

*The following **draft**, prepared by the EAC, includes proposed language and resources for a green home certification registration:*

GREEN HOME CERTIFICATION REGISTRATION

Explanation: The City of Hudson’s green home certification program encourages conservation of resources to help homeowners potentially save on energy/utility costs and reduce emissions, which improves air quality. Completing this form will help the City understand the sustainability efforts that individual homeowners are implementing to help with future planning efforts. Residents may be able to take advantage of tax savings to offset some of the costs through the Inflation Reduction Act.

How it Works: Decide which green home improvements you would like to install depending on your needs, home, and budget. As a starting point, you could complete a home energy audit, which can be done for as little as \$25 by Dominion Energy. Or you could hire a contractor or consultant for advice. For example, there are contractors in the area who can complete a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) Home Energy Rating Score (HERS) Rating Index score, which provides an estimate of your home’s energy efficiency or a Pearl Certification for your home.

The certification process can be completed by selecting one or more of the five options listed below. Because efficiency standards change and technology improves, it is recommended that your home’s Hudson Green Home Certification be updated when new work that is sustainability-related is done on your home, or at least every five years. You can update your information by submitting a new application.

1. RESNET HERS Energy Rating Index Report

A homeowner can hire a certified RESNET contractor to complete a Home Energy Rating Score (HERS) Rating Index score. This index enables you to compare the efficiency of your home with other homes nationwide.

- <https://www.resnet.us/raters/hers-raters/>
- <https://www.resnet.us/about/hers-index-and-energy-codes/>

1. DOE Home Energy Score

You can also find contractors in the area who can complete a Department of Energy (DOE) Home Energy Score. Like the RESNET score, the DOE Home Energy Score provides an objective measure of the energy usage in your home.

- <https://betterbuildingsolutioncenter.energy.gov/home-energy-score/consumer-resources>

2. LEED Certification

If you are building a new home, you could consider seeking a U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. This is considered by many experts to be the most comprehensive home certification program available today.

- <https://www.usgbc.org/guide/homes>

3. Appraisal Institute “Residential Green and Energy Efficient Addendum”

Another comprehensive approach to a green home certification is to hire an Appraiser certified by the Appraisal Institute to complete a “Residential Green and Energy Efficient Addendum” appraisal. This approach would work best if completed before you consider placing your home on the market as home appraisers are selected at random during the home sale process.

- <https://www.appraisalinstitute.org/>
- https://www.appraisalinstitute.org/assets/1/29/A_Guide_to_Res_Green_EE_Addendum_%28002%29.pdf

4. Pearl Certification

Pearl Certification provides a third-party verification of high-performance homes to enhance the resale value of your home. This helps homeowners to collect more on return on their sustainability investments during the resale process. This certification program can be used with existing homes or new constructions. Homeowners can store their sustainability verification and certification information online using Pearl Certification’s Greendoor app.

- <https://pearlcertification.com/about-pearl>
- <https://pearlcertification.com/p3/>
- <https://www.greendoor.app/>