



**ONCOR**  
NEW HOMES

2026 Residential New Construction  
Participant Program Guide



## Table of Contents

Program Introduction	<b>3</b>
Program Participation Process	<b>6</b>
Incentives	<b>10</b>
Application to Participate	<b>12</b>
Program Helpful Checklists	<b>18</b>
Program Terminology & Definitions	<b>19</b>





# 1.0 Program Introduction

Introducing the **2026 New Homes Pilot Program** offered by Oncor. This year's Oncor New Homes Program (ONHP or "Program") launches a powerful marketing tool for qualifying home builders and potential home buyers!

The Program leverages the power of the HERS® Index and the Energy Rating Index (ERI) to provide a transparent, third-party verified snapshot of a home's energy performance and offers incentives to single family residential new home builders that construct RESNET® certified new homes in Oncor's service area.

This Program guide summarizes program requirements, processes, and incentives but may not address all scenarios. Oncor ([www.oncor.com/takealoadofftexas](http://www.oncor.com/takealoadofftexas)) and TRC Companies ([www.trccompanies.com](http://www.trccompanies.com)), as their selected implementer, have full discretion to interpret or modify Program requirements and may revise the Program manual at any time.

*Thank you for making a difference in Texas!*

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## 1.1 Program Contacts

### **Oncor Electric**

**Carl Brown**

*Program Sponsor*

☎ 214-486-3244

✉ [carl.brown@oncor.com](mailto:carl.brown@oncor.com)

### **TRC Advanced Energy**

**Tim Kisner**

*Program Administrator*

☎ 737-742-0403

✉ [tkisner@trccompanies.com](mailto:tkisner@trccompanies.com)

# 1.2 Program Objectives

*“Together, We Can Do Better”*

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This Pilot Program is a market transformation program offered by Oncor and implemented by TRC Companies. The objective of **Oncor’s New Homes Program** is to advance the energy efficiency of new single-family residential home construction in Oncor service area and help achieve the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) Statewide regulatory goals for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT).

Oncor is the largest electric delivery company in Texas and has a long tradition of serving more than 14 million Texans of the Lone Star State. With a legacy of service dating back to 1912, Oncor continues to lead the way in grid modernization and advanced technology. The people who make up Oncor are advocates for smarter, more resilient grid and provide exceptional service to more than 400 communities.

TRC is one of the largest implementers of energy efficiency projects in the United States and partners with government, industrial and commercial customers to deliver energy savings. TRC manages energy efficiency projects to ensure customers conserve energy, increase operational efficiency, and maximize capital spending.

With your help, Oncor’s “Together, We Can Do Better” campaign is designed with you in mind. Oncor and TRC have partnered in delivering



a New Homes Program Pilot designed to do the following:

- Encourage private sector developments to transition from “standard” to “superior,” using the RESNET® certified homes program
- Achieve customer energy and cost savings
- Significantly reduce barriers to participation by streamlining program procedures
- Encourage participation with a wide range of home builders, their consultants, and contractors
- Raise awareness and increase adoption of industry leading measures and technology

*Continued >>*

## 1.2 Program Objectives *(Cont.)*

**The Oncor New Homes Program** will provide incentives for single-family residential home builders who construct RESNET certified homes HERS® Index and the Energy Rating Index (ERI) to provide a transparent, third-party verified snapshot of a home's energy performance. The Program allows home builders and buyers flexibility to ensure every energy-watt is measured, and every dollar is well spent constructing modern high-efficient homes.

**Precision Benchmarking:** The HERS® Rated Home is the industry standard for measuring efficiency, with a score of 100 representing a standard new home (2006 IECC) and 0 representing a net zero energy home.

**Tangible Savings:** Every one-point decrease in the HERS Index typically correlates with a 1% reduction in energy consumption, which may lead to annual savings.

**Third-Party Verification:** Unlike self-reported data, HERS and ERI scores are calculated by Certified RESNET® Home Energy Raters through rigorous on-site inspections and testing.

**Market Advantage:** Certified low-scoring homes are more efficient than code built minimum and are increasingly preferred by today's home buyers looking for long-term affordability.

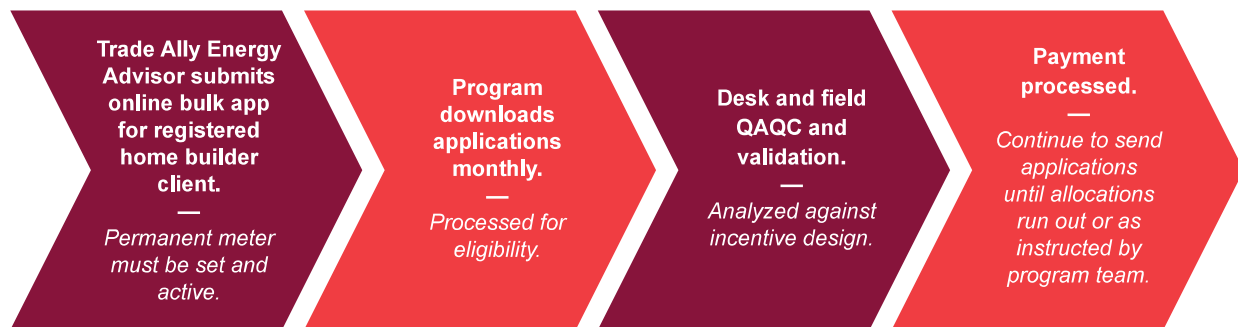


## 2.0 Program Participation Process

This section provides an overview of the steps to take to participate in the Program.

