

NatHERS 2022

Whole of Home

Overview



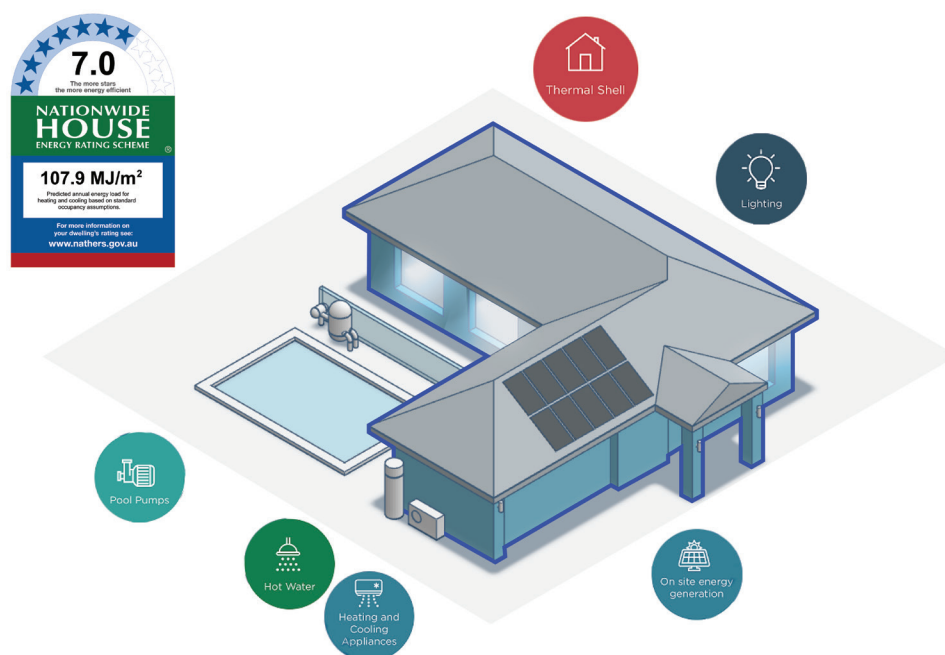
The Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme, or NatHERS, is being expanded to include Whole of Home assessments and ratings to support the proposed National Construction Code energy efficiency requirements for residential buildings in 2022. The changes will help households improve a home's energy efficiency and reduce energy use, which provides a range of benefits including lower energy bills, improved comfort and health for occupants, and reduced carbon emissions.

NatHERS thermal assessments provide a rating (out of 10) and information about the thermal performance (heating and cooling needs) of a home's construction. The thermal assessment is based on information about the home's design, construction materials and the climate where it is being built.

NatHERS is expanding from a thermal performance rating to also include information about the energy performance of common household appliances, such as heating, cooling, hot water, lighting, pool/spa pumps and on-site energy generation (e.g. solar panels and batteries).

The NatHERS Whole of Home benchmark tool is supporting the expansion of NatHERS to Whole of Home assessments and ratings. These and other improvements to the tool are currently under development, to be ready in time to support NCC 2022 requirements.

Watch the Whole of Home [benchmark tool demonstration video](#).



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Benchmark Tool

CSIRO released the consultation version of the NatHERS Whole of Home benchmark tool (AccuRate) in March 2021. The benchmark tool measures the accuracy of other Whole of Home tools seeking NatHERS accreditation to ensure outputs are consistent across all accredited tools. This is the same approach taken for NatHERS thermal accredited tools.

For access to CSIRO's consultation version of AccuRate email: admin@nathers.gov.au
Please note that you need to be proficient in AccuRate to use the benchmark tool.

The benchmark tool enables an assessment of a home's appliances and has been designed to align with the proposed NCC 2022 Whole of Home performance requirements:

- The consultation version includes the key regulatory appliance modules to support the proposed changes for NCC 2022. This includes, heating and cooling appliances, hot water systems, swimming pool and spa pumps, lighting and onsite solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.
- It generates the annual energy use of a home (by fuel type), solar PV generation, electricity imports and electricity exports.
- It provides a breakdown of energy use by appliance so that users can see what is having the largest impact on energy use in the design.

Further work is being undertaken in partnership with industry and government experts to enhance the NatHERS Whole of Home benchmark tool and streamline the Whole of Home assessment process. This will include enhancements identified through the NCC 2022 consultation process.

For more information on the development of Whole of Home go to the NatHERS [Whole of Home About page](#).

