

East Hampton Energy Savings Program For Residential Construction

- (1) What is it?
A Town program to increase energy efficiency for new residential construction in order to significantly reduce fuel bills and reduce our dependence on oil and other fossil fuels.
- (2) What if I am planning to build a new home?
Starting June 8, 2008, any request for a residential building permit would require construction built to East Hampton Energy Saving Standards. The Town web-site town@east-hampton.ny.us has a list of these requirements.
- (3) Won't this cost me more to build my home?
According to our builders, it is not that much more. For the average size home, integrating these energy-efficiency standards will cost about \$2,000 to \$4,000.
- (4) Besides lowering my fuel costs, what other benefits do I get as a homeowner?
Banks prefer to award mortgages to an energy efficient home because they are well constructed. Insurance companies may give lower rates because these homes are air-tight and can withstand high storm winds. Realtors consider energy-efficiency as a major selling point which could increase the value of the home.
- (5) Will my builder/architect know how to do this?
The Town worked with local builders, contractors, and the Town Building Inspector to set up standards that are easy to understand and implement.
- (6) How do you know you are really getting these measures installed?
Your architect/engineer needs to sign the blueprints if required or the Building Inspectors will visit the site in order to confirm that these measures are in compliance before a Certificate of Occupancy will be issued.
- (7) a. I have an old historic home and want to renovate it. Do I have to conform to the Energy Savings Program?
It depends on the extent of the reconstruction. If the cost of construction is over 50% of the value of the home — yes, the reconstruction would need to be energy efficient. If it is less, no.

b. If I am just adding a small bedroom, or garage, must the construction comply with the Energy Savings Program?
No, but the Town would encourage you to consider the program standards.
- (8) Actually, I'm glad the Town is setting a higher standard for energy efficient construction.
We can all feel better. One non-efficient home can release two tons of carbon fossil fuels into the air per year! The Town is incorporating the “Green” building standard into our restoration of historic buildings at Town Hall. This standard is a win-win for the homeowner, community and the environment.