### 2.1 Participation Journey

The Program focuses on a streamlined participant journey, including an online registration process for Program Trade Allies and an online application submittal process. See Section 4.0 for Program Trade Ally Registration.



Only homes built in the Oncor service area will be eligible for an incentive.

Additional criteria related to home builders, energy advisors, and homes are as follows.



## 2.2 Program Participation Requirements

This section provides Program Trade Ally participants with eligibility requirements. These requirements must be met to receive Program funding.

### 2.2.1 Home Builder Eligibility

To participate in the Program, home builders must be approved as Trade Ally by Program management. The application period opens at the beginning of each Program year.

First, interested residential new construction home builders using HERS Index/ERI rating systems verified by RESNET Home Registry or equivalent will be invited to participate during a fixed open application period. Program management will evaluate and score applications based on commitments to HERS® Index ratings/ERI, production volume within the Oncor service area.

**Please Note:** Home builders who pledge to build certified high-performance level homes via DOE Efficient New Homes (ENH) program, ENERGY STAR Single Family New Homes (SFNH) program, or Passive House Institute US program (PHIUS) will be recognized and prioritized.

The majority of the Program's annual incentive budget will be allocated at the conclusion of the open application period. Home builders may apply to participate at any time following



the open application period but may be denied participation until January of the following year, when the Program's incentive budget is replenished if funding is not readily available.

Home builders will be responsible for acquiring all required building permits as necessary and design, build, and market high-efficiency homes with premise addresses that receive permanent residential meters in Oncor service area.

*Continued >>*

## 2.2.1 Home Builder Eligibility *(Cont.)*

Additionally, home builders are expected or required to:

- Retain the services of an actively certified Energy Advisors qualified in the jurisdiction where the home is being built to review, model, inspect and test the home as needed.
- Retain the services of an appropriately and actively certified and licensed HVAC contractor that:
  1. Must have current Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations (TDLR) for Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors and be in good standing with all appropriate industry credentials.
  2. Must install only AHRI certified heating and

cooling equipment that meets the SEER2 and/or HSPF2 expectations of the homebuilder and meets all applicable standards with the best installation practices.

3. Will provide Energy Advisors and/or home builders with information related to the efficiency of the home, including space conditioning efficiencies and mechanical ventilation flow rates (cfm), run-time (hours), and wattage of the fan providing fresh air ventilation (if known and applicable), and
4. Provide the AHRI number of certified equipment systems to the home builder or cooperate with Energy Advisor when requested.

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## 2.2.2 Energy Advisors Eligibility

To participate in the Program, Energy Advisors must be approved as Trade Ally by Program management. The application period opens at the beginning of each program year.

All interested Energy Advisors must be actively certified and in good standings as a third-party energy inspection professional and inspection experience in the jurisdiction where the home is being built to review, model, inspect and test the home as need so.

Additionally, Energy Advisors are expected or required to:

- Certified energy professionals are trained,

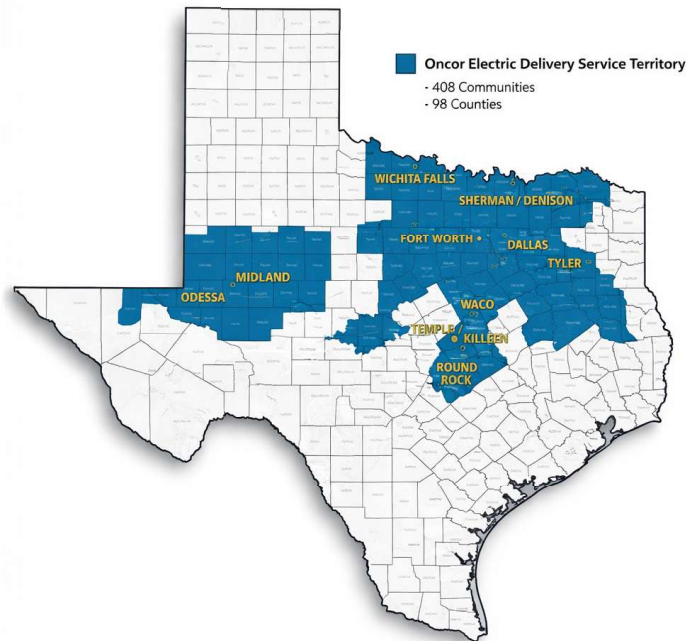
approved and registered by national HCO, such as RESNET HERS or BSI ERI Score Program, and

- Certified energy professionals are trained and approved using approved energy rating software, and
- Certified energy professionals are knowledgeable of city building permit residential construction processes, and current IECC Energy Code regulations, and
- Expected to be knowledgeable with the Oncor service area and new construction electric utility meter activation policies.

## 2.2.3 Home Eligibility

Each new home premise address must be served by Oncor at a residential rate to receive the benefits of the Program. The following new construction project types with individual residential meters include single-family, duplexes, townhomes, and multifamily low-rise projects.

Oncor's service area covers the major Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area. Additional service areas include North of DFW to the Oklahoma state-line, areas South of DFW including Waco and Round Rock, and the greater Midland/Odessa region.



