

# Residential Home Upgrades in California

**Torsten Glidden**

Sr. Technical Manager

Energy Upgrade California® Home Upgrade

Build It Green

[tglidden@builditgreen.org](mailto:tglidden@builditgreen.org)

AESP Webinar

Dec 2016

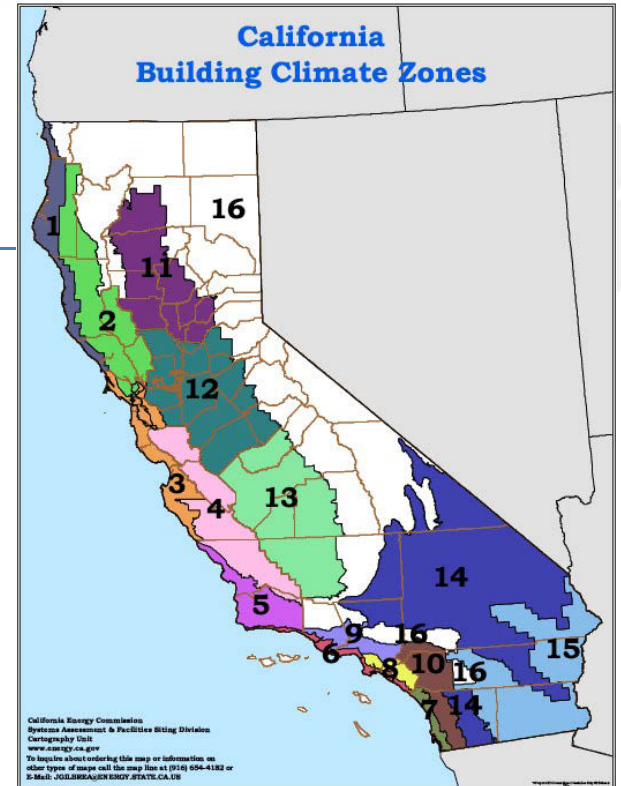


**Home Upgrade**

Energy Upgrade California®

# Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Home Upgrade Program Issues, Process & Solutions
- Home Upgrade Program Accelerator Metrics & Results
- Timeline
- Goals



**Home Upgrade**  
Energy Upgrade California®

# Introduction

---



is a non-profit green building standards development, training and program implementation services organization.



**Home Upgrade**

Energy Upgrade California®

# Introduction

---



is implementer for the Home Upgrade program, under the statewide Energy Upgrade California 'programs umbrella', in the Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) service territory, as well as the service territory that PG&E shares with the Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas).



**Home Upgrade**  
Energy Upgrade California®

# Introduction

---



The Home Upgrade Program (HUP) participation consists of:

- **150 Participating Contractors**
- **3,000 – 5,000 Upgrade Project Rebates Issued Annually**
- **2 Program pathways**
  - Home Upgrade pathway is prescriptive measures based
  - Advanced Home Upgrade pathway requires energy modeling (Pre- and Post-Installation)



# Home Upgrade Program Issues

---



- Program is **complicated** and requires ongoing training and mentoring
- Initially, the Advanced program had **only one approved energy modeling software tool**
- Program requires a significant amount of **time-consuming data collection and document submission**
- **Rebate application process is lengthy and (initially) unnecessarily complex**
- Job-submission **staff turnover can cause delays** during ‘learning-curve’
- Modeled energy **savings is not as accurate as desired**

