



Fact Sheet

Objective: Despite the importance of the housing industry to the American economy, very little investment is made in residential technologies. This is especially true of the single-family homes that make up most of America's housing stock. PATH is dedicated to accelerating the development and use of technologies that radically improve the [quality](#), [durability](#), [energy efficiency](#) and [affordability](#) of America's housing.

Background: [In 1994, the White House convened representatives from all segments of America's construction industry to consider a broad set of National Construction Goals.](#) Over the next three years, the residential segment of the construction industry, represented by homebuilders, code officials, product manufacturers, and other interested parties, developed a research plan for implementing National Construction Goals for the housing sector. PATH is the outgrowth of those proposals. PATH was officially launched on May 4, 1998 to improve the nation's housing through innovation. It is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Partners: PATH is a public-private partnership that works together with diverse members of the housing industry to improve the way homes are built and remodeled. The [agencies](#) and industry groups we work with include the US Department of Energy, Federal Emergency Management Association, US Environmental Protection Agency, National Science Foundation, US Department of Commerce, US Department of Agriculture, National Association of Homebuilders' Research Center, private builders, manufacturers, researchers, and designers among others.

Audiences: PATH provides timely information about building technologies and the housing market to [manufacturers](#), [builders](#), [remodelers](#), [design professionals](#), and [consumers](#). PATH regularly provides editorial content for an average of 4 industry publications a month, reaching an average of 332,212 readers a month. These publications include *Professional Builder*, *Professional Remodeler*, *Her Home*, and *Green Builder* among others. The PATH website, www.pathnet.org has received as many as 144,000 visitors in one month.

Main Initiatives:

- View the draft [PATH Strategic Plan](#).
- [Concept Home](#): Features innovative technologies, adaptable floor plans, organized utility systems, advanced building materials, and more to enhance a home's flexibility and make it more efficient to build and maintain.
- [Technology Inventory](#): Provides builders with accurate information on cutting-edge materials and practices, including CAD designs, ease of use, costs, and performance in field evaluations.
- [Tech Practices](#): Stories that highlight the use of PATH technologies in actual building projects.
- [Tech Sets](#): PATH recommendations of complementary building products that when used together, offer builders an easy way to innovate.
- [Partner Program](#): Provides exclusive marketing and business development strategies to industry innovators, as well as opportunities for co-marketing. As of October 2006, some 200 affordable housing, building, design/engineering, financial services, insurance, manufacturing, real estate/appraisal, remodeling and research professionals were enrolled in the program.

Research:

To date, PATH has awarded 43 grants to university researchers through the National Science Foundation to explore new housing practices and technologies. PATH also conducts research on market conditions, technology scans, barriers within the industry and more.

Current Projects:

- Improving Production Processes for Manufactured Housing
- Exploring Consumer Perceptions of Factory-Built Housing
- Innovation Matchmaking
- Commercialization Tools for Small Manufacturers
- Planning for Long-term Post-Disaster Housing
- Exploring the Supply Chain (research)
- Advancing Energy Efficient Remodeling
- Performance Criteria for Panel Connections
- Improving Information Flow
- Evaluating Homebuilding Software
- Foundation Alternatives for Modular Housing
- Concept Home: Building the Home of the Future
- Integrating PATH Technologies into Military Housing
- Whole House Calculator
- Testing Sealants and Coatings Durability
- Exploring How Panels Accommodate Utilities
- Design Implications for Affordable Housing
- Determining How the User-Community Thinks about Technology in Housing
- Streamlining Building Regulatory Processes Through Information Technology
- Unlocking Mysteries of Innovation for Manufacturers
- Developing Prescriptive Method for SIPS
- Streamlining Affordable Housing
- Innovation in Evaluation Service Processes
- Cooperative Effort to Develop Remodeler Certification for Energy Retrofit Market

Advisors:

PATH benefits from the insights of a group of [key industry leaders](#) who work with PATH to develop practical and strategic ideas for our private-sector work as well as fostering networks between industrial associations and firms that bring resources to PATH and encourage the awareness of housing innovation. Members of the PATH Industry Committee include:

- Bill Asdal (Chair), Asdal & Co. Builders
- Kermit Baker, Joint Center for Housing Studies
- Harvey Bernstein, McGraw-Hill Construction
- Scott Cannon, Cannon Custom Homes
- Michael Chapman, Chapman Homes
- David Conover, International Code Council
- John Doherty, FMI Corporation
- Shawn Draper, Imre Communications
- Bill Dupler, Chesterfield County, VA
- Paul Emrath, NAHB
- Paul Grabowski, KHovnanian
- Kirk Grundahl, WTCA - Representing the Structural Building Components Industry
- Mark T. Mikkelson, Andersen Windows, Inc.
- Shree Nabar, DAP, Inc.
- Mark Nunn, Manufactured Housing Institute
- John Piazza, Sr., Piazza Construction, Inc.
- Barry Rutenberg, Barry Rutenberg & Associates
- Andy Sinclair, Whirlpool Corp.
- Mike Tuner, The Home Service Store
- Chuck Vance, Institute for Home & Business Safety
- Mike Weber, Portland Cement Association
- Theresa Weston, Dupont
- Larry Williams, Steel Framing Alliance

For more information on PATH and its current projects, please visit us online at www.pathnet.org