### EEBA High Performance Home Summit Salt Lake City, UT

# A Deep Dive into Heat Pump Water Heaters for Multifamily Buildings

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Pacific Northwest National Laboratory





#### **Special Thanks to the Experts**

Larson Energy Research





# Heat Pump Water Heaters (HPWH)

- Pump heat from air to water
- Highly efficient
- Integrated or split systems
- All air-source heat pumps:
  - Generate noise
  - Exhaust cold air
  - Generate condensate
  - Require space for airflow
  - Require sufficient warm air





## Why Use HPWHs in Multifamily Buildings?

- DHW is a high end-use in MF buildings
- Electrification
- ENERGY STAR
- Zero Energy Ready Home
- State and local codes





### **Heat Pump Water Heaters (HPWH)**





## **Heat Pump Water Heaters (HPWH)**





## **Implementation Approaches**

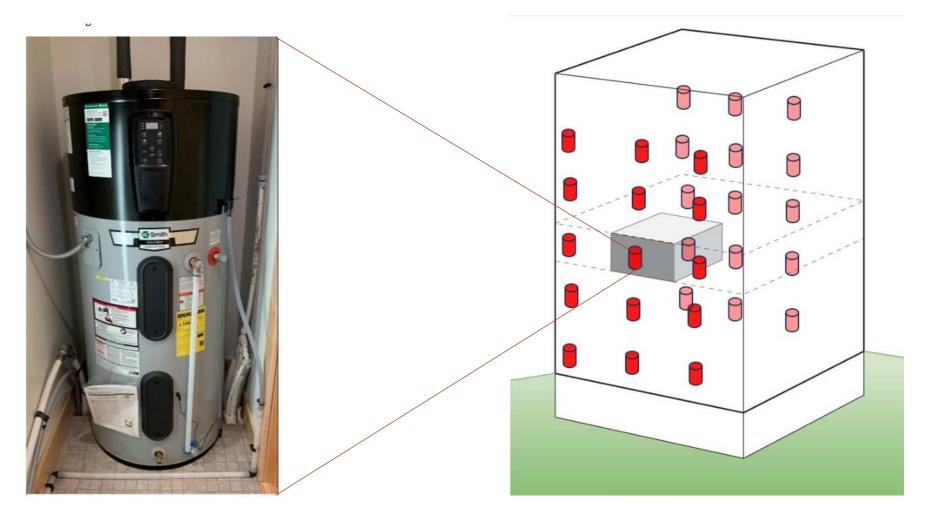
- Distributed HPWHs (integrated units)
  - 1 for 1
  - Clustered
- Central Systems







## **Distributed Systems**





## **Distributed Systems: Advantages**

- Off-the shelf equipment
- Less complex design
- Simple install
- Familiar operation/maintenance
- Avoids complex controls

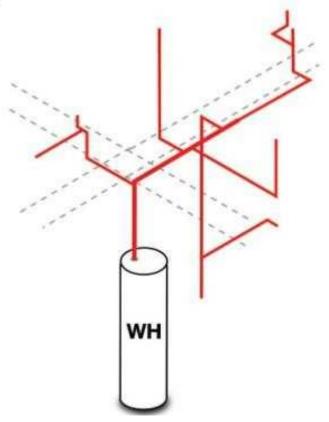


In short, residential plumbers can handle this job!



## **Distributed Systems: Advantages**

- No recirculation loop (or small)
  - Energy waste
  - Potential failure points
- No central mechanical room required
- No exterior equipment
  - Exterior space, noise, aesthetics
- Simplified tenant billing
- Low likelihood of whole-building failure
- Applies well to smaller buildings that don't have dedicated maintenance staff





### **Distributed Systems: Disadvantages**

- Distributed maintenance
  - 100 units = 100 filter washes
- In-unit floor area
- In-unit noise
- In-unit cool air
- In-unit condensate
- Efficiency?
- Cost?

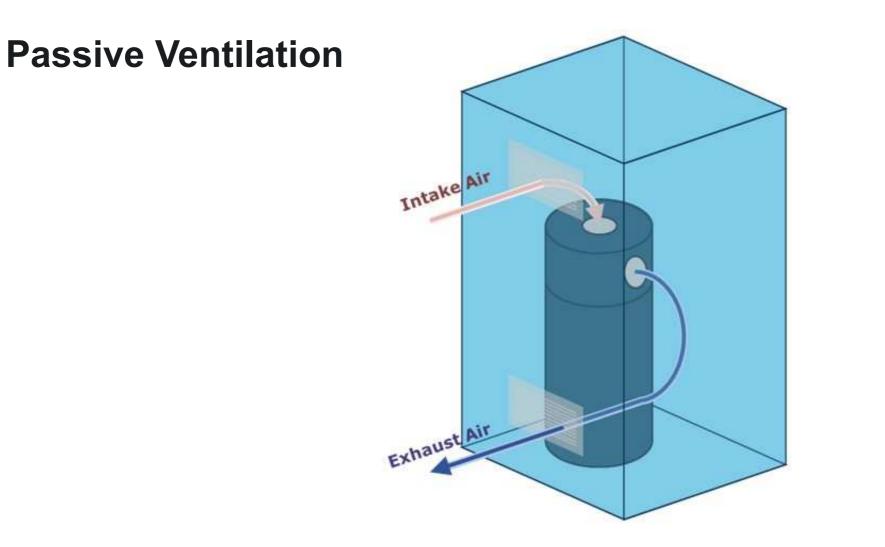












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### **Passive Ventilation**

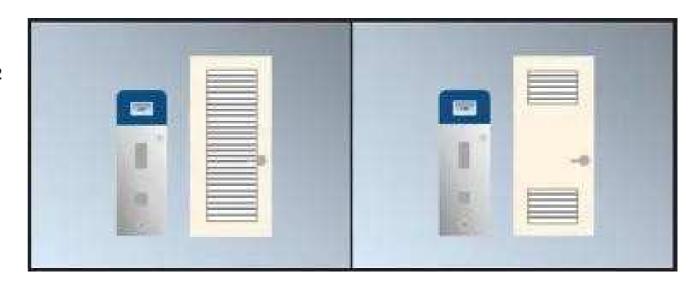
- Fully louvered door
  - Min net free area = 300 in<sup>2</sup>





## **Passive Ventilation**

- Fully louvered door
  - Min net free area = 300 in<sup>2</sup>
- Two door louvers
  - One, high, one low
  - Equal size
  - Min net free area = 192 in<sup>2</sup> total

