

## ENERGY STAR/Home Energy Rating Service (HERS) Incentive Program

### NorthWestern Energy STAR Home and Rating Certification Stipend Pilot Project

The objectives of the ENERGY STAR Home and Rating Certification Stipend Pilot Project are to encourage builders to obtain either an ENERGY STAR certification or a Home Energy (HERS) Rating for their homes and to encourage third party energy inspections of homes.

Learn more about HERS benefits at <https://www.resnet.us/energy-rating-benefits>

Montana has a core of Home Energy Raters who market their services to builders for ENERGY STAR certifications and/or Home Energy Ratings. By offering these stipends, NorthWestern Energy will help build the market for these third-party certification services.

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) administers the program. NCAT is a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) HERS Rater Quality Assurance Provider. The following is an outline of how the program operates:

- A RESNET certified Rater submits a complete HERS Rating file (Maximum Index Score of 70) with an electronically signed CSPP form along with the Rating Software building file.
- NCAT will review the rating submittal and then process the stipend based on demonstration that the house or living unit has NorthWestern Energy electric and/or natural gas service. The stipend is \$200 for a single-family home and \$50 for a multi-family unit.

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