Nebraska's Residential Energy Code

Requirements and Best Practices

Nebraska Energy Code Training Program

Instructor: Matt Belcher

May, 2022:

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About MEEA

- MEEA is a nonprofit membership organization with 160+ members, including:
  - Utilities
  - Research institutions
  - State and local governments
  - Energy efficiency-related businesses
- MEEA helps stakeholders understand and implement cost-effective energy efficiency strategies

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About the Nebraska Training Program

- Goal: prepare the Nebraska workforce for upcoming changes in construction best practices
  - Residential and Commercial Energy Code
  - Building Science
  - Practical Solutions

- Focused on providing training to builders, code officials, design professionals, public officials and students

- For more information, visit: https://www.mwalliance.org/nebraska-energy-codes-training-program

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About Matt/Verdatek Solutions

- 40+ Years in the Building Industry
- Served as a Top Building Codes official in the St. Louis area.
-Director of University of Missouri Columbia High Perrformance Buildings Research Center. Created and Instructed Curriculum for Students and Industry Professionals.
- Currently Assisting University of Missouri Science & Technology in Building and Energy Code Curriculum and Policy
-ICC Member serving on 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2024 Energy Code Development Committee. 2021 Building Code-General Committee
- NAHB Approved Instructor for Advanced Building Science, Advanced Business Managment

Training Objectives

- What is the 2018 Energy Code?
- Inside the Energy Code:
  - Building Envelope
  - Interior Comfort/Health
  - Remodeling/Rehab
  - Local Application/Amendments

- '21 Code → '24 National Standard
- Marketing Energy Efficient/High Performance Buildings

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What is the 2018 IECC?

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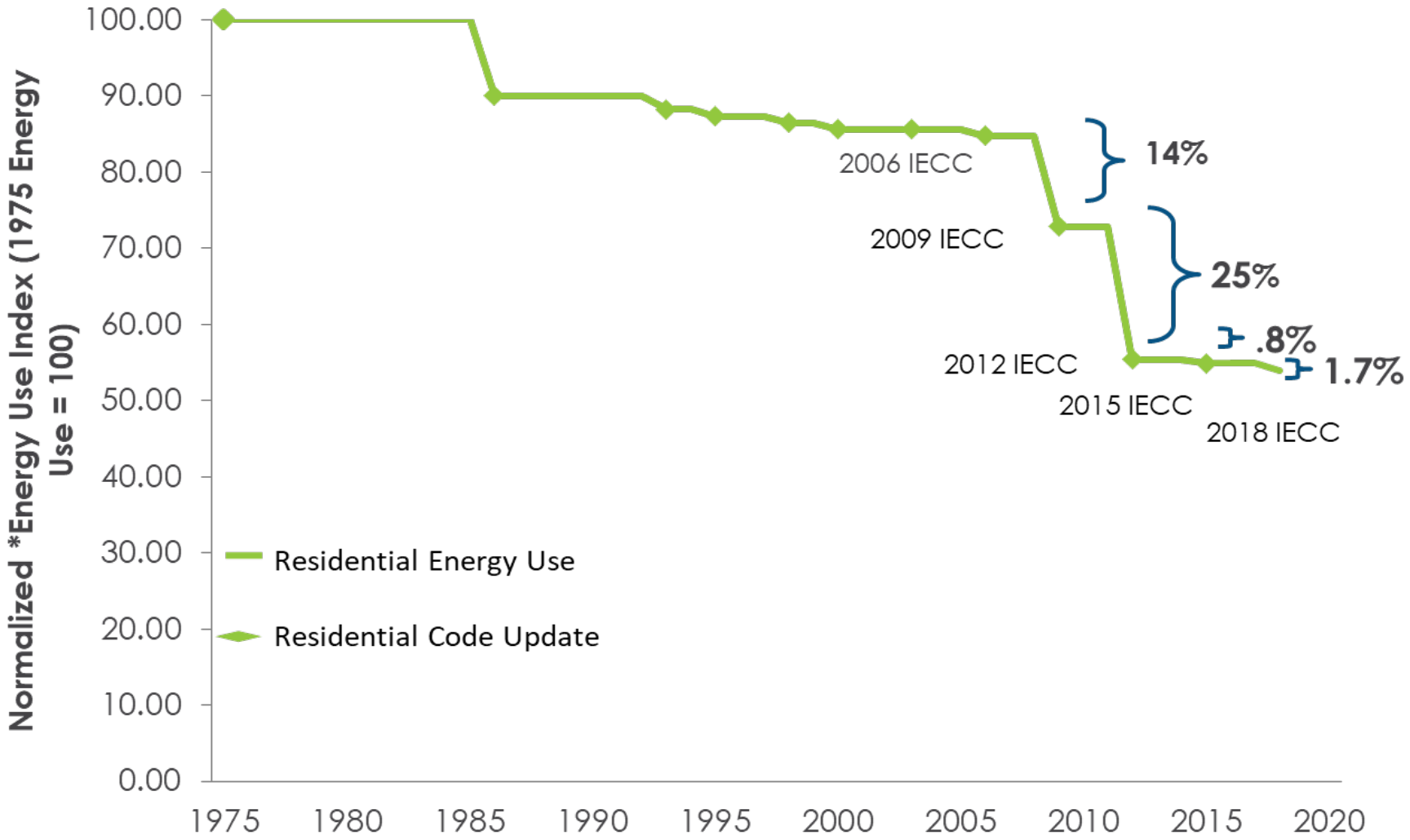
Model Energy Code Efficiency



* Energy Use Index: National average energy use by building type and size.

Source: MEEA based on PNNL Analysis

Nebraska Residential Field Study

- Conducted in 2017 by **Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.** 2009 IECC was the baseline.
- Collected and analyzed several data points for new homes, including:
  - Envelope air leakage
  - Efficacy in lighting
  - Duct leakage
  - Ceiling & exterior wall insulation
  - Basement & slab insulation
  - Windows

For More Information and Data:

https://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Nebraska_Residential_Compliance_Evaluation_final.pdf

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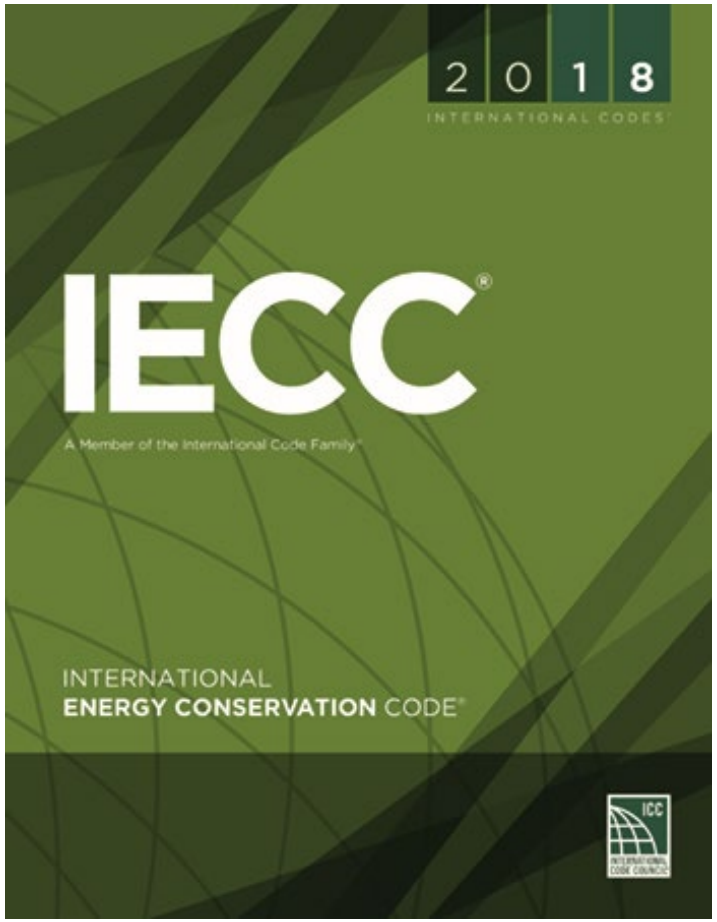
So, What's Changed since 2009?



2018 IECC / IRC Section 11

- Creates a Residential Energy Code separate from the Commercial Energy Code
- Adds testing and verification requirements
- Promotes Innovation through Energy Ratings Index (ERI)
  - Uses a HERS-type index as an "equivalent" for residential applications
  - Mandatory requirements still apply

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2018 IECC Mandatory Requirements

Energy Certificate

- Energy Certificate located on circuit breaker box includes key energy efficiency measures and is signed by the builder

Air Sealing

- All holes between floors and through exterior walls/ceilings have been sealed in **accordance with table R402.4.1.1**
- Building or dwelling unit is **tested to verify air leakage rate of ≤ 3 Air Changes per Hour (ACH)**
- Building or dwelling unit must have continuous air barrier installed

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2018 IECC Mandatory Requirements

Ducts

- All ducts are sealed with approved materials (e.g. mastic or UL 181 tape) - duct tape is not acceptable
- All ducts outside conditioned space are tested to verify duct leakage with a total duct leakage or leakage to the outside test
- Supply & return ducts in attic insulated to ≥ R-6 when ducts are outside conditioned space and ≥ R-8 when ducts are outside the building thermal envelope

Building Cavities

- **Building framing cavities shall not be used as supply ducts or plenums**

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2018 IECC Mandatory Requirements

Heating and Cooling

- Controls: Programmable thermostat installed
- Equipment sized per ACCA Manuals S & J

Lighting

- Minimum of **90% high-efficacy lamps** installed
- Recessed lighting in thermal envelope IC-rated and airtight

Mechanical Ventilation

- **Installed according to requirements in the International Mechanical Code**
- **Required for all homes ≤ 5 ACH per Section M303.4 (3 ACH is a 2018 IECC mandatory requirement)**

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2018 IECC Mandatory Requirements

Other requirements

- Wood-burning fireplaces have tight flue dampers or doors, and outdoor combustion air
- Mechanical system piping insulated to min R-3 for fluids >105° F or <55° F
- Circulating hot water systems shall be insulated to at least R-2. Systems shall include an automatic, or readily accessible, off-switch.

