

# ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup>

## Residential New Construction Programs

### Historical Document

This document is provided for reference because it has been superseded by a more recent Version or Revision. Please find current program documents on the [Program Requirements](#) webpage.

Use of older Versions and Revisions, such as this document, are typically limited to homes and buildings with a permit date (or, for manufactured homes, a production date) prior to a specified date. Consult the [Implementation Timeline](#) table to assess whether a home or apartment is still eligible to be certified using this document.

For questions or more information, contact us at [energystarhome@energystar.gov](mailto:energystarhome@energystar.gov).



# ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes National ERI Target Procedure, Version 3 (Rev. 12)

This document provides instructions for determining the ENERGY STAR ERI Target, the highest ERI value that each rated home may achieve to earn the ENERGY STAR. Note that, in addition to meeting the ENERGY STAR ERI Target, homes shall also meet all mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes in Exhibit 2 of the National Program Requirements for ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes, Version 3.

An EPA-recognized Home Certification Organization’s Approved Software Rating Tool shall automatically determine (i.e., without relying on a user-configured ENERGY STAR Reference Design) this target for each rated home using the following procedure:

1. The software shall configure the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home in accordance with Exhibit 2, The Expanded ENERGY STAR Reference Design Definition, and calculate its associated ERI value. The ERI value shall be calculated using ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the schedule defined by the Home Certification Organization (HCO) that the home is being certified under, with approved exceptions listed at [www.energystar.gov/ERIEExceptions](http://www.energystar.gov/ERIEExceptions).
2. For all single-family detached homes, townhomes, rowhomes, duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes, the software shall calculate the Size Adjustment Factor (SAF) using the following equation:

$$SAF = [CFA_{\text{Benchmark Home}} / CFA_{\text{Home To Be Built}}]^{0.25}, \text{ not to exceed } 1.0$$

Where:

$CFA_{\text{Benchmark Home}}$  = Conditioned Floor Area of the Benchmark Home, using Exhibit 1 below

$CFA_{\text{Home to be Built}}$  = Conditioned Floor Area of the Home to be Built

For the purposes of this step, the software shall calculate the number of bedrooms and the CFA of the home to be built in accordance with the definitions in ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301 with the following exception: floor area in basements with at least half of the gross surface area of the basement’s exterior walls below grade shall not be counted. <sup>1</sup> Because the SAF cannot exceed 1.0, it only modifies the ERI Target for homes with conditioned floor area greater than the Benchmark Home. For condos and apartments in multi-family buildings the SAF shall always equal 1.0.

3. The software shall calculate the ENERGY STAR ERI Target, rounded to the nearest whole number:

$$ENERGY\ STAR\ ERI\ Target = ERI\ of\ ENERGY\ STAR\ Reference\ Design\ Home \times SAF$$

## Exhibit 1: Benchmark Home Size <sup>2, 3</sup>

Bedrooms in Home to be Built	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Conditioned Floor Area <sub>Benchmark Home</sub>	1,000	1,000	1,600	2,200	2,800	3,400	4,000	4,600	5,200



# ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes National ERI Target Procedure, Version 3 (Rev. 12)

## Exhibit 2: Expanded ENERGY STAR Reference Design Definition

Building Component	Expanded ENERGY STAR Reference Design Definition <sup>4, 5</sup>									
Foundations:	Construction Type & Structural Mass: Same as Rated Home, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For masonry floor slabs, modeled with 80% of floor area covered by carpet and 20% of floor directly exposed to room air</li> </ul>									
	Conditioning Type: Same as Rated Home, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crawlspaces shall be modeled as vented with net free vent aperture = 1sq. ft. per 150 sq. ft. of crawlspace floor area</li> </ul>									
	Gross Area: Same as Rated Home <sup>5</sup>									
	Insulation: <sup>6, 7</sup> Choose appropriate insulation level below; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basement Wall Assembly U-factor only applies to conditioned bsmt.'s; if applicable, insulation shall be located on interior side of walls</li> <li>Floor assemblies above crawlspace foundations shall be configured to meet the applicable floor assembly U-factor listed in the building component section for Floors Over Unconditioned Spaces</li> <li>Slab floors with a floor surface less than 12" below grade shall be insulated to the Slab Insulation R-value. The insulation shall extend downward from the top of the slab on the outside of the foundation wall and then vertically below-grade to the Slab Insulation Depth</li> </ul>									
	<b>Climate Zone: <sup>8</sup></b>		<b>CZ 1</b>	<b>CZ 2</b>	<b>CZ 3</b>	<b>CZ 4</b>	<b>CZ 4 C &amp; 5</b>	<b>CZ 6</b>	<b>CZ 7</b>	<b>CZ 8</b>
<b>Slab Insulation R-Value:</b>		0	0	0	10	10	10	10	10	
<b>Slab Insulation Depth (ft):</b>		0	0	0	2	2	4	4	4	
<b>Basement Wall Assembly U-Factor:</b>		0.360	0.360	0.091	0.059	0.059	0.050	0.050	0.050	
Floors Over Unconditioned Spaces:	Construction Type: Wood frame									
	Gross Area: Same as Rated Home									
	Insulation: <sup>6, 7</sup> <b>Climate Zone: <sup>8</sup></b>		<b>CZ 1</b>	<b>CZ 2</b>	<b>CZ 3</b>	<b>CZ 4</b>	<b>CZ 4 C &amp; 5</b>	<b>CZ 6</b>	<b>CZ 7</b>	<b>CZ 8</b>
<b>Floor Assembly U-Factor:</b>		0.064	0.064	0.047	0.047	0.033	0.033	0.028	0.028	
Above-Grade Walls:	Interior and Exterior Construction Type: Wood frame									
	Gross Area: Same as Rated Home									
	Solar Absorptance = 0.75									
	Emittance = 0.90									
	Insulation: <sup>6</sup> <b>Climate Zone: <sup>8</sup></b>		<b>CZ 1</b>	<b>CZ 2</b>	<b>CZ 3</b>	<b>CZ 4</b>	<b>CZ 4 C &amp; 5</b>	<b>CZ 6</b>	<b>CZ 7</b>	<b>CZ 8</b>
<b>Wall Assembly U-Factor:</b>		0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	
Thermally Isolated Sunrooms:	None									
Doors: <sup>9</sup>	Area: Same as Rated Home									
	Orientation: Same as Rated Home									
	<b>Door Type:</b>			<b>Opaque</b>			<b>≤ 1/2-Lite</b>		<b>&gt; 1/2-Lite</b>	
	<b>U-Value:</b>			0.21			0.27		0.32	
<b>SHGC:</b>			N/A			0.30		0.30		
Glazing: <sup>9</sup>	Total Area: (except in homes with conditioned basements and attached homes <sup>10</sup> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Rated Home, where Rated Home glazing area is less than 15% of conditioned floor area; OR</li> <li>15% of the conditioned floor area, where the Rated Home glazing area is 15% or more of the conditioned floor area</li> </ul>									
	Orientation: Equally distributed to North, East, South, and West									
	Interior Shade Coefficient: Same as Energy Rating Reference Home, as defined by ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301									
	External Shading: None									
	<b>Climate Zone: <sup>8</sup></b>		<b>CZ 1</b>	<b>CZ 2</b>	<b>CZ 3</b>	<b>CZ 4</b>	<b>CZ 4 C &amp; 5</b>	<b>CZ 6</b>	<b>CZ 7</b>	<b>CZ 8</b>
	<b>U-Value:</b>		0.60	0.60	0.35	0.32	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
	<b>SHGC:</b>		0.27	0.27	0.30	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40
Skylights:	None									
Ceilings:	Construction Type: Wood frame									
	Gross Area: Same as Rated Home									
	Insulation: <sup>6</sup> <b>Climate Zone: <sup>8</sup></b>		<b>CZ 1</b>	<b>CZ 2</b>	<b>CZ 3</b>	<b>CZ 4</b>	<b>CZ 4 C &amp; 5</b>	<b>CZ 6</b>	<b>CZ 7</b>	<b>CZ 8</b>
	<b>Ceiling Assembly U-Factor:</b>		0.035	0.035	0.035	0.030	0.030	0.026	0.026	0.026
Attics:	Construction Type: Vented with aperture = 1sq. ft. per 300 sq. ft. ceiling area									
	Radiant Barrier: In climate zones 1-3 <sup>8</sup> , if > 10 linear ft. of ductwork are located in unconditioned attic									
Roofs:	Construction Type: Composition shingle on wood sheathing									
	Gross Area: Same as Rated Home									
	Solar Absorptance = 0.92									
	Emittance = 0.90									
Internal Mass:	Same as Energy Rating Reference Home, as defined by ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301.									
	Additional mass specifically designed as a Thermal Storage Element for the Rated Home shall be excluded.									
Lighting, Appliances, & Internal Gains:	Lighting: Fraction of qualifying Tier I fixtures to all fixtures in qualifying light fixture locations: 80% for interior; 0% for exterior and garage									
	Refrigerator: 423 kWh per year									
	Dishwasher: Capacity Same as Rated Home, or Standard if no dishwasher in the Rated Home									
	For Standard capacity: LER = 270, GHWC = \$22.23, Elec\$ = \$0.12, Gas\$ = \$1.09, LCY = 208									
	For Compact capacity: LER = 203, GHWC = \$14.20, Elec\$ = \$0.12, Gas\$ = \$1.09, LCY = 208									
	Ceiling Fan: 122 CFM per Watt; Quantity = Number of bedrooms + 1 when ceiling fans present in Rated home; otherwise Quantity = 0									
	Clothes Washer and Dryer: Same as Energy Rating Reference Home, as defined by ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301									
Internal Gains: Same as Energy Rating Reference Home, as defined by ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, except for adjustments for the lighting, refrigerator, dishwasher, and ceiling fans specified in this Section.										



# ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes National ERI Target Procedure, Version 3 (Rev. 12)

## Exhibit 2: Expanded ENERGY STAR Reference Design Definition (Continued)

Heating Systems:	Heating capacity shall be selected in accordance with ACCA Manual S based on building heating and cooling loads calculated in accordance with ACCA Manual J, Eighth Edition, ASHRAE Handbook of Fundamentals, or an equivalent computation procedure. For forced-air HVAC systems, degraded capacity from Grade III install shall be accounted for using same methodology applied to Energy Rating Reference Home.																																																																							
	Fuel Type: Same as Rated Home <sup>11</sup>																																																																							
	Installation Quality: For forced-air HVAC systems, Grade III airflow and watt draw; for air-source heat pumps, also Grade III ref. charge.																																																																							
	System Type: Same as Rated Home, except Reference Design shall be configured with air-source heat pump in CZ 1-6 where Rated Home has air-source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; and Reference Design shall be configured with ground-source heat pump in CZ 7 & 8 where Rated Home has air-source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; applicable efficiency selected from below. <sup>12</sup>																																																																							
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For non-electric boilers, the Electric Auxiliary Energy shall be determined in accordance with the methodology for the Energy Rating Reference Home in ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301.																																																																								
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Service Water Heating Systems:	Use (Gallons per Day): Same as Energy Rating Reference Home, as defined by ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, except for reduced usage resulting from the dishwasher specified in the Light, Appliances, & Internal Gains Section. <sup>14</sup>																																																																							
	Tank Temperature: Same as Energy Rating Reference Home, as defined by ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301.																																																																							
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	System Type: Conventional storage water heater with no solar heating, with tank size equal to that of Rated Home, unless Rated Home uses instantaneous water heater in which case select 50 gallon tank for gas systems and 60 gallon tank for electric systems. Select applicable efficiency from below using tank size of Reference Home.																																																																							
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Thermal Distribution Systems:	Duct Leakage to Outside: The greater of 4 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area or ≤ 40 CFM25.																																																																							
	Duct Insulation: • R-8 on supply ducts located in unconditioned attic • R-6 on all other ducts located in unconditioned spaces																																																																							
	Duct Surface Area: Same as Rated Home																																																																							
	Supply and Return Duct Locations shall be configured according to the table below or, if Rated home does not meet any of the conditions below (e.g., multifamily dwelling unit with conditioned unit below), then duct locations shall be configured to be 100% in attic space.																																																																							
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Thermostat:	Type: Programmable																																																																							
	Temperature Setpoints: Same as Energy Rating Reference Home, but with offsets for a programmable thermostat, as defined by ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301																																																																							
Dehumidifiers	Type, capacity, efficacy, and dehumidistat setpoint same as Energy Rating Reference Home, as defined by ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, when dehumidification system is present in Rated home; otherwise none.																																																																							
Infiltration & Mechanical Ventilation:	Infiltration Rates: Climate Zone: <sup>8</sup>																																																																							
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	Mechanical ventilation system without heat recovery																																																																							
Rate: CFM = 0.01 * CFA + 7.5 * (Nbr + 1), where CFA = Conditioned Floor Area and Nbr = Number of Bedrooms																																																																								
Hours per Day: 24																																																																								
Fan Watts: Watts = CFM Rate / 2.2 CFM per Watt, where CFM Rate is determined above																																																																								
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# ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes National ERI Target Procedure, Version 3 (Rev. 12)

## Footnotes:

1. To determine whether at least half of the basement wall area is below grade, use the gross surface area of the walls that are in contact with either the ground or ambient outdoor air, measured from the basement floor to the bottom of the basement ceiling framing (e.g., the bottom of the joists for the floor above). Note that the exception regarding the floor area in basements is only for the purpose of determining a home's Benchmark Home Size and Size Adjustment Factor. The full conditioned floor area should be used when rating the home (e.g., determining compliance with duct leakage requirements).
2. The average-size home with a specific number of bedrooms is termed the "Benchmark Home". A bedroom is defined by ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301-2014 as a room or space 70 sq. ft. or greater size, with egress window and closet, used or intended to be used for sleeping. A "den", "library", or "home office" with a closet, egress window, and 70 sq. ft. or greater size or other similar rooms shall count as a bedroom, but living rooms and foyers shall not.

