

Performance Tested Comfort Systems (PTCS) Program Sunset

Performance Tested Comfort Systems was originally created by Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA) in the late 1990's to address needs in the residential Heat Pump market that was still in its infancy. BPA recognized the value PTCS brought in educating utilities, contractors and end-users about this relatively new technology and took over the program from NEEA in 2006 to continue its mission to transform the heat pump market.

In its 25 year history, the PTCS program has certified hundreds of thousands of Heat Pump installations, trained thousands of contractors and significantly transformed the residential heat pump market in the Pacific Northwest successfully leveraging this energy savings HVAC technology.

The sun setting of the PTCS program marks a giant and unique success story in energy efficiency market transformation with many people instrumental to the success of the program over the years. While this is not the end of BPA's heat pump program, it is a turning point needed to address new and evolving market needs and trends. Heat pumps will continue to be an integral part of BPA's strategy in the region to meet aggressive climate and energy policy goals.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why is the program ending?

Recent changes to cost-effectiveness by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPCC) and the Regional Technical Forum (RTF) have made several of the program's measures no-longer cost effective. The program as it exists today will end but BPA's heat pump program will continue to evolve in order to address new market needs and trends.

What sort of closeout support will be provided by BPA and CLEAResult?

The PTCS program will be run as normal and be fully supported between now and the sunset date of 9/30/23. The last day for any project to be entered into the PTCS registry will be 9/30/23. It is strongly recommended that projects are entered into the registry at least one week prior to the 9/30/23 sunset date to allow CLEAResult time to approve all properly installed projects. Any project entered into the registry after 9/30/23 will not be approved.

Can we promote the last push for jobs before the deadline?

Yes, please promote the last push for projects to be entered into the PTCS registry before 9/30/23.

How will contractors be informed?

Program sunset announcements are planned for the PTCS registry and EE Announcements. Sunset announcements will also be mentioned in every PTCS meeting after the formal announcements go out. Utilities are also strongly encouraged to reach out to their certified customers to share this information.

How long will utilities have to submit their BPA-approved PTCS projects into BEETS for payment?

Utilities will have six (6) months (until 4/1/24) following the PTCS program sunset to submit their BPA-approved PTCS projects into BEETS for compliance review. Once PTCS projects are approved in BEETS with a status of Ready to Invoice, invoicing may occur at any time, as long as project completion dates are in the current or previous rate period and approved in the PTCS registry.

Will contents of the registry be accessible so addresses can be searched for their status?

Yes, utilities will be able to access the registry. Starting on 10/1/23, utilities and contractors will be blocked from *entering* any new data, but will have access to search the registry until at least 4/1/24. If any fixes are needed please contact the program via email at ResHVAC@bpa.gov or phone at 1-800-941-3867 (subject to change).

Will utilities and CLEAResult be notified concurrently?

Yes, CLEAResult will be informed of the sunset date on the same day as utilities.

Will utilities be provided an opportunity to notify their contractors prior to CLEAResult and the Network pushing out notifications?

No, The plan is to notify the utilities, and CLEAResult all on the same day to avoid CLEAResult from being caught off guard. After the EERs notify the utilities, it's their choice if they want to notify their contractors.

Will any notification be posted on ptcs.bpa.gov site?

Yes, the plan is to post the announcement after CLEAResult is informed.

Will there be a new measure set to replace PTCS or will the default be the currently available non-PTCS measures?

There are no plans to replace the PTCS program, however there is a team evaluating the current suite of non-PTCS HVAC measures and the possibility of adding new non-PTCS measures.

Can utilities expect changes to current non-PTCS incentives and savings?

Incentives and savings are evaluated and updated as needed every two years as part of the IM cycle. As stated above, current non-PTCS measures are being evaluated for the next rate period.

Can utilities continue to require PTCS and will it be supported by BPA?

The PTCS program will not be supported by BPA after 9/30/23. Utilities can require their own PTCS-like programs but they would have to run them without BPA involvement and without the Registry.

What happens to resHVAC@bpa.gov?

It will be forward to BPA staff on 10/31/2023 because it's part of the PTCS program, and CLEAResult personnel currently run it. It will be shut down 4/1/24.