

Home Certification Systems

Why we care

The size, configuration, efficiency, and energy source of our home constitutes a suite of important environmental impacts. Most of the energy we use to build and operate our homes usually comes from fossil fuels. The energy certifications listed below focus on energy efficiency and decarbonization. The green building certifications address more than just energy.

Simple, positive steps

Become knowledgeable about third-party certified homes. Each category is listed from least to most stringent.

Energy certifications

1. [ENERGY STAR Homes](#), developed by the EPA, assures that homes meet fuel and electricity conservation standards.
2. [Electrify PDX](#), helps Portland homeowners and businesses fully electrify their buildings.
3. [Net Zero Energy](#) certification verifies that the building is securing energy from the sun, wind, or earth to exceed net annual demand.
4. [Passive House](#) must meet the most rigorous energy saving practices. Buildings are virtually airtight, exploit solar gain, need minimal heating/cooling, and employ a heat recovery ventilation system for superior indoor air quality.

Green building certifications

1. [Earth Advantage](#) certified homes ensure that five key areas of building a sustainable home are met: energy, health, land, materials, and water.
2. [LEED certification for residential](#), developed by the US Green Building Council, is similar to Earth Advantage but is a more stringent standard.
3. [The Living Building Challenge](#) defines the most advanced measure of sustainability. Living buildings use net zero energy, supply all of their own water onsite, manage all their waste water on site, and use only non-toxic, locally sourced building materials.

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