## 2.2.4 ESI ID

A new home will be verified as serviced by Oncor with the unique premise Electric Service Identifier (ESID, ESI ID, aka Easy ID). The new home must have a **permanent** 17-digit premise number ESI ID and will appear on the utility bill and always start with “10” followed by either “44372” or “17699.”

You can also find the Oncor ESI ID using one of many online lookup tools.<sup>5</sup>

## 2.2.5 Meter Set Date

The date Oncor activates a permanent electric revenue meter will be used to determine eligibility of premise address meter set date. Homes on a temporary or inactive permanent meter will be eligible once the permanent meter becomes active.

For each Program year (which corresponds with the calendar year, January-December), the Program can accept homes with permanent meters set as of November 1st of the previous year or the date the home builder joins the program, whichever is later.

# 3.0 Incentives

Incentives are set annually using a combination of the Program’s market analysis, anticipated energy savings capacity, and cost-effective value calculations.

## 3.1 Incentive Overview

The ONHP operates with a fixed annual incentive budget. For the 2026 program year, the Program budget is \$3.99M, including administrative costs. Oncor reserves the right to adjust the budget as it deems necessary and at its sole discretion. Project applications will be accepted until November 15, 2026, or until all Program funding for the Program year has been exhausted or until a home builder’s unique incentive allocation reservation has been exhausted.

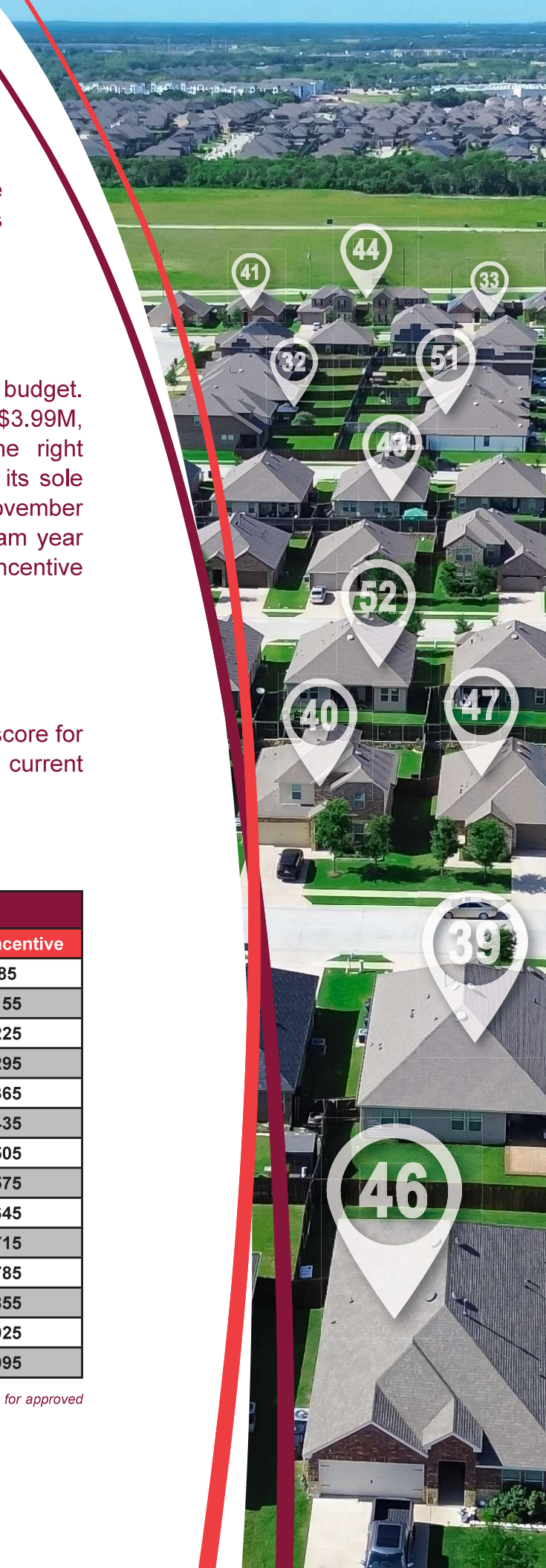
### 3.1.1 Incentive Tables

The Program offers incentive per HERS Index / ERI score for Residential Home Builders and Energy Advisors with current registration and active status.

#### Incentive Structure

Incentive Per Home			
Rated HERS	HERS Incentive	Rater Bonus*	Total Incentive
56	\$70	\$15	\$85
55	\$140	\$15	\$155
54	\$210	\$15	\$225
53	\$280	\$15	\$295
52	\$350	\$15	\$365
51	\$420	\$15	\$435
50	\$490	\$15	\$505
49	\$560	\$15	\$575
48	\$630	\$15	\$645
47	\$700	\$15	\$715
46	\$770	\$15	\$785
45	\$840	\$15	\$855
44	\$910	\$15	\$925
43 or Below	\$980	\$15	\$995

\*Energy Advisors with current registration and active status may qualify for "Rater Bonus" for approved qualified homes.



## 3.1.2 Home Builder Incentive Allocation Plan

The Program offers incentive levels for verified HERS Index / ERI rating, as presented in the table on the previous page. Each home builder will receive an annual incentive reservation plan from which incentives will be paid throughout the year as incentive applications are approved. The incentive allocation amount is determined by the overall program budget, home builders' historic and projected home sales, and the number of home builders participating. Home builders awarded an incentive allocation will have that amount reserved for the program year and are available to draw against.

