

# FAQS – FOR HOMEBUILDERS

## What is the Montana Green Building Program (MGBP)?

Montana Green Building Program is the Montana affiliate of the NAHB Green program. NAHB Green is a program from the National Association of Home Builders that helps any builder, anywhere learn how to incorporate green building practices into their projects, certify the results and communicate the benefits of doing so to their buyers. The program offers:

- design and technical assistance
- an online scoring tool so builders can gauge how green a planned home will be
- an accredited verifier network and national green building certification service
- green building education
- marketing and advocacy support

## What is the green scoring tool and how does the national certification process work?

The Green Scoring Tool takes builders step-by-step through the design and construction process to select which green features to incorporate into their home plans. Although one doesn't need to certify a house to use the scoring tool, builders seeking certification can work with an accredited verifier, who confirms that all the specified green features are in place at rough-in and at project completion.

Results can then be submitted to the NAHB Research Center, an accredited third-party certification agent. If the project passes review, the Research Center issues a certificate indicating that the house has reached one of the program's green thresholds.

## What criteria does the MGBP use to score homes?

NAHB Green is based on the NAHB Model Green Building Standard which has been approved by the International Codes Council and American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The Standard now has guidance for remodeling and multifamily construction.

## What types of projects can be certified?

Single-family homes can be certified Bronze, Silver, Gold and Emerald. With the release of the National Green Building Standard, remodelers, multifamily builders and developers are also able to score, verify and certify their projects. Any home building professional, in any part of the country, regardless of NAHB membership, can use the National Green Building Certification service. Please note: the certification process must begin pre-drywall

– Verification cannot be done retroactively.

## Who verifies and certifies projects?

The NAHB Research Center trains and certifies verifiers across the country that inspect builder score sheets, homes, and accompanying documentation to determine that projects meet the NAHB Green program benchmarks.

When inspections are complete and the builder is satisfied with the resulting score, the verifier submits all necessary paperwork to the NAHB Research Center for review and certification.

## How much does it cost?

The Green Scoring Tool and associated design and technical assistance are free to all home building professionals. Verification costs are set by individual verifiers and therefore, vary from market-to-market.

The fee for NAHB members to certify homes is \$200 per home.

## What are the benefits of using NAHB national green building certification?

NAHB Green is a nationally recognized third-party certification program. National certification means, for example, that the bronze-level green home in Seattle is at least as energy efficient as a bronze home in Savannah, and a bronze home in St. Louis.

It doesn't mean that they have the same features or that they even look the same. It means that they all meet a minimum, national level of performance. NAHB Green's online platform allows easy navigation through a variety of choices; allowing regionally appropriate green homes to be built at all price points.

## What is a certified green professional (CGP) and what are its benefits?

The Certified Green Professional is a professional designation for individuals in the home building industry. A CGP designation allows those who hold it to distinguish themselves as having been trained in the fundamentals and best practices of sustainable residential construction. Designees have access to marketing materials and are included in an online database.

The CGP is available to all home building industry professionals, including builders, subcontractors, architects and design professionals, as well as manufacturers and vendors. Earning a CGP entails passing two courses – *Green Building for Building Professionals* and *Business Management for Building Professionals*.

A CGP designation is not required to certify homes with NAHB Green, although a CGP is one of the recognized prerequisites for becoming a verifier. Many local home builder associations are offering this course to their members. To find upcoming classes, contact NAHB's University of Housing.

## How do I get started?

[www.nahbgreen.org](http://www.nahbgreen.org) is the home for NAHB Green tools and resources, including the Green Scoring Tool, and is a great place to go for more information. In addition, log on to [www.montanabia.com](http://www.montanabia.com), which offers green building education and networking activities.