An egress window, as defined in 2009 IRC section R310, shall refer to any operable window that provides for a means of escape and access for rescue in the event of an emergency. The egress window definition has been summarized for convenience. The egress window shall:

- have a sill height of not more than 44 in. above the floor; AND
  - have a minimum net clear opening of 5.7 sq. ft.; AND
  - have a minimum net clear opening height of 24 in.; AND
  - have a minimum net clear opening width of 20 in.; AND
  - be operational from the inside of the room without the use of keys, tools or special knowledge.
3. The conditioned floor area of a Benchmark Home (CFA Benchmark Home) is determined by selecting the appropriate value from Exhibit 1. For homes with more than 8 bedrooms, the CFA Benchmark Home shall be determined by multiplying 600 sq. ft. by the total number of bedrooms and adding 400 sq. ft.  
Example: CFA Benchmark Home for a 10 bedroom home = (600 sq. ft. x 10) + 400 sq. ft. = 6,400 sq. ft.
  4. Any parameter not specified in this exhibit shall be identical to the value entered for the Rated Home.
  5. "Same as Rated Home" indicates that the parameter shall be identical to the value entered for the Rated Home.
  6. Slab insulation R-values represent nominal insulation levels; and assembly U-factors for foundations, floors, walls, and ceilings represent the overall assembly, inclusive of sheathing materials, cavity insulation, installation quality, framing, and interior finishes.
  7. If software allows the user to specify the thermal boundary location independent of the conditioned space boundary in the basement of the rated home, then the thermal boundary of the ENERGY STAR Reference Design shall be aligned with this boundary. For example, if the thermal boundary is located at the walls, then the wall insulation shall be configured as if it was a conditioned basement. If the thermal boundary is located at the floor above the basement, then the floor insulation shall be configured as if it was a floor over an unconditioned space.
  8. 2009 IECC Climate Zone designations, as defined and illustrated in Section 301 of the code, shall be used to configure the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home in National Version 3.
  9. Note that the U-factor requirement applies to all fenestration while the SHGC only applies to the glazed portion.
  10. When determining the ENERGY STAR ERI Target for homes with conditioned basements and for attached homes, the following formula shall be used to determine total window area of the ENERGY STAR Reference Design:

$$AG = 0.15 \times CFA \times FA \times F$$

Where:

- AG = Total glazing area
- CFA = Total conditioned floor area
- FA = (Gross above-grade thermal boundary wall area) / (Gross above-grade thermal boundary wall area + 0.5 x Gross below-grade thermal boundary wall area)
- F = 1 - 0.44 x (Gross common wall area) / (Gross above-grade thermal boundary wall area + Gross common wall area)

And where:

- Thermal boundary wall is any wall that separates Conditioned Space from Unconditioned Space, outdoor environment, or the surrounding soil;
  - Above-grade thermal boundary wall is any portion of a thermal boundary wall not in contact with soil;
  - Below-grade thermal boundary wall is any portion of a thermal boundary wall in soil contact; and
  - Common wall is the total wall area of walls adjacent to another conditioned living unit, not including foundation walls.
11. Fuel type(s) shall be same as Rated Home, including any dual-fuel equipment where applicable. For a Rated Home with multiple heating, cooling, or water heating systems using different fuel types, the applicable system capacities and fuel types shall be weighted in accordance with the loads distribution (as calculated by accepted engineering practice for that equipment and fuel type) of the multiple systems.
  12. For a Rated Home without a heating system, the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home shall be configured with a 78% AFUE gas furnace system, unless the Rated home has no access to natural gas or fossil fuel delivery. In such cases, the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home shall be configured with a 7.7 HSPF air-source heat pump.



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13. For a Rated Home without a cooling system, the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home shall be configured with a 13 SEER electric air conditioner.
14. That is to say, representative of standard-flow plumbing fixtures, reference clothes washer gallons per day, standard distribution system water use effectiveness, a hot water piping ratio of 1.0, no pipe insulation, and no drainwater heat recovery.
15. To determine domestic hot water (DHW) EF requirements for additional tank sizes, use the following equations: Gas DHW EF  $\geq 0.69 - (0.002 \times \text{Tank Gallon Capacity})$ ; Electric DHW EF  $\geq 0.97 - (0.001 \times \text{Tank Gallon Capacity})$ ; Oil DHW EF  $\geq 0.61 - (0.002 \times \text{Tank Gallon Capacity})$ .