



## ENERGY STAR® New House Rebate Incentive Program

MichCon  
Pilot Program 2008-2009



### Program Objective

Increase the number of houses voluntarily built to ENERGY STAR and better energy efficiency standards.

### Program Description

MichCon is conducting a Pilot Program in 2008 and 2009 that includes a program element called 'ENERGY STAR New House Rebate Incentive Program.' ENERGY STAR is a program of the EPA and DOE. During each year of the Pilot Program, a total of 6 State Licensed Builders will be awarded a single Rebate of \$5,000 each for the construction of a new house that has earned the ENERGY STAR and includes all natural gas appliances.

### Program Criteria

1. Must be a new house built in 2008/09 and served by MichCon natural gas
2. House must be inspected and tested by a Home Energy Rater to verify that the house meets EPA's guidelines for energy efficiency. The standard for Home Energy Rating (HERS) is maintained by the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNet). Houses built in southern Michigan require an HERS 85, and northern Michigan HERS 80 or better (lower) (5 Stars) Details can be found in a document at: [www.energystar.gov/ia/new\\_homes/features/HERSrater\\_062906.pdf](http://www.energystar.gov/ia/new_homes/features/HERSrater_062906.pdf) . Note: Links on EPA's web site tend to change often; if link doesn't work, go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) and follow links for a new house, also at [www.natresnet.org](http://www.natresnet.org).  
See also the Michigan Energy Office web site for Home Rating details at [http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-25676\\_25692-42507--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-25676_25692-42507--,00.html)
3. House must have an ENERGY STAR natural gas furnace with an efficiency of at least 93% according to GAMA certification, [www.gamanet.org](http://www.gamanet.org) (Note: Not all ENERGY STAR furnaces are 93%)
4. House must have a natural gas water heater, tank or tankless
5. House must be piped for natural gas hook-ups for the laundry and cooking; if the appliances are included in the house, an ENERGY STAR natural gas dryer and cooking stove must be included; all other electric appliances and lighting should also be ENERGY STAR
6. House must be piped with a natural gas quick connect exterior gas grill connection; if an outdoor grill will be built-in, then it must be natural gas
7. House must be marketed/advertised as an 'all natural gas ENERGY STAR house' in some event such as a Parade of Homes or special Open House event; describe the marketing plan in the Application
8. Additional point credits will be given for houses that also meet 'Green' standards, including reduced total house size; specify in the Application what 'Green' measures will be taken

### Program Process

1. Builder completes an electronic Application stating how they will comply with all Program Criteria and e-mail it to the MichCon Program Manager
2. Applications must be submitted to MichCon Before June 30, 2008, for the 2008 Program, and before January 30, 2009 for the 2009 Program
3. MichCon will make the selection based on the contents of the Application, with some consideration given to geographic location (we intend to select houses in more than one location)
4. MichCon will notify the winning applicants by August 1, 2008 and March 1, 2009
5. During the Pilot Phase of the Program, only one award per Builder
6. Upon completion of the house, the Home Rater must certify the house and provide a copy of the documentation to MichCon.
7. MichCon will pay the \$5,000 award to the Builder upon receipt of the Rating Certification and confirmation that the house meets ALL of the Program Criteria listed above.