



2024 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. Home Energy Rating Systems (HERS) Raters should fill out the "Initial Plan" section of the Residential New Construction Program Project Application ("Application") form in its entirety. The RNC program is an all-electric program for space heating, domestic hot water and cooking.

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 five units or fewer;
- OR**
- Dwelling units in any residential building with four stories or fewer above grade, where the dwelling units are individually metered for electricity and have their own dedicated HVAC systems for space conditioning;

Multifamily buildings with five stories above grade or greater can participate through the RNC high-rise pathway, otherwise known as the Path 1 or Path 2 EUI reduction pathway. Contact the utility for WBP program requirements.

B. New construction can include significant gut rehabilitation when defined as a change of use, reconstruction of a vacant structure, or when construction work requires that the building be out of service for at least 30 consecutive days. Significant gut rehabilitation projects must be able to meet all program requirements in order to participate. Change of use, reconstruction, or adaptive reuse projects that are limited in scope due to historic preservation requirements (i.e. CT-SHPO requirements) may be eligible to participate through the Commercial New Construction (CNC) Paths 1 and 2 approaches. 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 Residential Energy Services Network[®] (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.

Program Compliance Requirements for HERS Ratings:

A. General Requirements

- a. Homes following the HERS Rating Path must use a 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 prior to the completion of framing. For multifamily projects, initial Applications should be received prior to 90% construction drawings ('CD').
- c. Each participating dwelling unit must have its own verified Ekotrope or file submitted electronically to the utility. The Ekotrope or 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.
- e. The primary use of the building must be for a residential purpose. In a mixed-use building, the dwelling units, sleeping units, and common space combined must exceed 80% of the buildings conditioned square footage. Parking garage square footage is excluded from this calculation. Common space includes any spaces in the building that serve a function in support of the residential portion of the building, that is not part of a dwelling or sleeping unit. This includes spaces used by residents such as corridors, stairs, lobbies, laundry rooms, exercise rooms, residential recreation rooms, and dining halls, as well as, offices and other spaces used by building management administration, or maintenance in support of the residents. Assisted living and skilled nursing facilities that meet the definition of Senior Care Communities are not eligible for the RNC program, but may be eligible through the Commercial New Construction program. Dormitories and Residence Halls also fall under the Commercial New Construction program guidelines.

B. Technical Requirements

- a. Must install whole-house mechanical ventilation that meets American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (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 percent 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 International Energy Conservation Code (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 the most current version of IECC Section R403.6.
- h. Single family homes applying and qualifying for Tier 2 and 3 HERS Rating must meet the 2024 PV-Ready and 2024 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 2024 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, an HPWH shall be modeled with a UEF of 0.95.



2024 Residential New Construction Program Requirements and Submission Checklist

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2024 Residential New Construction Application Submission Checklist:

The checklist below is intended to ensure that builders, contractors, homeowners or other applicants of the 2024 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 Ekotrope file, submitted electronically to utility involved only for projects that have an estimated initial HERS rating below 40

Additional Paperwork required to be submitted prior to construction for Single Family and Single Family Attached subdivisions:

- Lot map
- Tentative construction schedule

Additional Paperwork required to be submitted prior to construction for Multifamily apartment buildings:

- Current set of architectural drawings
- Construction schedule

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 Ekotrope file
 - Eversource customers:** email to Nick Jones at nicholas.jones@eversource.com
 - UI customers:** email 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)
- 2024 RNC PV Readiness Checklist (if applicable)
- 2024 RNC EV Readiness Checklist (if applicable)

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