HOME ENERGY CODE CHECKLIST:
NEW HOMES IN PENNSYLVANIA

If you are interested in purchasing a quality home—or want to learn more about how to make your home more energy-efficient—this guide provides a quick way to assess home energy performance.

This checklist helps you spot check for compliance with the 2009 Uniform Construction Code (UCC). While it does not include every requirement, this checklist will help you assess a home and make an informed decision about the quality of construction and efficiency of a home.

ENERGY CERTIFICATE

- Energy Certificate located on circuit breaker box is completed and signed
  See reverse side for an example and more details.

WOOD-BURNING FIREPLACE

- The fireplace doors are sealed with gaskets

INSULATION

- In vented crawl space: the ceiling is properly insulated
- In unvented crawl space: the walls are properly insulated
- Attic door or access hatch is weatherstripped and properly insulated

THERMOSTAT

- If a forced air furnace is being installed, the home has a programmable thermostat.

WINDOWS

- Windows and skylights meet the minimum requirements for U-factors and SHGCs
  Visit www.efficientwindows.org/code_overview.cfm for minimums in your climate zone

EXISTING HOMES:

WHOLE HOUSE:

- All ducts are sealed with heavy duty foil-backed tape or mastic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duct Location</th>
<th>Building Insulation Location</th>
<th>Required Duct R-Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attic</td>
<td>Floor</td>
<td>R-8 supply ducts, R-6 returns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roof/Walls</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basement</td>
<td>Ceiling</td>
<td>R-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walls</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crawl Space</td>
<td>Ceiling</td>
<td>R-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walls</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIGHTING

- At least half of the home’s light fixtures have high-efficiency bulbs, such as, compact fluorescents (CFLs)

For the latest information on codes in your state, check out energycodesocean.org and find out how to take action.
The way heating and cooling systems are rated and the minimum levels for efficiency depend on the type installed, and fuel used. These abbreviations: SEER, AFUE, and HSPF indicate efficiency. The higher the rating, the more efficient the heating or cooling system is. Use the chart at left to determine the minimum rating allowed for each system.

If you have any questions or concerns about details on the certificate, talk to your builder or your local building permits office.

*Determine your climate zone at: www.energycodes.pnl.gov/EnergyCodeReqs/

**R-VALUES**
R-value refers to the thickness and effectiveness of insulation. In order to meet code, R-values on the form should be greater than or equal to those shown in the certificate on your electric panel. R-values on the certificate should be greater than or equal to those indicated for your climate zone. Visit: http://www.reca-codes.org/codes2009/PA%202009%20IECC.pdf

**HEATING AND COOLING (HVAC)**
The way heating and cooling systems are rated and the minimum levels for efficiency depend on the type installed, and fuel used. These abbreviations: SEER, AFUE, and HSPF indicate efficiency. The higher the rating, the more efficient the heating or cooling system is. Use the chart at left to determine the minimum rating allowed for each system.

**WATER HEATER**
Minimum EFs for Water Heaters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>GAS</th>
<th>ELECTRIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 gal</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 gal</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 gal</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 gal</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>1.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 gal</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>1.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The minimum efficiency factor (EF) for water heaters depends on the size and fuel type used. The higher number, the more efficient the water heater is.

**U-FACTORS**
These are the requirements for the insulation value of a home’s windows, doors, and skylights. U-values on the home’s energy certificate should be less than or equal to those shown in the certificate below.

**INSULATION NOTE**
“10/13” means R-10 continuous insulated sheathing on the interior or exterior of the home (sealed at joints) or R-13 cavity insulation at the interior of the basement wall.