

This home scored an ultra-low HERS 36 index with NO solar power.

Had solar PV panels been installed the home would have achieved HERS 0. In other words, this home would have achieved NET-ZERO ENERGY status.

Winter 2010 Program Update

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Program Highlights:

Welcome to the Program Update for the BGE ENERGY STAR for New Homes Program. For the past year and a half we have been working closely with our 40 builder participants and their HERS Raters and are excited to report that collectively more than 2,560 homes have been committed to the program! This exceeds the 2009 - 2010 program goal by almost 20%. However, only 40% of these homes have been completed such that incentives can be paid. Please work to get all homes completed and invoiced in our online system as soon as possible!

In the coming months we will be working with program participants to submit new applications for the 2011 program year, which will have an updated incentive structure to account for the changes to the EPA ENERGY STAR for New Homes Program. Please read page two for this important information!

~Heather Anderson, Program Manager

In the Spotlight: Finish Werks and RHK Builders

In our last update we highlighted TRF Developments who built a home with a HERS Index of 51. In the spirit of healthy competition, two builders rose to the challenge and committed even more efficient homes to the Program. Finish Werks submitted a home that earned a 36 on the HERS Index. We were impressed! The next day RHK Builders submitted a home with a HERS index of 30! Both of these homes have solar panels installed, which helps decrease their HERS Index, and they also used best in class HVAC equipment, insulation, and windows. Thank you Finish Werks Green Builders and RHK Builders for your leadership in building these highly efficient homes!

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Upcoming Events:

V3 Intro and 2011 Program Year Update
Learn about the exciting new Version 3 guidelines for ENERGY STAR Homes. In addition to highlighting the value proposition of the new guidelines, BGE Program staff will provide detailed information on what this change means for participating builders and raters, including a new incentive structure for 2011, as well as field tested strategies for a successful transition.

November 30 from 9:30 to 11am
HBAM Headquarters
7127 Ambassador Rd. Baltimore, MD
Register by Friday, November 26th by emailing Rick Gazica at egazica@icfi.com.

ENERGY STAR V3 Rater Training

EPA requires that the rater of each home qualified under V3 must complete ENERGY STAR V3 Training through a RESNET accredited and EPA approved Training Provider.

The BGE ENERGY STAR for New Homes Program will make this two day training available to program participants early in the new year. An official invitation will be forthcoming once the date has been finalized and all Program raters should plan to send a representative to this important training.

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) ENERGY STAR® for New Homes Program

a BGE Smart Energy Savers ProgramSM

Incentive Structure Update

BGE has received approval from the Maryland Public Service Commission to update its ENERGY STAR for New Homes Program incentive structure to reflect the forthcoming changes to the EPA ENERGY STAR for New Homes Program upon which the BGE program is based.

The timeline for the implementation of the changes to the EPA ENERGY STAR program is as follows:

- Single family homes permitted before 2011 can continue to be qualified under the current V2 until July 1, 2011.
- Single-family homes that are completed starting July 1, 2011, must be qualified under the transitional V2.5. Builders may start constructing to the V2.5 guidelines earlier at their discretion.
- All homes that are both permitted and completed in 2011 must be qualified under V2.5.
- All homes permitted starting January 1, 2012 must be qualified under the new V3. Early adoption of the V3 guidelines is permitted in BGE's service territory due to BGE's commitment to incentivizing this level of performance as a part of a Version 3 Implementation Pilot.

In alignment with the timeline for the new guidelines, please keep the following updated BGE Program incentive structure in mind as you plan for the homes you will be enrolling in the Program through the end of 2011.

Homes Permitted Prior to 1/1/2011 & Completed by 7/1/2011		Homes Permitted After 1/1/2011 & Completed by 12/31/2011 <small>*No Advanced Lighting Package Incentive*</small>	
ENERGY STAR V2 - HERS Index ≤ 85	\$400	ENERGY STAR V2.5 or V3 – HERS Index ≤ 75	\$1000
ENERGY STAR V2 - HERS Index ≤ 80	\$800	ENERGY STAR V2.5 or V3 – HERS Index ≤ 70	\$1300
ENERGY STAR V2 - HERS Index ≤ 75	\$1000	ENERGY STAR V2.5 or V3 – HERS Index ≤ 65	\$1600

The only difference between V2.5 and V3 is that under 2.5 builders must achieve full compliance with only the Air Barrier and Air Sealing sections of the new Thermal Enclosure Checklist. The other new inspection checklists must be completed; however homes will not be denied the label for non-compliance with checklist elements.