The home builder must not exceed their

given allocation amount unless approved by the program manager. Failure to follow the reservation incentive plan, without updating the Program's staff prior to any deviation in schedule, could result in the loss of reservations.

The Program is committed to home builders who will build high-efficiency homes. Home builders committed to all or some HERS® Index/ERI level construction or pledge to build certified high-performance 45 or better level homes via DOE ENH Program, ENERGY STAR SFNC or Plus Passive House programs will be recognized and prioritized.





## 4.0 Application to Participate

Through our expert Trade Ally network of energy advisors and home builders, we are powering a transition to sustainable, high-performance homes in Texas.

As an Oncor New Homes Program Trade Ally participant, you will have ongoing access through the Program webpage. Here you will find general Program information, marketing materials, and contact information.

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### 4.1 Welcome Page

Here, you will find all the information needed to successfully enroll in the Program. This will be the main “Welcome” page for up-to-date general information, marketing materials, how to register and how to submit applications to the program. All Utility Program Trade Allies will start by applying to participate in the program using one of the links, as seen below.

A screenshot of a web interface titled "Get started today!". Below the title is the instruction "Choose from one of the following options". There are three dark red buttons with white text. The first button says "Apply to participate in the program as a Home Builder". The second button says "Apply to participate in the program as a Home Builder's Energy Advisor". The third button says "Complete a Bulk Home Incentive Application".

# 4.2 Apply to Participate as a Home Builder

After selecting “Apply to participate in the program as a Home Builder” on the “Welcome” page, Home Builders will be directed to the “Home Builder Participation Application”.

The Home Builder Participation Application consists of four short sections: Home Builder Profile Questionnaire, Contact Information, Required Documents, and Terms and Conditions.

## Home Builder Profile Questionnaire

The “Home Builder Profile Questionnaire” includes 3-questions that help describe what home product lines are planned in the Oncor service area.

Estimate the average annual number of homes you expect to complete per year \*

- Less than 25
- 25 - 100
- 100 - 500
- 500 - 1,000
- More than 1,000

Of those how many are anticipated to be DOE Efficient New Homes? \*

- All
- Some
- None

Of those how many are anticipated to be ENERGY STAR® certified? \*

- All
- Some
- None

Save Next

## Contact Information

The “Contact Information” section collects the Primary Contact and Purchasing Contact(s) information.

Contact Information

Company Name \*

Mailing Address

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State / Province

Back Next Save

## Terms and Conditions\*

Finally, all Home Builders must comply with the “Terms and Conditions” review, sign, and date.

Home Builder Terms and Conditions

Home Builder's Commitment

Program Home Builders shall:

- 1 Complete this application to be considered for participating in the Oncor New Homes Program.
- 2 Agree to build new homes that meet the Oncor New Homes Program guidelines for all homes seeking an incentive.

Additionally, the Home Builder agrees to:

- Adhere to building standards applicable to the jurisdiction you are building within.
- Partner with a HERS certified energy home rater or other home certification organization (HCO) to provide the necessary services to complete plan analysis, inspect new homes, and ensure energy-efficient requirements and specifications as required by the Oncor New Homes Program.

Agreement

I have read, understand, and agree with all partnership commitments described in this agreement, including all specifications or references described within. This agreement is effective from January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026. Oncor reserves the right to modify the provisions or technical specifications referenced at any time.

Electronic Signature (Home Builder or Administrative Representative) \* Date \*

01/29/2026

Clear

Back Next Save

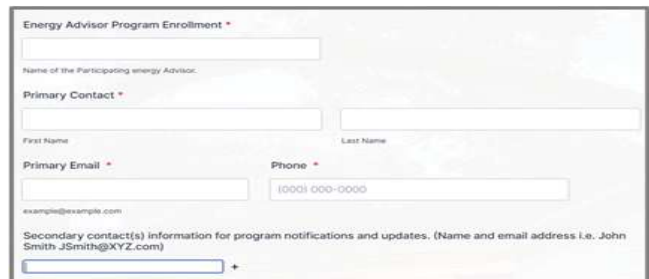
*\*The 2026 Terms and Conditions are valid from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. Oncor reserves the right to modify the provisions or technical specifications referenced at any time.*

# 4.3 Energy Advisor Participation Application

After selecting “Apply to participate in the program as a Home Builder’s Energy Advisor” on the “Welcome” page, Energy Advisors will be directed to the “Energy Advisor Participation Application.”

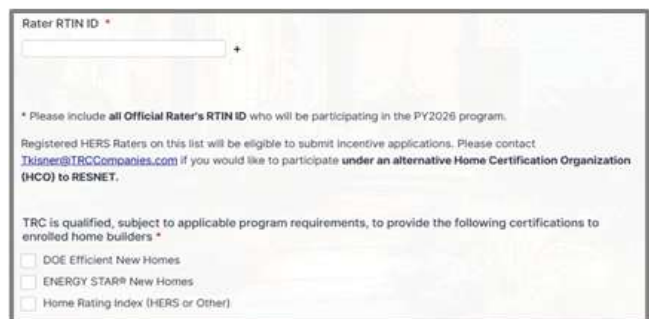
## Contact Information

First, Energy Advisors will complete the contact information section, including any additional emails that need to receive program communications. User may add more contacts by clicking the + button.



## RTIN ID and Certifications

Next, Energy Advisors should include their RTIN ID for every Official Rater that may certify participating homes and confirm which certifications the company is qualified to provide. If there is more than one RTIN ID, user may add more by clicking the + button.