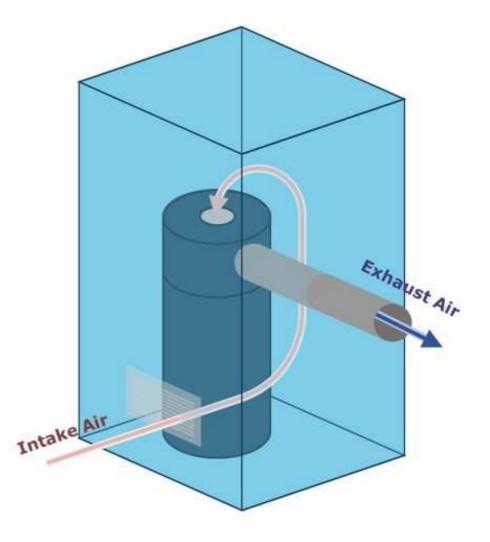




#### **Forced (ducted) Ventilation**





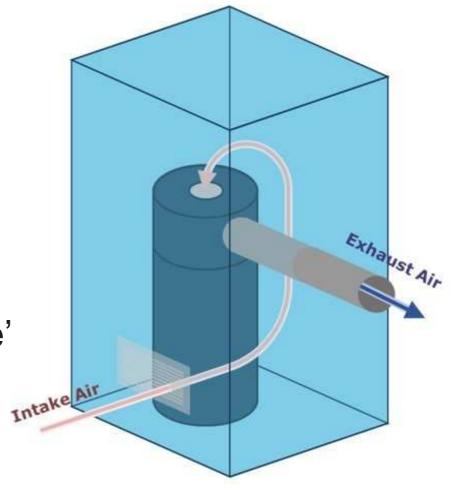


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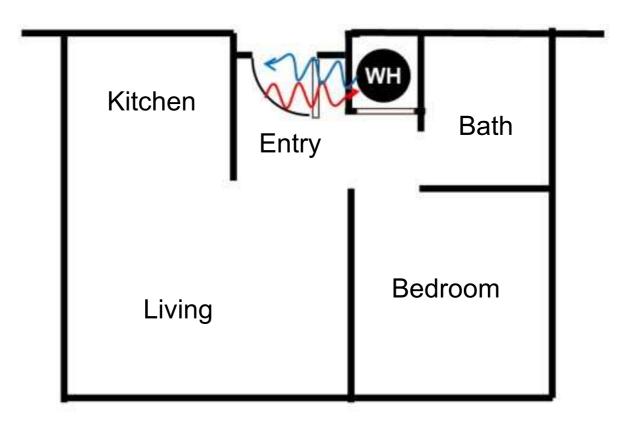


## **Forced (ducted) Ventilation**

- Short, straight, rigid duct runs
- Provide transfer grille or undercut door
  Min net free area = 18 in<sup>2</sup>
- Or duct both intake and exhaust
- Intake and exhaust must both be 'inside' or both 'outside'
- Insulate exhaust duct



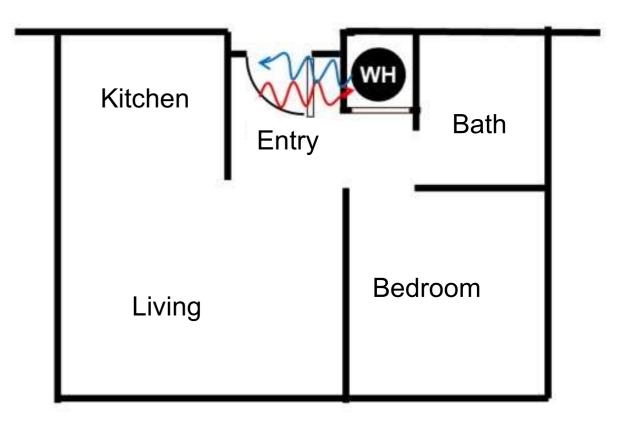






# In-Unit Closet

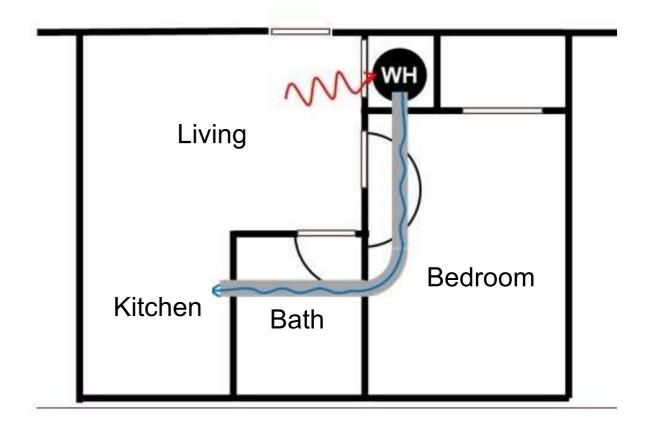
- Consider cool exhaust
  - Entryway good location
  - Ducted to kitchen or laundry
- Co-locate with laundry
- Maintenance staff must enter dwelling unit





# In-Unit Closet

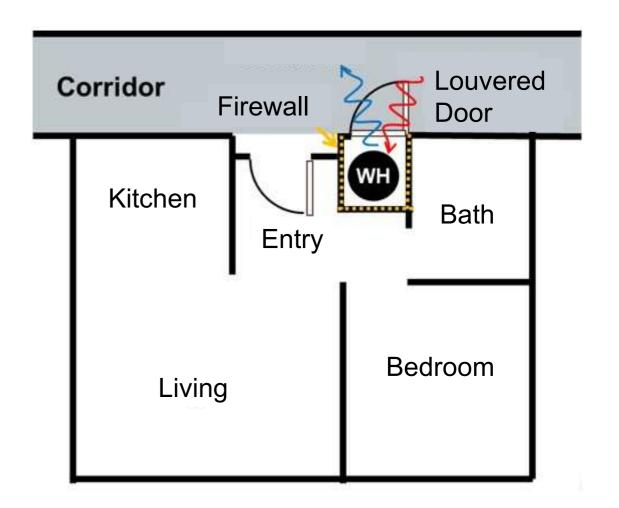
- Consider cool exhaust
  - Entryway good location
  - Ducted to kitchen or laundry
- Co-locate with laundry
- Maintenance staff must enter dwelling unit





# **Internal Corridor Closet**

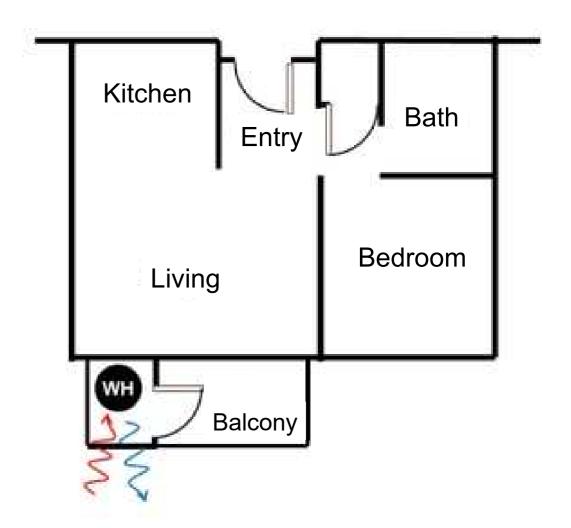
- Closet walls must provide:
  - Air barrier
  - Fire rating
  - Sound proofing
- Avoids in-unit cool exhaust
- Reduces in-unit noise
- Non-invasive maintenance





# **Exterior Closet**

- Hot/warm climates only
- Avoids in-unit cool exhaust
- Reduces in-unit noise
- Maintenance staff must access balcony/patio



