

# USING CASE STUDIES TO TELL YOUR STORY: SHOWING THE VALUE OF YOUR WORK

Peter Troast, Founder & CEO

Energy Circle Webinar Series

June 30, 2021

Digital Marketing Web Platform Lead Gen Results

Blog About Careers | 207.613.2432

## The Components Every Heat Pump Landing Page Should Have



By Emily Silverman | June 9, 202

Heat pump popularity is growing fast! Is your website ready to capitalize on the demand? Set yourself up for success by following Energy Circle's step-by-step guide to creating a long-form heat pump landing page that captures leads.

A long-form heat pump landing page is the workhorse of your website. When structured correctly, it will attract organic traffic, provide users with helpful, relevant information, and most importantly, capture leads. In the infographic below we detail the essential components of a high-performing heat pump landing page.





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## What Is HOPE for HOMES and Why Is It Important?



By Lily Collins | June 23, 2021

On a recent Webinar Wednesday, Energy Circle hosted Kara Saul Rinaldi, VP of Government Affairs at the Building Performance Association (BPA) to discuss the HOPE for HOMES Act, and to learn how the legislation, if passed, could support progress in our industry for years into the future.

We don't often discuss legislation or what's going on in Washington. However, when government or political initiatives could impact the Better Building Industry and the companies we serve, we're glad to dedicate some time to exploring those possibilities, and learning more about what we can do to support the causes that will benefit our community.

We learned a lot from the conversation between Energy Circle Founder and CEO Peter Troast and Kara Saul Rinaldi during the An Update on the Hope for Homes Legislation webinar, and are excited to dive into greater detail today, as well as share some even more recent news about the proposed legislation.

#### What Is the HOPE for HOMES Legislation?

HOPE for HOMES is a bipartisan bill introduced in 2020 and reintroduced in 2021 to both the House and the Senate. The Building Performance Association is advocating for its inclusion in any federal infrastructure package because it "offers multiple approaches to help upgrade homes and multifamily buildings while offering support for contractor training and incentives for energy efficiency upgrades." The legislation has support from leading representatives on both sides of the aisle, and was included in President Biden's budget request, FY22.

#### How Does HOPE for HOMES Affect Contractors?

The HOPE for HOMES initiative is designed to help contractors by funding technical career and business training. Because the \$500 million initiative would improve access to education through online training, contractors would be able to learn just as much from the heart of a metropolitan area as they could in a more

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### VIDEO: Overcoming Customer Heat Pump Objections



By Jake VP | June 30, 2021

Does your sales team know how to respond when a customer brings up common objections to heat pump upgrades? Watch in our latest video as the Energy Circle team reenacts some of the most familiar myths and misconceptions about this energy efficient technology, giving you actual examples your business can use to overcome homeowner hesitancy and successfully market and sell heat pumps.



### **Upcoming Webinars**

June 9 - Update from Washington on Hope for Homes Legislation with Kara Saul-Rinaldi

June 16 - Overcoming the Hiring Challenge: The Role Marketing Can Play

June 23 - Healthy Homes Post-COVID: Did Anything Change?

**June 30 -** Using Case Studies to Tell Your Story: Showing the Value of Your Work

July 14 - Preparing Your Marketing Strategy for the Fall

Stay tuned for August and September webinar topics coming soon!



### What We'll Discuss

- 1 The Value of Case Studies
- 2 Choosing the Right Format for YOUR COMPANY
- Best Practices
- 4 Process Ideas for Consistent CS Flow
- 5 Getting Leverage for Case Studies





### Google Loves Content

### Content Consistency is Everyone's Challenge



11/9/16





# THE VALUE OF CASE STUDIES

Project Stories
Projects
Work Examples
Our Work
Houses We've Fixed
Installations
Galleries
Features & Components

### Why Case Studies?

### **Compelling Storytelling**

### **Search Engine Optimization**

Voice of the Customer

Educational

Real World

Demonstrated Expertise

Benefits & Outcomes

Comprehensive Jobs

Geo-tagged pages in volume

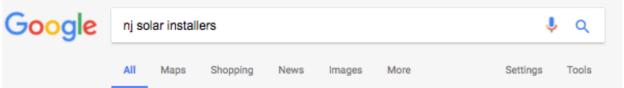
Content freshness consistency

Keyword optimization

Services featuring & linking



### Overcoming Google's Proximity Bias



Google Paid 2-4

Google Local 3 Pack

Organic

About 84,700 results (0.84 seconds) Solar Installers in NJ - Lock-In Low Solar Pricing - sunrun.com (Ad) solarpanels.sunrun.com/NJ\_Solar ▼ The Cost To Go Solar Is At An All Time Low. Get Your Free Solar Quote Today. Solar System Installation - Get A Free Quote - vivintsolar.com Ad www.vivintsolar.com/installation ▼ We make residential solar easy with panel design, installation and monitoring. Home Solar Panels - Solar Purchase - Go Green - Solar Financing - 100,000+ Customers - Solar PPA Services: consultation, design, permitting, installation, activation, production monitoring, 20-year warra... New Jersey Solar Options · Service Areas · About Vivint Solar® · How Does Solar Work? New York GeoPeak Energy Jersey Solar LLC O PowerLutions Solar Map data @2017 Google Rating - Hours -PowerLutions Solar 5.0 ★ ★ ★ ★ (19) - Solar Energy Equipment Supplier WEBSITE DIRECTIONS Lakewood, NJ · (732) 987-3939 Jersey Solar LLC No reviews - Solar Energy Equipment Supplier Lambertville, NJ · (609) 737-6566 WEBSITE DIRECTIONS GeoPeak Energy 0 4.9 \* \* \* (42) - Solar Energy Equipment Supplier Somerset, NJ · (732) 377-3700 DIRECTIONS More places Selecting a Contractor | NJ OCE Web Site - NJ Clean Energy www.njcleanenergy.com > ... > Programs > SREC Registration Program > Solar ▼ Below are questions you should consider in order to make the most informed decision. Who sells and installs solar electric systems? For a list of installation ... New Jersey Solar Installers - Clean Energy Authority www.cleanenergyauthority.com/new-jersey-solar-installers/ \* New Jersey Solar Installer Directory, Find local solar installers in New Jersey to answer questions and provide quotes on residential and commercial Solar PV ... 2016 Top New Jersey Solar Contractors - Solar Power World https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2016-top-new-jersey-solar-contractors/ \* Rank, Company, Overall Rank, City, State, Employees, Primary Market, Primary Service, Total Megawatts

