



NEEP 2015 QUARTERLY REPORT

FIRST QUARTER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Energy efficiency has often been referred to as the least-cost, first-order resource for achieving reduced energy use and improving air quality. NEEP continues to play its role—bringing stakeholders together to find solutions for the climate and economic challenges we face today. With the support of our sponsors, partners, and funders from across the region and nation, NEEP continues to keep the region a national efficiency leader by advancing innovation and best practices, supporting leading-edge policies, programs, and strategies, and collaborating on development of strategies that accelerate energy efficiency on a regional scale. Highlights of our work this quarter include:

NEEP MISSION
Accelerate energy efficiency in homes, buildings & industry in the Northeast - Mid-Atlantic region.

Make Energy Efficiency Visible

- **NEEP shifts focus to the 2016 Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit & NEEP's 20th Anniversary:** Due to scheduling complications, we are postponing the 2015 Summit and shifting our focus to the 2016 Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit including a celebration of NEEP's 20th Anniversary at the Omni Mt. Washington Resort in June 2016. NEEP will continue to host topical workshops over the course of the year and as we finalize plans you can find information on the [NEEP Events](#) webpage.
- **2015 Business Leaders Recognition Program to showcase another robust sample of regional business voices in support of energy efficiency:** Fourteen [businesses nominated by NEEP Sponsors](#) highlight a variety of projects and overall commitments to doing more with less energy. Through their efforts to curb energy demand, these businesses are exemplar cases of reaching environmental and budgetary goals via investments in efficiency.
- **NEEP confirmed and engaged [22 Sponsors](#) and [nine Partners](#) in the first quarter:** Their engagement and leadership will help develop strategies to meet regional goals for energy efficiency, as well as support NEEP's strategies for Buildings, Products, and Knowledge & Best Practices outlined in our 2015 Business Plan.
- **Targeted dissemination strategies for NEEP resources engaged key audiences:** Through the new [neep.org](#) and other targeted communications, we shared information about resources including: [Northeast Residential Lighting Strategy: 2014-2015 Update](#); [A Changing Landscape: The 2015 Regional Roundup of Energy Efficiency Policy](#); and [LED Street Lighting Assessment and Strategies for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic](#) to reach existing and new audiences.

Reduce Building Energy Use

- **Provided technical support to the Vermont Public Service Department:** NEEP continued to provide direct assistance to the VT PSD to support the state's [2015 International Energy Conservation Code \(2015 IECC\) adoption](#), which was completed last year and went into effect in March. NEEP provided technical review and resources to promote compliance with the new codes.
- **Developed framework for the Northeast Home Energy Labeling Information Exchange (HELIX):** NEEP began development of a solution for the need expressed by stakeholders for a consistent, multi-state database for home energy scores using [DOE's Home Energy Score](#) and integrated into Multiple Listing Services.
- **Released *LED Street Lighting Assessment and Strategies for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic*:** NEEP published a report assessing the status of—and opportunities associated with—[LED Street Lighting in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic](#). The report will provide value to communities seeking



to understand street lighting in the context of public facility operation and maintenance best practices, and will serve as a resource to help unlock up to 1.76 TWh of potential energy savings.

Speed Adoption of High Efficiency Products

- **Launched a Home Energy Management Systems (HEMS) research project:** The [energy efficiency potential of HEMS](#) remains a great opportunity for energy efficiency programs, prompting the launch of a research project to conduct technology assessment, measurement of M&V potential, assessment of program activity, efficiency program opportunities, areas for further study, and policy opportunities and recommendations.
- **The DesignLights Consortium (DLC) continued to experience consistent growth:** The number of products on the [SSL Qualified Products List](#) and participating manufacturers increased, and the DLC gained [six new members](#). To keep up with this growth and maintain relevance of the DLC's technical resources within the lighting market, the DLC continued to work on policy changes for the Technical Requirements Table and a Product Verification Testing Program.
- **Cold-Climate Air Source Heat Pump (ccASHP) specifications listed:** With the publication of the [ccASHP specification](#), stakeholders now have a model equipment and performance requirement specification for this technology. The specification was developed to help stakeholders identify products that perform under low-temperature conditions. In collaboration with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, the effort succeeded in including 17 products by Haier and Mitsubishi.
- **Technology selection for Advanced Lighting Control demonstration projects completed:** NEEP issued an RFQ in 2014 to manufacturers for [Advanced Lighting Control](#) products to be deployed in the 10 demonstration projects. NEEP assembled a highly qualified scoring team, which scored 15 manufacturer proposals for products based on their approach to overcoming technology adoption barriers and potential for large-scale adoption. The top nine products were selected for demonstrations and approved by DOE.
- **Launched the Advanced Roof-Top Unit (ARTU) project:** This initiative will advance stakeholder understanding and support for a strategy to accelerate market deployment and adoption of ARTUs in the region. NEEP will work in conjunction with the US DOE's Better Buildings Program and RTU Challenge. In preparation for the market assessment and stakeholder engagement, NEEP held a project kick-off meeting, which resulted in approval of the proposed scope and timeline. The report is expected to be finalized in by mid-summer.
- **Participated in the federal general service lamp standards rulemaking:** The general service lamp federal rulemaking reached a major milestone in 2014 with the release of the Preliminary Technical Support Document. This rulemaking has major implications nationwide as it will raise the efficacy levels of general service light bulbs, impacting which types of lighting products can be sold. NEEP partnered with other efficiency advocates and the Appliance Standards Awareness Project, and contributed to a [joint comment letter](#) submitted to the DOE.

Advance Knowledge & Best Practices

- **Evaluators, regulators, and program administrators attended the Regional EM&V Forum Annual Public Meeting:** NEEP [brought together stakeholders from across the region](#) to discuss implications of Clean Air Act 111(d) EM&V requirements and recently completed Forum projects on geo-targeting and cost-effectiveness. A group of industry experts also gathered the day before the meeting for a training workshop on [Standardized EM&V Methods Reporting Forms](#).
- **NEEP released: [A Changing Landscape: The Regional Roundup of Energy Efficiency Policy in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States](#):** This annual assessment of energy efficiency policies in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region, now in its fourth year, presents NEEP's assessment of state progress on energy efficiency, using a five-tier rating system and informed by input from a broad range of stakeholders.



NEEP 2015 STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

Keep the region a national efficiency leader by advancing innovation and best practices, and leading-edge policies, programs and strategies that deepen, broaden and accelerate energy efficiency on a regional scale.

STRATEGIES	OUTCOMES	PROJECTS
<p>VISIBILITY</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased media coverage and public understanding and support of energy efficiency as a critical energy resource ➤ Northeast & Mid-Atlantic region widely recognized as national energy efficiency leader ➤ Visible business leadership for energy efficiency policies and programs ➤ NEEP Sponsors & Partners support and actively engage in regional collaboration to scale up efficiency 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit 2. Northeast Business Leaders Recognition Program 3. NEEP Sponsorship & Partners Program 4. NEEP Strategic Marketing & Communications
<p>BUILDINGS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The region leads the nation in adoption of, and compliance with, progressive building energy codes ➤ Markets value high efficiency homes, buildings ➤ States, municipalities commit to maintaining, building high performance schools, public buildings ➤ Model programs and resources address market barriers to energy efficiency retrofits in key market segments 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building Energy Regulation 2. Market Valuation of Building Energy Performance 3. Building Energy Best Practices
<p>PRODUCTS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Northeast leads in penetration of high efficiency products ➤ Higher baselines through appliance standards lock in market gains ➤ Regulatory policy supports new technologies and strategies to advance high efficiency options 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High Efficiency Retail Consumer Products 2. DesignLights Consortium® SSL Qualified Products List 3. High Efficiency Air Source Heat Pumps 4. Commercial Advanced Lighting Controls 5. High Efficiency Consumer Packaged HVAC 6. Industrial Energy Efficiency 7. Appliance Efficiency Standards
<p>KNOWLEDGE</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The region leads the nation in transparent and publicly accessible EM&V and reporting practices that support energy efficiency as a public policy priority ➤ States and local government commit to and implement energy efficiency as a top energy priority 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional Evaluation, Measurement & Verification Forum 2. Public Policy Outreach & Analysis



MAKE ENERGY EFFICIENCY VISIBLE

Position the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region as the national leader for efficiency as a critical and tangible energy resource to support environmental sustainability, a robust economy, and a reliable and affordable energy system.

Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit

- **NEEP shifts focus to the 2016 Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit & NEEP's 20th Anniversary:** Due to scheduling complications, we are postponing the 2015 Summit and shifting our focus to the 2016 Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit including a celebration of NEEP's 20th Anniversary at the Omni Mt. Washington Resort in June 2016. The Mount Washington Hotel is a beautiful venue and we look forward to celebrating NEEP's 20th Anniversary with you there next year. NEEP is currently working on an alternate plan for recognizing the 2015 Business Leaders in Energy Efficiency this year. We have an outstanding group of businesses to recognize, including schools and universities, hospitals, manufacturing interests, grocery stores, real estate holdings, a transportation department, and a Native American tribe. We will release the case studies and videos in June.