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Energy Code Compliance Pathways

Prescriptive Method Requirements

- All mandatory and prescriptive requirements must be met

Total UA Method Requirements

- All mandatory and prescriptive requirements (other than Table R402.1.2) must be met
- Include documentation to demonstrate compliance with the UA Trade-off method. Compliance software submittal must include completed compliance form, inspection checklist and certificate demonstrating compliance with 2018 IECC levels

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Energy Code Compliance Pathways

Simulated Performance Requirements (Section R405)

- All mandatory requirements must be met
- Submit an energy cost analysis report which demonstrates that the proposed design (as built) home is more efficient than the standard reference design home

Energy Rating Index Requirements (Section R406)

- All Mandatory requirements met. Meet or exceed 2009 IECC prescriptive envelope requirements
- ERI score of 61 or lower. Submit report demonstrating compliance

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Performance Testing

A Great Quality Control Tool

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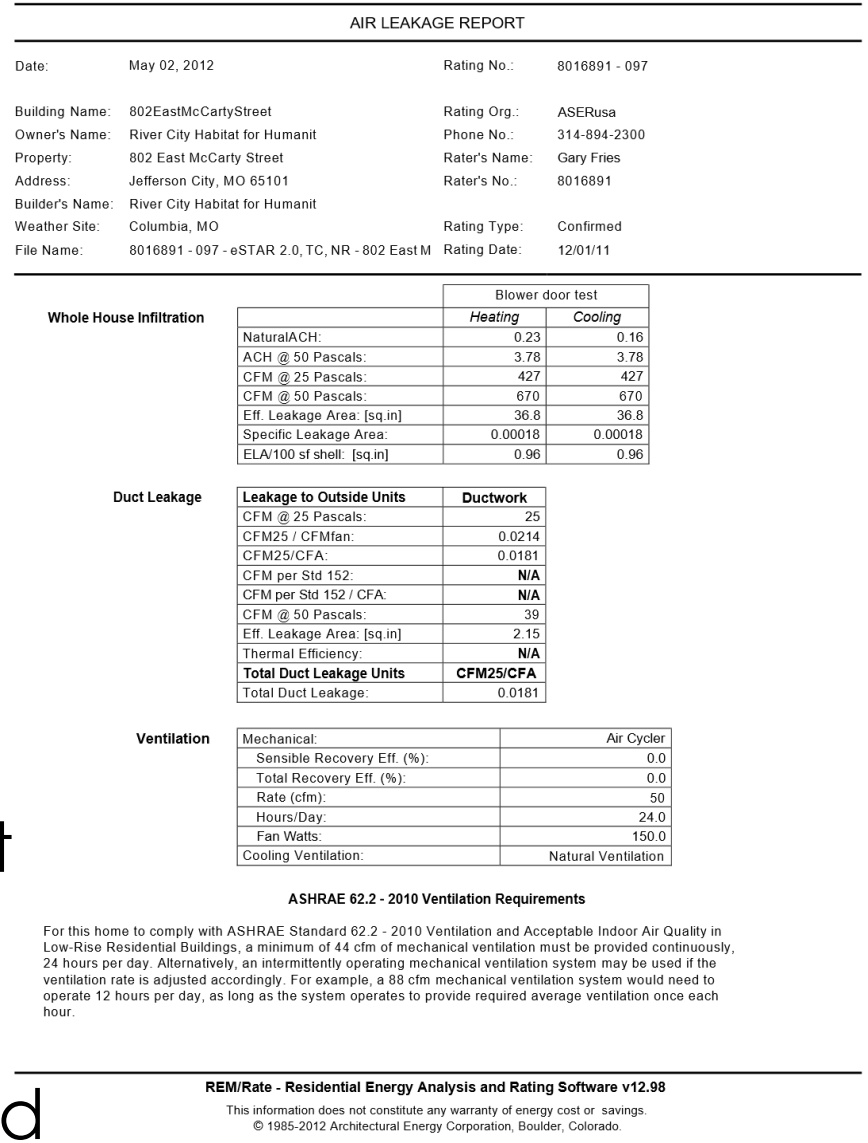
Air Leakage Report

- Blower door test documents a home's air leakage performance
- Required by code
- Third party verification (some areas; performed by Inspectors)
- Provides solid data for final equipment adjustment and energy use/cost forecast
- Great liability protection for all involved



AIR LEAKAGE REPORT

Date:	May 02, 2012	Rating No.:	8016891 - 097
Building Name:	802EastMcCartyStreet	Rating Org.:	ASERusa
Owner's Name:	River City Habitat for Humanit	Phone No.:	314-894-2300
Property:	802 East McCarty Street	Rater's Name:	Gary Fries
Address:	Jefferson City, MO 65101	Rater's No.:	8016891
Builder's Name:	River City Habitat for Humanit		
Weather Site:	Columbia, MO	Rating Type:	Confirmed
File Name:	8016891 - 097 - eSTAR 2.0, TC, NR - 802 East M	Rating Date:	12/01/11

Whole House Infiltration

	Blower door test	
	Heating	*Cooling*
NaturalACH:	0.23	0.16
ACH @ 50 Pascals:	3.78	3.78
CFM @ 25 Pascals:	427	427
CFM @ 50 Pascals:	670	670
Eff. Leakage Area: [sq.in]	36.8	36.8
Specific Leakage Area:	0.00018	0.00018
ELA/100 sf shell: [sq.in]	0.96	0.96

Duct Leakage

Leakage to Outside Units	**Ductwork**
CFM @ 25 Pascals:	25
CFM25 / CFMfan:	0.0214
CFM25/CFA:	0.0181
CFM per Std 152:	**N/A**
CFM per Std 152 / CFA:	**N/A**
CFM @ 50 Pascals:	39
Eff. Leakage Area: [sq.in]	2.15
Thermal Efficiency:	**N/A**
Total Duct Leakage Units	**CFM25/CFA**
Total Duct Leakage:	0.0181

Ventilation

Mechanical:	Air Cycler
Sensible Recovery Eff. (%):	0.0
Total Recovery Eff. (%):	0.0
Rate (cfm):	50
Hours/Day:	24.0
Fan Watts:	150.0
Cooling Ventilation:	Natural Ventilation

ASHRAE 62.2 - 2010 Ventilation Requirements

For this home to comply with ASHRAE Standard 62.2 - 2010 Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality in Low-Rise Residential Buildings, a minimum of 44 cfm of mechanical ventilation must be provided continuously, 24 hours per day. Alternatively, an intermittently operating mechanical ventilation system may be used if the ventilation rate is adjusted accordingly. For example, a 88 cfm mechanical ventilation system would need to operate 12 hours per day, as long as the system operates to provide required average ventilation once each hour.

REM/Rate - Residential Energy Analysis and Rating Software v12.98

This information does not constitute any warranty of energy cost or savings.

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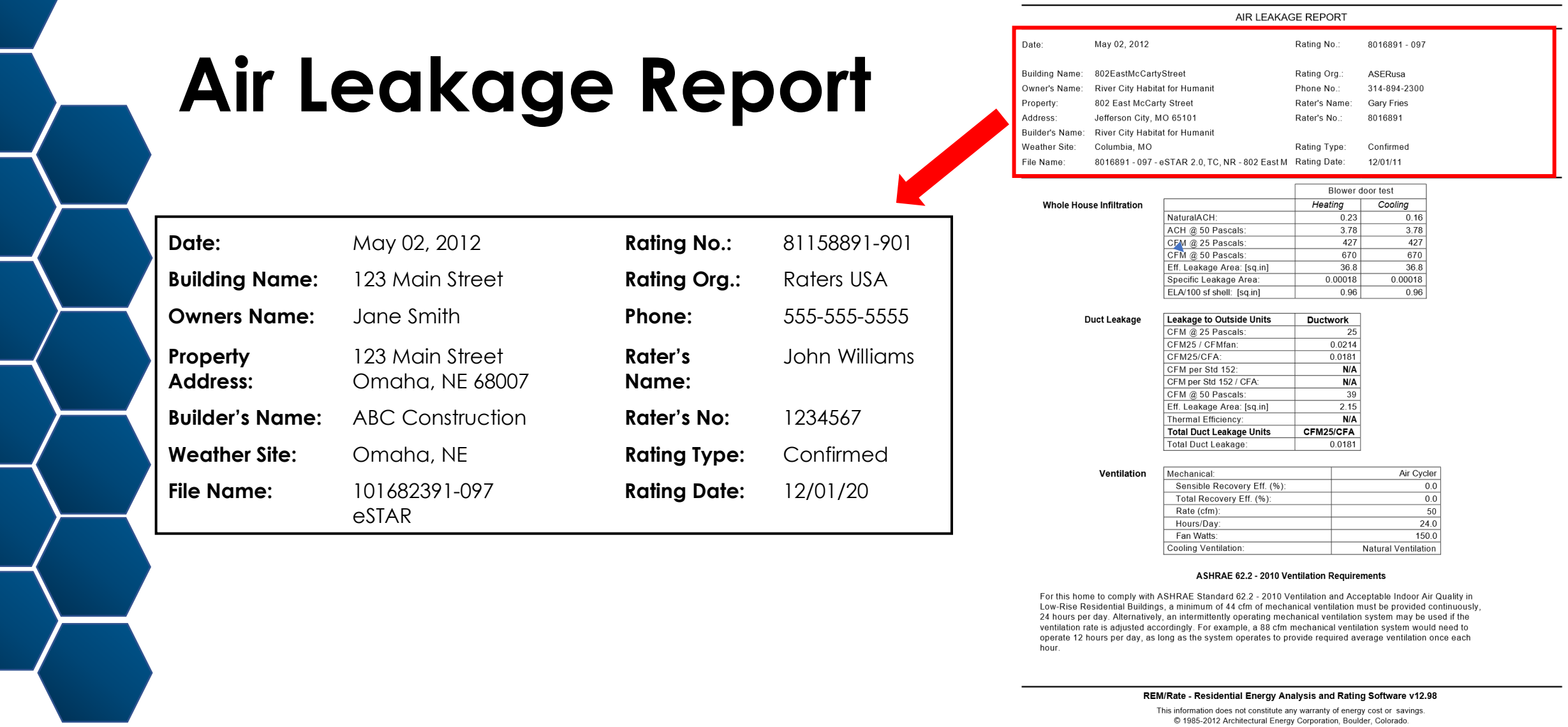
Air Leakage Report

Date:	May 02, 2012	**Rating No.:**	81158891-901
Building Name:	123 Main Street	**Rating Org.:**	Raters USA
Owners Name:	Jane Smith	**Phone:**	555-555-5555
Property Address:	123 Main Street Omaha, NE 68007	**Rater's Name:**	John Williams
Builder's Name:	ABC Construction	**Rater's No:**	1234567
Weather Site:	Omaha, NE	**Rating Type:**	Confirmed
File Name:	101682391-097 eSTAR	**Rating Date:**	12/01/20



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Address:	Jefferson City, MO 65101	Rater's No.:	8016891
Builder's Name:	River City Habitat for Humanit		
Weather Site:	Columbia, MO	Rating Type:	Confirmed
File Name:	8016891 - 097 - eSTAR 2.0, TC, NR - 802 East M	Rating Date:	12/01/11

Whole House Infiltration

	Blower door test	
	Heating	*Cooling*
NaturalACH:	0.23	0.16
ACH @ 50 Pascals:	3.78	3.78
CFM @ 25 Pascals:	427	427
CFM @ 50 Pascals:	670	670
Eff. Leakage Area: [sq.in]	36.8	36.8
Specific Leakage Area:	0.00018	0.00018
ELA/100 sf shell: [sq.in]	0.96	0.96