### **Organic Search Strategy**

| Case Study Titles                                   | Search Terms to Rank For                  |
|---|---|
| High efficiency heating system in Portland, ME      | "efficient heating, Portland, ME"         |
| Healthy home renovation, Spokane                    | "what is a healthy home?"                 |
| Solving the Problem of Stuffy Second<br>Floor Rooms | "how to fix stuffy second floor room"     |
| What Mice Tell Us About Air Leakage                 | "removing mice inside my wall insulation" |





# CHOOSING THE RIGHT FORMAT FOR YOUR COMPANY

### The Right Format...

# The One You Can Maintain with Regularity



### **Super Simple Format**

**Problem Solution Voice of the Customer** 



### **Smart Content Format (Structured Data)**



### **Diagnosis of Problem**

Problem 1

Problem 2

**Problem 3** 

**Problem 4** 

Solution (the project)

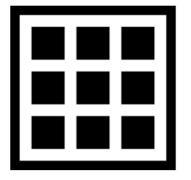
Service 1

Service 2

Service 3

**Service 4** 

### **Testimonial**



| Measure     | Before | After |
|-------------|--------|-------|
| Air Leakage |        |       |
| AC in Tons  |        |       |
| IAQ         |        |       |

**Photo Gallery** 



### **NREL Database:**

Extreme Detail

About Green Pages Contact Donate JOIN NESEA



COMMUNITY Questions, ideas, solutions

CONFERENCES Gather, learn, network **MASTERS SERIES** 

LOCAL EVENTS

Grow your skills online

NESEA near you

Home » Case Studies » Mechanic Street Passive House » General »

#### **Mechanic Street Passive House**

An Affordable, Replicable Passive House

General

Building and Site Details

Energy

Envelope and Mechanicals

of affordability and replicability.

Design Process

When the Hevenor family approached Steve DeMetrick of DeMetrick Housewrights about building their new home in Wakefield, Rhode Island, they already knew that they wanted a Passive House. This young family of four had purchased an infill lot close to the bike path, easily walkable to the grocery store and the local elementary school. They were looking to build an affordable new home, and liked the predictability that comes with building a Passive House-in many ways eliminating

Steve DeMetrick and architect Steve Baczek worked with the clients to design and build a simple three-bedroom, two-bath home which was builder- and supplier-friendly, using conventional and easily-available building materials. The builder-architect team worked closely with the clients from the beginning as an integrated team, and everyone on the project was committed to the goals

The building features Schuco triple-paned windows and a finished concrete floor (beneath which lies six inches of foam with an insulating R-value of 26). Double-stud walls provide room for 12 inches of thermal insulation (totaling R-55). Blown-in cellulose insulation in the roof is calculated at R-92. By keeping the building's shape simple, the team was able to complete the project for a total construction cost of \$300,420, or \$163.00 a square foot. As the first PHIUS-certified Passive House in Rhode Island, this project sets the standard for helping to bring Passive House into the

many of the big decisions that come with designing and building any new home.

Finances



Mechanic Street Passive House rainscreen detail

#### GENERAL

mainstream.

**Quick Facts** 

Location Wakefield, RI Single family residence **Building Type** Zero Energy Ready / Near Zero Energy Project Type Basis of Performance Claim Verified, Zero Energy Program Bedrooms 3 Bathrooms 2.5 **Conditioned Floor Area** 1,804 sq ft

