



Dear HERS Provider,

We are pleased to announce the release of our newest software version, EnergyGauge USA 2.8.05 on February 25, 2011. Incorporated in this release are several software enhancements designed specifically for Energy Raters and HERS Providers. In our effort to provide a complete energy rating and registration tool for HERS raters and providers we have included a new HERS registration system and automated most of the ENERGY STAR Version 3 (Revision 1) National Program for you. There are also several other software enhancements and issues addressed in this version, a listing of which is available in the Release Notes on the EnergyGauge website <http://www.energygauge.com/>. Please contact us if you have any questions or require any additional assistance.

## Registration

The new registration system has been designed to simplify the process for raters and create secure downloadable PDF documents for registrations generated with version 2.8.05 or greater. The process of creating and uploading the PDF documents to the HERS Registration website is performed automatically at the time the provider performs the registration. All reports, except the ENERGY STAR label, will include a digital signature embedded into the PDF document at the time of creation to ensure security and authenticity. The reports are then available for download from the EnergyGauge website using the same provider or rater credentials you have been using. The download process eliminates the need of security codes to activate print commands. Once documents are downloaded the rater can then view, print or email documents without having to run calculations. It is important to note version 2.8.05 is also backward compatible with RGU files from previous EnergyGauge versions and still accepts security codes and printing of reports for these older projects.

The software on your HERS Registration website was upgraded on February 10, 2011 to support the new RGU files from 2.8.05 and continues to support RGU files from 2.8.04. The website will continue to accept 2.8.04 RGU files until 5 p.m. on April 20, 2011 after which time it will be transitioned to only accept 2.8.05 RGU files. Please coordinate timely submission of 2.8.04 files by raters prior to this date. It is important to note **the provider** must perform the registration with the same version of EnergyGauge software that the RGU file was created in, either 2.8.04 or 2.8.05. To aid in this effort the RGU version will soon be displayed next to each project on your HERS Registration website. The new registration system will operate in the same manner for the provider and for the most part appear unchanged with the exception of a new "USA Version" column and the change of one column name; the previous "Security Code" column now appears as "Download Report/Sec. Code" and the download links will appear under it. A free training video will be available for viewing soon at [http://energygauge.com/usares/registration\\_training.htm](http://energygauge.com/usares/registration_training.htm).

The following three options will be available for you during the transition:

1. If you have two or more computers with EnergyGauge licenses we suggest updating only one until you have completed the provider registration of all 2.8.04 RGU files.
2. If you currently have only one computer running EnergyGauge but have a second or temporary computer available for the installation of EnergyGauge 2.8.04 and have internet access you can then obtain a free 2 month license by contacting the EnergyGauge office via email at [techsupport@energygauge.com](mailto:techsupport@energygauge.com) and providing your current Order Number. EnergyGauge USA 2.8.04 can be downloaded to your second computer from <http://energygauge.com/downloads/setups/USA2804.exe>. EG Techsupport can assist in the installation of 2.8.04 if needed. Then update your primary or permanent computer with 2.8.05. Doing so will convert your existing database to the newer version and provide you with access to all of your original project data. You can, after the transition and at your convenience, load any 2.8.04 RGU files from the second computer into your primary computer if needed.
3. If you do not have access to a second computer then it will be necessary to perform all provider registrations of 2.8.04 RGU files before updating your EnergyGauge software to the new version. Once your software has been updated any unregistered RGU files will have to be resubmitted by your rater with 2.8.05. This will require the rater save the ENB in 2.8.04, load it into 2.8.05, create and upload the 2.8.05 RGU file to your HERS website.

## **ENERGY STAR**

EnergyGauge 2.8.05 now supports ENERGY STAR Versions 2.0, 2.5 and 3.0. The new ENERGY STAR Version 3 (Revision 1) National Program Requirements have also been incorporated and provide the rater with many new features to assist them with the complex task of qualifying a home for Version 2.5 and 3.0 following the performance path. These features automate most of the process and also include the ability to view the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home which is used in calculating the HERS Index Target. The Size Adjustment Factor is also included and modifies the HERS Index Target according to the ENERGY STAR Benchmark based upon the number of bedrooms and square footage of the rated home. The complex ENERGY STAR calculation involving the comparison of the rated home to the HERS Index Target is also made easy for the rater and only requires the same project input as the previous version. To make your job even easier we have taken the ENERGY STAR Version 3 Program one step further by not only incorporating the new required checklists but also performing the logic associated with ensuring checklist input conforms to the program requirements for v2.5 and v3.0. The rater also has the ability to print the blank checklists from our software. A free training video is available for viewing at [http://www.energygauge.com/usares/ES\\_Training.htm](http://www.energygauge.com/usares/ES_Training.htm).

## **ENERGY STAR Training**

The ENERGY STAR Program requires that raters have received training in the new process. FSEC has scheduled a training course for March 31 - April 1, 2011. Sign up at <http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/>.

## Downloadable Reports and Transition Guide

In an effort to provide a seamless transition for all raters and providers we have added a list of reports available for download from the HERS Registration website and a provider transition guide (below) to step you through the process.

### Downloadable Reports

- HERS Rating Guide
- Financial Disclosure (Florida Only)
- RESNET Disclosure

The following reports are generated and available if selected by rater and eligible:

- Fannie Mae
- Tax Credit
- Builders Challenge
- ENERGY STAR Certificate - v2.0, v2.5 and v3.0
- ENERGY STAR Checklist Coversheet - v2.5 and v3.0
- ENERGY STAR Label - v2.0, v2.5 and v3.0
- ENERGY STAR Thermal Bypass Checklist - v2.0
- ENERGY STAR Thermal Enclosure Checklist - v2.5 and v3.0
- ENERGY STAR HVAC Quality Installation Rater Checklist - v2.5 and v3.0
- ENERGY STAR Water Management Checklist - v2.5 and v3.0
- ENERGY STAR Indoor airPLUS Checklist - v2.5 and v3.0

### Transition Guide

Notify raters of the transition date and the need to create and upload 2.8.04 RGU files by the deadline you indicate but not later than April 20, 2011.

Review our training modules for energy raters on the ENERGY STAR Version 2.5 and 3.0 Index Target and the new registration system to better help your [raters](#).

Select one of the three transition options from above and complete provider registrations on the appropriate version.

- OPTION 1
  - i. Update only one of your computers to 2.8.05.
  - ii. Process all 2.8.04 registrations with 2.8.04 before updating the second computer.
- OPTION 2
  - i. Contact the EnergyGauge office to request the two month transition license, directions for installing 2.8.04 on a second computer and use the two month license with this install.
  - ii. License Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. Update your original EnergyGauge 2.8.04 software on your primary computer to 2.8.05.
  - iv. Process all 2.8.04 registrations with 2.8.04 before the Ending Date.
  - v. Load any new 2.8.04 files from second computer to update database following transition and before the Ending Date.
- OPTION 3
  - i. Have raters submit all 2.8.04 RGU files and complete all provider registrations prior to the provider updating to 2.8.05.