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ELEM3NTS Presentation to FY&DT (6-9-23)

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

FV&DT Workshop

ELEM3NTS

e3-elements.com





The raters are NOT the problem

The process is the problem!

During a home energy (HERS) test with a failed result, both homeowners and contractors can be surprised and disappointed for different reasons.

It's important to address the issues in the process to avoid such situations.



Nobody likes bad surprises, especially when it comes to home renovations.



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**Proposal: Eliminate bad surprises
by process and tools innovation**



Implement process improvements such as:

- **Duct test BEFORE any HVAC changes:** Conduct a duct test prior to making any HVAC system alterations. This will help identify any existing issues and ensure that the changes are made in a more efficient manner. This will help prepare the contractor to offer a better service and the customer will know what to expect.
- Establish a **collaboration between the energy commission and building inspectors** to uncover projects without permits. This will help identify and discourage cheating in the system.



Offer incentives:

- Provide **rebates and/or tax credits** for the building permit and HERS test instead of focusing solely on upgrades such as solar panels and heat pumps. Eliminate advantages for those who keep the original duct system covered with asbestos. This will incentivize homeowners to prioritize energy efficiency from the beginning.
- **Building permit fees:** Introduce a system where 50% or \$150-\$300 of the building permit fee is discounted with the existing duct test result on the CF1R (Certificate of Compliance). Include graphics to help the homeowner better understand the loss of energy and money to the homeowner. This will encourage homeowners to prioritize energy efficiency and to take the right steps.



Provide support and awareness:

- Informing homeowners: **Provide homeowners with information** about the efficiency of their home, the importance of duct testing, and the building permit process. It's crucial to educate them about these aspects to build trust and understanding. Homeowners are receiving already info with the PG&E bills, and the above info could be added on them.
- **Expertise in charge:** Homeowners should not be solely responsible for making energy-related decisions, as they may not possess the necessary knowledge. Instead, they should trust the energy inspector (rater) and the building inspector (city), who are independent professionals responsible for California's energy goals.
- Provide **mandatory HVAC training classes** for general contractors and inspectors. These tests should be made easily accessible but obligatory to ensure that professionals possess the necessary knowledge to perform energy-efficient installations. Make a requirement to receive an active or re-activation of the Business license in California.



Improve tools and resources:

- To make the building permit process more convenient, work with cities and counties to simplify it. **Implement an online system** that enables homeowners to complete the process with just a few clicks. This streamlined approach will reduce hassle and costs while promoting energy efficiency.
- **Create a pre permit application** so the equipment can be purchased. Now there is an obligation to close out the permit. As soon as the BP is open the file will be transfer to the administrators /CHEERS or Calcerts
- Integrate an efficient **Quality Control system** for the HERS rater, allowing pictures to be uploaded in Calcerts/Cheers websites and some other...
- To assist homeowners, **create a website** that can explain the results of the duct test and energy efficiency, with a simple page and contact information for the highest rated company that does building permits and testing in their area.

To achieve success, we must strive to create a dream of an energy-efficient California.

Special energy inspectors can become sought-after professionals, as they contribute to both financial gains and a better future for our children.

By supporting and valuing their work, California can set an example for the world.