

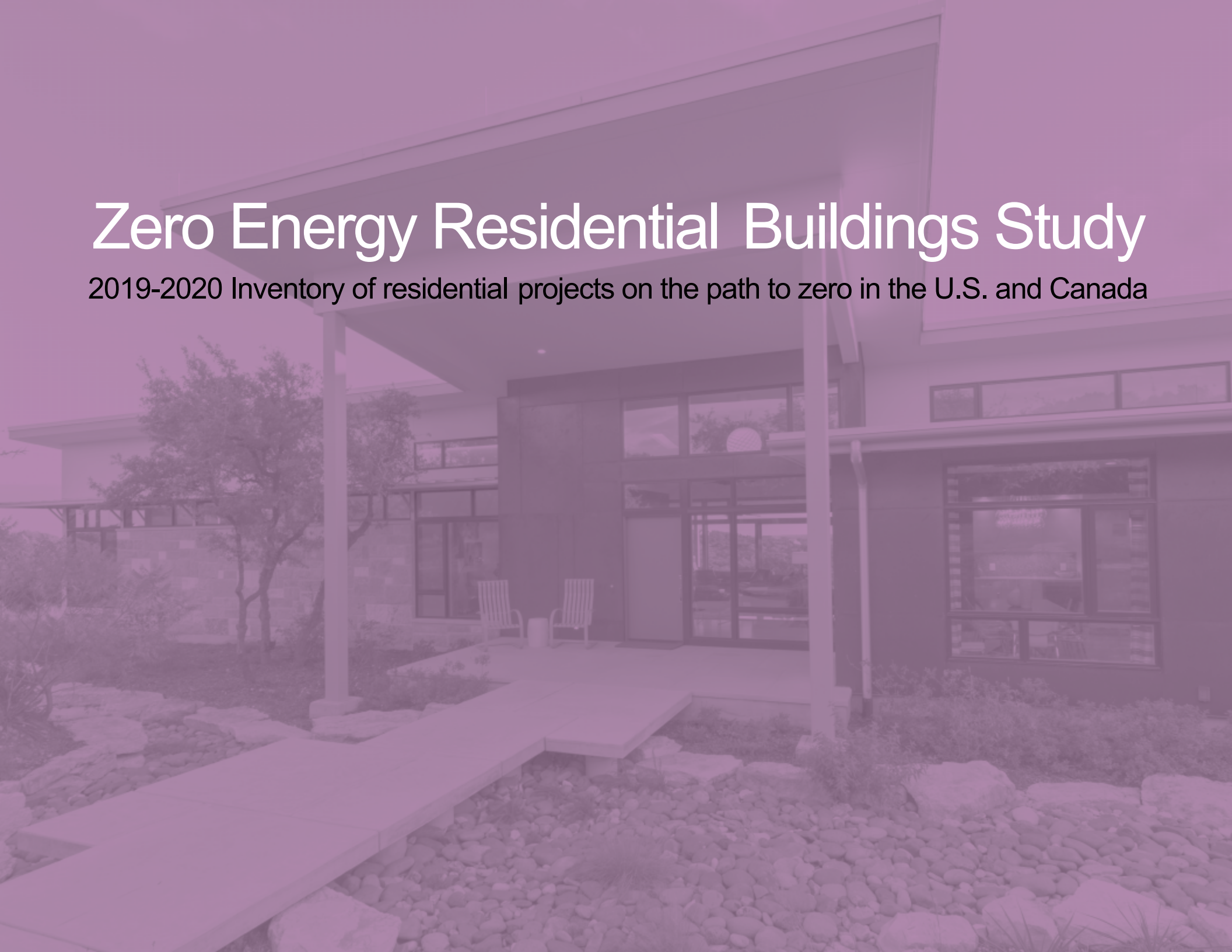
TO ZERO AND BEYOND

 **EEBA TEAM ZERO** 



Zero Energy Residential Buildings Study

2019-2020 Inventory of residential projects on the path to zero in the U.S. and Canada



INTRODUCTION

TEAM ZERO is proud to present this landmark report documenting six years of findings and observations from inventorying zero energy (ZE) residential design and construction activity in the US and Canada. Herein we offer you—our contributors, allies, and fans—our most recent data along with a few nuggets of insight derived from this six-year—and counting! —research project.

