

Missouri Home Energy Certification Program

Frequently Asked Questions for Homeowners

2/2015

Q1: What is the Missouri Home Energy Certification Program?



The Missouri Home Energy Certification (MHEC) program, a program of the Missouri Division of Energy, is designed to provide for a voluntary approach to promote energy efficient homes through a clear and meaningful recognition program. The criteria for recognition have been determined by working with interested and affected parties. Many of the existing energy programs have been taken into account regarding all aspects of home energy use and how they can tie together to recognize a home's energy efficiency.

Q2: How may a home qualify?

An eligible home can achieve one of two levels of certification under this program: Gold level or Silver level.

There are two ways to achieve Gold certification. The first relies on existing rating systems, such as the United States Department of Energy (DOE) Home Energy Score (HEScore), Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index, and Columbia Water & Light's Efficiency Score (CWL Efficiency Score), to set the threshold for efficiency. The second approach recognizes homes that have installed significant assets to the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (2012 IECC) level.

For silver certificates, homes will be recognized for significant energy efficiency improvements or for completing a majority of the cost-effective energy efficiency measures identified in an energy audit. The approach will be measured using the HEScore, HERS Index, CWL Efficiency Score, or as modeled by an approved software program. To earn the silver certificate, homeowners must have participated in an approved Missouri program or received an energy audit.

Q3: Why should my home achieve a MHEC certification?

By achieving certification, it implies a certain level of savings, efficiency, and performance. MHEC recognizes national best practices and by making the information available to the Multiple Listing Service (MLS), used by the National Association of Realtors®, certification could add value toward the home's sale or purchase. The program recognizes the most energy efficient Missouri homes in a simple and clear manner and provides appropriate value signals on the worth of efficient homes to Missouri homeowners and the real estate industry.

Q4: Which types of homes are eligible under this program?

An application may be submitted for any new or existing single-family home, excluding manufactured housing in Missouri.

Q5: How much does it cost to apply?

There is no cost for the application itself. There may, however, be costs involved in a home energy audit and/or energy efficiency retrofits and the cost will vary depending on the home and the retrofits being implemented. It shall be noted that eligible taxpayers may take advantage of Missouri personal income tax deduction for those costs incurred from qualified home energy audits and the implementation of energy efficiency recommendations made by the audit, up to \$1,000 for an individual and up to \$2,000 per year for filing a joint return (Form MO-HEA).

Q6: How do I apply?

Applications can be submitted ONLY by a Certified Home Energy Auditor (HEA) who is currently certified by the Missouri Division of Energy. In order to achieve a certification, interested homeowners should work with a certified auditor.

Q7: How do I find a Certified Home Energy Auditor in my area?

A certified HEA in your area may be found by using the following link:

ded.mo.gov/asp/energy/auditors.htm.

Q8: What does the certificate look like?

Samples of Gold and Silver certificates may be found on MHEC's program website:

energy.mo.gov/energy/mhec.

Q9: How long will the review process take and how can I check the application status?

Depending on the volume of applications we receive, we expect to be able to provide a response within two weeks of receipt of the application. While a homeowner cannot check the application status, the HEA who helps submit the application will be able to check the status anytime through the MHEC online application system.

Q10: How do I know if my home has qualified for certification?

The homeowner will be contacted via email regarding a decision on the qualification for certification. If the home qualifies, the email will include an electronic copy of the certificate. A hard copy will not be mailed to you.

Q11: What are the penalties for falsified information?

This program is made available through the DOE's State Energy Program. As such, there are stringent penalties associated with any fraudulent activity. Should this occur, the department will notify the appropriate federal and state authorities. Penalties under this program may be monetary or even include jail time if convicted. The culpable party may also be suspended from further participation in MHEC and other department programs.

For more information, contact:

Missouri Department of Economic Development

Division of Energy

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