

Topic Q06 – Residential Prototype Models: Include Tiny Houses

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I support DOE's consideration of adding a smaller single-family home prototype to better represent today's housing market.

I encourage DOE to continue evaluating progressively smaller residential prototype models that reflect the growing diversity of housing in the United States, including:

- Tiny houses on wheels
- Tiny houses on permanent foundations
- Cottage homes
- Starter homes
- Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

The current prototype model is based on a 2,376-square-foot, two-story home. While appropriate for evaluating many conventional homes, it does not represent the rapidly growing market for smaller, more affordable housing.

Tiny houses on wheels deserve particular consideration as a distinct residential prototype. Because these homes are dramatically smaller than conventional housing, they have different energy demands, construction methods, and affordability considerations. Including them in DOE's prototype models would provide more representative data on the impact of future energy requirements for one of the nation's smallest and most affordable housing options.

Expanding the range of residential prototype models to include smaller homes will provide DOE with more representative data that better reflects today's evolving housing market and supports informed policy decisions regarding housing affordability and energy efficiency.