

# ENERGYwise

FOR YOUR HOME



## Building a New Home? Don't do it without the Energywise® New Home Construction Program

The Energywise New Home Construction program rewards you for building a home with energy efficient design and construction and is based on the concept of a house as a system.

### What does being an Energywise home mean?

To be an Energywise home, a home must meet specific guidelines for thermal and performance standards. Homes built to the Energywise standards provide the homeowner with lower energy costs, healthier indoor air quality, improved building durability and increased market value. With homebuyers increasingly interested in green building, energy efficiency is the place to start.



Qualified new homes are eligible for rebates. Contact Agralite Electric Cooperative for more information about the qualifications.

### Opportunities for Energy Savings: New Home Construction

#### 1. INSULATION

Properly installed and inspected insulation in floors, walls, and attics ensures even temperatures throughout the house, reduced energy use, and increased comfort. Walls constructed of Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF) or Structurally Insulated Panels (SIP) with a nominal insulation level of at least R-20 may be used in place of the required R-24 wood-frame walls.

#### 2. WINDOWS

Energy-efficient windows employ advanced technologies, such as protective coatings and improved frames, to help keep heat in during winter and out during summer. These windows also block damaging ultraviolet sunlight that can discolor carpets and furnishings

#### 3. SEALING

Sealing holes and cracks in the home's "envelope" and in heating and cooling duct systems helps reduce drafts, moisture, dust, pollen, and noise. A tightly sealed home improves comfort and indoor air quality while reducing utility and maintenance costs. The Thermal

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Bypass Inspection Checklist must be completed for participating homes. The Checklist requires visual inspection of framing areas where air barriers are commonly missed and inspection of insulation to ensure proper alignment with air barriers, thus serving as an extra check that the air and thermal barriers are continuous and complete.

## 4. HEATING AND COOLING

In addition to using less energy to operate, energy-efficient heating and cooling systems can be quieter, reduce indoor humidity, and improve the overall comfort of the home. When properly installed into a tightly sealed home, this equipment won't have to work so hard to heat and cool the home. Central HVAC equipment should have a SEER rating of 14 or greater and must be properly installed by a contractor who is registered for the HVAC rebate program.

## 5. EFFICIENT PRODUCTS

Energywise qualified homes must also be equipped with ENERGY STAR qualified products — lighting fixtures, compact fluorescent bulbs, ventilation fans, and appliances, such as refrigerators, dishwashers, and washing machines.

Source: *Energystar.gov*

## How to get started?

With the help of your local electric cooperative, you will receive consultation from the planning stage to the final home inspection.

## Who can participate?

To qualify for the program you must live in Agralite Electric Cooperative's service territory

## What you'll receive

- Free consultation services (value of approximately \$1,000)
- Additional rebates may be allowed for insulation levels, air tightness, plan review, and framing/pre-sheetrock inspections
- Check with your builder or tax consultant for federal tax credit resources

## Contact us

For any questions, or to inquire about consultation services, please contact Agralite Electric Cooperative for more information.



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