



Large Single Family - Electric

Costs and Benefits to Meet Stretch Code*

HERS Index (ERI)

55 ▶ **45**
Base Stretch



Home Details

- 4000 ft²
- Large Single Family
- 5 Bedrooms
- Worcester, MA

	COSTS		BENEFITS ⁵	NET
Total Added Construction Costs	\$3,062 Cost Savings		\$12,000 Rebates ^{1,4}	\$15,062 Cost Compared to Base Code
HOME BUYER	\$1,506 Reduction to Downpayment ³	\$1,012 Reduction to Annual Mortgage Payment ³	\$379 Estimated Additional Energy Costs per Year ²	\$633 Buyer Annual Net Savings

*Green shaded boxes indicate cost savings, while red shaded boxes indicate added costs.

1. Rebates are calculated on a per unit basis, using Mass Save® new construction program Base Tier Incentives of \$7,500 without any Market Transformation Adders. These incentives are not applicable to mixed fuel projects.
2. Energy costs are based on 28.7 cents/kWh, \$2.08/therm, and \$3.62/gal propane.
3. 30-year mortgage assumes 10% down payment at 6.35% APR.
4. In addition to the Mass Save® rebates, projects may be eligible for \$2,500/unit rebate as part of the 45L Federal Tax Credit. Additionally, projects with ASHPs may be eligible for a Federal 30% Tax Credit of the ASHP install, up to \$2,000.
5. Mass Save Incentives are not available in communities with municipal light plans, which are locally owned utilities which represent 52 towns that make up about 13% of the MA population.



Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources



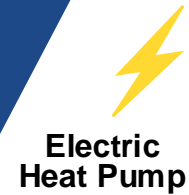


MA 10th Edition Building Code | 2025

Large Single Family - Electric

HERS Index (ERI)

55 ▶ 45
Base Stretch



4000 ft² Large Single Family
5 Bedroom - Worcester, MA

Breakdown of Construction Costs to Meet Stretch Code

FEATURE	BASE CODE ³	STRETCH CODE ⁴	COST DIFFERENTIAL ¹
HERS INDEX ⁶	52	42	
Windows (U-Value/SHGC)	U-0.25, 0.29 SHGC	U-0.28, 0.29 SHGC	-\$4,110
DHW	Gas Tankless 0.94 EF	HPWH, 50 gal, 2.35 EF	-\$316
Heating	Gas, 98% AFUE	SEER 20, 12 HSPF, Ducted	-\$35
Cooling	SEER 14.2		
Duct Leakage to Outside	2 CFM25 per 100ft ² , R-6	In Conditioned Space	\$0
Foundation Insulation	NA	NA	\$0
Floor Insulation	R-30 Fiberglass Batt	R-30 Fiberglass Batt	\$0
Walls Insulation	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c.	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c.	\$0
High Efficacy Lighting	100% LED	100% LED	\$0
Ceiling Insulation	Ceiling R-49, Vented	R-38 Open Cell Spray Foam, Unvented	-\$1,847
Air Infiltration	3 ACH50	1.5 ACH50	\$3,246
Mechanical Ventilation	HRV, 75%	HRV, 75%	\$0
Pre-Wiring ⁵	N/A	N/A	\$0
Solar Array ⁵	N/A	N/A	\$0
TOTAL			-\$3,062

1. Additional Cost are the costs above Base Code to reach Stretch Code.
2. Cost included in basement and/or attic thermal boundary change.
3. Base Code home features are based on an analysis of typical practices for achieving a HERS 52 using HERS Provider data on previously built homes in Massachusetts.
4. Stretch Code home features are based on cost optimization modeling using BEopt software. Some individual features are less efficient than the Base Code home, but they are more than offset by other features that are more efficient. One benefit of using a HERS Index target as the basis of the Stretch Code is that it give builders the flexibility to make different design choice to allow for optimization of cost effectiveness, work around other design constraints, and accommodate client-specific requests. The stretch code model was developed used REM/rate Version 16.1.1.
5. Pre-wiring and solar costs are only applicable to mixed fuel projects following the Specialized code and do not apply to the Base or Stretch Code.
6. Please note that an all-electric home qualifies for a three-point increase in the HERS Index, reducing the stringency from HERS 52 to 55 when following the Base Code, and HERS 42 to 45 when following the Stretch Code. For the purposes of this analysis, a HERS Index of 52 (for Base Code) and 42 (for Stretch and Specialized Code) have been used in the energy models for the all-electric scenario.



