

New Home Construction Program

Rater Trade Ally Participation Agreement



Together We Can Help Customers Save Energy and Money!

Consumers Energy offers a portfolio of programs that promote energy efficiency, incorporating both rebates and energy education. The residential Consumers Energy New Home Construction program offers financial incentives to participating Trade Allies for achieving ENERGY STAR® certification or a HERS Index Score of 56 or lower in eligible new homes.

Raters interested in participating in the residential Consumers Energy New Home Construction Rebate program must complete this Trade Ally Participation Agreement.

Getting Started

To participate in this program, raters have to follow these steps:

1. Obtain a RESNET® Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Rater certification.
2. Submit this Trade Ally Participation Agreement. You will only need to do this once.
3. Submit rebate applications on behalf of your participating builders. Applications must be submitted online; the following supporting documentation must be uploaded by the rater:
 - An Ekotrope or REM/Rate file for each registered home.
 - A PDF of registered home plans, upon request.

Important:

The information completed in the “Rater Information” section of the Trade Ally Participation Agreement will be the information included in the Trade Ally Directory. By signing this Trade Ally Agreement, you are agreeing that you have been trained on the program. Trade Allies will be removed from the program for non-compliance.

Trade Ally Participation Terms and Conditions

This Trade Ally Participation Agreement is between the listed Trade Ally and Consumers Energy. This agreement defines the terms under which the Trade Ally agrees to participate in the New Home Construction program.

Home Eligibility

Homes must have a residential account in the Consumers Energy electric, natural gas or combination (natural gas and electric) service territory as evidenced by the city/town, ZIP code and ultimately a Consumers Energy meter number.

Qualifying structures include:

- Site-built single-family residential homes.
- Modular homes.
- Detached condominiums.
- Townhomes — defined as a single-family dwelling unit constructed in a group of three or more attached units in which each unit extends from the foundation to roof and with open space on at least two sides.
- Connected housing with individual meters for natural gas and/or electricity, individual heat and domestic hot water equipment, and individual entrances to each unit. Additionally, the connected housing must be four units or fewer.
 - Condominiums, apartments, duplexes, flats, row houses, cooperatives.
- Manufactured homes are not eligible.

Financial Incentives

All homes must meet ENERGY STAR requirements to be eligible for the ENERGY STAR rebate, or meet a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index score of 56 or lower. After that prerequisite is met, participating builders are eligible for a performance incentive based on the fuel that Consumers Energy provides the home. Up to date rebate incentive structure is available on ConsumersEnergyTradeAlly.com

Consumers Energy Agrees to Offer the Following:

- Information sessions for participating Trade Allies on program procedures, requirements and qualifying equipment specifications.
- Rebates to eligible Builder Trade Allies as filed with the Michigan Public Service Commission (and as funds are available).

Through a Consumers Energy sponsored website, consumersenergyeed.com, Trade Allies can have their company name and certain information linked to an approved website directory (“Web Directory”) of residential raters. This is subject to the terms and conditions herein. Therefore, in consideration of the mutual promises contained and the mutual benefit to be obtained, the parties agree as follows:

- Trade Allies’ contact information will be placed on the participating Trade Ally list on the Consumers Energy New Home Construction program website for builders once the Trade Ally Participation Agreement is complete.
- Under no circumstance or legal theory, whether as a result of a breach of contract, warranty or tort (including negligence, strict liability or otherwise), will Consumers Energy be liable to any Trade Allies for any indirect, special, consequential, punitive or exemplary damages. License, insurance and bonding shall remain the sole responsibility of the Trade Allies.

- The relationship between Consumers Energy and the Trade Ally shall be that of owner and independent contractor, and all Trade Allies agree that nothing shall operate to change or alter such relationship. Trade Allies shall have no actual or apparent authority to bind, represent or work on behalf of Consumers Energy and may not represent or imply such authority through word or use of any Consumers Energy logo, trademark or service mark (including logos, trademarks or service marks of Consumers Energy’s parent or affiliates).
- Trade Allies shall comply with all applicable laws and codes. Failure of any Trade Ally to comply with applicable laws, codes or Consumers Energy guidelines or any failure to resolve customer concerns may (in the sole discretion of Consumers Energy) lead to such Trade Ally’s removal from the program.

Trade Ally status does not imply a utility endorsement of the raters in any way; rather, it simply provides a way to identify those raters who have completed the required program training and are committed to perform HERS ratings and submit applications on behalf of their builders, as well as actively promote the program.

Trade Ally Agrees to Perform the Following:

- Follow all directives as outlined in the Trade Ally Participation Agreement.
- Hold and maintain required licenses and insurance coverage while participating in the program.
- Verify all qualifying equipment for which incentives are provided in a professional manner, consistent with industry standards and in accordance with all applicable building codes, zoning laws, local, state and federal requirements and other relevant requirements.
- Certify that the Consumers Energy New Home Construction program assistance is the only way that the builder can afford to increase the efficiency of each home submitted for a rebate. The builder must increase the efficiency of participating homes above and beyond what would have taken place without the support of the Consumers Energy New Home Construction program.
- Maintain and retain accurate business records relating to the rating of qualifying equipment according to customary industry practice for at least one year following home completion.
- Rater may not use the Consumers Energy New Home Construction program promotional materials (including the Consumers Energy logo) without the express written consent of Consumers Energy.
- Hold a RESNET approved HERS Rater certification to provide testing and certification of program homes. Certification must be in good standing.
- Consumers Energy reserves the right to verify the completion of homes for the requested incentive, as well as other applicable program requirements. Rater consents to any other inquiry to verify or confirm information provided in this program Application or otherwise provided under the program.

Confidentiality Agreement

All information, including invoicing data to Consumers Energy, will be kept confidential within the Consumers Energy New Home Construction program and will only be used in aggregate form, as required, by the Michigan Public Service Commission and for associated evaluation, measurement and verification purposes.

Rater Information

Company Name:		
RESNET ID #:		
Office Address:		City:
State:	ZIP:	Primary Contact Name:
Phone:		Fax:
Email (primary program contact):		

Additional Rater Information

Name of Additional Energy Rater:	
RESNET ID #:	Email:

Provider Information

Company Name:		
RESNET ID #:		
Address:		Email:
State:	ZIP:	Primary Contact Name:
Phone:	Fax:	Email:
QA Designee Name:	QA Designee Phone:	QA Designee Email:

Trade Ally Signature

Trade Ally has read, understood and agreed to all the definitions, terms and conditions that are a part of this Trade Ally Participation Agreement and the referenced New Home Construction Rebate Application form.

By signing below, Trade Ally agrees: (1) It has been trained on the program and will offer the program to its customers; (2) Consumers Energy reserves the right to end Trade Ally participation in this program at any time; (3) It does not have any unresolved or outstanding complaints before the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs or any other applicable regulatory agency, or a pattern of outstanding litigation that involves their work; and (4) It shall indemnify and hold harmless Consumers Energy from and against losses, liabilities, expenses, attorney fees, damages and injury to persons (including death) arising out of or in any manner connected with its participation in this program.

Trade Allies found in violation of any of the terms of the agreement and/or policies and procedures will be subject to removal or restricted program participation.

Company Representative

Printed Name:	
Title:	
Signature:	Date:

**Please email this agreement to
CENewHomes@icf.com**

For questions, please contact:

866-234-0445
CENewHomes@icf.com
ConsumersEnergy.com/builder

For more information about the **Consumers Energy New Home Construction Rebate program**, visit **ConsumersEnergyTradeAlly.com**