Duct Leakage

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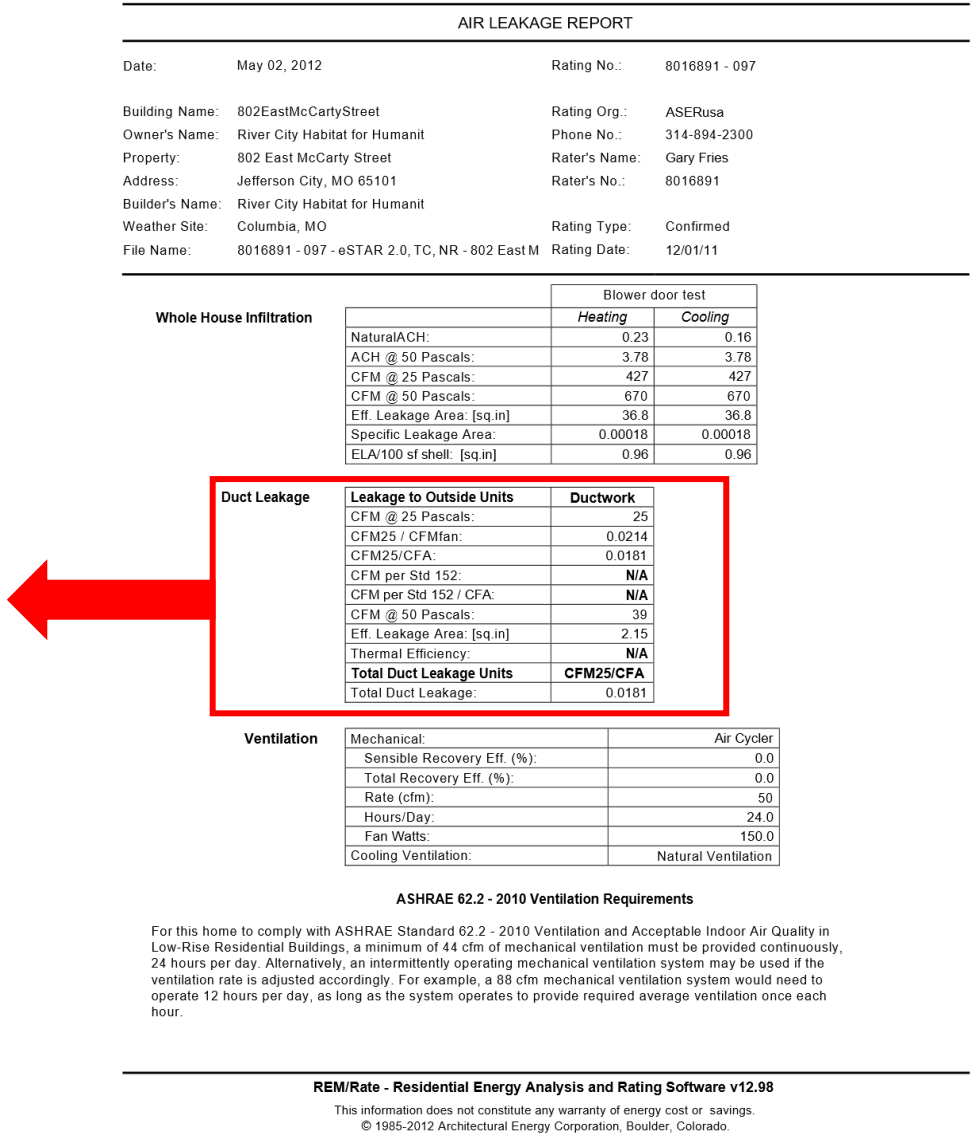

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Ventilation and I.A.Q.

Building Envelope +

Air Sealing Package +

HVAC Design, Equipment & Installation +

ERV/HRV +

Water Heating Design

= Occupant Comfort

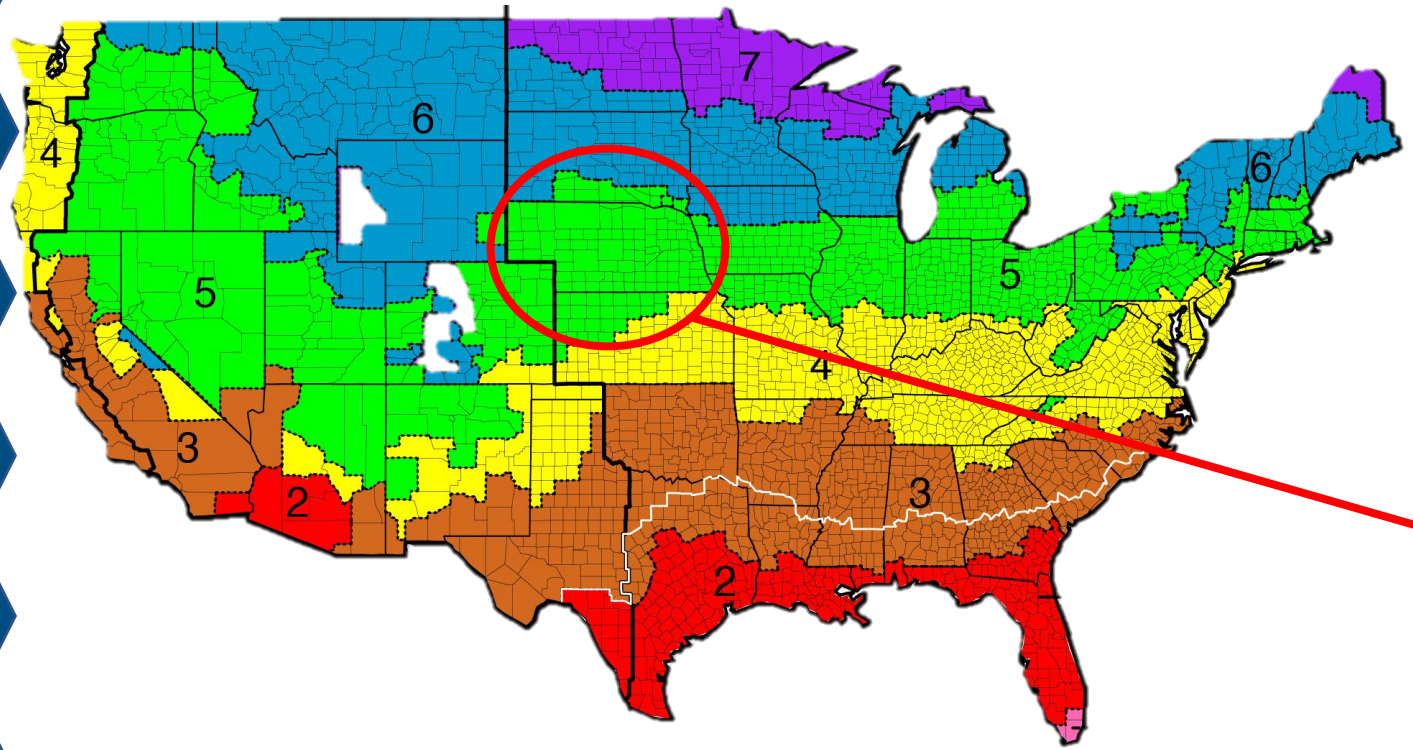
Moisture Management

It Connects EVERYTHING!

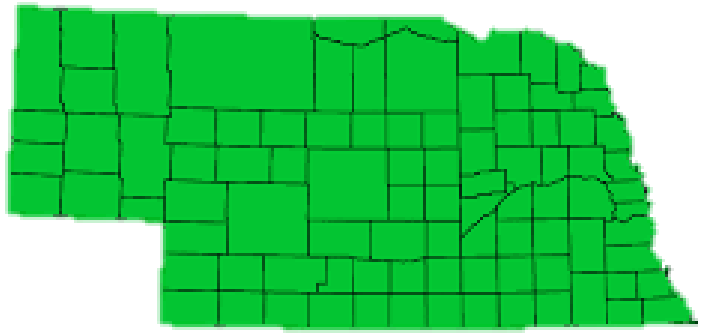
The Major "Damage Functions"

- Liquid water (bulk and capillary)
- Air-borne water
- Vapor
- Radiation (UV degradation)
- Pests
- People

Climate Zones



- Nebraska has only one climate zone – 5A
- Cold & Moist climate



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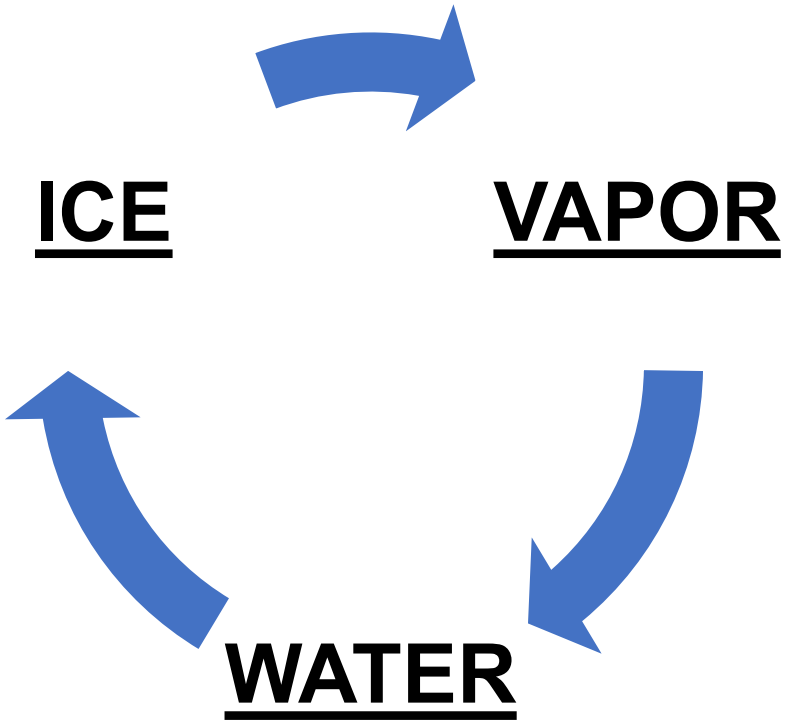
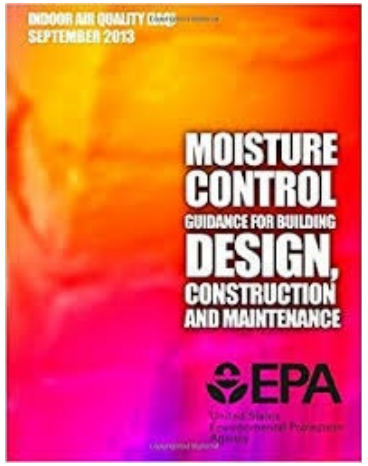
Prioritizing Moisture Movement

