

## What are the national home performance programs?

Home performance standards starts with the [International Energy Conservation Code 2006](#) which has been adopted by Prescott and Yavapai County building jurisdictions and is the required minimum standard of all builders.

However, there are several national programs that define standards for high-performance homes beyond that achieved by the IECC 2006. These national programs include:

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Energy Star program

- Focuses on five areas that impact home-energy performance:
  - [Effective insulation](#)
  - [High-performance windows](#)
  - [Tight construction and ducts](#)
  - [Efficient heating and cooling equipment](#)
  - [Efficient lighting, appliances, and water heaters](#)
- A home meeting Energy Star requirements is **15% more energy efficient** than a house meeting the [International Energy Conservation Code 2006](#) requirements.
- The EPA [Indoor Air Package Plus](#) program helps protect qualified homes (and occupants) from health hazards that can result from moisture and mold, pests, combustion gasses, and other indoor pollutants.

### ForesteHolmes Tiered Approach

Tier 1 Home = IECC 2006 Compliant  
 Tier 2 Home = Energy Star  
                   EFL Gold  
 Tier 3 Home = Builder's Challenge  
                   EFL Platinum  
 Tier 4 Home = NAHB Green Building  
                   LEED for Homes  
 Tier 5 Home = NAHB Green Building  
                   LEED for Homes

### MASCO Environments for Living Program

- The EFL program focuses on three primary home-performance areas:
  - Energy efficiency
  - Durability
  - Indoor environmental quality
- A home meeting EFL Gold-level requirements is **15% more energy efficient** than a house meeting the [International Energy Conservation Code 2006](#) requirements.
- A home meeting EFL Platinum-level requirements is **30% more energy efficient** than a house meeting the [International Energy Conservation Code 2006](#) requirements.

A home which qualifies in the EFL program offers the homeowner [limited guarantees on heating and cooling energy use](#), and comfort

### US Department of Energy's Builder's Challenge Program

- A home meeting the Builder's Challenge performance requirements is 30% more energy efficient than a house meeting the [International Energy Conservation Code 2006](#) requirements.
- The Builders Challenge program includes 15 required criteria to enhance home performance in energy efficiency and indoor air quality. In addition, there are 14 recommended criteria.
- The Builders Challenge ultimate objective is to achieve "Net-Zero Energy" which is when a home generates all of the power that it uses (i.e., HERS index of 0).

### National Association of Home Builder's Green Building Program

- A NAHB-certified home must incorporate a minimum number of features in the following areas:
  - Energy, water and resource efficiency
  - Lot and site development
  - Indoor environmental quality
  - Home owner education
- A point system is used to attain four NAHB certification thresholds. The required energy efficiency levels for each category is:
  - Bronze (15% Energy Savings)
  - Silver (30% Energy Savings)
  - Gold (50% Energy Savings)
  - Emerald (60% Energy Savings)

## US Green Building Council's LEED for Homes Program

- A LEED-certified home is designed and constructed in accordance with the rigorous guidelines of the LEED for Homes green building certification program. LEED for Homes is a consensus-developed, third party-verified, voluntary rating system which promotes the design and construction of high-performance green homes
  - A point system is used to attain 4 certification thresholds (Certified, Silver, Gold, Platinum)
  - Primary ratings categories include:
    - Innovation & Design Process
    - Location & Linkages
    - Sustainable Sites
    - Water Efficiency
    - Energy & Atmosphere
    - Materials & Resources
    - Indoor Environmental Quality
    - Awareness & Education