

ENERGY STAR® SHEMS NEWS

Smart Home Energy Management Systems

December 2021 | Volume 4



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ENERGY STAR SHEMS First Certification

Congratulations to Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) for being the first to successfully complete the ENERGY STAR Smart Home Energy Management Systems certification process! The first ENERGY STAR SHEMS partner is bringing innovative energy saving smart home technology to 200 Baltimore Gas and Electric customers through their Connected Home and Small Business Demonstration, a 2020-2021 pilot study in Annapolis. Their platform gives users tools to control lights, thermostats, and outlets for energy savings. Learn more at about BGE's ENERGY STAR SHEMS package through the [ENERGY STAR Qualified Product List \(QPL\)](#). You can learn more about their program by contacting BGE's Sam duPont at samuel.dupont@bge.com.

SHEMS RESOURCES

- [Past Webinars](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions for Energy Efficiency Programs](#)
- [Key Product Criteria](#)
- [Version 1.1 specification](#)
- [SHEMS Specification Clarifications](#)

"BGE is proud to be a leader in showing how our industry can optimize AMI network investments and smart technology to provide our customers with cutting edge tools that allow a greater degree of control over their energy usage and costs."

-Alex Núñez, BGE senior vice president of Strategy & Regulatory Affairs

Your System May Be Close to a SHEMS! Can Your System . . .

1. Control an [ENERGY STAR certified Smart Thermostat](#)?
2. Control either a smart light switch (standby power ≤ 0.5 W) that can report energy, or an [ENERGY STAR certified smart lighting product](#)?
3. Connect to a smart plug, outlet, power strip, home energy monitor, smart breaker panel, or other device (standby power ≤ 1.0 W) that controls miscellaneous loads or reports circuit-level energy use data?
4. Control a smart water heater add-on controller?
5. Detect room, apartment, or home occupancy based on a non-battery-powered occupancy sensor (may be integrated in other devices) or with two battery operated occupancy detectors?
6. Provide energy saving tips?
7. Report estimated or actual energy use of connected devices in a dwelling to the user?
8. Perform a demand response event on at least one smart device?
9. Allow a user to integrate with a utility time of use program?
10. Aggregate 6 months of [system data](#) from ≥ 30 installations with devices from questions 1-3?

Ready to take the next step? Visit our [SHEMS for Partners page](#) to learn more. Contact smarthomesystems@energystar.gov to learn more.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Interest in smart home devices to save energy on the rise amidst pandemic

According to Parks Associates data, 20% of US broadband households report that COVID-19 has increased their interest in smart energy solutions that can help them manage their energy use, cost, and comfort. Forty-three percent of US broadband multifamily households owned at least one smart home device in 2020. This reflects a nearly 50% increase since 2019, likely driven by increasing consumer interest and the advantages of smart home technology to building managers looking to save energy. [Read more](#)

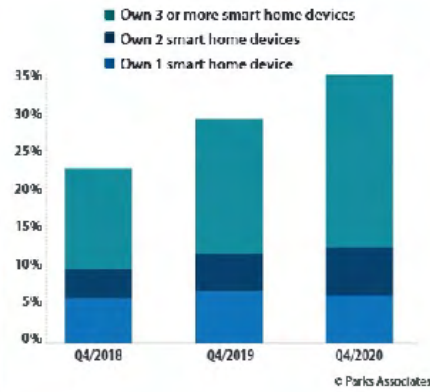
Likewise, 34% of single-family households have installed at least one smart home device, with 23% owning 3 or more devices. [Read more](#)

Leading Smart Home Devices

- Smart video doorbells – 13%
- Smart thermostats – 11 - 13%
- Smart light bulbs 11%
- Smart cameras – 10%
- Smart Major Appliances 13%



Number of Smart Home Devices Owned Per US Broadband Households



Energy is top of mind for likely smart home adopters

A recent E Source survey found that residents of single-family homes of ages 18-34 are most likely to purchase smart home devices in the coming year. These customers are most interested in smart technologies that provide energy insights, savings, home security improvements, and automation. [Read more](#).

Age: 18 to 34

Household characteristics:

- Are renters
- Live in single-family homes
- Have between two to four people in the household

Income: \$25,000 to \$76,000

Likely already own at least one smart technology

What motivates these customers to purchase smart technologies through their utility?

- Rebates and incentives
- Energy insights
- Automation (such as turning off the lights or adjusting the thermostat)

What smart home system benefits are the most appealing to these customers?

- Energy savings
- Home security improvements
- Notifications (such as alerts about open doors)
- Money savings through optimized devices and appliances

Base: All respondents (n = 2,001). Note: We created this persona based on a data filter of the following question from the survey: "Which of the following systems or smart home technologies are you likely to purchase in the next 12 months? Select all that apply." © E Source (2020) Smart Home Consumer Survey.

ENERGY STAR SHEMS On The (Virtual) Road

Taylor Jantz-Sell, U.S. EPA, was featured in an Executive Spotlight as part of the [Parks Associates 2021 Smart Energy Summit](#).

The Q&A was part of the "Energy Management Platforms: Accelerating Growth" track of the summit. Check out the [session recap here](#).



Taylor Jantz-Sell also presented on the ENERGY STAR SHEMS Program in the 2021 National Home Performance Conference's "Smart on Smart Workshop: Products, People, Policy and Possibilities."

RECOGNIZED SHEMS CERTIFICATION BODIES

- [UL Verification Services: Joseph Getner, Joseph.W.Getner@ul.com](#)

Looking forward to helping our future get energy smart together! Have SHEMS insights to share from a pilot or research? Please contact SmartHomeSystems@energystar.gov or Taylor Jantz-Sell at jantz-sell.taylor@epa.gov.

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