

Steps Toward Certifying EM&V Professionals

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Introduction

Certifying individuals calculating energy efficiency savings has been a reoccurring topic. This poster reports on activities by the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP) and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL's) funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to first scope alternative forms of certification and how it might be structured (phase 1 - completed), and second to deploy an initial certification mechanism (phase 2 – under way).

Key Challenge

Energy savings results are now used in efforts to plan and manage electricity and natural gas use (e.g. by ISO's) and in considering the effects of energy use on air quality. Since the organizations using evaluation results are removed from those producing results, issues of ensuring confidence can arise. Certifying evaluators is one approach to raising confidence. The DOE engaged a team of evaluation professionals to scope certification (phase 1). It is building on this effort and has tasked LBNL with development of an initial certification scheme (phase 2).

Steps Forward

This poster summarizes the scoping results and roadmap in the phase 1, presents the initial work on phase 2 and indicates possible future steps. Phase 1 used interviews to identify some key job skills used in determining energy savings (engineering calculation desk review, metering and modeling, building simulation and billing analysis). The study team quickly determined that development of certification would require not just a job skills analysis but also a road map of the overall process and identification of indispensable organizational foundations. This roadmap was necessary to facilitate navigation of challenges and limitations on the way to establishing a certification mechanism. Research also found that other certifications address a subset of job skills included in energy program evaluation but there is no existing certification that effectively addresses the knowledge that is core for evaluating energy efficiency programs as implemented by utilities/program administrators under state regulatory authority.

Phase 2 began by specifying the content for the curriculum of an entry-level certification and will continue by developing a first vintage of testing materials and implementing a first round of the certification process.

The phase 1 study was published by NEEP at <http://www.neep.org/scoping-certification-energy-program-impact-evaluators>. The project lead was Elizabeth Titus and the primary authors were Bobbi Tannebaum and Bob Wirtshafter assisted by Anne Dougherty. Ralph Prael and Bill Saxonis provided additional input and guidance. Mary Sutter and Bill Miller provided volunteer support. An external advisory committee included Mimi Goldberg, Michael Goldman, John Hargrove, Ken Keating, Steven R. Schiller, Katie Rich and Carol Stemrich, acting as individual experts, provided valuable and insightful review. The phase 2 work at LBNL also funded by DOE under Mike Li's management, is overseen by Yaw Agyeman, with Mary Sutter as lead investigator/project manager and an advisory committee for the initial phases consisting of Anne Dougherty, Katherine Randazzo, Jane Peters, Steve Schiller, Ryan Del Balso, Sami Khawaja and Bill Miller.