

# Glossary

## Energy & Water Efficiency Fields

### **Battery Energy Storage**

Energy storage using electrochemical batteries. The three main applications for battery energy storage systems include spinning reserve at generating stations, load leveling at substations, and peak shaving on the customer side of the meter.

[DOE Glossary of Terms](#)

### **Ceiling Fan(s)**

Fans, set to push warm air into living spaces, can reduce winter heating bills, and they can cut cooling costs when they are used in lieu of air conditioners

[NAR's Green Resources – Green Building Glossary](#)

### **DOE Home Energy Score**

The Home Energy Score, managed by the US DOE, is a national system that allows homes to receive an energy efficiency rating, similar to the MPG rating available for cars. The Home Energy Score uses a 10-point scale to reflect how much energy a home is expected to use under standard operating conditions. Homes that are expected to use the least amount of energy (and are considered the most energy efficient) score a 10, and homes that are expected to use the most amount of energy (and are considered the least energy efficient) score a 1. The Home Energy Score uses a standard calculation method and takes into account the home's structure and envelope (walls, windows, foundation) and its heating, cooling, and hot water systems. Only Qualified Assessors who pass a DOE exam are allowed to provide the Home Energy Score.

[NAR's Green MLS Implementation Guide](#)

### **Drought Tolerant Landscape**

Species of plants, shrubs and vines which generally do not require additional watering in order to thrive in their native habitats. Landscapes with drought tolerant plants usually require little or no watering

[NAR's Green Resources – Green Building Glossary](#)

### **Dual-Flush Toilets**

Toilets with two buttons for two flush options, one for liquid and another for solid waste. The button for liquid waste uses less water per flush

[NAR's Green Resources – Green Building Glossary](#)

### **Electric Vehicle Charging Available**

Electric vehicles can be charged using a standard 120-volt outlet (Level 1) or 240-volt charging equipment (Level 2).

[California PEV Resource Center](#)

### **ENERGY STAR® Central Forced Air**

Indicates that the cooling equipment has earned the ENERGY STAR label for energy efficiency. Energy consumption and product performance are rigorously tested and evaluated prior to being released as an ENERGY STAR qualified product.

[NAR's Green MLS Implementation Guide, ENERGY STAR Product Criteria](#)

### **ENERGY STAR® Dishwasher**

Dishwasher has earned the ENERGY STAR label, which indicates that it is 10 percent more efficient than non-qualified models (models that simply meet the federal minimum standard for energy efficiency).

[NAR's Green MLS Implementation Guide, ENERGY STAR Product Criteria](#)

### **ENERGY STAR® Dryer**

Indicates that the dryer has earned the ENERGY STAR label for energy efficiency. Energy consumption and product performance are rigorously tested and evaluated prior to being released as an ENERGY STAR qualified product.

[ENERGY STAR Product Criteria](#)

**ENERGY STAR® Forced Air Unit**

Indicates that the heating equipment has earned the ENERGY STAR label for energy efficiency. Energy consumption and product performance are rigorously tested and evaluated prior to being released as an ENERGY STAR qualified product.

[NAR's Green MLS Implementation Guide](#), [ENERGY STAR Product Criteria](#)

**ENERGY STAR® Heat Pump**

Indicates that the heat pump has earned the ENERGY STAR label for energy efficiency. Energy consumption and product performance are rigorously tested and evaluated prior to being released as an ENERGY STAR qualified product.

[ENERGY STAR Product Criteria](#)

**ENERGY STAR® New Home**

EPA ENERGY STAR Certified Homes is a set of optional construction practices and technologies (above minimum code requirements) that builders can follow to upgrade a new home's energy efficiency beyond minimum code requirements. Guidelines are outlined in the "National Performance Path" or the "National Prescriptive Path." This whole-house label differs from the ENERGY STAR products label. To achieve the ENERGY STAR Certified Homes label, a home's energy efficiency must be verified by a third-party organization.

[NAR's Green MLS Implementation Guide](#)

**ENERGY STAR® Refrigerator**

Refrigerator has earned the ENERGY STAR label, which indicates that it is 15 percent more efficient than non-qualified models and 20 percent more efficient than models that simply meet the federal minimum standard for energy efficiency.

[NAR's Green MLS Implementation Guide](#), [ENERGY STAR Product Criteria](#)

**ENERGY STAR® Wall/Window AC**

Indicates that the cooling equipment has earned the ENERGY STAR label for energy efficiency. Energy consumption and product performance are rigorously tested and evaluated prior to being released as an ENERGY STAR qualified product.

[NAR's Green MLS Implementation Guide](#), [ENERGY STAR Product Criteria](#)

**ENERGY STAR® Washer**

Indicates that the washer has earned the ENERGY STAR label for energy efficiency.

[ENERGY STAR Product Criteria](#)

**EPA Indoor airPLUS**

EPA Indoor airPLUS is a set of optional construction practices and technologies builders can follow to reduce indoor air pollutants and improve the indoor air quality in a new home beyond minimum code requirements. It is only available to homes that first meet ENERGY STAR Certified Homes certification.

[NAR's Green MLS Implementation Guide](#)

**EPA WaterSense®**

EPA WaterSense is a set of optional construction practices and technologies (above minimum code requirements) that builders can follow to ensure a home uses less water while still providing the same level of comfort and convenience. WaterSense also applies to specific plumbing fixtures and should not be confused with the whole-house label.

