# CenterPoint Energy New Homes Program Kristi Hardy Energy Efficiency Program Manager

#### March 21, 2016- ACEEE Market Transformation Symposium



CenterPoint Energy Proprietary and Confidential Information



- CenterPoint Energy
  - Headquartered in Houston, TX
  - Electric Transmission & Distribution Utility
    - 5,000 sq. mile area of Houston and Greater Houston
    - 2.3 million electric customers
  - Natural Gas
    - Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas
    - Sell and deliver to 3.2 million natural gas customers





### **Program History**

- Sponsored an ENERGY STAR for New Homes Program in 2001 with 1,200 homes
- Since 2001, incentivized more than 145,000 homes
- In 2015, program incentivized 11,410 homes
  - Savings of over 13 MW and over 31,000 MWh





#### **Program History- Cont.**



- Program only accepted ENERGY STAR certified homes until 2011
  - In 2011, the program began accepting non-ENERGY STAR homes that met certain measure based criteria
- In 2012, a steady increase in the new homes construction market began and continued through 2015 in the Houston area
  - During this time, ENERGY STAR Version 3 was released and the program saw a decrease in ENERGY STAR builders

#### **Current Program Design**



**Minimum Requirements:** In order for a home to qualify for financial incentives <sup>(1)(2)(3)</sup> from the 2016 CenterPoint Energy New Homes Program, a home must first meet the following criteria:

- Homes under the new Texas Baseline reference home must achieve: 10% kilowatt-hour savings better than the Program reference home\*
- Homes within municipalities that have adopted the 2012 IECC must achieve: 10% kilowatthour savings better than the 2012 IECC Program reference home\*

#### **Base Incentive**

4 Cents (\$0.04) per Kilowatt-Hour better than the Program reference home\*

Bonus Incentives(4)(5)(6)(7)								
	SEER	Duct Sealing (CFM25/100 sf.)	Infiltration Value	Window SHGC	Wall Sheathing (R)	Attic (R)	High-Efficacy Lighting Percentage	Incentive
Tier 1	16	5	5	0.25		30	75% Fxt	\$120
Tier 2	17	4	5	0.25		38 <sup>(8)</sup>	90% Fxt	\$550
Tier 3	18	4	4	0.23	3	38 <sup>(8)</sup>	90% Fxt	\$800
ENERGY STAR Certified Home Bonus								\$50

## **Program Challenges**



- Multiple residential code adoptions within CenterPoint Energy's service territory
  - 2009 IECC
  - 2012 IECC
  - City of Houston- 15% above 2009 IECC
  - 2015 IECC- State of Texas adopting on September 1, 2016
- New code adoptions decrease eligible savings for utilities to claim
  - ICF International performed a baseline study for multiple utilities in Texas
  - Results proved inconsistent codes, code enforcement, and building practices across the state

## **Keeping the Program Cost-Effective**



- Regularly communicate program challenges to the PUCT evaluation team
- One-on-one meetings with participating builders each program year
  - Educate builders on how to leverage program incentives and take steps to increase efficient building practices
- Rater Roundtables and free HVAC training offerings





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