

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY — ZERO ENERGY READY HOME PROGRAM

The California Advanced Homes Program (CAHP) offers a bonus for homes enrolled in the Department of Energy (DOE) [Zero Energy Ready Homes program](#). This program recognizes builders for leadership in increasing energy efficiency, improving indoor air quality, and making homes zero energy ready. DOE Zero Energy Ready Homes are verified by a qualified third-party and are at least 40 to 50 percent more energy efficient than a typical new home. To qualify for the DEO Zero Energy Ready Home program, homes must meet minimum requirements, be verified and field tested in accordance with HERS Standards by an approved verifier, and meet all applicable codes. Builders may meet the requirements of either the Performance Path or the Prescriptive Path to qualify a home.

THE FOLLOWING HOMES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR DOE ZERO ENERGY READY HOME QUALIFICATION

1. Detached dwelling units
2. Dwelling units in any multifamily building with four units or less
3. Dwelling units in multifamily buildings with three stories or fewer above-grade*
4. Dwelling units in multifamily buildings with four or five stories above-grade where dwelling units occupy 80 percent or more of the occupiable square footage of the building

* An 'above-grade story' is one for which more than half of the gross surface area of the exterior walls is above-grade. (see DOE requirements [here](#))

PROGRAM BENEFITS

The DOE Zero Energy Ready Home provides significant savings for homeowners. The program also offers a summary of what it costs to build a zero energy ready home for builders, contractors, utilities, energy programs, and other stakeholders [here](#). The California Advanced Homes Program offers a \$400 incentive per each home certified as a DOE Zero Energy Ready Home.

CALIFORNIA REQUIREMENTS

Under [Rev.05 of the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home California Requirements](#), builders certifying homes in California continue to have the options of prescriptive compliance, a performance option using national HERS software, or two performance options using California Title 24 compliance software. The revision also offers more flexibility in terms of air-tightness requirements (attached dwellings have a higher ACH50 spec) and alignment with upcoming Title 24 provisions such as recognition of the High Performance Attic (HPA) design strategy as a method for optimizing the duct system (see End Note 15 H).

Visit www.cahp-pge.com to learn more about CAHP or contact a program representative: via phone at (866) 352-7457 or via email at cahp@trcsolutions.com.

