

Residential Stretch Code

Massachusetts Energy Code Technical **Support Program**





Who Is Mass Save®?



- Mass Save[®] is an initiative sponsored by Massachusetts' gas and electric utilities and energy efficiency service providers, including
 - The Berkshire Gas Company
 - Blackstone Gas Company
 - Cape Light Compact
 - Columbia Gas of Massachusetts
 - Eversource Energy
 - Liberty Utilities
 - National Grid
 - Unitil
- · The Sponsors of Mass Save work closely with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources to provide a wide range of services, incentives, trainings, and information promoting energy efficiency that help residents and businesses manage energy use and related costs.





BLACKSTONE

















Presented by: **Performance Systems Development**



Residential Stretch Code

Massachusetts Energy Code Technical Support Program





Agenda



- **Green Communities Act**
- Massachusetts Stretch Code Purpose
- Changes to Strech Code
- Pathways to Compliance
- Stretch Code and Existing Building



Green Communities Act of 2009





Green Communities Act

- Passed by the MA Legislature and signed into law in 2009
- Requires the Program Administrators to submit EE plans every
 3 years must be approved by the Dept. of Public Utilities
- Requires adoption of the International Energy Conservation Code and subsequent updating to the latest version within 1 year of its publication
- Created the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council of DOER
- Created the Green Communities Program
 - Provides \$10 million per year statewide in technical and financial help to municipalities to promote energy efficiency and the financing, siting and construction of renewable and alternative energy facilities.
 - Municipalities must adopt the Stretch Energy Code and meet a variety of other energy efficiency policies.

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STRETCH CODE: PURPOSE

Stretch Code Purpose

Energy Code Technical Support Program

What do the MA amendments say?

MA Amendment Appendix AA

Purpose and Adoption (AA101)

 The purpose of the stretch energy code is to provide a more energy efficient code alternative for new buildings. The stretch energy code maybe adopted or rescinded by any municipality in the commonwealth in the manner prescribed by law.

Applicability (AA102)

Municipalities that have adopted the stretch energy code shall use the energy
efficiency requirements of this appendix as provided below. These
requirements replace all previous stretch energy code requirements.

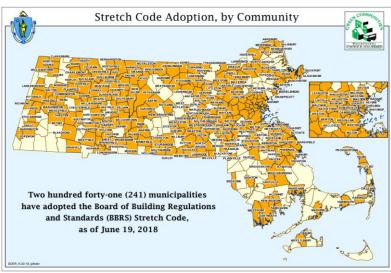
R-use Buildings (AA103.1)

 In all R-use buildings, of four stories or less above grade plane with one or more dwelling units, each dwelling unit shall comply with section R406

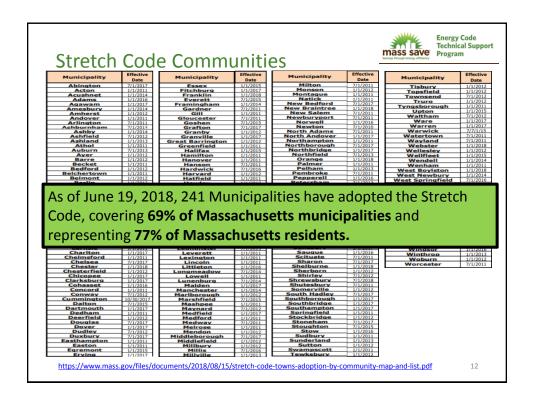
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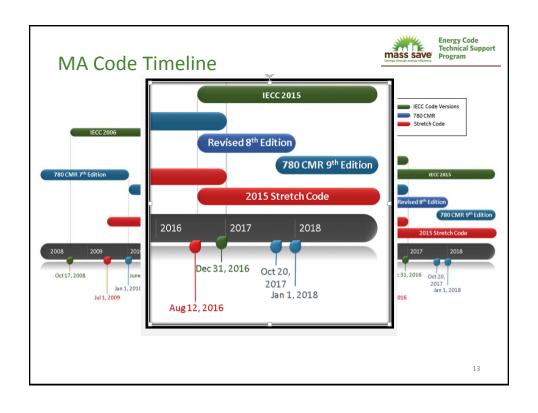
Stretch Code Communities





https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/08/15/stretch-code-towns-adoption-by-community-map-and-list.pdf







STRETCH CODE: CHANGES

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What has changed?

