

## **Iowa Green Streets Criteria Frequently Asked Questions**

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### **Q1. Are their efficiency requirements for heating and air conditioning equipment in accordance with the Iowa Green Streets Criteria?**

**A1.** Yes. Criterion 5.1a states, “Where used, it is recommended that air conditioning equipment should be at least 14 SEER and use R-410a refrigerant that is charged according to manufacturer specifications. Heating equipment is recommended to be at least 92 AFUE for furnaces where used and 85 AFUE for boilers where used. Project developers are advised to contact their local utility provider, as some providers require higher levels of efficiency for equipment to meet the minimum requirements for rebate and other incentive programs.

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### **Q2. Do we have to use a third-party energy rater to confirm energy system performance, including duct system performance?**

**A2.** “Use a professionally certified third-party energy rater to document that the HVAC system was installed correctly for each unit by measuring and documenting that actual BTU delivery is 90% or greater of the system’s rated output capacity.

Use of the installed efficiency testing standard (System Efficiency Ratio (SER) of the National Comfort Institute (NCI) is recommended.” See Iowa Green Streets Criterion 5.1a.

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### **Q3. What do we need to do to certify that the housing units meet Green Street Standards? I see in the guidelines there is a list of Certifications (Intent to Comply, etc.). Are there actual forms for those to sign, or do we need to come up with our own? Is signing those the only thing we need to do (as opposed to regular inspections during construction, etc.)? What do we do if there is no Architect/Project designer?**

**A3.** If there isn’t a project designer or architect (there really should be one) then the applicant alone certifies. The general contractor also signs at the end of construction. See criterion 1.2 for more information. The certification box is located in Appendix A at the end of the Green Development Plan and Checklist. Your regular process for conducting inspections during construction should continue as well to insure consistency with other items in your project plans and specifications and applicable building and energy codes.

The only other types of certification that need to be completed are the energy related verifications listed in 5.1a or 5.1b depending on whether the project is new construction or rehabilitation.

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### **Q4. What does HERS stand for?**

**A4.** HERS stands for Home Energy Rating System.

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**Q5. Are we required to complete HERS testing with a certified energy rater as part of the Green Street Criteria?**

**A5.** Yes

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**Q6. Can we partner with our local Community Action Organization who has the equipment to complete a home energy rating and are willing to assist?**

A6. If the community action agency rater is a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) certified rater, they can do the rating. One of the biggest benefits to using a rater is to involve them in the project(s) earlier including plan reviews and energy load calculations so the home is designed correctly with a good thermal envelope, right amount, size and location of ducts, and the right size of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment. A listing of RESNET certified raters (which is required to receive an energy star label for the home) is available at [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=new\\_homes\\_partners.locator](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=new_homes_partners.locator) and also at <http://www.natresnet.org/directory/raters.aspx>.

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**Q7. Will the certification required on criterion 3.3, *Landscaping*, of the Green Development Plan be a separate submittal to IDED or can we put the certification on the drawings that are part of the construction documents?**

A7. A separate submittal is not necessary. Certification on the drawings that are part of the construction documents is sufficient. The project developer and designer will be certifying this as well when signing the certification box at the end of the green development plan and checklist. This signing happens at application, prior to commencing construction and post construction.

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**Q8. Project drawings called for insulating the full length of exposed hot water pipes from the hot water heaters within the units as insulation is required in criterion 7.8, *Cold and Hot Water Pipe Insulation*. The city inspectors are requiring that the insulation stop 6 inches short of the existing single wall exhaust flues. The remainder of the exposed lines are insulated with high quality jacketed pipe insulation.**

**A8.** The city rules need to be followed. This is a safety issue.

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**Q9. *Materials Beneficial to the Environment*, criterion 6.4, has a 25% requirement to be salvaged, engineered framing material, or FSC. Does engineered wood floor trusses and/or engineered roof trusses go towards this percentage?**

A9. Engineered wood floor trusses usually are largely made with recycled wood materials compressed together to make the center of the engineered floor truss and thus would count towards

the recycled content requirements of the Iowa Green Streets Criteria. Engineered roof trusses on the other hand are typically standard lumber without recycled content and get the “engineered” in their name from the way they are designed and assembled (various angles, metal plate connectors, so forth) to withstand stronger natural weather events.

The manufacturer/supplier of the engineered wood floor trusses must and should be able to provide you information on the percentage of the overall product weight that is recycled content.

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**Q10. If a vinyl siding product contains recycled content can it receive credit for criterion 6.2, *Durable and Low-Maintenance Exteriors* and criterion 6.3, *Recycled Content Material*?**

**A10.** Vinyl siding does not meet the department’s requirements for a durable and low-maintenance exterior product. Therefore, its recycled content is a moot issue. If a product does meet the durable and low-maintenance exterior requirements and has recycled content, then that recycled content can count towards the project’s overall recycled content calculations.

