



ENERGY STAR® for New Homes:

What homebuilders want to know

1. What is the ENERGY STAR for New Homes program?

Initiated in 2005, the ENERGY STAR for New Homes program provides builders with the ability to construct energy-efficient homes in a timely, simple and cost-effective manner using common building practices.

Natural Resources Canada administers the program in Canada, while licensed service organizations and their certified energy advisors implement and deliver the program.

2. What is an ENERGY STAR certified home?

An ENERGY STAR certified home is built by a licensed builder who incorporates energy-efficient features into the home so that it can meet the specifications found in the ENERGY STAR for New Homes Standard. These homes are, on average, 20 per cent more energy-efficient than those built to the provincial or national building code.

3. What is the ENERGY STAR for New Homes Standard?

The Standard is a comprehensive national guideline that specifies the technical requirements for a house to be an ENERGY STAR certified home. It covers topics such as eligibility requirements, pertinent references, terms and definitions used in the program and compliance options.

4. What are common features that builders typically incorporate into ENERGY STAR certified homes?

Some of the features that builders typically incorporate include:

Heating and cooling systems: More energy-efficient space conditioning systems, such as furnaces, air conditioners and water heaters.

Windows, patio doors and skylights: Fenestration products—such as windows, glass doors and skylights—that are ENERGY STAR certified. This feature alone may reduce energy costs by more than 10 per cent.

Walls and ceilings: There is often more insulation in the ceilings and walls of an ENERGY STAR certified home than required by the building code.

Airtightness: ENERGY STAR certified houses must meet a specified maximum air leakage limit, which helps save energy for heating and cooling and increases comfort.

Electrical savings: Each ENERGY STAR certified house has a minimum of 400 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electrical savings measures, such as ENERGY STAR certified lighting or appliances, which help reduce electrical loads.





5. Why join ENERGY STAR for New Homes?

As energy costs continue to rise, homebuyers are increasingly becoming interested in energy-efficient options. By participating in the ENERGY STAR for New Homes program, you will gain:

A proven sales and marketing tool: ENERGY STAR is a trusted brand widely recognized and sought after by consumers.

Maximum flexibility: Two compliance paths offer maximum flexibility and ease of use so you can design and build in the way that works best for you and your company.

Government-backed label: You will get authorized use of the ENERGY STAR symbol and become listed as an ENERGY STAR participating builder on Natural Resources Canada's website.

Market recognition and customer satisfaction: The ENERGY STAR initiative is a successful, industry-government collaboration that is transforming the way Canadians use energy at home.

Continual support and learning opportunities: You will have access to expertise in building science, training and overall support as you build ENERGY STAR certified homes.

6. What are the fees?

Builders are not required to pay any fee to the program administrator, Natural Resources Canada, to participate as there is no membership fee.

However, as with other residential labelling programs, the ENERGY STAR for New Homes program requires service organizations to perform significant behind-the-scenes work to implement and deliver the program. Builders will need to pay fees to service organizations for services such as enrolling and certifying homes.

7. Do I need training?

Natural Resources Canada strongly encourages training for builders. Service organizations may require training as part of their model for delivering the program in their region.

8. What are all the steps involved for a home to become ENERGY STAR certified?

Step 1: A licensed builder enrolls a home with their service organization (who then enrolls the home with Natural Resources Canada).

Step 2: A certified energy advisor works with a builder at the design stage to ensure the home will meet the Standard.

Step 3: On completion of the home, the energy advisor verifies that the home has met the requirements of the Standard. The builder shares in this responsibility.

Step 4: The energy advisor submits the home information to the service organization and labels the house with the ENERGY STAR certification label.

Step 5: The service organization reviews the file, then it is sent to Natural Resources Canada.



9. What happens when I have a technical problem?

Once you join the program, your service organization and energy advisor are there to assist you with any technical issues you are experiencing in meeting the requirements of the Standard.

10. How do I join ENERGY STAR for New Homes?

If you have been in contact with a service organization, they will be able to assist you in initiating your participation.

If you have not been in contact with a service organization, visit nrcan.gc.ca/homes to find a licensed service organization that delivers ENERGY STAR for New Homes in your area.



To learn more, visit nrcan.gc.ca/homes