



Montana Home Energy Audit Training and Certification Pilot Program

WHO: Individuals and businesses interested in Building Performance Institute (BPI), residential energy audit training and certification

WHAT: Pilot program for a limited number of attendees to receive BPI based training and certification through the Montana State University Weatherization Training Center

WHEN: Monday, June 23rd, through Friday, June 27th

WHERE: Montana State University Weatherization Training Center, 751 Osterman Drive, Suite 101, Bozeman, MT

Background

The Montana energy audit training and certification pilot program is being provided by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the MSU Weatherization Training Center (WTC). Due to the pilot status of this offering, attendance will be limited to approximately twelve participants. Please contact Sam Hall, Energy Resource Professional at Montana DEQ (406-444-4960 or sam.hall@mt.gov) regarding availability and to register.

The DEQ Energy Bureau is charged with the development and implementation of the [Montana Home Energy Rebates Program](#). One of the major areas of emphasis in the Program is the development and support of trained and certified, Montana based residential energy auditors to drive residential energy conservation markets forward in Montana. The Rebates Program will not only increase demand for residential energy services by offsetting costs of energy modeling and efficiency upgrades for participants, but also help increase access to and defray costs associated with home audit training and certification through the Building Performance Institute (BPI). This pilot program is intended to run an initial training that can be scaled up and provided to interested individuals and business across Montana in support of rebates, as well as other residential energy efficiency programs and activities.

DEQ is working in partnership with WTC to cover the costs of prerequisite and in-class training at the WTC facility, lodging at MSU dorms during the training week, and certification testing. Wage offsets are not available for this training, but the costs of the training, lodging and certification testing will be covered by DEQ and WTC. DEQ asks that participants agree to take the Building Analyst Technician (BA-T) practical exam and provide feedback to help refine a state-wide energy auditor training and certification program.

The BA-T certification exam is a practical test using blower doors and other diagnostic equipment. Beyond the BA-T in this [BPI certification track](#), is the Building Analyst Professional (BA-P) certification which requires a written exam that covers building science knowledge and basic energy modeling principles. This pilot does not include BA-P certification, but completion of the BA-T is a prerequisite requirement for the BA-P. If you're interested in pursuing a BA-P certification, please notify Sam Hall.

Registration & Schedule

1. Contact Sam Hall, Energy Resource Professional at Montana DEQ (406-444-4960 or sam.hall@mt.gov) for availability and to register. Availability will be prioritized for high-impact attendees and based on a first come, first served basis. Space is limited to twelve attendees in this initial pilot offering.

2. Once approved to participate, attendees will be given a registration code and asked to register for the pilot on the WTC website.
3. Once registered, participants will be given access to online or printed copies of [BPI's Building Science Principles](#) Study Reference Guide, as well as access to the online examination to receive the BSP Certificate of Knowledge. Successful completion of the certificate is required before the course begins on June 23rd and is also a prerequisite requirement to obtain BA-T (and subsequent) BPI certifications.
4. In advance of the June 23rd start to the training, attendees will also be required to watch the [Asbestos Awareness in Home Weatherization](#) video and complete a brief, online demonstration of knowledge.
5. The training will include lodging at MSU dormitory facilities beginning Monday, June 23rd with checkout on Friday, June 27th. Additional details will be provided upon registration.
6. Class will begin at noon on Monday June 23rd, run from approximately 8 AM to 5 PM with an hour lunch break each day, and will conclude at 4 PM on Friday, June 27th.
7. Curriculum for the week will be tailored to the practical certification exam for BA-T and will also include curriculum and certification testing for the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Program](#).
8. Attendees will work with WTC staff to schedule a practical certification test at the test-house facility at WTC. Exams should be scheduled between 1 and 6 weeks after the classroom course, if possible, to allow additional preparation and study time while retaining important details from the classroom training. Please note that this will require a separate trip to the WTC test-house, outside off the training event week.

