

From: [Paulette McGhie](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: Ordinance using HERS Index as Code Compliance
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The Texas bill that was approved provided the 2018 IECC Backstop. Currently we recommend using the 2024 IECC backstop. Using the HERS Index actually provides measurable energy savings results with added quality assurance, that is why the EPA Energy Star New Homes Program uses it, and DOE Net Zero Ready Homes uses it too.

If you would like more information on how to use the HERS Index to track your sustainable goals, energy savings & carbon reduction, please contact us at RESNET.

Best Regards,
Paulette

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A New Opportunity to Comply with the
TEXAS ENERGY CODE

The HERS® Index



NEW LAW OPENS THIS OPPORTUNITY STATEWIDE

When did this change take effect?

This change took effect for all homes permitted after September 1, 2021.

What was changed?

Texas House Bill 3215 updated the state's universal energy code compliance pathway to allow builders to use the HERS Index (in addition to 2018 IECC backstops) for energy code compliance across the state, in lieu of the state energy code or any stretch code adopted by municipalities.

What does a HERS Rating include?

Energy Modeling

Pre-drywall inspection

Final inspection and testing, including duct and envelope leakage and ventilation testing.

Other Benefits of Using the HERS Index?

- ✓ Potential to reduce construction costs compared to prescriptive energy code compliance.
- ✓ Third-party verification of the energy performance of your homes which often reduces call backs.
- ✓ Homes are listed in the RESNET/Appraisal Institute Appraiser Portal and have the potential to receive a higher appraised value.
- ✓ Potential to be eligible for the ENERGY STAR for Homes label.
- ✓ Ability to market the environmental impact of your homes to consumers.
- ✓ Access to all your HERS Rating data through the RESNET National Registry.

What HERS score is needed to achieve compliance?

Each home needs to score at or below the following target HERS Index score, based on climate zone:

HERS Index Target Score

Climate Zone	9/1/22–8/31/25	9/1/25–8/31/28	On or After 9/1/28	Through 8/31/22
2	59	57	55	63
3	59	57	55	63
4	63	61	59	67

How can builders take advantage of this new compliance option?

Builders should contact their local RESNET HERS Rating Company to get started. Contact info@resnet.us if you need help locating a local Rating Company.

Take advantage of this opportunity today:
resnet.us/builders/hb3215



Leading the Path to Net Zero Energy Homes

Facts About the HERS Industry in Texas

50%

of all new homes received a HERS Rating in 2022

59

The average HERS Index Score in 2022*

494k+

homes have been HERS Rated since 2013

674+

Texas Certified RESNET HERS Raters and Rating Field Inspectors

*Current average Texas HERS Score includes many above energy code program certified homes such as ENERGY STAR, NGBS, Green Built Texas, etc.