[NAR's Green MLS Implementation Guide](#)

**GreenPoint Rated**

GreenPoint Rated is a program of Build It Green—a professional non-profit membership organization whose mission is to promote healthy, energy- and resource-efficient buildings in California. A GreenPoint Rated home is graded on five categories—Energy Efficiency, Resource Conservation, Indoor Air Quality, Water Conservation and Community.

[Build It Green GreenPoint Rated](#)

**Grey Water System**

Wastewater from bathtubs, shower drains, sinks, washing machines, and dishwashers. Grey water can be recycled for irrigation, toilets, and exterior washing, and such recycling conserves water. Incorporating plumbing systems that separate grey water from black water (toilet water) can result in water cost savings.

[NAR's Green Resources – Green Building Glossary](#)

**Heat Pump**

An electricity powered device that extracts available heat from one area (the heat source) and transfers it to another (the heat sink) to either heat or cool an interior space or to extract heat energy from a fluid.

[DOE Glossary of Terms](#)

**Home Energy Rating System (HERS)**

A scoring system established by the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET). Homes built to the specifications of the HERS Reference Home (based on the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code) scores a HERS Index of 100, while a net zero energy home scores a HERS Index of 0. Each 1-point decrease in the HERS Index corresponds to a 1% reduction in energy consumption compared to the HERS Reference Home. Thus, a home with a HERS Index of 85 is 15% more energy efficient than the HERS Reference Home, and a home with a HERS Index of 80 is 20% more energy efficient.

[NAR's Green Resources – Green Building Glossary](#)

**LEED Certification**

The green building certification program created by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). The comprehensive rating system (based on prerequisites and points) takes a whole building approach factoring in community resources & public transit, site characteristics, water efficiency, energy efficiency, materials & resources, indoor environmental quality, awareness & education, and innovation.

[NAR's Green Resources – Green Building Glossary](#)

**Low Flow Faucet (Low Flow Fixture)**

A faucet with aerator installed to reduce the flow of water but not reduce water pressure

[NAR's Green Resources – Green Building Glossary](#)

**Pool Cover**

Indicates a custom pool cover is included with the property. The DOE states that covering a pool when it is not in use is the single most effective means of reducing pool heating costs.

[NAR's Green MLS Implementation Guide](#)

**Programmable Thermostat**

A thermostat that allows homeowners to set the temperature at different levels at different times of day. For example, in winter, it could be set to be colder while occupants sleep and warmer as occupants awaken

[NAR's Green Resources – Green Building Glossary](#)

**Rainwater Collection System (Rain Water Catchment)**

Systems that harvest water during periods of rain. The water can be saved and used during droughts.

[NAR's Green Resources – Green Building Glossary](#)

**Recirculating Hot Water**

Systems that use a thermostat or timer to automatically turn on the pump whenever water temperature drops below a set-point, or when the timer reaches a setting. Hot water recirculation systems can be activated by the push of a button or by a thermostat, timer or motion sensor. Such systems ensure that hot water is always available without any waiting time. Hot water recirculation systems generally consist of a pump, an integrated electronic controller, and a zone valve. When the activation button is pushed, or when another type of control turns the system on, the pump starts re-circulating cooled water that has been sitting in the hot water line and sends it back to the water heater through the cold water line. When the water reaches a desired temperature, a control closes the zone valve and turns off the pump. It is much like turning on the hot water faucet and letting the water run until it gets hot, but instead of the water going down the drain; it is simply returned back to the water heater.

[NAR's Green Resources – Green Building Glossary](#)

**Solar Light Tubes**

Solar tubes are tubes that run from the ceiling of a room to the roof, where they collect light that is reflected down the tube and then diffused into the attached room. Solar tubes work like skylights but are less expensive, require less roof/ceiling space, and can be easily installed in almost all buildings. Solar tubes also have moisture control so that water does not leak into the home.

[NAR's Green MLS Implementation Guide](#)

**Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Panels**

This system captures light from the sun and converts it into electricity through solar panels usually installed on roofs.

[NAR's Green Resources – Green Building Glossary](#)

**Solar PV Leased**

Third-party array(s) indicate the equipment is leased.

[NAR's Green MLS Implementation Guide](#)

**Solar PV Owned**

Indicates the array(s) are real property and transfer with the property.

[NAR's Green MLS Implementation Guide](#)

**Solar PV Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)**

A Solar Power Purchase Agreement (SPPA) is a financial arrangement in which a third-party developer owns, operates, and maintains the photovoltaic (PV) system, and a host customer agrees to site the system on its roof or elsewhere on its property and purchases the system's electric output from the solar services provider for a predetermined period.

[EPA](#)

**WaterSense® Irrigation Controllers**

WaterSense irrigation controllers act like a thermostat for your sprinkler system telling it when to turn on and off, use local weather and landscape conditions to tailor watering schedules to actual conditions on the site. Instead of irrigating using a controller with a clock and a preset schedule, WaterSense labeled controllers allow watering schedules to better match plants' water needs.

[EPA WaterSense Product Description](#)

**WaterSense® Showerhead**

Water-saving showerheads that earn the WaterSense label must demonstrate that they use no more than 2.0 gpm. The WaterSense label also ensures that these products provide a satisfactory shower that is equal to or better than conventional showerheads on the market.

[EPA WaterSense Product Description](#)

**Whole House Fan**

A mechanical/electrical device used to pull air out of an interior space; usually located in the highest location of a building, in the ceiling, and venting to the attic or directly to the outside.

[DOE Glossary of Terms](#)