



# WHAT IS THE GREEN PATH HOME PERFORMANCE REPORT?

With today's energy codes, a newly built home in Minnesota is more efficient than ever. Add in advancements in building science plus new energy products, and you can be sure that all the new homes you'll find on the Parade of Homes will save energy dollars over virtually all older homes.

But there's one more step you can take to be sure – select a home that has been inspected by a certified Residential Energy Service Network (RESNET) energy rater. These experts do more than look “under the hood” of a new home. They make recommendations about helping builders save energy all the time, and when they're done, they input the data they've gathered into modeling software that produces a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index number.

**The HERS Index makes it easy to tell which homes are most energy efficient, so you don't need to dig into all the components (HVAC system, insulation, R values and more).**

That's what's at the heart of Minnesota's Green Path program. At the Energy Tested level, Green Path provides documentation – a Home Performance Report (HPR) – that displays the home's HERS index.

The HERS Index was created by RESNET in order to give homeowners and buyers a standard by which they could measure the energy efficiency of houses they currently

**MINNESOTA'S green PATH**  
EFFICIENT DURABLE HOMES  
**ENERGY TESTED**  
WWW.MNGREENPATH.ORG

Home Address:  
8101 Whitetail Lane  
Clear Lake, MN 55319

Square Feet: 1,837  
Bedrooms: 2

Builder:  
ABC Builder, Inc.  
abcbuilder.com

**HOME PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**HERS Index**  
**50**

130+ 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0  
AVG OLDER HOME      AVG NATIONAL NEW HOME      NET ZERO HOME

ACH50  
**1.48**

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0  
WORST      BEST

These results reflect Air Changes per Hour of measured air flow.

Rating Company: The Energy Network Worldwide  
Certificate Generated November 21, 2023

The RESNET Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index provides a comprehensive assessment of a home's energy efficiency. The lower a home's score, the better its energy efficiency. Older homes often score 130 or higher. The national average HERS Score for a new home is 58.

The Air Changes Per Hour at 50 Pascals (ACH50) is the index used in blower door testing to indicate how airtight a home is. As with HERS, the lower the score the more energy efficient the home.

Minnesota's Green Path is a program of Housing First Minnesota.

This home is a participant in Xcel Energy's Efficient New Home Construction Program, which promotes high efficiency home construction.

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Sample Home Performance Report

own or are planning to buy. You could say it is kind of like the home industry's version of the miles-per-gallon (MPG) rating that you find in the auto industry. The lower a home's HERS Index Score is, the better its efficiency.

**Created by Housing First Minnesota, MN Green Path is the leading energy efficiency and green building program for the residential construction industry in Minnesota.**

## THANK YOU 2024 SPONSORS



**ADVANCED & MASTER CERTIFIED HOME PERFORMANCE REPORTS**  
POWERED BY



## UNDERSTANDING THE HERS INDEX

A certified RESNET energy rater assesses the energy efficiency of a home, assigning it a relative performance score. The lower the number, the more energy efficient the home. The U.S. Department of Energy has determined that a typical resale home scores 130 on the HERS Index. The national average HERS score for a new home is 58.

For more information on Minnesota's Green Path, please visit [MNGreenPath.org](http://MNGreenPath.org)



## DESIGNATED GREEN PATH BUILDERS

Designated Green Path Builders commit to energy test a minimum of 75% of their new single-family homes and to attend annual training on green building. These builders are considered industry leaders in energy efficient residential home construction.

Find a current list of participating builders at [MNGreenPath.org](http://MNGreenPath.org)

## MINNESOTA'S GREEN PATH DESIGNATION LEVELS

Housing First Minnesota's Green Path program offers three green certification levels: Energy Tested, Advanced, and Master.

### LEVEL 1: MN GREEN PATH ENERGY TESTED

The first level of MN's Green Path. These homes have been tested and rated by a third-party, independent RESNET Rater.

- Project is tested by a RESNET Certified Rater and receives a HERS Index
- Built to Minnesota's Energy Code
- Project is issued a Minnesota Green Path Energy Tested HPR
- Builder is a Housing First Minnesota member

### LEVEL 2: MN GREEN PATH ADVANCED CERTIFIED

This mid-level green certification means a home has met a minimal energy testing standard plus includes additional green features.

- Project is tested by a RESNET Certified Rater and receives a HERS Index <47
- Built to Minnesota's Energy Code; Builder confirms energy certified requirements, PLUS:
  - 5 points in Energy Efficiency
  - 5 points in Indoor Environmental Quality
  - 5 total points from Water Conservation, Resource Management, or Site Development
- 5 total points from any of the five categories
- Project is issued a Minnesota Green Path Advanced Certified HPR

### LEVEL 3: MN GREEN PATH MASTER CERTIFIED

This top-level green certification means a home has met a high energy testing standard plus includes additional green features.

- Project is tested by a RESNET Certified Rater and receives a HERS Index <45
- Built to Minnesota's Energy Code; Builder confirms energy certified requirements, PLUS:
  - 10 points in Energy Efficiency
  - 10 points in Indoor Environmental Quality
  - 10 points in Water Conservation
  - 10 total points in Resource Management
  - 10 total points in Site Development
- Project is issued a Minnesota Green Path Master Certified Home Performance Report

## GLOSSARY

**ACH50:** The Air Changes Per Hour at 50 Pascals (ACH50) is the index used in blower door testing to indicate how airtight a home is. As with HERS, the lower the score, the more energy efficient the home.

**BTU (British Thermal Unit):** A unit used to measure quantity of heat defined as the quantity of energy necessary to raise the temperature of 1 lb. of water 1° Fahrenheit.

**BLOWER DOOR TEST:** This tool helps determine the air-tightness of new and existing homes using a fan to maintain a pre-set level of depressurization in the structure.

**BUILDING ENVELOPE:** The assembly of exterior partitions of a building that enclose conditioned spaces, through which energy may be transferred to or from the exterior, unconditioned spaces, or the ground.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR:** An employee of local or state government building department whose responsibilities reviewing building plans and/or inspecting building sites to determine whether or not they meet existing health, safety, and/or energy codes.

**CONDITIONED AREA/SPACE:** The portion of the building that is heated and/or cooled.

**HERS (Home Energy Rating System):** This RESNET Home Energy Rating System scores homes against an index of the average U.S. new home's energy efficiency HERS of 100. The lower the score, the more energy efficient the home. The national average HERS score for a new home is 58.

**HPR (Home Performance Report):** An easy-to-understand document that serves as the energy "window sticker" for a home, allowing homebuyers to compare home energy scores in the same manner as they would compare miles-per-gallon information when they buy a new car.

**INFILTRATION:** The uncontrolled inward leakage of air through cracks and gaps in the building envelope, especially around windows and doors.

**R-VALUE:** A unit of thermal resistance used for comparing insulating values of different materials. The higher the R-Value of a material, the greater its insulating properties and the slower the heat flows through it.

**RESNET (Residential Energy Services Network):** An independent, non-profit organization that sets national standards for energy ratings, ensuring accuracy and consistency.

**RESNET RATERS:** Certified professionals that conduct on-site inspections and energy tests, including a final blower door test, at a new home's completion.

**THERMAL ENVELOPE:** The building's exterior shell—walls, foundation, floors, ceiling, windows, doors, and roof.

**UNCONDITIONED SPACE:** A space that is neither directly nor indirectly conditioned space, which can be isolated from conditioned space by partitions and/or closable doors.