# Weatherization Training and Technical Assistance (WxT&TA)

## Residential Energy Analyst (REA) Program

The REA program is the certification system designed for use by the Oregon weatherization assistance network to enhance and augment the building performance skills and knowledge of staff, contractors and consultants who serve in participating agencies, businesses, utilities, and organizations. It was developed in cooperation with experts and specialists form Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), and the Oregon Energy Coordinators Association (OECA).

The REA program has become the vehicle by which best practices and Oregon standards are taught and established for weatherization programs. It is critical that organizations have in place an effective training framework and infrastructure as the platform for growth and flexibility in an ever-changing market and industry. The benefits of training can increase job satisfaction and morale among employees, employee motivation, efficiencies in processes, and improved quality control.

#### The Core Course

### **Energy Analyst**

The Energy Analyst course is the first step towards becoming a state certified auditor and inspector. This course is designed for the comprehensive evaluation and documentation of a performance based energy audit specifically of the building shell, assessment of the efficiency and safety of the mechanical systems, and to establish the most cost-effective weatherization strategy using skills learned in the course. This course provides a sound knowledge of building science principles, air leakage testing, furnace and combustion appliance inspection procedures, and performance based energy auditing. It also provides hands-on training in the field with state-of-the-art diagnostic tools. This is an intensive, full-week training course. An open-book exam is given with a 75% or better as a passing grade to receive state certification.

#### Shell Technician

This course includes basic installation theory, application techniques and methodology for the installation of weatherization materials in both site-built and manufactured homes. Weatherization training includes lecture material on building science, home energy principles, and construction technology; as well as lab exercises in all aspects of energy conservation installation techniques on both site-built and mobile homes. Students will be given a written exam as well as a hands on field test and must pass with a 75% or better to receive state certification.

# Diagnostic Technician

In this class you will learn the basic protocols, requirements, and standards for duct leakage and combustion safety testing including: combustion theory and venting principles, pressure balancing, heating appliance repair and tuning, IAQ and mechanical system performance, and using state-of-the-art diagnostic tools. This is an intensive, full-week training course. A written, open book written exam as well as a hands on field test will be given by which a

score of 75% or better to receive state certification.

## **Continuing Education**

The Oregon REA program continuing education requirements to maintain annual certification are six hours of preapproved and/or OHCS/OECA sponsored classroom, tutorial, seminar, field training, or workshop time.

The core certifications are as follows: Energy Analyst I – 6 hours Shell Technician I – 6 hours Diagnostic Technician I – 6 hours

Certifications are good for five years from issue. Just prior to the end of that time period, a brief refresher course will be given with a written exam.

# For More Information

For specific information concerning Residential Energy Analyst Program, Core Courses, Continuing Education, or Advanced Certification contact the Oregon Energy Coordinators Association (OECA) at:

Oregon Training Institute 27501 SW 95<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 980 Wilsonville, OR

Phone: 503-990-8221

Website: <a href="http://www.warmandsafenow.com">http://www.warmandsafenow.com</a>

# For all other noneducation related matters you may contact

Michael Figueredo Wx T&TA Coordinator Energy Services Section 503-986-0972

Michael.figueredo@oregon.gov