Problem Solved: A Case Study on Enabling Proper Valuation & Consumer Education for High Performance Homes

**EEBA Summit** 

October 10, 2017

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# About the **BPAs**

501(c)(6) trade associations located in NC, SC, GA and MD 500+ member companies

Support HERS Raters, "Green" Builders, Contractors and others









MARYLAND BUILDING PERFORMANCE ASSOCIATION

# Why Are We Involved?

To increase the quantity and quality of energy efficient, green and high performance construction in our states, the BPAs seek to:

- I. Add more "green" fields to our MLSs
- 2. Auto-populate MLSs with valuable "green" data
- 3. Improve "green" feature visibility in the market
- 4. Improve consumer education buyers and sellers
- 5. Support proper "green" valuation by Appraisers
- 6. Convert more code builders to "green" builders

# "The Money Machine"





# **EE Homes Sell For More, Faster**



Sources: <sup>1</sup>Argeris, 2010; <sup>2</sup>Cadena & Thomson, 2015; <sup>3</sup>Carson Matthews, 2009; <sup>4</sup>Corgel, Goebel, & Wade, 1982; <sup>5</sup>Elevate Energy, 2015; <sup>6</sup>Griffin, 2009; <sup>7</sup>Goodman & Zhu, 2016; <sup>8</sup>Institute for Market Transformation, 2015; <sup>9</sup>Kahn & Kok, 2013; <sup>10</sup>Pfleger et al., 2011.

\*Not all studies shown have been peer reviewed.

# What Do Consumers Want the Most?

#### Importance of Home Features to Clients



Very important Somewhat important Neutral Not very important Not at all important

# **Consumer Demand**

- I. On average, energy costs are higher than either property tax or insurance for U.S. homes at \$2,506 per year (<u>U.S. Census</u>).
- Attic insulation achieves highest return on investment of all home improvement projects studied at 116.9% (<u>Remodeling</u> <u>Report</u>).
- 3. Energy efficient homes can improve occupant health outcomes related to asthma, hypertension, and allergies (DOE).
- 70% of households report that EE is important (<u>Demand</u> <u>Institute</u>).
- 5. 84% of homebuyers said that HVAC costs are at least somewhat important factors in their home purchase (68% appliances and 67% lighting) (NAR).

# **Do We Have HPH Inventory?**

# High Performance Homes: Benefits for Today and Tomorrow



As of 2016, over **1.5 million homes** are considered High Performance Homes. These are new and existing homes that have third-party verifications\* identifying energy upgrades.

Source: Elevate Energy

# Buyers need access to energy efficiency information that is credible and easy to understand.



Sellers need tools that can accurately appraise the value of improved energy performance.

# **The Big Picture Issues**

- I. Not properly listing available "green" features is a major miss for builders, homeowners and agents.
- 2. Electronic data from rating and certification programs is readily available to auto-populate into MLS listings.
- 3. Training agents and others to become building scientists hasn't worked.
- 4. The many rating and certification programs lack standardized documentation.
- 5. Homeowners often fail to report to their agent performance upgrades made in the past 1 10 years.
- 6. There is a major shortage in qualified appraisers whether "green" certified or able to properly value.

# Where The Green Data Comes From

#### More than 40 programs and rating systems exist in NC, alone!



# **Perceived Costs vs. Returns**

### High-performance building doesn't demand high cost

Sept. 6, 2017 | by Steve Arel



iStock photo

It used to be that high-performance building was a niche market. Achieving energy efficiencies seemed a hurdle too high to get over and too costly to afford.

Not anymore.

# Lots and Lots of MLSs



"I am so glad to have this resource. When I went before my local MLS last November to enhance our MLS with green searchable fields, I had very little data to present. How much easier it is today (just a short 6 months later) with the information here. We have kinks to iron out before we expand our fields to include green features in existing homes, but we will, thanks to all the information you are making available.

#### - Jane Bixler Conn, GREEN, Tallahassee, Florida

# The "Green MLS" Opportunity

- I. Add more "green" fields to MLS directories.
- 2. Auto-populate this data via systems integrations with data sources from national, state and local programs and rating systems.
- 3. Perform market studies to analyze "green" impact and identify tangible sales and appraisal ROI for features.
- 4. Move builders to list new construction homes on MLS for the purposes of increasing available comps.
- 5. Increase consumer, realtor, appraiser and lender visibility and acknowledged market value.
- 6. Connect MLS directories to webpages with info on "more green features" for further education.

