

September 14-18, 2009

Home Energy Rater Training by NCAT

This workshop is a comprehensive energy auditor training with an emphasis on new residential construction and the HERS rating process. This workshop will incorporate information about how the Energy Star New Homes program is operated both nationally and in the four northwest states. This training is intended to prepare the participant to take the tests necessary to become a certified HERS Rater, an Energy Star Homes Northwest Energy Star Verifier, and an Energy Star Homes Northwest Performance Tester. This training is the first step to becoming qualified to provide certification for the Federal Tax Credit for energy efficient new homes. The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is a RESNET accredited HERS Rater Training Provider.

When: Next scheduled training will be September 14 through 18, 2009. (9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Mon, 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Tue-Thu, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM Fri; the National Rater Exam will be administered from 1:00 – 3:00 PM Fri)

Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 3720 N. Reserve St, Missoula, Montana (Discount on rooms available. Mention HERS Training.)

Cost: \$1200 per person for the training. You must have a credit card with you to take the National Rater test. You will use your credit card to pay RESNET \$50 for the on-line test immediately prior to the test on Friday at 1:00 PM. The \$1200 registration fee does not include your travel, lodging, breakfast, dinner, or the test fee. We do provide lunch Monday through Friday.

To Register: Mail a check for \$1,200 with the attached completed registration form to:

Colleen Rabson – NCAT HERS Training
3040 Continental Drive
Butte, Montana 59702

You may also register with a credit card over the phone. Call the NCAT at 1-800-275-6228 and ask for Colleen Rabson. The registration fee will be refunded only if notice is received seven days before the workshop however a \$200 cancellation fee will be charged. If the training is cancelled due to low registration, the full fee will be refunded.

For more information about the training contact Buzz Alexander (buzza@ncat.org, 406/880-2622). The training session will be limited to ten persons. If fewer than eight people have registered for the class two weeks prior to the first day of the training NCAT reserves the right to cancel the training.

Participants must bring the following to the training:

- Laptop Computer with XP operating system with wireless Internet capability. Computer must be capable of opening pdf documents. In the past some MAC computers with Windows operating programs have worked fine.

- Calculator
- Note Paper

Recommended:

- Tape Measure (at least 20 feet)
- Clipboard
- Architectural Scale

Participants will receive the following at the workshop:

Home Energy Rater Training Manual by NCAT

Residential Energy by John Krigger and Chris Dorsi, Published by Saturn Resource Management Incorporated (www.srmi.biz), a copy of this book will be mailed to you after you register.

Builder's Guide to Cold Climates by Joseph Lstiburek, Published by Building Science Corporation and Distributed by the Energy and Environmental Building Association (www.eeba.org)

REM RATE Software (Demonstration Version) by the Architectural Energy Corporation. A full license for the software will be provided after completion of all HERS Rater requirements. A full license for the software will be available only after you have completed all requirements to become a rater.

Suggested Preparation

Your chances of passing the National Rater Test will be much better if you take the time to prepare for the training session. Only about half of the people that take the National Rater Test pass on their first attempt so it may be worthwhile to study before hand. Here are some suggestions.

1. Study ***Residential Energy***, the book noted above, before the training session. Being familiar with the contents of this book is probably the single most useful preparation that you can do. We will mail you a copy after we receive your registration.

2. It will prove useful to be familiar with the information on the RESNET web site (<http://www.resnet.us/default.htm>). The “Rater Information,” “Lender Information,” and “Resnet Standards” areas of the site are most applicable. The National Rater Test will cover material contained in the *2006 Mortgage Industry National Home Energy Rating Systems Standards*. This document can be found on the RESNET web site at the following address:

Mortgage Industry National Home Energy Rating Systems Standards

[http://www.resnet.us/standards/mortgage/RESNET Mortgage Industry National HERS Standards.pdf](http://www.resnet.us/standards/mortgage/RESNET_Mortgage_Industry_National_HERS_Standards.pdf)

3. The test will require calculating building floor areas, surface areas, and building volumes for various house configurations. You should be comfortable with building geometries as well as basic math and trigonometry. Familiarity with residential construction and the ability to read and understand architectural drawings will be very useful. We will not have time to review these basic skills during the class.

4. Building performance testing includes conducting blower door tests and duct tests. We strongly suggest that you download and study the following manuals from the Energy Conservatory.

Blower Door Manual:

<http://www.energyconservatory.com/download/bdmanual.pdf>

Ductblaster Manual:

<http://www.energyconservatory.com/download/dbmanual.pdf>

Registration Form - Home Energy Rater Training by NCAT

Name _____

Company/Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

Work Phone _____ Work Fax _____

Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Mail this completed form along with a check for \$1,200 to:

Colleen Rabson – HERS Training
NCAT
3040 Continental Drive
Butte, Montana 59702

Home Energy Rater Training Options

There are two primary options available for those interested in preparing for the RESNET National HERS Rater examination. One option is to attend a weeklong training at a RESNET certified HERS Rater Trainer such as NCAT. The second option is to complete an online training and then do field and software training with a HERS Rater Trainer.

The requirements for becoming a certified Home Energy Rater are:

- 1) Pass the National HERS Rater Exam.
- 2) Perform two ratings supervised, in person by a HER certified trainer.
- 3) Complete three additional probationary ratings that are approved by a HERS certified Provider.

Both options are discussed below:

Full-week NCAT Rater Training

This workshop is comprehensive energy auditor training with an emphasis on new residential construction and the HERS rating process. The workshop incorporates information about how the Energy Star New Homes program is operated both nationally and in the four northwest states. This training will prepare the participant to take the tests necessary to become a certified HERS Rater, a Northwest Energy Star Homes Verifier, and a Northwest Energy Star Homes Performance Tester. The training includes two confirmed probationary ratings and HERS rating software training. The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is a RESNET accredited HERS Rater Training Provider and the Northwest ENERGY STAR Homes State Certification Organization.

Online Training

Saturn Resource Management (www.srmi.biz) has developed an excellent online course to prepare candidates for the HERS Rater Test. After completing this online course a candidate must still complete two confirmed probationary ratings and software training under the on-site supervision of a HERS certified Rater Trainer. A certified Rater Trainer registers a candidate for the exam. NCAT is willing to work with candidates to accomplish the required confirmed ratings and software training.

Please note that the online training offered by Saturn Resource Management does not address the Northwest ENERGY STAR Homes program. To become certified to verify homes as a Northwest ENERGY STAR Home additional program training is required.

For more information about the training contact Buzz Alexander (buzza@ncat.org , 406/880-2622).