Northeast Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency

- **2015 [Business Leaders Recognition Program](#) to showcase another robust sample of regional business voices in support of energy efficiency:** Fourteen businesses nominated by NEEP Sponsors highlighted a variety of projects and overall commitments to doing more with less energy. Through their efforts to curb energy demand, these businesses are exemplar cases of reaching environmental and budgetary goals via investments in efficiency. Seven State Champions were selected with assistance from an internal technical review committee and an independent selection panel comprised of energy efficiency stakeholders from a variety of industries. The panel reviewed and ranked applications based on a set of criteria highlighting *collaboration* between the NEEP Sponsor and Business Leader, *leadership* of the business in supporting efficiency policy and program advancement through public advocacy and outreach, and *commitment* to further advancing energy savings through corporate efficiency plans.
- **NEEP Sponsors nominated their Business Leaders:** The process began in late 2014 with [NEEP Sponsors](#) nominating a business customer who demonstrates outstanding acts of leadership and best practices of energy efficiency in their business. The group represented diverse types of businesses that took on the challenge of curbing costs and supporting environmental goals through investments in efficiency. Ten Sponsors participated in the 2015 Business Leaders Program kick-off call in January, and 14 submitted a qualified nomination in February.
- **Review Committee selection of State Champions:** The Review Committee, which including Elisa Wood from Energy Efficiency Markets, Debbie Slobe from Resource Media, Brad Kane from the Hartford Business Journal, and Patrick Kiker from ACEEE, reviewed nominations and selected seven State Champions. In addition to a written case study, these businesses will be filmed for a video to be featured at a recognition dinner later this year.
- **The stage is set for active promotion of Business Leaders:** Inspiring case studies for all businesses have been written, and video filming of State Champion achievements has begun NEEP QUARTERLY REPORT - Q1 2015 APRIL 2015 PAGE 5 OF 28 Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships and will continue throughout April. Official announcement of Business Leaders and State Champions is slated for April, and our winners will be recognized later this year. Following the event, NEEP will continue to engage these Business Leaders to promote their achievements and provide visibility for the benefits of energy efficiency.



NEEP Sponsorship & Partners Program

- **NEEP successfully secured 22 Sponsors in the first quarter:** [Sponsors](#) represent utilities and efficiency program administrators from across the region committed to our common mission to accelerate energy efficiency in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. Our Sponsors' support is critical to the success of our projects, and their commitment to energy efficiency as a critical environmental and economic solution will help achieve our common goal to keep the region a national leader in energy efficiency.
- **The 2015 Partners Program is also off to a great start:** We confirmed and engaged [nine Partners](#) in the first quarter, with many also supporting the 2015 Summit, and others expected to join. NEEP Partners represent efficiency leadership from around the nation committed to accelerating energy efficiency. We are pleased to welcome [GoodCents](#) and [RAB Lighting](#) as a new NEEP Partners!
- **Stakeholder participation in NEEP projects kicked off in the first quarter:** Their engagement and leadership will help develop strategies to meet regional goals for energy efficiency, as well as support NEEP's strategies for Buildings, Products, and Knowledge & Best Practices outlined in our [2015 Business Plan](#).

NEEP Strategic Marketing & Communications

- **Targeted dissemination strategies for NEEP resources engaged key audiences:** Through the new [neep.org](#), e-mail marketing, blog posts, and social media, we shared information about resources including: [Northeast Residential Lighting Strategy: 2014-2015 Update](#); [A Changing Landscape: The 2015 Regional Roundup of Energy Efficiency Policy](#); and [LED Street Lighting Assessment and Strategies for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic](#). We will continue to hone this strategy to reach a wider audience about the work of NEEP, our sponsors, partners, and allies to accelerate energy efficiency in the Northeast - Mid-Atlantic region.
- **Shared our story with local, regional, and national media outlets:** NEEP issued two press releases to highlight a new hire and announce a NEEP award:
 - [February 11](#): NEEP hires Halfpenny to direct DLC
 - [April 6](#): NEEP and its Sponsors earn 16th consecutive award for sustained leadership to protect the environment
- **Gained media attention through collaborative efforts to position the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region as a national efficiency leader:** NEEP appeared in several media stories that brought attention to the region as a national energy efficiency leader, while also demonstrating the value of efficiency as a critical energy resource. Through our work and the work of our partners, NEEP provided reliable and credible information to media through nine placements over the quarter. Highlights include:
 - [February 12](#): Boston Globe - Former Patrick administration officials land in energy industry
 - [April 6](#): Foreign Affairs - EPA honors New England's 2015 ENERGY STAR Partners of the Year (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)
 - [April 7](#): Fierce Energy - NEEP wins eighth consecutive sustained excellence award
- **Engaged audiences on efficiency topics through multiple communications channels:** NEEP's Strategic Marketing & Communications team worked with project staff to use e-mail marketing, blog posts, and social media to spread the word and engage audiences about new NEEP products, including:
 - [Northeast Residential Lighting Strategy: 2014-2015 Update](#)



- [Top Five Policy Implications of Residential Lighting Strategy Report](#)
 - [Signs of Things to Come: Residential Lighting Programs Escalate Focus on LEDs](#)
 - [Transformation Tactics: How Is EISA Impacting Residential Lighting?](#)
 - [A Changing Landscape: The 2015 Regional Roundup of Energy Efficiency Policy](#)
 - [Comprehensive Analyses Needed Before the Region’s Energy Infrastructure Expands](#)
 - [Two States, Two Paths - A Regional Roundup Case Study](#)
 - [LED Street Lighting Assessment and Strategies for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic](#)
 - [Street Lighting: The High-Up, Low-Hanging Fruit](#)
- **NEEP’s website is a resource for visitors from across the nation:** In the first quarter, www.neep.org attracted nearly 16,000 visitors with 85 percent of those visitors coming from the United States, and the majority centered in the Northeast - Mid-Atlantic region. From Vermont to the District of Columbia, stakeholders visited the website to find information about [high efficiency street lighting](#), [cold climate air source heat pumps](#), and the [Regional Energy Efficiency Database](#), among many other efficiency topics.

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REDUCE BUILDING ENERGY USE

Make possible a future in which all homes and buildings are zero net energy, through incremental yet aggressive improvements to building energy policies and programs.

Building Energy Regulation

- **Provided technical support to the Vermont Public Service Department:** NEEP continued to provide direct assistance to the Vermont Public Service Department (VT PSD) to support the state's [2015 International Energy Conservation Code \(2015 IECC\) adoption](#), which was completed last year and went into effect in March. NEEP provided technical review and resources to promote compliance with these new codes, and the updates to the state's Residential and Commercial Building Energy Standards (RBES and CBES) [position Vermont as the national vanguard](#) of building energy code adoption. NEEP identified opportunities for clarification in its review of the codes that were acted upon before the 2015 RBES and CBES were printed. NEEP then provided comments on two other documents: the 2015 RBES Handbook, a heavily-used home design and code compliance aid developed by the state; and the 2015 CBES draft Stretch Code, the first public version of this source of additional future energy savings. Finally, we worked with the state and presented to stakeholders to organize a Vermont Energy Code Collaborative, which NEEP will facilitate upon its assembly next quarter.
- **Facilitated Energy Code Collaboratives in Delaware, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania:** NEEP supports [State Energy Code Collaboratives](#) as effective vehicles for bringing together diverse stakeholders to promote transparency and dialogue concerning energy code adoption and compliance. NEEP has played an active role in Delaware, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania's Code Collaboratives since their inceptions in 2011, 2012, and 2013, respectively.
 - **Delaware:** Worked closely with Delaware's Energy Code Coalition as the state completed its [2012 IECC/ASHRAE 90.1-2010](#) implementation last year. This year, NEEP continued to provide technical support to the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) on code support training resources, including the completion of Residential Field Guides and a [Code FAQs](#) document.
 - **New Hampshire:** Provided technical guidance to the New Hampshire Building Energy Code Compliance Collaborative, which convenes bi-monthly to advance strategies set in the state's [Code Compliance Roadmap](#). NEEP contributed to a defense against anti-code legislation, as well as advancing the state's consideration of 2015 IECC adoption via its Building Codes Review Board. We also led the Collaborative's pursuit of a home energy labeling program and disseminated our [Real Estate Professionals Checklist](#).
 - **Pennsylvania:** Supported the [Pennsylvania Energy Code Collaborative's](#) efforts to measure and achieve full code compliance, educate consumers, and incentivize energy efficiency. NEEP participated in teleconferences and the Collaborative's in-person meeting in February to help shape the short-term goal of educating the design professional community about code compliance and the long-term goal of engaging utilities in code compliance enhancement activities.
- **Developed technical code resources for Delaware:** With the support of DNREC and the Delaware Energy Code Coalition, NEEP oversaw development of a pair of residential construction field guides customized for Delaware's 2012 IECC-based code. The guides, which are organized by inspection stage (for code officials) and by trade (for builders), feature checklists and pictures for easy use onsite, but also include sufficient breadth and depth to be used as the basis of training. They include guidance for meeting the code and recommended practices for achieving additional energy savings. The guides are available [in print](#), and some sections are freely available [online](#). Additionally, NEEP developed a presentation on the major changes associated with their ASHRAE



