

Zero Energy Ready Home Newsletter

May 2017

DOE Zero Energy Ready Homes Updates Specs to Rev06

On April 20, 2017 the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) program released update [Rev.06 of the program requirements](#). The updates consist of clarifications and a few provisions expanding ZERH program eligibility for multifamily buildings. This update does not increase stringency of any provisions. Highlights include the following:

- Multifamily buildings up to five stories are eligible to be part of ZERH program, and they may use central heating, cooling, and/or hot water systems. The updated eligibility provisions are consistent with recent updates in the ENERGY STAR Certified Homes program, and the provisions recognize the growing interest in high performance multifamily projects.
- There is an air infiltration target of 3 air changes per hour at 50 pascals (ACH50) for attached dwellings across all climate zones. Previously, attached dwellings did not have a distinct ACH50 target from detached units.
- There are efficient hot water distribution system provisions specific to central hot water systems.

The Rev.06 specs must be used for homes permitted on or after July 20, 2017, and they may also be used for projects currently underway. For more information, please visit the [DOE Zero Energy Ready Home website](#).

Housing Innovation Awards Applications Are Now Open!

The 2017 Housing Innovation Awards (HIA) season is officially underway! Applications are available on the [HIA website](#). The deadline for this year's applications is June 15, 2017, so start working on them now!

The 2017 awards will feature winners in five separate categories: Affordable Homes; Custom Homes for Buyer; Custom Homes on Spec; Multi-Family Homes; and Production Homes. Below is a description of each of the five categories. If

you have any questions about which category to enter, please contact us and we will help guide you toward the right category.

- **Custom Buyer:** *Custom home built for a specific buyer*
- **Custom Spec:** *Custom home builder on an individual scale, rather than production scale, to be sold on speculation, rather than pre-ordered by a buyer*
- **Production:** *Homes intended to be reproduced using standard approaches and plans*
- **Multi-Family:** *A building with two or more units serving multiple homeowners/rental groups*
- **Affordable:** *A home built to an affordable price point*

One Grand Award winner will be chosen from each of the five categories. The Grand Awards will not be announced until the HIA ceremony at the Energy & Environmental Building Alliance's Excellence in Building Conference in Atlanta, GA, from October 10-12.

In case you missed our two webinar presentations on applying for the awards, or just want a refresher as you fill out your application, a copy of the presentation is now [available here](#). This webinar will walk you through the application process and give you several insightful tips and successful strategies when applying for the awards. HIA applications for award-winning homes will be used to populate our [Tour of Zero](#), so it is in your best interest to submit a complete and detailed application.

If you have any questions related to the application process or the Housing Innovation Awards in general, please don't hesitate to contact us at zero@newportpartnersllc.com or call 301-889-0017.

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