

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

# BLUEPRINT

EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY DIVISION

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## [Get Involved in Energy Upgrade California](#)

Energy Upgrade California is a new one-stop-shop website that helps property owners adopt energy and water efficiency improvements and renewable energy installations across California. These improvements and installations reduce energy and water use, decrease greenhouse gas emissions and waste, create jobs, and stimulate local economies. The program, an unprecedented partnership among federal, state, and local government agencies, utilities, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions, connects property owners with Energy Upgrade Participating Contractors who assess, plan, and complete projects, and help property owners receive rebates and incentives. Energy Upgrade California is expected to upgrade more than 100,000 homes in California and create more than 18,000 construction and manufacturing jobs, while reducing energy and water use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Initially for single-family residences, the program will be expanded over the next year to include multi-family and commercial properties. The program consists of Basic and Advanced Upgrade Packages, which provide straightforward upgrade

options that qualify for rebates. Basic Upgrade focuses on sealing a home to eliminate leaks that waste heating and cooling energy. There is a fixed rebate of \$1,000 available for completing all seven basic measures; this package results in an average 10 percent energy savings. The Advanced Upgrade is a customized energy efficiency solution for the whole house. It begins with an energy assessment to establish a baseline, then the property owner, with help from an Energy Upgrade Participating Contractor, selects a combination of upgrade measures. Confirmed energy savings of 15 to 40 percent qualify for a rebate of \$1,250 to more than \$4,000, depending on location and utility provider. The more energy you save, the higher the rebate.

[www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org](http://www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org), which launched March 1, 2011, provides easy-to-use tools and resources for property owners to contact a Participating Contractor to assess which efficiency measures will yield the highest energy savings. Sign up for Energy Upgrade California e-updates at [https://energyupgradeca.org/statewide\\_email\\_updates](https://energyupgradeca.org/statewide_email_updates) to receive newsletters and updates as they become available.

Contractors

Contractors are key to the success of Energy Upgrade California. This program is an opportunity for local contractors to expand their skills and build new business. It offers tangible benefits for building professionals, including training in the latest home performance standards, listing in an online contractor directory, connection to clients looking for services, marketing support, and outreach materials. To participate in the program, you must be licensed by the Contractors State License Board, be certified by the Building Performance Institute, and participate in program orientation and training.

For more information on how to become an Energy Upgrade California Participating Contractor, visit [https://energyupgradeca.org/statewide\\_for\\_contractors](https://energyupgradeca.org/statewide_for_contractors).

Property Owners

Energy Upgrade California is a great opportunity to save money on energy bills, increase occupant comfort, help the environment, and create jobs. For more information, visit [www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org](http://www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org) and enter your county to find local rebates and contractors.

**energy upgrade™ CALIFORNIA**

Energy Upgrade California is your one-stop-shop for home improvement projects that lower your energy use, conserve water and natural resources, and make your home healthier and more comfortable.

Use this website to:

- Plan your upgrade projects
- Locate participating contractors
- Find rebates and incentives

**Reduce** energy use.  
**Save** money.  
**Create** jobs.

**Why Upgrade Now?**  
 Learn about the benefits of an Energy Upgrade [Go >](#)

**Get Started!**  
 Enter your county name to find local rebates and contractors [Go >](#)

**Upgrade Updates** [Subscribe](#)

**Go Green, Get Green**  
 Using eco-friendly materials like recycled content insulation helps conserve resources and can increase the value of your home.

**Meet the Sanchez Family**  
 The Sanchez family is aiming for 35% energy savings—resulting in a more comfortable home that may reduce their bills. [View more >](#)

[Find out more](#) [For contractors](#) [Sign up for e-updates](#) [News](#) [Events](#)

## Guidance for Enforcement Agencies Regarding Approval Procedure for Weigh-In Method

Without an approved alternative procedure to verify refrigerant charge when temperatures are below 55°F, there have been reports of HERS raters conducting verification of refrigerant charge using an unapproved method to close permits due to pressure by contractors. In other cases, some enforcement agencies are issuing final building permits on the condition provided in RA 2.4.4 (quoted below). There doesn't appear to be a formalized process to ensure that the HERS rater provides the verification required by the *2008 Building Energy Efficiency Standards* after the final building permit has been issued. The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the HERS rater has been contracted to complete the verification process when outdoor temperatures are 55°F or above and the building permit was approved conditionally.