## **Breezeway Closet**

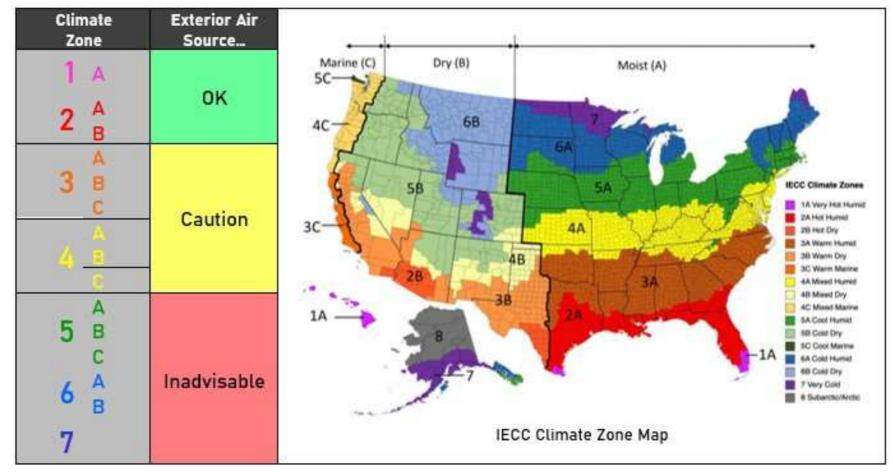
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- Hot/warm climates only
- Closet walls must provide:
  - Air barrier
  - Thermal insulation
  - Fire rating
  - Sound proofing
- Avoids in-unit cool exhaust
- Reduces in-unit noise
- Non-invasive maintenance

Breezeway F	irewall		Louvere Door	d
Kitchen	Entry		Bath	
Living		Be	droom	



#### **Exterior Location Climate Implications**





## **Utility Rooms and Dead Space**

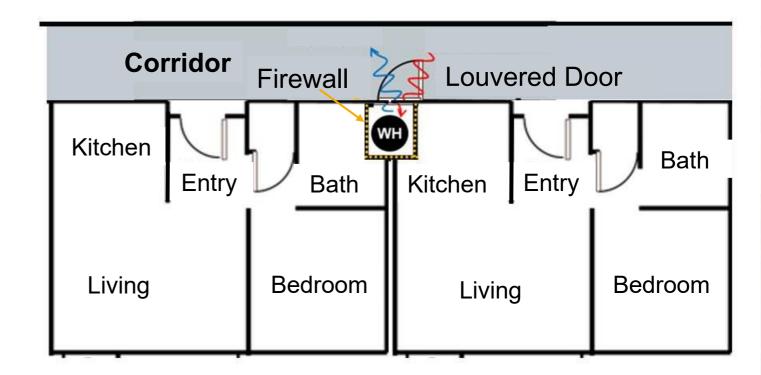
- Mechanical rooms
- Laundry rooms
- Tops and bottoms of stairwells
- Good accessibility for maintenance
- Reduced noise and comfort concerns





## **Distributed Systems: Clustered Deployments**

- Allows fewer HPWHs
- Frees up floor space
- May lead to longer HW runs and recirculation loops
- Tenant billing not as simple





# **Distributed Systems: Sizing and Selecting**

• Sizing is essentially the same as single-family sizing

- 1 to 1 installation:
  - HPWH FHR > dwelling unit FHR requirement
- Clustered installation:
  - HPWH FHR > combined dwelling unit FHR requirements



## **Distributed Systems: Clustered Deployments**

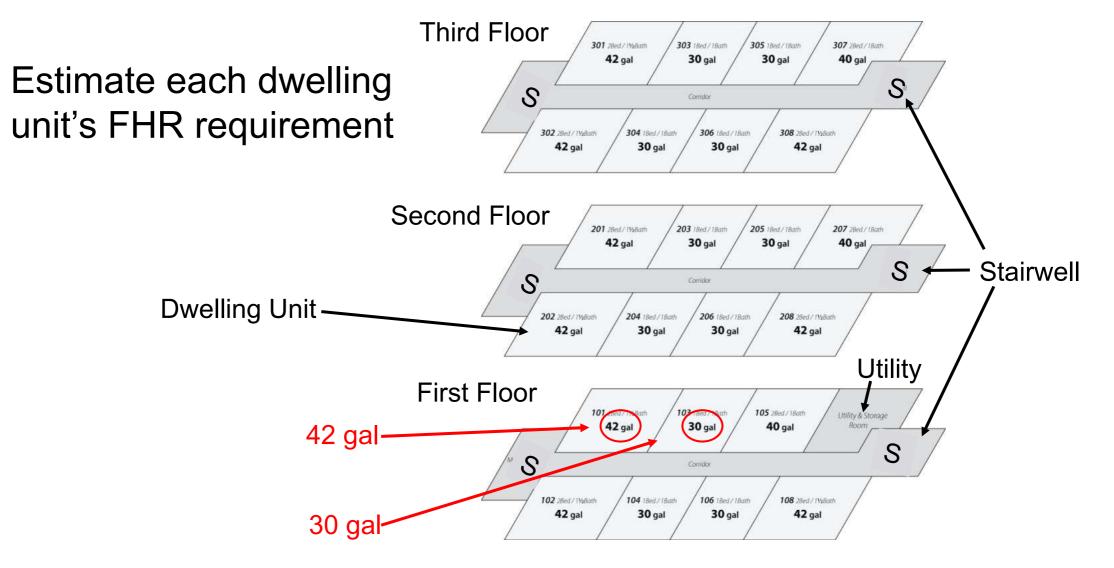
### Identify HPWH models with a range of FHRs

HPWH Size	First Hour Rating
Extra Small	58 gallons
40-gallon tank	U
Small	66 gallons
50-gallon tank	5
Medium	78 gallons
64-gallon tank	5
Large	92 gallons
80-gallon tank	J

# **Distributed Systems: Clustered Deployments**

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### Match cluster requirements to HPWH models

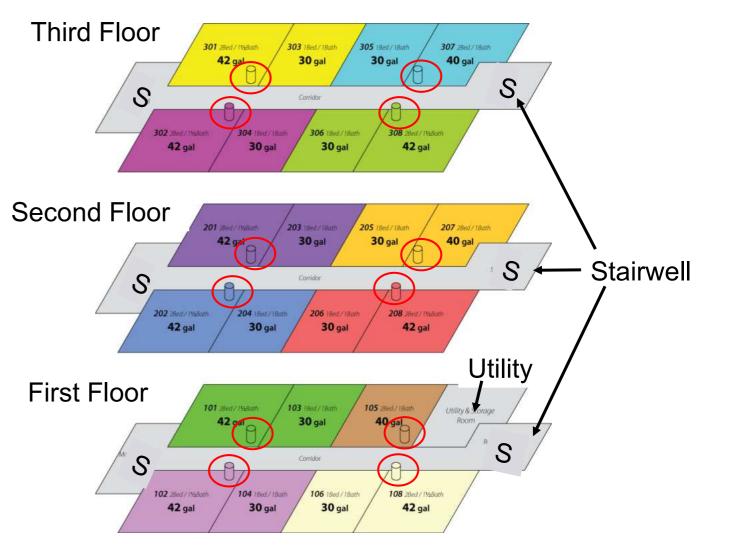
HPWH Size	First Hour Rating	Suitable Clusters
Extra Small 40-gallon tank	58 gallons	- Any one unit
Small 50-gallon tank	66 gallons	- Two 1/1 units
Medium 64-gallon tank	78 gallons	<ul> <li>One 1/1 unit + one 2/1 unit</li> <li>One 1/1 unit + one 2/1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> unit</li> </ul>
Large 80-gallon tank	92 gallons	- Three 1/1 units - One 2/1 unit + One 2/1½ unit - Two 2/1½ unit

