



UTAH ENERGY CONSERVATION COALITION, INC.
ENERGY RATED HOMES OF UTAH

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EPA ENERGY STAR® Program Fact Sheet

What are ENERGY STAR® Qualified New Homes?

ENERGY STAR® qualified homes are independently verified to be up to 15% more efficient than the current Utah State Energy Code. These savings are based on heating, cooling and hot water energy use and are typically achieved through a combination of:

- Building envelope upgrades
- High performance windows
- Controlled air infiltration
- Upgraded heating and air conditioning systems
- Tight duct systems
- Upgraded water-heating equipment

These features contribute to improved home quality and homeowner comfort, and to lower energy demand and reduced air pollution. ENERGY STAR® also encourages the use of energy efficient lighting and appliances, as well as features designed to improve indoor air quality.

Here are some commonly asked questions about ENERGY STAR® qualified homes:

How does a home earn the ENERGY STAR® label?

The ENERGY STAR® label is earned only after the home's energy efficiency is verified by an accredited home energy rater. For a listing of Home Energy Raters in Utah, go to www.utahenergy.org.

What types of homes can earn the ENERGY STAR® label?

Any single-family or multi-family residential home that is three stories or less in height can qualify for ENERGY STAR® label.

Can existing homes earn the ENERGY STAR®?

Yes. Existing homes can be qualified for the ENERGY STAR® label if they meet ENERGY STAR® standards. However, it is not always practical or cost-effective to bring an existing home to this level of energy efficiency. Energy efficiency of existing homes can often be greatly improved using cost-effective retrofitters. Here are some ways how you can make your home more energy efficient:

- Seal any air leaks. Air leaks can be found around the outside doors, windows, light switches and electrical outlets. Your local hardware store should carry products to help seal these air leaks off.
- Add more insulation to the attic. Most air escapes through the attic due to lack of proper insulation. To meet the current Utah Energy Code, a minimum R-value of 38 must be met. This means, if you have batt insulation in the attic, an R-value of 38 would require 10-12 inches in depth of insulation.
- Some of these procedures are more you can do yourself, and you may prefer to contact a Home Energy Rater to do a thorough energy analysis of your house. For more information, you can call the Utah Energy Conservation Coalition at 801.765.0034 or toll free 800.550.8322.

Do energy-efficient homes look different?

No, builders and developers constructing ENERGY STAR® qualified new homes do not have a different appearance. An ENERGY STAR® qualified new home can be built in whatever style the consumer prefers.

Does an energy-efficient home cost more?

No. An ENERGY STAR® qualified new home actually *costs less* because you will spend less each month on utility bills. These energy savings can more than offset any increase in mortgage payments. Also ENERGY STAR® financing partners offer special mortgage packages for ENERGY STAR® qualified new homes.

How will I know if a home is labeled ENERGY STAR®?

Look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which should be displayed on the circuit breaker box. You can also ask the builder for the home's ENERGY STAR® certificate. This certificate indicates that the home as met EPA's ENERGY STAR® qualified new homes performance guidelines.

How can I contact a Home Energy Rater in Utah?

Here are some ways you contact a Home Energy Rater in Utah to help answer more questions, or for help with inspecting your home.

- Go to www.utahenergystar.org for a listing of Raters
- Contact Energy Rated Homes of Utah/Utah Energy Conservation Coalition at 801.765.0034 or toll free at 800.550.8322. Or you can email them at info@utahenergy.org.