Software developers can express their interest to be endorsed by the NatHERS Administrator. Endorsement provides an early indication that the tool may be accredited in the future.

For more information about the expression of interest and endorsement process, find out more [here](#).

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Currently Endorsed NatHERS Whole of Home tools

The NatHERS Administrator has endorsed Sustainability [Victoria's FirstRate5 Whole of Home Pilot Tool](#). For more information, please visit Sustainability Victoria's website.

In the future, it is expected that other Whole of Home tools will become accredited under the scheme.

Draft Whole of Home NatHERS Certificate

A new NatHERS Certificate is being developed to support the proposed NCC 2022 energy efficiency provisions.

The new Certificate will continue to include a thermal performance star rating out of 10 to demonstrate compliance with the proposed NCC 2022 Performance Requirement 1. It will also include a new Whole of Home rating out of 100 to demonstrate compliance with the proposed NCC 2022 Performance Requirement 2. This Whole of Home score combines the thermal performance with the energy performance of the home appliances and energy generation and storage.

These changes will help households understand their home's overall energy performance, helping them improve the comfort of their home and reduce their energy bills.

Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme

Changes to the NatHERS Certificates to support the National Construction Code 2022

New NatHERS Certificates are being developed to support the proposed changes to the energy efficiency provisions in the National Construction Code (NCC) 2022.

New Certificate Features

- A new NatHERS Whole of Home performance rating to demonstrate compliance with the NCC's Performance Requirement 2 (PR2).
- A new approach to displaying split heating and cooling load limits.
- An expanded checklist for verifying that the home is designed and then built according to the information used to create the NatHERS ratings.
- New schedules for thermal bridging, appliances, on-site renewable energy and battery systems. These schedules will include detailed information about the appliances, on-site renewable energy and battery systems entered by the assessor to create the NatHERS ratings.
- Other supporting information such as greenhouse gas emissions, cost and energy consumption breakdowns for the energy uses in the home.

Sample of a Class 1 Certificate (Class 2 individual unit Certificate is similar)

Thermal Performance Star Rating
The new NatHERS Certificate will retain the thermal performance star rating to demonstrate compliance with the proposed Performance Requirement 1 (PR1) in NCC 2022.

Thermal Performance
The "Thermal performance" figures indicate how much heating or cooling is expected to be required each year to keep a home within a comfortable range. Check the NatHERS heating and cooling load limits against the AS/NZS Standard (2023.1) to see if they comply with heating and cooling load regulations. States and territories have different requirements so you will need to check what is appropriate within your jurisdiction.

Heating and Cooling Load Limits and Settings
New information about the Heating and Cooling Load Limits and Settings has been added to the Certificate. This information will allow users of the Certificate, such as certifiers, to quickly assess whether the NCC load limits have been met, while also allowing them to consider local variations. Additional explanatory information about the limits and settings is provided on page 2 of the Certificate.

Whole of Home performance rating
A new NatHERS Whole of Home rating scale has been developed to demonstrate compliance with the proposed "not equivalent energy use" PR2 in NCC 2022. The scale ranges from 1 to 100, where 1 is a poor energy performing home and 100 is a world-leading energy efficient home. Similar to the NatHERS thermal performance star rating, a single number on the Whole of Home rating scale will represent the Deemed to Satisfy (DTS) provision for demonstrating compliance with the NCC's proposed PR2. Providing a single number will help consumers and industry to understand the implications of design choices, and allow for comparison between homes to build, purchase or rent. The exact point on the scale that will demonstrate compliance with the NCC's PR2 will be determined following a decision by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) on the final suite of provisions for NCC 2022, including the stringency of PR2.

Note that this version of the Certificate is subject to change as a result of the NCC 2022 consultation process

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New Certificate Features:

- A new NatHERS Whole of Home performance rating to demonstrate compliance with the NCC's PR2
- A new approach to displaying split heating and cooling load limits
- An expanded checklist for verifying the home is designed and then built according to the information used to create the NatHERS ratings
- New schedules for appliances. These include detailed information about the home's appliances, onsite renewable energy and battery systems
- Other supporting information such as renewable energy contributions, greenhouse gas emissions, cost and energy consumption breakdowns for the energy uses in the home.

The expanded Whole of Home scheme is expected to be fully operational by September 2022, to support the potential changes to the NCC 2022.

Visit the [NatHERS website](#) for more detailed information on the roll out of Whole of Home assessments.