- 90.1-2010 adoption for DNREC to present at the Delaware Parks and Recreation Society's conference in February, and responded to DNREC inquiries about addenda to the standard.
- **Supported cutting-edge code compliance enhancement efforts in Rhode Island:** National Grid, in partnership with the Rhode Island Code Commission, NEEP, and a contractor team, administers training programs (the savings from which it is allowed to claim as part of its regulatory proceedings) through its [Code Compliance Enhancement Initiative](#); NEEP participates in both its Implementation and Evaluation Working Groups. This quarter, the Implementation Working Group assessed and adjusted the training program being delivered in conjunction with the state's adoption of the 2012 IECC. The residential and commercial training programs, which feature in-field sessions and a 'circuit rider' program, held five residential and four commercial classes, drawing a combined 155 attendees. The Evaluation Working Group continues to review the program's checklists and key performance indicators in order to guide National Grid to claim energy savings.
 - **Provided technical assistance on code legal proceedings in New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, and Maryland:**
 - **New York:** Provided technical assistance at a hearing of the New York Department of State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council urging the adoption of the [2015 IECC](#) into the [New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code \(NYSECCC\)](#) without weakening amendments.
 - **New Jersey:** The state published its proposed 2015 IECC adoption and amendments on January 5. NEEP filed [comments](#) to support this proposal, which is expected to be adopted in the summer of 2015 pending any modifications.
 - **New Hampshire:** NEEP spoke in opposition of [House Bill 288](#) and prepared written [comments](#) for a January public hearing. This bill, which was narrowly defeated but will be retained for summer study, would give any community or individual the right to refuse the enforcement of the energy code.
 - **Maryland:** Prepared [comments](#) for a March hearing of Maryland Senate Bill 262/House Bill 323. This bill could enable the use of unrestricted equipment tradeoffs and create a patchwork of unharmonious energy codes that would complicate the roles of building officials and practitioners working across counties.
 - **Extended knowledge and resources through NEEP's Codes Leadership Group:** We continued to grow the membership and knowledge base of our Regional Building Energy Codes Leadership Group. NEEP organized and delivered a [quarterly webinar](#) in March to 31 members, focusing on lessons from Vermont's 2015 IECC adoption process. In addition, NEEP provided relevant and timely state, regional, and national energy code updates throughout the year.
 - **Deployed Regional Code Adoption and Compliance Toolkits:** After development of the initial versions of our [Code Adoption](#) and [Code Compliance](#) Toolkits in 2014, these resources were disseminated for the first time early in 2015. With many states in our region poised to pursue the 2015 IECC and with the 2017 goal of 90-percent compliance now only three years away, NEEP developed these resources to streamline solutions to these and other issues in our region. The Adoption Toolkit includes code analyses and comparisons, talking points on key issues, state-specific resources amendments, useful code language, and stretch code guidance. Similarly, the Compliance Toolkit includes compliance assessment findings, guides and FAQs, state-specific training and enforcement materials, and guidance for utility-claimed savings frameworks. The toolkits will be updated periodically as new resources become available and as new needs arise in the region.
 - **Supported US DOE-funded residential code compliance efforts in Pennsylvania and Maryland:** NEEP met with the region's recipients of last year's residential code compliance funding from the U.S. Department of Energy (US DOE) to coordinate efforts and achieve the best possible results.



NEEP provided contractor Performance Systems Development and the Maryland Energy Administration with training materials developed in other states to avoid duplication of efforts, and to allow financial resources to be invested elsewhere in the programs being developed.

- **Supported state adoption of 2015 IECC through development of regional code field guides:** To support states such as Maryland, Vermont, and New Jersey that have already adopted or proposed to adopt the 2015 IECC, NEEP began to develop code field guides for the entire region analogous to those prepared for Delaware. We leveraged our Regional Codes Leadership Group to assemble a review team representing each state to ensure the guide's usefulness throughout the Northeast - Mid-Atlantic region. The field guides are currently under final review and will be completed in the second quarter.
- **Maintained national network of energy code allies:** NEEP engaged with our national and regional codes counterparts, providing updates through monthly teleconferences with the Responsible Energy Codes Alliance (RECA), National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), Institute for Market Transformation (IMT), and Building Codes Awareness Project (BCAP). We also participated in meetings with the National Energy Codes Collaborative, a joint partnership of the US DOE, PNNL, BCAP, NASEO, and the other regional energy efficiency organizations (REEOs). The National Collaborative, whose common goal is to promote state code adoption and enforcement policies set by the DOE, convened monthly to discuss energy code issues, best practices, and opportunities to streamline efforts. Additionally, we extended our networks and opened new channels for resource dissemination through participation at national conferences. The most notable of these was the DOE's [National Energy Codes Conference](#) in March, where Carolyn Sarno Goldthwaite moderated the Jolt Session.
- **Maintained and updated our online building codes resource center:** NEEP maintained and regularly updated the [Building Energy Codes homepage](#), [News Bulletin Board](#), [Codes Tracker](#), and [Resources](#) page to feature the latest news, events, and resources on code adoption and compliance throughout the region. NEEP also included a [2015 code adoption preview](#) in this year's Regional Roundup, describing the movement of these codes toward zero net energy.
- **Provided specialized technical code assistance for the Massachusetts Stretch Code and Strawbale construction:** NEEP provided technical assistance to the City of Medford's Director of Energy and the Environment regarding the [Massachusetts Stretch Code](#), home energy ratings, and energy code compliance. Medford is a leading [Massachusetts Green Communities](#) municipality. In its pursuit for clean energy solutions and reduced costs, the City sought NEEP's assistance in furthering and understanding compliance with the state stretch code. Additionally, NEEP provided an overview of the code adoption process for each state in the region to advocates of energy efficient [strawbale construction](#). Strawbale and light clay straw structures, which are permissible through [two appendices](#) to the 2015 International Residential Code, are super-insulated building methods that reduce homeowner costs while utilizing a rapidly renewable and low embodied energy material. NEEP provided information to assist natural building industry professionals to advocate for the adoption of these appendices.

Market Valuation of Building Energy Performance

- **Developed framework for the Northeast Home Energy Labeling Information Exchange (HELIX):** NEEP began development of a solution for the need expressed by stakeholders for a consistent, multi-state database for home energy scores. Each of the Northeast states—New England and New York—have pursued, piloted, or deployed a home energy rating program or have passed enabling legislation. However, these have been largely disparate efforts, although these states have common interest in using [DOE's Home Energy Score](#) (HES) as a metric. Additionally, there is currently no means for these scores to be directly integrated into a Multiple Listing Service (MLS); consequently, there is no reliable way for home energy performance to play a meaningful role in typical residential real estate transactions. To bridge this divide, NEEP engaged stakeholders in



discussions to clarify state needs, brainstormed attributes of the desired technical solution, and identified policy and practical barriers to implementing such a database. NEEP met with data management actors for HES and MLS to acquire additional information, and plans to hold an event to focus regional home energy labeling efforts, foster connections across state lines, and further promote the HELIX concept.

- **Disseminated resources to support energy efficiency valuation in real estate transactions:** Last year, in response to a growing interest in home energy labeling in our region, NEEP began to develop a suite of resources targeted at real estate professionals, home buyers/renters, and progressive home builders. We then refined and disseminated these resources, including training materials for REALTORS® and appraisers, checklists for [real estate professionals](#) and prospective home renters, and home energy efficiency talking points for participants in real estate transactions, through several of the groups we facilitate and participate in. Additionally, we leveraged our relationship with Craig Foley, a green broker, to engage stakeholders.

NEEP Q1 2015 Real Estate Checklist Dissemination	
Venue	Attendees
Berkshire Association of REALTORS	30
Greater Newburyport Association of REALTORS	50
Women's Council of REALTORS event	50
Cape Cod & Island Association Martha's Vineyard	25
Berkshire MA Association of REALTORS	30
Greater Newburyport Association of REALTORS	50
Women's Council of REALTORS event	50
Cape Cod & Island Association, MV training	25
NH Energy Codes Training for Real Estate Professionals	50
Total:	360

- **Began third phase of testing of innovative building asset rating methodologies in Massachusetts:** NEEP and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) continued to lead the [Massachusetts Raising the BAR \(Building Asset Rating\) Pilot](#). In Phase 2, which was completed last fall, two of the innovative methodologies tested in Phase 1 were more broadly deployed across a sample of approximately 30 commercial office buildings in the Greater Boston area, and the results were collected in formal reports and presented at individual meetings with the building owners, operators, and managers. NEEP and DOER have since embarked on Phase 3 of the Pilot, which focuses on expanding the program in the state and beyond. The team began to finalize the Phase 2 Final Report and closeout webinar, which will help disseminate the lessons learned from efforts last year to help inform and shape the national asset rating conversation.
- **Supported residential labeling efforts in New Hampshire, New York, and beyond:** NEEP led the establishment last year of a Residential Labeling Subcommittee of the New Hampshire Energy Code Collaborative, which aimed to develop recommendations for a home energy labeling program. NEEP this year assembled the subcommittee's final recommendations, which will be voted on at the next Collaborative meeting and will work in harmony with the federally-funded Vermont-New Hampshire energy rating project that will begin this year. In New York, NEEP coordinated with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) contractor, Performance Systems Development, on efforts of their [Home Energy Rating Disclosure Pilot](#) in Tompkins County as well as their statewide initiative to process DOE Home Energy Scores for homes in its program. Lastly, NEEP tracked the home energy labeling efforts in these states



and throughout the region, providing regular updates to the leadership of DOE's Home Energy Score program.