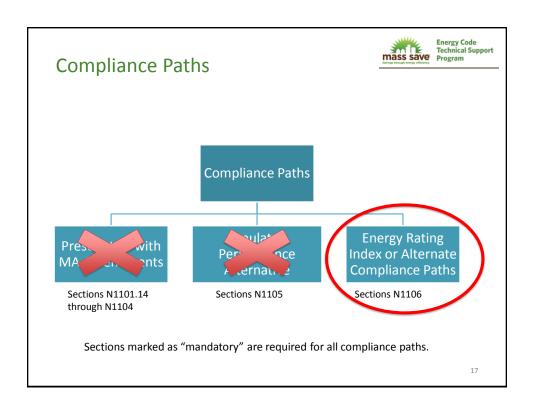


Simplified for 9th Edition

| lition nts for New Construction s or less) | 9th Edition Stretch Code for New Construction (4 stories or less) |
|--|--|
| Maximum HERS score | Maximum HERS Score of 55 for New Construction (can be higher if renewables are installed) |
| 65 | Passive House Institute US (PHIUS) Approved Software |
| 70 | ENERGY STAR Homes v3.1 Path |
| h Energy Star Thermal ction Checklist | Must also comply with Mandatory Air leakage requirements of IECC 2015 and Table R402.4.1.1 |
| | Maximum HERS score 65 70 h Energy Star Thermal |



STRETCH CODE: PATHWAY TO COMPLIANCE



Stretch Code

Mandatory Provisions



Projects shall comply with all Sections marked "Mandatory":

- Certificate (R401.3)
- Air leakage (R402.4)
- Maximum fenestration U-factor and SHGC area-weighted average (402.5)
- Systems (R403) (Controls, Heat pump/boiler controls, Duct sealing, Duct testing, No building cavities as returns, Pipe insulation, Service Water Heating, Ventilation, Equipment sizing, Snow & ice melt systems, Pools, Portable spas)
- Lighting Equipment (R404.1 & R404.1.1)

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Stretch Code Compliance Options



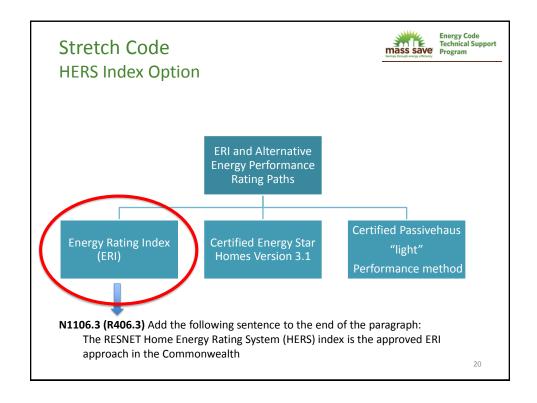
"light"

Performance method

Rating Paths Certified Passivehaus Energy Rating Index Certified Energy Star Homes Version 3.1

N1106.3 (R406.3) Add the following sentence to the end of the paragraph: The RESNET Home Energy Rating System (HERS) index is the approved ERI approach in the Commonwealth

ERI and Alternative **Energy Performance**







What Is a HERS Rating?

- A home energy rating is an in-depth energy performance assessment of a home
- Consists of:
 - Inspections (pre-drywall and final)
 - Diagnostic testing including:
 - Blower door test
 - Duct leakage test
 - · Combustion safety analysis
 - Infrared cameras (sometimes)
 - Software modeling

Source: http://www.resnet.us/energy-rating

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What Is a HERS Rating?

- Software modeling includes:
 - Floors over unconditioned spaces (like garages or cellars)
 - Attics, foundations and crawlspaces
 - Windows and doors, vents and ductwork
 - Water heating system and thermostats
 - The comprehensive HERS rating provides:
 - A computerized simulation analysis utilizing RESNET Accredited Rating Software to calculate a rating score on the HERS Index.
 - A cost/benefit analysis for the recommended improvements and expected return on investment.