Please note the following **training requirements** that must be met for homes to be qualified under the new guidelines:

- There are no specific ENERGY STAR training requirements for homes qualified under V2.5; however, builders and raters are strongly encouraged to review all training resources on the [EPA ENERGY STAR website](#).
- The builder of each home qualified under V3 must be an ENERGY STAR partner and have completed the online EPA ENERGY STAR Orientation Training.
- The rater of each home qualified under V3 must have completed ENERGY STAR V3 Training through a training provider recognized by RESNET and EPA to deliver ENERGY STAR V3 Training. *(BGE will offer this training).*
- The HVAC contractor of each home qualified under V3 must have completed ENERGY STAR V3 Training and be credentialed through an EPA-recognized industry organization.

BGE will work closely with all program participants to ensure that they have the support they need to continue to build ENERGY STAR qualified homes. The more robust incentives for V2.5 and 3 homes are one facet of this support. Training assistance for builders, raters and HVAC contractors will also continue to be provided through the 2011 program year. For individualized assistance, please don't hesitate to contact Rick Gazica at egazica@icfi.com

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ENERGY STAR for New Homes Version 3 Summary

With new national and regional energy codes rapidly increasing, new guidelines were needed to ensure that ENERGY STAR qualified homes continued to represent a meaningful improvement in energy efficiency over homes built to minimum code and standard building practices. These Version 3 guidelines include:

Performance Path: Under the performance path a Rater models the home to establish a customized performance threshold for each home. The builder then has the flexibility to select a custom set of energy-efficiency measures to earn the ENERGY STAR label for the home, so long as the home meets or exceeds its performance threshold. Additional adjustments to the threshold may be required for homes larger than the Benchmark Home.

Variable vs. Fixed HERS Score: Instead of a fixed HERS Index threshold, a variable ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target is calculated for each home.

Size Adjustment Factor: Homes larger than a typical average size for a specified number of bedrooms (called the 'Benchmark Home Size') must apply a Size Adjustment Factor that will reduce the ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target. This will increase the requirements for homes larger than the Benchmark Home Size.

New Checklists: These checklists provide additional assurance that qualified homes perform optimally.

Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist – Designed to ensure that the exterior building shell/envelope of ENERGY STAR qualified homes are optimized for efficiency and durability. This checklist replaces the Thermal Bypass Checklist that is part of the V2 guidelines.

HVAC Quality Installation Rater Checklist – Used to verify that the home's heating, cooling, and ventilation system and ductwork have been installed properly.

HVAC Quality Installation Contractor Checklist – Ensures that heating and cooling systems are designed and installed according to industry-accepted quality installation (QI) practices. Only HVAC contractors who have demonstrated the requisite skills and capabilities and have been credentialed to perform HVAC QI will be permitted to complete this checklist.

Water Management System Builder Checklist – Requires an inspection of key areas to help assure bulk moisture control, including water-managed foundation, walls, roofs, and building materials. This checklist must be completed by the site supervisor or other qualified individual on the builder's staff. Raters may also verify items on the checklist; however the builder is responsible for the accuracy of all checklist requirements.

For more information visit www.energystar.gov/homes.

Rater Corner:

BGE is dedicated to supporting program raters and builders in making the transition to the new ENERGY STAR guidelines as smooth as possible. As such, we are making the following resources available to participating raters:

- Crosswalk table: BGE has developed an editable chart to compare builder's current construction practices with the ENERGY STAR reference design house. If you would like a copy of this chart, please contact Rick Gazica.
- Meeting support: Rick is available to attend your builder recruitment meetings as well as **kick-off meetings**, which we strongly encourage you to coordinate with each of your builders and their subs (particularly framers, HVAC contractors, and insulators) prior to the start of construction on their first Version 2.5 or 3 house.

In other exciting news, REM/Rate v12.9 is now available on the new [AEC website](http://www.aec.org). This software contains the new ENERGY STAR Version 3 guidelines for the Reference Home Design and will automatically generate the reference Home HERS Index Target Score. At this time, REM/Rate will only generate Version 2.5 compliance reports but does show Version 3 compliance in the Quick Analysis screen. There is also a new Mandatory Requirements screen that allows the rater to verify that the checklists have been completed.