Large Single Family - Electric

HERS Index (ERI)

45 ▶ 45

Stretch Specialized



Home Details

- 4000 ft²
- Large Single Family
- 5 Bedrooms
- Worcester, MA



Costs and Benefits to Meet Specialized Code

	COSTS ^{1,2}	BENEFITS	NET
Pre-Wiring Costs³	\$0 Total Pre-Wiring Cost	\$0 Rebates	\$0 Cost Compared to Stretch Code
Solar Costs	\$0 Total Solar Cost	\$0 Rebates	\$0 Cost Compared to Stretch Code

1. For All-Electric buildings, there is no cost difference between the Stretch Code and the Specialized Code because the requirements are the same.
2. Pre-wiring and solar costs are only applicable to mixed fuel projects following the Specialized code and do not apply to all-electric buildings.
3. Pre-wiring includes the costs to add a dedicated branch circuit and outlet nearby any equipment currently using fossil fuels for space heating, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying. This does not include the costs associated with upgrading an electrical panel.

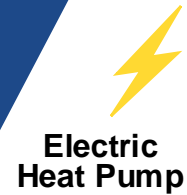


MA 10th Edition Building Code | 2025

Large Single Family - Electric

HERS Index (ERI)

45 ▶ 45
Stretch Specialized



4000 ft² Large Single Family
5 Bedroom - Worcester, MA

Breakdown of Construction Costs to Meet Specialized Code

FEATURE	STRETCH CODE	SPECIALIZED CODE	COST DIFFERENTIAL ¹
HERS INDEX ⁴	42	42	
Windows (U-Value/SHGC)	U-0.28, 0.29 SHGC	U-0.28, 0.29 SHGC	\$0
DHW	HPWH, 50 gal, 2.35 EF	HPWH, 50 gal, 2.35 EF	\$0
Heating	SEER 20, 12 HSPF, Ducted	SEER 20, 12 HSPF, Ducted	\$0
Cooling			
Duct Leakage to Outside	In Conditioned Space	In Conditioned Space	\$0
Foundation Insulation	NA	NA	\$0
Floor Insulation	R-30 Fiberglass Batt	R-30 Fiberglass Batt	\$0
Walls Insulation	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c.	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c.	\$0
High Efficacy Lighting	100% LED	100% LED	\$0
Ceiling Insulation	R-38 Open Cell Spray Foam, Unvented	R-38 Open Cell Spray Foam, Unvented	\$0
Air Infiltration	1.5 ACH50	1.5 ACH50	\$0
Mechanical Ventilation	HRV, 75%	HRV, 75%	\$0
Pre-Wiring ^{2,3}	N/A	N/A	\$0
Solar Array ²	N/A	N/A	\$0
TOTAL			\$0

1. For All-Electric buildings, there is no cost difference between the Stretch Code and the Specialized Code because the requirements are the same.
2. Pre-wiring and solar costs are only applicable to mixed fuel projects following the Specialized code and do not apply to all-electric buildings.
3. Pre-wiring includes the costs to add a dedicated branch circuit and outlet nearby any equipment currently using fossil fuels for space heating, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying. This does not include the costs associated with upgrading an electrical panel.
4. Please note that an all-electric home qualifies for a three-point increase in the HERS Index, reducing the stringency from HERS 52 to 55 when following the Base Code, and HERS 42 to 45 when following the Stretch Code. For the purposes of this analysis, a HERS Index of 52 (for Base Code) and 42 (for Stretch and Specialized Code) have been used in the energy models for the all-electric scenario.