Source: http://www.resnet.us/energy-rating

Approved HERS Rating Modeling Tools



Ekotrope, V1.9.0, V2.1 V2.2, V3.0 & 3.1

Ekotrope 50 Congress St. Suite 1025 Boston, MA 02109 Phone: 617.453.8043 Fax: 617.401.3645 Email: cy@ekotrope.com

Website: <u>ekotrope.com</u> Contact: Cy Kilbourn, Director of Engineering Date of Expiration: December 31, 2018

EnergyGauge® USA Version 4.0, 5.1, 6.0 & 6.1

Florida Solar Energy Center 1679 Clearlake Road Cocoa, FL 32922-5703 Phone: 321.638.1437 Fax: 407.638.1010

Email: <u>tkucharski@fsec.ucf.edu</u>
Website: <u>www.energygauge.com/usares</u>
Contact: Tei Kucharski

Date of Expiration: December 31, 2018

REM/Rate v14.6.4, v15.2, v15.3, v15.4, v15.5, v15.6 &15.7

NORESCO 2540 Frontier Avenue Suite 100 Boulder, CO 80301 Phone: 303.459.7414 Email: bchristensen@noresco.com

Website: www.remrate.com Contact: Brian Christensen

Date of Expiration: December 31, 2018

Right-Energy HERS

Wrightsoft Corporation 131 Haetwell Ave. Lexington, MA 02421 Phone: 781.862.8719 Fax: 781.861.2058

Email: <u>ecroteau@wrightsoft.com</u> Website: <u>www.wrightsoft.com</u>

Contact: Ethan Croteau, Right-Energy Project

Director

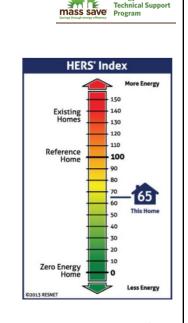
Date of Expiration: December 31, 2018

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Energy Code

What Is the HERS Index

- The lower the number, the more energy efficient the home.
- Data from HERS Rating compared against a 'reference home'
 - Reference home: A design modeled home of the same size and shape as the actual home, based on a home built in 2006
- A home with a HERS Index Score of 55 is 45% more energy efficient than a standard new home
- Index developed by the Residential Energy Services Network and introduced in 2006
 - Industry standard by which a home's energy efficiency is measured.
 - Government agencies such as the Department of Energy (DOE),
 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the
 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognize the HERS Index as an official verification of energy performance.



Source: http://www.resnet.us/energy-rating



Who Conducts a HERS Rating?

- All HERS Ratings must be conducted by a Certified HERS Rater
 - A Certified rater completes RESNET Rater training provided by a RESNET certified organization. They are trained on:
 - · Building science principles
 - Blower door & duct leakage testing procedures
 - · Other on-site inspection processes
 - All HERS Raters must be affiliated with a HERS Quality Assurance Provider

Source: http://www.resnet.us/energy-rating

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HERS Rating Quality Assurance



- Rater candidates must accurately complete five probationary ratings overseen by a RESNET Candidate Field Assessor
 - 3 of the 5 must include field verification completed in the presences of the Assessor
- Once certified
 - 10% of all homes rated must receive a file review by a certified RESNET Quality Assurance Designee
 - 1% of all homes rated must receive an in-field review
- RESNET performs annual audits of HERS QA Provider
- HERS Rater Code of Ethics, Rating Standards of Practice, and Compliance Complaint Resolution Process

Source: http://www.resnet.us/energy-rating





Northeast HERS Alliance

http://nehers.org/find-hers-rater



RESNET 'Find a Contractor' directory:

http://www.resnet.us/directory/search



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Renewable Energy Offsets



N1106.4 (R406.4) ERI-based Compliance.
Compliance based on an ERI analysis requires
that the rated design be shown to have an ERI
less than or equal to the appropriate value
listed in Table N1106.4 (R406.4) when
compared to the ERI reference design prior to
credit for onsite renewable electric
generation.

HERS Index Renewable Offset Summary



- 1. Solar photovoltaic array ≥ 2.5 kW
- 2. Renewable primary heating systems
 - · Clean biomass heating system
 - Solar thermal array
 - · Geothermal heat pump

Offset 5 HERS points

- Solar domestic hot water and biomass stoves
 - Solar thermal array for domestic water heating
 - Clean biomass stove

Offset 2 HERS points

Clean Biomass stove offset cannot be combined with primary heating system offset.

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HERS Index Clean Biomass Systems



- CLEAN BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM. Wood-pellet fired central boiler and furnace with a thermal efficiency of at least 80% and ≤ 0.15 lb/MMBtu particulate matter emissions. (5 HERS points)
- **CLEAN BIOMASS STOVE.** Wood- or pellet-fired stoves that are EPA certified; and have a particulate matter emissions rating of no more than 3.5 g/hr for non-catalytic wood and pellet stoves; or 2.0 g/hr for catalytic wood and pellet stoves. (2 HERS points)

HERS Index



Max HERS Index with Onsite Renewable Energy Systems

The building should have a HERS score less than or equal to the score listed in the table **prior to** credit for onsite renewable electric generation.