#### PROJECT TEAM



Stephen DeMetrick



Daniel Roy

**Energy Consultant** 



John Rodenhizer

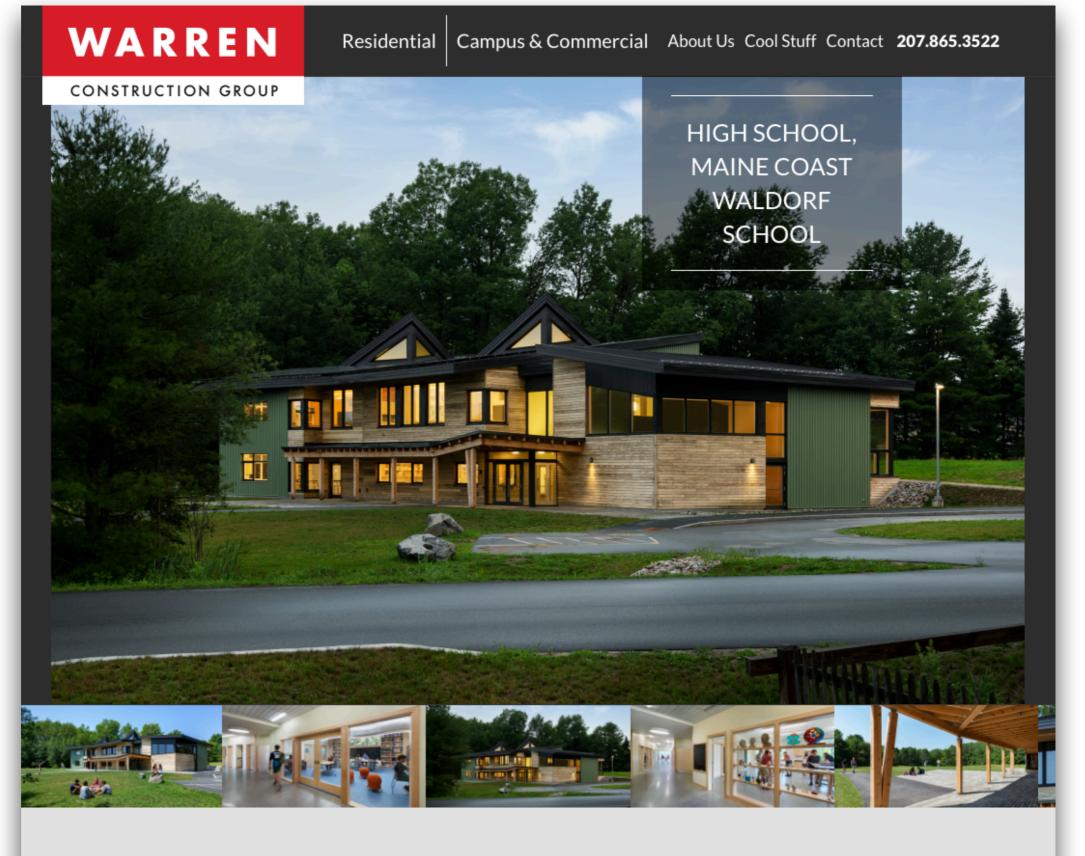
Other Team Member

**ENERGY SUMMARY** 

**Energy Data Type** Verified, Zero Energy Program

### **Builder:**

Image Focused
Short Form



Warren Construction Group is proud to have built the first PHIUS certified Passive House High School in the United States. Working closely with the Maine Coast Waldorf School building committee and Briburn Architecture we collaboratively made decisions that carried this project forward. This addition to the Waldorf School campus in Freeport expanded the capacity of the school and brought all the students on to one campus.

Blog Contact Enter your keywords SEARCH

**OUR WORK** OUR SERVICES OUR WORLD

#### Remodeler:

Image Focused Short Form



HOME PERFORMANCE KITCHEN & BATHROOMS LIVING SPACES WHOLE HOUSE

#### A Cambridge Retrofit Does More Than Save Energy

When the owners of this 1873 home came to us they were at their wits end: they couldn't stay warm in the winter no matter how high they turned up their heat; they had a major mouse problem; and the wife was suffering from health issues that she felt were exacerbated by indoor pollutants. The homeowners loved their house, with its charming period architectural details, and they loved its location in a vibrant neighborhood of Cambridge. But its poor energy performance and air quality were detrimental to their quality of life.

#### Of Mice and Men











#### Benefits

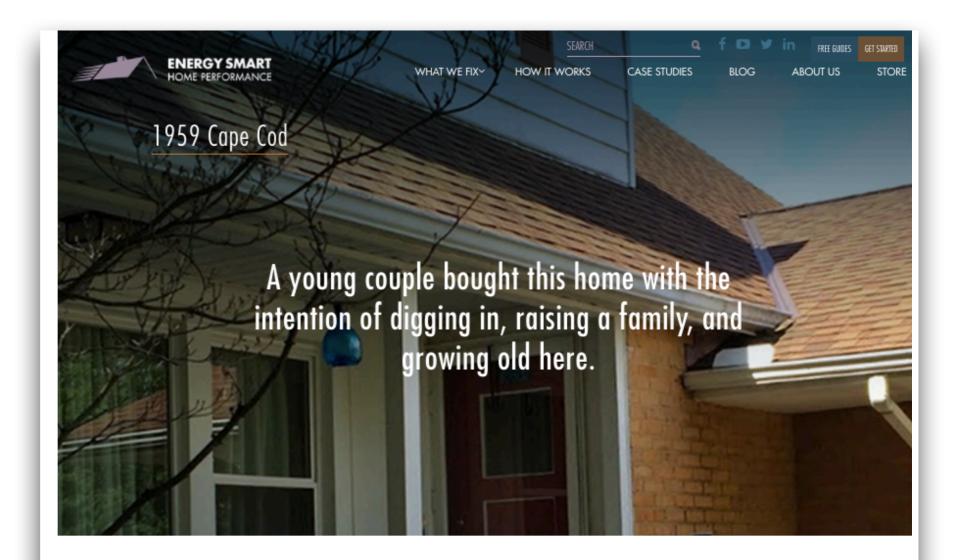
COMFORT & HEALTH **EFFICIENCY** 

#### Byggmeister's Solution

We quickly identified the basement as a major contributor to their air quality woes. The rubble foundation offered myriad entry points for mice, and the dirt floor admitted soil gases. In addition, a great deal of old wood and cardboard stored in the basement was rotting and moldy. Because the basement wasn't sealed from the rest of the house, contaminants that originated there eventually permeated the entire house.

## Home Performance:

Full Story Major Fix Long Form



The second floor nursery was as much as 15° warmer in the summer. Not the best place for their new son.

After the audit and improvements, the difference was less than 2°.

The Background

Year Built 1956

## Home Performance:

Full Story Major Fix Long Form





#### The Background

A young couple bought this home with the intention of digging in, raising a family, and growing old here. The problem was the nursery on the second floor got so hot that they were concerned about their first son sleeping there (a second son has arrived since the project!) It was as much as 15 degrees warmer in summer! In winter much of the home was uncomfortable, and during a prolonged power outage the indoor temperature dropped drastically, reminding the owners of their time in New York during Hurricane Sandy and leaving them feeling uneasy about their new home.

#### Problems to Fix

- During a 6 hour power outage, the indoor temperature dropped 20 degrees. Frozen pipes are a concern.
- Second floor comfort is abysmal through much of the winter and summer. Concern for kids' health.
- Guest room is above master, it's easy to hear each other through the floor.
- Icicles ripped a gutter off and damaged the air conditioner as they fell.

#### Results

- It took 26 hours to drop 10 degrees with similar outdoor conditions (30-40 outdoor temperatures.)
- No more than 2 degree difference between upstairs and down, most of the time is imperceptible.
- Quieter between guest and master, although there is still room for improvement (which would require a substantial upgrade.)
- Substantially reduced icicles.

#### The Story

Adam and Rena called us for a pretty typical Cape Cod problem - the second floor never heats or cools well. Capes are usually light on ductwork to the second floor, plus they are usually the leakiest home type.

