

Performance Path Rater/Verifier Training Requirements

In Performance Path utility programs, Raters/Verifiers provide the energy modeling and third-party field verification services. BetterBuiltNW leverages the [RESNET® home energy Rater network](#) as eligible participants who can complete the modeling and field verification for Performance Path homes. In addition to providing modeling and field verification services for utility programs, a certified RESNET HERS® Rater may provide a HERS Index Score to be used for tax credits, energy-efficient mortgages, and other home certification programs (e.g., ENERGY STAR® or DOE Zero Energy Ready Home).

This resource provides an overview of training requirements to become a RESNET Rater and participate in Performance Path programs. There are also options for individuals interested in completing the energy modeling and field verification without becoming a RESNET Rater (e.g., utility staff, third-party energy consultants).

Software

Performance Path utility programs currently require the use of REM/Rate™ and AXIS for participation. The [Northwest Modeling Requirements](#) specify which version of REM/Rate is required.

REM/Rate is typically licensed through a RESNET Provider. Annual license fees vary depending on Provider. Providers serving Northwest Raters include:

- [Washington State University Energy Extension Program](#)
- [Building Energy, Inc.](#)
- [Building Efficiency Resources, LLC \(The BER\)](#)
- [National Center for Appropriate Technology \(NCAT\)](#)
- [EnergyLogic](#)

Access to and training for AXIS will be provided by the BetterBuiltNW team prior to submitting Performance Path homes.

REM/Rate Training

Introductory REM/Rate training is required for those who are new to the software. This training familiarizes the individual with REM/Rate's software interface and associated processes, such as performing plan reviews and dimension takeoffs, understanding critical software inputs, and generating reports. This training is included as a component of RESNET's Rater certification training offered by RESNET Providers. Please contact Providers (listed above) directly to discuss cost and scheduling for RESNET certification trainings.

Individuals who are certified Raters or who have verifiable experience using REM/Rate in other utility incentive or home certification programs are not required to take introductory training.

A supplemental training on the Northwest Modeling Requirements is required for all Raters/Verifiers participating in Performance Path utility programs, regardless of prior experience with REM/Rate. Refer to the Northwest-Specific Training section for details.

Field Verification Training

Field verification training is required for individuals providing field verification services in Performance Path utility programs.

In addition to building science fundamentals, introductory field training familiarizes the individual with basic field verification and performance testing protocols, such as how to perform site inspections, blower door tests, and duct blaster tests. This training is also included as a component of RESNET's Rater certification training offered by RESNET Providers. Please contact Providers directly to discuss cost and scheduling for RESNET certification trainings.

Individuals who are certified RESNET Raters or Rating Field Inspectors, certified BPI Building Analysts or Envelope Professionals, or who have verifiable experience inspecting to RESNET, BPI or Northwest utility incentive and home certification program standards are not required to take introductory field verification training.

Supplemental training on Northwest field verification protocols, via Quality Assurance (QA) mentoring, is required for all individuals providing field verification services in Performance Path utility programs. Refer to the Northwest-Specific Training section for details.



Northwest-Specific Training

Supplemental training and direct mentoring on Northwest modeling and field verification protocols are designed to augment the RESNET REM/Rate and field verification trainings listed above. This supplemental training is provided by the BetterBuiltNW team.

The [Northwest Modeling Requirements](#) were developed in collaboration with Energy Trust of Oregon, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the Regional Technical Forum (RTF) and the BetterBuiltNW team to ensure valid energy savings estimates are produced from REM/Rate energy models. Performance Path utility programs require Raters/Verifiers to adhere to the Northwest Modeling Requirements.

All individuals providing modeling and field verification services for Performance Path utility programs must complete QA mentoring. File and Field QA offers opportunities to develop and refine familiarity with utility program requirements and field verification best practices. QA is focused on developing the technical acumen of participating Raters/Verifiers and field staff. QA mentoring and QA protocols are outlined in the [Performance Path QA Overview](#).