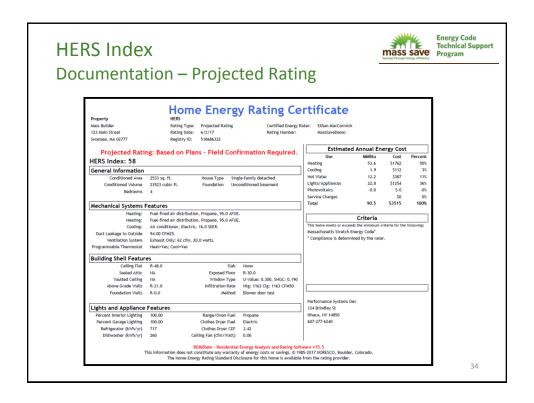
| Table R406.4.1 (N1106.4.1): Max. HERS index with onsite renewable energy systems | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Renewable Energy Source | Maximum HERS Index | | | |
| | New Construction | Whole House Renovations; Additions | | |
| None | 55 | 65 | | |
| 1 Renewable System: Solar PV > 2.5 kW, or Renewable primary heating system | 60 | 70 | | |
| 2 Renewable Systems: Solar PV + Solar thermal DHW, or Renewable primary heating + solar thermal DHW | 62 | 72 | | |
| 3 Renewable Systems: Solar PV + Renewable primary heating + solar thermal DHW | 67 | 77 | | |
| | | 32 | | |

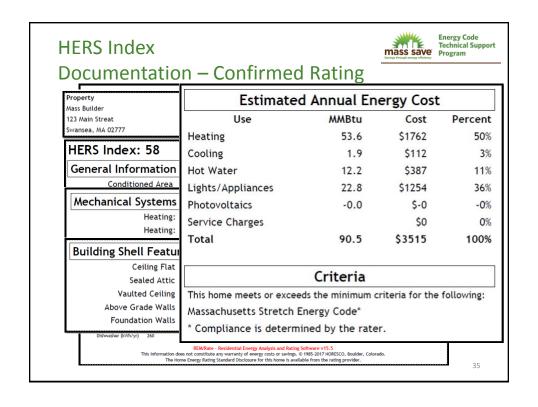
HERS Index Documentation

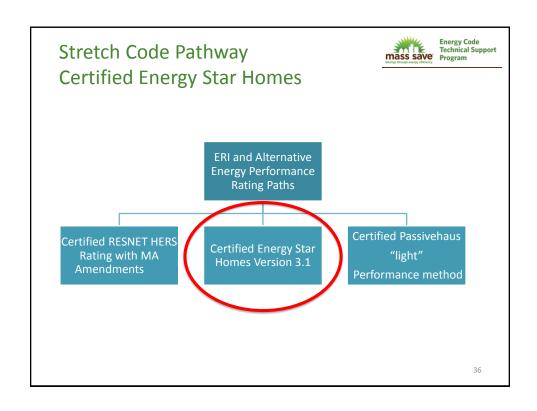


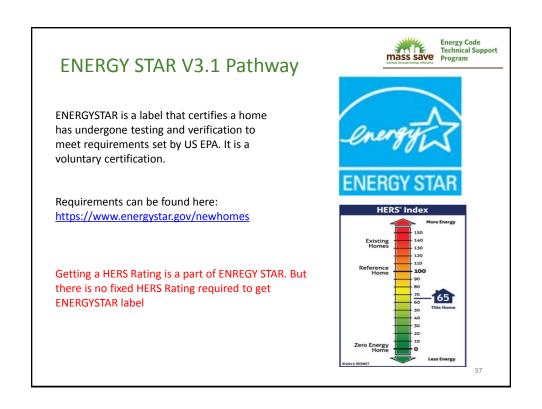
IECC Section R406.6: Some of the documentation requirements are:

- Building identification
- Checklist documenting building characteristics of the rated building
- Name of the individual performing the analysis
- Compliance tool/software used with version
- The code official can also ask for ERI reference building design characteristics & documentation of actual values used in the software calculations for proposed design.