Large Single Family - Gas

Costs and Benefits to Meet Stretch Code*

HERS Index (ERI)

52 ▶ 42
Base Stretch



Home Details

- 4000 ft²
- Large Single Family
- 5 Bedrooms
- Worcester, MA



	COSTS		BENEFITS ⁵	NET
Total Added Construction Costs	\$10,892 Extra Costs		\$2,500 Rebates ^{1,4}	\$8,392 Cost Compared to Base Code
HOME BUYER	\$839 Increase in Downpayment ³	\$563 Increase in Annual Mortgage Payment ³	\$598 Estimated Energy Cost Savings per Year ²	\$35 Buyer Annual Net Savings

*Green shaded boxes indicate cost savings, while red shaded boxes indicate added costs.

1. Rebates are calculated on a per unit basis, using Mass Save® new construction program Base Tier Incentives of \$7,500 without any Market Transformation Adders. These incentives are not applicable to mixed fuel projects.
2. Energy costs are based on 28.7 cents/kWh, \$2.08/therm, and \$3.62/gal propane
3. 30-year mortgage assumes 10% down payment at 6.35% APR
4. In addition to the Mass Save® rebates, projects may be eligible for \$2,500/unit rebate as part of the 45L Federal Tax Credit.
5. Mass Save Incentives are not available in communities with municipal light plants, which are locally owned utilities which represent 52 towns that make up about 13% of the MA population



MA 10th Edition Building Code | 2025

Large Single Family - Gas

HERS Index (ERI)

52 ▶ 42
Base Stretch



Gas

4000 ft² Large Single Family
5 Bedroom - Worcester, MA

Breakdown of Construction Costs to Meet Stretch Code

FEATURE	BASE CODE ³	STRETCH CODE ⁴	COST DIFFERENTIAL ¹
HERS INDEX	52	42	\$0
Windows (U-Value/SHGC)	U-0.25, 0.29 SHGC	U-0.18, 0.29 SHGC	\$4,951
DHW	Gas Tankless 0.94 EF	Gas Tankless 0.94 EF	\$0
Heating	Gas, 98% AFUE	Gas, 98% AFUE	\$0
Cooling	SEER 14.2	SEER 16	\$553
Duct Leakage to Outside	2 CFM25 per 100ft ² , R-6	In Conditioned Space	-\$361
Foundation Insulation	NA	NA	\$0
Floor Insulation	R-30 Fiberglass Batt	R-30 Fiberglass Batt	\$0
Walls Insulation	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c.	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c., R-5 XPS	\$4,728
High Efficacy Lighting	100% LED	100% LED	\$0
Ceiling Insulation	Ceiling R-49, Vented	R-38 Open Cell Spray Foam, Unvented	-\$2,226
Air Infiltration	3 ACH50	1.5 ACH50	\$3,246
Mechanical Ventilation	HRV, 75%	HRV, 75%	\$0
Pre-Wiring ⁵	N/A	N/A	\$0
Solar Array ⁵	N/A	N/A	\$0
TOTAL			\$10,892

1. Additional Costs are the costs above Base Code to reach Stretch Code.
2. Cost included in basement and/or attic thermal boundary change.
3. Base Code home features are based on an analysis of typical practices for achieving a HERS 52 using HERS Provider data on previously built homes in Massachusetts.
4. Stretch Code home features are based on cost optimization modeling using BEopt software. Some individual features are less efficient than the Base Code home, but they are more than offset by other features that are more efficient. One benefit of using a HERS Index target as the basis of the Stretch Code is that it give builders the flexibility to make different design choice to allow for optimization of cost effectiveness, work around other design constraints, and accommodate client-specific requests. The stretch code model was developed used REM/rate Version 16.1.1.
5. Pre-wiring and solar costs are only applicable to mixed fuel projects following the Specialized code and do not apply to the Base or Stretch Code.