- **Released Benchmarking and Data Access Report for peer review:** Building upon months of research, synthesis, and writing, NEEP released a report on benchmarking and data access for peer review. A broad array of stakeholders—many of whom provided input during the research phase—volunteered for an extended peer review process. Input was provided by stakeholders at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), the US DOE, the Maryland Energy Administration, the Massachusetts DOER, the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, the South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource, the Institute for Market Transformation, the Eastern Connecticut State University Institute for Sustainable Energy, the Weidt Group, and the University of Rhode Island. This extensive peer review process is important in assuring the final document maximizes value to cities and towns within our region seeking to streamline utility data access. While revision and final publication of the report will occur in the second quarter of 2015, NEEP has already conveyed lessons learned in a number of venues, including:
 - Comments submitted by NEEP to the [Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council](#) during formation of their 2016-2018 program plan. These comments directly reference streamlined data access options and the value that they can bring to efficiency program administration.
 - A presentation by NEEP to Architecture 2030's continuing education course on [facility operation and maintenance](#). This course helped inform design professionals on the importance of building energy benchmarking and the available options for streamlining utility data access, including interoperability of [Green Button](#) protocols with [ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager](#).
- **Provided technical assistance to communities exploring benchmarking and disclosure opportunities:** Reaching communities to assist with their efforts to benchmark and disclose building energy usage is an area of growing focus at NEEP, and will continue to grow in importance as we develop a community-based program, utilizing building energy rating and disclosure policies as a key component. To work toward this, NEEP provided technical assistance to two communities seeking to benchmark buildings within their jurisdictions:
 - Officials from the Department of Public Works in Erie County, N.Y. expressed an interest in benchmarking their public buildings. NEEP responded by introducing them to staff at the US EPA and providing them with [Guidelines for Energy Management](#), NEEP's handout on [Building Energy Rating and Disclosure in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic](#), NEEP's [Public Buildings Operation and Maintenance Guide](#), NEEP's [Building Energy Rating and Disclosure Update](#), and a [handout summarizing relevant policies](#).
 - The Montpelier, Vermont Energy Committee expressed interest in a benchmarking and disclosure policy for the city. NEEP offered technical assistance and provided guidance including our [survey of policies within the region](#), a general [handout](#) on building energy rating and disclosure policies, and the [Building Energy Rating and Disclosure Update](#).
- **Updated the Building Energy Rating and Disclosure Handout to reflect Philadelphia's adoption of multifamily rating and disclosure:** On March 5, 2015, the Philadelphia City Council unanimously agreed to [update their building energy rating and disclosure ordinance](#) to include all residential properties over 50,000 sq. ft. in size. NEEP adjusted our [summary of policies in the region](#) to reflect this update, which brings an additional 800 buildings within the authority of the ordinance. This is important as it highlights the proliferation of multifamily rating and disclosure as a key trend in the field of building energy rating and disclosure ordinances.
- **Maintained regional and national network of energy rating allies:** NEEP provided updates on regional building energy rating activities through our Building Energy Codes and Public Buildings



Leadership Groups. We also engaged with our national and regional codes counterparts, most notably through monthly coordination with the Institute for Market Transformation.

- **Maintained and updated our online building energy rating resource center:** NEEP maintained and regularly updated the [Building Energy Rating homepage](#) and [Resources](#) pages to feature the latest news, events, and resources on commercial energy benchmarking and home energy labeling. These resources support building energy rating efforts by providing state and municipal officials with news on initiatives underway throughout the region.
- **Engaged real estate professionals on the value of energy efficiency:** In March, before 50 members of the Women's Council of REALTORS, NEEP participated in a panel discussion on the value of high performance homes and home energy rating. Fellow panelists included Alissa Whiteman, MA DOER; Grey Lee, MA Green Building Council, and Mass. Senator James Eldridge.

Building Energy Best Practices

- **Released *Street Lighting Assessment and Strategies for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic*:** In January 2015, after extensive research and analysis, NEEP published a report assessing the status of—and opportunities associated with—[LED Street Lighting in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic](#). A blog summarizing the report can be found [here](#). The report uses quantitative analysis to estimate street lighting inventories within the region and qualitative analysis to identify technical, regulatory, and financial barriers faced by cities and towns seeking to convert their inventories to LEDs. It highlights strategies that cities and towns from throughout the region have successfully employed to convert their fixtures from legacy technologies to LEDs. The report will provide value to communities seeking to understand street lighting in the context of public facility operation and maintenance best practices, and will serve as a resource to help unlock up to 1.76 TWh of potential energy savings. The report was downloaded over 280 times and read online over 190 times by the end of March.
- **Supported the Massachusetts School Building Authority's (MSBA) adoption of the Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools' latest criteria, NE-CHPS 3.0:** After over a year of technical assistance and support, the MSBA chose to offer the [NE-CHPS 3.0 Criteria](#) as a pathway to satisfy their [Sustainable Design Building Guidelines](#). The criteria will be available to all Core Program projects requesting Preferred Schematic approval on or after July 29, 2015. Districts can obtain an additional 2% reimbursement from the MSBA by achieving nine points in the NE-CHPS 3.0 Energy Efficiency Category (EE 1.1). This offering is important because all K-12 schools that seek funding for new construction or major renovation/addition will now be required to meet either the NE-CHPS 3.0 Criteria or the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED V4 Criteria, advancing the baseline for high performance schools in one of the most active markets for school construction in the region. As of January 2015, 107 Core Program projects have registered with either CHPS or USGBC and the MSBA has issued more than \$92 million worth of additional reimbursement for projects. A memo summarizing the Sustainable Building Design Guideline Revisions can be found [here](#), and a presentation is available [here](#).
- **Facilitated Public Buildings Leadership Group webinar:** NEEP facilitated via webinar the first quarterly meeting of our High Performance Public Buildings Regional Leadership Group. The webinar featured Jim Sloss, Energy and Utilities Manager with the Pittsburgh Office of Sustainability and Energy Efficiency. Mr. Sloss detailed Pittsburgh's experience converting their outdoor lighting fixtures to LED and responded to questions about conversion concerns. The webinar also served as a forum for communicating best practices identified in NEEP's recent publication [LED Street Lighting Assessment and Strategies for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic](#). The webinar is available in both [recorded form](#) and [pdf form](#).
- **Organized a financing panel at Efficiency Vermont's Better Buildings by Design 2015:** In support of recommendations presented by [NEEP's Roadmap to Zero Net Energy Buildings](#), NEEP



organized a panel focused on [Funding Energy-Savings Retrofits in the Vermont Climate at Efficiency Vermont's Better Buildings by Design 2015](#). The panel featured four speakers: 1) Burlington Electric Department's Chris Burns; 2) Green Mountain Power's Craig Ferreira; 3) Vermont Energy Investment Corporation's (VEIC) Mark Kelley; and 4) NEEP's Brian Buckley. Topics included [BED's on-bill financing program](#), [GMP's E-Home Program](#), VEIC's support for Vermont's [property assessed clean energy program](#), and a broad overview of financing trends in the energy efficiency industry. The panel was of particular value to the audience—predominantly made up of builders and project managers—as their frequency of customer contact allows them to convey information about financing mechanisms to a broad audience.