ENERGY STAR V3.1 Pathway

- Homes achieve this level of performance through a complete package of building science measures including:
- A Complete Thermal Enclosure System Comprehensive air sealing, properly installed insulation, and high-performance windows work together to enhance comfort, improve durability, reduce maintenance costs, and lower monthly utility bills.
- A Complete Heating and Cooling System High-efficiency systems that are engineered and installed to deliver more comfort, better moisture control, improved indoor air quality, and quieter operation.
- A Complete Water Management System A comprehensive package of best building practices and materials protects roofs, walls and foundations from water damage, provides added protection, and reduces the risk of indoor air quality problems.
- Energy-Efficient Lighting and Appliances ENERGY STAR qualified lighting, appliances, and fans are commonly installed throughout ENERGY STAR certified homes, helping to reduce monthly utility bills, while providing high-quality performance.

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ENERGY STAR V3.1 Pathway



- More detailed verification of efficiency measures: The inspection checklists allow for a high level
 of verification that provide sponsors with greater assurance that efficiency measures are being
 properly installed and that ENERGY STAR certified homes meet performance and quality
 expectations.
 - The Thermal Enclosure checklist helps ensure that there are no thermal defects.
 - The HVAC Quality Installation checklists helps ensure that HVAC systems are installed using industry best practices and perform at rated efficiencies.
 - The Water Management builder checklist helps ensure roofs, walls, and foundations are fully protected from water intrusion.
- Greater savings per home: ENERGY STAR certified homes are approximately 20% more efficient
 than homes built to the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Further, the size
 adjustment factor ensures that larger homes include additional energy efficiency measures to
 account for their added size.
- More definitive savings: Demand and peak savings will be much more reliable with every certified
 home due to greater rigor of the Reference Design and mandatory checklists. As a result, there will
 be less opportunity for builders to omit important energy efficiency improvements, and utilities can
 more confidently quantify the specific savings associated with ENERGY STAR certified homes.
- Leverage nationally recognized ENERGY STAR name: ENERGY STAR makes it easy for homebuyers
 to select energy-efficient homes with its high consumer brand recognition. Efficiency programs
 based on ENERGY STAR benefit from this level of awareness and builder partners also benefit from
 being able to leverage ENERGY STAR for effective differentiation from the resale market.

ENERGY STAR V3.1 Pathway Documentation



N1106.1.2 (R406.1.2) Documentation.

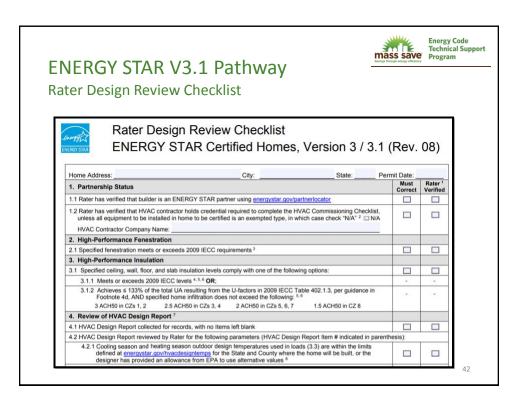
- Prior to issuance of the permit:
 - Copy of preliminary HERS rating based on plans
- Prior to issuance of CO:
 - Copy of Final ENERGY STAR Homes certificate
 - Copy of certified HERS rating
 - Copy of signed ENERGY STAR Thermal Enclosure System Checklist
- Verification by Approved Agency: Certified HERS Rater

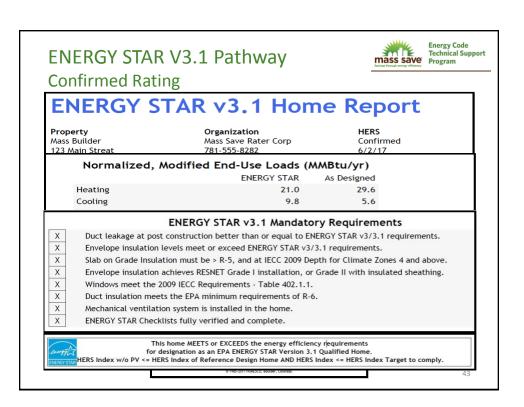
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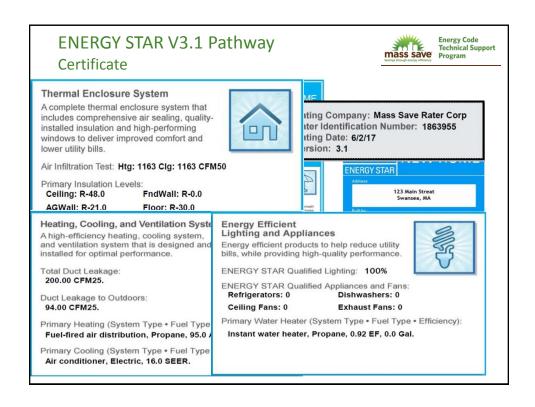
ENERGY STAR V3.1 Pathway Projected Rating