The data we have compiled since our modest start in 2015 have enabled us to track not only the volume and growth of residential ZE development, but also to discern patterns to this growth and identify leading geographic areas, key influences, key technologies, and powerhouse players in this still nascent sector of the building industry.

Along the way, we believe we have succeeded in providing inspiration to aspiring ZE practitioners, proof of the viability of ZE construction as a valid

business proposition, and confidence to

policymakers that incentivizing ZE home building was a reasonable and right pathway.

Over time, we have also been able to provide more customized lenses on our data for public agencies, non-profits, corporations, and research

institutions about ZE development in areas of particular interest to them. (Please email

aaron@eeba.org if you would like more information about customized data queries.)

Each year, we want to know more! We struggle to weigh the value of gathering more information,

while not wanting to overburden our contributors. This year, curiosity won, and we asked just a bit more about the ZE projects we inventoried.

First, in response to the phenomenal groundswell in the energy community around the concept of decarbonization, and more specifically, all-electric building, it became imperative for us to find out

We at TEAM ZERO offer our heartfelt thanks to all who assist in compiling this inventory. Your pioneering spirit is the lifeblood of the ZE movement. You are the ZERO Home necessary new normal!

All our annual reports can be downloaded at [team](#)

how ZE homes are being fueled. See what we learned about that on page 11.

We were also curious about what fraction of inventoried homes already include solar energy (as opposed to being ready for solar, having achieved ZE levels of efficiency), as well as other key energy technologies that are increasingly found in ZE projects. Those results are also shown on page 11.

As the combination of onsite solar energy and batteries make it ever more feasible to approach off-grid performance, we decided to extend our reach into that category, too; the few off-grid projects we netted are tallied on page 10.

And lastly—but certainly not least importantly—it's long past time we acknowledged not just the developers and builders of ZE homes, but also the rock star architects without whom these projects wouldn't happen. We salute the most prolific designers on page 7.

Despite asking more of you on our [data intake forms](#), we have improved our data collection process. A number of items have been clarified, and we simplified the data revision process for contributors gracious enough to update projects they have previously reported – e.g., with changes in status, such as from in design to completed. (We also offer more support for contributors who have large project portfolios.)

A FEW NOTES ABOUT OUR FINDINGS:

1. Within this report, we use the term “zero energy” expansively. While it suggests precision, in fact, since the inception of this project in 2015, we have sought to include all residential ZE developments that are designed to achieve energy performance in the realm of zero. All projects designed with this aim contribute to creating a clean energy future and help us understand how ZE housing markets in the US and Canada are evolving.
2. For reasons stated below, TEAM ZERO does not represent any of the information contained herein to be highly precise or definitive; it is, rather, indicative of the ZE activity in the US and Canada.
3. The inventory relies on individuals to report on their projects’ performance based on their best understanding of our category definitions (page 13); we do not verify the performance of individual projects.
4. We believe that the ZE housing stock is considerably larger than this inventory reports. We know we can’t possibly reach every designer, builder, developer, or owner of a ZE home, and over time expect that we are more and more spontaneous engagement with ZE by individuals and organizations who gravitate to this work spurred by news media, and not necessarily by direct exposure to other ZE practitioners. They haven’t yet found us, so we don’t know them, and they haven’t heard about the inventory. All of this is good – it suggests strongly that ZE is catching on even faster than we know.
5. The bulk of this report focuses on units in design, in construction, and completed, omitting units in the planning stage. This is because development projects in planning are highly uncertain. Some may never come to fruition; others may take much longer to be realized than their developers ever imagined. A snapshot of projects in the planning stage is given on page 12.
6. Numeric discrepancies may appear from year to year, because the inventory is dynamic. Projections change, errors are found and corrected, and our stakeholders update their project information.
7. Because of the impacts of COVID-19 this past

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