10 POINTS

Required for Tier 2

PRESCRIPTIVE PATH

Tiered Energy Compliance — Zone 6 Nova Scotia

> **Tier 2 applies to building permits received on or after April 1, 2026. Many builders need just one or two upgrades to comply.**

THREE WAYS TO REACH 10 POINTS

Option 1
One and Done
Fastest path

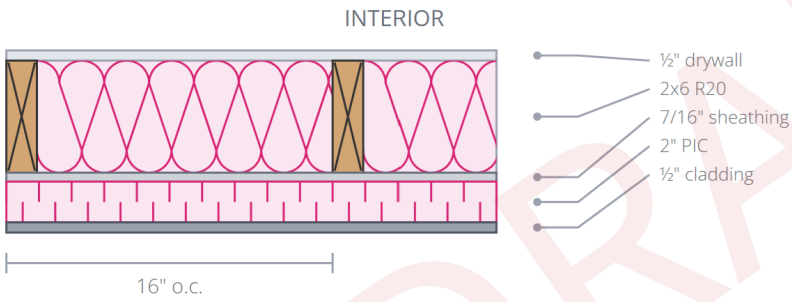
2×6, 16" OC, R-20 batt + 2" polyiso	**10.6**
TOTAL	**10.6**

Option 2
Walls + Equipment
Mixed approach

2×6, 16" OC, R-20 batt + 1.5" XPS	**7.7**
Heat pump water heater	**3.8**
TOTAL	**11.5**

Option 3
Envelope Focus
Building envelope

2×6, 16" OC, R-20 batt + 1.5" EPS	**6.2**
Windows U < 1.44	**1.6**
Airtightness < 2.0 ACH	**3.5**
TOTAL	**11.3**



Option 1 Assembly

R-32	R-26	10.6
NOMINAL	EFFECTIVE	POINTS

2×6 @ 16" OC + R-20 batt + 2" polyiso

DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

Plan Early

Plan your points strategy at the permit stage. Some details, like wall assemblies, can't easily change once construction begins.

POINTS CATEGORY	REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION	SUBMIT AT
Above-Ground Walls	Wall detail drawing	Building Permit
Foundation Walls	Wall detail drawing	Building Permit
Building Volume	Building plans	Building Permit
Windows & Doors	Window schedule with specs	Building Permit
HRV / ERV	Equipment spec sheet	Building Permit
Water Heater	Equipment spec sheet	Building Permit
Airtightness	Blower door test results	Final Inspection

All selections verified as-installed at framing and final inspections.

AIRTIGHTNESS — HIGH-VALUE OPPORTUNITY

ACH @ 50 Pa

Air Changes per Hour at 50 Pascals (~20 km/h wind)

ACH	WHAT IT MEANS	POINTS
2.5	Typical new construction	—
2.0	Tighter than average	**3.5**
1.5	Tight	**6.9**
1.0	Very tight	**10.4**
0.6	Extremely tight	**13.3**

Max Points Available

13.3

Enough for Tier 2 on its own — but results depend on workmanship.

POINT TABLES

Not sure what R-value your wall is? Scan here.

Understanding Wall Assemblies

The R-value on insulation packaging is **not** your wall's effective R-value. Wood studs conduct heat faster than insulation, so the code's RSI values represent *whole-wall assembly* performance.

Assembly	Nominal	Effective
2×6 + R-20 batts + 1" XPS exterior	R-25	R-23
2×6 + R-22 batts + 1" polyiso exterior	R-28	R-25
2×6 + R-24 batts + 1.5" polyiso exterior	R-33	R-28

To hit higher targets: use higher-R batts AND/OR continuous exterior insulation.

Different upgrades receive different **energy conservation points (ECP)**. Below are simplified versions of the 2020 National Building Code tables.

Above-Ground Walls — Table 9.36.8.5

RSI	R-VAL	PTS
3.08	R-17	1.6
3.69	R-21	6.2
3.85	R-22	6.9
3.96	R-22	7.7
4.29	R-24	9.2
4.40	R-25	9.9
4.57	R-26	10.6
4.73	R-27	11.1
4.84	R-27	11.6
5.01	R-28	12.2
5.45	R-31	13.6

Effective (whole-wall) R-value.

Foundation Walls — Table 9.36.8.7

RSI	R-VAL	PTS
3.09	R-18	0.2
3.46	R-20	0.8
3.90	R-22	1.4

Lowest RSI of any section applies. No trade-offs.

Windows & Doors — Table 9.36.8.6

MAX U	MIN ER	PTS
1.44	29	1.6
1.22	34	4.6

U: lower = better. ER per CSA A440.2.

Building Volume — Table 9.36.8.11

VOLUME (M^3)	~AREA (SF)	PTS
380 – 390	~1,720	1
370 – 380	~1,675	2
360 – 370	~1,630	3
350 – 360	~1,590	4
340 – 350	~1,545	5
330 – 340	~1,500	6
320 – 330	~1,455	7
310 – 320	~1,410	8
300 – 310	~1,365	9
≤ 300	≤ 1,325	10

8' ceiling assumed. Multi-unit: ≤230 m^3/unit = 10 pts.

HRV / Ventilation — Table 9.36.8.9

SRE RANGE	PTS
60% to 64%	0.7
65% to 74%	2.2
75% to 83%	3.5

SRE at 0°C. Ratings at hvi.org.

Quick Reference

From	To	×
RSI	R-value	5.678
R-value	RSI	0.176
m^3	sf (8' ceil)	4.4

R = RSI × 5.678

Airtightness — Table 9.36.8.8

LEVEL	ACH	PTS
AL-2A	2.0	3.5
AL-3A	1.5	6.9
AL-4A	1.0	10.4
AL-5A	0.6	13.3

Detached homes (Table 9.36.6.4-A). Attached dwellings tested unguarded: use Table B.

Water Heating — Table 9.36.8.10

EQUIPMENT	EFF.	PTS
Tankless condensing	UEF ≥ 0.92	4.9
Storage tank	UEF ≥ 0.83	4.9
Comm. storage	UEF ≥ 0.85	3.2
Comm. storage	UEF ≥ 0.79	2.4
Heat pump	EF ≥ 2.35	3.8

Gas/oil-fired. UEF = Uniform Energy Factor.

Abbreviations

RSI	Thermal resistance (SI)
U-val	Thermal transmittance (W/m^2K)
ER	Energy Rating (windows)
HRV	Heat Recovery Ventilator
ACH	Air Changes per Hour
UEF	Uniform Energy Factor
SRE	Sensible Recovery Eff.