As usual it took several trades to make the job happen. Adam and Rena wanted to add a few light fixtures, so that brought in an electrician (B to Z Home Improvements.) There was no hatch to the upper attic or an

Year Built 1956
Square Footage 2400
Energy Use Index\*
Before 0000
Target 0000
After 0000
Air Leakage (cfm50)
Start 5812
Target 3500
End 3090

#### Case Studies

1890 Ranch — Habitat For Humanity Deep Energy Retrofit

1900 Net Zero Ready

1900 Two Story — Hiram College Tree House Deep Energy Retrofit

1915 Two Story

1917 Net Zero Ready

1959 Cape Cod

1960s Two Story Colonial

1970s Cape Cod

1998 Center Hall colonial

2016 Two Story With Tiny Furnace



A Blog post where the title is longer than most and the text extends down below where the image is shown is like this

## Insulation & Air Sealing:

Targeting a Key Niche about us focus on energy case studies blog contact us







IT'S TIME TO STOP ENERGY LOSS

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL & MUNICIPAL BUILDING CONSULTING



### Mt. Pleasant Home Case Study: Insulating & Air Sealing a Historic Home

"They stayed within the limits of their initial \$29,300 proposal, were timely and efficient, worked well around our operations and kept our facilities clean, and demonstrated considerable expertise and hustle... We wish we had more contractors that can provide the value and expertise that we received so readily from A-A Exteriors." – Mt. Pleasant Home

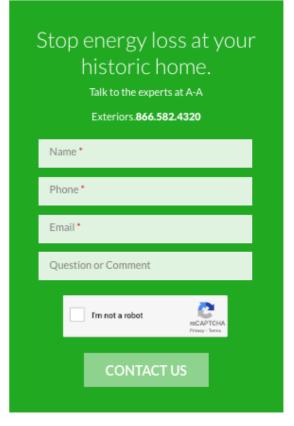
#### About Mt. Pleasant Home

Accurate-Airtight

Built in the 1850's, this mansion is set on a landscaped five-acre bluff-top in a quiet, centrally located residential neighborhood. This Mt. Pleasant Home provides affordable independent living for forty residents in a 30,000 square foot facility. The three main buildings were constructed in 1857, 1894, and 1939.

Having been built in multiple stages, it proved to be unique in the many strategies that were applied to complete the air barrier and insulation project.

The building showed substantial evidence of a lack of a sufficient air barrier and thermal barrier throughout. Many



#### NOW MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE

Just a quick note about the air sealing that you did in our home. It has worked as you indicated that it would. We noticed an immediate improvement in our basement. We obviously had some problems in that area that one would not normally associate with a nine year old home. The temperature in the basement is now much more comfortable and the kids seem to play down there more often.

### Home **Performance:**

**Short Story** Problem Solution Outcome



ABOUT BPI HOME PERFORMANCE WHY BPI GOLDSTAR CASE STUDIES RESOURCES BLOG

#### **Temperature Swings in Los Angeles**

#### **Building Doctors**





Greg Stevens was experiencing many issues with his 1700 sq ft home in Los Angeles, CA. The Spanish-style building was built in 1932 and was extremely drafty. He was unhappy with the extreme swings in temperature and keeping the home cool or warm was a constant battle. The dust in the house was also a health concern.

#### **ENERGY AUDIT RESULTS**

After doing an energy evaluation of the home, Dan Thompsen, a BPI Gold Star Certified Contractor and owner of Building Doctors was able to identify some of the major issues causing the uncomfortable temperatures and dust. The wall furnace needed to be updated, there was absolutely no wall insulation and the house was very leaky. There was also an out of date and inefficient water heater.

#### **SOLUTIONS**

Dan and his team of professionals were able to take a whole home approach to the project and make changes that would make the entire home function more efficiently so the home was more comfortable and healthy. They air sealed many areas of the home that were causing the air to leak in and out of the home. They added attic insulation and wall insulation where there was none before. They combines the home's hydronic heating and air conditioning system installed a Rinai tankless water heater.

#### MEET THE LEETS. SEE **HOW WELL THEIR HOME** PERFORMS.



Does your home live up to the Home Performance challenge?

TAKE THE HOME QUIZ

#### PROJECT OUTCOME

The comprehensive work that was done made a substantial difference in the comfort of the

### **Solar:**

### Super Simple High Volume



PORTFOLIO

ABOUT CAREERS BLOG CONTACT

REQUEST A CONSULTATION

#### Atherton, CA

Home » Portfolio » Atherton, CA

Location: Atherton, CA

Sectors: Homes

Type: Flushmount

This newly constructed residence successfully achieved LEED Gold certification.

