

2 PATHWAYS

to Tier 2 Compliance

COMPLIANCE PATHWAYS

Tiered Energy Compliance — Zone 6 Nova Scotia

Both achieve the same performance outcome. Choose based on your business.

LEGACY APPROACH

Traditional Prescriptive

NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Meet specific minimum requirements for each building component. No flexibility — each component must meet its specific minimum.

No third party required

NEW OPTION

Tiered Prescriptive

NEW FOR 2026

Meet baseline code, then earn **10 points** by selecting upgrades from a menu. Some flexibility — pick from set options, predictable choices.

No energy model required

NEW OPTION

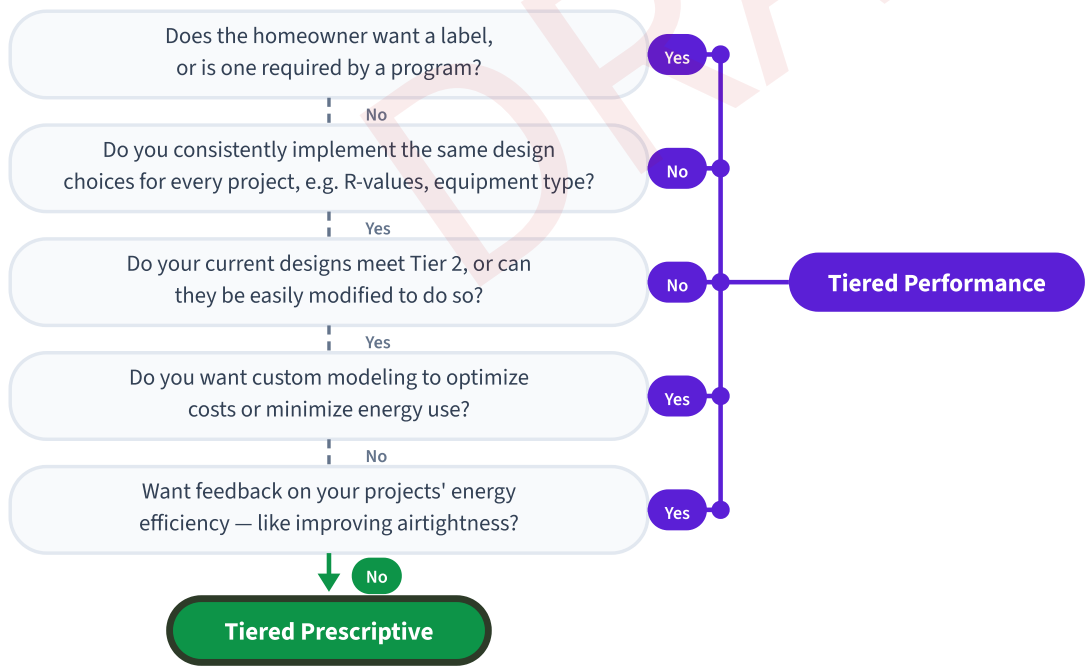
Tiered Performance

NEW FOR 2026

Use **energy modeling** software to prove your design meets targets. Full flexibility — trade off between any components.

Energy Advisor required

WHICH PATH IS RIGHT FOR YOU?



Path Indicators

- Prescriptive
- Performance

Either way: Both paths result in a home that meets Tier 2 energy requirements.

Traditional prescriptive compliance is no longer available in Nova Scotia. All new Part 9 buildings must use one of the tiered approaches.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS BY PATH

Tiered Prescriptive

At Building Permit Application

- Building plans showing volume
- Wall detail drawings showing assembly R-values
- Window schedule with specs (if claiming window points)
- Equipment specs for HRV/water heater (if claiming equipment points)

During Construction

- Verify installed assemblies match approved plans (framing + final)
- Blower door test results, if claiming airtightness (at final)

No third-party reports required unless claiming airtightness points.



See Job Aid #1:

Prescriptive Tier 2 Compliance — Points tables and documentation checklist

Tiered Performance

Pre-Construction

- Engage an Energy Advisor to model your design
- Review model results to confirm compliance

At Building Permit Application

- Submit energy modelling results to AHJ

At Project Completion

- Blower door test (site assessment)
- HOT2000 Full House Report
- Performance Path Completion Form

Energy Advisor involvement is required throughout.

BUILDING OFFICIAL ROLE

Energy compliance fits within your existing inspection process. The key is knowing which path the builder is using.

For Prescriptive

- Collect documentation at each inspection stage
- Verify installed upgrades match documented point selections
- No third-party reports to review (unless airtightness claimed)

For Performance

- Receive the Performance Path Completion Form at project end — you are not required to review the energy model itself
- Confirm form is complete and signed by certified EA

Energy Advisor Role **PERFORMANCE PATH ONLY**

Energy Advisors are energy efficiency and modeling experts. They:

- Create HOT2000 models to demonstrate compliance
- Help identify changes if initial design doesn't pass
- Conduct blower door tests and produce HOT2000 Full House Reports
- Complete the Performance Path Completion Form

Engage your Energy Advisor early — ideally at design stage. Early modeling catches issues before they become expensive mid-build changes.



Find an Energy
Advisor