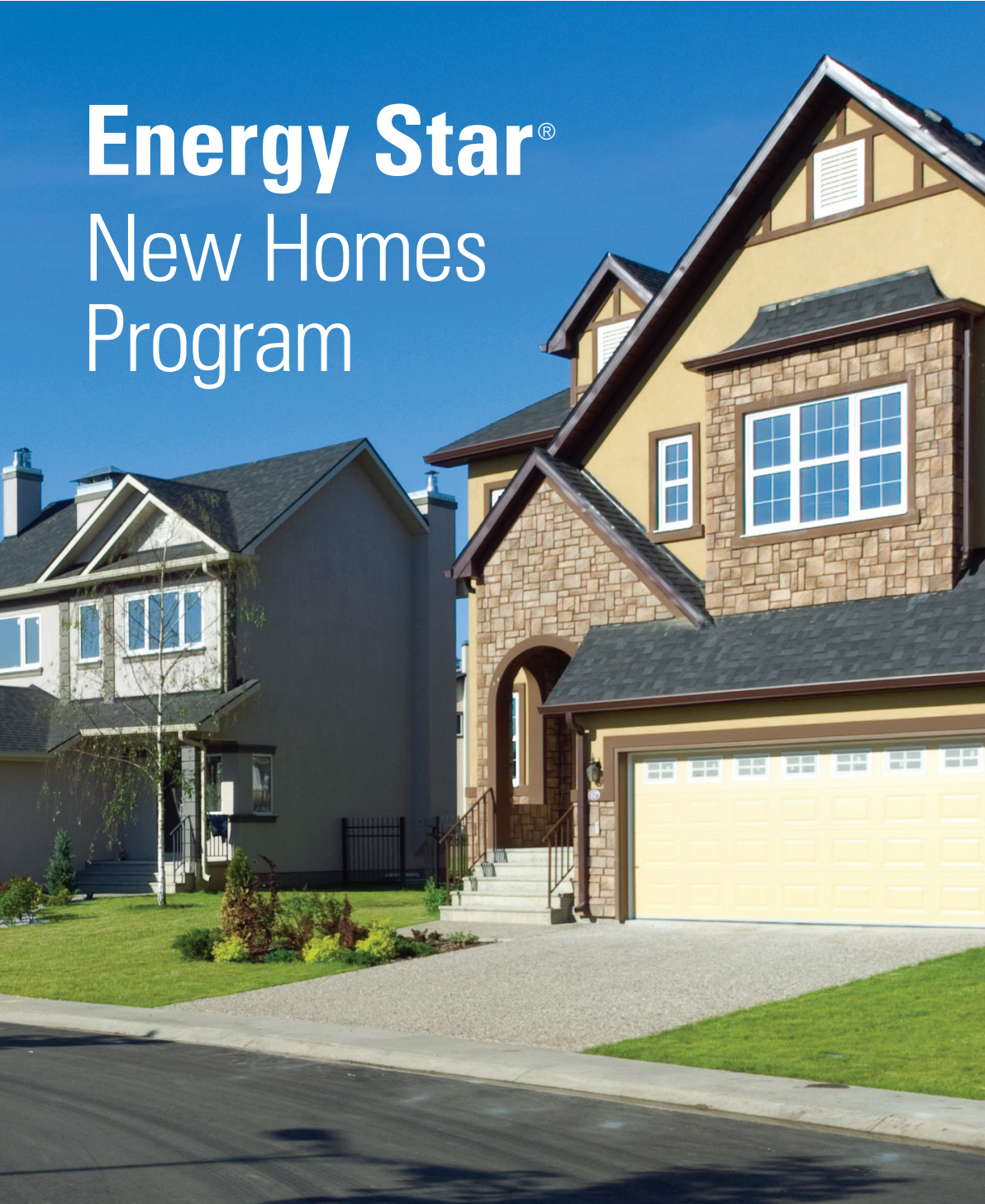




Energy Star® New Homes Program



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To learn more visit xcelenergy.com/COnewhomes

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.

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.

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.

Home Buyer Information

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.

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.

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This program connects you with resources to build a truly efficient new home.

The ENERGY STAR New Homes (ESNH) Program provides incentives for builders to build homes that exceed local energy code requirements for energy efficiency by at least 10%. Homes must be evaluated by a RESNET accredited Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Rater. HERS Raters help builders achieve energy savings by providing plan review analysis and on-site verification throughout the construction process.

Benefits

- Cut energy costs up to 20% or more.
- Experience fewer maintenance concerns.
- Benefit from healthier indoor air quality.
- Enjoy a more comfortable and quieter home.
- Gain higher resale value.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the ESNH program, your new home must:

- Be completed by a participating builder and meet the program's qualifying requirements.
- Be located in a community within Xcel Energy's residential natural gas service area in Colorado.

Find a participating builder

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

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



Home Builder Information

ENERGY STAR New Homes program incentives

The ENERGY STAR New Homes rebate program offered by Xcel Energy can assist Colorado builders like you in constructing more energy-efficient homes. The program offers builders up to \$2,700 in incentives with the construction of a qualifying home.

How the program works

To qualify, your new-construction home needs to be located in Xcel Energy's natural gas service and enrolled by an Xcel Energy-approved RESNET certified Home Energy Rating System (HERS) rater. Your HERS rater will assess and measure the home's energy efficiency and provide the required home information to Xcel Energy. A HERS index score, an industry standard for measuring residential energy efficiency, will be determined by your rater for each enrolled home.

