Editorial to the Proceedings of the Improving Residential Energy Efficiency International Conference, IREE 2017

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Abstract
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International Conference on Improving Residential Energy Efficiency, IREE 2017

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Throughout Australia, and around the world, the issue of household energy efficiency has become increasingly important as energy prices continue to increase significantly, putting ever increasing pressure on household expenditure and quality of life. In addition, the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, including heat waves and major storms, points to the likelihood of greater numbers of power outages and blackouts in the future. One part of the solution is to make homes and households more energy efficient by various means, including: retrofitting of existing housing stock; improving the design of new buildings; education and behavior-change programs; improvements to low income housing; improving the implementation of government residential energy efficiency programs; and the development of new technologies.

The Improving Residential Energy Efficiency International Conference, IREE 2017, was the first of its kind in Australia where the primary focus of the conference was the improvement of energy efficiency of households and homes. The conference was organised by the Sustainable Buildings Research Centre (SBRC), of the University of Wollongong (UOW), in partnership with the Group of Energy Efficiency Researchers (GEER) Australia.

IREE 2017 brought together the people and the findings from many state-of-the-art projects, which were undertaken by a wide range of academics, government agencies and practitioners. The conference was of great benefit to many people and organisations including building designers, housing providers, energy utilities, state and national government agencies, and researchers from many different technical, health and social disciplines.

A number of major themes were covered at the IREE 2017 conference, including: i) Policy Levers, Programs and Implementation; ii) Energy Efficiency Technologies; iii) Thermal Comfort and Indoor Environment; iv) Tools, Data

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IREE 2017 attracted over 165 delegates, and over 80 speakers from across Australia and around the world presented their work over the course of the two-day program, with keynote addresses made by Professor Tadj Oreszczyn from University College London, UK, and Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman from the University of Otago, Wellington, New Zealand. The majority of Powerpoint presentations from the conference can be downloaded from the conference website at http://iree.org.au/.

This special issue contains 39 selected peer-reviewed papers from the conference.

**Guest Editors/Chairs of IREE 2017**

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