## **Distributed Systems: Clustered Deployments**

Try to cluster units to:

Pacific Northwest

- Minimize total number of HPWHs
- Place units to mitigate sound and exhaust issues
- Minimize HW runs and avoid recirc loops

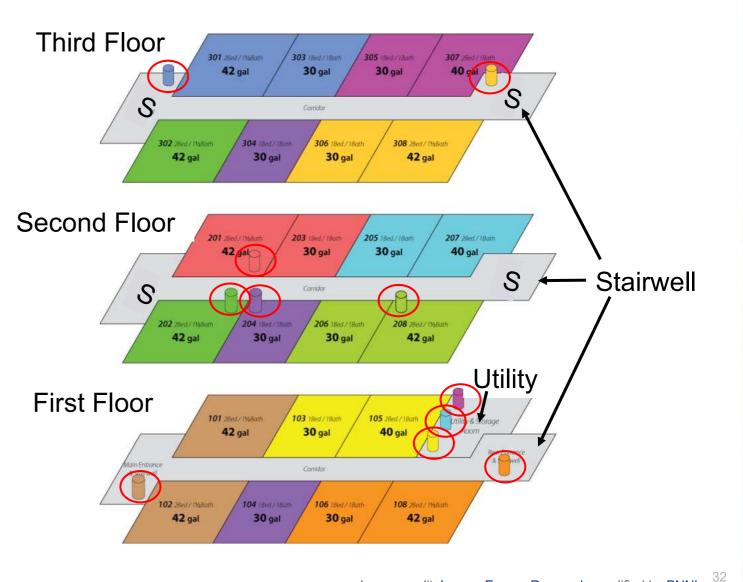


## **Distributed Systems: Clustered Deployments**

Try to cluster units to:

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- Minimize total number of HPWHs
- Place units to mitigate sound and exhaust issues
- Minimize HW runs and avoid recirc loops





## **Central HPWH Systems**







### **Central HPWH Systems: Advantages**

- All equipment outside of units
  - Easy maintenance access
  - No in-unit noise
  - No in-unit exhaust
  - No in-unit condensate
- Centralized maintenance
- Applies well to larger buildings with dedicated maintenance staff





# **Central HPWH Systems: Disadvantages**

- More complex design, installation, operation
- Recirculation loop
  - Energy waste
  - Potential failure points
- Central mechanical room required
- Exterior space, noise, aesthetic considerations
- Tenant billing
- Potential whole-building failure

## Central HPWH Systems: Market Delivery

### Fully Packaged / Skid System

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- All major components pre-assembled and piped at the factory
- Manufacturer provides design info to site engineer for permitting
- Manufacturer provides installation and operation instructions
- Generally least prone to design and installation error







### Fully Packaged / Skid System





### Fully Packaged / Skid System





### Fully Packaged / Skid System



### Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Central HPWH Systems: Market Delivery

# **Fully Specified Built-Up System**

- Engineer provides building characteristics to CHPWH provider
- CHPWH provider designs the system
- CHPWH provider provides installation and operation instructions
- More flexible but more prone to error







# **Fully Specified Built-Up System**

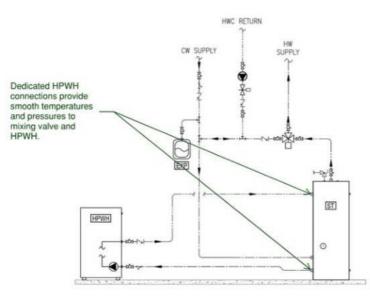


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# **Central HPWH Systems: Market Delivery**

# **Custom Engineered System**

- Designed by engineer of record
- Engineer specifies and sizes all components
- Plumbing installer sources components
- Most flexible option but more prone to error







# Caution

**Enginerdy Material Ahead** 



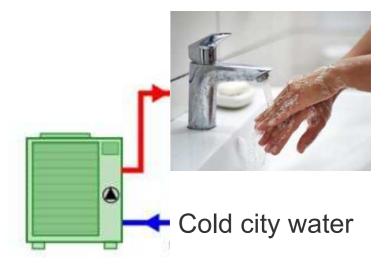
# **Central HPWH Systems: Hot Water Loads**

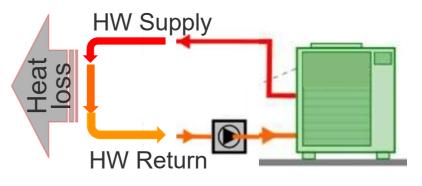
### Primary hot water load

- Caused by hot water usage
- Mains water temp >>> DHW delivery temp
- Cold incoming water = Efficient HP operation
- Large, fluctuating load

### HW circulation temperature maintenance

- Caused by recirculation pipe heat loss
- HWC return temp >>> DHW delivery temp
- Warm incoming water = Inefficient HP operation
- Smaller, constant load