- **Moderated a panel on Building Operator Certification at the NH Local Energy Solutions Conference:** NEEP organized a panel entitled "[The Certified Building Operator Experience: Savings Energy Through Lessons Learned](#)" for the Local Energy Solutions Working Group's Local Energy Solutions Conference in Concord, N.H. The panel featured three building operator certification course alumni: 1) Richard Fortier with the Rollinsford, N.H. School District; 2) Russell Weeks with Meredith, N.H.'s Department of Parks and Recreation; and 3) Scott Lindquist with the University of New Hampshire. The panel covered lighting, HVAC, and thermal efficiency projects completed by the panelists. The panel brought great value to the conversation on workforce development with many of the attendees unaware of the benefits of building operator certification, its associated incentives, and the impact on energy usage available through building operation and maintenance best practices.
- **Disseminated building operation and maintenance best practices to Architecture 2030 participants:** NEEP conveyed building operation and maintenance best practices in a presentation to Architecture 2030 participants. The presentation, "[The Handoff and Staying in Shape: Operations, Maintenance, and Education](#)," was part of a three-hour course focused on how architects can be advocates for proper building energy commissioning and maintenance, even after design plans have been completed. This presentation's audience of architects is uniquely positioned to influence building design in a way that accommodates proper operation and maintenance best practices.
- **Updated NEEP's Operation and Maintenance Guide for Schools and Public Buildings:** NEEP updated references in the [Operations and Maintenance Guide for Schools and Public Buildings](#) to keep current with recent development in the field of public building operation and maintenance. Updates include references to several recently developed resources including the [NE-CHPS 3.0 Criteria](#), [Regional Street Lighting Assessment and Strategies](#), a handout on [Regional Building Energy Benchmarking and Disclosure Policies](#), and [NEEP Guidance on Advanced Power Strips](#). A living document, this update provides value by communicating advancements in the policies and technologies that shape our built environment.
- **Contributed technical assistance to the Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council:** NEEP identified [emerging best practices in efficiency program design](#) during the latest round of the [Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council's](#) three-year planning process. This included assistance related to building energy best practices such as high performance school design, high performance public building operation, and LED outdoor lighting. This led the consultant for the Board to identify outdoor lighting as a key component of the [recommended](#) three-year energy efficiency plans for all investor-owned utilities in Massachusetts.
- **Disseminated building operations and maintenance best practices to bolster workforce development goals:** NEEP's Carolyn Sarno Goldthwaite presented strategies for "[Avoiding the Friday 4pm Maintenance Call](#)" to over 80 facilities staff and school business administrators at the 2015 Northern New England Facilities Masters Conference.
- **Provided comments on US DOE's proposed definition of Commercial Zero Energy Buildings:** NEEP answered a call for comments by the [Department of Energy - Building Technologies Office of](#)



[Commercial Buildings Integration](#) regarding a potential [definition of Zero Energy Buildings](#). DOE published a paper addressing the need to create consistency throughout the United States and beyond regarding the definition of zero net energy buildings. A commonly recognized definition of a commercial zero energy building is important to assure energy savings are achieved and maintained in the commercial building sector. NEEP commented that the definitions and explanatory language were a good starting point for continued refinement.

- **Advanced best practices for multifamily retrofits:** NEEP participated in the [Network for Energy, Water, and Health in Affordable Buildings](#), dedicated to driving increased affordability, health, and comfort through the efficient use of energy and water in multifamily housing.
- **Advanced Zero Net Energy (ZNE) buildings:** Carolyn Sarno Goldthwaite served as an advisor and co-chair of the policy track for NBI, NASEO, and Roxy Mountain Institute’s second annual [Getting to Zero Forum](#). In addition, she moderated a session on best practices from leading states who are striving for ZNE. The event drew over 200 participants from across the country.
- **Engaged and collaborated with regional stakeholders to advance energy efficiency in the built environment:** NEEP participated in meetings and working groups dedicated to high performance building best practices in state and federal government, including.
 - [New Hampshire Partnerships for Healthy Schools](#);
 - [EPA working group on Health, Indoor Air Quality, and Energy Efficiency](#);
 - [New Hampshire Local Energy Solutions Working Group](#); and
 - [State Energy Efficiency \(SEE\) Action Existing Commercial Buildings Working Group](#), which Carolyn Sarno Goldthwaite continues to co-chair.

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SPEED ADOPTION OF HIGH EFFICIENCY PRODUCTS

Identify and accelerate the adoption of high-efficiency residential and commercial lighting and consumer products through education, incentive programs and public policies.

High Efficiency Retail Consumer Products

- **Launched a Home Energy Management Systems (HEMS) research project:** The [energy efficiency potential of HEMS](#) remains a great opportunity for energy efficiency programs, prompting the launch of a research project in coordination with the Regional Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification (EM&V) Forum. This began with formation of a HEMS Research Project sub-committee and completion of a project scope to explore the potential opportunities associated with these systems. The project aims to develop key resources to ease the integration of HEMS into efficiency programs and keep the Northeast - Mid-Atlantic region an energy efficiency leader. The project was launched with a kick-off meeting via webinar in February. The meeting resulted in approval of the proposed contractor, CLEAResult, and the project scope and timeline. Project results will include: technology assessment, measurement of M&V potential, assessment of program activity, efficiency program opportunities, areas for further study, and policy opportunities and recommendations. The project will be the focus of a workshop at the 2015 NEEP Summit, and the final report is expected in August.
- **Sponsor Retail Products programs achieve significant energy savings:** As demonstrated in NEEP's past applications for the ENERGY STAR Award, NEEP Sponsors achieved over 5.9 million MWh & 4.6 million Tons of CO₂ reductions in 2013, and over 7.2 million MWh & 5.0 million Tons of CO₂ reductions in 2014. This achievement was recognized with NEEP again being awarded the [2015 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year-Sustained Excellence Award for Qualifying Products Award](#) on behalf of the NEEP sponsors.
- **Sponsors implement NEEP residential lighting strategy (RLS) recommendations:** NEEP developed a multi-week dissemination plan to broadcast the December 2014 publication of the [2014-2015 RLS Update](#). Through three blog posts ([Transformation Tactics: How is EISA Impacting Residential Lighting?](#); [Signs of Things to Come: Residential Lighting Programs Escalate Focus on LEDs](#); and [Top Five Policy Implications of Residential Lighting Strategy Report](#)) and targeting specific audiences, report downloads increased by 150% (from 67 to 167). Following this targeted effort, the average time a viewer spent on the report landing page was 4:53 minutes compared to a site average of 1:41 minutes. Additionally, in alignment with the RLS recommendations, NEEP sponsors are shifting product promotions toward LEDs and two sponsors (in DC and CT) are dropping specialty CFL promotions, as recommended by the RLS.
- **Sponsors expand HEMS promotions:** NEEP facilitates a HEMS Working Group with the goal to advance HEMS promotions in the region. The Working Group held two meetings in the first quarter. The group is working to create a HEMS Common Criteria document to align efficiency programs and HEMS vendors on expectations; the formation of this document comes as a request from NEEP Sponsors. NEEP is also co-convening an in-person HEMS Workshop with the Home Performance Coalition in conjunction with [ACI's National Conference](#) on May 4.
- **Sponsors highly satisfied with NEEP's Retail Products Initiative:** NEEP held the first quarterly Retail Products Working Group meeting in March to discuss regional strategies in consumer electronics programs, including representatives from 75% of the project's sponsoring states. In addition to compiling program summaries on [Lighting](#), [Electronics](#), and [Appliances](#), NEEP distributes a monthly newsletter to members of the Working Group, which averaged a 37% open rate. Additionally, results from a 2014 end-of-year survey identified that 85% of the members rated the "Overall Quality of the Retail Products Working Group Quarterly Meetings," a key component to the initiative, as "good" or "excellent."



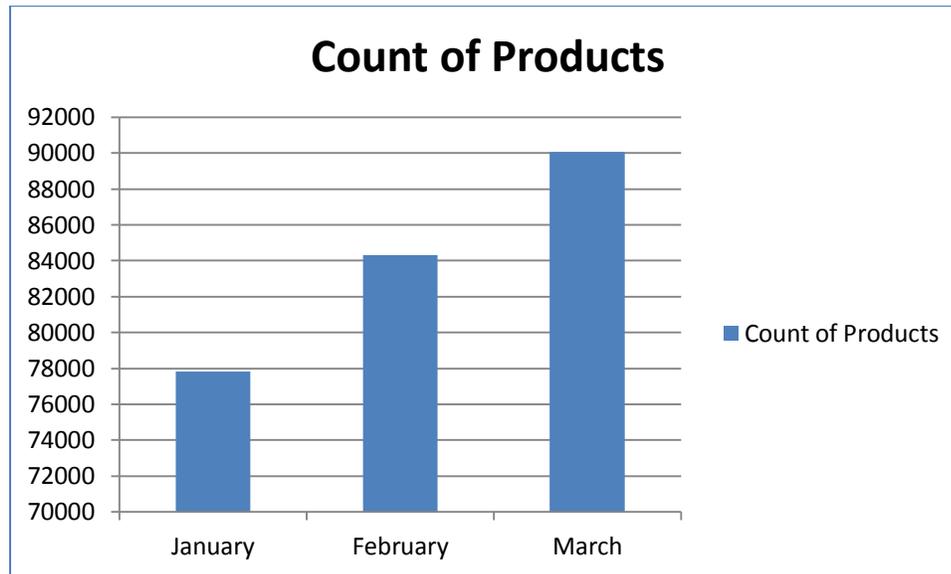
- **Provided input to federal activities:** NEEP regularly submits written comments to ENERGY STAR when updating relevant specifications. This year, NEEP has submitted comments on both of ENERGY STAR's lighting specifications. Along with the Cape Light Compact, we submitted [comments](#) on the first draft of ENERGY STAR's Luminaires V2.0 Specification. Additionally, with the Cape Light Compact, Eversource MA, Liberty Utilities, and Efficiency Vermont, we submitted [comments](#) on the first draft of the Lamps V2.0 Specification. These comments are pushing efficacy and quality levels forward to improve the lighting product category.
- **Contributed regulatory/policy/EM&V comments and guidance:** To assist in the long-term planning for efficiency programs, NEEP provides retail-products specific comments to relevant planning processes. Recently, this included comments for planning processes in Massachusetts and Connecticut to support these states' success in the retail products space. NEEP's Director of Market Strategies Dave Lis provided public comment to the Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Board to advise the state on their retail products initiatives for their upcoming three-year plan.
- **Maintained and updated our web-based resource center:** NEEP removed the Business and Consumer Electronics landing page and replaced it with distinct "[Advanced Power Strips \(APS\)](#)" and "[Home Energy Management Systems \(HEMS\)](#)" pages. The APS page houses NEEP's prior work on this topic, while the HEMS page provides background information until the research report and additional resources are completed.
- **Participated in the ENERGY STAR Retail Products Platform (RPP):** To connect efficiency program administrators to valuable new opportunities in program design, NEEP participates in the ENERGY STAR RPP initiative, which is working with stakeholders across the nation to create a unified mid-stream efficient product program with national retail partners. NEEP attended bi-weekly teleconferences of both the RPP EM&V Task Force as well as the larger RPP effort concerning the implementation of a nation-wide pilot of the RPP. NEEP also carried out targeted outreach to each of our sponsors to answer questions and build a connection to the RPP. Additionally, NEEP worked with EM&V Forum members to host an "EM&V of the RPP" webinar to connect regional evaluators with resources to participate in the RPP.

