Talking Points about the National Green Building Standard (NGBS)

BUILDERS WANT CERTIFICATION CHOICES

• Builders should have a choice in green certification programs, as long as the programs are credible and rigorous
• Occupancy matters; residential development has different financial and sustainability considerations than commercial/office development (For example, apartments are typically individually metered for utilities so water and energy savings do not accrue to building operator.)

NGBS IS A CREDIBLE GREEN STANDARD

• NGBS is approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as an American National Standard
• ANSI approval is important because it demonstrates the NGBS was developed in a true consensus-process, with a balance of stakeholders, with due process rights, including multiple opportunities for public input and an appeals process
• Specifically designed for the residential industry
• NGBS was first and solely residential green code within I-Codes
• ASHRAE joined ICC as partner for 2015 NGBS revision
• Recognized within ICC/AIA/USGBC/ASHRAE International Green Construction Code 2012 as alternative compliance path for residential buildings
• Written in code language to provide clarity for builders and minimize the debate over compliance

NGBS IS THE MOST RIGOROUS GREEN BUILDING RATING SYSTEM

• Not just focused on design – but instead inclusive of entire construction process: design, construction, verification, and operation
• Sets energy efficiency baseline as percentage above code
• Most comprehensive green rating system because to be certified every project must meet point requirements in 6 categories of green practices
• Most stringent because to be certified at higher certification levels a project must attain more points in all 6 categories of green building practices
• On a three-year revision cycle to be consistent with code and projects can’t continue to be certified to older versions of NGBS for longer than 4 years (USGBC allows double that for LEED)
• Most rigorous verification protocol – trained third-parties must inspect each and every apartment to visually make sure all of the green building practices are installed correctly

NGBS GREEN CERTIFICATION IS AFFORDABLE

• Most affordable green certification program – no registration fees, free technical assistance and interpretations, very low certification fees
• Our stringent verification protocol, which requires multiple site inspections, allows us to issue the green certificate within 1 business-day of receiving completed verification reports

HOME INNOVATION RESEARCH LABS

• Serve as ANSI Secretariat and Adopting Entity for NGBS
• 50-year history working with residential building industry
• Operate as an accredited, independent laboratory and third-party testing facility
• Mission to help clients improve the quality, durability, affordability, and environmental performance of homes and home building products