

# The Future of High-Performance Housing Policy: ENERGY STAR Certified Homes

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#### **ENERGY STAR Version 3**

Performance Target

Perrormance Target



**Mandatory Features** 

nandatory Features

























National Program Requirements ENERGY STAR Certified Homes, Version 4

#### **Program Checklists**

ENERGY STAR Version 4 Inspection Checklist	Must Correct	Rater Verified	N/A
1.1 Don't do anything dumb			-







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## **Basic Program Structure Works Well**

Performance Target

-errormance Target



**Mandatory Features** 

nandatory Features





# Size Adjustment Factor Worked For Version 3







# **Higher Performance Target Was Manageable**







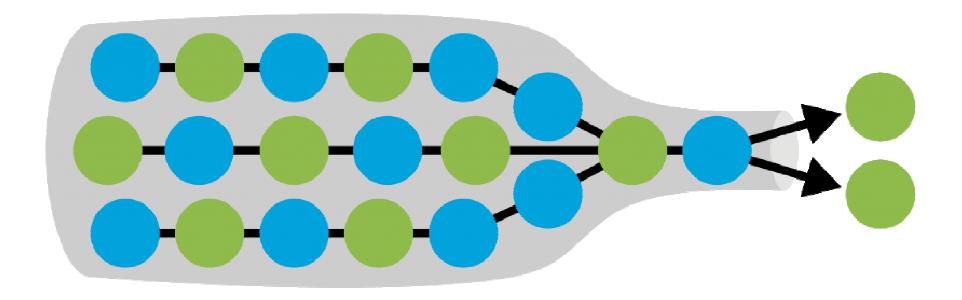
## The Kitchen Sink Was A Bit Much







# **Process Trumped Requirements**





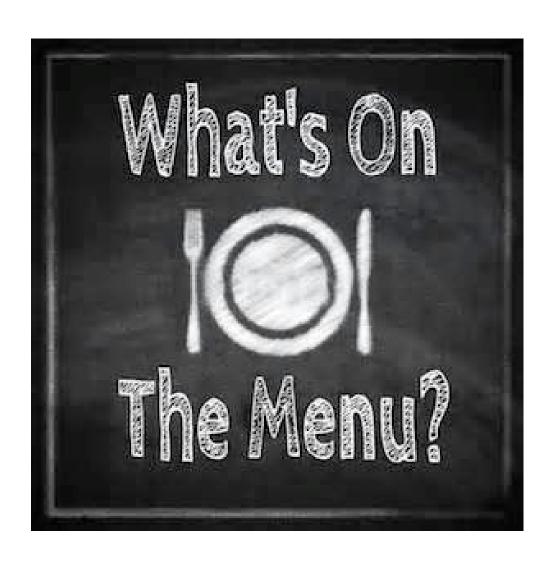


# **Verification Standards Are Important**











# **Efficiency Features**







#### **Overview**

- Central to our program
- Need to:
  - Achieve meaningful savings
  - Maintain cost-effectiveness
  - Be integrated with HERS standard (before they're required!)





## **Possible Efficiency Features**

- Increased insulation, in some markets
- High-efficiency water heaters
- LED lighting
- ENERGY STAR smart thermostats
- Credit for proper HVAC design & installation
- Buried & encapsulated ducts / ducts in conditioned space
- Variable capacity HVAC
- Efficient whole-house ventilation systems
- Home Energy Management Systems



# **Non-Energy Features**





#### **Overview**

- Also central to our program.
- Non-energy features ensure that efficiency is not delivered by sacrificing other attributes.
- Rooted in building science.
- Need to:
  - Be verifiable by the Rater through their normal workflow
  - Recognize that non-energy features will negatively impact costeffectiveness.
  - Clearly express the value of these features





## **Possible Non-Energy Features**

- Better / smarter whole-house ventilation systems
- Dehumidification in hot-humid climates
- Higher MERV filters
- Balancing of register airflows
- Smarter kitchen and bath fans
- No unvented combustion appliances
- Enhanced verification



# **Renewable Energy Features**







#### **Overview**

- Traditionally, renewable energy features have not been part of the program.
- The landscape is starting to shift.
- Want to be proactive in figuring out what role they can play.
- Need to:
  - Recognize that we'll continue to be an efficiency first program.
  - Develop clear messaging on how efficiency and renewable energy work together in ENERGY STAR homes.
  - Be complimentary (or at least not contradictory) to goals of utility partners
- Be verifiable by the Rater through their normal workflow



## **Possible Renewable Energy Features**

- Promote inclusion of renewable-energy-<u>ready</u> features
- Allow use of renewable energy features, beyond mandatory efficiency target, to earn special recognition
- Simply set a more stringent HERS index target, beyond ENERGY STAR, and recognize partners who hit this target through either efficiency or renewable energy features



# **Demand Management Features**







#### **Overview**

- Utility partners have historically valued energy savings.
- Increasingly, utilities are valuing demand savings.
- Is there a way to overlay a package of measures that reduce demand, to help meet utility goals?
- Need to:
  - Not compromise homeowners' experience.
  - Ensure that program does not become too complex
  - Be verifiable by the Rater through their normal workflow





## **Possible Demand Management Features**

- Very low SHGC windows
- Buried & encapsulated ducts / ducts in conditioned space
- Connected ENERGY STAR appliances
- Variable-capacity HVAC
- Energy storage
- A demand-management performance target





## **Summary**

- We're in no rush to launch Version 4.
- Lessons learned from Version 3 will make the transition more seamless.
- Key components we're thinking through include:
  - Efficiency features
  - Non-energy features
  - Renewable energy features
  - Demand management features





#### **ENERGY STAR Certified Homes**

#### Web:

Main: <a href="https://www.energystar.gov/newhomespartners">www.energystar.gov/newhomespartners</a>
Training: <a href="https://www.energystar.gov/newhomestraining">www.energystar.gov/newhomestraining</a>

HVAC Videos: www.energystar.gov/newhomesHVACvideos

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