DesignLights Consortium® Solid State Lighting Qualified Products List

- **The DesignLights Consortium (DLC) continued to experience consistent growth:** The number of products on the [Solid State Lighting Qualified Products List](#) (SSL QPL) and participating manufacturers increased, and the DLC gained [six new members](#). To keep up with this growth and maintain relevance of the DLC's technical resources within the lighting market, the DLC created a second draft proposal to restructure the Technical Requirements Table, which was distributed for industry comment. In addition, development of a Product Verification Testing Program (Challenge Testing) continued. Both efforts will increase the robustness and validity of the QPL.
- **Improved web-based list functionality for DLC Members:** The online DLC members-only portal was enabled early in 2015. This password-protected site allows DLC members to store confidential information such as customized qualified product lists as well as meeting materials and announcements. Members are also able to access saved search results from the QPL database and track applications under review. This allows member programs to plan ahead and evaluate whether products have been submitted and when they might be qualified. DLC hosted a webinar tutorial to introduce the DLC Member Portal.



- **Products added to the Qualified Products List:** The DLC QPL grew by 18% in the first quarter, leaving the product count at 90,065 products at the end of March. This represents products from approximately 1,120 different luminaire manufacturers.



- **QPL accessed by a diverse and growing audience:** The DLC website received 409,980 page views from 45,339 users, 31.1% of which were new users. Approximately 70% of visitors came from the U.S., while roughly 12% came from Canada and 10% from China. The remainder came from countries including Taiwan, South Korea, India, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, and Mexico. This demonstrates the diverse and wide use of the DLC QPL as well as its continued relevance in the lighting market.
- **New QPL policies in development:** To keep the DLC QPL on the leading edge of SSL product introduction and to provide DLC members with enhanced technical information to support and inform their energy efficiency programs, NEEP worked with DLC members and stakeholders to inform several new policies including:
 - **Restructuring the Technical Requirements Table (RTRT):** Restructuring the Technical Requirements Table aims to re-arrange categories and their technical requirements and to make them more readable and accessible to all users. A second draft of the proposal was distributed to stakeholders for comment. The proposed RTRT consolidates and re-groups product categories to support the rapid introduction of new product types. The basic structure of the proposal remains the same, and includes three key elements:
 - DLC is proposing to alter the structure of the luminaire and retrofit categories in the [Technical Requirements Table](#). These category changes are intended to broaden the types of luminaires that are eligible to qualify for the DLC program, simplify the program, and allow members to use the list more effectively in their programs.
 - DLC is proposing to add a primary use designation of "Specialty" to provide space for products that may not fit precisely into the definitions of previously established categories, but still meet baseline requirements.
 - DLC is proposing to add a higher performance tier for luminaires and retrofit kits.



- **Challenge Testing:** DLC continued to work on a second draft of the Challenge Testing policy proposal, which will allow manufacturers and DLC members to challenge products listed on the QPL. This complex policy change will require multiple levels of review.
- **Maintaining the integrity of the DLC Brand:** The DLC has two registered logo trademarks, and also uses and protects the trademark “DesignLights Consortium.” The DLC logos, as well as the trademarked name, are all either pending applications or registered with the US Patent and Trademark Office. These trademarks are the identity of the program and valuable assets that must be properly used and protected. NEEP monitors DLC logo use compliance, and has implemented a well-defined and actionable DLC Logo Compliance Process. The DLC logo guidelines were updated to be more comprehensive and easier to understand and implement. The DLC also engaged a legal team to support the process of bringing third parties into compliance with the guidelines. Having support from experts in trademark law has made compliance more uniformly applicable, and has allowed the DLC to communicate the seriousness and importance of logo guideline compliance. On April 1, the DLC hosted a webinar on “Tips and Tricks to avoid DLC logo misuse at LightFair International 2015” to provide manufacturers with information about DLC logo use at tradeshow events such as LFI 2015.
- **Researched brand strategy enhancements:** The DLC began research into a brand strategy for the program, identifying PR firms to assist the DLC in several areas including brand development and website re-design. An RFP for a DLC Brand Strategy will be released in June.
- **Engagement of DLC members and the broader lighting community:**
 - The first member meetings of the year were held in February and March to provide members with an overview of developments thus far in 2015, and the first DLC Technical Committee Meeting was also held in February.
 - The DLC distributed regular DLC Member Updates including program updates, general information, and announcements. The updates are a tool to inform members and assist them in informing their colleagues and customers about DLC program developments. The DLC also published an Industry Update, a newsletter distributed to the lighting industry with timely announcements regarding developments and changes within the DLC program such as the RTRT and Challenge Testing policies.
 - DLC’s Twitter account [@DesignLightsSSL](#) gained approximately 50 new followers as a result of targeted tweets about industry news, conference outcomes and observations, and general updates from DLC.
- **DLC renewed memberships and engaged new stakeholders:** The first quarter of the year focused on renewal of memberships from [DLC’s current members](#). The program has also gained six new members thus far in 2015—MidAmerican Energy, the Orlando Utilities Commission, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, Public Service Company of New Mexico, the Independent Electricity System Operator, and Alliant Energy—and is in discussion with several additional potential new members. There are currently 80 members, covering the Northeast, Southeast, Northwest, and some of the South and Midwest of the United States, as well as several Canadian provinces.
- **Planning for the DLC QPL Annual Stakeholder Meeting picks up speed:** The annual gathering of DLC stakeholders is scheduled for August 4-5 in Washington, DC. NEEP has begun agenda development, sponsorship solicitation, as well as planning for an off-site reception. Registration will open in late April, and event details will be posted to www.dlcmeeting.org.
- **DLC engaged with the lighting industry through briefings, presentations, webinars, and receptions.** The DLC had a presence at five national conferences and meetings, included the Annual AESP Conference, the Strategies in Light conference, a workshop on lighting controls at Eaton Cooper, a workshop at RAB Lighting, and presentation on the DLC program to new DLC member program, the Orlando Utilities Commission. The DLC also hosted three technical



webinars: 1) a [webinar](#) explaining elements of the second draft proposal for Restructuring the Technical Requirements Table; 2) a [webinar](#) for manufacturers on Retrofit Kit Guidance; and 3) a [webinar](#) for laboratories on Common Reporting Issues.

- **Planning for the future:** NEEP [hired Christina Halfpenny as the new Director of the DesignLights Consortium](#). Ms. Halfpenny is leading the team and focusing on the long-term plan for the DLC. Priorities include a market assessment and characterization study, development of the new brand strategy, and preparation for inclusion of Advanced Lighting Controls under the DLC.