# **Abe Kruger**



# Principal abe@skcollaborative.com





# **SK Collaborative Services**

- I. Commercial, Single Family, & Multi-family green certifications
- 2. Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac Green Assessments
- 3. Code compliance testing
- 4. HERS Ratings
- 5. Healthy Housing Index/Fitwel
- 6. Utility energy efficiency program consulting
- 7. Training and curriculum development







# **Michelle Foster**



## Vice President of Innovation Services Home Innovation Research Labs



# Mission Improve quality, durability, affordability, & environmental performance of homes



# Provides Value Affordable Flexible Rigorous Third-party

#### NATIONAL GREEN BUILDING STANDARD™

ICC 700-2012

VSI NAHB



# Home Innovation



To eliminate real estate transactional barriers to green, high-performance homes, must develop a transparent path for consumers to make informed decisions

## **Bob Burns**



## President & CEO Rburns@PivotalEnergySolutions.com





# **About Pivotal Energy Solutions**

Not construction experts, building scientists, energy efficiency exerts, nor real estate experts....



Problem Solvers and Technical Solutions Providers

- Founded in 2011
- Based in Phoenix, AZ, with staff in Portland, OR
- Focused on Workflow and Data Management for the Energy Efficiency Industry



# **Pivotal's Real Estate Vision**

## Creating a conduit between the Energy Efficiency Industry and Real Estate Industry

#### Data Aggregation Data Distribution ENERGY STAL Home Innovation IOMES NGBS GREEN CERTIFIED **Core**Logic **Real Estate Data Sources** ERC **End-Points** KNIGHT BLACK MLS Utilities DATA & ANALYTICS LEED Data Hub Aggregators Programs Zillow\* Portals *<b>?trulia* **X RESO** hpxm realtor.com<sup>®</sup> **WaterSense NewHomeSource ENVIRONMENTS FOR**

# **Panelist Questions**

# What is the actual data that we're talking about?

# Where does it come from?

# Where does it need to go?

And, how do we need it to get there?

# What Data We Are Talking About

#### **New Construction**















### **Existing Homes**



## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY Home Energy Score





# **RESO Data Example**

Data Field	Definition (v1.5)	Example(s)		
Green Verification Program	The name of the verification or certification awarded to a new or pre-existing residential or commercial structure. If more than one certification has been awarded, leverage multiple iterations of the green verification fields via the repeating element method.	LEED Home Energy Score Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Home Performance with ENERGY STAR		
Green Verification [Type] Body	The name of the organization providing the green verification. A private sector organization or government agency runs each green verification program.	LEED: U.S. Green Building Council Zero Energy Ready: U.S. Department of Energy HERS: RESNET		
Green Verification [Type] Year	The year the verification was awarded. This is important in case the home has undergone significant changes since this year that may jeopardize its status.	2013		
Green Verification [Type] Rating	The level of the home's energy efficiency expressed in a qualitative value, according to the Green Verification Program. Many green verification programs have rating systems that provide an indication of the home's level of energy efficiency.	LEED: Certified, Silver, Gold, Platinum NGBS New Homes: Bronze, Silver, Gold, Emerald		
Green Verification [Type] Metric	The level of the home's energy efficiency expressed in a quantitative value, according to the Green Verification Program. Many green verification programs have rating systems that provide an indication of the home's level of energy efficiency.	HERS: Whole number typically ranging from 0 to 150 (lowest is most efficient) Home Energy Score: 1 to 10 (highest is most efficient)		
Green Verification [Type] Version	The version of the verification that was awarded. Some rating programs have a year, a version, or both.	V2017 V.1.2		

# Additional Data Fields (and Opportunities)

# Energy Data

GreenVerification[Type] Status GreenVerification[Type] URL GreenEnergyGeneration PowerProductionType PowerProduction[Type] Annual PowerProduction[Type] AnnualStatus PowerProduction[Type] Size PowerProduction[Type] YearInstall GreenIndoorAirQuality CoolingYN Cooling HeatingYN Heating ElectricOnPropertyYN Gas ElectricExpense FuelExpense GreenEnergyEfficient

# Verified Property Data

**BuildingAreaTotal** BuildingAreaSource BuildingAreaUnits AboveGradeFinishedArea AboveGradeFinishedAreaSource AboveGradeFinishedAreaUnits BelowGradeFinishedArea BelowGradeFinishedAreaSource BelowGradeFinishedAreaUnits FoundationArea **FoundationDetails Basement** Roof **Stories BedroomsTotal DirectionFaces NewConstructionYN BuilderName** BuilderModel

# Where The Green Data Comes From

#### **Data Aggregation**



# Where The Green Data Comes From

#### More than 40 programs and rating systems exist in NC, alone!



# Where The Green Data Needs to Go



# Has any market been successful in this type of effort?

# Where do we stand?

# How do we gain support from industry stakeholders on the value of these efforts?

# **Top Issues from U.S. REALTORS**

#### Issues and Considerations in Market



# **REALTOR Comfort re: Performance**

#### Comfort Answering Clients' Questions About Home Performance



# What are the mechanics of the process?

# What's the actual solution?

# The "Green MLS" Opportunity

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- 2. Auto-populate this data via systems integrations with data sources from national, state and local programs and rating systems.
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# Ratings and Certifications = Foundation









