Home Energy Rating System (HERS)
Policy and Procedure

The purpose of this document is to describe the city of Phoenix procedure for alternate compliance approaches as it relates to home energy efficiency and the Phoenix Building Construction Code. The code has now been amended to allow an alternative approach for compliance to 2024 IECC Section R406. The Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index was developed to quantify energy efficiency and standardize the results. The HERS index is a nationally recognized system for measuring a home's energy efficiency and energy performance.

A certified Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) Home Energy Rater or Rating Field Inspector assesses the energy efficiency of a home, assigning it a performance score. The Rater prepares an energy rating on the home and compares the data against a home of the same size and shape as the actual home. The lower the HERS rating, the more energy efficient the home.

Policy

The Phoenix Building Construction Code was amended to allow a HERS rating of 51 or below in lieu of Energy Conservation Code compliance. The index score must be confirmed in writing by a RESNET certified Home Energy Rater or Rating Field Inspector.

Certified Home Energy Raters have adopted a template or HERS Rating Certificate that provides the minimum required information that will be provided to Inspectors (See Attachment A). City of Phoenix inspectors will at times observe HERS testing on an as needed/random basis. The city of Phoenix will provide monthly auditing of sample sets to ensure sample groupings are in compliance with RESNET Standards. The monthly sample spreadsheet should at a minimum include address, community, lot number, date each phase is completed and results for framing, blower door, duct blaster and insulation tests.

Procedure

- Applicant indicates intent to use HERS and provides preliminary rating report and Building File Report if using REM/Rate software. If using different software, provide equivalent information with application and plans submittals.
- Plan reviewer conducts cursory review of reports as part of plan review.
- Plan reviewer checks HERS in permit category and indicates in permit scope the home is using a HERS energy performance path and lists the projected score in the Structure Class screen in the "HERS Proposed" box. (The score must be 51 or less)
- Inspector collects HERS rating certificate prior to final using the 697 inspection code and enters the inspection result and HERS score. Reports should be left with the construction superintendent.
- A certificate listing the various values for energy code elements is still required in the electrical box according to IECC R401.3 and RESNET 603.4.2.
- A change in the MIMHERS no longer allows sampling. All residences shall be tested if HERS is selected as the energy path for compliance

Attachment
A. HERS Rating Certificate

For more information or for a copy of this publication in an alternate format, contact Planning & Development at 602-262-7811 voice or TTY use 7-1-1.

Home Energy Rating System (HERS) In Lieu of IECC 2024 Jurisdiction Inspection and Testing Form

- This form provides proof of compliance with certain provisions of the International Residential Code, Chapter 11 and Chapter 15.
- This form shall be submitted prior to final inspection.
- Applicant is responsible for engaging a qualified HERS Rater with current certification.
- Improper certification will result in rejection of this submittal and re-inspection and testing.

The following home has passed all requirements of the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) and has been certified in accordance with Chapter 6 of the RESNET Standards. See: www.resnet.us/standards				
Permit Activity Number:			Date:	
Builder Name:			Phone:	
Project Address:				
Project Subdivision:			Lot Number:	
Framing Inspection:		Inspected	Sampled	
Insulation Inspection:		Inspected	Sampled	
Air Leakage Test:		Inspected	Sampled	
Duct Tightness Test:		Inspected	Sampled	
HERS SCORE:		Duct test performed (Date):	Rough-In	Final

I, _____ (HERS Rater) certify that the above home has passed all requirements of the HERS, as indicated above and has been certified in accordance with Chapter 6 of the RESNET Standards.

Provider Name: _____

HERS Rater Name: _____

RESNET Rater ID Number: _____ Contact Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

This form shall be submitted to the permit issuing jurisdiction.