## Client List

Next, Energy Advisor should include home builder clients and indicate the “Enrollment Type”, meaning New or Returning. If there is more than one builder client, user may add more by clicking the + button.



## Sign and Date

To complete the application, Energy Advisors will sign and date the agreement.



## 4.4 Payment Information and Submission Information

The Oncor New Homes Program team is here to assist you throughout the incentive request process. After the projects are completed, the Energy Advisor and Program team will follow the process below to request and process incentives.

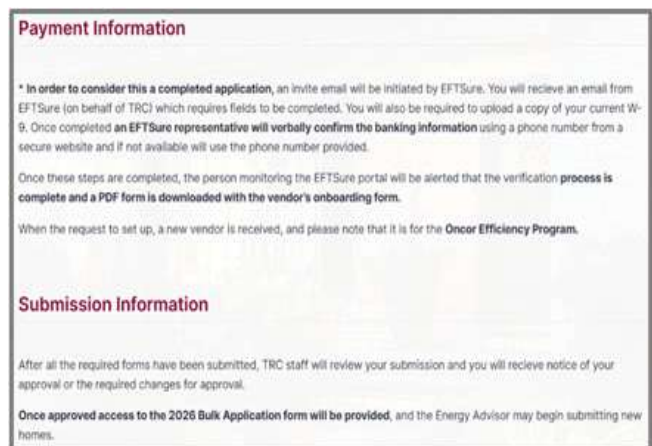
### 4.4.1 Payment Information Setup

First, TRC's Utility Program Trade Allies (aka TRC Vendors) will need to be setup.

Program TA's with EFT will be contacted by EFTsure via email with a secure link to begin the verification process for electronic payments.

TRC Vendors can visit EFTSure website to learn more and FAQs. Click here or visit [www.trccompanies.com/vendors-payments/](http://www.trccompanies.com/vendors-payments/)

*NOTE: Delays in providing the required information may result Utility Program Incentive payment delays.*



### Vendor Portal

### 4.4.2 Application Approval and Incentive Allocation Award

Program management will begin with review upon receipt of applications. Applicants can expect a conditional approval of homes and/or a revision request within 10 business days of submission. In certain circumstances, additional information may be required. Contact program management for inquiries related to incentive reserve allocations.

# 4.5 Application for Incentives

The Program is designed for Approved Trade Ally Home Builders to have their Approved Trade Ally Energy Advisors to request incentives. Applying for Program incentives can be completed using the third or fourth selection on the welcome page.

The Program is overseen by a Texas PUC third-party evaluator that requires certain data points be collected to ensure the integrity, validity, and accuracy of associated efficiency measures. The program must collect numerous pieces of data to support incentive payment and energy savings. We thank you in advance for supporting this effort.

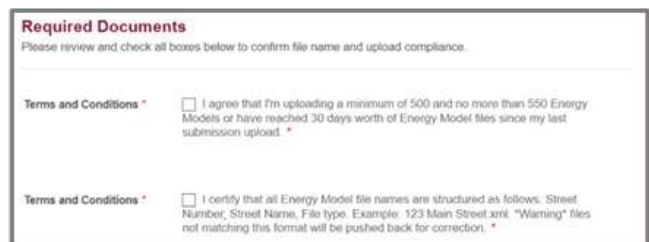
## 4.5.1 Bulk Home Incentive Application

The Program is designed for Approved Home Builders, or their approved Energy Advisor may request incentives. Applying for Program incentives can be completed using the third or fourth selection on the welcome page.

The Program is overseen by a Texas PUC third-party evaluator that requires certain data points be collected to ensure the integrity, validity, and accuracy of associated efficiency measures. The program must collect numerous pieces of data to support incentive payment and energy savings. We thank you in advance for supporting this effort.

### Access Bulk Home Application

After selecting “Complete a Bulk Home Incentive Application on the “Welcome” page, users will be directed to the “Bulk Home Application.”



**Required Documents**  
Please review and check all boxes below to confirm file name and upload compliance.

**Terms and Conditions \***  I agree that I'm uploading a minimum of 500 and no more than 550 Energy Models or have reached 30 days worth of Energy Model files since my last submission upload. \*

**Terms and Conditions \***  I certify that all Energy Model file names are structured as follows: Street Number, Street Name, File type. Example: 123 Main Street.xml. \*Warning\* files not matching this format will be pushed back for correction. \*

### Completed Project Summary

Here the user will upload the completed project summary along with the Energy Model for each home listed in the project summary document. Energy models, whether REM/Rate .blg or Ekotrope .xml, should be zipped into a single .zip



**Bulk Application Excel Template**

**Upload Bulk Application \***   
Excel file only

**Upload Energy Models \***   
.zip file only

The "page" icon contains a link that will provide you with a downloadable ONHP bulk application template. Any other templates or forms will not be accepted.

**Continued >>**

## 4.5.1 Bulk Home Incentive Application (Cont.)

### Contact Information

Next, the user will complete the submission contact information.



The screenshot shows a form titled "Submitted By" with the instruction "Provide contact info for the individual submitting the Bulk Home Application". It includes a text input field, a dropdown menu for "Energy Advisor on Submission" with "Please Select" as the current selection, and two text input fields for "Contact" (First Name and Last Name).

### Add All Home Builders

Finally, Add ALL Home Builder(s) on the submission. Now you're ready to submit your Bulk Home Incentive Application!