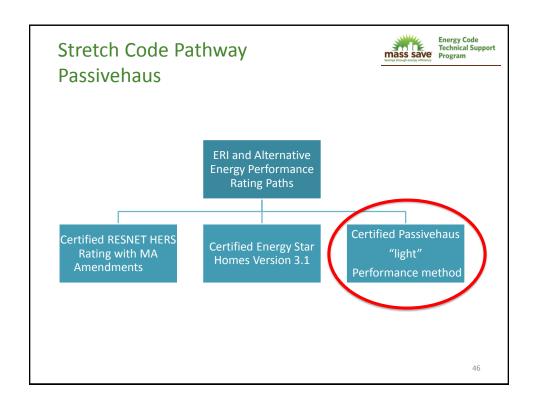








| iter Field Checklist | | | |
|---|---------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Rater Field Checklist | | | |
| ENERGY STAR Certified Homes, Version 3 / 3 | 1 (Re | 30 .vs | 3) |
| HVAC System 30 (HVAC Design Report Item # indicated in parenthesis) | Must | Rater | N/A ³ |
| 5. Heating & Cooling Equipment | Correct | Verified ² | |
| 5.1 HVAC manufacturer & model number on installed equipment matches either of the following (check box): 31 | | | - |
| ☐ HVAC Design Report (4.3, 4.4, & 4.17) ☐ Written approval received from designer | 100 | 100 - 100 | |
| 5.2 External static pressure measured by Rater at contractor-provided test locations and documented below: 32 | | | |
| Return-Side External Static Pressure:IWC Supply-Side External Static Pressure:IW | | | |
| 5.3 Permitted, but not required: HVAC Commissioning Checklist collected, with no items left blank | | | |
| 3. Duct Quality Installation - Applies to Heating, Cooling, Ventilation, Exhaust, & Pressure Balancing Ducts, | | ted in Foo | tnote |
| 6.1 Ductwork installed without kinks, sharp bends, compressions, or excessive coiled flexible ductwork 33 | | | |
| 5.2 Bedrooms pressure-balanced using any combination of transfer grills, jump ducts, dedicated return ducts, and / or undercut doors to achieve a Rater-measured pressure differential ≤ 3 Pa with respect to the main body of the house when all bedroom doors are closed and all air handlers are operating. See Footnote 34 for alternative. ³⁴ | | | - |
| 3.3 All supply and return ducts in unconditioned space, including connections to trunk ducts, are insulated to ≥ R-6 3t | | | |
| 3.4 Rater-measured total duct leakage meets one of the following two options. See Footnote 37 for alternative: 36,37, | 18 | | |
| 6.4.1 Rough-in: The greater of ≤ 4 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA or ≤ 40 CFM, with air handler & all ducts, building cavities used as ducts, & duct boots installed. In addition, <u>all</u> duct boots sealed to finished surface, Rater-verified at final. ³⁹ | | | |
| 6.4.2 Final: The greater of ≤ 8 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA or ≤ 80 CFM, with the air handler & all ducts, building cavities used as ducts, duct boots, & register grilles atop the finished surface (e.g., drywall, floor) installed 40 | | | |
| 6.5 Rater-measured duct leakage to outdoors the greater of ≤ 4 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA or ≤ 40 CFM25 ^{36, 38, 41} | | | |
| 7. Whole-House Mechanical Ventilation System | | | |
| 7.1 Rater-measured ventilation rate is within either ± 15 CFM or ±15% of design value (2.3) 42 | | | - |
| 7.2 A readily-accessible ventilation override control installed and also labeled if its function is not obvious (e.g., a lab | el 🖂 | | |



Passive House Pathway



- Passive House is a rigorous voluntary certification standard that results in ultra-low energy buildings
- Builders/owners may choose PHIUS or PHI
- PHIUS is an American
 offshoot of the German PHI





Passive House Pathway

What is Passive House?

- MA Stretch Code does NOT require certification (although this might change)
- Specific Space Heat Demand should be less than 10 kBtu/sq ft/year
- Extremely air-tight, superinsulated homes
- Modeled using software packages specially tailored for Passive House
- Modeling must be performed by a Certified Passive House Consultant







Taking the Passive House route to show compliance is rare.