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PSD



Large Single Family - Gas

Costs and Benefits to Meet Specialized Code*

HERS Index (ERI)

42 ▶ 0

Stretch Specialized



Gas

Home Details

- 4000 ft²
- Large Single Family
- 5 Bedrooms
- Worcester, MA

	COSTS	BENEFITS ³	NET
Pre-Wiring Costs⁵	\$9,000 Additional Pre-Wiring Cost	\$0 Rebates ^{1,2}	\$9,000 Cost Compared to Stretch Code
Solar Costs	\$22,902 Additional Solar Cost	\$7,871 Rebates ^{1,2}	\$15,031 Cost Compared to Stretch Code
Total Costs	\$24,031 Total Additional Costs	\$2,273 Annual Energy Bill Savings ⁴	

*Green shaded boxes indicate cost savings, while red shaded boxes indicate added costs.

1. Rebates are calculated on a per unit basis, using Mass Save® new construction program Base Tier Incentives of \$7,500 without any Market Transformation Adders. These incentives are not applicable to mixed fuel projects.
2. Projects with solar installed may be eligible for a Federal 30% Tax Credit of the solar install; and a 15% MA State tax credit of the solar cost, up to \$1,000.
3. Mass Save Incentives are not available in communities with municipal light plants, which are locally owned utilities which represent 52 towns that make up about 13% of the MA population
4. The PV Watts Calculator was used to determine the total kWh saving of the project, using defaults for module type, array type, system losses, tilt, azimuth, etc. The kWh savings was compared to the total kWh used in the energy model. The savings calculation estimates an energy cost of 28.7 cents/kWh.
5. Pre-wiring includes the costs to add a dedicated branch circuit and outlet nearby any equipment currently using fossil fuels for space heating, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying. This does not include the costs associated with upgrading an electrical panel.



Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources





MA 10th Edition Building Code | 2025

Large Single Family - Gas

HERS Index (ERI)

42 ▶ 0
Stretch Specialized



4000 ft² Large Single Family
5 Bedroom - Worcester, MA

Breakdown of Construction Costs to Meet Specialized Code

FEATURE	STRETCH CODE	SPECIALIZED CODE	COST DIFFERENTIAL ¹
HERS INDEX	42	0	\$0
Windows (U-Value/SHGC)	U-0.18, 0.29 SHGC	U-0.18, 0.29 SHGC	\$0
DHW	Gas Tankless 0.94 EF	Gas Tankless 0.94 EF	\$0
Heating	Gas, 98% AFUE	Gas, 98% AFUE	\$0
Cooling	SEER 16	SEER 16	\$0
Duct Leakage to Outside	In Conditioned Space	In Conditioned Space	\$0
Foundation Insulation	NA	NA	\$0
Floor Insulation	R-30 Fiberglass Batt	R-30 Fiberglass Batt	\$0
Walls Insulation	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c., R-5 XPS	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c., R-5 XPS	\$0
High Efficacy Lighting	100% LED	100% LED	\$0
Ceiling Insulation	R-38 Open Cell Spray Foam, Unvented	R-38 Open Cell Spray Foam, Unvented	\$0
Air Infiltration	1.5 ACH50	1.5 ACH50	\$0
Mechanical Ventilation	HRV, 75%	HRV, 75%	\$0
Pre-Wiring ⁴	N/A	Yes	\$9,000
Solar Array ²	N/A	6.14 kW ³	\$15,031
TOTAL			\$24,031

1. Additional Costs are the costs above Stretch Code to reach Specialized Code.
2. Solar costs are based on the [Massachusetts Clean Energy Center Solar Costs Comparison Tool](#), using the median dollar per watt of \$3.73 as of July 30, 2024. The model does not take credit for any solar energy kWh generation.
3. This number is project specific and subject to change. The PV Watts calculator was used to determine which size array would equal the total energy use of the project, using defaults for module type, array type, system losses, tilt, azimuth, etc. In our energy model, a 6.14 kW array offsets the total energy use of the project.
4. Pre-wiring includes the costs to add a dedicated branch circuit and outlet nearby any equipment currently using fossil fuels for space heating, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying. This does not include the costs associated with upgrading an electrical panel.



