

INTRODUCTION TO HOUSES THAT WORK – Half-Day Workshop Description & Outline

Title:

"An Introduction to Houses That Work"

This is a half day workshop that is the “lite” version of the full day Houses That Work program. This shorter version is often used in conjunction with other half day sessions or at conferences as an introductory piece to give participants the basics of building science and how it is applied to create high performance homes. The session will cover the elements that are part of high performance homes and the industry conditions that create a need for us to build them. The fundamentals of building science - air, heat and moisture flow – will be outlined and applied in helping participants make better choices with respect to construction materials and methods. By the end of the session participants will have a better understanding of how to build better attics, walls and foundations and how to choose HVAC systems that integrate properly into their homes.

Relevance to Attendees:

The workshop will be of most interest to at least the following groups:

- New home builders and remodelers and their site supervision staff
- Designers and architects
- Estimators and contract managers of builders
- Building industry suppliers and manufacturers representatives of building products
- Trade contractors who want to know more about how their work affects building performance
- Utility and housing program officials.
- Government housing officials
- New home sales agents
- Energy Raters

Learning Objectives:

- Learn the elements of high performance homes and how they help respond to the many changes in the residential construction industry and consumer expectations.
- Learn the fundamentals of air, heat and moisture flow and see how they can be applied to make better material and methods decisions
- Apply the building science to attics, walls, windows, foundations and HVAC decisions to create high performance homes.
- Identify the building process changes needed to cost effectively implement high performance homes
- Learn about the successes of other builders who have benefited from implementing high performance home strategies.

Note:

- The workshop will in all cases be adapted to the climate zone and building practices of the local area where it is being presented to ensure it is relevant to participants.