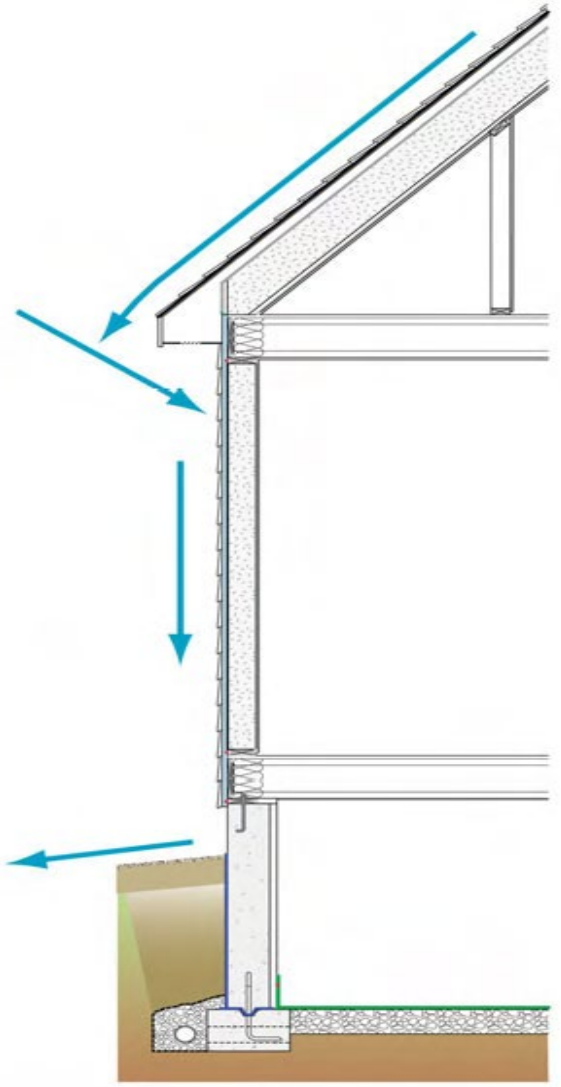
#1 – Bulk Water
#2 – Capillary Water
#3 – Air-Transported Moisture
#4 – Diffusive Moisture Movement



Bulk Water Management – Priority #1

The key is proper **drainage!**





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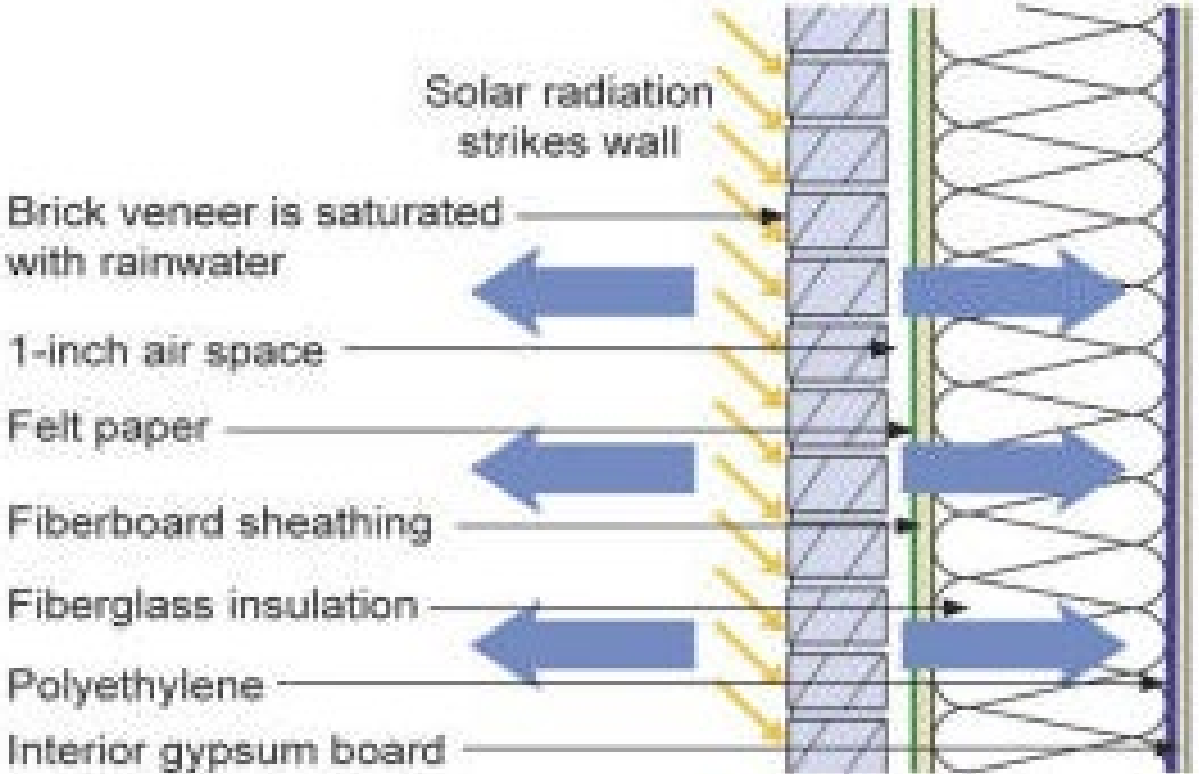
Always Allow For Drying

Exterior Conditions
Temperature: 80° F
Relative Humidity: 75%
Vapor Pressure: 2.49 kPa

Conditions Within Cavity
Temperature: 120° F
Relative Humidity: 100%
Vapor Pressure: 11.74 kPa

Interior Conditions
Temperature: 75° F
Relative Humidity: 60%
Vapor Pressure: 1.82 kPa

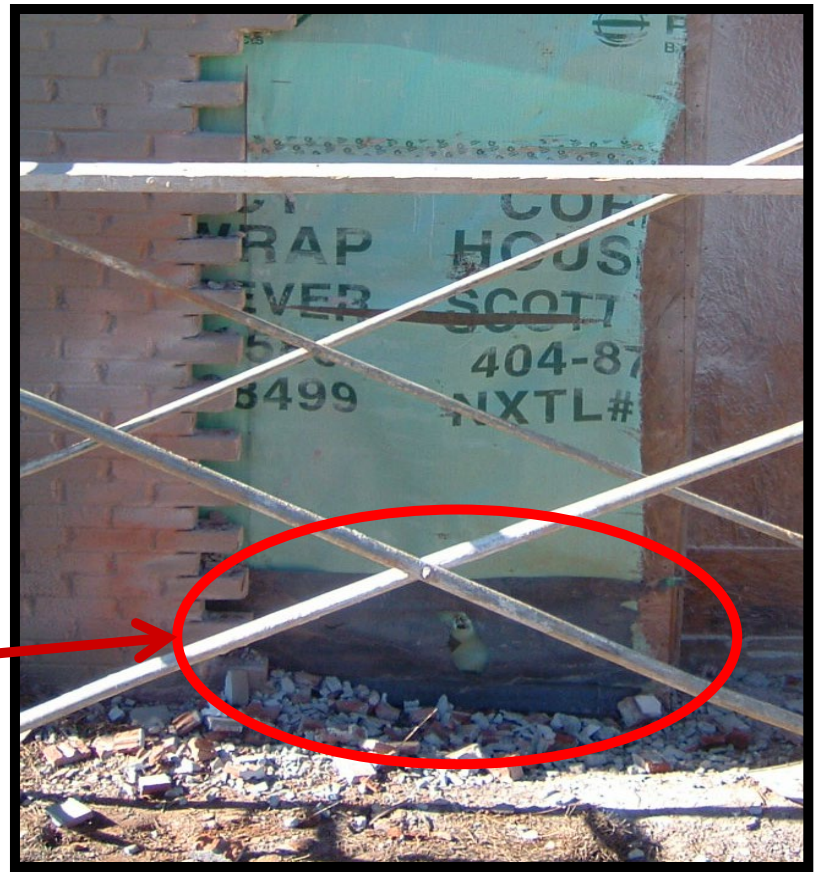


Vapor is driven both inward and outward by a high vapor pressure differential between the brick and interior and the brick and exterior

Image by Building Science Corp.

Properly Lap Flashing

- The mason's flashing (black) was installed after and in front of the house wrap (green). This is reverse flashing that will trap any drain water that gets past the brick veneer.



Direct Water Away From Corners

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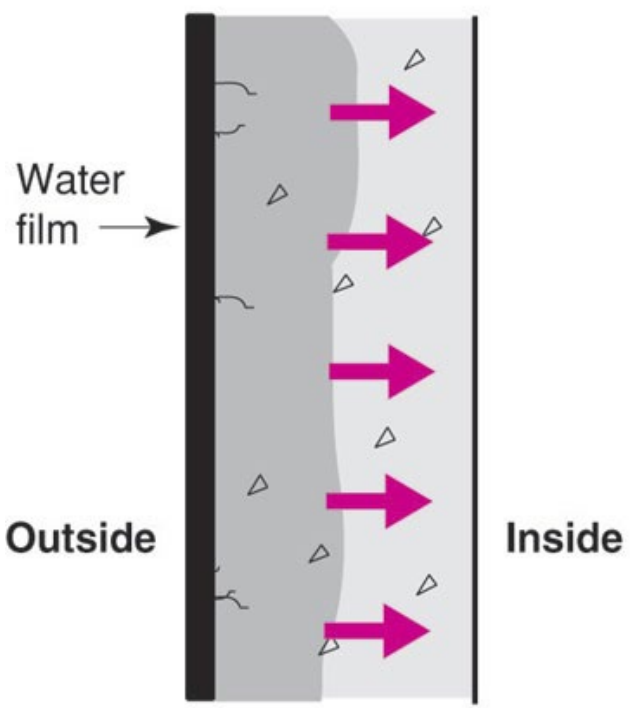
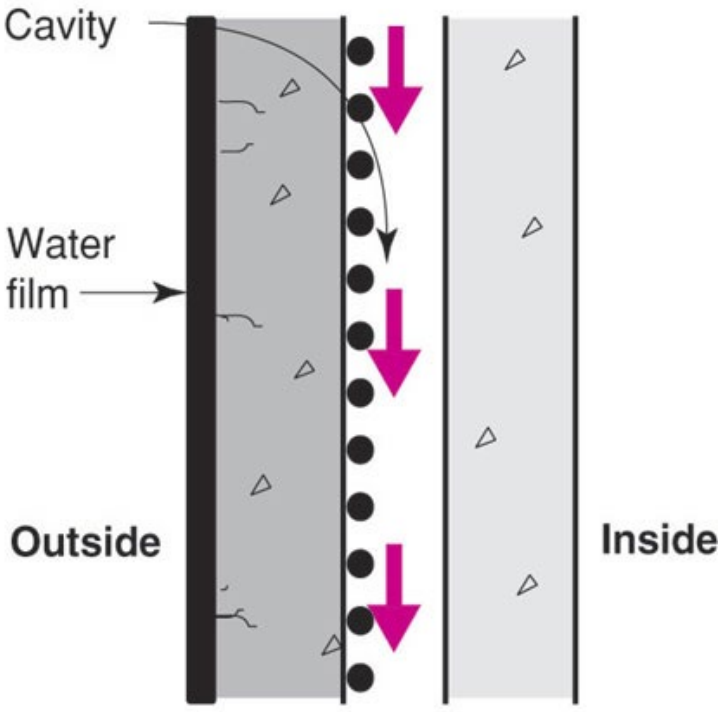
Capillary Moisture Flows - Priority #2



Capillary suction draws water into porous material and tiny cracks



Cavity acts as capillary break and receptor for capillary water interrupting flow

Image courtesy of Building Science Corp.