The screenshot shows a form titled "Select all the builder(s) on Submission" with a text input field for "Select Builder(s)" and a red "Submit" button.

*NOTE: Application processes are subject to change with planned improvements planned.*

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## 4.5.2 Receiving Payment

Program incentives are processed once a month. Any projects submitted for review and approval before the monthly processing date will be processed and, if approved, sent for payment. Please allow 6 to 8 weeks following project approval to process your incentive request. Projects submitted after the monthly processing date will be included in next month's calendar.

*NOTE: As Oncor's selected implementation partner, incentive payments will be processed directly by TRC Companies. Please reach out to the TRC program manager for questions related to incentive payments.*

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## 4.5.3 Important Program Dates and Deadlines

**2026 Program  
Open for Incentive  
Applications**



**Last Day to  
Submit Incentive  
Requests for the  
2026 Program**



## 6.0 Program Terminology, Definitions & Resources

Following is a brief list of terms and contacts as helpful references for this handbook.

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### 6.1 Helpful Resources for Texas

List of Texas Resources relevant to New Homes Program:

**International Energy Code (IECC):** The IECC is a model building code developed by International Code Council (ICC) to set minimum mandatory energy efficiency standards for new and renovated residential and commercial buildings. The newest versions of the IECC Energy Code is 2024 and is currently being adopted in Texas.

*Resource Link: [www.codes.iccsafe.org/codes](http://www.codes.iccsafe.org/codes)*

**Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor):** Oncor delivers electricity to homes and businesses but is not a retailer and does not sell electricity directly to customers. Oncor provides the poles and transformers serving the premise and the wires, also known as the service line, that connect to the weather head and meter. Oncor provides electricity to approximately 14 million people in their service area. Oncor is leader in Texas known for promoting innovative high-performance new homes programs.

**Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT):** PUCT manages the State of Texas' Energy Efficiency Implementation Project (EEIP) division oversees energy efficiency program goals administered by the eight IOUs.

*Resource Link: [www.puc.texas.gov/industry/electric/energy-efficiency/](http://www.puc.texas.gov/industry/electric/energy-efficiency/)*

**TRC:** TRC Company Advanced Energy practice serves as the New Homes Program implementer on behalf of Oncor. TRC recruits program participants, manages project approval, provides program coordination, designs, and delivers educational opportunities.

## 6.2 Helpful Resources of National Related Industry Groups & Non-Profits

List and links of national industries groups and non-profits:

**Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI):** AHRI was formed in 2008 by a merger of the Air-Condition and Refrigeration Institute and the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association, is a North American trade association of manufacturers of air conditioning, heating, and commercial refrigeration equipment providing industry accepted certified equipment ratings.

*Resource Link: [www.ahridirectory.org](http://www.ahridirectory.org)*

**American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE):** The ACEEE is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency as a means of promoting both economic prosperity and environmental protection.

*Resource Link: [www.aceee.org](http://www.aceee.org)*

**Building Science Corporation (BSC):** Building Science Corporation focuses on the ABCs of architecture and building science.

*Resource Link: [www.buildingscience.com](http://www.buildingscience.com)*

**Building Science Institute (BSI):** BSIs Energy Rating Index (ERI) program provides quality management oversight for residential energy ratings, acting as an alternative to RESNET. Typically used for residential new construction, IECC energy code compliance, ENERGY STAR® and DOE Efficient Homes Program. BSI is recognized as an ENERGY STAR Home Certification Organization (HCO).

*Resource Link: [www.buildingscienceinstitute.org](http://www.buildingscienceinstitute.org)*

*Certified ERI Address Verification: [www.eriregistry.com](http://www.eriregistry.com)*

**Building Performance Institute (BPI):** BPI is recognized as leader in advancing the home performance industry by providing nationally recognized standards and credentials that ensure homes are comfortable, healthy, safe, durable, and energy efficient.

*Resource Link: [www.bpi.org](http://www.bpi.org)*

*Continued >>*

## 6.2 Helpful Resources of National Related Industry Groups & Non-Profits *(Cont.)*

**Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE):** CEE was established as an organization of, by and for energy efficiency program administrators.

*Resource Link: [www.cee1.org](http://www.cee1.org)*

**COOP:** COOP is term commonly used for Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC) members since the 1940s. Today, TEC members include 67 distribution and 9 generation and transmission cooperatives. COOPs are not required under PUCT rules to participate in EEIP energy efficiency programs.

*Resource Link: [www.texas-ec.org/about/](http://www.texas-ec.org/about/)*

**Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE):** DSIRE is a comprehensive source of information on state, local, utility, and selected federal incentives that promote renewable and efficient energy projects.

*Resource Link: [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org)*

**Energy Efficient Building Association (EEBA):** EEBA provides technical information for energy efficient building practices and sustainable design issues.

*Resource Link: [www.eeba.org](http://www.eeba.org)*

**ENERGY STAR®:** ENERGY STAR® was introduced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as voluntary labeling program designed to identify and promote energy-efficient products, to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. ENERGY STAR Single Family New Homes (SFNH) is nationally recognized and major contributor to best practice energy efficiency design, modeling and inspection standards.

*Resource Link: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)*

**Healthy Home Institute:** Healthy Home Institute focuses on the home's interior environment and its indoor environment.

