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# Proposed New Guidelines for ENERGY STAR Qualified New Homes

**Comment Period Open**

EPA is accepting comments on the proposed ENERGY STAR 2011 guidelines through July 10, 2009.



## Background

EPA is revising the guidelines for ENERGY STAR qualified homes to ensure that homes that earn the label continue to represent a meaningful improvement in energy efficiency over homes that are built to code or standard builder business practices. These new guidelines, referred to for clarity as ENERGY STAR 2011, will help EPA meet its broader goal of transforming the housing industry to build homes with less environmental impact and increased homeowner benefits, including greater affordability through lower energy bills along with improved comfort, indoor air quality, and durability.

## Comment process timeline

EPA will accept comments on the proposed ENERGY STAR 2011 guidelines through July 10, 2009. EPA will post a summary of submitted comments soon afterward, followed by EPA's responses and the revised ENERGY STAR 2011 guidelines.











## Proposed ENERGY STAR 2011 guidelines

- [Proposed National Program Requirements](#)  (570KB) define both the performance and prescriptive paths to ENERGY STAR qualification for new homes.
- [Proposed Quality Checklists](#)  (570KB). To earn the ENERGY STAR, houses will be required to undergo the following checklist inspections:
  - Proposed Quality Framing Checklist
  - Proposed HVAC Quality Installation Contractor Checklist
  - Proposed HVAC Quality Installation Rater Checklist
  - Proposed Thermal Bypass Checklist Update
  - Proposed Indoor Air Quality Checklist
  - Proposed Water-Managed Construction Checklist

## Proposed implementation schedule

- Homes permitted on or after January 1, 2011 will be required to meet ENERGY STAR 2011 guidelines to earn the ENERGY STAR.
- Homes permitted prior to January 1, 2011 can continue to be qualified using the current guidelines until July 1, 2011, when all homes must be qualified under ENERGY STAR 2011 regardless of the date of permitting.
- The phase-in period may be accelerated in states with advanced energy codes to ensure that ENERGY STAR continues to deliver above-code performance.

## Additional resources

- [ENERGY STAR 2011 FAQ](#)  (39KB) — Frequently asked questions about ENERGY STAR 2011.
- [ENERGY STAR 2011 Fact Sheet](#)  (138KB) — Summary of ENERGY STAR 2011 and rationale behind the proposed changes to the ENERGY STAR qualified homes specifications.
- ENERGY STAR Homes: The Road Ahead — Sam Rashkin, R.A., National Director of ENERGY STAR for Homes, explains the evolution of ENERGY STAR for Homes and the value of the new guidelines. You can view this presentation in five streaming modules:
  - [Outline & Introduction](#) [EXIT](#) 
  - [Compliance Options](#) [EXIT](#) 
  - [Mandatory Requirements](#) [EXIT](#) 
  - [Checklists](#) [EXIT](#) 
  - [The Road Ahead](#) [EXIT](#) 
- [Technical background](#)  (242KB) — Additional details about the rationale behind, benefits of, and estimated savings for ENERGY STAR 2011.
- [ENERGY STAR 2011 Reference Design Definition](#)  (288KB) — Compares the parameters of the HERS Reference Home, HERS rated homes, and the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home.
- [Economic impacts](#)  (340KB) — Estimates of representative incremental costs and savings for ENERGY STAR 2011 and a comparison to incremental costs for the current guidelines.

## Submit a comment

Please submit your comments to us at [energystarhomes@energystar.gov](mailto:energystarhomes@energystar.gov), with the subject: Proposed Guidelines Comment. EPA will post a summary of all comments submitted with the names of the submitters, unless a submitter requests to remain anonymous.

## Q&A session schedule

Do you have a question about the proposed guidelines that you would like to have answered before you submit a comment? EPA will host a series of Q&A sessions to answer questions about ENERGY STAR 2011.

*Note: These sessions are for questions only; comments must be submitted separately.*

You can register for a session by clicking the date and time below. You will be asked to submit questions when you register. Questions submitted ahead of time will be answered before any new questions are accepted during the session.

Session 1	<a href="#">Wed. May 27: 3–4 pm EDT</a>
Session 2	<a href="#">Thurs. June 11: 2–3 pm EDT</a>
Session 3	<a href="#">Wed. June 17: 3–4 pm EDT</a>

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