# **Central HPWH Systems: Components**

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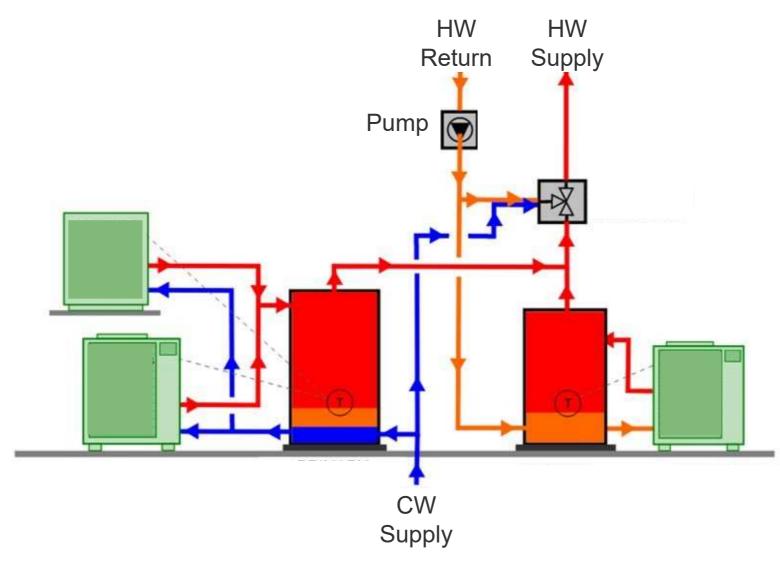
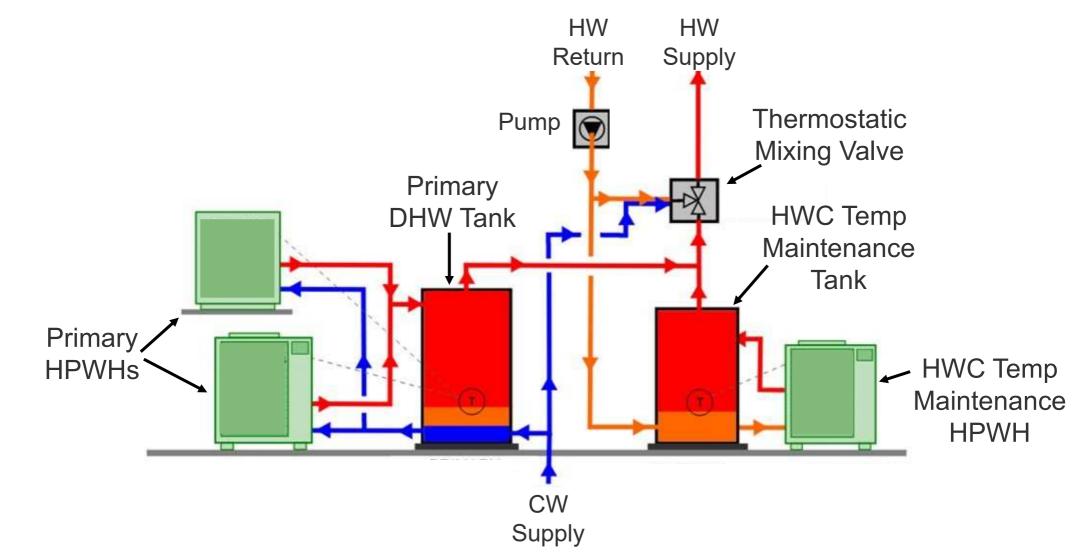


Image credit: Ecotope 45

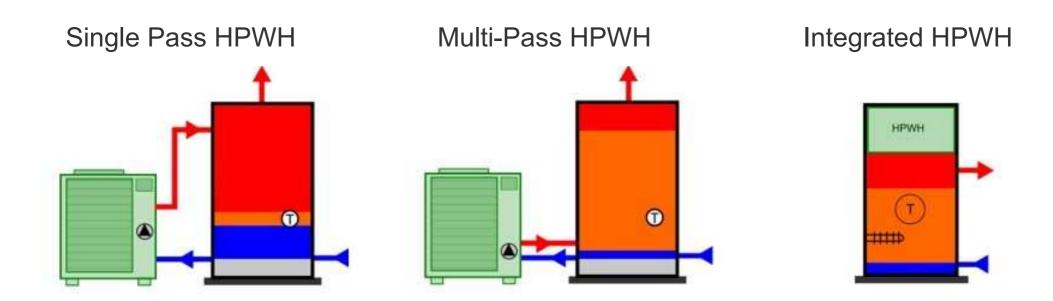
### **Central HPWH Systems: Components**

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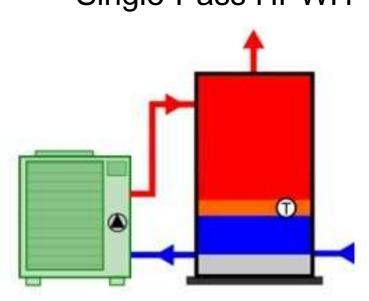




# **Central HPWH Systems: Types of HPWHs**

# Single-Pass HPWH

- Heat pump and tank are separate
- Adjusts flow to meet target outlet temp
- Maximizes HP efficiency
- May require separate heater for HWC temp maintenance



**Single-Pass HPWH** 

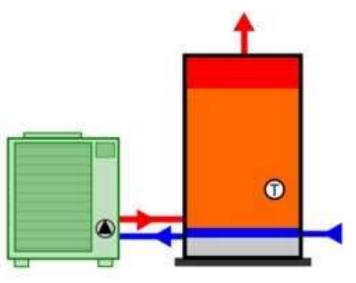


# **Central HPWH Systems: Types of HPWHs**

# Multi-Pass HPWH

- Heat pump and tank are separate
- Constant flow
- Heats by 5-10°F each pass
- Can provide HWC temp maintenance
- Similar to gas water heater installation
- Lower HP efficiency
- More storage required

### Multi-Pass HPWH

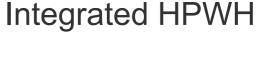


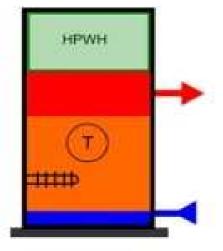


# **Central HPWH Systems: Types of HPWHs**

# Integrated HPWH

- Heat pump and tank are combined in a single unit
- Larger commercial units available
- Cost-effective for smaller loads
- Controls are proprietary; can be difficult to control when auxiliary heat is used







# WARNING

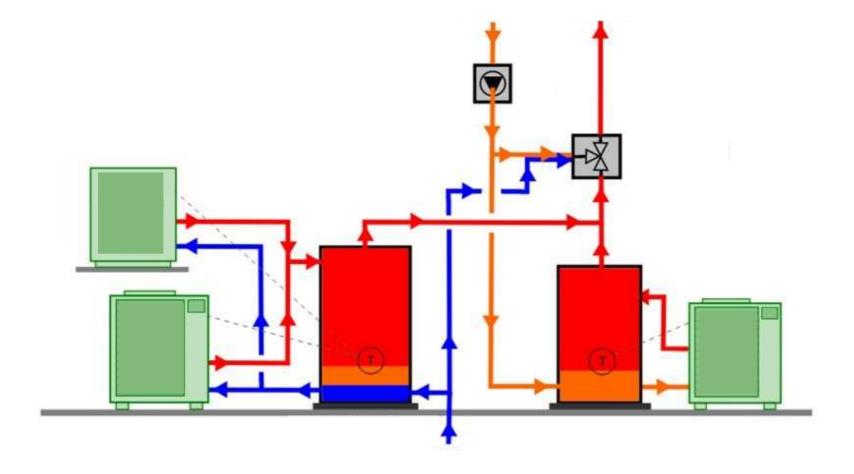
Potentially Disturbing Engineering Material Past This Point