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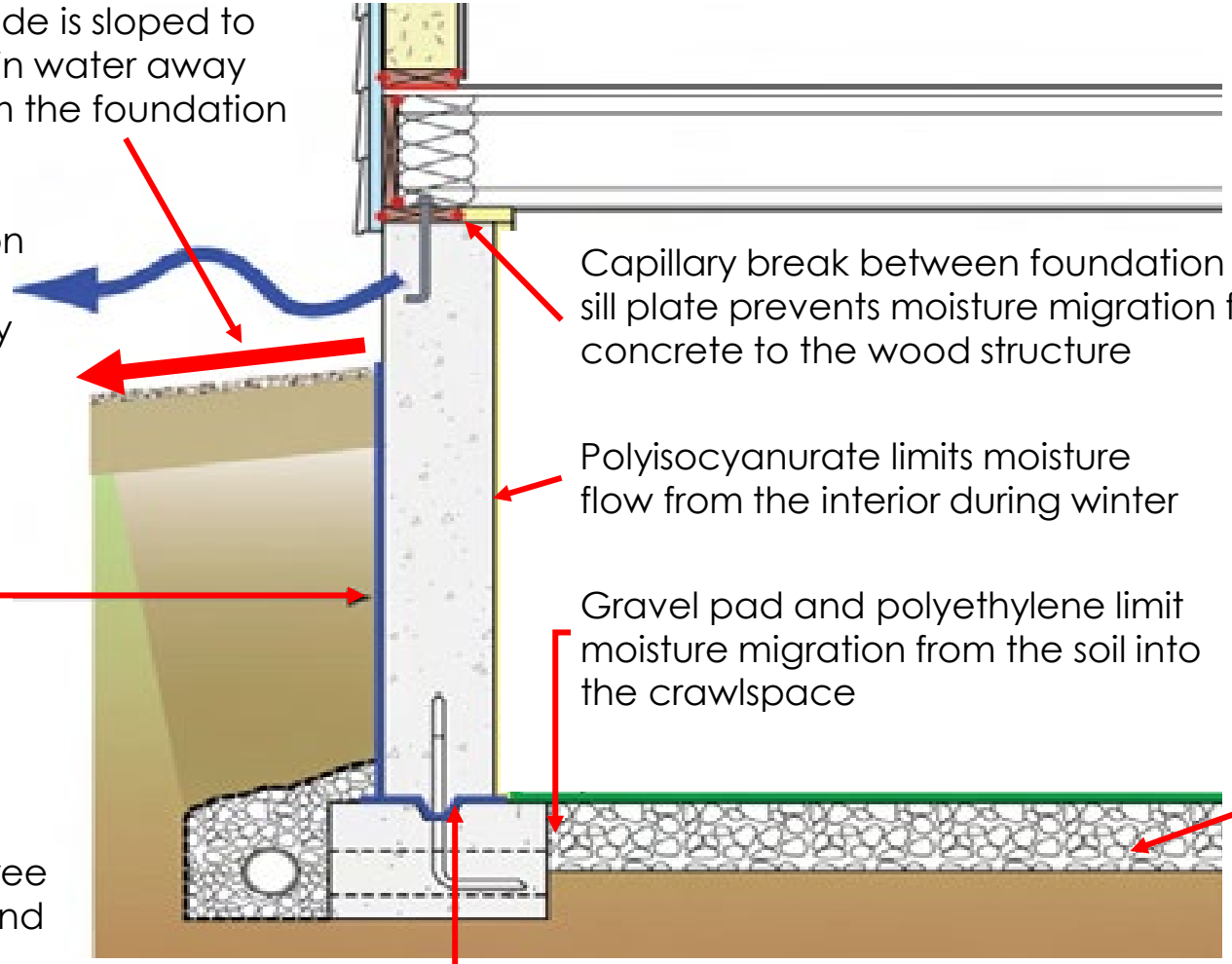
Foundation Moisture Management



Grade is sloped to drain water away from the foundation

Exposed portion of foundation wall able to dry to exterior

Capillary break between foundation wall and sill plate prevents moisture migration from the concrete to the wood structure

Polyisocyanurate limits moisture flow from the interior during winter

Damp-proofing limits moisture flow from soil

Gravel pad and polyethylene limit moisture migration from the soil into the crawlspace

Gravel pad is connected to the perimeter drain through pipes cast into the footing

Water against the foundation wall drains down the free draining backfill and out the perimeter drain at the footing

Capillary break between footing and foundation wall

Sill Plates Need Capillary Breaks

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Air Transport of Moisture – Priority #3

- Air carries a ***lot*** of water
- Air leakage
  - Moisture flow
    - 4X8 Drywall
    - 70 F
    - 40% RH
    - 1 square inch hole
- Flow quantity
  - 30 Quarts of water!!

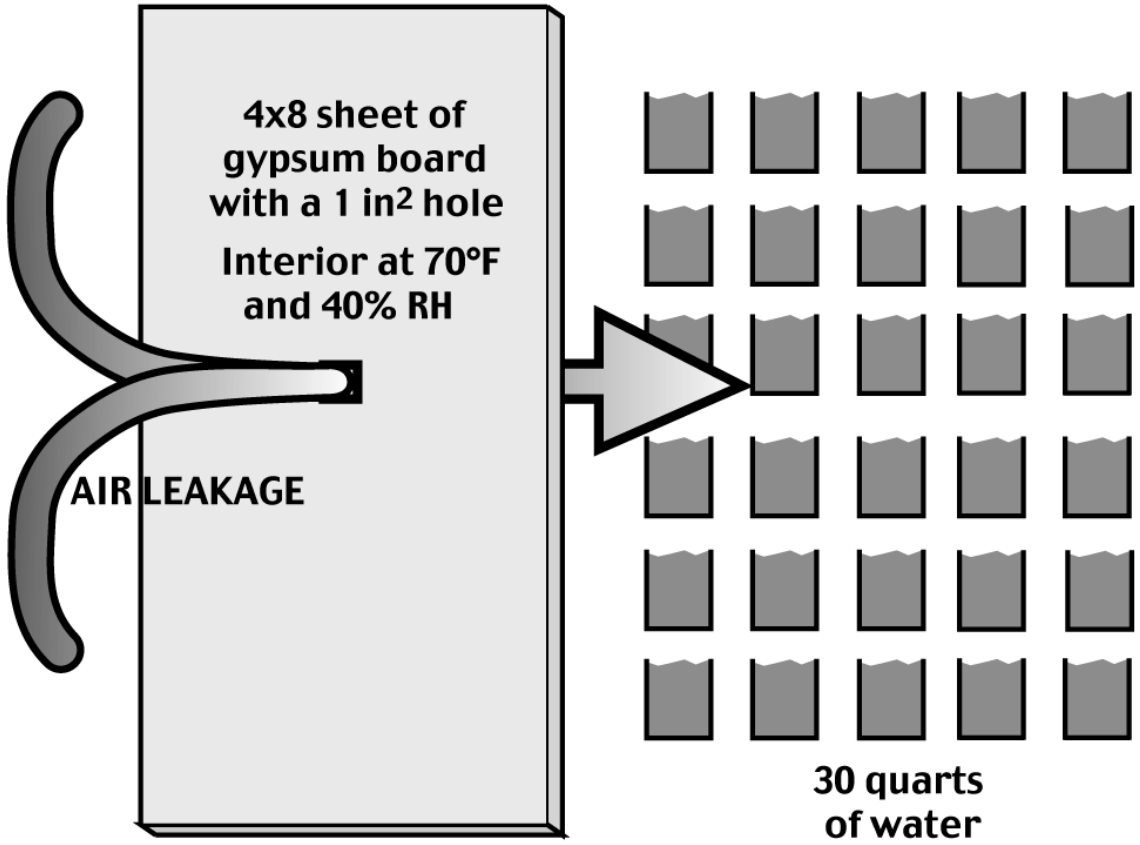

Image courtesy of Building Science Corp.

Diffusion – Priority #4

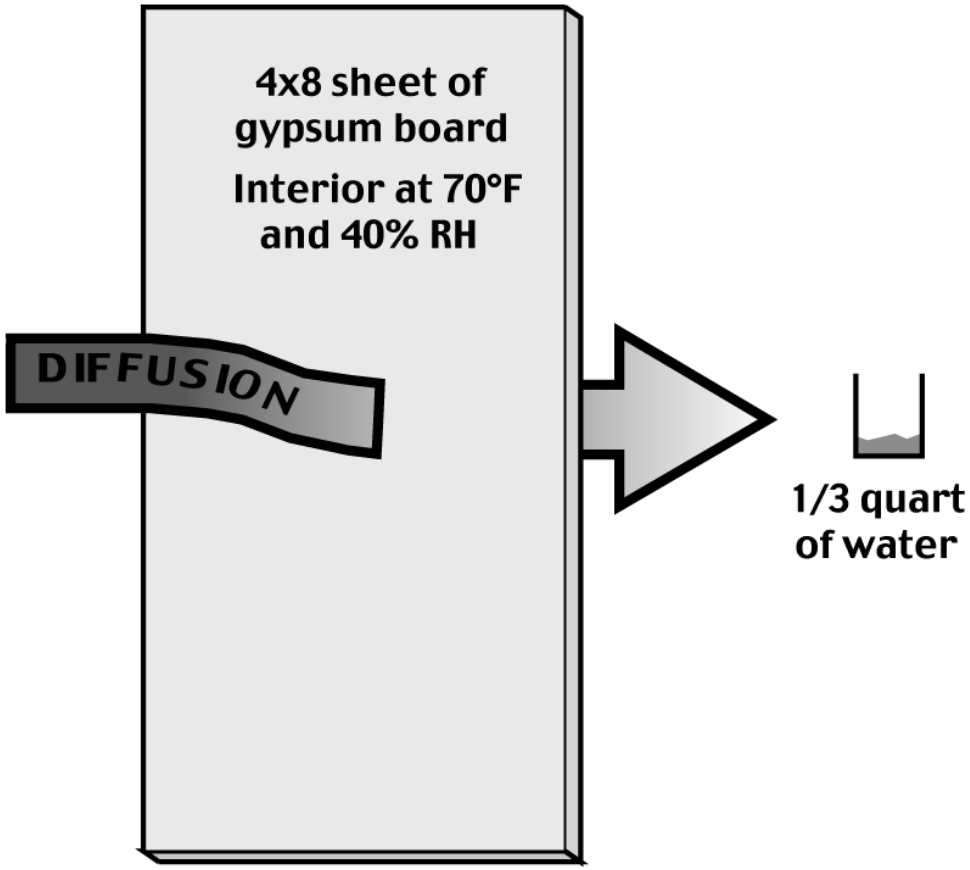

Image courtesy of Building Science Corp.

