



Dear Energy Rater,

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 registration process for raters and create secure downloadable PDF documents for registrations generated with 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 backwards 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 2, 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 with your Provider 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 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 is available for viewing at http://energygauge.com/usares/registration_training.htm.

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. EnergyGauge automates most of the process and also include the ability to view the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home which is a 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 above grade 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 EnergyGauge 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 the software. A free training video is available for viewing at 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/>.

Reports Available for Download from New HERS Registration website

REPORT	HERS RATING	ENERGY STAR v2.0	ENERGY STAR v2.5	ENERGY STAR v3.0
HERS Rating Guide	■	■	■	■
RESNET Disclosure	■	■	■	■
Financial Disclosure	Florida Only	Florida Only	Florida Only	Florida Only
Fannie Mae	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional
Tax Credit	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional
Builders Challenge	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional
ENERGY STAR Certificate		■	■	■
ENERGY STAR Label		■	■	■
ENERGY STAR Thermal Bypass Checklist		■		
ENERGY STAR Checklist Coversheet			■	■
ENERGY STAR Thermal Enclosure Checklist			■	■
ENERGY STAR HVAC Quality Installation Rater Checklist			■	■
ENERGY STAR Water Management Checklist			Or Indoor airPLUS	Or Indoor airPLUS
ENERGY STAR Indoor airPLUS Checklist			Or Water Management	Or Water Management