**HERSH2O Pilot Phase Overview and Expectations**

**Overview of HERSH2O**

HERSH2O builds off of RESNET’s nationally recognized Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index, which is the gold standard for rating the energy efficiency of a home. HERSH2O is a system for rating whole-house water efficiency that includes both indoor and outdoor uses. With the average family spending more than $1,000 annually on water costs, HERSH2O provides a simple, easy to compare rating on a scale from 0-100+; where lower numbers mean less water use. The HERSH2O Index was developed as part of a partnership between RESNET and the International Code Council. The HERSH2O Technical Guidelines will serve as the basis for a joint RESNET/ICC candidate American National Standard that is currently under development.

**Purpose of the Pilot Phase**

In conjunction with the development of the HERSH2O Technical Guidelines, separate committees also developed a calculation spreadsheet, inspection checklist and an inspection guidance document. The purpose of the pilot study is to test these resources in real world applications and gain feedback from builders and HERS raters.

**Expectations for Builders Participating in the Pilot**

The HERSH2O pilot is open to all builders, but the following conditions must be met for each home receiving a HERSH2O rating:

1. The home must be a one- or two-family dwelling (no multifamily buildings),
2. The home must be receiving a HERS rating,\*
3. The HERSH2O rating must be completed by a Certified HERS rater that has also agreed to participate in the pilot,
4. Builders must provide documentation to the HERS rater on plumbing fixtures, irrigation systems and other components as required by the HERSH2O Inspection Checklist, as well as all pertinent water and wastewater utility rates,
5. Builders must agree to provide feedback to RESNET on the process, cost and requirements involved with obtaining a HERSH2O rating.

**Expectations for Certified HERS Rater Participating in the Pilot**

The HERSH2O Pilot is open to all RESNET Certified HERS Raters. The following are the expectations for participating raters:

1. Raters must be active and in good standing,
2. Raters must agree to review the calculation spreadsheet, inspection checklist and inspection guidance document before agreeing to provide a HERSH2O rating,
3. Raters must track the time it takes to complete the HERSH2O rating, including the calculation spreadsheet and any inspection and testing,
4. Raters must agree to only provide a HERSH2O rating on homes that are also receiving a HERS rating,
5. Raters must submit completed calculation spreadsheets and inspection checklists to RESNET,
6. Raters must provide feedback to RESNET on the calculation spreadsheet, inspection checklist, inspection guidance document and overall process for conducting a HERSH2O rating,
7. Raters should also provide feedback to RESNET on the type of training and education necessary for HERS raters to conduct the H2O ratings.

**What to Expect from RESNET**

RESNET will provide all participants with the HERSH2O Technical Guidelines, Inspection Checklist, Inspection Guidance document and Calculation Spreadsheet. RESNET will provide support to answer questions through staff and committee members. The point of contact for this pilot phase is Ryan Meres, RESNET’s Program Director. He can be reached at ryan@resnet.us.

At the conclusion of the pilot phase, RESNET staff will compile the data and feedback received and use it to inform any potential changes to HERSH2O as well as to inform quality assurance procedures, training and certification.

A specific end date for this pilot phase has not been set, but RESNET expects it to last approximately 6 months.

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\* For the duration of the Pilot Phase only. Upon publication as an ANSI standard, HERS H2O will be available for rating homes that are not receiving a HERS rating.