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Healthy Environment, Strong Communities, Accountable Government

# Take Action on Energy Efficient Homes

With the well known and serious impact of global warming looming, such as sea level rise and more intense storms, as well as air pollution and concerns about dependence on foreign oil, strong solutions to energy waste are needed. The Neighborhood Network is supporting a bill in the New York State Legislature to require that new homes are built to **higher energy efficiency standards**, and require **energy performance testing** of all new homes. (S06912A Foley/ A10288-A Englebright)

The Neighborhood Network successfully campaigned to bring these higher standards to Long Island towns. Now ten of thirteen L.I. towns require ENERGY STAR® Homes standards for new home construction.

These new codes have been successful in reducing the carbon footprint of new homes and keeping money in the local economy that would have otherwise been spent on out-of-state or foreign energy sources. This was achieved at no extra cost to taxpayers, and without causing delays to home builders. Now there is an opportunity to bring these benefits to the entire state. The bill has already passed the State Senate. We are urging our members and supporters to support this bill by contacting their State Assembly members. (See other side.)



## New York Should Stop Building Homes That Waste Energy

- A typical New York household spends \$2,500 per year on energy. On Long Island it could be double that.
- A home that achieves a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) rating of 84 saves 20% per year on heating, cooling, hot water, and electric usage. These savings more than pay for any increased construction cost (usually less than 1% of the cost to build the home) to make the home more efficient.
- Studies have found that when they are not subject to performance testing, as many as 45% to 54% of homes do not meet minimum energy code requirements.
- Energy use for an average home is responsible for more pollution than an average car. (U.S. E.P.A.)

### The Home Energy Rating System

- A HERS rating is an evaluation of the energy efficiency of a home, relative to a reference house of identical size and shape that meets minimum code requirements.
- HERS was established by the mortgage industry in 1981, as a means to reliably evaluate the energy performance of homes.
- HERS raters are trained and certified to nationally accepted standards.
- HERS was chosen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the system for evaluating the energy efficiency of new homes in the ENERGY STAR® Homes program.



# Take Action

Write to your State Assembly Member and urge them to support A10288 to improve the energy efficiency and mandate independent energy performance testing of all new homes built in New York State .

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## Sample Letter to Your Assembly Member

Dear Assembly(man/woman) \_\_\_\_\_,

I am very concerned about the effects of local air pollution and global climate change, and national security implications of our dependence on foreign oil.

I am writing to ask you to support the amendment to the State Energy Law to require greater energy efficiency and mandatory energy performance testing of new homes. (A10288-A Englebright) This law would reduce the carbon footprint of all new homes built in New York State, reduce air pollution, save new homeowners on energy costs and keep money in the State's economy, and create new, green jobs — all at virtually no cost to taxpayers. The "same as" bill (S6912A Foley) was passed by the State Senate. I urge you to work to pass the bill in the Assembly.

Please write back to me, indicating your position on this bill, and what your plans are to advance it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,