High Efficiency Air Source Heat Pumps

- **Cold-Climate Air Source Heat Pump (ccASHP) specifications listed:** With the publication of the [ccASHP specification](#), stakeholders now have a model equipment and performance requirement specification for this technology. The specification and its associated metrics were developed to help stakeholders better identify products that perform under low-temperature conditions. In collaboration with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), the effort succeeded in including 17 products by Haier and Mitsubishi by the end of the first quarter, and other manufacturers are expected to include their qualifying products on the list soon. Their interest clearly demonstrates the need of the ccASHP specification as it aims to move the market. The currently listed models are intended for engineers, contractors, and other practitioners who need assurance that the equipment they select will have the required heating capacity at certain temperatures and will serve the load efficiently throughout the ambient temperature range. The specification is a tool for use when promoting ASHPs to provide better assurance that the units installed are performing during the coldest parts of the winter season. Low-temperature performance will strengthen the reputation of ASHPs in the region and drive accelerated adoption of the technology.
- **Efficiency programs adopt and use Cold-Climate ASHP specification:** NEEP works in coordination with the MassCEC ASHP rebate program. The MassCEC requires manufacturers to meet the [ccASHP specification](#) and list their products on the NEEP website in order to receive incentive rebates. This collaboration with MassCEC resulted in the listing of 17 qualified products by both Haier and Mitsubishi.
- **Hosted a regional ASHP Working Group meeting:** NEEP leads an [ASHP Working Group](#) with the goal to effectively implement the strategies included in our [2014 ASHP Market Strategies Report](#). The Working Group held its first quarterly meeting in March with 38 participants. Planning has begun for the four sub-committees, including for cold climates metrics, research, policy, and workshop planning.
- **Delivered presentation on the ccASHP specification:** One of the recommended strategies from NEEP's ASHP report is to educate a wide range of industry stakeholders on ASHPs and the cold-climate specification. NEEP's Dave Lis presented to an audience of contractors, a stakeholder group identified for increased ASHP education, at Efficiency Vermont's Better Buildings by Design Conference.
- **Improvements made to ccASHP website and application process:** NEEP developed an application and updated the [ASHP specification webpage](#) with additional resources and listings. The specification webpage garnered 738 webpage views, and the specification document was downloaded by 158 unique users, ranking third for download rates on the entire NEEP website.
- **Maintained and updated our web-based resource center:** NEEP contributed a blog, "[Looking for Winter-Proof Heat Pumps?](#)" Additionally, the Emerging Technologies landing page elevated the prominence of the distinct [ASHP](#) and [HPWH](#) pages. The ASHP page houses NEEP's cold-climate ASHP page with the listing and specification, while the HPWH page is educational. These changes are intended to make NEEP's resources more accessible to stakeholders.



Commercial Advanced Lighting Controls

- **Technology selection for demonstration projects completed:** NEEP issued an RFQ in 2014 to manufacturers for [Advanced Lighting Control](#) products to be deployed in the 10 demonstration projects. NEEP assembled a highly qualified scoring team that included industry experts from DOE, GSA, national laboratories, independent consultants, and energy efficiency programs. This team scored 15 manufacturer proposals for products based on their approach to overcoming technology adoption barriers and potential for large-scale adoption. The top nine products were selected for demonstrations and approved by DOE.
- **Site selection criteria for demonstration projects completed:** After selection of the technologies, NEEP began a process to develop criteria for demonstration sites that would deliver the most value to achieving the demonstration project objectives. This included criteria such as which building types have the highest or lowest market penetration, which building types have the greatest potential, which building types align with energy efficiency program needs, targets, or delivery models. It also addressed whether the project should focus on retrofit or new construction, and what types of buildings best take advantage of the capabilities of advanced controls. With this information, detailed site selection criteria was developed for each demonstration technology and approved by DOE.
- **Training Plan completed:** NEEP prepared and submitted a conceptual training plan to DOE that included information on the model NEEP plans to build and deploy in providing Advanced Lighting Control training to designers and installers. This plan was approved by DOE.
- **Continued stakeholder engagement:** NEEP held project Advisory Committee meetings in January and February with project Sponsors and Advisors to review project deliverables and advise future direction. NEEP presented the project to Midwest utilities and other stakeholders at the Midwest Energy Solutions Conference in Chicago in January, as well as an overview to DesignLights Consortium members in February.
- **Developed budget and plan to transition project to the DesignLights Consortium (DLC):** NEEP developed a budget and high-level transition plan to shift the project from a NEEP regional project to one that is deployed nationally under the DLC beginning in 2016.
- **Formed partnership with the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA):** NEEP entered into a formal partnership with NEEA to develop an aligned initial vision, framework, and specification for Advanced Lighting Controls including Luminaire Level Lighting Controls. Both NEEP and NEEA's initiatives are targeting Advanced Lighting Control technology that is networked, intelligent, and provides granular (individual) luminaire control and flexibility. NEEA's effort is targeting a subset of this intelligence and control to be embedded into each luminaire, rather than provided centrally or separate from the luminaire.

Advanced Commercial HVAC Roof-Top Units

- **Launched the Advanced Roof-Top Unit (ARTU) project:** This initiative will advance stakeholder understanding and support for a strategy to accelerate market deployment and adoption of ARTUs in the region. NEEP will work in conjunction with the US DOE's Better Buildings Program and RTU Challenge. In preparation for the market assessment and stakeholder engagement, NEEP drafted a scoping document and held a project kick-off meeting in March to engage stakeholders from across the region concerned with and knowledgeable of the RTU market and barriers. Seventeen participants, including energy efficiency program administrators, efficiency advocates, and state agency staff interested in the deployment of high performance ARTUs joined the meeting, which resulted in approval of the proposed scope and timeline. NEEP plans to facilitate additional webinars and may hold a workshop at the NEEP Summit. The report is expected to be finalized in by mid-summer.



- **Development of the Regional ARTU Market Assessment & Strategy:** After launch of the project, NEEP began development of the ARTU Market Assessment Report. Included in the report is a survey of the current market, market barriers, and savings opportunities associated with the adoption of high performance RTUs in the Northeast. NEEP held interviews with industry stakeholders as part of this assessment to gain further insight into the market.

Industrial Energy Efficiency

- This project is scheduled to kick off in the second quarter of 2015.

Appliance Efficiency Standards

- **Participated in the federal general service lamp rulemaking:** The general service lamp federal rulemaking reached a major milestone in December 2014 with the release of the Preliminary Technical Support Document. This rulemaking, scheduled to take effect in 2020, has major implications nationwide as it will raise the efficacy levels of general service light bulbs, impacting which types of lighting products can be sold. NEEP partnered with other efficiency advocates and participated on a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) coordinated by the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP). NEEP attended multiple planning teleconferences, remotely attended a DOE-led workshop, and contributed to a [joint comment letter](#) submitted to the DOE. Through this engagement, NEEP was able to transfer knowledge from our [Residential Lighting Strategy](#), as well as understanding of efficiency programs to ensure that the comments to DOE pushed efficiency forward in the region. We contributed to the comments on matters such as DOE setting quality standards for CFLs, power factor, distribution of lamp lumen bins, and pricing of lamps for DOE's analysis. It is our hope that DOE will return with a strong Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in December 2015 that will feed into a positive federal standard for general service lamps in 2020.
- **Annual Appliance Standards Project strategy developed:** NEEP led development of the [Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Appliance Standards Project's](#) Regional Strategy Memorandum for 2015, outlining the project's key directions and strategies for the year. The strategy was developed based on an assessment of current opportunities associated with appliance standards, and involved input from all project stakeholders. As the project is comprised of stakeholders from a number of organizations—state energy offices, program administrators, efficiency advocates, state regulatory offices, etc.—the memo lays the foundation for regional work by aligning the efforts of the various players with a common plan and goals.
- **Convened Appliance Standards Working Group via webinar:** To facilitate regional stakeholder input and share information and best practices, NEEP convened our first quarterly meeting via webinar on March 18. The webinar engaged 15 stakeholders from across the region to review the key elements of the annual strategy, and prepare for upcoming appliance standards opportunities. This engagement promotes understanding and awareness of appliance standards as a valuable policy mechanism to achieve cost-effective energy savings.
- **Engaged priority federal-level rulemaking on residential gas furnaces:** NEEP hosted a teleconference in January to discuss the status of the federal rulemaking for gas furnaces. DOE then published their [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), which indicated their proposed efficiency levels. NEEP reviewed the notice and attended DOE's public workshop via webinar. NEEP remained engaged with stakeholders outside of the region via ASAP's TAG made up of national and regional efficiency advocates. The TAG organized a meeting on February 20 in Washington, DC with a group of advocates and industry interests, which NEEP attended by phone. This engagement will inform the development of a joint comment letter to the docket from NEEP and regional stakeholders pushing for a strong final rule.



- **Supported state-level appliance standards activities:**
 - **Massachusetts:** NEEP actively supported the staff of the lead sponsor (Rep. Frank Smizik) of [H. 755](#), on technical questions regarding the efficiency product standards within the bill.
 - **Rhode Island:** NEEP engaged with National Grid staff involved in their codes and standards initiative. NEEP offered guidance on activities they could participate in to support state standards, and attended a meeting with staff in February, as well as a meeting in March between National Grid and the Office of Energy Resources. NEEP also provided guidance to Rep. Arthur Handy in the development of Bill [H 5670](#).
 - **New York:** NEEP provided direct support to NYSERDA staff involved with charting the Authority's work on state standards for the near- and long term, sharing information to help them prioritize activities.
 - **California:** NEEP re-engaged with the California state appliance standards rulemaking process in preparation for further regional action once California adopts new standards for a range of products in 2015. To this end, NEEP staff worked collaboratively with other advocates in the development of draft comments regarding the Commission's proposal on computers.



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ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE & BEST PRACTICES

Promote knowledge and the use of best practices that support the expansion, implementation and evaluation of policies and programs to increase and accelerate energy efficiency.