- Migration of moisture by means of vapor pressure differential
- Occurs in either direction based on climate conditions and exterior/interior levels of humidity
- Different building materials have different permeability

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Air Movement

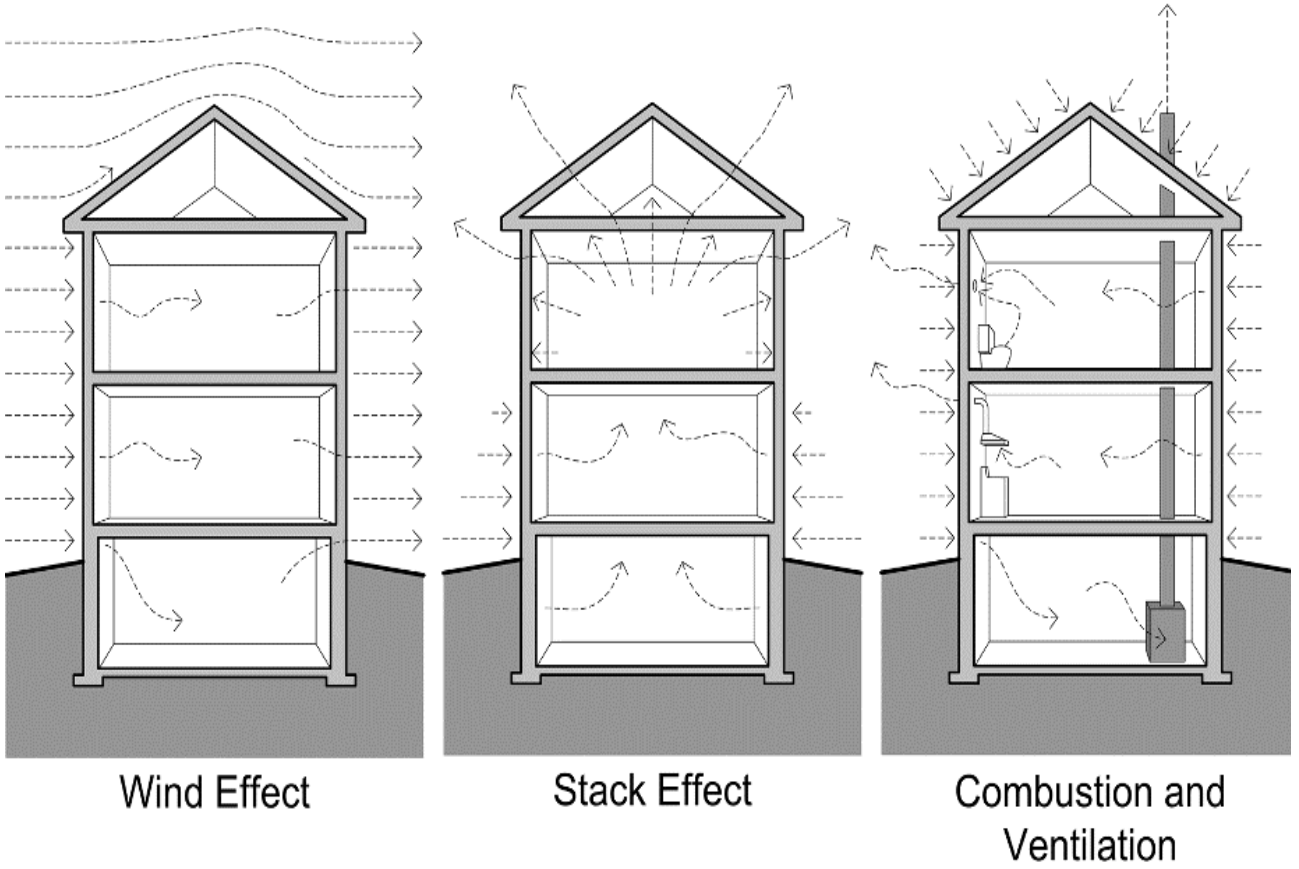
Air Movement Seeks Balance

How Does Air Get Around?

Air In = Air Out

For air movement you need:

- A hole
- A driving force
- Another hole



Internally Generated Air Pressure

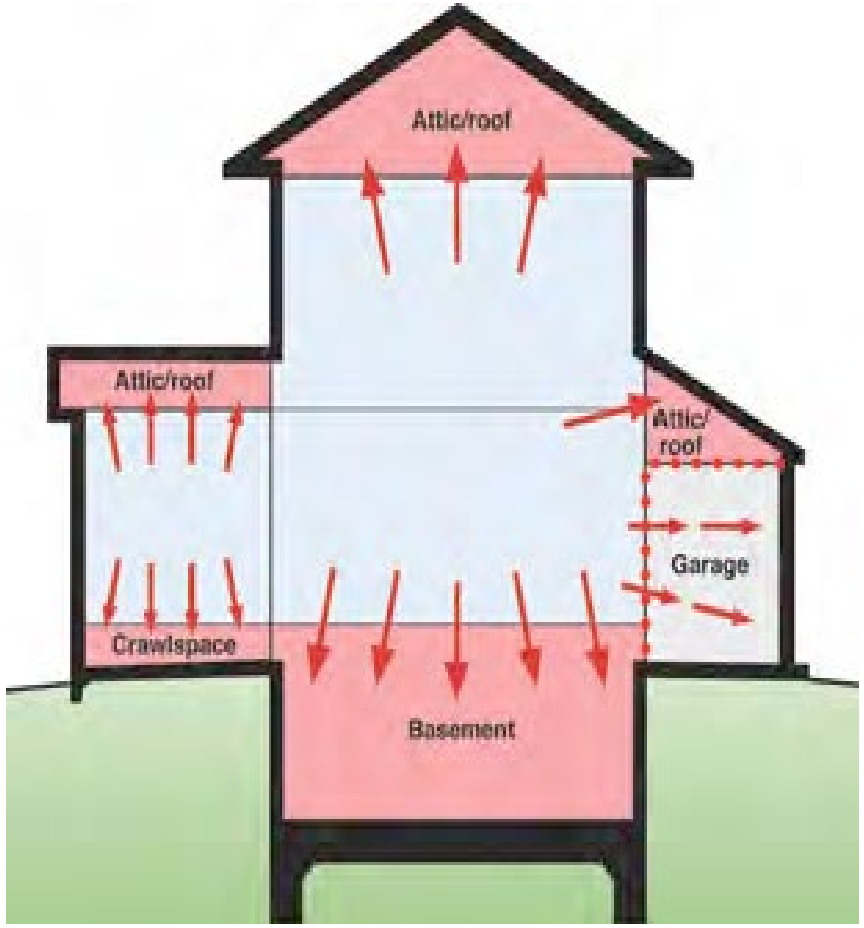


Image by Belcher Homes

Expansion of Conditioned Space

- Conditioned space boundaries moving towards exterior surfaces of building
- Garage isolated from house by air barrier/pressure boundary
- Garage ventilated and conditioned independently of rest of conditioned spaces

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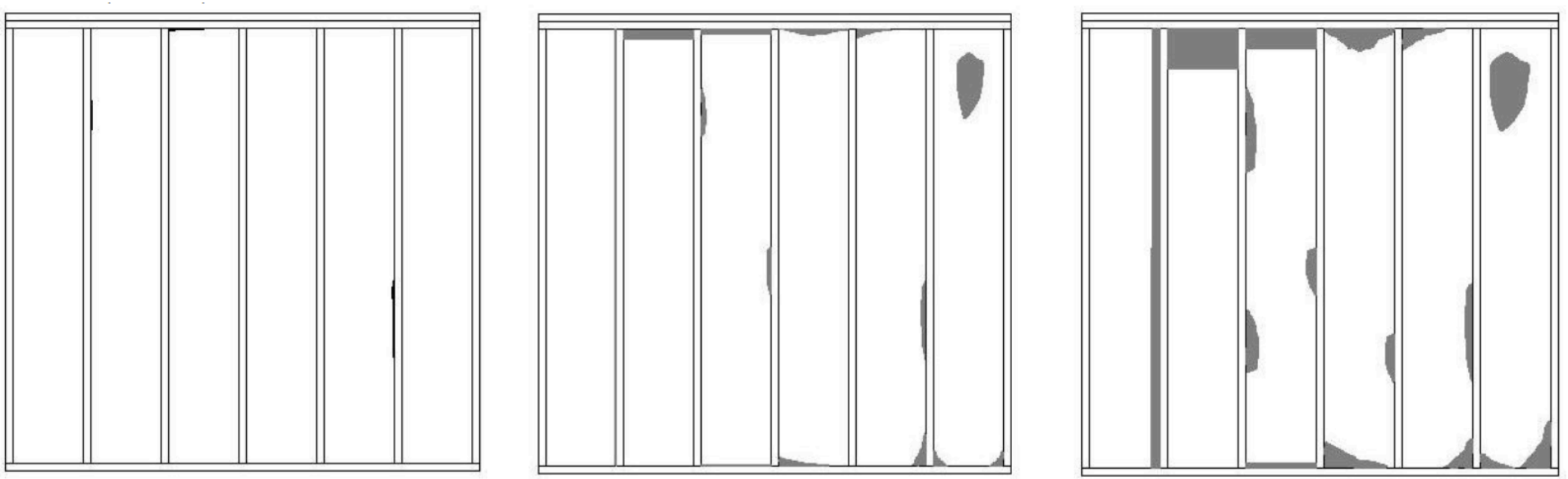
Batt Insulation Grading

