



Valley Home Builders Association

GREEN BUILDING

Building sustainable quality of life.



ENERGY STAR® Homes

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Get to know an ENERGY STAR® home...

ENERGY STAR®, introduced in 1992 by the Environmental Protection Agency, voluntarily labels various electrical devices for extraordinary energy efficiency. Originally the program only covered energy efficient computers and monitors. In 1995 ENERGY STAR® expanded to include heating appliances, cooling appliances and miscellaneous office equipment. ENERGY STAR® expanded to include nearly every household appliance or product in 1996.

Through a partnership with the United States Department of Energy, new homes are being certified for ENERGY STAR® compliance. Certification indicates exceptional energy efficiency and minimal environmental impact from start to finish. Typically, ENERGY STAR® homes are 20-30% more energy efficient than homes built by the International Residential Code alone. Certification is simple, cost-effective, and comes with large incentives in the long term.



ENERGY STAR® has set forth a number of ideals for certified homes to meet. Any home with three stories or less and of almost any make can be certified. Listed below are the general ideals:

- Effective insulation
- High-performance windows
- Tight construction and ducts
- Efficient heating and cooling equipment
- Efficient products (such as light bulbs, etc.)
- Third-party verification by a certified consultant

With certification a consultant will visit the home periodically to inspect construction materials and techniques and to perform a final Home Energy Rating System (HERS) measure.

ENERGY STAR® certification brings with it many benefits. Some of these benefits include:

- Peace of mind in efficiency and quality of the home
- Climate and environment specific home design
- Decreased energy bills, increased resale value, and lower financing costs
 - Improved air quality inside the home and reduced emissions
- A means to set the home apart when it is up for sale or resale—certification matters to consumers