• PV System Size: 9.45 kW DC

• System Equipment: 42 SunPower 225SmartPack

Product Category: Solar PV



**SEE ALL PROJECTS** 

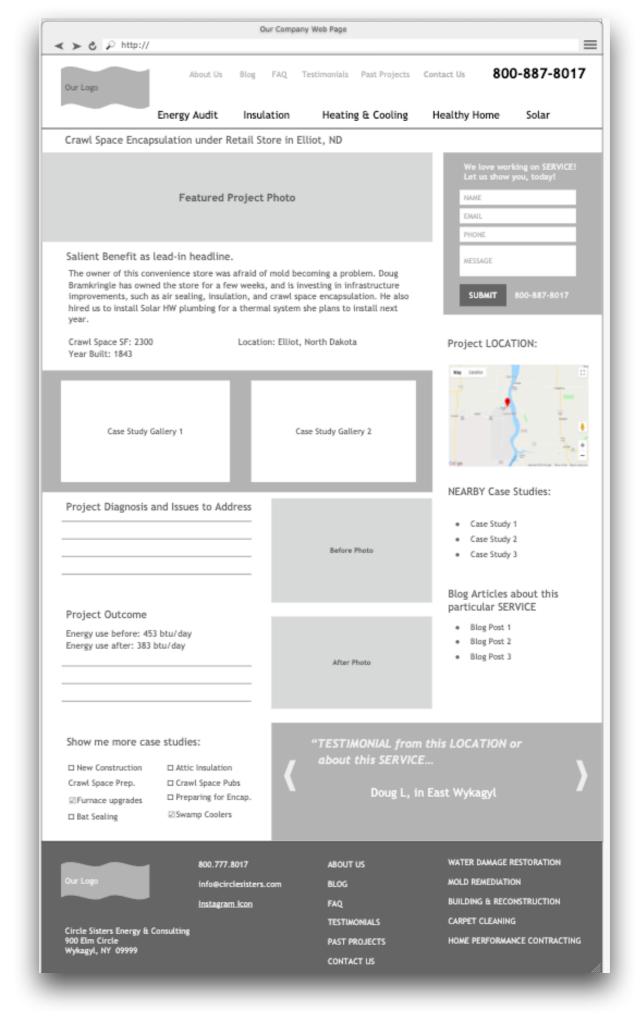


### **BEST PRACTICES**

## There is an Ideal Format

but

Getting it Done
Outweighs
Perfection



# Link Case Studies to Key Service Pages



(404) 480-4600 Q

ABOUT US | CERTIFICATION | CONSULTING | EDUCATION | CONTACT US | CASE STUDIES



Single family green building certification continues to expand in the marketplace through a combination of consumer demand and code requirements. Several local municipalities are either requiring or incentivizing certification for new homes and major renovation projects. Contrary to common wisdom, when green building and energy efficiency techniques are considered early in the design phase, additional expenses are minimized or eliminated, and projects are assured a smooth path to certification. We work with developers, architects, and contractors to make sure that their projects meet program requirements, helping them to create affordable, comfortable, healthy, and efficient homes that their clients love and improve their reputation.

#### HOW SK COLLABORATIVE CAN HELP YOU BUILD AND RENOVATE BETTER HOMES

- Consult with you early in the design process to plan for certification from the start
- Help you make the best decisions first
- · Avoid mistakes during construction that cost time and money
- · Green building means happier clients and fewer callbacks
- When you plan green from the start, it is easy and doesn't have to cost more

#### SOME OF OUR CURRENT AND RECENT PROJECTS:



#### DECATUR, GEORGIA SUSTAINABLE HISTORIC DISTRICT INFILL HOUSE

This new home was designed to both fit seamlessly into this beautiful historic district and meet the highest standards of energy efficiency and sustainability. Designed by Thomas Bateman Hood Architects, and built and owned by SK Collaborative... Read More



#### **EARTHCRAFT PLATINUM RENOVATION**

This renovation of a historic bunglow achieved EarthCraft Platinum certification for a renovation project and was awarded the Earthcraft Project of the Year in 2013. Featuring a full spray foam building envelope, high efficiency HVAC, windows, and appliances, this house was expanded and... Read More



#### DOMAIN CUSTOM HOMES

SK Collaborative provides EarthCraft certification for Domain Custom Homes project to meet the City of Decatur High Performance Building Ordinance. Features in these homes include high performance windows and glass doors, enhanced whole house ventilation, ENERGY STAR bath exhuast fans, improved... Read More



#### CASA ECO MAYA

Only the 2nd LEED certified home in Mexico, this custom home is located in Merida, the capital of the state of Yucatan. The project incorporated several technologies unique in the area including insulated cement block construction, waste recycling, high performance glazing, low VOC finishes... Read More

### **Embedded Google Map**

#### Insource Renewables is Maine's newest worker cooperative!



SOLAR PV HEAT PUMPS

SOLAR HEATING

EV CHARGING

WHO WE ARE



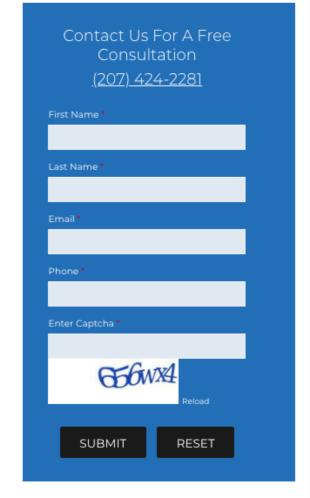
About the Project

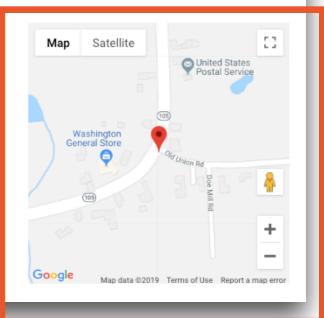
Equipment Specifications

In an effort to move their operations toward net zero, the owners of Black Locust Farm installed eighty (80) American-made SolarWorld Sunmodules and installed two ducted heat pumps. Black Locust Farm is home to cashmere goats and serves as a bed and breakfast.

