

Residential Assessment Center (RAC)

The Buildings Upgrade Prize - Department of Energy

The RAC team consist of personnel of the University of Texas at Tyler collaborating with regional community-based organizations.

The RAC is a proposed program that aims to provide energy audits and education to low-income households, with the goal of reducing their energy consumption, improving indoor air quality, and helping them save money on their utility bills.

To identify the Building Upgrade Zone, the team has used the DOE-designated Justice40 census tracts, and the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, which also coincide with the US Census Bureau's census tracts. The RAC team has identified seven tracts within the Loop 323 of the city of Tyler in Smith County. The EnergyJustice dashboard tool classifies these tracts as disadvantaged communities. According to the US Census Bureau, all seven tracts show considerably higher poverty levels than the county average (13.6%), ranging from 19.9% to 34.7%. The figure depicts those seven areas with their corresponding tract numbers and poverty levels.