HWC Return to Parallel Temperature Maintenance Tank

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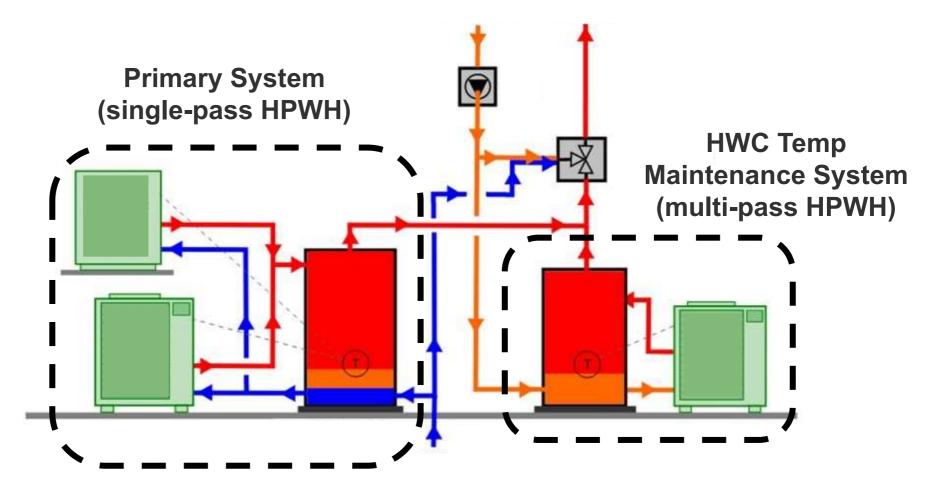


### **Central HPWH Systems: System Configurations**

HWC Return to Parallel Temperature Maintenance Tank

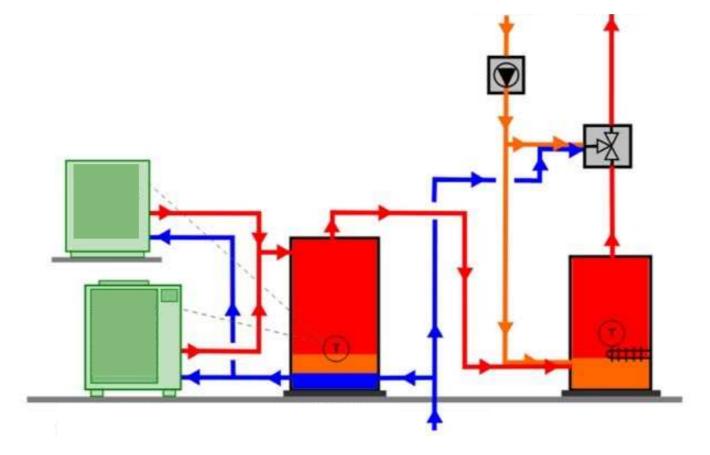
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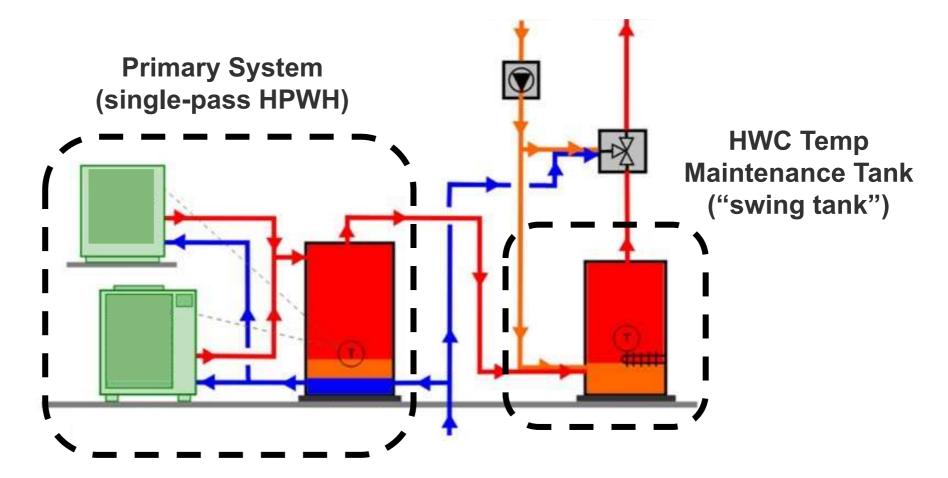


HWC Return to In-Series Temperature Maintenance Tank (Swing Tank)



### Pacific Northwest NATIONAL LABORATORY Central HPWH Systems: System Configurations

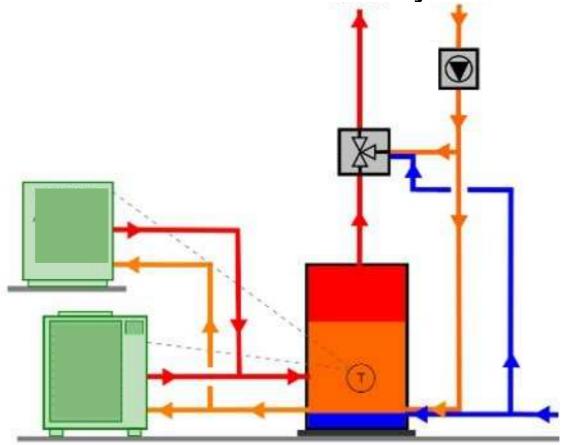
HWC Return to In-Series Temperature Maintenance Tank (Swing Tank)





### **Central HPWH Systems: System Configurations**

### Multi-Pass HWC Return to Primary





### **Central HPWH Systems: System Configurations**

Multi-Pass HWC Return to Primary

Combined Primary System and HWC Temp Maintenance System (multi-pass HPWH)

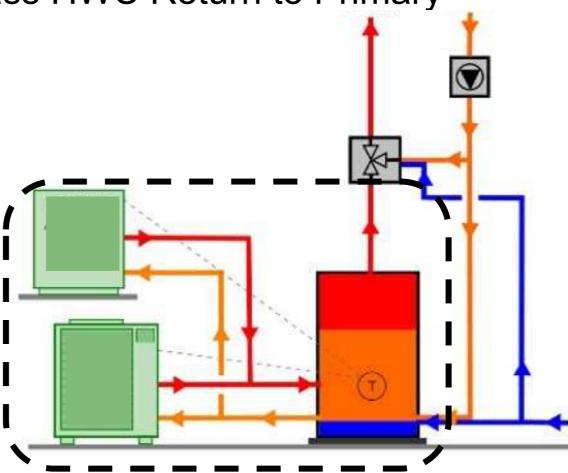


Image credit: <u>Ecotope</u> 57



# **Central HPWH Systems: Additional Considerations**

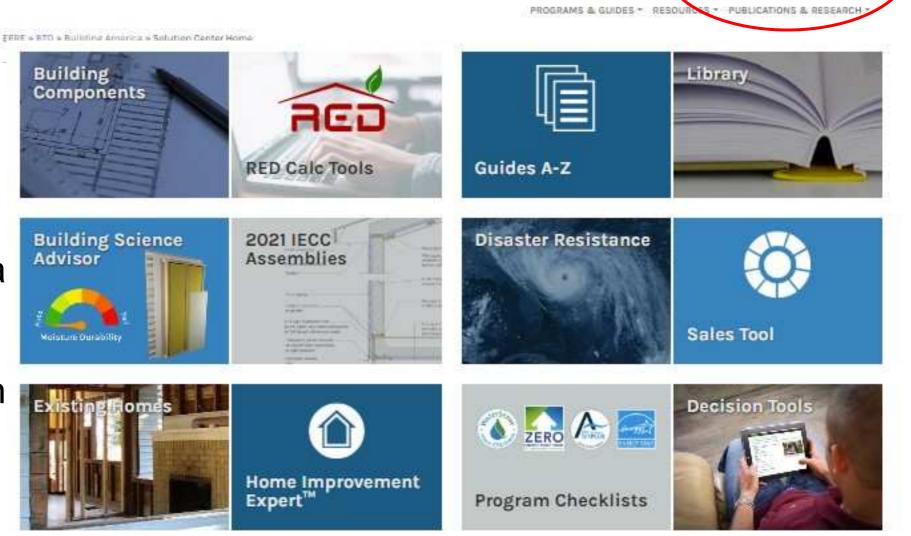
- Sizing
  - Go for larger storage, smaller HP capacity
- Condensate management
- Structural preparation for storage tanks
- Back-up heating
  - Redundancy
  - Cold temperature operation





