



2023 Residential New Construction Program Requirements and Submission Checklist

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General Participation Requirements

To participate in the Residential New Construction (RNC) energy efficiency rebate program, dwelling units/buildings must meet technical requirements listed in the document. "HERS Raters" should fill out the "Initial Plan" section of the Residential New Construction Program Project Application (Application) form in its entirety.

Building Type Participation:

A. The following building types are eligible for RNC program participation:

- Detached dwelling units (e.g., single family homes);
OR
- Dwelling units in any residential building with 4 units or fewer;
OR
- Dwelling units in any residential building with 4 stories or fewer above-grade;
OR
- Dwelling units in any 5+ story residential buildings

Multifamily buildings with 5 stories above grade or greater may be subject to the Multifamily Whole Building Performance (WBP) initiative, if more than 20% of the total building square footage is non-residential space. Contact the utility for WBP program requirements.

- #### B. Dwelling units which will be constructed from the "ground-up" as well as units which will be "gut-rehabbed" or fully rehabilitated are eligible for program participation. For purposes of this program, gut-rehabbed buildings must expose all exterior walls and have a plan in place to reinsulate or for the existing insulation to meet RESNET[®] Grade 1 standards. Additionally, the remainder of the thermal envelope (ceilings, floors, etc.), must be reinsulated or inspected to meet RESNET Grade 1 standards. Gut-rehabbed buildings must also replace all existing windows or verify that existing windows meet the current ENERGY STAR[®] certified window standards.

Homes outside of these guidelines may be eligible to receive incentives under other utility programs, contact your utility Program Administrator for more details.

- #### C. All homes in United Illuminating (UI) and Eversource (Eversource) territory, which use natural gas or electric as their primary heating fuel are eligible to receive full rebates offered in the RNC program. All other homes will receive 50% of the total incentive.

Program Compliance Requirements for Home Energy Rating Systems (HERS) Ratings:

A. General Requirements

- a. Homes following this path must use a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET)-certified HERS Rater approved in Connecticut. A listing can be found on **EnergizeCT.com**
- b. It is encouraged that the project's initial application is submitted to the respective Utility before construction. The cut-off time period for submitting the initial application is before drywall is installed.
- c. Each participating dwelling unit must have its own verified Ekotrope or REM/Rate file submitted electronically to the Utility. The Ekotrope or REM/Rate file must be the final version and contain a RESNET Registry ID.
- d. The RNC program will recognize sampling procedures per RESNET Standards. Utilities will verify that the HERS Rater and their HERS Provider are RESNET approved to conduct sampling.

B. Technical Requirements

- a. Must install whole-house mechanical ventilation that meets ASHRAE 62.2 guidelines. Examples of ventilation options include exhaust only, supply only, or balanced systems. System must be tested by HERS Rater for properly configured air flow.
- b. Must install ENERGY STAR certified LED lighting in 100% of lighting fixtures. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis if LED products are not available or not appropriate for a specific fixture in the home.
- c. Must have an ENERGY STAR certified refrigerator, clothes washer, clothes dryer and dishwasher.
- d. In order to verify the thermal envelope, the HERS Rater is required to perform a visual inspection prior to drywall using the most current version of the IECC Air Barrier and Insulation Inspection Component Criteria (Table 402.4.2). The thermal envelope must be installed to RESNET Grade 1 standards.

- e. A post-construction blower door test must be conducted, and must meet current energy code requirements.
- f. If the dwelling unit contains air ducts for heating and/or cooling supply, a post-construction duct leakage test must be conducted and must meet current energy code requirements.
- g. Heating and cooling equipment sizing must be submitted and reviewed by HERS Rater in accordance with most current version of the IECC Section R403.6.
- h. Single-family homes applying and qualifying for Tier 2 and 3 HERS Rating must meet the 2023 PV-Ready and 2023 EV-Ready Checklists (Connecticut Version). Homes not meeting this requirement will only be eligible for Tier 1 HERS Rebates. Any unforeseen reasons that cause a project to not meet the PV-Ready or EV-Ready requirements can be discussed with the Utility for further review.
- i. For Tier 3 applicants, rebates will be paid below a HERS of 40, and to a maximum of a HERS of 0. Tier 3 applicants must meet requirements of the 2023 PV-Ready and EV-Ready Checklists.
- j. If an electric resistance storage water heater is used to provide domestic hot water, the EF must be at least 0.95 (UEF \geq 0.93), R-4 pipe insulation must be installed, kitchen faucets must be \leq 2.0 gpm, and at least 2/3 of all toilets, bathroom faucets/aerators, and showerheads must be WaterSense[®] certified or equivalent.
- k. For Single Family Attached and Multifamily projects, if an integrated heat pump water heater (HPWH) is used to provide domestic hot water, the Energize CT Multifamily Heat Pump Water Heater Guidelines must be met and verified by the HERS Rater. Where the guidelines cannot be met in their entirety for the given installation, a HPWH shall be modeled with a UEF of 0.95.



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2023 Residential New Construction Application Submission Checklist:

The checklist below is intended to ensure that builders, contractors, homeowners, or other applicants of the 2023 Residential New Construction (RNC) program have included all necessary documentation and information required for rebate approval.

Required Paperwork:

Paperwork required to be submitted prior to construction:

- ☐ Applicant or HERS Rater will submit the completed Application with the "Initial Plan" indicating the "Estimated Total" rebate inclusive of all necessary signatures
- ☐ Income Verification form if applying for Income Eligible
- ☐ W-9 Form
- ☐ Initial REM/Rate or Ekotrope file, submitted electronically to Utility involved only for projects that have an estimated initial HERS rating below 40

Paperwork Required to be Submitted After Construction has Been Completed:

- ☐ Applicant or HERS Rater will submit the completed Application with the "As Built" conditions, indicating the "Installed Total" rebate requested as well as the required documentation (as applicable) outlined below:
- ☐ Electronic REM/Rate or Ekotrope file
 - Eversource customers:** e-mail to Nick Jones at nicholas.jones@eversource.com
 - UI/SCG/CNG customers:** e-mail to Alysse Rodrigues at UI.RNC@uinet.com
- ☐ HERS Rater must submit a final Home Energy Rating Certificate (HERC) after successful verification by the HERS Rater's provider
- ☐ All Bonus Certification documentation (if applicable)
- ☐ AHRI certificates for mechanical systems
- ☐ Low Income Verification Letter, available through the Utility (if applicable)
- ☐ 2023 RNC PV Readiness Checklist (if applicable)
- ☐ 2023 RNC EV Readiness Checklist (if applicable)

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