Small Single Family - Electric

Costs and Benefits to Meet Stretch Code*

HERS Index (ERI)

55 ▶ **45**
Base Stretch



Home Details

- 2100 ft²
- Small Single Family
- 3 Bedrooms
- Worcester, MA

	COSTS		BENEFITS ⁵	NET
Total Added Construction Costs	\$11,597 Cost Savings		\$12,000 Rebates ^{1,4}	\$23,597 Cost Compared to Base Code
HOME BUYER	\$2,360 Reduction to Downpayment ³	\$1,586 Reduction to Annual Mortgage Payment ³	\$242 Estimated Additional Energy Costs per Year ²	\$1,344 Buyer Annual Net Savings

*Green shaded boxes indicate cost savings, while red shaded boxes indicate added costs.

1. Rebates are calculated on a per unit basis, using Mass Save ® new construction program Base Tier Incentives of \$7,500 without any Market Transformation Adders. These incentives are not applicable to mixed fuel projects.
2. Energy costs are based on 28.7 cents/kWh, \$2.08/therm, and \$3.62/gal propane
3. 30-year mortgage assumes 10% down payment at 6.35% APR
4. In addition to the Mass Save ® rebates, projects may be eligible for \$2,500/unit rebate as part of the 45L Federal Tax Credit. Additionally, projects with ASHPs may be eligible for a Federal 30% Tax Credit of the ASHP install, up to \$2,000.
5. Mass Save Incentives are not available in communities with municipal light plans, which are locally owned utilities which represent 52 towns that make up about 13% of the MA population



Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources





MA 10th Edition Building Code | 2025

Small Single Family - Electric

HERS Index (ERI)

55 ▶ 45
Base Stretch



2100 ft² Small Single Family
3 Bedroom - Worcester, MA

Breakdown of Construction Costs to Meet Stretch Code

FEATURE	BASE CODE ³	STRETCH CODE ⁴	COST DIFFERENTIAL ¹
HERS INDEX ⁶	52	42	
Windows (U-Value/SHGC)	U-0.18, 0.29 SHGC	U-0.28, 0.29 SHGC	-\$5,343
DHW	Gas Tankless 0.94 EF	HPWH, 50 gal	-\$316
Heating	Gas, 95% AFUE	SEER 20, 12 HSPF, Ductless	-\$2,487
Cooling	SEER 14.2		
Duct Leakage to Outside	2 CFM25 per 100ft2, R-6	Ductless	-\$6,749
Foundation Insulation	NA	NA	\$0
Floor Insulation	Basement Ceiling R-30	Basement Ceiling R-30	\$0
Wall Insulation	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c.	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c.	\$0
High Efficacy Lighting	100% LED	100% LED	\$0
Ceiling Insulation	Ceiling R-49, Vented	Roof R-38 Spray Foam, Unvented	\$2,511
Air Infiltration	3 ACH50	2 ACH50	\$787
Mechanical Ventilation	HRV, 75%	HRV, 75%	\$0
Pre-Wiring ⁵	N/A	N/A	\$0
Solar Array ⁵	N/A	N/A	\$0
TOTAL			-\$11,597

