



## 2011 Contest Guidelines

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Projects that qualify for this competition are either retrofit or new construction jobs where mechanical systems technology is applied in a creative way to solve customer comfort and/or health issues in a cost-effective, sustainable, and efficient manner. The technology used isn't the key to a winning entry: how it is applied and commissioned is. Remember: quality and comfort are vitally important.

### Enter today for your chance to win!

A powerful symbol of your integrity, work ethic, and attention to detail, a **Quality Home Comfort Award** sets you apart from your competition.

Conversations with past winners reveal that the greatest value in winning a **Quality Home Comfort Award** comes in:

1. **The heightened perception of a contractor in the eyes of his customers**
2. **The increased business that follows**

If you recently completed an outstanding residential project, follow these simple guidelines or your chance to win a **Quality Home Comfort Award** — one of the most powerful marketing tools an HVAC contractor can possess.

### 2011 Quality Home Comfort Award winners can also look forward to:

- Recognition in front of hundreds of their contractor peers at **HVAC Comfortech 2011**, the premier national, residential and light commercial seminar and product showcase, to be held in Indianapolis, IN in September 2011
- Free registration to **HVAC Comfortech 2011** (a \$625 value!)
- National recognition through a detailed project profile in the July **Quality Home Comfort Awards issue of Contracting Business** and on [http://bit.ly/CB\\_QHCA](http://bit.ly/CB_QHCA)
- A link to your company website from the posting of your award-winning article on [contractingbusiness.com](http://contractingbusiness.com) (and a link from your site to your article on [contractingbusiness.com!](http://contractingbusiness.com))
- A Marketing Kit, including
  - Press releases
  - QHCA logos for use on your website and all company correspondence



# 2011 QHCA ENTRY GUIDELINES

## WHAT IS THE QUALITY HOME COMFORT AWARD PROGRAM?

*Contracting Business.com* magazine created the **Quality Home Comfort Award** program to recognize and honor the very best in residential comfort system design and application. These prestigious awards stress the importance and value of the HVAC system as a key component of a well-built, environmentally sustainable, cost-effective and comfortable home. In doing so, this program sets the standards of residential HVAC excellence.

## WHO/WHAT'S ELIGIBLE

COMFORT, QUALITY, and SUSTAINABILITY are our foremost requirements (This includes energy savings and indoor air quality as important parts of the overall consideration). UNIQUE IDEAS and PROBLEM SOLVING techniques are equally important. And start-up/commissioning procedures are key to the successful entry.

Judging will be done by a panel of leading residential HVAC contractors, selected from across the U.S.

**NOTE:** The home may not be the residence of the HVAC contractor or the builder.

## CONTEST CRITERIA

- Projects must be implemented on residential single-family homes.
- The HVAC contractor must be an established contractor with good credentials.
- The homes should be quality homes. They should have some interesting — unique, if possible — comfort demands.
- **Square footage of the home is irrelevant** — some may be large, some may be small. The point is the HVAC industry offers quality comfort systems to match any home's requirements.
- You may enter as many different homes as you like.
- The **homeowners must consent** to being interviewed, visited by a photographer, and having their home featured in **Contracting Business**.
- Entries should meet the highest possible quality standards. This means clean documentation, clear photos, and good organization that shows judges how the project meets the following technical criteria:

### The HVAC system(s) should meet the following standards and criteria:

1. Describe what the homeowner problems were and how you determined solutions to those problems? What needs were discovered and addressed?
2. The design must include the use of high efficiency heating and cooling equipment on main system(s). Minimum 90% AFUE, 8 HSPF, or 15 SEER. *We're no longer interested in seeing systems that still use R-22 refrigerant.*
3. How does this equipment fit into the overall home design and how does the design jive with the tenets of "green" living. In other words, were any of the requirements of LEED for Residential Homes or Energy Star considered when the system was designed and installed? If so, which requirements and how were they applied?
4. Did the project include equipment to maintain indoor air quality, providing air purification and humidity control?
5. Was the system designed to meet ASHRAE or ACCA Manual J8 Standards on load calculation, equipment, and ductwork sizing. If you use an older version of Manual J, explain why.
6. What was the commissioning process used to accurately test and balance the system? This is important.
7. All entries in both new construction and renovation categories must be completed between November 1, 2009 and November 1, 2010, and occupied by December, 2010.

