



**FLORIDA SOLAR ENERGY CENTER**

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A Research Institute of the University of Central Florida

# ***Codes White Paper***

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# ***Code Barriers***

## **3 Primary Barriers:**

-  Local Code Officials**
-  Builders**
-  Consumers**



# ***Local Code Officials***

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- ✍ Insufficient resource allocation
  - ✍ Limited staff
  - ✍ Limited on-site inspections
  - ✍ Detailed plan review problematic
- ✍ Energy too complex
  - ✍ Limited knowledge of energy principles
- ✍ Enforcement varies widely
  - ✍ Local may be different from state-wide
  - ✍ Rural vs. Urban
  - ✍ Compliance acceptance varies



# ***Builders***

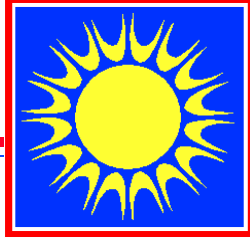
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- ✍ Perception of high cost to comply
  - ✍ Believe consumer not willing to pay
- ✍ Perception of low value
  - ✍ Efficiency/quality relation not appreciated
  - ✍ Unaware of ancillary benefits (EEMs, etc.)
- ✍ Energy efficiency too complex
- ✍ Impediment to business success
  - ✍ Simplified plan review all that's needed



# ***Consumers***

- ✍ Widespread perception that all new homes are energy efficient
- ✍ Energy efficiency is not a visible attribute
- ✍ No awareness that energy-efficiency can be “measured” (i.e. rated)



# ***Performance***

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- ✍ Incorporating performance-based code compliance creates additional challenges
- ✍ Prescriptive codes easier to appreciate
- ✍ Performance-based compliance implies complex inter-dependence



# ***Key Summary Points***

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- ✍ HERS and EEMs can make homes more affordable
- ✍ Secondary mortgage market recognizes energy efficiency
- ✍ HERS is key to unlocking efficiency
- ✍ HERS will improve energy code compliance performance
- ✍ HERS will improve business efficiency of builders



# ***What DOE Could Do***

- ✍ Open SEP program up to HERS as means of code compliance
- ✍ Assist HERS industry and states with improvements to rating systems and integration with Codes
- ✍ Provide a leadership role to encourage 3<sup>rd</sup> party compliance provisions