*Resource Link: [www.heatlyhousininstitute.com](http://www.heatlyhousininstitute.com)*

*Continued >>*

## 6.2 Helpful Resources of National Related Industry Groups & Non-Profits *(Cont.)*

**Investor-Owned Utility (IOU):** In Texas, eight OUIs work with PUCT to manage annual energy efficiency goals.

*Resource Link: NULL [www.texasefficiency.com](http://www.texasefficiency.com)*

**Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory (LBL):** LBL has been a leader in science and engineering research for more than 70 years. The lab is a U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratory managed by University of California.

*Resource Link: [www.lbl.gov](http://www.lbl.gov)*

**Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL):** ORNL is supported by U.S. Department of Energy. It conducts basic and applied research and development to create scientific knowledge and technological solutions that strengthen the nation.

*Resource Link: [www.ornl.gov](http://www.ornl.gov)*

**National Comfort Institute (NCI):** NCI serves the HVAC industry with Advanced Training and Certification in testing, measurement and proven performance of HVAC systems.

*Resource Link: [www.nationalcomfortinstitute.com](http://www.nationalcomfortinstitute.com)*

**National Environmental Balancing Bureau (NEBB):** NEBB is a non-profit organization, founded in 1971 by contractors in the HVAC industry.

*Resource Link: [www.nebb.org](http://www.nebb.org)*

**Passive House Institute US (PHIUS):** PHIUS is a voluntary program recognizing buildings that comply with PHIUS+ 2015 standards. In the residential sector, ENERGY STAR, EPA Indoor airPLUS, and DOE Efficient New Home (previously known as ZERH) specification are prerequisites to the program.

*Resource Link: [www.passivehousenetwork.org](http://www.passivehousenetwork.org)*

**Continued >>**

## 6.2 Helpful Resources of National Related Industry Groups & Non-Profits *(Cont.)*

**Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET):** RESNET is a recognized national standards-making body for building energy efficiency rating and certification systems (e.g. HERS® Raters/Index/National Registry) nationwide. BSI is recognized as an ENERGY STAR Home Certification Organization (HCO).

*Resource Link: [www.resnet.us](http://www.resnet.us)*

*RESNET National Registry Look-up: <https://www1.resnet.us/registry/>*

**Retrotec:** Retrotec is known as a leading manufacturer of building diagnostic tools, software and manufacturing certification. Specialty blower doors and duct testers are specially geared for professional trades.

*Resource Link: [www.retrotec.com](http://www.retrotec.com)*

**The Energy Conservatory (TEC):** TEC manufactures precision diagnostics equipment used to solve comfort, energy use, durability and air quality issues in buildings. Specialty equipment includes duct blowers and blower door.

*Resource Link: [www.ductblaster.com](http://www.ductblaster.com)*

*U.S. Department of Energy (DOE): Resource Link: [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov)*

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Resource Link: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)*

## 6.3 Helpful Terminology and Definitions

Following is a brief list of terms as helpful references for this handbook.

**Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU):** A smaller, independent residential dwelling unit located on the same lot as a stand-alone single-family home. ADUs are not currently included in Oncor New Homes Program.

**Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE):** A measurement of the seasonal energy efficiency of gas furnaces. Furnaces with AFUE rating of 78% to 80% are considered “mid-efficiency”; those with rating of 90% or higher are known as “high efficiency.”

**Affordable Housing (AH):** Housing that is deemed affordable to those with a household income at or below the median income level as rated by the national government or local government by a recognized housing affordability index.

**All-Electric:** A building or home with no gas end uses in which electricity is the only energy source.

**British Thermal Unit (Btu):** One of the two (watt-hours is the other) standard units of measure for amount of energy consumed by a process, the amount of energy transferred from one location to another, or the amount of embodied energy. One Btu is equal to 0.293 watts (W).

**Building Load:** The amount of heat that must be added to or removed from a building to satisfy specific energy to keep the space temperature at a specified thermostat setting.

**Building Science:** A multi-disciplinary study of buildings and its components. Uses a combination of scientific and engineering approaches to learn about and improve the quality of a building, from its design to its impact on occupants.

**Capacity:** The rate at which a HVAC system’s heating and cooling load can be satisfied by a given design to heat or cool and dehumidify a conditioned space. Heating and cooling capacity is normally given on equipment nameplates in units of Btu/h. The HVAC industry often uses units of “tons” to refer to equipment capacity. (One ton of capacity equals 12,000 Btu/h).

**Central Air Conditioner (CAC):** A central air conditioner consisting of one or more factory-made assemblies, which normally include an evaporator or cooling coil, compressor and condenser. Air treated at a central location and carried to and from spaces in a zoned conditioned area controlled by a fan and air duct system.

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## 6.3 Helpful Terminology and Definitions *(Cont.)*

**Company Division:** A company division is an operational unit within a larger corporate structure responsible for overseeing and managing construction projects within a specific market or geographic area, with independent decision-making authority. Multiple divisions within the same company can apply as separate entities, provided each division operates independently. For production builders with multiple regional divisions, each division will have its own incentive cap, and the program will track reserved incentives for each division separately.

**Conditioned Space:** Interior space which is contained within exterior walls (building envelope) and is controlled directly or indirectly by the HVAC system.

**Developer:** A person(s) who develops land through construction and who, to this end, becomes an owner of the developed land.

**Duct Leakage:** Uncontrolled air entering or escaping the designed ductwork system.

**Duct System:** The components of the HVAC system that is responsible for the delivery of conditioned air to conditioned space. Also includes air ducts, duct fittings, dampers, plenums, chases, fans and connected equipment.