Regional Evaluation, Measurement & Verification Forum

- Nearly 100 evaluators, regulators, program administrators, and others attended the **Regional EM&V Forum Annual Public Meeting (APM)**: NEEP, along with Forum leadership and participants, [brought together stakeholders from across the region](#) to discuss implications of Clean Air Act 111(d) EM&V requirements and recently completed Forum projects on geo-targeting and cost-effectiveness. A group of approximately 20 industry experts gathered the day before the meeting for a training workshop on [Standardized EM&V Methods Reporting Forms](#), which were adopted by the Forum Steering Committee in July 2014. Attendees reviewed the two standardized forms (study and program level) using real examples of evaluation studies and programs. The group also discussed how the forms could evolve into a database or into requirements for EPA 111(d) compliance reporting. NEEP also confirmed that Massachusetts will pilot the forms for a sample of their programs in summer 2015, with a couple of other states also joining the pilot, to be confirmed.
- **Two Forum projects completed:**
 - [Residential Electric Clothes Dryer Baseline Study report and presentation \(March 2015\)](#): This report presents the research results from a study to determine baseline assumptions and provide potential programmatic support for advanced clothes dryer technologies for the residential market. The research is part of a continued effort to assess several emerging technologies and innovative program approaches. The residential clothes dryer study metered 23 existing residential electric clothes dryers in single household homes in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts. In addition, targeted secondary research of other studies that focused on the energy consumption and usage patterns of electric clothes dryers was performed.
 - [Energy Efficiency as a Transmission and Distribution Resource Using Geotargeting Report and Executive Summary \(January 2015\)](#): This report focuses on the role efficiency can play in deferring utility transmission and distribution (T&D) system investments. In particular, it addresses the role that intentional targeting of efficiency programs to specific constrained geographies—either by itself or in concert with demand response, distributed generation and/or other “non-wires alternatives” (NWA)—can play in deferring such investments. This report also includes an explicit set of policy recommendations or “guidelines” to address the interests of EM&V Forum funders.
- **Forum stakeholders surveyed to inform strategic planning**: NEEP surveyed Forum members and participants as a first step in developing a Forum strategic plan, followed by a discussion of the results with the Forum Steering Committee. The survey occurred in conjunction with a larger, organization-wide survey of how NEEP can fulfill its mission and respond to critical issues and trends in the energy industry. Thirty-seven respondents, including Forum members, provided feedback on the value of the Forum and future opportunities of interest. The survey results, with additional input from the Steering Committee, showed an overall favorable response with the Forum’s roles and accomplishments to date, and identified an increased focus on providing EM&V education and training, and also addressing how to improve EM&V practices to make results more timely and less expensive using new digital tools as the industry evolves. The feedback, along with additional discussions with participating states, will inform the Forum’s scope of work beyond 2015, and will be reviewed by the Steering Committee in July 2015, including discussion of the Forum’s operational and revenue structure.



- **New data made available on the Regional Energy Efficiency Database (REED):** Visitors can now view 2013 Program Year data [live on the REED website](#), along with 2011-2012 data. This trend data also helped inform analysis for NEEP’s [2015 Regional Roundup](#), and will be followed by a deeper analysis of the 2011-2013 data and current trends.
- **Forum work highlighted at the AESP Winter Conference:** Forum Senior Project Manager and Board Member of the Association of Energy Service Professionals (AESP) Elizabeth Titus presented at the AESP Winter Conference on [What Stakeholders Need to Know...](#), which covered the Forum’s standardizing reporting work to date, including on EM&V methods and energy efficiency impacts, i.e., REED.
- **Two Forum projects launched:**
 - *Home Energy Management Systems (HEMS):* A collaboration with NEEP’s Market Strategies team, this project kicked off in February with a subcommittee meeting to discuss project scope, which includes:
 - Technology assessment with prices and vendor relations
 - Potential of HEMS as an M&V Tool
 - Analysis of HEMS in programs to date
 - Opportunity assessment of HEMS in efficiency programs
 - Recommendations for further study
 - Policy opportunities/recommendations
 - *Mid-Atlantic Technical Reference Manual 2015 Version:* This annual update to the Mid-Atlantic Technical Reference Manual (TRM) kicked off in January with a review of approximately 50 proposed updated and new residential and commercial & industrial measures.

Public Policy Outreach and Analysis

- **NEEP released: [A Changing Landscape: The Regional Roundup of Energy Efficiency Policy in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States](#):** This annual assessment of energy efficiency policies in the 11 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia, now in its fourth year, presents NEEP’s assessment of state progress on energy efficiency, using a five-tier rating system and informed by input from a broad range of stakeholders. This year’s Roundup included two new features:
 - [Two States, Two Paths- A Regional Roundup Case Study](#), looking at two of our “emerging states,” New Hampshire and Delaware, and comparing their respective progress on recognizing energy efficiency as a first-order resource; and
 - *Issues to Watch*, a forward-looking examination of significant trends and developments that are defining the regional energy efficiency policy debate. Among these issues is NEEP’s [recommendation that a comprehensive analysis](#) of all resources be undertaken before the region—and New England in particular—commits to costly new energy infrastructure.
- **Comments filed regarding clean energy resources and transmission:** In March, NEEP filed [comments](#) regarding an unprecedented joint request for proposals issued by Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut for “clean energy resources” and transmission, including procurement of new natural gas capacity into the region. NEEP’s comments focused on the need for the states to consider non-transmission alternatives, such as energy efficiency on a regional scale, before committing to new transmission infrastructure, such as gas pipelines, that would be paid for by a tariff on electric ratepayers.



- **Joint comments filed to oppose repeal of Maryland’s energy efficiency programs:** In January, NEEP joined with a coalition of clean energy advocates in submitting [comments in opposition to a legislative proposal in Maryland to repeal the state’s EmPOWER Maryland energy efficiency programs](#). Ultimately defeated, the measure would have undone the significant progress made in the state following the first three-year EmPOWER programs and at a time when the next three-year programs are being reviewed. A specific piece of that review, regarding Cost-Effectiveness Screening Methodologies, were the subject of [separate comments filed by the coalition](#), with NEEP playing a lead role in offering recommended best practices informed by NEEP’s Regional EM&V Forum.
- **Provided guidance as Massachusetts began development of its next three-year energy efficiency plans under MassSave:** NEEP participated in a January stakeholder meeting to present its best practice recommendations and followed up with formal [Comments to Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council regarding 2016-18 Statewide Plans](#). Staff also presented a special briefing on energy efficiency for new Department of Public Utilities Commissioner Robert Hayden, highlighting what has made Massachusetts a leader in energy efficiency policy and what must happen to keep the state in that position.
- **Supported development of an energy efficiency resource standard in New Hampshire:** Over the last several years, NEEP has spent considerable time supporting state officials in New Hampshire as the state worked to develop an energy efficiency resource standard (EERS), which would bring it up to par with the remainder of New England and much of the region in requiring the capture of all cost-effective energy efficiency. In the first quarter of 2015, staff participated in a meeting of the state’s Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EERE) Board, presenting feedback on the straw EERS proposal released by the Public Utility Commission. NEEP followed with formal comments in March on the [Straw Proposal](#). NEEP’s Senior Public Policy Outreach Manager Natalie Hildt Treat also gave a briefing on energy efficiency to the new members of the legislature’s Science, Technology and Energy Committee.
- **Engaged with New York on its changing energy landscape:** NEEP contributed in several ways as New York continued its proceeding on Reforming the Energy Vision (REV), and the development of an accompanying Clean Energy Fund (CEF) proposal for energy efficiency programs. In early March, NEEP traveled to Albany for a meeting with NYSEDA staff to discuss the CEF proposal and the programs that will accompany it. In addition, NEEP continued its role as part of the Clean Energy Organizations Collaborative, a group of NGOs dedicated to accelerating clean energy via the REV proceeding. The group [submitted a letter](#) to the Public Service Commission expressing concern about the lack of clarity for various stakeholders who will be charged with delivering energy efficiency programs under the REV framework.
- **Participated in development of Connecticut’s next three-year energy efficiency program plans:** The state prepared for its next plans with joint proceedings in 2015. The first was regarding the next Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for the state, which was the subject of a public hearing in which NEEP participated in January. NEEP staff followed up that hearing with formal written [comments](#) submitted in February. The IRP process is then followed by the development of the state’s next three-year Conservation and Load Management plan, the process in which NEEP staff plans to participate in April.
- **Supported Delaware in preparation for its first statewide, ratepayer-funded and utility administered energy efficiency programs:** NEEP continued to support both the state energy office and the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council as it worked through proceedings to develop efficiency savings targets, programs and evaluation, measurement and verification protocols, frequently communicating with staff and stakeholders from both entities on best practices.



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2015 NEEP SUPPORTERS

NEEP would like to recognize and thank our 2015 funders, including our [Sponsors](#), [Partners](#), [Regional EM&V Forum funders](#), [DesignLights Consortium® Members](#), [federal and foundation funders](#), and [Summit Sponsors](#). We are grateful for their support, which makes this work possible.

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