COST-FREE ENERGY STAR® VERIFICATION FOR YOUR SENIOR CARE COMMUNITY

The simple choice for energy efficiency.

Cost-Free ENERGY STAR Verification

Does your nonprofit senior care community qualify for ENERGY STAR certification, but you don't have the ability to pay for the verification required? Well that's about to change!

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has partnered with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and Public Architecture to match ENERGY STAR-eligible buildings owned or operated by public sector and nonprofit organizations with architects and engineers willing to verify applications on a cost-free, "pro bono" basis.

Many architects and engineers offer free verification services for hospitals, schools, houses of worship, government buildings, and other facilities. These professionals offer pro bono services because they believe that it encourages energy efficiency in U.S. buildings and provides many advantages:

- **Economic:** Reduced utility bills for building owners and marketable experience for architects and engineers.
- **Environmental:** A cleaner, healthier environment through reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Social:** Recognition for owners and occupants committed to energy efficiency, improved indoor environmental quality for occupants, and new connections between building owners and architects and engineers.

Finding a Match Just Got Easier

Here's how it works: When your senior care community becomes eligible for ENERGY STAR certification, log your request for a pro bono verification into 1+, Public Architecture's project matching tool. You will be notified after architects or engineers express interest in your request. Or you can search for firms directly. Select the candidate that best suits your needs and initiate contact to discuss the work and schedule. Once your ENERGY STAR application is received by EPA, we'll credit that architect or engineer for providing a public service. Use the step-by-step **instructions on the back of this page** to get started.

The Value of ENERGY STAR for Senior Care

Tens of thousands of facilities across the nation have earned ENERGY STAR certification, demonstrating their superior energy performance. Here's why:

A Mark of Fiscal Responsibility: Lower utility bills means more money for senior services. Earning the ENERGY STAR shows residents and families that money is not wasted on unnecessary energy use.

Support Public Health: When senior care communities consume less energy, fewer fossil fuels are burned at power plants, which reduces emissions of pollutants and improves the quality of our air.

Demonstrate Environmental Leadership: Senior care communities that are ENERGY STAR certified use 35% less energy (while maintaining comfort) and emit 35% less carbon on average compared to typical buildings and are recognized as environmental leaders by the EPA.

About Public Architecture

Public Architecture's 1+ program challenges architecture and design firms nationwide to pledge a minimum of 1 percent of their time to pro bono service. www.publicarchitecture.org

About American Institute of Architects (AIA)

AIA is a professional organization for U.S. architects, offering education, government advocacy, community redevelopment, and public outreach to support the architecture profession. www.aia.org

*Title photo courtesy of Freepik.com

ENERGY STAR® is the simple choice for energy efficiency. For more than 20 years, EPA's ENERGY STAR program has been America's resource for saving energy and protecting the environment. Join the millions making a difference at energystar.gov. For information on this initiative, visit **energystar.gov/probono.**

United States Environmental Protection Agency

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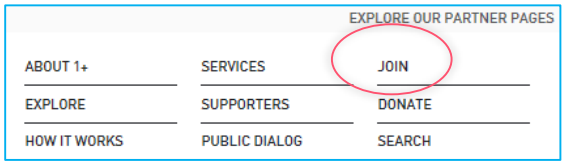
Use 1+ to Find an Architect or Engineer Offering Pro Bono Verification Services

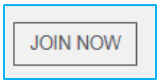
The 1+ program connects Nonprofits and Public Agencies with architects and engineers providing pro bono services. These instructions walk you through creating a cost-free account & logging your request so that you can connect with interested professionals.

1 Create an account.

1. Go to www.theoneplus.org and select "Join."



2. Under "Nonprofit Membership," click "Join Now."

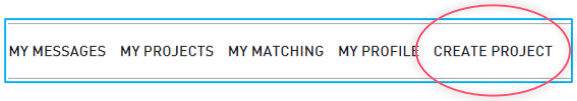


3. Complete the form and click "Create New Account."

Open the "Welcome" email. Click the link to log into your account, create a strong password, and select your time zone. Click "Save."

2 Create a project.

1. While logged in, select "Create Project" from the top menu bar.



2. For "Project Title" type "*ENERGY STAR Verification*". For "Design Disciplines Needed" select "Sustainability /Environmental". Under "Desired Services" request the registered architect or professional engineer to follow EPA expectations as outlined in the ENERGY STAR Licensed Professional Guide. Include the link to this document "www.energystar.gov/LPGuide".
3. Insert "NA" when certain fields do not apply.
4. Scroll down to "Save". Select "Activate & Post Project" on the next page.

Your verification project will be submitted to the 1+ team. If everything is submitted correctly, your project will be posted. Now wait for a match and/or begin actively searching for one. See steps 3a/3b below.

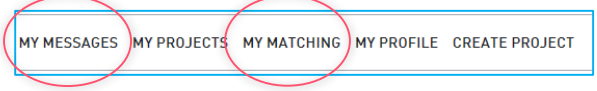
3a Actively Search for a Match.

1. Select "Explore" from the top menu.
2. Select "Designers," and then use the interface to search firms, sorting by three criteria: (1) your state or contiguous states (note that the tool sorts for only one state at a time); (2) services offered, sorting for "**Sustainability & More**" and (3) firm experience, sorting for "**Sustainability/LEED/ENERGY STAR**". Click "Apply" to see your results.

3. Click a firm name to access its overview page. Click "Connect" to send a message. Firms without a connect button have temporarily suspended pro bono services and may offer them at a later date.

3b Respond to Tool-Generated Matches.

1. Periodically review incoming messages in "My Messages and review tool generated matches in the "My Matching" section.



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