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Passive House Pathway Documentation



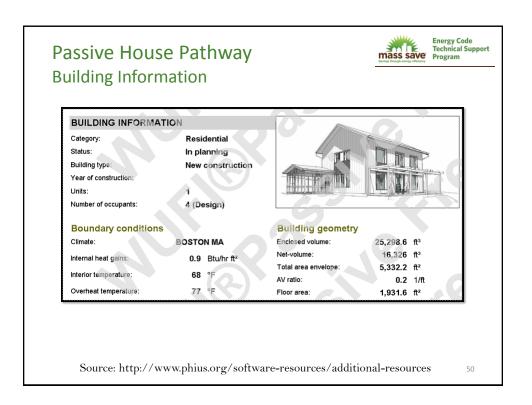
Prior to issuance of the permit:

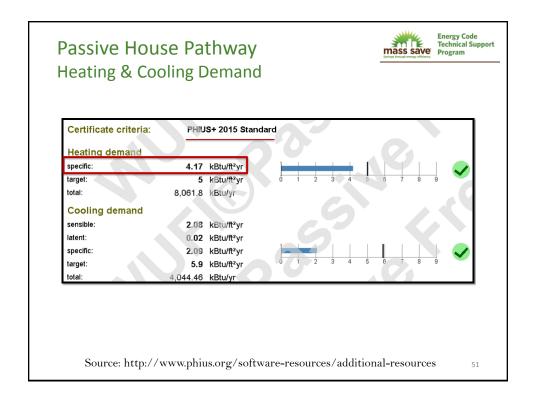
- List of compliance features
- A statement that the Estimated Specific Space Heat Demand is "based on plans"

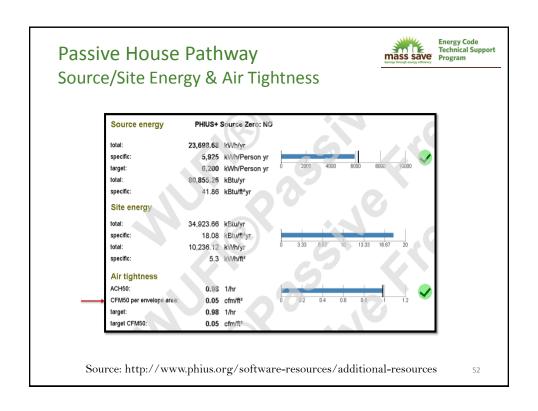
Prior to issuance of CO:

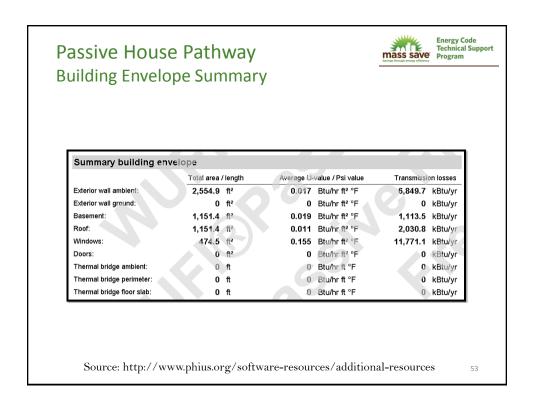
- Copy of final report, submitted on a form that is approved to document compliance with current PHIUS or PHI standards
 - The report should indicate that the finished building achieves a certified passive house consultant-verified Specific Space Heat Demand less than or equal to 10 kBtu/sq ft/year

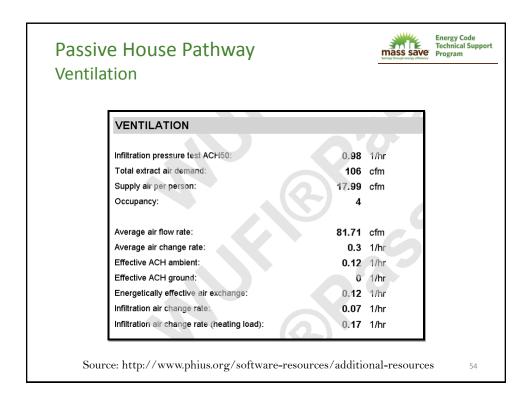
Verification by Approved Agency: Certified Passive House Consultant

