

Educating Green Professionals

www.homebuilders.org

The Energy Codes are Coming!

by, Thomas Marston of Energy Services Group, HERS Rater, NGBS Verifier

THE NEW Energy Codes are different than previous energy codes and this may create confusion for the builder and the enforcer. This version is similar to 2006 and offers 2 paths, prescriptive versus performance. It also has a number of mandatory requirements. A builder must declare the path and how he or she will move through the code, submitting documents that supports the choice at permit application.

PRESCRIPTIVE PATH is a set of specific insulation values that the builder must meet or exceed. Therefore it is also easy for the code officer to determine compliance. This set of energy features generally will cost more to build due to over engineering.

PERFORMANCE PATH requires engineering a solution and allows a builder to build a home closer to the energy needs of the code and generally will cost less to build. The code official no longer has a specific solution that they can mandate and inspect. Having options is good for builders but may cause confusion with its administration because it is significantly different than previous enforcement models.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS must be met through either path because they support optimum building performance and



Image courtesy of US Department of Energy

should not be traded off for other more efficient features.

HOW SHOULD you proceed as a builder?

1) KNOW the code. Get a copy of 2009 IECC and read it cover to cover. This is easy because the meat of the code is about 10 pages with tables, weather data and a glossary adding another 20 or so pages. It is not light reading but, to its credit, the code is much less verbose than previous years.

2) ATTEND upcoming code training classes sponsored by DHCD. Know the code going into the meeting so you can ask questions and be ready to learn how your County will administer the code. Be sure that your

local administrator is attending so you can discuss issues that come up in the presentations.

3) INVITE your local code official to a Committee meeting so you can learn how they will administer the code. We have learned that 2 counties who are the leaders of adopting 2009 IECC are asking for items that are contrary to the words in the code. "Once the genie is out of the bottle, it will be hard to put the genie back in". So get the issues out in the open where they can be discussed and arbitrated to an acceptable solution.

BGE's ENERGY STAR® for NEW HOMES - version 3.0

Contributed by Chris Walls, Manager – Residential Energy Efficiency Programs, BGE

Beginning January 1, 2011, BGE will implement a revised incentive structure for the ENERGY STAR New Homes Program that address the higher efficiency levels and associated incremental costs required by the Version 3 Guidelines released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Version 3 Guidelines are designed to ensure that qualified homes continue to represent a meaningful improvement in energy efficiency over homes that are built to code and that ENERGY STAR New Homes are the standard for energy-efficient home construction.

BGE's ENERGY STAR for New Homes Program seeks to accelerate the market penetration of homes in BGE's service territory that meet and exceed ENERGY STAR guidelines.

Homes that are granted a construction permit on or after January 1, 2011 will be required to meet the Version 3 Guidelines to earn the ENERGY STAR label. However, all newly constructed homes that received a permit prior to January 1, 2011 can continue to be qualified using the current ENERGY STAR for New Homes guidelines until July 1, 2011, when all homes must be qualified under the Version 3 Guidelines regardless of the date the construction permit was received.



	<u>Current BGE ENERGY STAR for New Homes Program</u> (Homes permitted prior to 1/1/2011 & completed by 7/1/2011)		<u>Proposed BGE ENERGY STAR for New Homes Program (with Version 3 Guidelines)</u> (Homes permitted after 1/1/2011)	
Tier 1	HERS Index of ≤ 85	\$400		
Tier 2	HERS Index of ≤ 80	\$800		
Tier 3/New Tier 1	HERS Index of ≤ 75	\$1,000	HERS Index ≤ 75	\$1,000
New Tier 2			HERS Index ≤ 70	\$1,300
New Tier 3			HERS Index ≤ 65	\$1,600
Advanced Lighting Package (ALP)	Attached Homes	\$325	Eliminate	
	Detached Homes	\$525	Eliminate	

For more information about the MD Residential Green Building Council or events, please contact Michael Harrison at 410-265-7400 x109 or michael@homebuilders.org. If you have a topic of interest you would like to see included in the next newsletter, please contact Monica Robertson at 410-837-7311 or mrobertson@hcm2.com.

Upcoming Events

Maryland Green Show

Saturday, November 6th

10:00-5:00

Sunday, November 7th

11:00-5:00

Maryland State Fairgrounds
Timonium, Maryland

Free to MRGBC members!

Free Seminar:

The 2009 International Energy Conservation Code & ANSI/ASHRE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2007 Energy Standards for Buildings Except Low-rise Residential Buildings

Various locations in Maryland
Free, but attendance is limited.

To register, visit:

<http://www.dhcd.state.md.us/Website/SmartCodes/SmartCodesTrainings.aspx>

Free Webinar:

How to Sell ENERGY STAR

Qualified Homes

Learn the basics of what makes a home ENERGY STAR qualified, how to tell your energy efficiency story to potential customers, and tried-and-true sales strategies employed by successful ENERGY STAR homebuilders.

Thursday, November 4, 2010

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

To register, visit:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/414054160>

Welcome New MRGBC Members:

Bayne Keenan
Wayne Harrison
Matt Brown
Tom Tolento
Brian Goldbeck
Craig Smith
Lora Williams
Frank Hoffman
Jackie Browning
Bob Mancuso
Mike Howes
David Hurley
Steve Mannion
Brett Schoolnick
Gregory Waskey
Hans Wittich

DeVere Insulation Company
Chesapeake Systems Service, Inc
Regional Siding Systems LLC
McCormick Paint
Tri County Hearth & Patio
Criterium Engineers
GE Appliances
ARS-American Residential Services LLC
Marvin Window & Door Planning Centre
Reico Kitchen and Bath
Guardian Home Technologies
Fireside Hearth & Home
Design House Kitchens & Appliances, LLC
Baywood Design/Build Group, Inc.
BlueLinX Corporation
Solargaines LLC