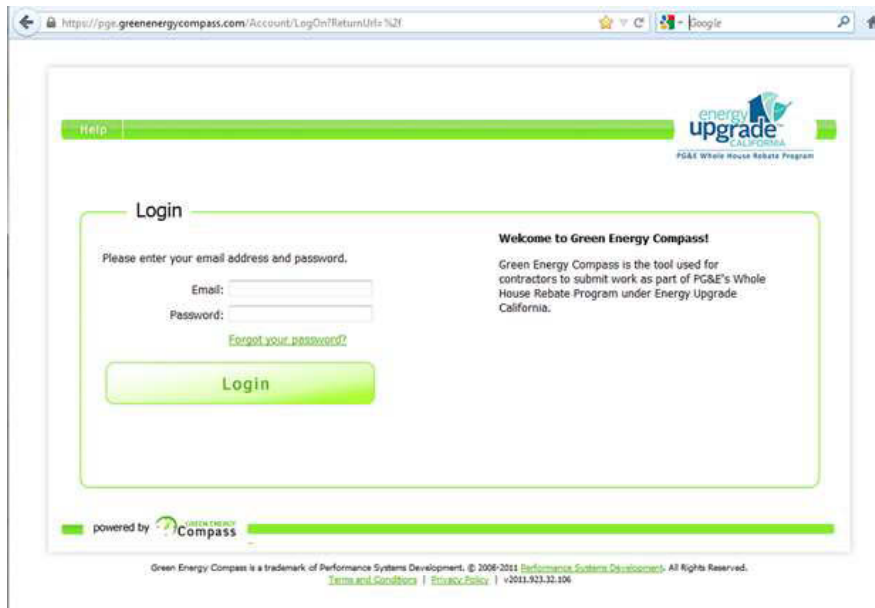


# Home Upgrade Program Issues



## Biggest initial pain-point:

- Rebate application process is lengthy and (initially) unnecessarily complex



## Focus on:

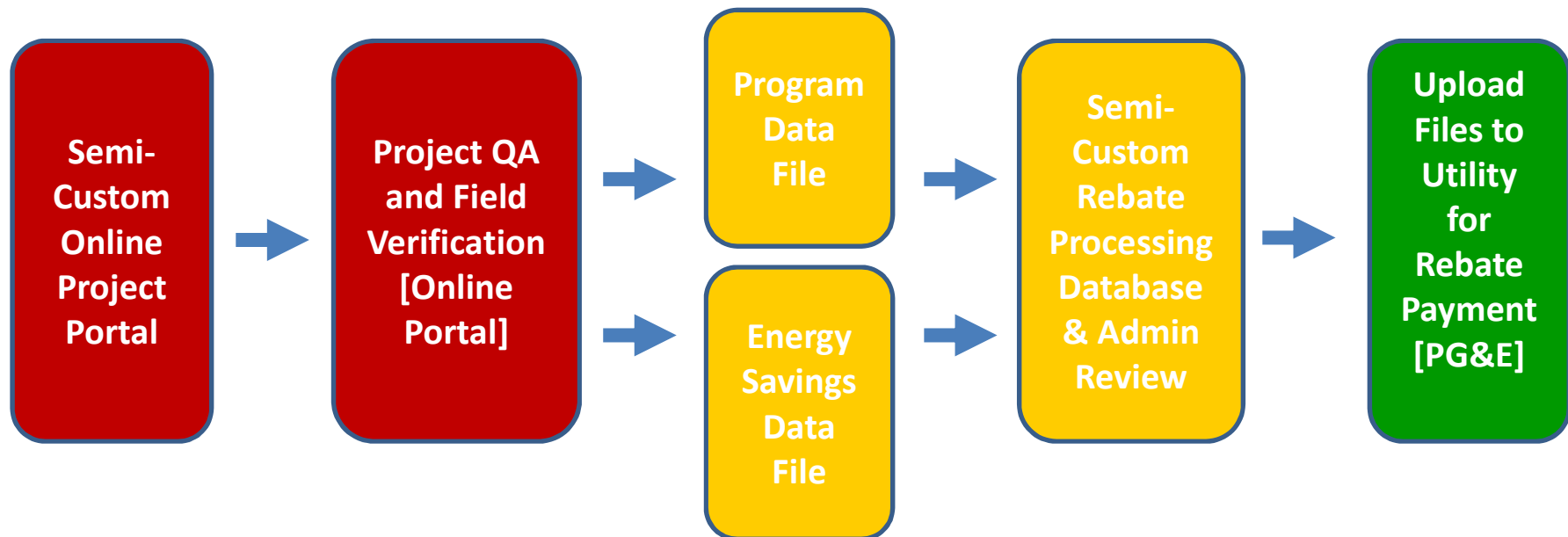
**Information Systems**  
(i.e., the thing we had the most control of)



**Home Upgrade**  
Energy Upgrade California®

# Home Upgrade Program Process

2011-2014



**Home Upgrade**  
Energy Upgrade California®



# Home Upgrade Program Issues

---



## **Process advantages for ‘Semi-Custom’ portal/database solutions:**

- Off-the-shelf solution to launch Program

## **Process drawbacks for ‘Semi-Custom’ portal/database solutions:**

- Difficult to update features without significant impacts on users
- Difficult to track application documentation updates (good notes required!)
- Design included significant amount of manual aggregation of data in order to move to next step in process
- Reporting capabilities were not as flexible as needed
- More steps = More potential for data errors in transfer



# Home Upgrade Program Process

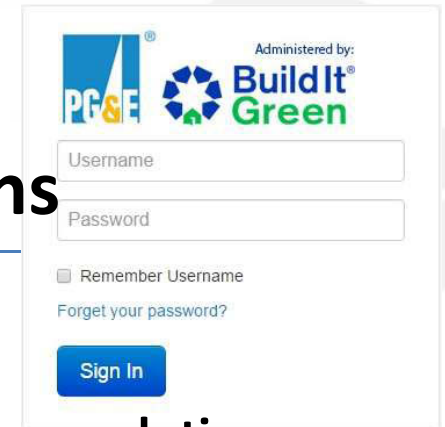
2015-Current



**Home Upgrade**  
Energy Upgrade California®

# Home Upgrade Program Issues & Solutions

salesforce



PG&E Administered by: Build It Green

Username

Password

Remember Username

[Forget your password?](#)

[Sign In](#)

