

TREYSTA GROUP - GBH Builder and Verifiers Update



An Informational Newsletter for GBH Verifiers and Builders

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Hello to all GBH Verifiers and Builders. This is our premier edition. It is our hope that this newsletter will be informative and helpful.

We also hope it will give you solutions to your questions and allow you a way to let us know what works and what doesn't work. Hopefully this will make the verification process work efficiently for everyone. Together we can make the Verification process as simple as possible.

Builders, Do you know about the Verification process? In an effort to maintain credibility and to ensure that all GBH Certified homes meet the standards claimed on the check sheet, Builders must hire Green Built Home approved verifiers. Green Built Home certified third party verifiers will review completed Checklists, plans and other submittals, conduct site visits and document that all Basic Requirements and Green Built Specifications are met for every home entered into the program. Verification that Wisconsin ENERGY STAR® Homes standards have been met will also be required for every home.

Comparison of WI Green Built Home™ program

New Program Effective November 2008

WI Green Built Home™ program	NAHB Nat'l Green Bldg. program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certifies multiple types of projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New single family homes • Remodeling projects • Multi-family projects • Cost: \$75/home, if member of GBH (\$400/year); otherwise, \$150/home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50/home (bulk rate) if a standard specification sheet is on file with GBH (and company is a member) • Single achievement level • High flexibility in the way that points can be achieved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscaping: 5.0% • Energy Efficiency: 16.7% • Material Selections: 10.0% • Indoor Air Quality: 8.3% • Waste Reduction: 1.7% • Wildcard: 58.3% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentages represent minimum point total needed in respective categories, based on the total points needed for certification • Wisconsin Energy Star certification is required for GBH certification • Inspection after the rough carpentry stage and at the completion of the project • Compliance achieved through 3rd party verification and submittal of documents (either GBH Checklist, or GBH-approved Specifications) to GBH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certifies multiple types of projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New single family homes • Remodeling projects • Multi-family projects • Development • Cost: \$200/home if NAHB member; otherwise \$500/home • Four achievement levels; bronze, silver, gold, and emerald • Rigid requirements for point acquisition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Design: 17.6% • Resource Efficiency: 20.3% • Energy Efficiency: 13.5% • Water Efficiency: 6.3% • Indoor Air Quality: 16.2% • Owner Education: 3.6% • Wildcard: 22.5% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentages represent the minimum point total needed in respective categories, based on the total points needed for the bronze standard • Must receive the minimum point allocations in each category to be eligible for that level's certification • Inspection after the rough carpentry stage and at the completion of the project • Compliance achieved through 3rd party verification and submission of specifications to the www.NAHBgreen.org website

Chart provided by Patty Stone of the Metropolitan Builders Association

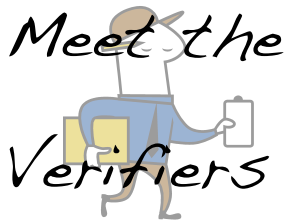
Check out these Differences



IMPORTANT NOTE:
If the NAHB Certification is important in your local area there is no need to choose between the NAHB program and the WI GBH program because, Home Builders Associations have the option of offering co-branded certifications for both WI GBH and NAHB if they sign a participation agreement with NAHB. For more information contact WI GBH.

The WI GBH program offers significant benefits:

- it costs less to implement
- it is Wisconsin based
- it was the 2006 Green Building Program of the Year
- it has a track record for certifications



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Online Checksheet Update: We've received lots of comments about the online check sheet and we've listened. We are in the process of revising the check sheet and it will be posted online shortly. Please watch for it. The new version will correct the formatting issues that splits each section into two pages. This happened because the formatting was not set up to be in landscape mode

We've also heard about a problem with the boxes on the signature page jumping around all over the page. We are looking into that problem now and hope to have that fixed with the next version as well.

IMPORTANT: Make sure you fill in the signature page completely. Many Verifiers miss completing this section. We need the Builders Name and address as well as the complete address of the home. This is important as this is the only way we can connect the verifier with the property and the builder.

Are you experiencing other problems?
 Let us know: clp@treystagroup.com

Website URLs on Verifier's page: All certified verifiers are listed on the Verifiers page on the GBH web site. We have been asked if website URLs can be included in the listing. We agree that the more information Builders and homeowners have access to the better. If you would like to include your website URL please let me know.

Notify both GBHs and Treysta Group
 Remember to notify both GBHs and Treysta Group when you have been hired by a builder. This helps both offices keep track of their portion of the process.

Are you using the Correct Checksheet?
 If construction of the home started prior to November 2008 you have the option of using the old standard or the new standard that is explained on page one. Please use the correct checksheet for the standard you are using. The old checksheet allows 17 points if your home is Energy Star Certified. The new standard requires Energy Star Certification so no points are given.

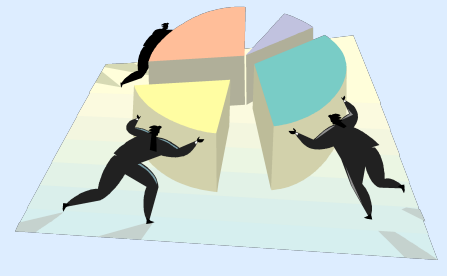
Who gets the GBH Certificate?
 We are adding a section on the checksheet to ask where to send and who you what the GBH Certification sent to. Please verify this with the Builder and remember to fill it in when completing the checksheet.



What gets submitted? Verifiers should submit the following:

- Completed Checksheet, including signature page signed by Builder and Verifier. Also including name and address of builder and street/town address of home
- Photo of house (if available)
- PDF version of floorplan (if available)

For Builders and Verifiers



If you are you an Energy Star Builder or Verifier you might want to consider encouraging GBH Certification. Both programs complement each other very well and GBH Certification is just another way to provide homeowners positive proof of an energy efficient home.

Want to become a Verifier? The first step in the process is to complete the Verifier Application. This will be used to determine whether or not you have met the eligibility requirements.

The eligibility requirements indicate that a person must maintain appropriate knowledge base and skill sets to comply with the Green Built Homes Building Guidelines. This is accomplished by meeting one or more of the following:

-1 year of professional experience in green building practices.

-Designation by NAHB as a Certified Green Professional.

-Professional certification from Green Advantage.

-NARI Green Building Certification from National Association of the Remodelers Industry (NARI).

-RESNET Green Rater Certification.

-LEED Accredited Professional Certification.

-12 hours of approved training.

If you have any questions about Verifier requirements or anything else related to certification please feel free to contact us directly via email at clp@treystagroup.com or via telephone at 608.437.8634.