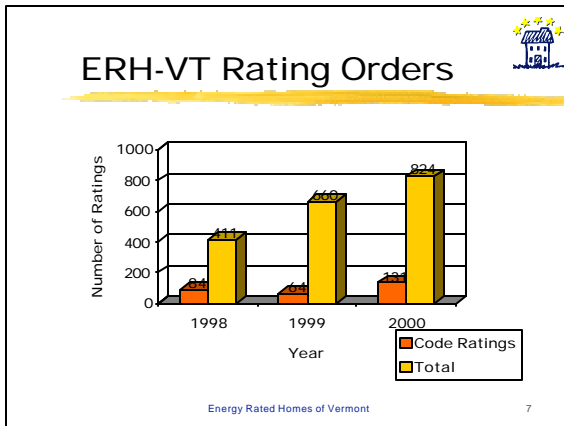


## HERS for Compliance

- 82 points on the rating scale
  - Policy of easier to meet Code using rating
  - Good thing getting an energy efficiency professional into design
- Rating provides credit where Code doesn't
  - Domestic hot water
  - Solar
  - Air tightness
- Developing Vermont HERS accreditation based on NASEO/RESNET standards

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## Vermont Star Homes Program

- Coordinated statewide marketing program for residential new construction
- 5-Star rating, mechanical ventilation system, 30% efficient light fixtures
- Co-sponsorship of workshops and conferences on Code
- Offer Code compliance support to builders
- Reaching over 50% of market for new connects
- 2000: 248 5-Star/ENERGY STAR, 123 Vermont Star

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## ENERGY STAR Homes

- Performance Pays Workshops
  - EPA grant in 1999
  - Workshops at lumberyards on Code/ENERGY STAR
- Increased general publics' awareness of energy efficiency
- Opportunities to discuss Codes

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## Opportunities

- HERS as Code compliance
- Energy Code Assistance Center (ECAC)
- Workshops and conferences
- Studies, monitoring and evaluation

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## Energy Code Assistance Center

- Toll-free hotline
- Form fulfillment and completion assistance
- Building science answers
- Contracted to develop Code compliance guidebook
- Offer outside Vermont in future?
- \$10k-\$20k revenue source from DOE grants through Dept. of Public Service

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## Workshops

- Poor attendance at prior workshops
- After initial series, lumberyards picked up sponsorship
  - Additional 18 at no cost to Code program
  - Over 800 participants in 1999
- Rater are experts and logical trainers
- Educate on Code, but promote Vermont Star and ENERGY STAR Home Programs

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## Code Update Workshops



- In 2001, will include ventilation standard
- We want to parlay this into renewed interest in builder learning
- Offer new services of workshops for:
  - Architects, builders, HVAC contractors, subs
  - Tell-tale house to garner interest
- Multi-state regional Code-training effort

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## Conferences



- Prior builder conferences 50 - 75
- First year attendance over 200
- Building Solutions 2001:
  - 500 attendees, 50 exhibitors
  - 20% architects (CE credit arrangements)
- Leveraging by combining forces:
  - By partnering with Vermont Star, \$50,000 cost Code project \$7,000
  - One-stop energy program shopping for participants

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## Studies, Monitoring and Evaluation



- HERS raters are experts
- Baseline study
- Ventilation field study
- Ventilation standards research
- Code compliance study

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## Conclusion



- Integrated approach
- Program coordination
  - Push-pull market strategy
  - Mandatory Code / voluntary ratings & programs
- Expanded focus beyond HERS:
  - Technical support for the housing industry
  - Education
  - Research

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- Take off those HERS-only blinders, go forth to apply your expertise and build your business!



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