Xcel Energy's program implementer, Residential Science Resources (RSR), can help you find a rater in your area or answer any questions you may have about the program. Xcel Energy is an ENERGY STAR program sponsor and recognizes the benefits of building homes that are ENERGY STAR certified. Homes qualifying for the Xcel Energy ENERGY STAR New Homes program are not required to achieve ENERGY STAR certification; however, builders can earn a bonus rebate for ENERGY STAR certified homes.

What your HERS rater will do for you

Your HERS rater will provide building science consulting service and quality control assistance before, during and after construction.

Before you build: Your HERS rater will review your building plans and determine if the home is on track to perform at an optimal level of energy efficiency and durability and meet the Xcel Energy ENERGY STAR New Homes program requirements.

During construction: Your rater conducts up to two site inspections—before and after insulation—to assess quality control and offer suggestions and tips on how to maintain an airtight envelope and manage any problem areas. Your rater will inspect each house under construction against the Thermal Enclosure System guidelines in the Rater Field Checklist created by the EPA's ENERGY STAR program. Each inspection is customized for the individual home and detailed comprehensive reports are available from your rater for your review.

Final site inspection: At the completion of the construction process, your rater will return for a final site inspection to complete the HERS rating process and ensure the home is qualified for the ENERGY STAR New Home rebate.

Find an approved rater in your area

You can find an approved HERS rater by calling RSR at 844.802.4443. The ENERGY STAR New Homes program is available in Xcel Energy's natural gas service territory. To verify whether your new home is located within one of our service areas, please call 844.802.4443.



Home Builder Information - Rebates

HERS rating performance rebate

The HERS rater uses REM/Rate or other Xcel Energy approved software modeling tool, to compare the as-built home’s energy consumption to that of a reference home built to the minimum code requirements for your local jurisdiction. The difference in energy savings between the as-built home and the reference home is converted to a “better-than-code percentage.” The more energy efficient the home is, the higher the percent improvement over code, and the higher the rebate will be. The HERS index determined by your HERS rater is not used to determine the rebate award but is a valuable tool or way to communicate the home’s efficiency to potential home buyers.

Additional add-on rebates

Builders who are eligible for a “Percent Better Than Local Code” rebate can also receive a rebate for installing any combination of ENERGY STAR-qualified appliances and lighting. Homes that receive only natural gas service from Xcel Energy are not eligible for the ENERGY STAR refrigerator or high-efficiency lighting rebates.

Your HERS rater will confirm that the appliance is installed, and will document the model specifications. The information is then submitted to Xcel Energy on your behalf.

Percentage better than local code

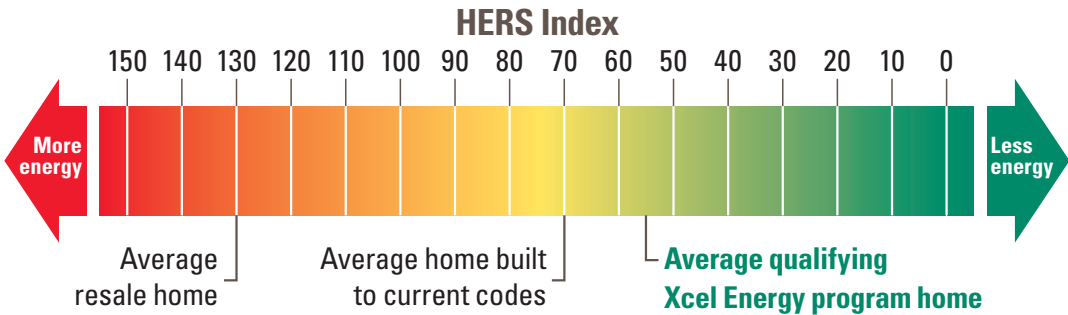
2009 IECC or lower	Rebate	2012 IECC or higher	Rebate
10% – 14.999%	\$200	10% – 14.999%	\$250
15% – 19.999%	\$350	15% – 19.999%	\$400
20% – 24.999%	\$500	20% – 24.999%	\$600
25% – 29.999%	\$650	25% – 29.999%	\$900
30% – 34.999%	\$800	30% – 34.999%	\$1,300
35% – 39.999%	\$1,000	35% – 39.999%	\$2,000
40% and higher	\$1,400	40% and higher	\$2,550

ENERGY STAR Appliance Rebates	
Appliance/lamp	Rebate
ENERGY STAR clothes washer	\$30
ENERGY STAR refrigerator	\$10
High efficiency lighting – 200 IECC or lower with CFL or LEDs (minimum 20 lamps)	\$20
High efficiency lighting – 2012 IECC or higher with 100% high efficiency CFLs or LEDs	\$10

HERS Information

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.



Get a \$100 bonus with ENERGY STAR certification

To earn the bonus rebate the home must meet the following criteria:

- Must have both Xcel Energy natural gas and electric service in Colorado
- Must qualify for a “Percent Better Than Local Code” rebate; and
- Must earn the ENERGY STAR label; label must be affixed to the breaker box

Zero Energy Homes

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

Xcel Energy offers two rooftop solar programs. Solar applications typically are managed by the solar installer and are submitted as either customer owned, or third party owned projects, depending on the parties’ agreement.

- Solar*Rewards® - Through the incentivized Solar*Rewards program, earn production-based incentives (PBIs) and net metering credits for installing on-site solar energy. The PBIs are paid to the owner of the solar system for all the kWhs of energy produced by the system each month, and the homeowner receives the net-metering benefits on their monthly utility bill. Xcel Energy is assigned all the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for these PV projects.
- Net Metering - Also referred to as the Non-Solar*Rewards program. Install on-site solar and the homeowner receives net metering credits on their utility bill for excess solar energy they’re not using. The homeowner keeps all the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for their own use.

Learn more at xcelenergy.com/solar





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