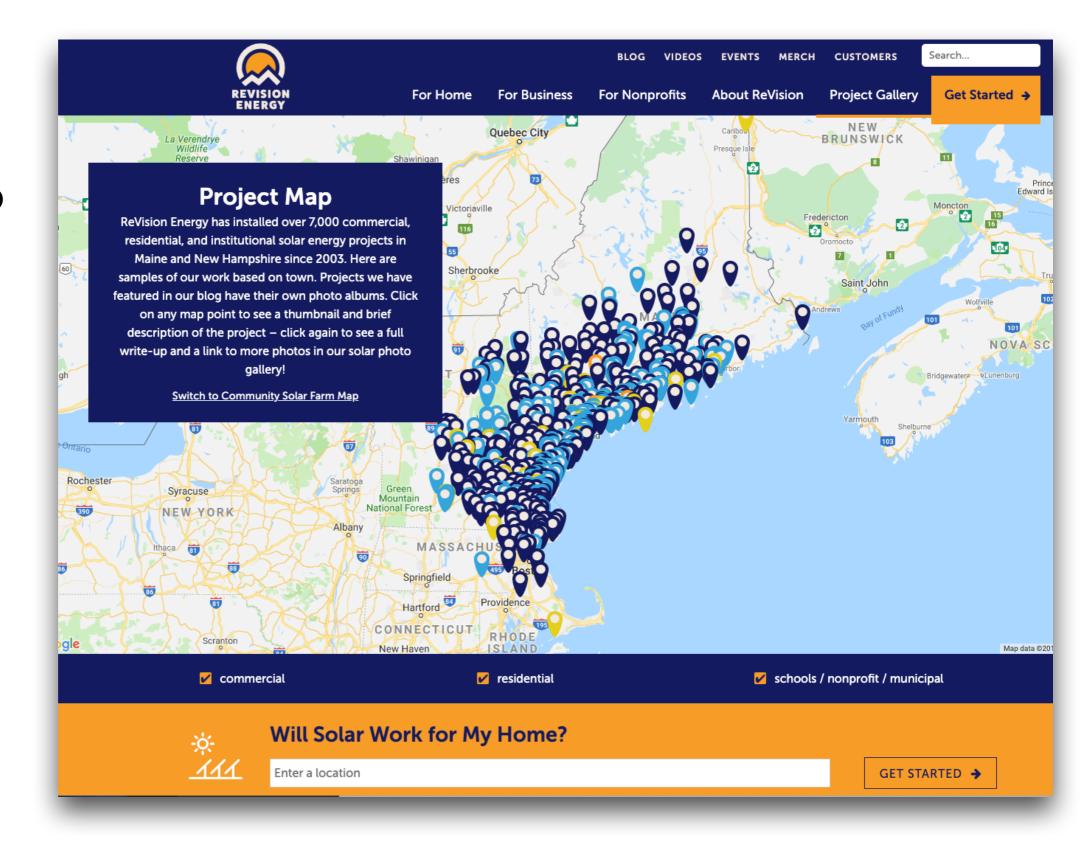
Due to the scale of the project, the owners opted for a ground-mounted system. The site is uneven and has shallow ledge, which somewhat limited our options for installation a foundation for the array. We utilized a Schletter PV Max ballasted ground frame to alleviate these challenges. The system utilizes poured-in-place concrete grade beams which sit upon crushed stone to provide drainage and minimize the effects of frost.

This project includes four (4) SMA Sunnyboy transformerless inverters, each connected to the internet to allow for remote monitoring of system performance and functionality. The inverters are capable of exporting a total of 24,000 watts of power to the grid. In order to integrate this system into the existing electrical system, we were required to install a line side interconnection between CMP's meter and the main service panel. We also needed to coordinate the replacement of the transformer at the site to accommodate the magnitude of electricity that could be delivered to the grid.





## Aggregate Google Map



### **Case Studies Index**

PROJECT

SOLAR PV

**HEAT PUMPS** 

SOLAR HEATING

EV CHARGING

WHO WE ARE

\_ min spire riede parrips

\_ rtoor mounted

Joidi i Goi i icacii ig





























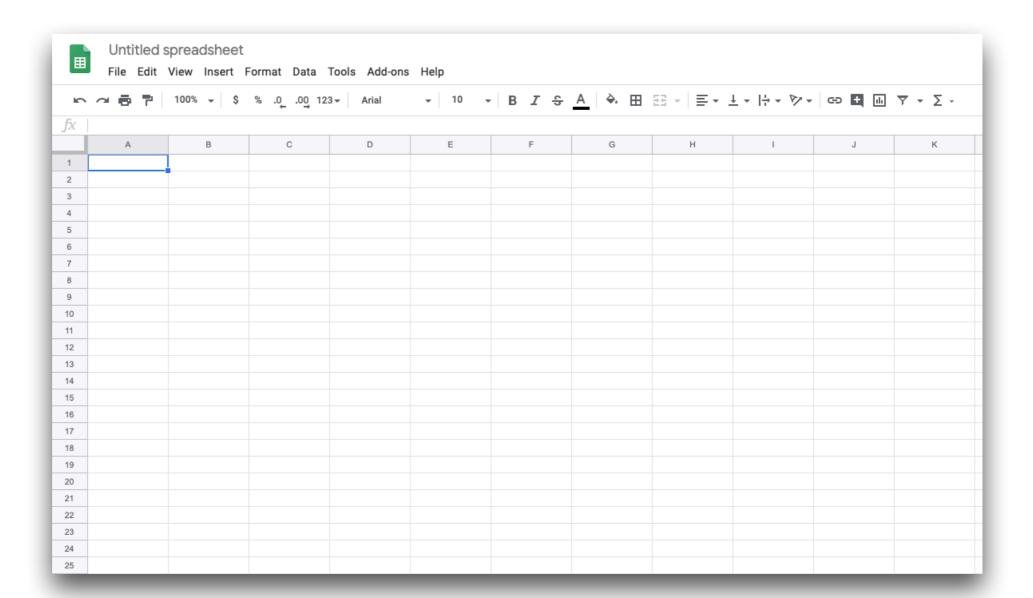
# PROCESSES TO ASSURE CONSISTENT CASE STUDY FLOW

# Simplifying Data Collection for your Team

|   | lar Case S          | •        | <br> |
|---|---------------------|----------|------|
| * Required  |                     |          |      |
| Email addre   | ss*                 |          |      |
| Your email  |                     |          |      |
| Location of   | Job *               |          |      |
| Your answer   |                     |          |      |
| Customer na   | ame (if ok to use)  |          |      |
| Your answer   |                     |          |      |
| Why did the   | y want to go sola   |          |      |
| Tilly and the   | y want to go sola   | ? Why SE |      |
| Your answer   | ne & Year Built (if |          |      |
| Your answer   | ne & Year Built (if |          |      |
| Your answer  Style of Hon  Your answer  Total KW of   | ne & Year Built (if |          |      |
| Your answer  Style of Hon  Your answer  Total KW of  Your answer                              | ne & Year Built (if |          |      |
| Your answer  Style of Hon  Your answer  Total KW of  Your answer                              | ne & Year Built (if |          |      |
| Your answer  Style of Hon Your answer  Total KW of Your answer                                | ne & Year Built (if |          |      |
| Your answer  Style of Hon Your answer  Total KW of Your answer  Location *                    | ne & Year Built (if |          |      |
| Your answer  Style of Hon Your answer  Total KW of Your answer  Location * Roof Ground Other: | ne & Year Built (if | known)   |      |