Code Compliant ——— **Not Acceptable** ———



Grade I: Almost no gaps

Grade II: Up to 2%

Grade III: 2% - 5%

RESNET protocol for the effect of missing insulation on installation grade

Diagrams from the HERS Standards

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Heat Transfer

A Triple Threat

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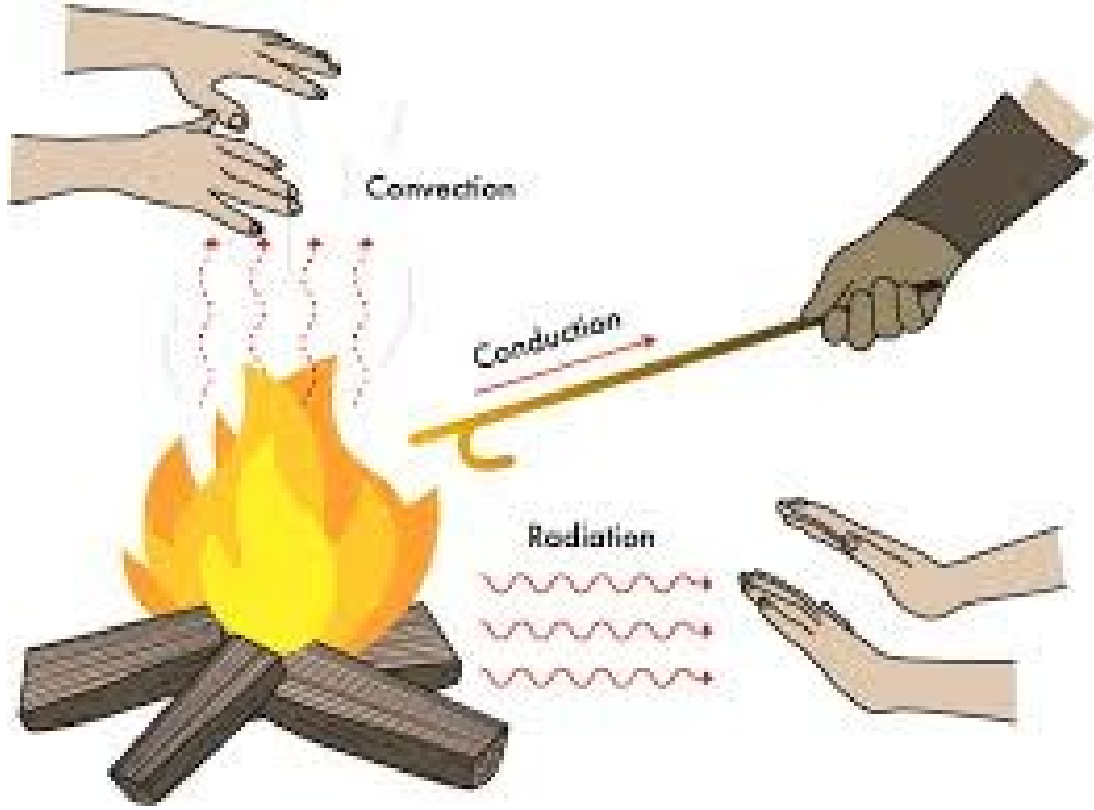
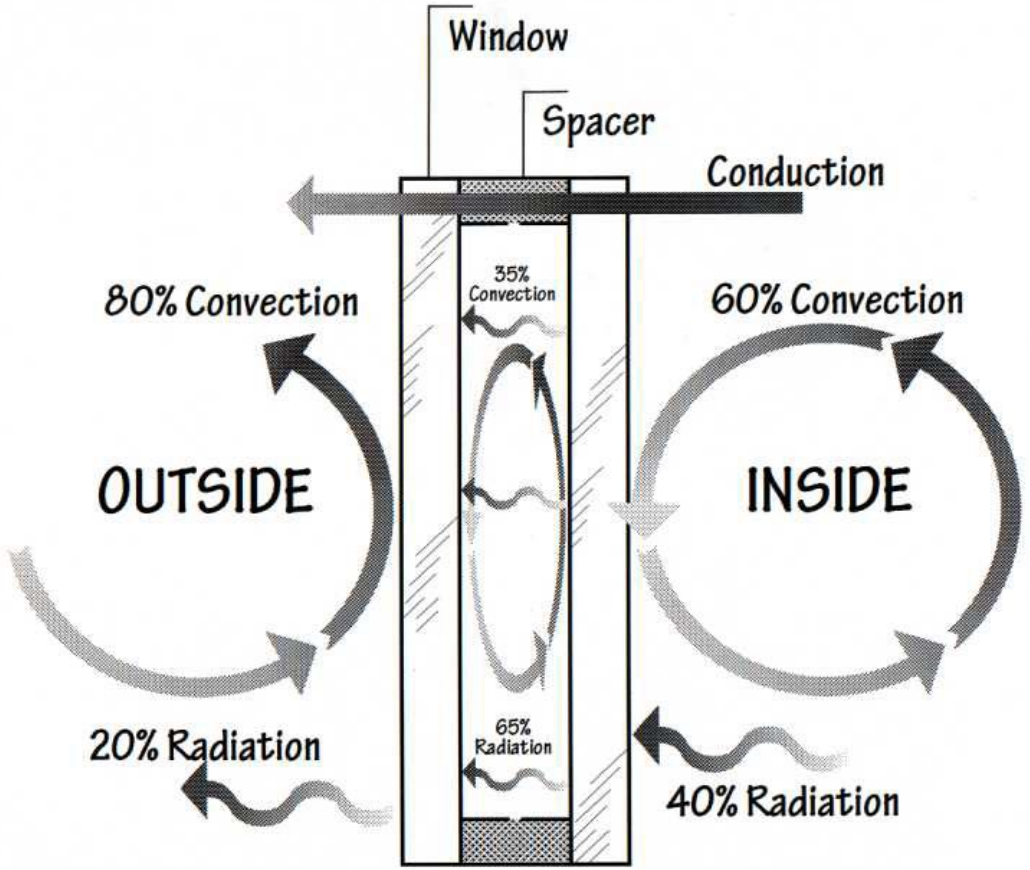
Heat Transfers in 3 Ways

- ***Convection*** - Through fluids (liquid or gas)
- ***Conduction*** - Through solids
- ***Radiation*** - Mostly windows



Practical Application - Windows

- Heat always moves from hot to cold
- Always a mix of transfers
- Different rates of transfer can be important



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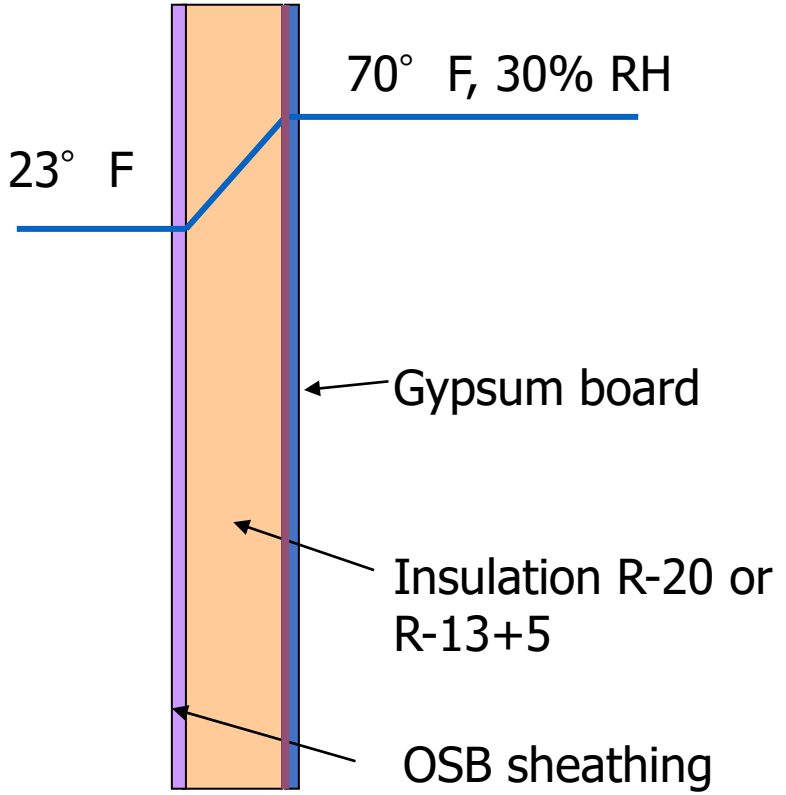
Condensing Surface Temperatures

- Dewpoint of interior air = 37°F
- Where will condensation occur?
  Inside surface of exterior sheathing
- One Solution?
  Interior vapor retarder, but what type and at what "cost?"



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Major Building Envelope Protection Systems

- Water Barrier
- Air Barrier
- Thermal Barrier
- Vapor Profile (not just the designated vapor retarder)
- Maintenance documents

“You don’t get what you expect, you get what you inspect!”

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HVAC System

*Don't Forget the **"V"***

HVAC Design and Loads

Oversized systems:

- Less comfort
- Less efficient
- Poorly handles moisture
- Premature equipment failure

Right-sized systems:

- Better operating efficiencies
- Greater comfort
- Healthier indoor environments
- Better moisture control

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HVAC Design and Loads

- Properly designed HVAC systems rely on scientific criteria and a systematic method to match the loads required for health and comfort:
  - *ACCA Manual J – Residential Load Calculation*
  - *ACCA Manual S – Residential Equipment Selection*
  - *ACCA Manual D – Residential Duct Systems*
- Reports should be submitted with permit application

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HVAC Design and Loads

Today's homes risk health problems for occupants because:

- They are not properly ventilated:
  - < 3 ACH
- More chemicals and products are used in and around a house:
  - Concentration levels are often 2 to100 times higher than outside.

Balanced Ventilation

- Blows air into and out of the house
- Is cost effective by reclaiming energy from exhaust and supply airflows (60%-80%!)
- Balances exhaust and supply flows (minimizes pressure differential)
- Maintains the Minimum Ventilation Guideline automatically with proper set-up

Appraisals and Resale Value

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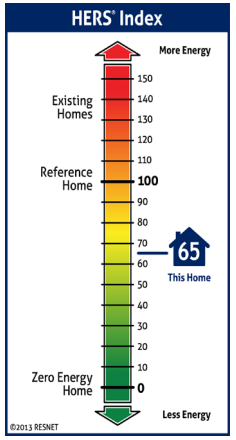
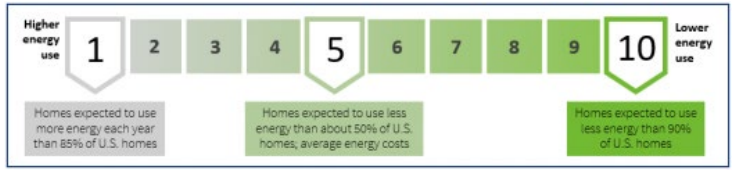
Appraisers

- Unlike granite countertops, energy efficiency investments are not always visible at a glance
- Utilize certifications, labels, ratings, and scores
- Make sure appraisers are accurately valuing sustainable properties
  - *Residential Green and Energy Efficient Addendum* - Assists appraisers in analyzing residential "Green" features and properties.





