



Federal Incentive Programs
EPA ENERGY STAR®
DOE Zero Energy Ready Homes
45L Tax Credit up to \$5,000

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45L Tax Credit - New Requirements

45L requirements changed by Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

- Effective January 01, 2023 through December 31, 2032, ENERGY STAR[®] certification required. 10 year program
- Tax Credits up to \$5,000 per SF home
 - ENERGY STAR[®] = \$2,500 for single family homes
 - ZERH (ENERGY STAR[®] prerequisite) = \$2,500
- MF Buildings 3 stories or less would have to be built with prevailing wages to get the same credit. If not, credit is only \$500 for each.

ENERGY STAR® California Requirements



ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes California Program Requirements, Version 3.3 (Rev. 12)

Two tracks are provided for satisfying the mandatory requirements for all certified homes, Exhibit 1. Track A - HVAC Grading utilizes ANSI / RESNET / ACCA / ICC 310⁹, a standard for grading the installation of HVAC systems. Track B - HVAC Credential utilizes an HVAC contractor credentialed by an EPA-recognized H-QUITO. Either track may be selected, but all requirements within that track must be satisfied for the home to be certified.

Exhibit 1: Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes

Party Responsible	Mandatory Requirements
Requirements Applicable to Track A & B	
Rater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of SFNH National Rater Design Review Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2¹⁰ • Completion of SFNH National Rater Field Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2
Builder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of SFNH National Water Mgmt. System Builder Reqs., Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2
Requirements Only Applicable to Track A - HVAC Grading⁹	
HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an HVAC design report compliant with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA / ICC 310, plus the SFNH / MFNC National HVAC Design Supplement to Std. 310 for Dwellings & Units, All Versions.
HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. While the HVAC contractor plays a critical role in properly installing and commissioning a system, the Rater is the party responsible for assessing its installation quality in accordance with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA / ICC 310.
Requirements Only Applicable to Track B - HVAC Credential	
HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of SFNH National HVAC Design Report, Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2
HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of SFNH National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2

Note: Must be 10% or 3 EDR points over previous code year using approved CEC compliance software. CHEERS has built the checklist into the registry so all ENERGY STAR® and ZERH checklists live within the CHEERS Registry



DOE Zero Energy Ready Home California Program Requirements (Version 1, Rev. 08) December 1, 2022

These Program Requirements shall only be used in the State of California.

All homes certified through the Performance Path shall be submitted to DOE by submitting the compliance verification report to zerh@doe.gov.

Exhibit 1: DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Mandatory Requirements for All Labeled California Homes

Area of Improvement	Mandatory Requirements
1. ENERGY STAR Residential New Construction Baseline	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified under ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes California Program Requirements Version 3.3 or the ENERGY STAR Multifamily New Construction California Program Requirements Version 1.3
2. Envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Fenestration shall meet or exceed minimum performance requirements ^{12, 13}
3. Duct System	<input type="checkbox"/> Duct distribution systems located within the home's thermal and air barrier boundary or an optimized location to achieve comparable performance ¹⁴
4. Water Efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/> Hot water delivery systems shall meet efficient design requirements ¹⁵ or <input type="checkbox"/> Water heaters and fixtures shall meet efficiency criteria ¹⁶
5. Lighting & Appliances¹⁷	<input type="checkbox"/> All installed refrigerators, dishwashers, and clothes washers are ENERGY STAR qualified. ¹⁸ <input type="checkbox"/> 90% of lighting fixtures are LEDs or LED lamps (bulbs) in minimum 90% of sockets <input type="checkbox"/> All installed bathroom ventilation and ceiling fans are ENERGY STAR qualified
6. Indoor Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified under EPA Indoor airPLUS Version 1 ¹⁹
7. Renewable Ready	<input type="checkbox"/> Provisions of the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home PV-Ready Checklist are Completed ²⁰

Footnotes:

Note: Must be 15% or 4 EDR points over previous code year using approved CEC compliance software.

Builder Next Steps

- Builders must register as an ENERGY STAR® Partner. (No cost)
- Confirm your project meets the Water Management Requirements
- Work with your Energy Consultant to verify that the project meets one of the two performance targets:
 - a. An Efficiency Energy Design Rating (EDR) that is ≥ 3 points better than that of the Standard Design*
 - b. A Compliance Margin $\geq 10\%$ compared to the Compliance Total of the Standard Design*

Note: Must be 15% or 4 EDR points over previous code year using approved CEC compliance software.
- HERS Rater ...also must complete training and register as an ENERGY STAR® Partner.
 - Verify project meets California Program Requirements for the applicable ENERGY STAR® Version.
 - If ZERH is an objective, the HERS Rater will review those requirements with the Indoor airPLUS checklist.

CHEERS Summary

CHEERS is a HERS provider in California directly approved by the EPA and DOE as a Home Certification Organization (HCO) for ENERGY STAR® and Zero Energy Ready Homes.

- Projects registered with CHEERS can be easily evaluated for ENERGY STAR® and ZERH
- CHEERS offers ENERGY STAR® and ZERH certifications at no additional cost to the builder.
- Checklists for ENERGY STAR®, Indoor airPLUS and ZERH are built into the CHEERS Registry. Checklists are stored with the project in the CHEERS registry along with the T24 documents.

For more information, questions or a private presentation for your staff please contact me:

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