



ENERGY STAR® NextGen Homes & Apartments

Built for a Clean Energy Future

In November 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched a new certification option as part of its highly successful ENERGY STAR® partnership program: **ENERGY STAR NextGen Certified Homes and Apartments.**

Introducing ENERGY STAR NextGen

This new certification offers an additional, optional level of recognition for homes and apartments equipped with leading-edge, efficient electric technologies and electric vehicle charging capabilities to maximize energy and emissions savings.

Reducing Emissions Starts at Home

ENERGY STAR NextGen lays the foundation to significantly reduce emissions from the residential new construction sector.

Compared to typical code-level construction, homes earning this advanced certification are 20% more efficient and help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40-80% — while providing all the benefits that partners and consumers have come to expect from ENERGY STAR.

Ensuring Comfort, Safety, and Indoor Air Quality

ENERGY STAR NextGen homes and apartments include heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and electric cooking appliances that provide increased comfort and safety. These features also improve indoor air quality by reducing exposure to common harmful combustion by-products such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and small particulates.

Read on to learn more about the features and benefits of ENERGY STAR NextGen.



Features and benefits of ENERGY STAR NextGen Certified Homes and Apartments



Multi-speed ENERGY STAR certified heat pump

More efficient and quieter than furnaces or boilers, heat pumps can heat and cool a home, making them usable year-round. Multi-speed technology is quieter and delivers more consistent temperatures for greater comfort.



ENERGY STAR certified heat pump water heater

A typical water heater uses more energy than a refrigerator, clothes washer, dishwasher, and dryer combined. ENERGY STAR certified heat pump water heaters are up to four times more efficient than standard models, saving hundreds of dollars every year.



Electric cooktop and oven

Electric cooktops and ovens are safer to operate and help reduce exposure to common combustion by-products that can cause or worsen respiratory health conditions, including asthma.



Electric vehicle (EV) charging capability

In homes with private parking, a heavy-duty power outlet is wired in and ready to charge an electric vehicle or have a Level 2 EV charger installed. Properties with shared parking are equipped with ENERGY STAR certified EV chargers.

About ENERGY STAR's Residential New Construction Program

ENERGY STAR NextGen builds on the 25-year foundation of EPA's ENERGY STAR Residential New Construction program, through which more than 2.6 million energy-efficient new homes and apartments have been certified to date. In 2023, nearly 10% of all U.S. homes built in America earned the label.

Learn More: energystar.gov/NextGenHomes

Contact EPA: energystarhomes@energystar.gov



FAQs for Policymakers and Program Sponsors: ENERGY STAR NextGen

Is ENERGY STAR NextGen different than ENERGY STAR?

Meeting EPA's most rigorous ENERGY STAR program requirements for energy efficiency is a pre-requisite for earning the new ENERGY STAR NextGen certification, should builders choose to pursue it. ENERGY STAR NextGen is not intended to replace the existing ENERGY STAR certification.

What buildings are eligible for ENERGY STAR NextGen?

Any home or apartment eligible for certification through the existing ENERGY STAR programs for single-family and multifamily homes can also pursue ENERGY STAR NextGen certification.

How are homes and apartments certified for ENERGY STAR NextGen?

The new certification relies on the same verification organizations (i.e., home energy raters), inspection processes, and quality assurance protocols as ENERGY STAR. Raters can verify homes for the new label using a simple one-page checklist at the same time they are certifying for the ENERGY STAR program.

Is ENERGY STAR NextGen an all-electric specification?

While the ENERGY STAR NextGen specification requires homes to incorporate advanced efficient electric technologies, limited use of gas (e.g., as a backup heat source or for lifestyle features such as gas fireplaces) is permitted. To support policy goals, policymakers/program sponsors may choose to add all-electric construction as a requirement above and beyond EPA's certification requirements.

How does the ENERGY STAR NextGen program help to enhance homeowners' living experiences?

Like the core ENERGY STAR program, ENERGY STAR NextGen helps ensure that residents have a good experience living in their homes. For example, ENERGY STAR NextGen includes maximum sound ratings and minimum tank size requirements for heat pump water heaters, multi-speed heat pumps that meet cold-climate requirements (where applicable), and HVAC system commissioning.

Does ENERGY STAR NextGen qualify for the \$ 45L New Energy Efficient Home Credit?

To earn the new 45L tax credit, a home or apartment must be certified to an eligible version of the ENERGY STAR program requirements (up to \$2,500) or DOE's Zero Energy Ready Homes (ZERH) program (up to \$5,000). While there is no specific Federal tax incentive for ENERGY STAR NextGen, these homes meet the ENERGY STAR-based tax credit requirements and are well-positioned to meet DOE's ZERH requirements.

How does EPA's ENERGY STAR NextGen compare to DOE's ZERH program?

Both ENERGY STAR NextGen and DOE's ZERH program require that homes meet the same rigorous ENERGY STAR requirements. EPA's program also focuses on further reducing emissions through efficient electric equipment with connected capabilities to support demand response. DOE's program does not specifically require electric equipment but does include a suite of building science best practices and other strategies to promote the transition to low/no carbon emission homes. Policymakers/program sponsors may choose to require dual certification if there are elements of both programs that align with their goals.