

---

# INFORMAL SESSIONS

---

**THURSDAY 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

**Residential New Construction: Stretch Codes? Zero Net? Other?**

**Cameron Kinney**, ERS

What is the future of residential new construction? California is mandating ZNE homes, while Rhode Island has adopted aggressive stretch codes. These are just two examples of residential new construction approaches – what is best for your state? Drawing on energy star and NZE evaluations, extensive stretch code work in the East, and our own in-house PV expert - ERS will lead a vigorous discussion on who the country should follow!

**Likeliness to Convert – Driving Savings through Embedded Research and Evaluation**

**Teresa R. Lutz**, Michaels Energy

This informal session will present the concept of embedded research and evaluation (ER&E) and encourage dialogue on how we can use ER&E to identify participant motivation factors for implementing energy savings projects. We will focus on information needed to assess a participant's 'likeliness to convert' a program intervention into action. Through session discussion, we will develop a list of exploratory information needs and discuss ways to gather this data and information through ER&E.

**Saving the Grid from Zero Energy Buildings: The GridOptimal Initiative (subtitle: Rating Buildings' Grid Citizenship)**

**Alexi Miller**, New Buildings Institute

The open, collaborative GridOptimal Initiative is an effort to align the needs of utilities, regulators, and buildings to transform inflexible, unresponsive buildings into smart, dynamic grid citizens. We are creating metrics and building a rating system to define the quality of buildings as grid citizens. In this informal sessions, we will talk about how we should define these metrics, what makes a building grid-friendly, and how to build a rating system that can ensure that the zero energy buildings coming online now, and in the future, are as low-carbon, affordable, and resilient as possible.

**Communicating about Communicating Thermostats**

**Leo Rainer**, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Residential Communicating (Smart) Thermostats provide both an opportunity for heating and cooling energy savings and a unique source of data about home set points and equipment operation. Come discuss both how these thermostats can be used and improved and how the data can be used to better understand human behavior and interaction with HVAC equipment. You will also have an opportunity to provide feedback to the Energy Star Communicating Thermostat program.