Storm Window and Insulating Panel Campaign Fact Sheet

The U.S. Department of Energy is working with partners on new collaborative initiatives to accelerate the adoption of high-efficiency storm windows and insulated window panels, delivering energy savings and comfort in residential and commercial buildings at a fraction of the cost of full window replacements. To that end, the U.S. Department of Energy is launching the Storm Window and Insulating Panel (SWIP) Campaign to encourage building owners to upgrade old, inefficient single and double-pane clear glass windows with ENERGY STAR certified storm windows, or with Attachments Energy Rating Council (AERC)\(^1\) rated insulated panels in residential and commercial buildings.

The SWIP Campaign will serve as a national platform for sharing information and recognizing successes with key stakeholders, including contractors and installers, energy-efficiency programs, commercial building owners, trainers, and others.

Older, inefficient windows waste energy and cost consumers and businesses millions of dollars every year in heating and cooling costs. Retrofitting these windows with window attachments or installing new high-performance windows not only saves energy, but also improves indoor comfort. Storm windows and insulating panels are permanently attached to the interior or exterior of primary windows to provide year-round air sealing, thermal insulation, and other benefits including noise reduction at a fraction of the cost compared to full window replacements.

Storm windows are an affordable option for homes where full window replacement may not be feasible, such as lower-income households, multi-family households, households working with U.S. Department of Housing or weatherization programs, or households in historic preservation districts.

**How it Works**

The SWIP Campaign works with stakeholder partners, including utilities and efficiency groups, contractors, weatherization programs, energy service companies, product suppliers and manufacturers, trade and professional groups, program implementers, and others who support the SWIP Campaign’s goals. The SWIP Campaign serves as a national platform to host research and useful resources, including field demonstration results, case studies, and utility program best practices to recognize successes. Participants in the SWIP Campaign can be recognized for taking action to install high-efficiency storm windows and insulating window panels. In addition, they can be recognized for achieving innovative program approaches, impactful marketing campaigns, innovative training and educational resources, and more.

**Why it is Important**

Of the nearly 40 quadrillion Btus of primary energy used in residential and commercial buildings each year,\(^2\) just over 40 percent is attributed to heating and cooling buildings. Over half U.S. homes have single-pane windows or double-pane clear glass windows, which are inherently inefficient and poor insulators, and about 40% of commercial buildings have single-pane windows. Field demonstration have confirmed year-round HVAC system energy reductions of 10-30 percent in homes with single-pane or double-pane clear glass windows.

\(^1\)AERC certified product listings and energy improvement ratings available online at: [https://aercenergyrating.org/](https://aercenergyrating.org/)

\(^2\)“Primary Energy Consumption” EIA 2019 ([https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/use-of-energy/](https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/use-of-energy/)).
windows. These savings compare to double-pane window replacement savings, but at the third of the cost and payback periods as low as 4 years. Installation is relatively easy, with 80 percent being do-it-yourself installations. Other benefits include added comfort, operability, acoustic improvements, and aesthetic appeal.

Similar benefits can be achieved in the commercial sector, where single-pane or double-pane clear glass windows are common in older buildings. In addition to energy savings at lower cost, building owners who upgrade their windows offer their employees and tenants improved comfort and other benefits.

How Partners Benefit
Participating in the campaign sets partners on a path to accomplish ambitious goals. Whether your goal is to reduce carbon emissions and overall energy consumption, to lower your most vulnerable stakeholders’ energy burden, or increase the comfort of their homes, the campaign will make sure your project receives the recognition it deserves.

How to Get Involved
The SWIP Campaign invites diverse partners to participate in an inclusive effort to build the Storm Window and Insulating Panel platform to serve all Americans. We’re specifically looking for existing case studies, best practices, and lessons learned related to storm windows and insulating panels. We will be seeking feedback on design components of the Campaign, including participation requirements, success metrics, and evaluation criteria for recognizing exemplary performance. Interested in participating? Please let us know!

To participate or learn more, email us at techchallenge@pnnl.gov.