### ENERGY STAR HOMES

# **NGBS** Data Already Goes to Pivotal

#### September 19, 2016 | Upper Marlboro, MD NGBS<sup>™</sup> and Pivotal Energy Solutions Announce Data Sharing Agreement

Home Innovation Research Labs and Pivotal Energy Solutions are pleased to announce the availability of NGBS Green Certified homes through Pivotal's Axis energy efficiency data collection and sharing platform.

Over 85,000 U.S. homes have met the requirements of the ICC 700 National Green Building Standard<sup>™</sup> (NGBS) - the only residential green building rating system approved by ANSI as an American National Standard. The NGBS Green stringent third-party verified certification process ensures that homes and apartments are built in compliance with the NGBS and focuses on three highly marketable attributes: healthy homes; lower operating costs; and sustainable lifestyle. NGBS Green homes must achieve high performance metrics in several key areas, including, site design, resource efficiency, water efficiency, energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, and building operation/maintenance. An NGBS Green Certified home can be awarded a Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Emerald certification level, depending on the number of green practices successfully incorporated in its design and construction. And NGBS Green is the only national green home certification program that requires increasingly higher point thresholds in every category – not merely an increase in the overall points for the home.

# Sample Screenshots of "GreenQuery"

GREEN QUER	Y	<b>Q</b> 5211 Dixon Drive			RESULTS CONTACT		
		НОМІ	E DETAIL				
Lot Number		_				_	
Address		52 GREEN QUERY	C	<b>\$</b> 5211 Dixon Drive			RESULTS CONTACT
City		Ra					
State		NC General Fuel Summ	ary Energy Rating	Building Shell Lights & App	liances		
ZIP Code		27					
		ANNUAL ENERGY	COST (\$/YR)	ANNUAL END-US	SE COST (\$/YR)	ANNUAL END-U	SE CONSUMPTION
ASSOCIATED	COMPANIES	Natural gas	\$617.86	Heating	\$486.67	Heating (Therms)	464
Builder	Revolution Homes	Electric	\$891,08	Cooling	\$153.32	Heating (kWh)	275
Electric Oulity	Energy			Water Heating	\$126.60	Cooling (kWh)	1527
Rating Company	Energy QA, Inc	-		Lights & Appliances	\$742.35	Hot Water (Therms)	131
Rating Provider	North Carolina	-		Photovoltaics	\$0.00	Lights & Appliances	32
	Performance	-		Service Charges	\$258.00	(Therms)	
	Association, Home Innovation Research Labs			Total	\$1,766.94	Lights & Appliances (kWh)	7295
Gas Utility	PSNC Energy	ANNUAL ENERGY	DEMANDS (KW)				
DOWNLOADS		Heating	0.1				
Green Addendum		Cooling	1.7				
Program Report		Water Heating (Winter Peak)	2				
Floorplan Marketii	ng Brochure	Water Heating (Summe	r -				
Subdivision Marketing Brochure		Peak)		-			
		Lights and Appliances (Winter Peak)	0.7				
General Fuel S	Summary Energy Rating	Lights and Appliances (Summer Peak)	1.3				
		Total Winter Peak	0.8				
		Total Summer Deals	2.0				

# What are some of the hold-ups in the industry?

# How are/should we address them?

# **Hold-Ups and Potential Barriers**

- 1. Data Aggregation (Energy Efficiency Industry)
  - Data quality and consistency
  - Hesitancy to share data
- 2. Data Distribution (Real Estate Industry)
  - Adoption of RESO standards
  - Lack of data volume to warrant support for green fields
- 3. Common Issues
  - Market value of data not established
  - Legal/PII Concerns

# What is the specific ask of the folks in this room?

# What is our call to action?



# **National Resources**

- NAR's Green Designation: <u>www.GreenResourceCouncil.org</u>
- NAR's Sustainability Website:

https://www.nar.realtor/topics/sustainability

- Appraisal Institute's Green Building Resources: <u>www.AppraisalInstitute.org</u> – "green building resources"
- NAHB's Green Buildings Program:

www.NAHBgreen.org

• EcoBroker:

www.EcoBroker.com

# **National Resources**

• Elevate Energy:

www.ElevateEnergy.org

- Green the MLS Tool Kit
  <u>www.GreenTheMLS.org</u>
- Green Real Estate Toolkit:

<u>http://www.ecoachievers.com/resources/green-real-estate-</u> toolkit/

