

ENERGY STAR for New Homes Version 3 Pilot Study: Finding Effective Strategies for Raising the Bar

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Myth 1

- “It’ll cost too much and take too long”
- Not true!
 - Many requirements already met
 - Minimal additional time
 - Material costs lower than expected
 - Raters can find least-cost option

Myth 2

- “No design changes needed”
- Not true!
 - Conflicts with some Inspection Checklist items
 - Missed opportunity to find least-cost options
 - Missed opportunity to help crews succeed

Myth 3

- “Trades will figure it out”
- Not always true
 - May not see room for improvement
 - May not work together well
 - May lack skills
- Exceptions
 - Advanced framing
 - Load calculations

Downsides of Business-as-Usual

- Unexpected obstacles and errors add cost and time
- Missed opportunity to get full value from Rater
- Missed opportunity to partner with trades

Advice for Builders - Design

- Conduct gap analysis
 - 2009 IECC insulation levels
 - Thermal breaks
 - Mechanical ventilation
 - Duct design & installation
 - Testing & balancing
- Look broadly for options
- Integrate changes



Advice for Builders - Training

- Hold kickoff meetings
- Gold standard: In-field training with leave-behind guidance documents

Advice for Builders - Construction

- Have an accessible expert
- Find errors early
- Photograph all details
- Get Checklists to Rater promptly!

Advice for Raters

- Maximize *effective* use of builder self-verification
- Debrief for continuous improvement
- Consider expanding training services
- Use workshops to train and advocate

Advice for Program Sponsors

- If implementing Version 3:
 - Emphasize need for project planning
 - Engage & support trade allies
- If considering Version 3:
 - Check incremental cost data

Thank you!

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