## Process advantages for fully 'Custom' integrated portal/database solutions:

- Regular, flexible feature updates built on stable, standardized platform (Salesforce) minimize impacts on users and increases efficiency
- Iterative application documentation tracking (good notes still recommended!)
- Automated data aggregation speeds move to next step in process significantly
- Reporting capabilities are as flexible as needed (design for standardization of data where possible)
- Fewer steps = Limited potential for data errors in transfer

## Process drawbacks for fully 'Custom' portal/database solutions:

- Initial Cost



**Home Upgrade**  
Energy Upgrade California®

# Home Upgrade Program Solutions

---



## Addressing other Pain-Points:

- **Reduce unnecessary and/or manual data entry and documentation**
  - Parse data and ‘auto-populate’ from transparent, standardized energy modeling output (HPXML)
  - Online, dynamic, database-integrated ‘test-measurements’ form to minimize manual data transfer and user-error
  - Choice of ‘less-detailed’ software options

*These solutions can increase efficiency and save time/money, but might they help reduce staff turnover as well?*



# HPXML Standard/Structure Maintained by DOE (NREL)

**Complex Type BuildingDetailsType**

Namespace: http://hpxml.org/hpxml/2011/1

Diagram

**Showing:**

- Annotations
- Attributes
- Diagrams
- Facets
- Instances
- Model
- Properties
- Source
- Used by

Close

Used by: Element Building/BuildingDetails

Model: BuildingSummary{0,1}, ClimateandRiskZones{0,1}, Zones{0,1}, Enclosure{0,1}, Systems{0,1}, Appliances{0,1}, Lighting{0,1}, Pools{0,1}, MiscLoads{0,1}, HealthAndSafety{0,1}, extension{0,1}

Children: Appliances, BuildingSummary, ClimateandRiskZones, Enclosure, HealthAndSafety, Lighting, MiscLoads, Pools, Systems, Zones, extension

Source:

```
<xs:complexType name="BuildingDetailsType">
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element name="BuildingSummary" minOccurs="0">
      <xs:annotation>
        <xs:documentation>Overall characterization of building for descriptive, rather than modeling purposes</xs:documentation>
      </xs:annotation>
    </xs:element>
    <xs:complexType>
      <xs:sequence>
        <xs:element minOccurs="0" name="Site">
          <xs:complexType>
            <xs:sequence>
```

# HPXML Structure Based on BPI & DOE Standards



Building Performance Institute, Inc.  
BPI Standards



Building Performance Institute, Inc.  
BPI Standard

ANSI/BPI-2400-S-2012  
Standard Practice for Standardized Qualification of Whole-House Energy Savings Predictions by Calibration to Energy Use History

BPI-2200-S-2013  
Standard for Home Performance-Related Data Collection v2.1.0

<https://bedes.lbl.gov>



Building Performance Institute, Inc.  
BPI Standard

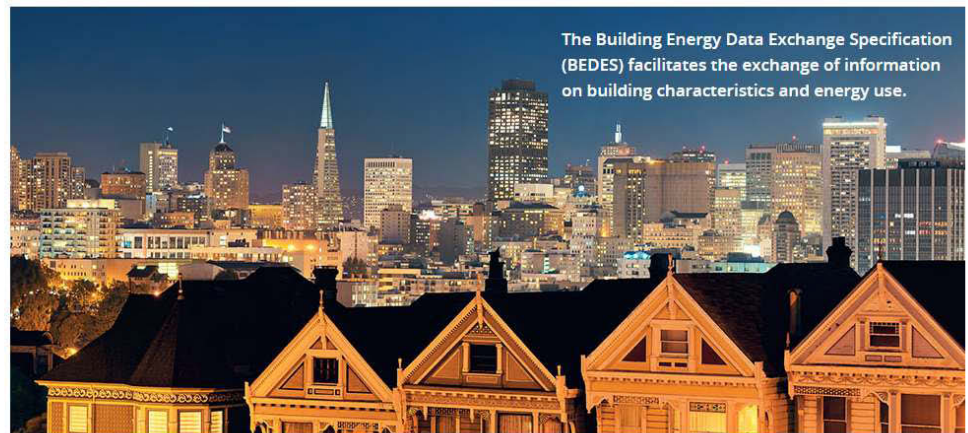
BPI-2100-S-2013  
Standard for Home Performance-Related Data Transfer v2.1.0



SEARCH



HOME BEDES ONLINE RESOURCES COLLABORATION EVENTS ABOUT CONTACT US



The Building Energy Data Exchange Specification (BEDES) facilitates the exchange of information on building characteristics and energy use.

The Building Energy Data Exchange Specification (BEDES, pronounced "beads") is a dictionary of terms and definitions commonly used in tools and activities that help stakeholders make energy investment decisions.