Where to Find HPWH Guides in the Building America Solution Center

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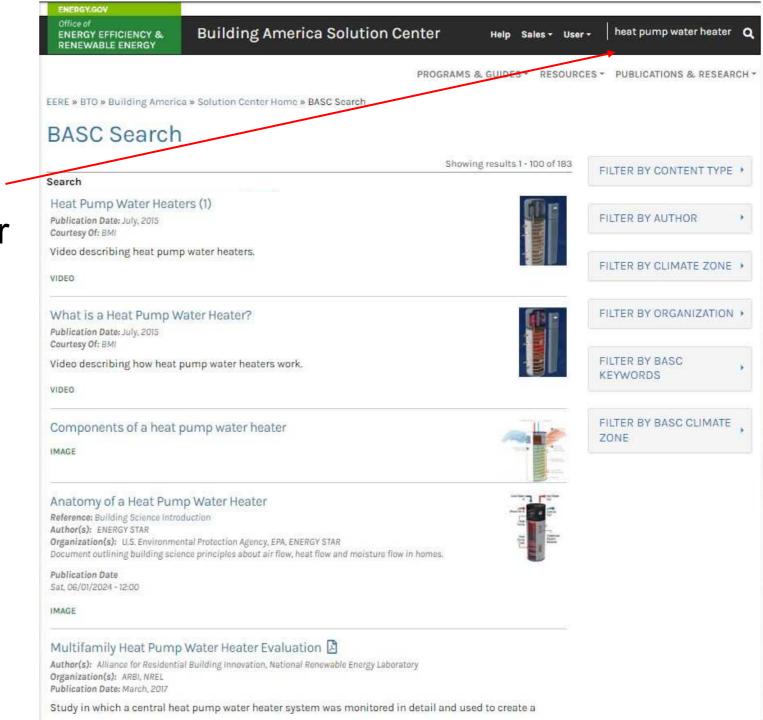
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Type "heat pump water heater" in the search bar at the top right of the page. Search results could include

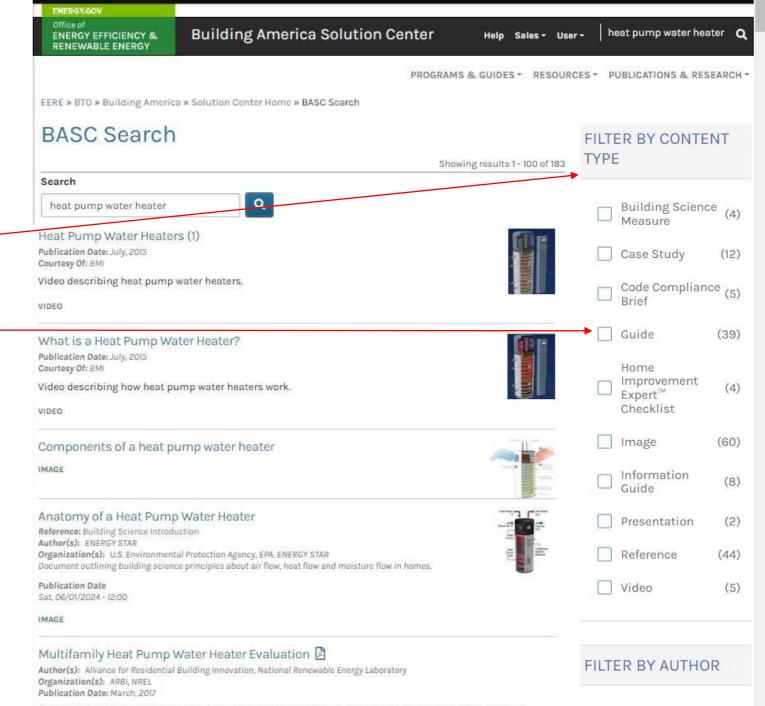
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- images
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- references
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- case studies





Select "Filter by Content Type."

Choose "Guide" – to sort the search results to guides only.



Study in which a central heat pump water heater system was monitored in detail and used to create a



Results are sorted by relevance. Office of ENERGY EFFICIENCY & Building America Solution Center Help Sales - User - Q RENEWABLE ENERGY

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heat pump water heater			(2.2)
		🗹 Guide	(39)

#### Heat Pump Water Heaters for Single-Family Homes

Guide describing the planning and installation process for Heat Pump Water Heaters (HPWHs) in single-family homes, including model selection, installation location, thermal resource adequacy, and condensate removal.

GUIDE

### Distributed Heat Pump Water Heaters for Multifamily Buildings

Guide describing strategies for effectively utilizing integrated consumer heat pump water heaters (HPWH) in multifamily buildings.

GUIDE

### Central Heat Pump Water Heaters for Multifamily Buildings

Guide providing an overview of central heat pump water heater applications in multifamily buildings.

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### Choose "Multifamily"



### Zero Energy Ready Home

The DOE Zero Energy Ready Home certification identifies homes that have achieved exemplary levels of energy efficiency and performance, enabling them to offset all or most of their annual energy consumption with a modest sized renewable energy system.





### ENERGY STAR

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### Indoor airPLUS

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The Building America Solution Center supports a suite of U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) labeling programs designed to aid construction of comfortable, healthy, durable, and energy efficient homes. Click on the program logos below to find detailed guides to help you install and specify the measures in each program's checklists.





# Open the new DOE Zero ENERGY Ready Home Multifamily Checklist.

Select Exhibit 1: Multifamily Mandatory Requirements.

Choose # 10. Electric Ready Water Heating

### Zero Energy Ready Home: Multifamily Checklist

xhibit 1: Multifamily Mandatory Requirements	-
1. ZERH Multifamily V2 National Rater Checklist	+
2. ENERGY STAR Multifamily New Construction Baseline	+
3. Envelope	+
4. Duct System	+
5. Hot Water Efficiency	+
6. Lighting and Appliances	+
7. Indoor Air Quality	+
8. Renewable Ready	+
9. Electric Vehicle Ready	+
10. Electric Ready Water Heating	
10.1 Dwelling units with in-unit water heaters meet minimum electric and space requirements. 10.2 Dwelling units with in-unit water heaters have a condensate drain installed within three feet of existing water heater.	

