



Residential New Homes Pilot Program**

Primary Objectives

- Support the integration of energy efficient technologies and advanced building practices in non-natural gas heated, residential new construction and gut-rehab single-family and multi-family (2+ units) buildings, by providing Home Energy Ratings (HERS Index) and financial incentives to offset the incremental costs associated with these practices.
- Test and evaluate the process, from lead generation implementation, to inform future refinements of the program that can be applied to Ipswich Municipal Light Department (IMLD) and more broadly, to other MMWEC member municipalities.

Program Summary/ Design

IMLD will take a measured approach to implementing the Residential New Homes pilot program in Ipswich. The program will be modeled after the Residential New Construction initiatives currently offered through the utility-sponsored Mass_Save program, and are designed to capture projects that would not be eligible to participate in the Mass_Save program (i.e. homes without natural gas heating). The program consists of the following process:

- **Application:** Customers complete and submit an application form that includes applicant contact information and project/site information. There is no up-front cost to the customer for submitting an application or initiating the process. The total cost of the HERS analysis and rating is paid for through the program, however if more than the two standard site visits (required by the program) are needed, the additional costs will be incurred by the customer (discussed in more detail below).
- **Preliminary Review:** Once an application is received, the project will be entered into a program tracking database and submitted to our program ally, GDS Associates, Inc., who will conduct the technical reviews, site visits, and home energy rating necessary to achieve performance-based incentives. Customers submit building plans and specifications directly to GDS Associates for review. GDS reviews the plans and specifications and provides guidance on potential improvements or techniques that will help the home achieve desired optimal energy efficiency levels and program-incentives. Homes with cooling systems must be right-sized and a copy of the heat loss calculations provided to GDS for verification.
- **Site Visits:** The certification process involves a minimum of two site visits conducted by the HERS rater. The first must occur after the insulation is installed but before drywall; at this point, the Rater will inspect the home to verify compliance with sections 2 and 4 of the EPA's ENERGY STAR® for Homes V3 (Rev.08) Rater Field Checklist. At this time the rater will also verify that the home has in place a method of whole house ventilation to provide for good indoor air quality. The second required site visit occurs when the house is complete, but before the certificate of occupancy is issued, and will include diagnostic testing to assess the tightness of the building's thermal envelope and any ducted air systems for heating or cooling. The results of these tests may also be used to support compliance with the state and local energy code requirements.
- **Final HERS Report and HERS Certificate:** Once the Rater has conducted the final inspection and collected all the necessary input data, a final home energy rating analysis and report will be issued utilizing an industry standard energy modeling software. If the home meets the threshold savings tier for Residential New Homes incentives, a certificate indicating the homes HERS index will be provided and submitted to the program coordinator for rebate processing
- **Rebates:** Once the home or unit has been certified as ENERGY STAR the HERS Rater will submit the Final Report to IMLD along with an identification of the incentives earned through the program. Rebates will be issued by MMWEC, on behalf of IMLD, directly to the applicant.

** Incentives and Program Delivery are subject to change as the process is evaluated and refined



<p>Target Market</p>	<p>All residential new construction and gut-rehab projects in single-family and multi-family (2+ units) buildings (three stories or less) in the Ipswich service territory with other than natural gas heating.</p>
<p>Marketing Approach</p>	<p>Throughout the term of the program, customer participation levels will be closely monitored to ensure program targets are met and incentive expenditures are on track with those budgeted. Marketing efforts will be adjusted as required throughout the term of the program to allow IMLD to realize its participation target goals.</p>
<p>Technical Assistance Services Offered</p>	<p>IMLD's pre-selected RESNET-certified (HERS Rater) will provide technical assistance and guidance regarding best practices for achieving the required energy savings for Residential New Homes program incentives. Technical assistance may include guidance on energy efficient building science and advanced construction techniques, options for high efficiency heating and cooling systems, or choices of energy efficient appliances and may vary on a project-by-project basis. HERS Raters may also provide recommendations for incremental improvements that could help applicants meet the higher standards of the EPA's ENERGY STAR® for Homes Certification & Tier III level rebates.</p>
<p>Target End Uses</p>	<p>IMLD's Residential New Homes program is a whole-building approach that addresses all areas of energy use in the home. Examples of targeted end uses include building envelope, proper construction and air sealing of ductwork, building insulation, high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment, energy-efficient lighting, energy efficient water heating, improved indoor air quality, and ENERGY STAR qualified appliances (refrigerators and dishwashers)</p>
<p>Financial Incentives</p>	<p>New residential homes that meet the criteria are eligible to receive incentives based on the level (Tier) of savings achieved upon project completion, according to the following schedule:</p> <p>Tier I* (15% improvement or better over the Massachusetts baseline home): 1 Single-Family - \$750 1 Multi-Family - \$650</p> <p>Tier II* (30% improvement or better over the Massachusetts baseline home): 1 Single-Family - \$1,250 1 Multi-Family – \$1,150</p> <p>Tier III (45% improvement of better over the Massachusetts baseline home): 1 Single-Family - \$4,500</p> <p>Additionally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program participating homes are eligible to receive no-cost LED's lamps supplied by IMLD in the amount of four/100 sq. ft. (not to exceed 100). • <u>ALL</u> residential customers, new and existing homes, are eligible to receive incentives for the installation of energy efficient appliances and equipment through the HELPS program. Please visit www.muniHELPS.org for eligible equipment and application forms.
<p>Delivery Mechanism</p>	<p>Installation of measures may be conducted by qualified contractors with whom the customer has an existing relationship. Energy audits will be conducted by a pre-selected engineering firm (a RESNET-certified HERS Rater) with whom IMLD has a standing relationship.</p>

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