BEDES Online

# Test Measurements Form

**Energy Upgrade California® Home Upgrade - Test Measurements V2.0**

**Job Site, Occupant and BPI Analyst Information**      Occupant Email

Occupant Name       Primary Phone

Job Address       City       Zipcode

BPI Analyst       BPI ID#       Test-In/Test-Out       Test Date

---

**Building Infiltration**      **Diagnostic Inspection & Testing**

CFM50       Condition Area (sq ft)       Stories (above grade)       Avg Ceiling (ft)       LBL N Factor       ASHRAE (p/f)

**Duct Systems and Leakage**

CFM25       Number of Systems       Systems Avg CFM25 (y/h)       CFM25 Test Method

Asbestos (y/n)       System Fan Flow Type (for leakage % calc)       Actual System Fan Flow - if measured (cfm)

---

**Whole House Combustion Gas Testing**      **CAS/CAZ Inspection & Testing**

CO Monitor(s) Installed       Stove       Oven       Broiler       Other

Gas Line Testing (p/f)       As Measured CO (ppm)                  

Whole House CO (ppm)       Ambient CO (ppm)

**Combustion Appliance Zone (CAZ) Identification, Combustion Ventilation Air (CVA) and CAZ Pressure Testing**

Appliance/Equipment Location (visual)                  

Baseline Pressure (pa) | Worst Case (pa)  |        |        |        |

Net Pressure Difference (pa) | CVA (p/f)  |        |        |        |

**Appliance/Equipment Information, Gas Line in CAZ and Venting**

Appliance/Equipment Type (visual)                  

Heating In or Out (kBtu) | Cooling (tons)  |        |        |

Combustion Gas Flue Type (visual)                  

CAZ Gas Line Test (p/f) | Flue Config (p/f)  |        |        |

**Worst Case CAS Testing**

Spillage (at worst case)                  

Air Free Flue CO (ppm) | CAZ Ambient CO (ppm)  |        |

NGAT 'CAS Fail' and/or unsafe Natural Gas conditions? Contact the local Gas Utility Service Provider (PG&E or SoCalGas) For PG&E's GSR#: 800-813-1975 (bus. hrs.), 800-743-5000 (after 5:30/weekends) | For SoCalGas: 800-427-2200  
 GSR Call Required (NGAT Fail)  Date/Time Gas Utility Contacted  GSR Field Order Number

**Notes / Unique Issues Description**



**Energy Upgrade California® Home Upgrade - Test Measurements Form**

Combustion appliance safety failure or other unsafe natural gas conditions? Contact the local gas utility service provider:

PG&E Gas Service Representatives (GSR): 800-813-1975 (business hours) | 800-743-5000 (after 5:30pm/weekends)      SoCalGas®: 800-427-2200

Test date       Test type  Test In  
 Test Out

GSR call required  Yes  
 (NGAT fail)  No

Outcomes  All tests completed  
 Some tests not completed due to presumed asbestos-containing material (PACM)

**Diagnostic Inspection & Testing**

**Building Infiltration**

CFM50

Conditioned area       Avg. ceiling height       Stories       Occupants

**Ventilation**

ASHRAE Standard  ASHRAE 62.2-2010  
 ASHRAE 62.2-2013  
 ASHRAE 62.2-2016  
 Other

Total Required Ventilation Rate (cfm)       Installed Ventilation

**Space Conditioning Systems**

Please enter test information for each space conditioning system separately.

Ducted system?  Yes      Area served  % of total

Space  Normal Heating  
 conditioning  Normal Cooling  
 system type  Actual System Fan Flow (Measured Return)

[+ Add another space conditioning system](#)

**Combustion Appliance Safety (CAS) Inspection & Testing**

Whole House gas lines test\*      Whole House CO\*      Carbon monoxide monitors\*

Pass             Installed new       Existing, < 5 yrs. old  
 Fail      ppm       Expired, > 5 yrs. old       None

Results for all accessible gas lines:

**Kitchen**

Ambient CO  ppm      Stove type  Electric  
 Gas

Oven type  Electric  
 Gas

Broiler type  Electric  
 Gas

**Other Kitchen Appliance**

Appliance Name       As-measured CO  ppm

[+ Add another kitchen appliance](#)

**Heating/Cooling (Combustion Appliance) Zone**

Zone name/location        Electric only      Ambient CO  ppm

**Appliance**

Type  Please select

[+ Add another appliance in this zone](#)

[+ Add another combustion appliance zone](#)

# At-a-Glance Software Comparison Guide

Software	Key Features & Pricing
<b>PTIMISER</b> power   simplicity   accuracy	<p>License is per user. Per project and monthly license types available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OptiMiser Silver – \$25.00 per project; No Monthly Fee; \$300 One Time Setup Fee</li> <li>OptiMiser Gold – \$3.50 per use over 40 uses per month; \$150 Monthly Fee (includes 40 uses per month); No Setup Fees</li> </ul> <p>Special Pricing for Home Upgrade Program contractors: Single project \$25</p>
<b>CAKESYSTEMS™</b>	<p>License is per user login, with three options available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pay Per Use – For low volume, \$25.00 per site/audit</li> <li>Basic Plan – Unlimited audits, no tech support or mobile app use, \$69.99/month</li> <li>Premium Plan – Unlimited audits, tech support and mobile app use, \$99.99/month</li> </ul>
<b>Snugg Pro</b>	<p>Retail Price: \$30 per project (based on each unique address entered into system)</p> <p>Special Pricing for Home Upgrade Program contractors: Single project \$25</p>

cluded: \$20/project after that  
cluded: \$15/project after that  
cluded: \$10/project after that  
or fee • No setup fee • No annual  
and phone support • Easy and inst



## Advanced Home Upgrade Software Modeling Options



Find out which is right for your business!