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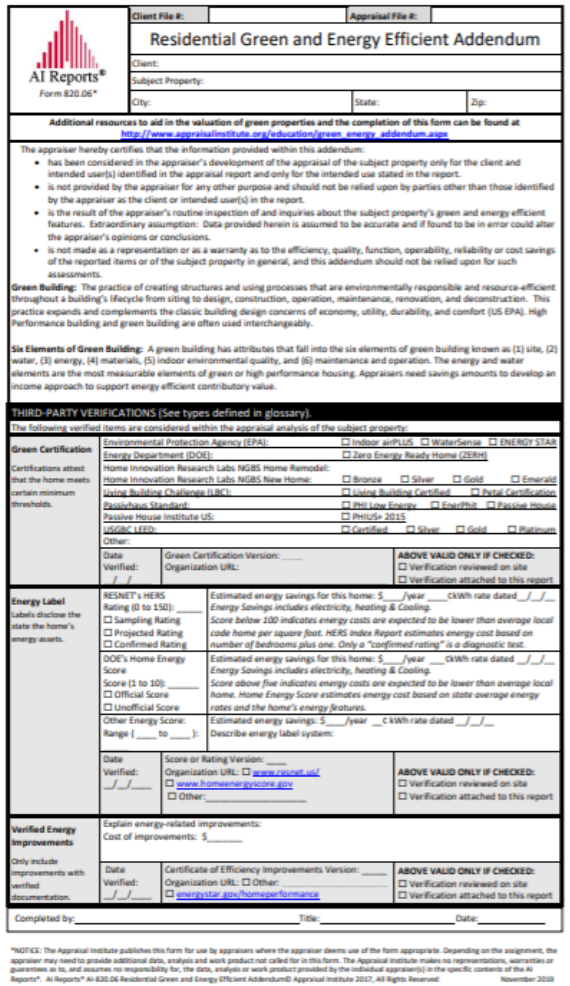
Residential Green and Energy Efficient Addendum!

- Resources for realtors and appraisers on properly valuing energy efficiency/green features
  - Educational materials
  - List of designated appraisers
  - Trainings

- For more information: http://www.appraisalinstitute.org/education/green_energy_addendum.aspx



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Client File #: Appraisal File #:

Residential Green and Energy Efficient Addendum

Client:
Subject Property:
City: State: Zip:

Additional resources to aid in the valuation of green properties and the completion of this form can be found at
http://www.appraisalinstitute.org/education/green_energy_addendum.aspx

The appraiser hereby certifies that the information provided within this addendum:

- has been considered in the appraiser's development of the appraisal of the subject property only for the client and intended user(s) identified in the appraisal report and only for the intended use stated in the report.
- is not provided by the appraiser for any other purpose and should not be relied upon by parties other than those identified by the appraiser as the client or intended user(s) in the report.
- is the result of the appraiser's routine inspection of and inquiries about the subject property's green and energy efficient features. Extraordinary assumption: Data provided herein is assumed to be accurate and if found to be in error could alter the appraiser's opinions or conclusions.
- is not made as a representation or as a warranty as to the efficiency, quality, function, operability, reliability or cost savings of the reported items or of the subject property in general, and this addendum should not be relied upon for such assessments.

Green Building: The practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's lifecycle from siting to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation, and deconstruction. This practice expands and complements the classic building design concerns of economy, utility, durability, and comfort (US EPA). High Performance building and green building are often used interchangeably.

Six Elements of Green Building: A green building has attributes that fall into the six elements of green building known as (1) site, (2) water, (3) energy, (4) materials, (5) indoor environmental quality, and (6) maintenance and operation. The energy and water elements are the most measurable elements of green or high performance housing. Appraisers need savings amounts to develop an income approach to support energy efficient contributory value.

THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATIONS (See types defined in glossary).
The following verified items are considered within the appraisal analysis of the subject property:

Green Certification
Certifications attest that the home meets certain minimum thresholds.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): ☐ Indoor airPLUS ☐ WaterSense ☐ ENERGY STAR
Energy Department (DOE): ☐ Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH)
Home Innovation Research Labs NGBS Home Remodel:
Home Innovation Research Labs NGBS New Home: ☐ Bronze ☐ Silver ☐ Gold ☐ Emerald
Living Building Challenge (LBC): ☐ Living Building Certified ☐ Petal Certification
Passivhaus Standard: ☐ PHI Low Energy ☐ EnerPHit ☐ Passive House
Passive House Institute US: ☐ PHIUS+ 2015
USGBC LEED: ☐ Certified ☐ Silver ☐ Gold ☐ Platinum
Other:

Date Verified: / /
Green Certification Version: ____
Organization URL:
ABOVE VALID ONLY IF CHECKED:
☐ Verification reviewed on site
☐ Verification attached to this report

Energy Label
Labels disclose the state the home's energy assets.

RESNET's HERS Rating (0 to 150): ____
☐ Sampling Rating
☐ Projected Rating
☐ Confirmed Rating
Estimated energy savings for this home: $____/year ____ckWh rate dated __/__/__
Energy Savings includes electricity, heating & Cooling.
Score below 100 indicates energy costs are expected to be lower than average local code home per square foot. HERS Index Report estimates energy cost based on number of bedrooms plus one. Only a "confirmed rating" is a diagnostic test.

DOE's Home Energy Score
Score (1 to 10): ____
☐ Official Score
☐ Unofficial Score
Estimated energy savings for this home: $____/year ____ckWh rate dated __/__/__
Energy Savings includes electricity, heating & Cooling.
Score above five indicates energy costs are expected to be lower than average local home. Home Energy Score estimates energy cost based on state average energy rates and the home's energy features.

Other Energy Score: Range (____ to ____):
Estimated energy savings: $____/year __ckWh rate dated __/__/__
Describe energy label system:

Date Verified: __/__/____
Score or Rating Version: ____
Organization URL: ☐ www.resnet.us/
☐ www.homeenergyscore.gov
☐ Other:
ABOVE VALID ONLY IF CHECKED:
☐ Verification reviewed on site
☐ Verification attached to this report

Verified Energy Improvements
Only include improvements with verified documentation.

Explain energy-related improvements:
Cost of improvements: $____

Date Verified: __/__/____
Certificate of Efficiency Improvements Version: ____
Organization URL: ☐ Other:
☐ energystar.gov/homeperformance
ABOVE VALID ONLY IF CHECKED:
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☐ Verification attached to this report

Completed by: Title: Date:

*NOTICE: The Appraisal Institute publishes this form for use by appraisers where the appraiser deems use of the form appropriate. Depending on the assignment, the appraiser may need to provide additional data, analysis and work product not called for in this form. The Appraisal Institute makes no representations, warranties or guarantees as to, and assumes no responsibility for, the data, analysis or work product provided by the individual appraiser(s) in the specific contents of the AI Reports®. AI Reports® AI-820.06 Residential Green and Energy Efficient Addendum® Appraisal Institute 2017, All Rights Reserved November 2019

Form 820.04

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Lender Specification

"This Home/Building is being built/renovated/updated to nationally recognized standards above prevailing code. It is designed and constructed with unique features and materials and with high efficient equipment and in accordance with high efficiency standards. The Lender shall choose an Appraiser educated and knowledgeable in this type of valuation of these specialized Homes, preferably an appraiser who holds a professional appraisal designation that requires advanced education on such issues as the valuation of sustainable buildings (e.g. MAI or SRA designations from the Appraisal Institute). The appraiser shall provide verification of green valuation education of 14 hours or more from a qualified educational provider and knowledge to be permitted to conduct the appraisal for this project."

Marketing High Performance homes

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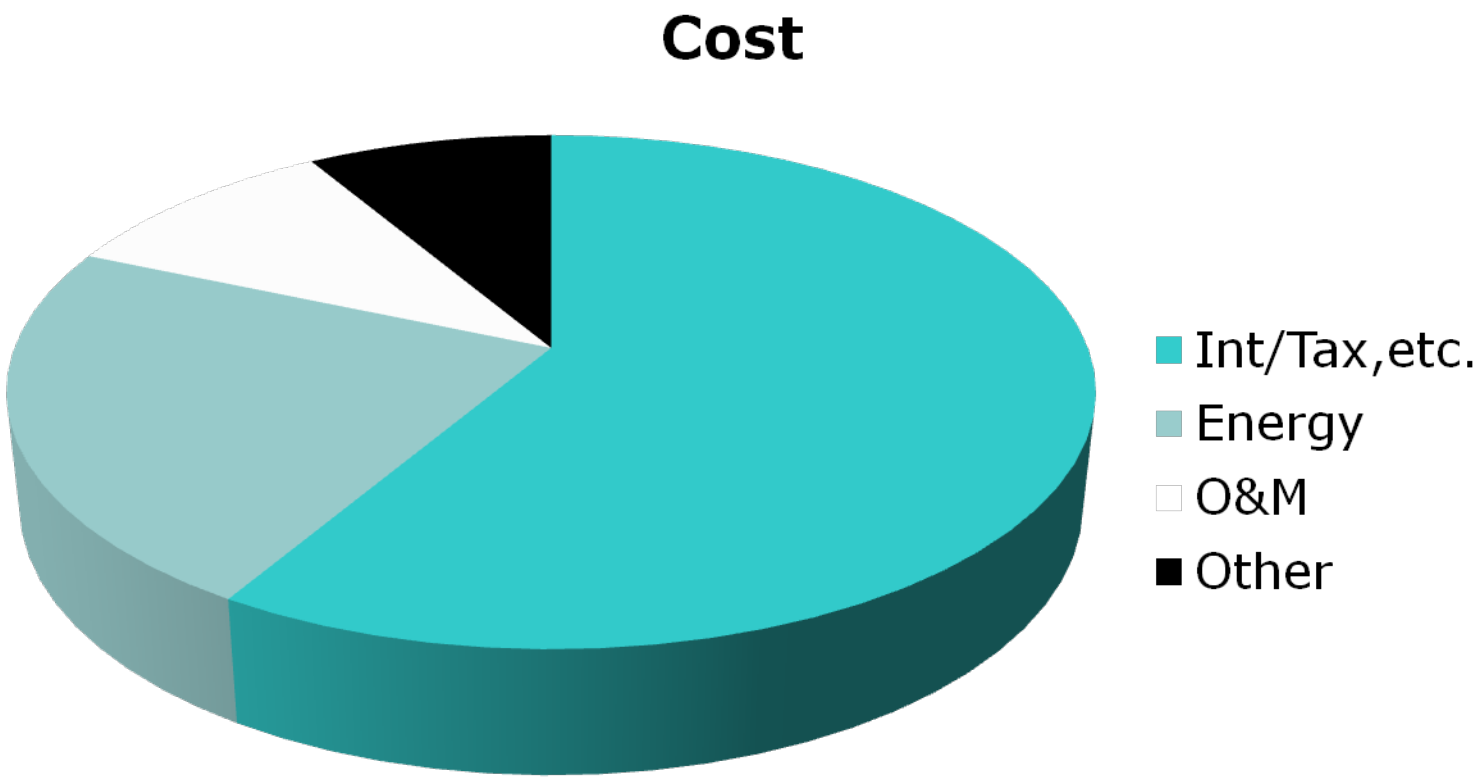
Equity!



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Monthly Payment

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Key Takeaways

- 2018 IECC has new requirements for:
  - Air sealing
  - Duct sealing
  - U-Factor
  - R-Values
  - Performance Testing
- Controlling moisture is *critical*
  - Proper air sealing is key
  - Right-sizing HVAC is required
  - Mechanical ventilation must be installed and takes on new importance

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Thank you!

Questions?

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Thank you!

Watch for;

Live online trainings in June

Week of June 27th; Site Visits/Trainings

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