1. Additional Costs are the costs above Base Code to reach Stretch Code.
2. Cost included in basement and/or attic thermal boundary change
3. Base Code home features are based on an analysis of typical practices for achieving a HERS 52 using HERS Provider data on previously built homes in Massachusetts.
4. Stretch Code home features are based on cost optimization modeling using BEopt software. Some individual features are less efficient than the Base Code home, but they are more than offset by other features that are more efficient. One benefit of using a HERS Index target as the basis of the Stretch Code is that it give builders the flexibility to make different design choice to allow for optimization of cost effectiveness, work around other design constraints, and accommodate client-specific requests. The stretch code model was developed used REM/rate Version 16.1.1.
5. Pre-wiring and solar costs are only applicable to mixed fuel projects following the Specialized code and do not apply to the Base or Stretch Code.
6. Please note that an all-electric home qualifies for a three-point increase in the HERS Index, reducing the stringency from HERS 52 to 55 when following the Base Code, and HERS 42 to 45 when following the Stretch Code. For the purposes of this analysis, a HERS Index of 52 (for Base Code) and 42 (for Stretch and Specialized Code) have been used in the energy models for the all-electric scenario.



Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources





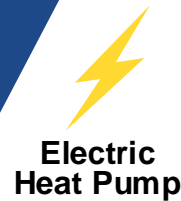
Small Single Family - Electric

Costs and Benefits to Meet Specialized Code

HERS Index (ERI)

45 ▶ 45

Stretch Specialized



Home Details

- 2100 ft²
- Small Single Family
- 3 Bedrooms
- Worcester, MA

	COSTS ^{1,2}	BENEFITS	NET
Solar Costs	\$0 Total Solar Cost	\$0 Rebates	\$0 Cost Compared to Stretch Code
Pre-Wiring Costs³	\$0 Total Pre-wiring Cost	\$0 Rebates	\$0 Costs Compared to Stretch Code

1. For All-Electric buildings, there is no cost difference between the Stretch Code and the Specialized Code because the requirements are the same.
2. Pre-wiring and solar costs are only applicable to mixed fuel projects following the Specialized code and do not apply to all-electric buildings.
3. Pre-wiring includes the costs to add a dedicated branch circuit and outlet nearby any equipment currently using fossil fuels for space heating, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying. This does not include the costs associated with upgrading an electrical panel.



Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources





MA 10th Edition Building Code | 2025

Small Single Family - Electric

HERS Index (ERI)

45 ▶ 45
Stretch Specialized



2100 ft² Small Single Family
3 Bedroom - Worcester, MA

Breakdown of Construction Costs to Meet Specialized Code

FEATURE	STRETCH CODE	SPECIALIZED CODE	COST DIFFERENTIAL ¹
HERS INDEX ⁴	42	42	
Windows (U-Value/SHGC)	U-0.28, 0.29 SHGC	U-0.28, 0.29 SHGC	\$0
DHW	HPWH, 50 gal	HPWH, 50 gal	\$0
Heating	SEER 20, 12 HSPF, Ductless	SEER 20, 12 HSPF, Ductless	\$0
Cooling			
Duct Leakage to Outside	Ductless	Ductless	\$0
Foundation Insulation	NA	NA	\$0
Floor Insulation	Basement Ceiling R-30	Basement Ceiling R-30	\$0
Wall Insulation	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c.	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c.	\$0
High Efficacy Lighting	100% LED	100% LED	\$0
Ceiling Insulation	Roof R-38 Spray Foam, Unvented	Roof R-38 Spray Foam, Unvented	\$0
Air Infiltration	2 ACH50	2 ACH50	\$0
Mechanical Ventilation	HRV, 75%	HRV, 75%	\$0
Pre-Wiring ^{2,3}	N/A	N/A	\$0
Solar Array ²	N/A	N/A	\$0
TOTAL			\$0

1. For All-Electric buildings, there is no cost difference between the Stretch Code and the Specialized Code because the requirements are the same.
2. Pre-wiring and solar costs are only applicable to mixed fuel projects following the Specialized code and do not apply to all-electric buildings.
3. Pre-wiring includes the costs to add a dedicated branch circuit and outlet nearby any equipment currently using fossil fuels for space heating, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying. This does not include the costs associated with upgrading an electrical panel.
4. Please note that an all-electric home qualifies for a three-point increase in the HERS Index, reducing the stringency from HERS 52 to 55 when following the Base Code, and HERS 42 to 45 when following the Stretch Code. For the purposes of this analysis, a HERS Index of 52 (for Base Code) and 42 (for Stretch and Specialized Code) have been used in the energy models for the all-electric scenario.