**Home Upgrade**  
Energy Upgrade California®



# Home Upgrade Program Solutions

---



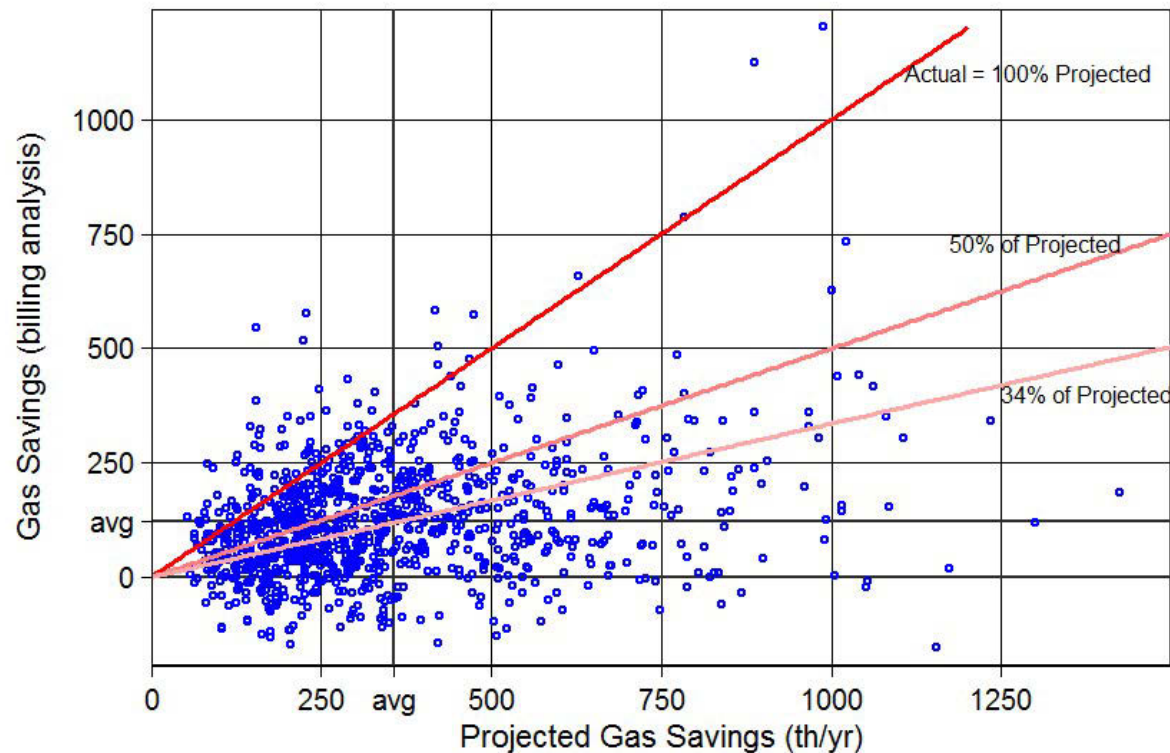
## Addressing other Pain-Points:

- **Increase energy-modeling accuracy for better Program energy savings and satisfaction**
  - Launch mechanism for comparison of energy-modeled predictive savings results with pre- and post-installation customer bill data (CalTRACK)
  - Provide realization-rate feedback to energy modeling software vendors to improve tools
  - Provide realization-rate feedback to contractors to target areas that need improvement with more specific training and mentoring (potentially introduce ‘contractor scores’)