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**Q11. Does the definition of "washed gravel", to be placed under the interior concrete slab, to comply with Iowa Green Streets Criteria Item 7.10a, *Basement and Concrete Slabs: Vapor Barrier*, include crushed stone?**

**A11.** For clarification, it is best to specify the material as “washed limestone gravel.”

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**Q12. Where can we find the referenced document EPA 832-R-92-005 for criterion 3.2, *Erosion and Sedimentation Control*?**

**A12.** There are a couple of like resources below from EPA. The main emphasis of this criterion is to prevent erosion and control sediment. You could also use the Iowa Construction Site Erosion Control Manual, <http://www.ctre.iastate.edu/erosion/>.

EPA Resources:

[http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyNET.exe/2000461J.TXT?ZyActionD=ZyDocument&Client=EPA&Index=1991+Thru+1994&Docs=&Query=&Time=&EndTime=&SearchMethod=3&TocRestrict=n&Toc=&TocEntry=&QField=pubnumber%5E%22832R92005%22&QFieldYear=&QFieldMonth=&QFieldDay=&UseQField=pubnumber&IntQFieldOp=1&ExtQFieldOp=1&XmlQuery=&File=D%3A%5Czyfiles%5CIndex%20Data%5C91thru94%5CTxt%5C00000003%5C2000461J.txt&Use\\_r=ANONYMOUS&Password=anonymous&SortMethod=h%7C-&MaximumDocuments=10&FuzzyDegree=0&ImageQuality=r75g8/r75g8/x150y150g16/i425&Display=p%7Cf&DefSeekPage=x&SearchBack=ZyActionL&Back=ZyActionS&BackDesc=Results%20page&MaximumPages=1&ZyEntry=1&SeekPage=x](http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyNET.exe/2000461J.TXT?ZyActionD=ZyDocument&Client=EPA&Index=1991+Thru+1994&Docs=&Query=&Time=&EndTime=&SearchMethod=3&TocRestrict=n&Toc=&TocEntry=&QField=pubnumber%5E%22832R92005%22&QFieldYear=&QFieldMonth=&QFieldDay=&UseQField=pubnumber&IntQFieldOp=1&ExtQFieldOp=1&XmlQuery=&File=D%3A%5Czyfiles%5CIndex%20Data%5C91thru94%5CTxt%5C00000003%5C2000461J.txt&Use_r=ANONYMOUS&Password=anonymous&SortMethod=h%7C-&MaximumDocuments=10&FuzzyDegree=0&ImageQuality=r75g8/r75g8/x150y150g16/i425&Display=p%7Cf&DefSeekPage=x&SearchBack=ZyActionL&Back=ZyActionS&BackDesc=Results%20page&MaximumPages=1&ZyEntry=1&SeekPage=x)

[http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/chap03\\_conguide.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/chap03_conguide.pdf)



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**Q13. Is LP SmartSide an acceptable durable and low-maintenance exterior?**

**A13.** LP SmartSide appears to be an acceptable exterior material. Proper installation of any siding product is essential to the success of the product and durability. Using the rain screen installation method will help improve product and finish durability.

Resources for installing a rain screen:

<http://www.toolbase.org/Technology-Inventory/walls/rain-screen-exterior-walls>

<http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/documnts/finlines/knaeb95c.pdf>

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**Q14. Are vinyl windows acceptable?**

**A14.** Yes

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**Q15. Criterion 7.8, *Cold and Hot Water Pipe Insulation*, says: “Insulate exposed cold and hot water pipes in climates and building conditions susceptible to moisture condensation.” If exposed cold and hot water pipes will be in basements that are properly insulated, will we need to insulate both cold and hot water pipes?**

**A15.** Insulate both cold and hot water pipes where accessible.

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**Q16. What, if any, requirements are there for rooms in multifamily buildings that are common space?**

**A16.** If the project is 4 stories or above, the common space in multifamily would need to be included in the energy model, so the percent improvement in whole-building energy performance is inclusive of common space. If the project is low-rise multifamily (3 stories or below), then common space wouldn't be part of the energy model, because REMRate doesn't adequately calculate common space specifics.

Regardless of project type, the common space still needs to meet any prescriptive requirements in the Iowa Green Streets Criteria that are applicable such as floor coverings; lighting; paints, adhesives and sealants; etc.

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**Q17. Does PEX tubing for water lines need to be insulated per criterion 7.8, *Cold and Hot Water Pipe Insulation*, since PEX has some insulating qualities?**

**A17.** Insulate the hot water lines. Insulating cold water lines, may not be necessary and is not required for PEX, but it is still a good idea to insulate the cold water lines if possible.

