



# 2015 Housing Innovation Awards Application Package

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) [Housing Innovation Awards](#) recognize the very best in innovation on the path to zero energy ready homes. There will be a number of **DOE Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) Housing Innovation Award Winners** selected for each of four categories: custom, production, multifamily, and affordable homes. One **DOE ZERH Grand Housing Innovation Award Winner** will be announced from among the winners in each of these categories at the Housing Innovation Awards ceremony. The 2015 ceremony will take place at the [EEBA Excellence in Building Conference & Expo](#) October 6-8, 2015, in Denver, Colorado.

Winners receive the following:

- Recognition at the Housing Innovation Awards ceremony.
- A framed certificate or all winners and a crystal trophy for grand winners presented at the award ceremony.
- Professional photographs of you or your company representative receiving the award from DOE.
- Recognition in a DOE press alert informing national media about the Housing Innovation Awards.
- Your own page on the DOE *Tour of Zero* a virtual home tour designed for homebuyers that will launch in June 2015.
- Listing on the DOE Housing Innovation Awards [webpage](#).
- Special recognition on the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home [partner locator](#).
- A customized case study highlighting your winning home that you can print or electronically share with sales staff and potential homebuyers. The case studies are available in your partner profiles on the locator as well as the Housing Innovation Awards and Building America websites.

**Which category best describes the DOE ZERH certified home you are submitting to the Housing Innovation Awards?**

**Custom** – this home was designed for a unique customer.

**Production** – this home was built using stock plans and is reproducible in large volumes.

**Multifamily** – this building has more than two units serving multiple homeowners.

**Affordable** – this home is constructed to achieve a price point making it affordable to households below the area's median income. Non-profits, government-affiliated organizations and for-profit builders are all eligible.



# 2015 Housing Innovation Awards

# INSTRUCTIONS

To enter the **DOE ZERH Housing Innovation Awards:**

1. Download and complete this application form and collect all of the required documents, photographs and floor plans.
2. [Log in](#) to your DOE Zero Energy Ready Home account, click on Housing Innovation Awards and upload the completed application and required documentation by **May 29, 2015**.
3. Winners will be notified by August 15, 2015. Winners will be presented awards and the grand winners will be announced at a ceremony held during the [EEBA Excellence in Building Conference & Expo](#) October 6-8, 2015, in Denver, Colorado.



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## REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- o Your completed **application form** (MS Word or PDF).

***TIP:** It is very important to complete each question in the application. Judges will reduce scores for incomplete information and may deem your application ineligible to participate.*

- o Your completed DOE ZERH [verification form](#) (PDF) **AND** your DOE ZERH [certificate](#) (PDF).

***TIP:** Your third-party verifier (e.g., registered HERS rater) will provide you with both documents printed from REMRate or other qualified software.*

- o A minimum of **10 photographs** (JPG 0.5 to 2 MB file size) showing finished elevations, finished interiors, and the home under construction with significant energy-efficiency details.

***TIP:** Good photographs from each of these categories will increase your chances of winning. The photographs will be used for case studies and the Tour of Zero.*

- o Your **floor plans** (JPG or PDF) for the submitted home.

***TIP:** Please send simple floor plans outlining the main spaces of the house. **Blueprints and construction specifications are not accepted.** The floor plans will be used in the Tour of Zero and should be easy for a homebuyer to understand.*

- o **Optional - Videos.** Videos are not required, but if you have videos, please include the YouTube or Vimeo link on the application form.

***TIP:** Videos do not serve as an application. The application must be completed in text for the judges to review. Videos you may want to include might be testimonials by homeowners or videos you use to market your homes.*

- o **Optional - Other Program Certifications.** Upload certificates (PDF) from other certification programs.

- o **Optional - Other attachments.** Upload other attachments you feel may strengthen your application; identify these attachments in your criteria narrative.

# ing Innovation Awards Application Form

**CATEGORY** (check one):  Custom  Production  Multifamily  Affordable

## **BUILDER COMPANY INFORMATION**

**Name:**

**City/State:**

**Phone:**

**Website:**

## **BUILDER CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Name:**

**Email:**

**Direct Phone:**

## **APPLICATION PREPARATION INFORMATION**

**Prepared by:**

**Date:**

**Email:**

**Direct Phone:**

## **THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATION INFORMATION**

**Contact name:**

**Company name**

**Contact email:**

**Contact phone:**

**Company website:**

## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Zero Energy Ready Home Path:**  Performance  Prescriptive

**Homeowner or Project Name:**

**Project Address:**

**Construction Completion Date:**

**Climate Zone** (1 thru 8):

**Local code equivalent** (check one):  2006 IECC  2009 IECC  2012 IECC  2015 IECC

Other:

**Conditioned square feet:**

**Number of Bedrooms:**  
**Number of Baths:**  
**Number of Floors:**  
**Finished basement:** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

**HERS Index**

Without photovoltaics:  
With photovoltaics (if applicable):