**Duplex:** A house plan with two living units attached, either next to each other as townhouses, condominiums, or above each other like apartments. Duplex homes share a single wall with a dwelling unit on either side of the wall. Duplexes must be modeled as individual and separate units as required by national certification programs.

**Electric Resistance Heat:** Heat produced by the flow of electric through high-resistance wire, tape or film.

**Energy Advisor:** A third-party energy inspector that performs field verification and diagnostic testing at various times during construction, to corroborate the technical specification of the energy conservation measures reported in the energy model. The Program recognizes actively certified HERS Rater, Rating Field Inspector and BSI Verifier in good standing with their Home Certification Organization (HCO).

**Energy Costs:** The total estimated annual costs for purchasing energy (all sources) for a building. Including any demand charges, fuel adjustment factors and delivery charges applicable to the building.

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## 6.3 Helpful Terminology and Definitions *(Cont.)*

**Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER):** A measure of the instantaneous energy efficiency of cooling equipment. EER is the steady-state rate of heat energy removal (e.g. cooling capacity) by the equipment in Btu/h divided by the steady-state rate of energy input to the equipment in watts. New EER2 HVAC system ratings are published annually by AHRI.

**Energy Rating Index (ERI):** The 2015 IECC/IRC adds an additional path to energy code compliance using an Energy Rating Index (ERI). The ERI scale ranges from 0, to represent net zero energy, to 100, which represents the approximate efficiency of a home built to the 2006 IECC. Each point on the ERI scale represents a 1-percent change in the relative energy efficiency of the building. Each point higher is 1-percent less efficient, and each point lower is 1-percent more efficient. TXHB3215 provides a pathway for home builders to comply with IECC 2015 utilizing an approved ERI score.

**Heat Pump Water Heating (HPWH):** Heat Pump Water Heaters use an electricity driven process that moves heat from the surrounding ambient air into a water storage tank rather than generating heat directly. Therefore, they can be up to three times more energy efficient than conventional electric resistance water heaters.

**Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF):** This is a measure of a heat pump system's energy efficiency over a standard heating season. It represents the total heating output of a heat pump (including supplemental electric heat) during the normal heating season (in Btu/hr), as compared to the total resistance of electric heat consumed (in-watt hours) during the same period. New HSPF2 HVAC systems ratings are published annually by AHRI.

**Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index Rating:** RESNET's HERS® Index Rating program is a nationally recognized certification designed to evaluate home energy efficiency performed by certified HERS® Rater or Rating Field Inspector (RFI).

**Home Builder:** A person(s) or firm whose business is the construction of dwellings.

**HVAC:** Industry terminology describing Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning equipment.

**HVAC System:** HVAC system components include condenser and evaporator equipment and air distribution ductwork.

**Infiltration:** The uncontrolled inward air leakage through cracks and interstices in any building materials and around windows and doors of a building causing the pressure effects of wind or other differences in air pressure, such as warm air rising inside a home.

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## 6.3 Helpful Terminology and Definitions *(Cont.)*

**Induction Cooking:** Cooktops with electromagnetic fields beneath the surface that create heat directly within cookware, rather than relying on indirect radiation, convection, or thermal conduction.

**Mixed-fuel:** Refers to buildings with electricity and natural gas utilities.

**Mixed-use:** A development that blends residential, commercial, institutional, or entertainment uses into one space.

**Multifamily high-rise (MFHR):** Housing with four or more separate units connected by shared walls located in one building with four or more stories above ground. As defined in IECC Energy Code.

**Multifamily low-rise (MFLR):** Housing with four or more separate units connected by shared walls located in one building with three or fewer stories above ground. As defined in IECC Energy Code.

**Nationally Certified Homes Programs:** A national certification program that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy manage to educate and promote energy efficiency.

**Participant:** Refers to the active individual(s) taking place in the Oncor New Homes Program.

**Residential Buildings, Type A-1:** Detached one- and two- family dwelling.

**Residential Buildings, Type A-2:** A building containing multiple (i.e. three or more) dwelling units where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature, such as townhouse, row houses, apartment houses, convents, monasteries, rectories, fraternities and sororities, dormitories, rooming houses all which are three or less stories in height above grade.

**Residential New Construction (RNC):** Is a residential building structure, as defined by IECC Building Codes and serviced by an individual residential electric meter.

**Rightsizing:** Rightsizing HVAC equipment capacity to maximize the benefits of cooling and heating building loads can result in significant energy savings. Over-sizing can lead to high interior humidity problems, since oversized equipment will not run for extended periods of time and will not dehumidify as efficiently as a properly sized HVAC system.

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## 6.3 Helpful Terminology and Definitions *(Cont.)*

**Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER):** A measure of equipment energy efficiency over the cooling season. It represents the total cooling of a central air conditioner and heat pump (in Btu/h) during the normal cooling season.

**Single Family:** Homes which have just one dwelling unit. For the purpose of this program, duplexes, and townhomes are eligible under our single-family program requirements.

**Thermostat:** The component of the HVAC system which automatically controls conditioned space temperature by cycling the system ON/OFF to satisfy temperature setting.

**Townhome:** A single family dwelling unit constructed in a group of three or more attached units in which each unit extends from the foundation to the roof with open space on at least two sides. Must be modeled as individual separate units.



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