# Is the Program Delivering Savings?

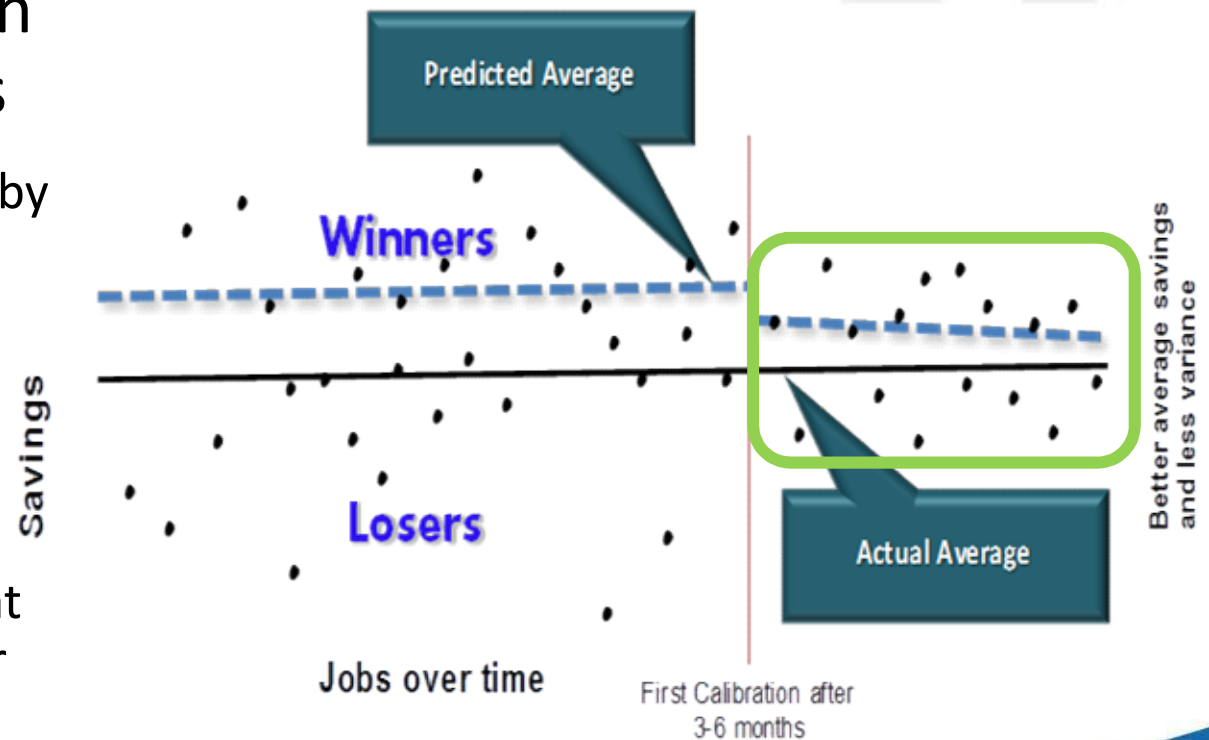
Actual (billing analysis) vs. Projected Gas Savings



# CalTRACK: Delivery of Predicted Savings

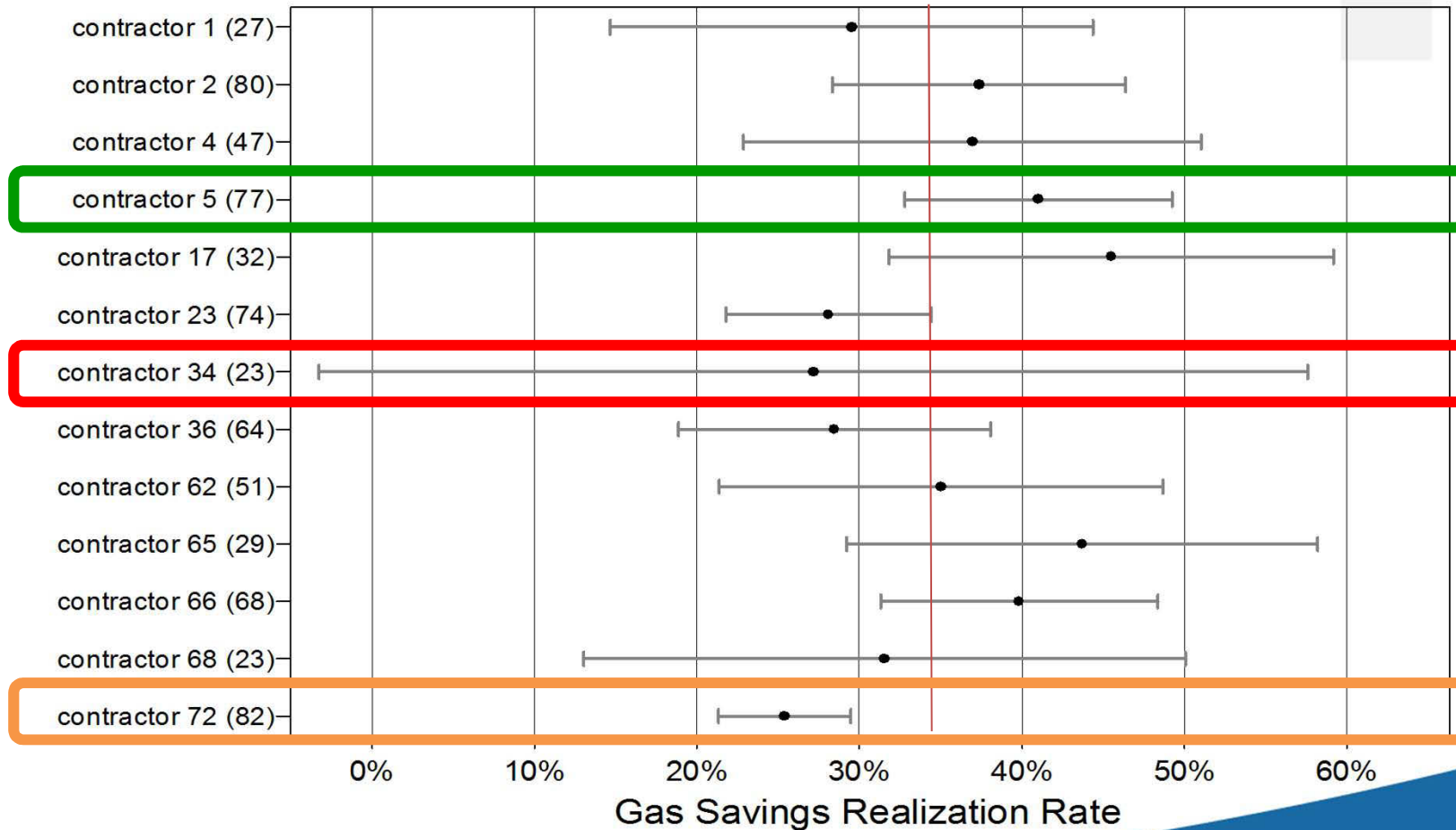
## California Data-Driven Tracking and Analysis