#### 11. Electric Ready Space Heating





# Or, scroll down to the National Rater Checklist.

# Select #10. Heat Pump Water Heater Ready.

### Zero Energy Ready Home: Multifamily Checklist

E	khibit 1: Multifamily Mandatory Requirements	+
N	ational Rater Checklist	÷
	1. Partnership Status	+
	2. ENERGY STAR Multifamily New Construction Baseline	+
	3. Building Envelope	+
	4. Duct System	+
	5. Water Heating Efficiency	+
	6. Lighting and Appliances	+
	7. Indoor Air Quality	+
	8. Renewable Ready	+
	9. Electric Vehicle Ready	+
	10. Heat Pump Water Heater Ready	-
	10.1 Dwelling units with in-unit water heaters meet minimum electric and space requirements. 10.2 Dwelling units with in-unit water heaters have a condensate drain installed within three feet of existing water heater.	

#### 11. Heat Pump Space Heating Ready





# Or, open the new ENERGY STAR Multifamily Checklist.

Select Reference Design. Then select Water Heater.

Or, scroll down and select the National Rater Field Checklist. Heat pump water heater guides are under #11. Domestic Hot Water.

### **ENERGY STAR Multifamily Checklist**

National Program Requirements Exhibit 1: ENERGY STAR Multifamily Reference Design

Residential Cooling Equipment (Where Provided) in Dwelling Units or Common Spaces +	-
Residential Heating Equipment (Where Provided) in Dwelling Units or Common Spaces +	
Envelope, Windows, & Doors +	t
Water Heater +	ł
Thermostat & Ductwork +	-
Lighting, Appliances, & Fixtures +	•
lational Rater Field Checklist	+
ater Design Review Checklist	+
Vater Management System Requirements	+



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Guides have 8 to 10 tabs:

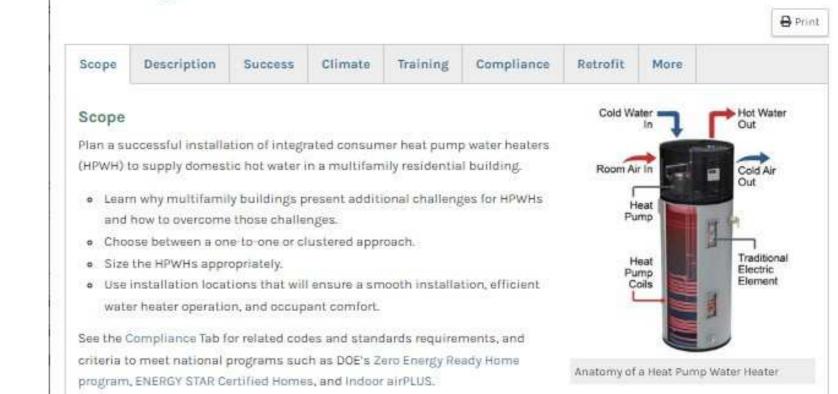
Scope – a scope of work for contractors.

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### Distributed Heat Pump Water Heaters for Multifamily Buildings





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### Distributed Heat Pump Water Heaters for Multifamily Buildings

		T						
Scope	Description	Success	Climate	Training	Compliance	Retrofit	More	

#### Description

This guide provides strategies for successfully using integrated consumer heat pump water heaters (HPWH) in multifamily buildings. In this guide, the term "integrated consumer HPWHs" refers to the standard HPWHs found in home improvement stores that are typically used in single-family homes (Figure 1). In multifamily applications, these HPWHs are installed either individually in each dwelling unit (one-to-one) or using a clustered approach where each individual HPWH serves just a few dwelling units. This guide builds on information about consumer HPWHs presented in the guide Heat Pump Water Heaters for Single-Family Homes. That guide provides a valuable background for using this guide. For guidance on using centralized heat pump water heating systems for multifamily buildings, see the Central Heat Pump Water Heaters for Multifamily Buildings.



Figure 1. A heat pump water heater is installed in the interior closet of a multifamily dwelling unit. (Source: Larson Energy Research)

Heat pump water heaters work by pulling heat from the surrounding air and moving it to the water stored in the tank to provide domestic hot water (DHW). Integrated refers to the fact that the heat pump's compressor and heat exchanger are integrated into one unit attached to the water storage

### **Description**

- a description of the technology or construction method
- Pros and cons of this option and other options.
- Installation considerations.



Other Tabs: Success Climate Training

Compliance Retrofit

### More

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### Distributed Heat Pump Water Heaters for Multifamily Buildings

Scope	Description	Success	Climate	Training	Compliance	Retrofit	More	

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#### **References and Resources\***

ENERGYCON

#### Heat Pump Retrofit Strategies for Multifamily Buildings 🛽

Author(s): Steven Winter Associates, Natural Resources Defense Council Organization(s): SWA, NRDC Publication Date: April, 2019

Report describing the various heat pump retrofit options for multifamily buildings in the U.S., segmented by building typology and heating system, to support better environmental, economic, and health outcomes.

#### Getting to All-Electric Multifamily Zero Net Energy Construction 🖾

Author(s): Dryden Amy, Brooks Andrew, Duff Meghan, Pfotenhauer Greg, Stone Nehemiah, Armstrong Sean, Higbes Emily Organization(s): Californie Energy Commission Publication Date: March 2023

Report describing the cost-effectiveness and performance of all-electric, zero net energy multifamily buildings in California, detailing technical challenges and providing recommendations for design, construction, codes, standards, and operations to support future projects.

#### Evaluation of Unitary Heat Pump Water Heaters with Load-Shifting Controls in a Shared Multifamily Configuration

Author(s): Hoeschele Marc, Haile James, Grant Peter Organization(s): Pacific Gas and Electric Company, PG&E, Energy Transition Coordinating Council, ETCC Publication Date: May, 2022

Report describing the performance, cost, and carbon impacts of unitary heat pump water heaters with load-shifting controls in a shared configuration for a multi-family project, highlighting significant savings in energy usage, CO2 emissions, and utility costs.

#### Heat Pump Water Heaters in Small Spaces Lab Testing: "The Amazing Shrinking Room" 🗋

Author(s): Larson Sam, Larson Ben Organization(s): Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, NEEA, Cascade Engineering Services, Larson Energy Research Publication Date: November, 2022

Report describing a laboratory assessment that provides insights into space requirements and venting strategies for heat pump water heaters (HPWH) to enhance retrofit installations and provide actionable guidance for manufacturers, designers, engineers, installers, and owners.

#### Laboratory Testing of Heat Pump Water Heater Performance: Impact of Airflow and Space Configurations

Author(s): Larson Ben, Larson Sern, Gantley Maya Organization(s): Pacific Gas and Electric Company, PG&E, Energy Transition Coordinating Council, ETEC Publication Date: December, 2023

Report describing the research conducted to support California's Title 24, Part 6 Building Energy Efficiency Standards by analyzing the impact

of installation location and ventilation on heat pump water heater (HPWH) performance, emphasizing the need for proper installation

conditions to maximize.



# **Questions?**





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