



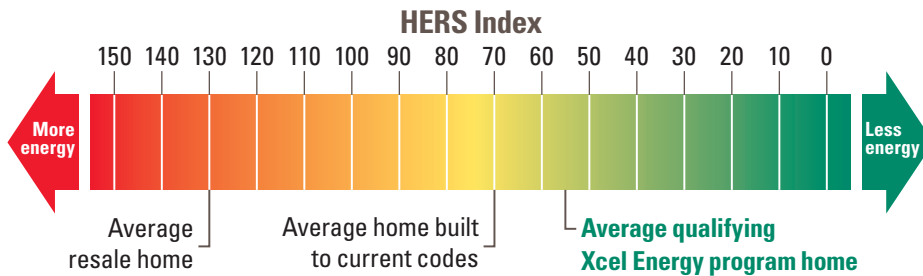
ENERGY STAR® New Homes Program

An ENERGY STAR new home has undergone inspections, testing and verification to meet strict program requirements relating to energy efficiency. Saving energy appeals to a broad home-buying audience—because energy-efficient homes result in increased comfort, health, safety, durability and lower operating costs. The Xcel Energy ENERGY STAR New Homes program helps and encourages Colorado builders to construct homes that are more energy-efficient than minimum code-built homes. Participating builders earn incentives from Xcel Energy for qualifying energy-efficient homes, and also receive building science consulting and quality control assistance from a qualified, independent third-party, during the home construction process. Owning a home that has qualified for Xcel Energy’s ENERGY STAR New Homes program gives you the peace of mind that your builder went above and beyond local energy code practices when constructing your new home!



What is the “HERS® Index” and why should it matter to me?

The HERS Index is a rating system used to measure the overall energy efficiency of a house. Houses with a lower HERS Index are more energy-efficient and generally provide other benefits such as improved comfort, health, safety, durability and lower energy bills. An average new home built to current codes in Colorado typically scores a 70 on the HERS Index under current building codes while a typical, average resale house scores a 130 on the HERS Index.



Home owner benefits may include:

- Increased energy savings
- Fewer maintenance concerns
- Healthier indoor air
- Increased comfort
- Quieter home
- Higher resale value

Houses completing the Xcel Energy ENERGY STAR New Homes program requirements are third-party tested and verified by a HERS rater to be more efficient than the local energy code requires. By purchasing a house from a builder who completed the Xcel Energy ENERGY STAR New Homes program requirements, you are making an investment in a home that is more comfortable, safe, healthy, durable and energy-efficient than average homes built to local energy codes.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) ENERGY STAR label is synonymous with higher performance and increased quality over standard built products and services*. Homes that earn the EPA’s ENERGY STAR certification, in addition to meeting rigorous energy efficiency requirements, have also met requirements related to increased water efficiency and improved indoor air quality that help ensure your new home is safe and comfortable. Not all homes participating in Xcel Energy’s ENERGY STAR New Homes program are ENERGY STAR certified, so be sure to ask your builder about this valuable certification.



*For more information about ENERGY STAR certification, please visit http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=new_homes.hm_index&s=mega.

Customer confidence drives purchase decision

Building energy-saving features into a new home offers buyers the satisfaction and confidence that their new home meets high-performing energy efficiency standards. Xcel Energy's ENERGY STAR New Homes program promotes energy-efficient building practices and technology that reduces space heating, water heating, cooling and lighting costs. Your builder and their energy rater understand these features and have chosen to implement them in their homes.

Typical features included in home*	How this helps you
High-performing space and water heating equipment	Efficiently utilize more of the fuel you purchase.
Increased insulation with proper installation	Save energy year-round.
Sealing air leaks	Reduces energy waste and improves comfort.
Sealing and insulating ducts	Heated and cooled air is not lost to the outdoors, but is put right where you need it most.
High-performance windows	Energy-efficient glass prevents heat loss in winter and reflects sun's infrared rays in summer.
ENERGY STAR-qualified appliances and lighting	Efficient equipment reduces energy and water consumption.

*Your builder chooses which features are installed and some of the above features may not be included in your home.

What is the difference between net zero energy and zero energy ready?

In the simplest terms, a net zero energy home produces as much energy from renewable sources as it consumes from fossil fuel generated energy sources. In many cases, this involves the installation of a photo voltaic system (PV) that generates electricity used in the home and/or fed back into the local utilities electric distribution system (commonly called the "Grid"). A zero energy ready (ZER) home is a highly energy efficient home that incorporates added features designed into the home to make it ready for the installation of a PV system sometime in the future. The high performance and PV ready features built into the ZER home minimize the size and installed cost of the PV system ensuring you as the homeowner get the maximum benefit at the lowest cost.

For information guidelines and specifications on zero energy ready homes visit The Department of Energy link: buildings.energy.gov/zero.

Future-proof your home

ENERGY STAR® New Homes ▶	Zero Energy Ready ▶	Built for the future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole house system optimization • Optimized thermal protection system • High performance heating and cooling system • High efficiency components • Independent third-party certification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole home water efficiency • Comprehensive Indoor air quality • Solar-ready construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceeds local energy code requirements • Greater comfort • Superior performance • Healthy indoor air • Lower energy use



Find a participating builder

If you are considering buying or building a new home, visit xcelenergy.com/HomeEfficiency for a list of participating builders.