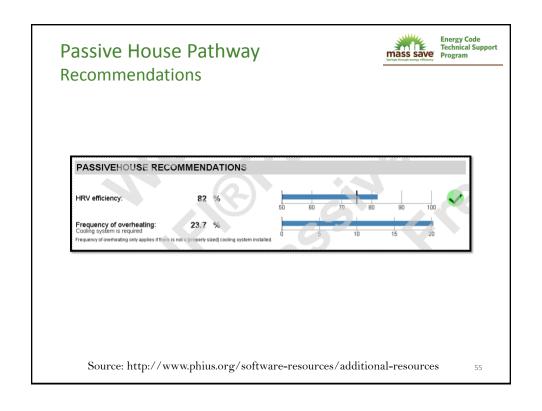














STRETCH CODE: EXISTING & OTHER BUILDINGS

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Stretch Code & Other Buildings



AA103.2 Large Area and High Energy Use Buildings

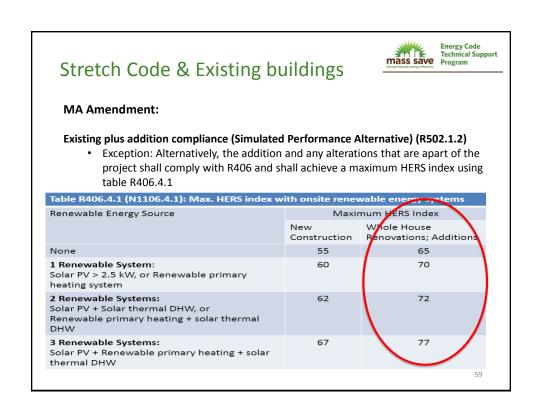
All buildings over 100,000 ft² and new supermarkets, laboratories and conditioned warehouses over 40,000 ft² shall comply with 780 CMR 13.00 and shall demonstrate energy use per ft² at least 10% below the energy requirements of ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA 90.1 APPENDIX G Performance Rating Method on either a site or source energy basis.

AA103.3 Other New Buildings

New buildings not covered in AA103.1 and AA103.2 shall comply with 780 CMR 13.00 or Chapter 11 of 780 CMR 51.00: Massachusetts Residential Code as applicable based on the use and occupancy of the building

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Energy Code Technical Support mass save Program Stretch Code & Existing buildings **AA104 Existing Buildings** For alterations, renovations, additions, or repairs of existing buildings in these municipalities the energy efficiency requirements of 780 CMR 12.00 or chapter 11 of 780 CMR 51.00: Massachusetts Residential Code shall be used as applicable based on the use and occupancy of the building **Compliance Paths Energy Rating** Simulated Prescriptive with Performance Index or Alternate MA Amendments **Compliance Paths** Alternative Sections marked as "mandatory" are required for all compliance paths.





Summary

- The purpose of the stretch energy code is to provide a more energy efficient code alternative for new buildings
- Three pathways to compliance under the stretch code:
 - HERS Rater
 - ENERGY STAR HOME v3.1
 - Passive House "light"
- Using HERs Rater pathway a maximum HERS Score of 55 for New Construction (can be higher if renewables are installed)
- Stretch code does not apply to Existing Buildings
 - 780 CMR 12.00 or chapter 11 of 780 CMR 51.00: Massachusetts Residential Code apply

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Energy Code Support



Questions about the energy code?

Energy Code Support Hotline:

855-757-9717

Energy Code Support Email:

energycodesma@psdconsulting.com







Field Guides for Code Officials and Builders/Trades at:

SuccessWithEnergyCode.com

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Residential New Construction



Incentives for energy efficient building and renovating

Low-Rise New Construction

- Performance Path based upon Electric and Fuel savings, plus a % adder as compared to MA baseline – incentives up to \$10,000
- High-Rise New Construction and all Master Metered Natural Gas
 - Incentives based upon modeling by Program Manager

Incentives also offered for existing buildings. Visit www.MassSave.com for the details.

Residential New Construction – Incentives



Blended Savings Approach (BSA)

| Single Family BSA Incentive Calculation | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| | | |
| Α | Electric Savings * \$0.35 / kWh | |
| В | Fuel Savings * \$35 / MMBtu | |
| С | Percent Savings * \$3,000 | |
| Participant | | |
| Incentive | A +B +C | |
| | | |
| Rater | | |
| Incentive | \$350 | |

| Multifamily BSA Incentive Calculation | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| А | Electric Savings * \$0.35 / kWh | |
| В | Fuel Savings * \$35 / MMBtu | |
| С | Percent Savings * \$2,000 | |
| Participant Incentive | A +B +C | |
| Rater Incentive | \$100 | |

Details at:

www.masssave.com/en/saving/residential-rebates/new-construction