- Upgrade projects tracked by software version used
- Savings predictions compared to weather normalized post retrofit billing data
- If inaccuracies identified at the software level, vendor can revise software or an adjustment factor can be applied to reconcile future model predictions



# CalTRACK: Contractor Feedback

Avg. Gas Realization Rate (2010-2012 Data): 34%



# Home Upgrade Program Accelerator Metrics

---



1. Reduce administrative time to review rebate applications by 25% (per project)
2. Expand contractor choice of energy modeling software tools
3. Reduce the reporting burden on contractors by 25% (per project)
4. Improve contractors' satisfaction in the program by 20% (based on surveys)
5. Benchmark predictive accuracy of modeled energy savings and reduce average difference between predicted and actual savings by 10%



# Home Upgrade Program Accelerator Results

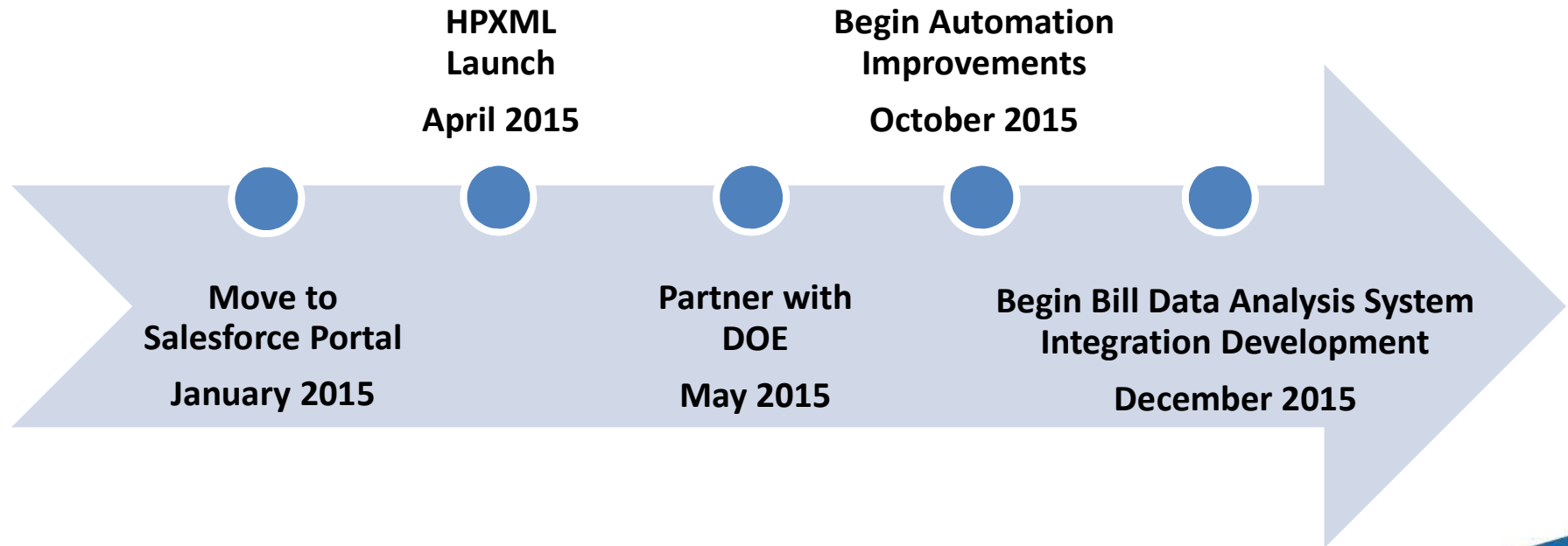
---



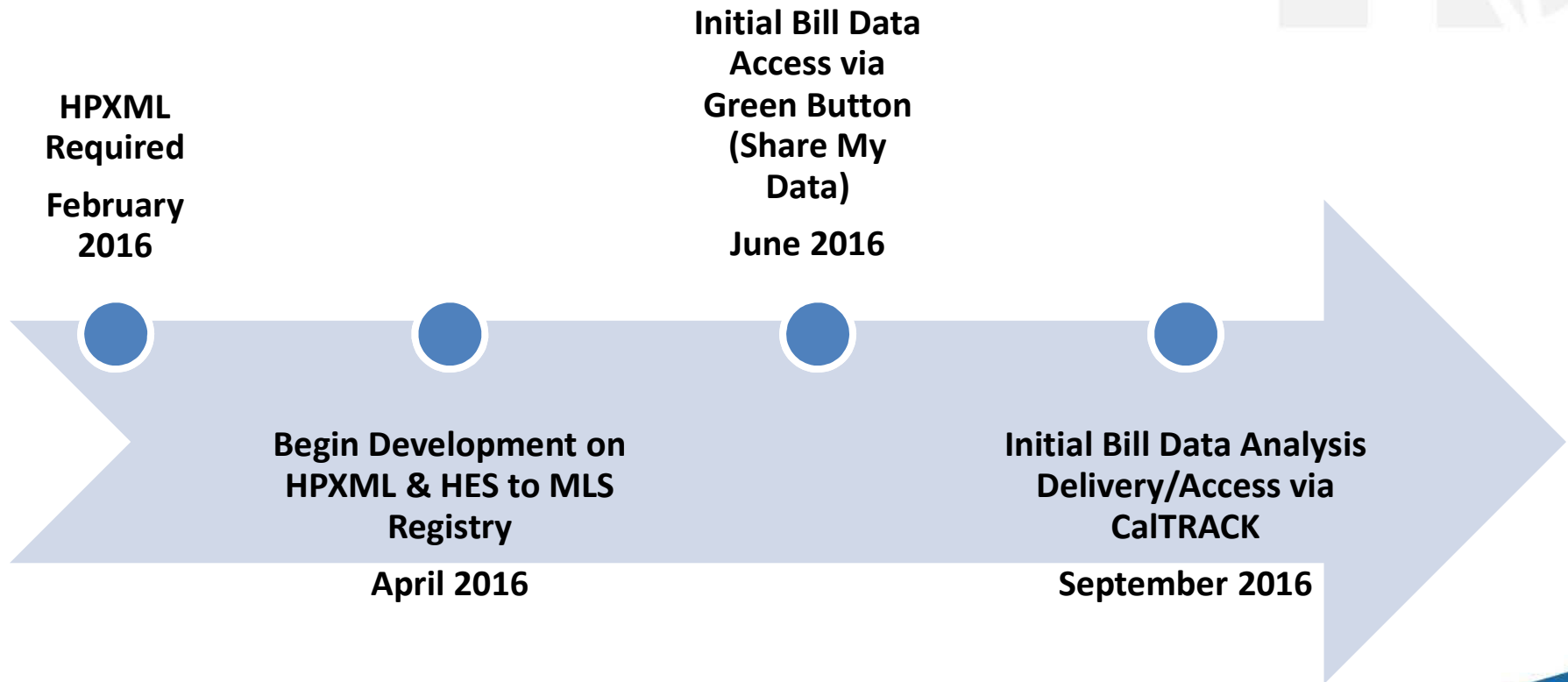
1. Reduced administrative time to review rebate applications by 48%
2. Expanded contractor choice of energy modeling software tools to 3
3. Reduced the reporting burden on contractors by 27% in avg. application submission time and 20% in avg. energy modeling time
4. Improved contractors' satisfaction in the program by 28%
5. Benchmarking of predictive accuracy of modeled energy savings is **in progress**; reducing average difference between predicted and actual savings by 10% is next (upon completion of benchmarking)



# HUP Improvements Timeline - 2015



# HUP Improvements Timeline - 2016





# Long-Term Goal: Market Transformation

## Indirect benefits that HUP improvements can facilitate:

- Driving demand/quantifying value of energy efficiency work
  - ✓ Home Energy Score via HPXML
  - ✓ Bringing green building data to the MLS via HPXML
- Designing better, more cost-effective programs
  - ✓ Less risk (greater predictability) for investors
  - ✓ Better environment for private capital and industry investment
  - ✓ Standardized (HPXML) data sharing and comparative analysis between other states, organizations and industries



# Questions and Comments

**Contact:**

**Torsten Glidden**  
**[tglidden@builditgreen.org](mailto:tglidden@builditgreen.org)**  
**510-590-3360 x125**



**Home Upgrade**

Energy Upgrade California®

Thank You



**Home Upgrade**

Energy Upgrade California®