APPENDIX:

Purpose:

Due to limited private-sector market activity for residential energy analysis and retrofit work in Montana, DEQ has developed a pilot energy auditor training and certification program intended for interested individuals and businesses in the state. This program will build awareness of residential building science principles as well as support a range of positive outcomes including but not limited to:

- Improved building code compliance and awareness of building science principles behind them
- Increased access to federal residential energy conservation tax credits under IRS code 25C and 45L
- Support for Weatherization Assistance Program activities and administration
- Increased access to Home Energy Rebates Program participation upon program launch

The Home Efficiency Rebate Program (HER, IRA Section 50121) is one of the two primary paths available in the Home Energy Rebates program. The HER program requires that a detailed home assessment be conducted by a certified energy auditor. That auditor will create an energy model for the home that will prioritize measures and quantify efficiency and Health and Safety (H&S) related installation costs, as well as clearly identify operational cost implications of the improvements. DEQ intends to utilize SnuggPro energy modeling software which as required by DOE, is a [BPI 2400 compliant](#) modeling platform (please note that the “HOMES” program referenced in the preceding link is the same as what we refer to in Montana as the “HER” program).

DEQ anticipates that upon program launch, the Home Energy Rebates Program will require a BPI [Building Analyst Professional \(BA-P\)](#) certification to engage in rebate eligible audits, energy modeling and scope of work development. Please see the [BPI Certification Grid](#) for an overview of BPI certifications.

Additional Resources and Information:

- 1- This initial pilot offering will focus on the prerequisite certification to BA-P, the [Building Analyst Technician \(BA-T\)](#) certification.
- 2- As a prerequisite for participation in the Pilot Program, attendees will be required to study for and successfully pass the online test for the [Building Science Principles \(BSP\) Certificate](#) in advance of their class attendance. Participants will be given access to the self-study materials as well as the online, open-book BSP test. This study guide and certificate of knowledge provides an important baseline for application of building science principles and is required for all BPI certifications. The BSP Certificate is an excellent stand-alone resource for those interested in or involved with building trades, regardless of intent to pursue BPI certifications.
- 3- Pilot program participants will be required to complete an online [Asbestos Awareness](#) course available on the WTC website and complete a brief online demonstration of knowledge. This course is necessary to introduce participants to asbestos related concerns in homes being audited and help ensure that occupants and workers are not subject to increased asbestos exposure risk through audit and retrofit activities.
- 4- In addition to training and eventual certification as a BA-T in this pilot, attendees will also receive training and certification under the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) Lead](#)

[Renovation, Repair and Painting Program](#). This training and certification will be required in rebate programs and is an important aspect of doing no harm in the course of auditing a home and delineating an appropriate work scope for containment, cleanup and Lead Safe documentation for each home. If attendees have a prior EPA RRP certification, they are welcome to skip the last day of instruction (Friday, June 27th) and conclude the training at 5 PM on Thursday the 26th.

- 5- After successful completion of the WTC lead training at the Bozeman facility, DEQ will cover costs of the WTC proctored BA-T field exam. Attendees will be able to schedule the practical test at the WTC test-house in Bozeman as their and WTC staff schedules allow. WTC will have diagnostic equipment available for use during certification testing if you do not own or have access to a blower door, combustible gas leak detector, personal CO monitor, combustion analyzer, infrared camera and/or other diagnostic hand tools. Please note that this will require a separate trip to the WTC test-house, outside off the training event week.
- 6- As of May 2025, the Montana Home Energy Rebates Program is not live and program planning has been paused in anticipation of revised program guidance from DOE. However, the state will benefit from having scalable auditor training and certification capacity in anticipation of program launch, and additional benefits can be found across other relevant applications for BA-T/BA-P certified auditors, including but not limited to:
 - Consumer driven demand for building science based residential energy efficiency measures including improved building code compliance, building durability and improved indoor air quality in existing home retrofits and in new construction.
 - The development of [IRS tax code section 25C](#) eligible scopes of work for homeowners, including eligibility for [Federal tax credits for energy audits](#), which are available when using BA-P certified auditors, as a cost offset to homeowners.
 - BA-T and BA-P certifications are stepping stones (through subsequent Residential Energy Services Network ([RESNET](#)) or Building Science Institute ([BSI](#)) certification tracks) to Energy Rating Index (ERI) based certification of compliance with and eligibility for new-construction related tax credits under [IRS tax code section 45L](#).
 - After completion of the BPI based, BA-T curriculum, attendees will be well positioned for WAP specific auditing certifications and work in [Montana's Weatherization Assistance Program](#), as well as other elective, above-code new construction and/or retrofit programs that may develop at the city and/or county level across the state.

Please reach out to Sam Hall (contact info above) with questions or concerns around registration and participation in this event.