

Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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Docket # M2010-2152691
Training Certification for Weatherization Installation & Audits

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

WeTheePeople thanks the P.U.C. for the opportunity to submit comments concerning Training Certifications for Weatherization Installations and Audits. WeTheePeople is simply a retired Pastor/consultant with experience as a Salvation Army voucher writer working with low income folk with heating bills; as a member of the Steering Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches Interfaith Climate Change Campaign; as a member of the Steering Committee of recently formed Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light(PAIPL) which seeks to mobilize communities of faith in PA to teach, practice and model energy conservation, energy efficiency and the use of clean renewable energy as a demonstration of faith; and as a member and advocate for Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture). I have also taken the PAHomeEnergy training as a residential energy auditor. I am BPI Certified but must retest for RESNET certification. The last church I pastored was designated an Energy Star Stewardship Congregation by the EPA in 2001 because of extensive Energy efficiency improvements to their properties. My comments are strictly personal and do not represent any of the above agencies or organizations.

Presuppositions

1. Over 10 years ago, our church properties were audited by a retired Peoples Natural Gas employee. He was not particularly professional but he started the trustees of the church on a journey to more efficient use of energy. We researched the issues, contracted tens of thousands of dollars on energy efficiency improvements, saved a good portion of those dollars in reduced utility bills and substantially reduced our carbon footprint. It is my opinion that every community of faith and every responsible person of faith should do the same.
2. I personally believe (based on continual personal research) that the Climate is changing, that Climate Change is accelerating and that Climate Change is going to have profound negative effects on our State, our Nation, our human civilization and on the biodiverse world of nature in which we live and upon which we depend for our existence. I personally believe that there will be dire irreversible consequences for us all unless we

act decisively, wisely and immediately. Of course not everyone believes this! Whether one believes it or not, the majority of government funded programs (Act 129,etc) promoting residential energy efficiency and conservation are based at least in part upon this premise.

3. Government funded programs are also based on the premise that these energy efficiency programs will be very good for the economy of Pennsylvania and the nation. PA Home Energy and other similar "green economy" ventures no less than solar and wind farms recognize this fact. There is a great deal of money to be made in home grown energy efficiency, energy conservation and clean renewable energy. Also there is wisdom in the prudent preparation for an increasingly energy intensive future.
4. However, there are many residents (low income, disabled, elderly, single parent, welfare recipients, unemployed or underemployed, etc) as well as low budget non-profit agencies who do not have the resources to take advantage of these programs nor the sufficient understanding of the principles and advantages of energy efficiency.

Suggestions

1. RESNET & BPI Certification were created by the mortgage industry for business purposes. Residential energy efficiency is poised to become very profitable for not only for the mortgage industry but also for hundreds of thousands of small businessmen and women in the auditing and weatherization business. PA HomeEnergy and other businesses which provide training, certification, mentoring, equipment discounts (service, calibration), access to modeling software, insurance, quality assurance, etc have an important place in this emerging economy for a certain segment of the population (ie, those who can afford their services). They are well trained professionals, and should not have to take additional certification in order to do contract work for EDCs, NGDCs, WAP programs, etc. If anything, their services would be better employed in mentoring or supervising the personnel who perform audits of that nature
2. Employees of EDCs, NGDCs, WAP funded programs, Americorps funded programs, etc who perform energy audits (on residential or community service agency properties) for low income, disabled, elderly, unemployed, underemployed citizens or citizen groups who do not have the means to contract an energy audit let alone pay for the recommended improvements, should have standardized training and skillsets that are appropriate and reasonable for their tasks. They do not need RESNET certification but probably should have something like BPI to insure the safety of their clients.
3. The Clients of these latter programs are often less educated and less interested in the reasons for the energy efficiency measures taken on their behalf. There should be

educational programs for the clients and follow-up protocols which track the success or failure of the measures taken.

4. Because of a recent expansion of Americorps funding which includes energy efficiency and weatherization as a part of its mandate, PAIPL (which is based at the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center at PSU in State college) is hoping to mobilize students to perform audits and weatherization projects similar to LIURP. These students should have adequate standardized training and skillsets which will allow them to accomplish their mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William C Thwing". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William C Thwing

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