

# NORCAL COLLABORATIVE - DESCRIPTION

## MISSION

The mission of the NorCal Collaborative (NCC) is to advance the science and practice of achieving deep energy reductions in existing homes in northern California. To further this mission, the NCC will participate in Affordable Comfort's Thousand Home Challenge (THC), a grass-roots initiative to develop and promote replicable whole-house strategies that result in deep ( $\geq 75\%$ ) reductions in total annual site energy consumption of existing single- and multifamily homes in North America.

## GOALS

To implement its mission, the NorCal Collaborative will complete at least forty successful deep energy reduction demonstration projects meeting THC guidelines Between 2009 and 2012. These forty homes will lay the foundation for a broader effort to implement deep energy reductions in a larger population of homes in northern California. The Goals of the NorCal Collaborative are to:

- **Apply THC performance thresholds** and other indicators of home energy performance to NCC deep energy reduction demonstration projects,
- **Ensure a comprehensive whole-house systems approach** is used for all NCC projects,
- **Combine building energy efficiency with** on-site renewable energy sources, behavioral and lifestyle choices, and community-based solutions to achieve deep energy reductions,
- **Become the center of excellence** for deep energy reductions in northern California,
- **Coordinate with other local and regional initiatives** to optimize their alignment with and eliminate barriers to implementing deep energy reductions in existing homes, and
- **Stimulate collaboration**, creative problem-solving, and development of innovative products and approaches to transform the northern California housing stock.

## ORGANIZATION

The NCC is a group of leading professionals in the fields of building science, home performance, utility services, energy and resource conservation, environmental protection, finance, state and local government, public interest research, trade associations, workforce and community development, affordable housing, social marketing, media and communications. Individual participants in the NCC are committed to working collaboratively to implement NCC deep energy reduction projects - many on a volunteer basis.

The Thousand Home Challenge was conceived and is directed by Affordable Comfort Inc, a non-profit organization that has advanced residential building science and hosted home performance conferences since 1986. Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) has supported the development of THC performance metrics, and organized and hosted the first meetings of the NorCal Collaborative.