



HOMEOWNER INFORMATION GUIDE

Pearl Home Certification

Learn more about your home
with Pearl Home Certification



Irondequoit
Tompkins County



NYSERDA

INTRODUCTION | Pearl Certification



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Quick Facts



Home Report:

Your customized report gives you insight into your home's energy features and assets.



Reliable Scores:

Pearl has years of experience certifying homes and provides 3rd-party quality control so you feel confident.



Personalized Recommendations:

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



Pearl Providers

Experts at evaluating homes, Pearl Providers are trained and mentored by Pearl and are authorized to provide certifications and recommendations. For a limited time this offer is at no cost to you.

INTRODUCTION



Pearl Certification for **HOMEOWNERS**

Home performance contractors will provide home energy ratings to homeowners looking to make energy efficiency improvements or simply learn more about their home.

Pearl Certification for **HOME BUYERS**

Offerings will expand to include licensed home inspectors, who will provide ratings during the pre-purchase inspection to help home buyers learn more about their new home. Inspectors can also provide referrals to qualified home improvement contractors.



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

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

Information about financing and incentives can be found on NYSERDA's website at nyserda.ny.gov/HEPP

PEARL HOME CERTIFICATION | About Pearl

Pearl's building science-based certification system helps homeowners understand how their home performs, and gives them guidance via the Home Investment Plan on how to make it perform better.

The Pearl system gives points for each high-performing asset in a home. High-performing assets can make a home more healthy, comfortable, and energy efficient. **Assets are split into four categories:**



Building Shell
300 possible points



Heating and Cooling
360 possible points



Baseload
240 possible points



Home Management
300 possible points

A home's certification level depends on the number of points it earns:

Pearl Asset Certification

A home with Pearl Certified Assets has one or many energy efficient characteristics.



Pearl Silver
700 points

A home with good building shell (e.g., insulation), or heating and cooling features, will typically qualify for Pearl Silver.



Pearl Gold
825 points

Similar to a home built to modern energy code, a home that has both a good building shell and heating and cooling systems will usually qualify for Pearl Gold.



Platinum
975 points

In addition to a good building shell and heating and cooling systems, a typical Platinum home will have efficient appliances, lighting, and energy monitoring devices like a smart thermostat.

PEARL HOME CERTIFICATION | Home Investment Plan

Each Pearl Certification Report includes a personalized Home Investment Plan, which identifies different upgrades you can undertake and the possible impact of those upgrades on your home's certification level.



**CUSTOMIZED FOR
YOUR HOME AND
CLIMATE**









**EASY TO
UNDERSTAND**



**CLEAR PATH
TO A MORE
COMFORTABLE,
ENERGY EFFICIENT,
AND HEALTHY HOME**

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

OVERVIEW | Homeowner Benefits

Pearl Certification's home asset inventory provides benefits to homeowners

- Visual, easy to understand home efficiency score and home asset report
- Trustworthy certification backed by 3rd-party quality control
- Personalized Home Investment Plan with a clear path to a healthier, more comfortable home
- Empowering recommendations, both large-scale and smaller-scale, that help homeowners make smart improvements

Recommended energy efficiency improvements can help homeowners achieve:

- More comfortable homes that are warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer
- Lower energy bills throughout the year
- Less pollen, dust, mold and other irritants in the home
- A healthier planet for everyone



CHECK

to see if your home can be rated. Owner-occupied one- to four-family homes in the Town of Irondequoit and Tompkins County who are electric customers of ConEd, National Grid, or NYSEG are eligible for a free or reduced-cost certification.



SCHEDULE

Check our website at nysderda.ny.gov/pearlhome for Pearl Providers in your area. Then schedule with a Pearl Provider.



REVIEW

your home's Pearl Certification report and Home Investment Plan.



UPGRADE

your home to be more comfortable and energy efficient based on Pearl's report.

More Information

Types of Homes

Single-family homes, duplexes, and townhomes can be Pearl Certified. Multifamily units, condominiums, and manufactured homes cannot be certified.

Occupant Behavior

A defining feature of Pearl Certification is that it allows different homes to be compared to each other. If the score included information about occupant behavior, like home temperature or the number of people living in the home, the score would not be comparable between homes. Instead, the score only considers a home's characteristics.

Blower Door Test

A blower door test is required to document the home's air leakage performance in order to earn a gold or platinum certification. The blower door test is not required for a Home Investment Plan or silver certification.

Pearl Asset Inventory

The Pearl asset inventory includes features like:

- Heating fuel
- Air sealing
- Insulation levels and installation quality
- Heating and cooling equipment efficiency and installation quality
- Water heater efficiency
- Duct location and leakiness
- Window, door, and roofing characteristics
- Appliance efficiency
- Lighting types
- Thermostat and energy management

Pearl Registry

The Pearl Registry is an online map of completed Pearl Certifications. It is available on Pearl's website for the public to view. Homeowners who receive a Pearl Certification can choose whether to include their home in the Pearl Registry.

Impact on home value

A Pearl Certification may impact a home's value. Homeowners can decide whether to share information about their Pearl Home Certification. If they do share it, potential buyers, real estate agents, and appraisers will have a more complete picture of the home.

Pearl Advantage Network Providers

Pearl Advantage Network Providers are experts at evaluating homes and have received special training on Pearl's certification system. These contractors and inspectors are mentored by Pearl and are authorized to deliver certifications and recommendations. They abide by rigorous standards set by the Building Performance Institute—an independent, not-for-profit organization and the nation's leading developer of technical standards for home performance and weatherization retrofit work. Pearl Providers are required to submit information on their license, insurance, workers compensation, and required certifications.



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