Small Single Family - Gas

Costs and Benefits to Meet Stretch Code*

HERS Index (ERI)

52 ▶ 42
Base Stretch



Home Details

- 2100 ft²
- Small Single Family
- 3 Bedrooms
- Worcester, MA



	COSTS		BENEFITS ⁶	NET
Total Added Construction Costs	\$14,064 Extra Costs		\$2,500 Rebates ^{1,4}	\$11,564 Cost Compared to Base Code
HOME BUYER	\$1,156 Increase in Downpayment ³	\$777 Increase in Annual Mortgage Payment ³	\$190 Estimated Additional Energy Costs per Year ²	\$967 Buyer Annual Net Cost

*Green shaded boxes indicate cost savings, while red shaded boxes indicate added costs.

1. Rebates are calculated on a per unit basis, using Mass Save® new construction program Base Tier Incentives of \$7,500 without any Market Transformation Adders. These incentives are not applicable to mixed fuel projects.
2. Energy costs are based on 28.7 cents/kWh, \$2.08/therm, and \$3.62/gal propane
3. 30-year mortgage assumes 10% down payment at 6.35% APR
4. In addition to the Mass Save® rebates, projects may be eligible for \$2,500/unit rebate as part of the 45L Federal Tax Credit.
5. Mass Save Incentives are not available in communities with municipal light plants, which are locally owned utilities which represent 52 towns that make up about 13% of the MA population



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Small Single Family - Gas

HERS Index (ERI)

52 ▶ 42
Base Stretch



2100 ft² Small Single Family
3 Bedroom - Worcester, MA

Breakdown of Construction Costs to Meet Stretch Code

FEATURE	BASE CODE ³	STRETCH CODE ⁴	COST DIFFERENTIAL ¹
HERS INDEX	52	42	
Windows (U-Value/SHGC)	U-0.18, 0.29 SHGC	U-0.18, 0.29 SHGC	\$0
DHW	Gas Tankless 0.94 EF	Gas Tankless 0.94 EF	\$0
Heating	Gas, 95% AFUE	Gas, 98% AFUE	\$708
Cooling	SEER 14.2	SEER 16	\$671
Duct Leakage to Outside	2 CFM25 per 100ft ² , R-6	In Conditioned Space	\$0
Foundation Insulation	NA	Basement Walls R-21	\$6,547
Floor Insulation	Basement Ceiling R-30	NA	-\$1,426
Walls Insulation	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c.	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c. R-5 XPS	\$3,015
High Efficacy Lighting	100% LED	100% LED	\$0
Ceiling Insulation	Ceiling R-49, Vented	Roof R-38 Spray Foam, Unvented	\$2,187
Air Infiltration	3 ACH50	1 ACH50	\$2,362
Mechanical Ventilation	HRV, 75%	HRV, 75%	\$0
Pre-Wiring ⁵	N/A	N/A	\$0
Solar Array ⁵	N/A	N/A	\$0
TOTAL			\$14,064

1. Additional Cost are the costs above Base Code to reach Stretch Code.
2. Cost included in basement and/or attic thermal boundary change.
3. Base Code home features are based on an analysis of typical practices for achieving a HERS 52 using HERS Provider data on previously built homes in Massachusetts.
4. Stretch Code home features are based on cost optimization modeling using BEopt software. Some individual features are less efficient than the Base Code home, but they are more than offset by other features that are more efficient. One benefit of using a HERS Index target as the basis of the Stretch Code is that it give builders the flexibility to make different design choice to allow for optimization of cost effectiveness, work around other design constraints, and accommodate client-specific requests. The stretch code model was developed used REM/rate Version 16.1.1.
5. Pre-wiring and solar costs are only applicable to mixed fuel projects following the Specialized code and do not apply to the Base or Stretch Code.



