

2



ENERGY STAR Labeled New Homes

2

ENERGY
STAR

The ENERGY STAR Advantage

The ENERGY STAR advantage allows builders and developers to increase profitability and market success by building homes with high levels of comfort, indoor air quality, and energy efficiency. Based on an energy efficiency standard set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DOE), ENERGY STAR Labeled New Homes are nationally recognized for greater value, lower operating costs, increased durability, comfort, and safety.

The New York ENERGY STAR Labeled New Homes program is operated as part of the state's Energy Smart program (www.getenergysmart.org). This is a voluntary program that is sponsored by the New York State Energy and Research Development Association (NYSERDA), Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) and the state's Public Service Commission (PSC). For details on specific rebates and services that may be available to you, call 1-877-NY-SMART (69-76278).

What makes a New York ENERGY STAR Labeled New Home?

The standard that is used to determine ENERGY STAR compliance is an annual energy analysis similar to the "Systems Analysis" compliance path for the energy code. Based on a nationwide standard for Home Energy Ratings (HERS), a new home that receives a "5-star" rating (86 or higher

on a 0- to 100-point scale) qualifies for an ENERGY STAR label.

For more general information on the ENERGY STAR program, log on to the ENERGY STAR web site at www.energystar.gov/homes

Builders who build ENERGY STAR Labeled New Homes reap the benefits of:

- Increased Profits
- Increased Customer Satisfaction
- Differentiation in the Marketplace

For most builders, an ENERGY STAR Labeled New Home is not a very big upgrade, depending on how they build already.

Why is ENERGY STAR such a small step up from the code? One reason is that the energy analysis used for ENERGY STAR takes efficiency measures into account that the code does not, such as solar gain from south facing glass, a tighter building envelope, and higher efficiency water heating.

While there are no prescriptive specifications associated with the national ENERGY STAR Labeled New Homes program, many states supplement the national standard with minimum requirements for particular building components. New York is no exception. **In New York, there are minimum requirements for projected electrical savings, mechanical ventilation, the overall air tightness for the home, heating system efficiencies, domestic hot water heater efficiencies, duct sealing and combustion safety** (see the ENERGY STAR sections of Chapters 9 through 12 for more details). **LIPA also has a minimum requirement for air conditioning efficiency.** Many of these requirements were introduced in 2005. Note that program requirements are typically updated and/or changed from year to year. Check with your HERS rater or a program representative if you are unsure about the applicability of any of the program requirements summarized in this guide.

How do I certify my new home?

Any house can be brought to ENERGY STAR levels, no matter what the style. The ENERGY STAR process is easy to incorporate into your construction timetable. Here's how it works:

- **Use the Resource Locator Map** found in the New Homes "Participation" section of the www.getenergysmart.org website to locate a participating New York ENERGY STAR Builder (if you are a home buyer) or a participating HERS rater (if you are a builder). Builders and raters interested in appearing on these lists must, among other things, sign a Partnership Agreement with either NYSERDA or LIPA. If you do not have access to the Internet, this information can also be obtained by calling 1-877-NY-SMART (69-76278).

- **A HERS Rater will analyze the plans** and propose upgrades to bring the home to ENERGY STAR levels. The rater will work with the designer, builder, and/or client to determine the final specifications for each project. Once everyone has agreed on an upgrade package, the rater will issue a list of project specifications, along with any program-specific documentation or forms. An energy code compliance report may also be issued at this time.
- **Inspections**—When the house is finished, a technician will perform blower door, duct leakage and combustion safety tests. The technician will also verify insulation levels, mechanical system efficiency ratings, other features of the project, and check any other last-minute details. Some raters may do additional inspections prior to drywall, or do other tests on mechanical systems in the home.
- **Certification**—Once the final inspection is complete, the rater will issue the final energy rating, and your home will be labeled as an ENERGY STAR Labeled New Home!

The builder, buyer and/or HERS rater should work together throughout the entire process to identify cost-effective improvements or money-saving tradeoffs, provide proper energy code documentation, and ensure that energy details are done correctly, from the plans stage through the finished product.

2

ENERGY
STAR