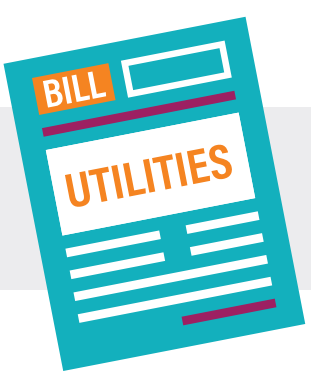
NEWLY CONSTRUCTED MINNESOTA HOMES: ABOVE AVERAGE?





New homes on average are **built tighter and with better windows** than required by code meaning that **ANNUAL ENERGY COSTS ARE ABOUT 4% LESS** than if all homes were built exactly to prescriptive code.

Some homes are built with **insulation levels and other features that are below prescriptive code** but correcting these would **ONLY SAVE ABOUT $30 PER YEAR IN ENERGY COSTS** on average.



If all homes were built with the features of the most efficient homes in the study, UTILITY COSTS WOULD BE REDUCED BY ABOUT 25%.

GEOGRAPHY OF HOME

LARGER CITIES AND SUBURBS	RURAL AREAS

ABOUT 4 IN 5 NEW HOMES are in the **Twin Cities area** or in developments around **Minnesota's larger cities and suburbs.** These homes mostly have full basements and are **heated with natural gas.**

THE 1 IN 5 HOMES BUILT IN RURAL AREAS tend to be smaller, are likely to be **heated with propane or electricity** and are **mostly served by rural electric cooperatives** that do not offer programs to encourage efficient new construction.

WE FOUND LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN MODELED ENERGY PERFORMANCE for homes in areas **with and without code enforcement mechanisms** or between homes built or not built **under utility efficiency programs.**

HOW WE KNOW

Slipstream visited a random sample of 100 new and recently renovated homes and analyzed data from a recent study of new low-rise multifamily buildings. We used computer models to estimate the **ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND SAVINGS POTENTIAL FOR EACH HOME.**



GETTING TO EXCELLENT

UTILITY PROGRAMS can further advance the energy efficiency of residential new construction by:

Incentivizing efficiency upgrades beyond current practice

Encouraging efficient and effective **mechanical ventilation systems**

Joining forces to better address the **unique challenges of new homes in rural areas that lack access to natural gas**



MORE TRAINING AND EDUCATION IS NEEDED for design, installation and operation of **code-required balanced mechanical ventilation.** Nearly all homes have at least one issue with these systems.

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