



**2012 vs. 2015 NGBS – An Overview:** This document is intended to be a high-level overview 2015 NGBS compared to the 2012 NGBS; it is not necessarily comprehensive. To determine project compliance, please review the full version.

**Overview of NGBS Revisions**

- Baseline of 2015 NGBS = 2015 IECC, 2015 IRC, and 2015 IBC
- Reduction in total points and for Chapter 7 required for Silver, Gold, and Emerald certification to reflect higher energy efficiency baseline

**2012 NGBS / 2015 NGBS Table 303  
Threshold Point Ratings for Green Buildings**

Green Building Categories		2012 NGBS Rating Level Points/2015 NGBS			
		BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	EMERALD
<b>Chapter 5</b>	Lot Design, Preparation, and Development	50	64	93	121
<b>Chapter 6</b>	Resource Efficiency	43	59	89	119
<b>Chapter 7</b>	Energy Efficiency	30	60/45	80/60	100/70
<b>Chapter 8</b>	Water Efficiency	25	39	67	92
<b>Chapter 9</b>	Indoor Environmental Quality	25	42	69	97
<b>Chapter 10</b>	Operation, Maintenance, and Building Owner Education	8	10	11	12
	Additional Points from any category	50	75	100	100
<b>Total Points:</b>		<b>231</b>	<b>349/334</b>	<b>509/489</b>	<b>641/611</b>

**Chapter 5: Lot Design, Preparation, and Development**

- More than doubled points for lot within certified land development
- Revamped stormwater management options to encourage low-impact development practices
- Increased points available for projects in high density areas and lots with a landscape plan
- Points eliminated for low slope sites
- Greater recognition of multi-modal transportation options including bicycle parking, pedestrian connectivity, proximity to transit, and electric-vehicle charging

**Chapter 6: Resource Efficiency**

- Reduced points for dwelling units 700 - 2,500 sq. ft.; but gives more points for units ≤ 700 sq. ft.
- Clarification for Prefinished Materials, previously called *site-applied finishing materials*
- Termite barrier practice revised to reflect varying infestation levels
- New points available for building envelope assemblies designed for moisture control
- Five new universal design practices that earn 1 point each
- Points for submission of Product Declarations

**Chapter 7: Energy Efficiency**

- Energy efficiency baseline (and Bronze certification) is 2015 IECC compliance, plus two practices
- Reduced Chapter 7 point minimums for Silver, Gold, and Emerald certification levels because of higher energy efficiency baseline
- Revised Alternative Compliance Path for Bronze and Silver, adds ENERGY STAR MFHR program
- Additional flexibility in Performance Path compliance
- Three new Mandatory Practices for Perspective Path
- New HERS Index Target compliance path and new Tropical Climate Zone provisions
- Grade I insulation installation is now mandatory
- Most Chapter 7 tables (point values) are revised – *check for new requirements*
- New multifamily building notes and, in some cases, dedicated point tables

- Increase to 75% of total hard-wired lighting fixtures or the bulbs in those fixtures to qualify as high efficacy and earn points, or lighting power calculation as alternative
- Duct leakage testing is required, and points only available if testing is not required by code
- Several new innovative practices available for points, such as EV charging stations and automatic demand response systems

#### **Chapter 8: Water Efficiency**

- New Mandatory Practice: if irrigation system is installed, irrigation plan and implementation are executed by qualified professional certified by a WaterSense labeled program or equivalent program (*waiver available for areas without adequate number of qualified professionals*)
- Greater recognition of WaterSense program
- New point allocations for showerheads

#### **Chapter 9: Indoor Environmental Quality**

- Fireplaces in common areas of multifamily buildings exempt from venting requirement
- Carbon monoxide alarms mandatory for buildings regulated by the IRC
- Condensing clothes dryers exempt from venting requirement
- New fenestration practice to promote natural ventilation in buildings
- Ventilation specs revised from ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2007 to 62.2-2010

#### **Chapter 10: Operation, Maintenance, and Owner Operation**

- Training of building owners, for single-family and multifamily projects, is now mandatory
- Two new practices that earn points: one to increase public awareness of the NGBS and increase demand for high performance homes; one for enabling building owners to determine if energy and water usage deviate from expected levels
- While Chapter 10 points required for certification levels was unchanged, the loss of potential points for training makes compliance for this chapter harder

#### **NGBS Green Program Notes**

- Construction deadline for projects seeking 2012 NGBS certification is July 2021, unless the project is permitted in a state where the state code is less stringent than the 2012 IECC – see the [BRG](#) for more details.
- Only NGBS Green Verifiers accredited to the 2015 NGBS can inspect projects seeking 2015 NGBS Green certification.

#### **Get Your Green Home NGBS Certified**

- [Review the Builder's Resource Guide](#)
- [Score Your NGBS Project](#) (or get help with scoring from [this video](#))
- [Introduction to NGBS Green Scoring Tool \(VIDEO\)](#)
- [New to Green? Use the NGBS Bronze Cookbook](#)
- [Find a Verifier](#)
- [Find Available Incentives](#)