

PEARL CERTIFICATION For Homebuyers









When purchasing a home, it's important for buyers to understand how a home's energy performance can affect comfort and quality of living as well as their budget. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is offering a limited-time program where select home inspectors can provide homebuyers in Tompkins and Monroe Counties with a free Pearl Certification as part of the pre-purchase inspection.

A Pearl Certification provides a snapshot of a home's energy performance and can help guide renovation and upgrade decisions that many homeowners make within the first year of ownership.

Sample Home Inspection Service

In This Report

PACKAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

Upgrades Include	Existing	Limited Shell Package	Comprehensive Shell and HVAC Package
 Attic / Roof Insulation	R-19 Fiberglass - Batt	R-49 Cellulose - Loose Fill	R-49 Cellulose - Loose Fill
 Wall Insulation	R-7 Fiberglass - Batt		R-14 Cellulose - Dense Pack
 Floor and Foundation Insulation		R-15 Fiberglass - Batt	R-15 Fiberglass - Batt
 Air Sealing	✓	✓	✓
 Heating Systems	Gas central furnace AFUE : 80.0		Gas central furnace AFUE : 96.0
 Cooling Systems	Central air conditioner Efficiency (SEER) : 10.00		Central air conditioner Efficiency (SEER) : 16.00
 Lighting	✓	✓	✓
 Energy Management	✓		✓
Potential Pearl Points*	625	710	837
Potential Pearl Tier	Certified Assets	Silver	Gold

How the Program Works

Participating licensed home inspectors will provide a ratings report during the pre-purchase inspection to help homebuyers learn more about the home.

How Pearl Certification Works

Like a miles-per-gallon rating for a car, a Pearl Certification is an easy-to-understand rating designed to help homebuyers gain useful information about the home's energy performance. The rating looks at four areas of the home:

- Building shell (walls, insulation, windows)
- Heating and cooling systems
- Baseload (appliances, water heater)
- Home management (controls and devices to manage energy use)

Home Report and Personalized Recommendations

The customized report provides insight into the home's energy features and assets. The report shows the score of the home today and energy upgrade opportunities.

Each report comes with customized suggestions to improve the energy efficiency, health, and comfort of the home.

Recommended energy efficiency improvements can help

- Make a home more comfortable, warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer
- Lower energy bills throughout the year
- Reduce pollen, dust, mold, and other irritants in the home
- Create a healthier planet for everyone

Benefits of Pearl Certification

Pearl Certification's home asset inventory provides benefits to homebuyers

- Visual, easy to understand home efficiency score and home asset report
- Trustworthy certification backed by third-party quality control
- Personalized recommendations with a clear path to a more comfortable, energy efficient home
- Empowering recommendations, both large-scale and small-scale, that help homebuyers, who become homeowners, make smart investments
- If energy efficiency upgrades are made, homeowners can contact the home inspector to request an updated Pearl Certification. Many times this will result in a higher score and certification level.



How to Participate

To receive your free Pearl Certification, select a NYSERDA-approved, Pearl Advantage Network provider and schedule your Pearl Certification. To find approved home inspectors in your area, visit nyserdera.ny.gov/pearlhome

Your utility may offer rebates and incentives to help cover the cost of some home energy efficient upgrades.

NYSERDA, public, and private lenders offer homebuyers and homeowners energy efficiency mortgages and loans.

Visit nyserdera.ny.gov/HEPP for information about financing and incentives.

Pearl Asset Certification Levels



Platinum
975 points



Pearl Gold
825 points



Pearl Silver
700 points

NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and support to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. NYSERDA professionals work to protect the environment and create clean energy jobs. NYSERDA has been developing partnerships to advance innovative energy solutions in New York State since 1975. To learn more about NYSERDA's programs, visit nyserdera.ny.gov or follow us on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, or Instagram.