From RA 2.4.4:

*If necessary to avoid delay of approval of dwelling units completed when outside temperatures are below 55°F, the enforcement agency may approve compliance credit for refrigerant charge and airflow measurement when installers have used the alternate charging and airflow measurement procedure described in Section RA3.2. This approval will be on the condition that installers provide a signed agreement to the builder with a copy to the enforcement agencies to return to correct refrigerant charge and airflow if the HERS rater determines at a later time when the outside temperature is above 55°F that correction is necessary.*

When the Alternate Charge Measurement Procedure (weigh-in method) is used for refrigerant charge measurement due to outdoor temperatures being

below 55°F, the enforcement agency may finalize the CF-6R on the condition that the installer provides a signed agreement to the builder or homeowner with a copy to the enforcement agency to return to correct refrigerant charge and airflow if the HERS rater determines that correction is necessary (per RA 2.4.4). The enforcement agency should verify a written agreement is in place between the installer and a certified HERS rater, which documents that the HERS rater will measure the refrigerant charge using the Standard Charge Measurement Procedure when outdoor temperatures are 55°F or above and complete and register the required compliance documentation.

This written agreement should be signed by both the installer and the HERS rater and contain the project address and homeowner's/builder's name, the HERS rater's and Installer's names, and specify how the HERS rater will be paid for performing the verification.

This agreement should be submitted to the enforcement agency instead of a CF-4R before the final permit for the project is issued. Therefore, in cases where the Alternate Charge Measurement Procedure is used for refrigerant charge measurement, the enforcement agency may final the permit after receiving the CF-1R, CF-6R, and the written agreement between the HERS rater and installer detailed above. No CF-4R will be required at that time, but the HERS rater will provide the registered CF-4R to the homeowner when the verification is complete and the CF-4R is registered.

For questions or clarification, contact the Energy Commission's Building Standards Hotline at (800) 772-3300 or [title24@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:title24@energy.state.ca.us).

## Attention Energy Professionals: The California Energy Commission Is Hiring!

The California Energy Commission is testing and hiring for several professional-level positions. Please visit the Energy Commission's careers page at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/careers/index.html> to find out about the exam and hiring process and view openings.

### *Building Energy Efficiency Standards Training*

Please visit the Energy Commission's **Online Learning Center** at [www.title24learning.com](http://www.title24learning.com)

For training offered by utilities and others, please visit the following websites:

**Pacific Gas and Electric Company**

[www.pge.com/mybusiness/edusafety/training/pec/classes/](http://www.pge.com/mybusiness/edusafety/training/pec/classes/)

**Southern California Gas Company**

<http://seminars.socalgas.com>

**San Diego Gas & Electric Company**

<http://seminars.sdge.com>

**Southern California Edison**

[www.sce.com/b-sb/energy-centers/workshops-classes.htm](http://www.sce.com/b-sb/energy-centers/workshops-classes.htm)

**Sacramento Municipal Utility District**

[www.smud.org/en/education-safety/](http://www.smud.org/en/education-safety/)

**California Building Officials**

[www.calbo.org](http://www.calbo.org)

**California Association of Building Energy Consultants**

[http://cabec.org/cepe2008standardsinfo\\_2010.php](http://cabec.org/cepe2008standardsinfo_2010.php)



**Flex Your Power News**

[www.fypower.org/news](http://www.fypower.org/news)



[www.gosolarcalifornia.org](http://www.gosolarcalifornia.org)

Jerry Brown  
*Governor*



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## BLUEPRINT

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**Need Help?**

**Energy Standards Hotline**

(800) 772-3300 (toll-free in California),  
(916) 654-5106, or [title24@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:title24@energy.state.ca.us)