

# HERS® Index *and* Why You Should Care.

The Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index is the industry standard by which a home's energy efficiency is measured. It's also the nationally recognized system for inspecting and calculating a home's energy performance. HERS® index functions as sort of energy efficiency version of a MPG (miles-per-gallon) sticker for houses, and informs home-owners about how their homes compare to other similar ones in terms of energy usage. All of Wright Builders' homes are assessed by a local, reputable third party rater. In fact, this rating, as of January 2017, is a Massachusetts building code requirement. Wright Builders has been doing these ratings for over 10 years.

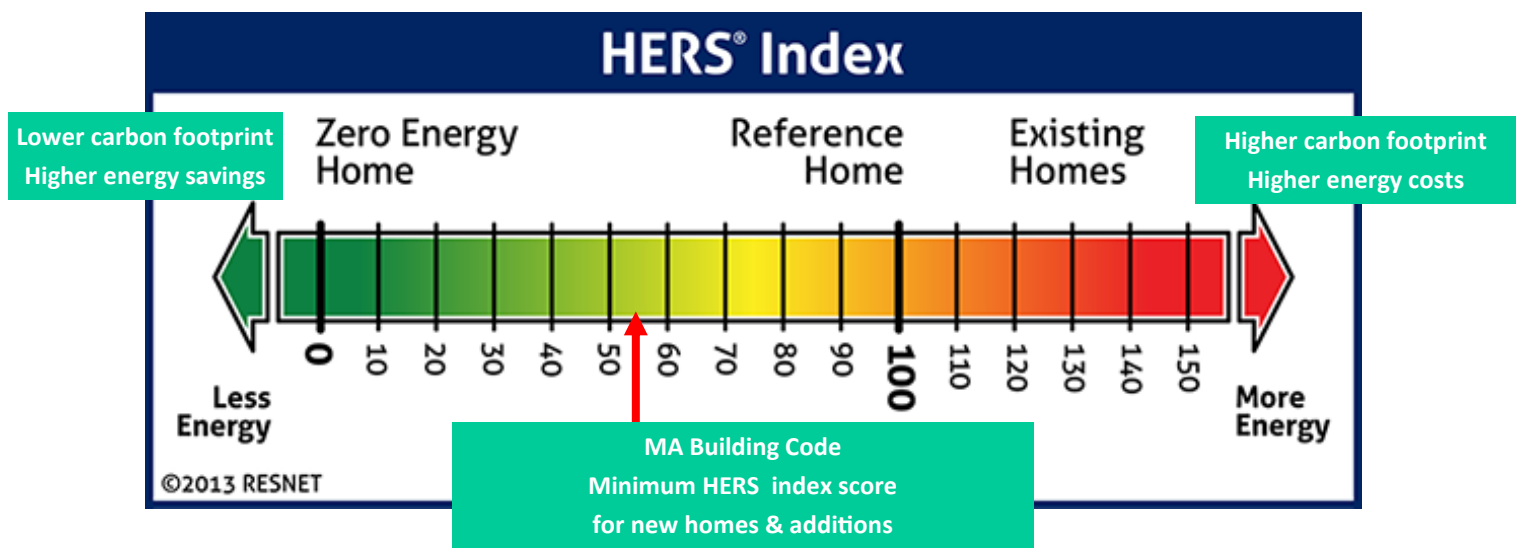
## How does the HERS® Index work?

A certified Home Energy Rater assesses the energy efficiency of every new home, addition or energy retrofit that we do, assigning it a relative performance score. The lower the number, the more energy efficient the home. The U.S. Department of Energy has determined that a typical resale home scores 130 on the HERS® Index while a "standard" new home is awarded a rating of 100. You'll see in the next few pages, that the HERS® ratings of most new homes built by Wright Builders, Inc., are well below the "standard" reference home with a rating of 100 and below the MA maximum HERS® Index score for new construction.

- A home with a HERS® Index Score of 20 is 80% more energy efficient than a standard new home.
- A home with a HERS® Index Score of 130 is 30% less energy efficient than a standard new home.

## What does a HERS® rating say about a house?

Wright Builders has been committed to sustainable construction for decades, staying well ahead of building code energy requirements. What this means for the homeowner is: lower energy bills which should be taken into consideration when looking at mortgage options, more comfort year round and increasingly more often, a higher home resale value.



# Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design | LEED

Just like having our new homes and additions rated for their HERS index, Wright Builders also participates in the United States Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED for Homes program. We feel that home is more than just shelter: homes are the most important buildings in our lives. Wright Builders believes strongly that every building should be a green building – but especially homes. Why? LEED homes or those that are built to the LEED specifications are built to be healthy, providing clean indoor air and incorporating safe building materials to ensure a comfortable home. Just like the HERS Index, using less energy and water means lower utility bills each month and less impact on the environment. And in many markets, certified green homes are now selling quicker and for more money than comparable non-green homes. **What's not to like about that!**

A little over a dozen years ago, the USGBC established LEED program in response to a perceived need that specific and determined standards and third-party verification be required in order for structures to be considered “green” or environmentally friendly.

LEED is now changing the way we think about how buildings and communities are planned, constructed, maintained and operated. Leaders around the world have made LEED the most widely used third-party verification for green buildings, with around 2.2 million square feet being certified daily.

LEED works for all buildings—from homes to corporate headquarters—at all phases of development. Projects pursuing LEED certification earn points across several areas that address sustainability issues. Based on the number of points achieved, a project then receives one of four LEED rating levels: Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum. **Wright Builders, Inc.** recently completed a 9-year project at Village Hill Northampton. Our 54 new homes; single family, duplexes, quads and “flats” were all built to LEED for Homes standards and achieved certifications across the board. For our new homeowners, this meant more comfort year-round, cleaner inside air, less energy usage costs and peace of mind.

## Do You Know That...?

- As humans, we spend 90% of our time indoors. That time should be spent in spaces that allow us to breathe easy, give us views of nature and daylight, and make us healthier and more productive.
- The EPA estimates that indoor air is between two and ten times more polluted than outdoor air. LEED-certified homes are designed to maximize fresh air indoors and minimize exposure to airborne toxins and pollutants.
- LEED certification means healthier, more productive places, reduced stress on the environment by encouraging energy and resource-efficient buildings, and savings from increased building value, higher lease rates and decreased utility costs. LEED certified buildings will directly contribute \$29.8 billion to U.S. GDP by 2018.





Eastwind | 73 Village Hill Road 1N,  
Northampton, MA 2017



**HERS INDEX: 51 | LEED & ENERGY STAR Certified | 1,523 Sq. Ft.**

Westwind | 74 Village Hill Road 3N,  
Northampton, MA - 2014



**HERS INDEX: 44 | LEED & ENERGY STAR Certified | 1,525 Sq. Ft.**



85 Olander Drive, Northampton, MA | 2011



**HERS INDEX: 47 | LEED GOLD | ENERGY STAR Certified | 1,968 Sq. Ft.**

92 Olander Drive, Northampton, MA 2012



**HERS INDEX: 46 | LEED & ENERGY STAR Certified | 2,688 Sq. Ft.**





57 Olander Drive, Northampton, MA 2010

**HERS INDEX: 27 | LEED Gold | ENERGY STAR Certified | 1,876 Sq. Ft.**



63 Olander Drive, Northampton, MA 2010

**HERS INDEX: 54 | LEED & ENERGY STAR Certified | 2,966 Sq. Ft.**



91 Olander Drive, Northampton, MA 2012



HERS INDEX: 22 | LEED Gold | ENERGY STAR Certified | 4,014 Sq. Ft.

71 Olander Drive, Northampton, MA 2011



HERS INDEX: 48 | LEED Gold | ENERGY STAR Certified | 2,268 Sq. Ft.



DUPLEX: 34 Ford Crossing & 87 Village Hill Road,  
Northampton, MA 2017



**HERS INDEX: 49 & 50 | LEED & ENERGY STAR Certified | 1,750 & 1,440 Sq. Ft.**



Townhomes: 75 & 77 Musante Street,  
Northampton, MA 2015

**HERS INDEX: 51 & 46 | LEED Silver | ENERGY STAR Certified | 1,824 & 1,570 Sq. Ft.**



Townhomes @ 21 & 23 Moser Street,  
Northampton, MA 2014



**HERS INDEX: 43 & 40 | LEED Silver | ENERGY STAR Certified | 1,614 & 1,320 Sq. Ft.**

**Townhomes @ 29, 31 & 33 Moser Street, Northampton, MA 2016**



**HERS INDEX: 40, 42 & 43 | LEED Silver & ENERGY STAR Certified | 1,613; 1,350 & 1,320 Sq. Ft.**



46 Spring Hill Road, Belchertown, MA 2013



**HERS INDEX: 47 | LEED Silver | ENERGY STAR Certified | 2,356 Sq. Ft.**



**HERS INDEX: -21 | ENERGY STAR Certified | 1,790 Sq. Ft.**

23 Sugarloaf Street, Unit R, Deerfield, MA 2015



88 Shutesbury Road, Leverett, MA 2009



**LEED GOLD | ENERGY STAR Certified | 2,375 Sq. Ft.**



**HERS INDEX : -2 | LEED Platinum | ENERGY STAR Certified | 4,292 Sq. Ft.**