**Projected annual utility costs**

Without PV: \$  
With PV (if applicable): \$

**Projected annual utility savings compared to local code equivalent noted above**

Without PV: \$  
With PV (if applicable): \$

**Estimated added first cost over standard to-code construction**

Without PV: \$  
With PV (if applicable): \$

**Projected annual energy savings in kWh and therms or MMBtus (please specify):**

Without PV:  
With PV (if applicable):

**Optional Programs**

This home meets all of the requirements of the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home including ENERGY STAR Version 3.0 and the EPA's Indoor airPlus, plus the following certifications (*check all that apply and submit certifications (PDF) with nomination application*):

- EPA's WaterSense
- Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) Fortified Home
- DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Quality Management Guidelines
- PHIUS+
- LEED for Homes, level:
- NAHB National Green Building Standards (NGBS), level:
- Other:

## **YOUR STORY: CRITERIA NARRATIVE**

*Please tell us what makes your home interesting by addressing all six criteria below. Be sure to indicate any attachments that support the narrative and upload the links or documents. Please be considerate of the judges' time by providing clear and concise responses.*

1. **Performance.** Please describe the key features driving the performance of this DOE Zero Energy Ready Home and how they were integrated into a house-as-a-system package. Please address every bullet.
  - **Walls** (construction type; advanced framing details; insulation type, amount and R-value; type of sheathing; house wrap; drainage plane; siding):
  - **Roof** (material; extra air or water sealing measures; ENERGY STAR cool roof certified?):
  - **Attic** (insulation type, amount, R-value, and location; any extra air sealing details):
  - **Foundation** (type; insulation type, amount, R-value, and location):
  - **Windows** (# of panes, gas filled, frame type, low-e, U-value, SHGC):
  - **Air sealing** (air changes per hour at 50 Pa):
  - **Ventilation** (type; filter; timers):
  - **HVAC** (type; AFUE, SEER; duct type, location, sealing, and insulation):
  - **Hot water** (type and efficiency):
  - **Lighting** (% LED, % CFL; motion sensors; ENERGY STAR ceiling fans):
  - **ENERGY STAR appliances included:**
  - **Renewables** (kW of PV, solar water heating):
  - **Water conservation features:**
  - **Energy management system:**
  - **Other measures** (e.g., electric car charging station, low VOCs)
  - Strategies for addressing performance including **disaster resistance** and **solar readiness:**

2. **Land Development.** Describe any site issues addressed to locate a zero energy ready home on this property. Discuss topography constraints, solar orientation, site water runoff issues, and landscaping for water conservation.
3. **Design.** Describe the home's architectural style (e.g., traditional colonial, modern). Note how the home's design impacted the energy-efficiency and performance of the home. Include discussion of climate-specific design features, natural comfort factors, disaster resistance, sustainable materials, etc. Include ways that you have integrated energy/performance features into aesthetic or architectural design.
4. **Quality Construction.** What quality management practices did you employ to ensure minimum defects and waste while incorporating proven advanced technologies? *Examples: Pre-construction team meetings; comprehensive construction documents; quality management plan; training; etc.*
5. **Sales, Marketing and Consumer Education.** What marketing and sales solutions did you employ to address the energy efficiency and performance of this home? How do you communicate high performance to your buyers? If your buyers seek you out, discuss ways that your marketing or messaging creates the demand. *Examples: Sales training; displays; warranties; sales data comparisons to standard construction; tours; articles; homeowner's manuals; marketing techniques.*
6. **Business Metrics.** How did you measure the business results of your investment in zero net-energy ready homes? *Examples: Incremental cost of construction above code; time-to-sale; number of home buyer visitors; media coverage; customer satisfaction surveys; actual energy billing data.*

#### **BONUS: Homeowner Testimony and Actual Utility Bills.**

Has the house been occupied? If so, please ask the homeowner to provide testimony answering the following questions:

- What benefits do you see in owning a DOE Zero Energy Ready Home in terms of energy bills, comfort, health, durability, or ease of maintenance?
- What do you like about your DOE Zero Energy Ready Home?
- Would you recommend a DOE Zero Energy Ready Home to other homeowners?
- Do you have actual billing data (not modeled) that you can share with us?

#### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST**

I have uploaded the following:

- o Application form
- o DOE ZERH [verification form](#) and [certificate](#) (PDF).
- o A minimum of 10 photographs (JPG 0.5 to 2MB file size)

- o Floor plans (simple drawings as JPGs or PDFs)
- o Optional - videos
- o Optional - other program certifications
- o Optional - other attachments I have listed in the narrative.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

By submitting this application form and the required documentation including photographs and floor plans, I hereby give permission to DOE and its contractors to use the materials for press alerts, case studies, the Tour of Zero, the Housing Innovation Awards website and other DOE websites, articles, and promotions as appropriate.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5.5 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Office of the Chief Information Officer, Records Management Division, IM-23, Paperwork Reduction Project (1910-XXXX), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC, 20585-1290; and to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OIRA, Paperwork Reduction Project (1910-XXXX), Washington, DC 20503.