

**City of Virginia Beach**  
**Energy Efficient Building Tax Classification**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What kind of buildings could qualify for the City of Virginia Beach’s Energy Efficient Building Tax Classification?**

*Both residential and commercial buildings could qualify.*

**What is a “Qualified” architect, professional engineer or contractor?**

*This means licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia.*

**The documentation indicates the building must exceed the energy efficiency standards prescribed in the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code by 30 percent. What year of the code do we have to meet?**

*It is referring to the current state code.*

**How much does the application cost?**

*The permit and certificate of occupancy will be \$76.40. The cost of required certification (options below) is the responsibility of the owner.*

**Does rental property qualify for the reduction?**

*Yes, landlords can pursue this tax classification for rental property. The applicant must be the **property owner**.*

**How much will I save in taxes while in this program?**

*This amount varies for each qualifying building and depends on the assessment each tax year. Remember, this exemption only applies to the building, not the land. So there will still be taxes due on the land and other improvements.*

## What type of supporting documentation will I need to submit with my application?

*You have several options:*

### Residential Options

1. *Certified Architect/Engineer energy calculations and certification and sealed on letterhead:*
2. *Certified under the EarthCraft House Program; details about this program can be found at <http://www.earthcrafthouse.com>.*
3. *Certified as an Energy Star qualified home under the Energy Star program developed by the United States Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency. Details about the program can be found at <http://www.energystar.gov/>.*
4. *HOME ENERGY RATERS (HERS) – RESNET – Residential Energy Services Review System. Home Energy Raters (HERS) conducts an analysis of a home and performs on-site inspections. Results of these tests, along with inputs derived from the plan review, are used to generate the home's efficiency rating on the HERS Index.*
  - *Must use a RESNET-certified HERS auditor*
  - *Must obtain a score below 70*

*A list of local home energy raters can be accessed at <http://www.resnet.us/trade/home-energy-raters-hers-raters>*

*More info:*

<http://www.resnet.us/home-energy-ratings>

<http://natresnet.org/directory/raters.aspx>

### Commercial Options

1. *Certified Architect/Engineer energy calculations, certification and seal on letterhead;*
2. *Certification under the Green Globes Green Building Rating System of the Green Building Initiative. Details about this program can be found at <http://www.greenglobes.com/about.asp>*

3. *Certification under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System of the U.S. Green Building Council. Details about this program can be found at <http://www.usgbc.org>.*
4. *An Energy Star certified building under the Energy Star program developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy.*
  - *Commercial buildings with types in the Energy Star Portfolio*
  - *Statement of Energy Performance – for a minimum of a 12 month period*
  - *Score of 75 or above on a scale of 1 – 100*
  - *Structure must match building type used*
  - *Must be stamped and certified by a professional engineer*

**What if I don't get the needed rating, can I make a quick modification or energy improvement to building achieve a acceptable score - without having to go through the whole process again?**

- *Raters should be able to provide their client with a list of recommended improvements in order to achieve the needed score.*
- *Once those improvements are made, the rater should make another site visit to ensure the work was completed, and to conduct new diagnostic air leakage testing ("blower door" and "duct blaster" test), if necessary. This additional work by the rater will likely be for an additional fee.*

**How long will take to review my application?**

*Please allow 30 days for review.*

**How often will the reduced tax rate be reviewed?**

*City Council will review for adoption annually as part of the budget process and tax rate shall be applicable to the classification of the property.*