

Illinois Home Performance Certificate of Completion Requirements

The Illinois Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program (IHP) has set specific requirements for homeowners to achieve recognition through the program. In order for a participant to receive the program's Certificate of Completion, which includes the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® logo and is recognized in the Northern Illinois multiple listing service (MLS), a specific process must be followed *and* a specific level of energy savings or performance metrics must be achieved. This is meant to protect the value and brand of IHP, the Certificate, and the ENERGY STAR logo and will further the goals of the program, namely to retrofit homes and save energy. Furthermore, holding participants to specific energy/performance metrics allows IHP to compare favorably with the well-known new home energy efficiency certifications such as LEED for Homes and ENERGY STAR Qualified New Homes.

In 2011, the Illinois Home Performance Steering Committee developed requirements for two levels of Certification in order to allow the program to both cast a wide net and encourage comprehensiveness in the retrofit components. The first tier (Silver) aligns with the U.S. Department of Energy's definition of a residential retrofit, which is currently utilized in the U.S. DOE Better Buildings Neighborhoods program. The higher tier (Gold) signifies exemplary performance, is intended to recognize homeowners who make outstanding efforts to increase the efficiency of their homes, and is accomplished through is a checklist of specific performance metrics.

These Certificate requirements establish minimum standards; individual IHP Program Providers may enforce more stringent participation requirements as deemed appropriate. To learn more about IHP call 1-866-395-1032 or visit us at www.illinoishomeperformance.org.

Eligible Homes

- Single-family home, townhome, or individual condo in a building of 4 or less units with heating and/or cooling equipment specific to the individual unit*
- A building of 4 or less units with shared heating and/or cooling equipment may also be eligible if the upgrade addresses the building as a whole*
- Building's original construction must be completed prior to audit (that is, the Certificate is only applicable to existing homes, not new construction)
- Home must be located in Illinois, in an area of the state that is covered by an active Program Provider. As of early 2014, this includes the service territories of Ameren Illinois, Nicor Gas, Energy Impact Illinois (Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas), the Delta Institute, the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association, and Corn Belt Energy.

* IHP Program Providers may target specific segments of these eligible housing types.

Basic Participation Requirements

In all instances, homeowners must follow the process outlined below:

- 1) Home energy assessment (aka energy audit)
 - a. Completed by a BPI Building Analyst and BPI Envelope (BPI BA+E) certified individual employed by an IHP Participating Contractor, the local IHP Program Provider, or a company representing them
 - b. Includes the following components, at a minimum:
 - i. Discussion with homeowner about their issues and needs;

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- ii. Comprehensive visual assessment of major home attributes and any identified deficiencies or issues (e.g. HVAC and insulation type and condition, moisture issues, etc.);
 - iii. Comprehensive combustion safety testing following BPI Building Analyst standard;
 - iv. Blower door testing if envelope improvements are to be completed, consistent with BPI Envelope standard; and
 - v. Development of prioritized list of improvements based on need and estimated cost-effectiveness following BPI Envelope standard
 - c. Results in a home energy assessment report, which is provided to the homeowner and includes an outline of findings, list of recommended improvements, and the accompanying predicted energy savings.
 - d. Assessment report may also include a U.S. DOE Home Energy Score, a 1-10 asset rating that compares the house's energy-related components to those in like homes
 - e. May be completed all at once or in phases, as long as the minimum components are all completed by qualified individual prior to completion of home energy upgrade (see (a) above).
- 2) Home energy upgrade (a.k.a. retrofit)
 - a. Overseen by a BPI BA+E certified individual employed by an IHP Participating Contractor
 - b. In all applicable instances, follows BPI BA+E standards
 - c. Results in a Silver or Gold IHP Certificate (see below)
 - d. In each instance, air sealing is performed consistent with BPI Envelope standard
- 3) Verification of work (a.k.a. test-out)
 - a. Completed by a BPI BA+E certified individual overseen by an IHP Participating Contractor
 - b. Includes a visual inspection of completed work
 - c. Includes blower door test when required by BPI Envelope standard
 - d. Includes combustion safety testing when changes to the envelope and/or heating system are completed during the upgrade, consistent with BPI Building Analyst standard
 - e. Results are documented and submitted to local IHP Program Provider in a format approved by that organization
 - f. Statewide Coordinator also reviews test-out report to determine which Certificate may be issued to the home
- 4) Homeowner agrees to participate in third-party quality assurance inspection program
 - a. Completed by BPI BA+E certified program representative
 - b. Serves as an additional verification point and added (free) benefit to the homeowner
 - c. Only a specified percentage of homes will receive the QA inspection; Participating Contractor's level of experience and history in the program will determine whether inspection is required, based upon IHP's transparent Quality Assurance tier system.

Earning the IHP Silver Certificate

- Retrofit achieves a minimum of **15% modeled total energy savings**, as compared to the baseline determined during the home energy assessment.*
- OR-
- Retrofit includes the following two components, at a minimum:
 - A. **Building infiltration rate:** 4 ACH50 –OR– 30% reduction below baseline. Must follow BPI Building Airflow Standard requirements and

B. **Attic insulation:** R-value increased to the level specified in the current state or local code, whichever is higher.

* When pursuing the modeled savings track, the post-retrofit modeled total energy use figure must be clearly stated in the test-out report and must reflect savings predicted from the actual installed improvements, not the improvement package recommended in the audit (if these two differ). The test-out report must include annual kWh and therms savings, % total savings, and total estimated \$ savings resulting from the retrofit.

Earning the IHP Gold Certificate

The following performance metrics must be met:

- Building infiltration rate:** 4 ACH50 –OR –30% reduction below baseline. Must follow BPI Building Airflow Standard requirements.
 - NOTE: If multiple IHP home improvement projects have been undertaken at a single residence, the air leakage rate baseline is determined by *first* IHP home energy assessment. This will ensure a homeowner is not penalized for completing some air sealing in their achievement of the Silver Certificate, should they later aim to achieve the Gold Certificate.

As well as four out of the five metrics listed below:

- Ducts:** When partially or fully outside the conditioned space, leakage rate is sum of supply and return leakage to outside divided by fan flow $\leq 10\%$ (see BPI Envelope standard, pg7) – OR – Ducts are fully inside the home's pressure boundary
- Wall insulation:** $R \geq 13$ in all perimeter walls
- Attic insulation:** R-value as specified in the current state or local code, whichever is higher.
- Basement/crawlspace insulation:** If unconditioned, floor insulation $R \geq 30$ –OR – If conditioned, wall insulation $R \geq 10$ continuous or $R \geq 13$ cavity; in either instance, must be installed with proper air sealing and venting so as to avoid moisture problems.
- Heating and cooling equipment:** ENERGY STAR qualified, subject to manufacturer installation specifications

IMPORTANT NOTE: When pursuing the IHP Gold Certificate, each of the required performance metrics must be clearly documented in the post-retrofit test-out report. IHP cannot make assumptions based on energy codes at the time of home construction; all metrics must be verified and documented. If you have questions about earning the IHP Gold Certificate, please call 1-866-395-1032.