| Detter / Otere se if emplicable /brand and empeits)   |
|---|
| Battery / Storage if applicable (brand and capacity)  |
| Your answer   |
|   |
| Inverter & monitoring system                          |
| Your answer   |
|   |
| Additional system features (EV charging etc)          |
| Your answer   |
|   |
| Energy use (Before) *                                 |
| g,  |
| Your answer   |
|   |
| Were additional energy efficiency measures performed? |
| Your answer   |
|   |
| Project Outcome & any additional details *            |
| Your answer   |
|   |
| What made this project unique?                        |
| Your answer   |
| TOUR GROWER   |
| Testimonial from Customer (if available)              |
|   |
| Your answer   |
|   |
| SUBMIT  |
|   |
| Never submit passwords through Google Forms.          |

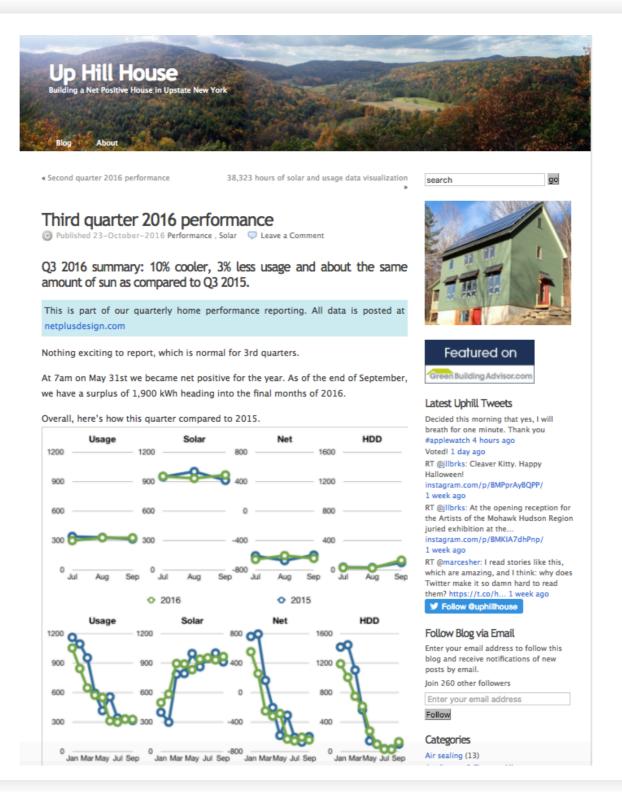
### Bulk Upload from Spreadsheet





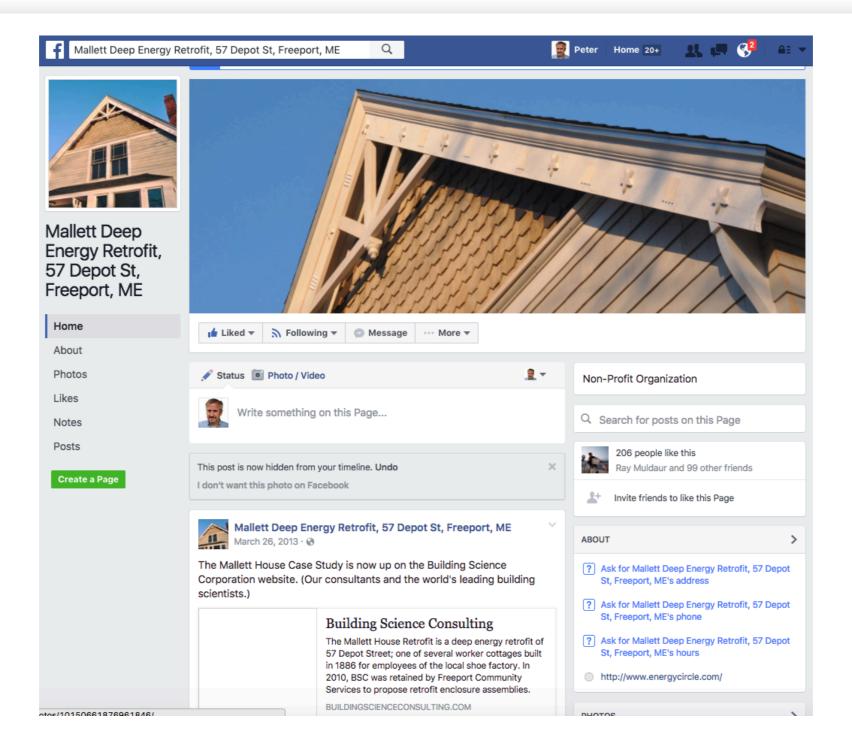
### LEVERAGING CASE STUDIES

### **Story Blogs**



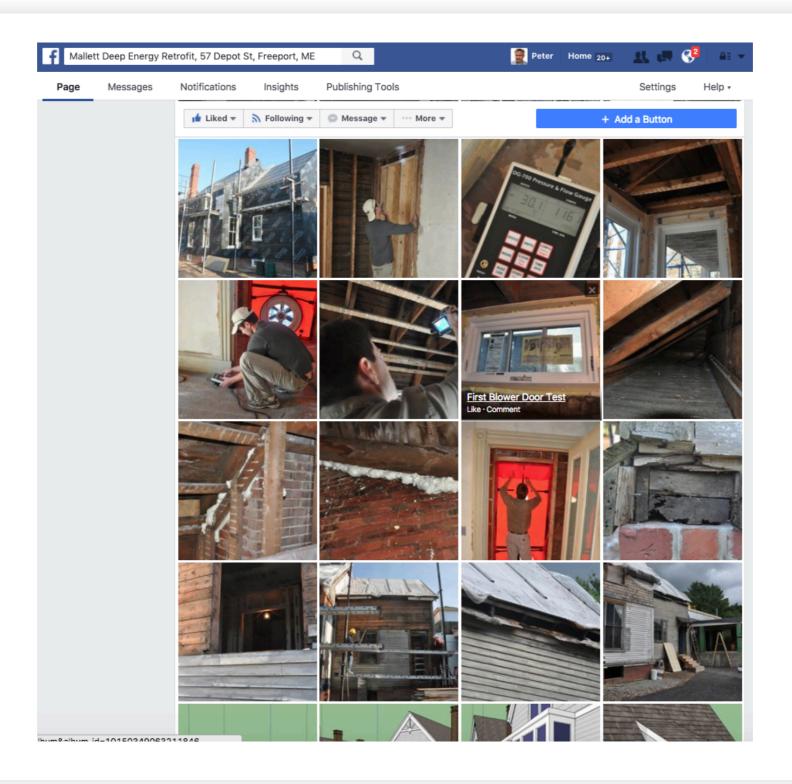


### **Easy Facebook Content**



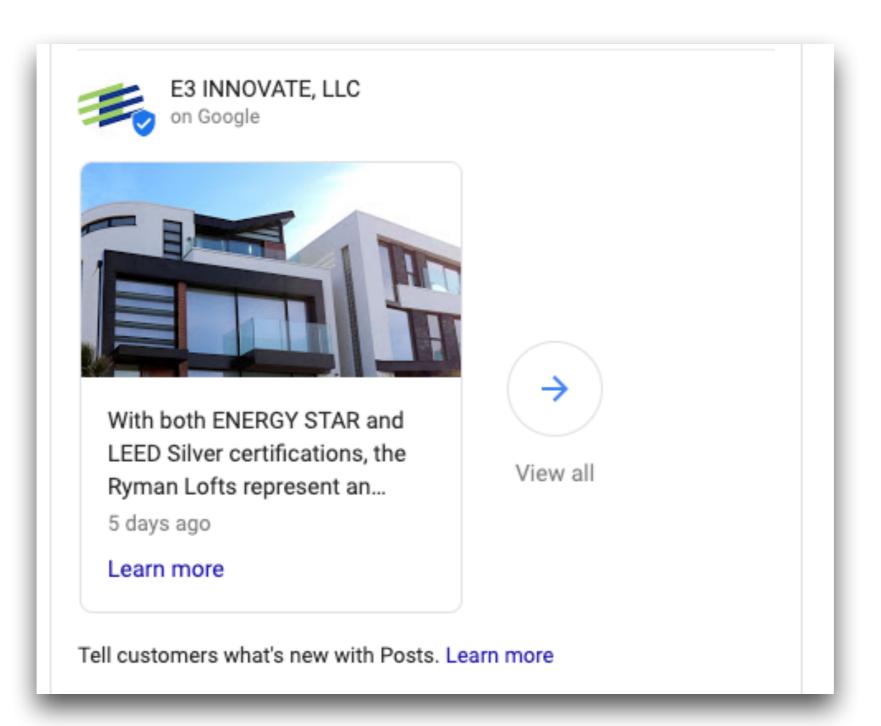


### Image Storytelling in Facebook



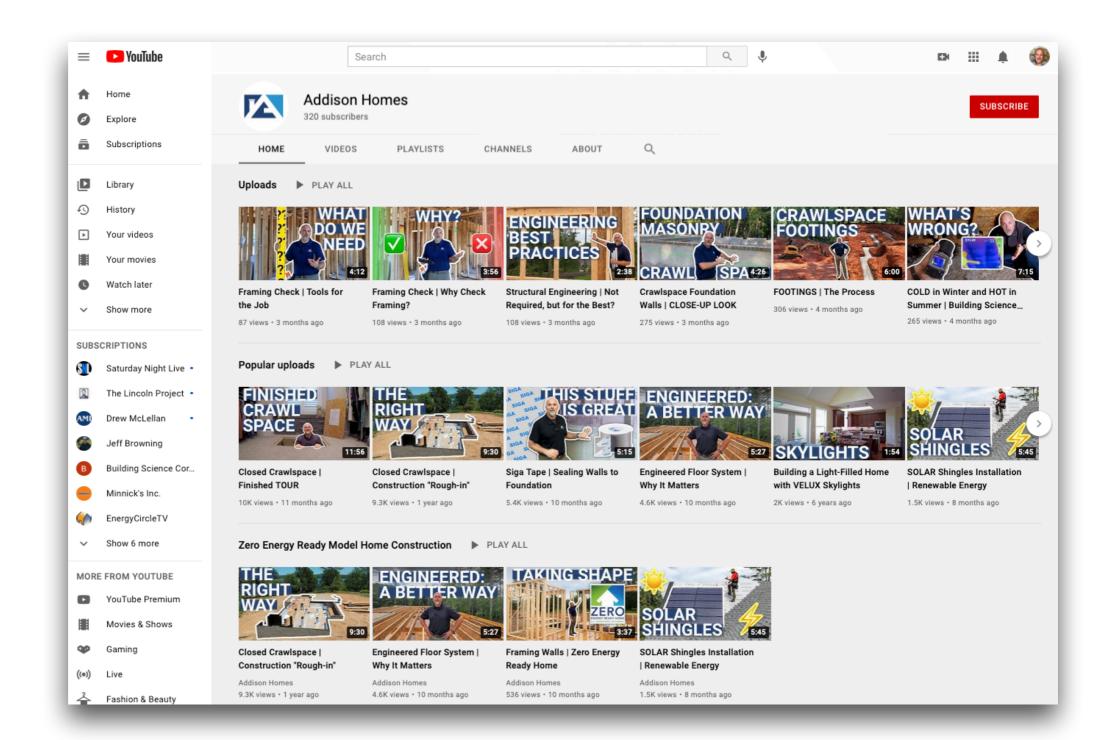


### **Content for Google Posts**





### YouTube Channel





### QUESTIONS?

Peter Troast

peter@energycircle.com