Small Single Family - Gas

Costs and Benefits to Meet Specialized Code*

HERS Index (ERI)

42 ▶ 42

Stretch Specialized



Gas

Home Details

- 2100 ft²
- Small Single Family
- 3 Bedrooms
- Worcester, MA

	COSTS	BENEFITS ³	NET
Pre-Wiring Costs⁵	\$4,000 Total Pre-Wiring Cost	\$0 Rebates ^{1,2}	\$4,000 Cost Compared to Stretch Code
Solar Costs	\$14,920 Total Solar Cost	\$5,474 Rebates ^{1,2}	\$9,446 Cost Compared to Stretch Code
Total Costs	\$13,446 Total Additional Costs	\$1,482 Annual Energy Bill Savings ⁴	

*Green shaded boxes indicate cost savings, while red shaded boxes indicate added costs.

1. Rebates are calculated on a per unit basis, using Mass Save ® new construction program Base Tier Incentives of \$7,500 without any Market Transformation Adders. These incentives are not applicable to mixed fuel projects.
2. Projects with solar installed may be eligible for a Federal 30% Tax Credit of the solar install; and a 15% MA State tax credit of the solar cost, up to \$1,000.
3. Mass Save Incentives are not available in communities with municipal light plants, which are locally owned utilities which represent 52 towns that make up about 13% of the MA population.
4. The PV Watts Calculator was used to determine the total kWh saving of the project, using defaults for module type, array type, system losses, tilt, azimuth, etc. The kWh savings was compared to the total kWh used in the energy model. The savings calculation estimates an energy cost of 28.7 cents/kWh.
5. Pre-wiring includes the costs to add a dedicated branch circuit and outlet nearby any equipment currently using fossil fuels for space heating, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying. This does not include the costs associated with upgrading an electrical panel.



Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources





MA 10th Edition Building Code | 2025

Small Single Family - Gas

HERS Index (ERI)

42 ▶ 42
Stretch Specialized



2100 ft² Small Single Family
3 Bedroom - Worcester, MA

Breakdown of Construction Costs to Meet Specialized Code

FEATURE	STRETCH CODE	SPECIALIZED CODE	COST DIFFERENTIAL ¹
HERS INDEX	42	42	
Windows (U-Value/SHGC)	U-0.18, 0.29 SHGC	U-0.18, 0.29 SHGC	\$0
DHW	Gas Tankless 0.94 EF	Gas Tankless 0.94 EF	\$0
Heating	Gas, 98% AFUE	Gas, 98% AFUE	\$0
Cooling	SEER 16	SEER 16	\$0
Duct Leakage to Outside	In Conditioned Space	In Conditioned Space	\$0
Foundation Insulation	Basement Walls R-21	Basement Walls R-21	\$0
Floor Insulation	NA	NA	\$0
Walls Insulation	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c. R-5 XPS	R-21, 2x6, 16 in o.c. R-5 XPS	\$0
High Efficacy Lighting	100% LED	100% LED	\$0
Ceiling Insulation	Roof R-38 Spray Foam, Unvented	Roof R-38 Spray Foam, Unvented	\$0
Air Infiltration	1 ACH50	1 ACH50	\$0
Mechanical Ventilation	HRV, 75%	HRV, 75%	\$0
Pre-Wiring ³	N/A	Yes	\$4,000
Solar Array ²	N/A	4 kW	\$9,446
TOTAL			\$13,446

1. Additional Cost are the costs above Stretch Code to reach Specialized Code.
2. Solar costs are based on the [Massachusetts Clean Energy Center Solar Costs Comparison Tool](#), using the median dollar per watt of \$3.73 as of July 30, 2024. The model does not take credit for any solar energy kWh generation.
3. Pre-wiring includes the costs to add a dedicated branch circuit and outlet nearby any equipment currently using fossil fuels for space heating, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying. This does not include the costs associated with upgrading an electrical panel.