## The HVAC system(s) *should include one or more of the following features/systems:*

1. Zoning with multiple zone control of one or more central systems.
2. Dehumidification of high humidity areas such as indoor swimming pool, hot tub, etc.
3. Forced air cooling combined with hydronic and/or hot water heating.
4. Solar/wind technology used in conjunction with the HVAC system and/or the hot water system.
5. Geothermal system(s), Radiant system(s), or Hybrid system(s).
6. Electronic programmable/wireless thermostats.
7. Indoor Air Quality System: electronic or mechanical.
8. Heat recovery system.

## ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 6, 2011

### HOW DO I ENTER?

Use this form as a guideline in preparing your entry. Be sure to include ALL requested information. Feel free to include blueprints, load calculations, and any other documentation that will give judges a more complete picture of your project. The more information you provide, the better. Send your completed entry, along with all supporting documentation and photos, to the address listed on the last page.

### WHAT SHOULD MY ENTRY INCLUDE?

Your entry should include all of the following information, in the order listed, along with supporting documentation. **Entries with missing items or information will be disqualified.**

#### 1. AWARD CATEGORY (On your entry, please specify the letter and category description for each project entered.)

- A. Retrofit/renovation in an existing home up to 3,000 sq. ft.
- B. Retrofit/renovation in an existing home more than 3,000 sq. ft.
- C. Newly constructed home up to 3,000 sq. ft.
- D. Newly constructed home more than 3,000 sq. ft.

#### 2. HVAC CONTRACTOR -- Your entry **MUST** include the following information. You are encouraged to attach company brochures/background information for support.

- |                |                                |                       |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ■ Company Name | ■ Fax                          | ■ Years in Business   |
| ■ Contact Name | ■ # NATE Certified Technicians | ■ Market Area         |
| ■ Address      | ■ E-mail                       | ■ Number of Employees |
| ■ Phone        | ■ Principals                   | ■ Annual Gross Sales  |

#### Also Include the following information:

- A. Type of work your company is involved in (residential, commercial, service, new construction, etc.)
- B. Project responsibilities and key individuals directly responsible for the design and quality implementation of your project

#### 3. HOME (Note: The home may not be the residence of the HVAC contractor or the builder.)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ■ Owner's name  | ■ Floor plans of the home, clearly showing HVAC zones (include equipment locations, duct layout and register placement, if possible). Clearly marked blueprints are acceptable. Color coding to represent zones is preferred. |
| ■ Phone   | ■ Complete cooling and heating load calculations by zone (please indicate which equipment controls each zone).  |
| ■ Address   |   |
| ■ Square footage  |   |
| ■ The judges need to see pictures of the projects. The more photos, the better they can understand what you did. Typical shots include exterior, mechanical systems, interior photos. |   |

### **Also Include the following information:**

- A. Type of home. Describe the area surrounding the building (for example, country setting, urban, suburban, vacation home, golf course, by the ocean, etc.).
- B. Cost of home.
- C. Total comfort system investment. Explain what this investment includes.
- D. What were the homeowner's requirements? Were there any unique problems or health-related issues? How did you address them? Did the homeowners express concerns over their carbon footprint and/or other green issues?
- E. Describe how the system was commissioned beyond simply testing and/or balancing. If there were any problems during the start-up, how were they resolved?
- F. Describe the system design and installation in detail. Include information about controls, zoning, duct or piping design, accessories; special equipment to address unusual temperature, IAQ or humidity problems with indoor pools, spas, home offices, etc. Also the sustainable or "green" aspects of your design.

### **4. BUILDER (NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ONLY!)**

Please include all of the following information. You may also attach company brochures or background information for support.

- |                |         |                     |
|----------------|---------|---------------------|
| • Company Name | • Phone | • Principals        |
| • Contact Name | • Fax   | • Years in Business |
| • Address      | • Email | • Market Area       |

### **5. PRODUCTS**

List the brand name, model number, and size/capacity of all products that were key to the success of the job (major equipment, humidifiers, air cleaners, heat recovery ventilators, controls, accessories, etc.). Include brand name, model #, equipment size/capacity.

### **6. MISCELLANEOUS**

Attach any other information or insight into why you consider this an award-winning project.

## **I M P O R T A N T**

**Before mailing in your entry, make sure it includes ALL of the following:**

1. All of the information requested in these guidelines
2. Photographs of home exterior, important interior rooms, and the HVAC system — if possible, also provide pictures of the HVAC distribution system and equipment areas, during and after construction.
3. Floor plans of the home, clearly showing HVAC zones
4. Complete cooling and heating load calculations by zone.

**Mail your entry, including all plans, photos, and supporting documentation to:**

**CONTRACTING BUSINESS**  
**Quality Home Comfort Awards Contest**  
c/o Penton Media, Inc.  
The Penton Media Building  
1300 E. 9th St. Cleveland, OH 44114-1503

