

Energy Efficient Renovation Requirements for Major Residential Additions and Alterations

What projects are applicable?

Beginning August 18th, 2025, any single-family residential project in the City of Santa Cruz that is a major addition or alteration.

- Major Addition is any change to an existing building that increases the conditioned floor area by 350 SF or more in a one-year period.
- Major Alteration is any construction or renovation to an existing structure with an area of 350 SF or more in a one-year period. Exceptions: A project that consists only of roof and/or window replacement is not considered a Major Alteration. Additionally, repairs are not considered a Major Alteration.
- A combination of a Major Addition and Alteration adding up to 350 SF or more is also applicable.

What are the requirements?

There are three requirements:

1. Utility Room, Kitchen & Laundry-Related Electric Ready Pre-Wire.
2. Select at least one or a combination of “Efficiency Upgrade” options for a minimum of 9 points. Options or Efficiency upgrades include installing heat pump water heaters, solar panels, and insulation, among other things.
3. If the project includes upgrading to a 200-amp panel, electric-readiness for a heat pump water heater and heat pump space heater is required.

The Applicant’s Process:

1. The intake form can be found as a digital copy at the following link:
<https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/home/showpublisheddocument/105209>
2. On the form, provide the project information, applicability, and the selected measures.
3. The completed intake form must be added to your plan set. Ideally, it should be located at the start of the project’s Title 24 Part 6 energy compliance documents.
4. For additional questions, please reference the [ordinance document](#) or email us at bcounter@santacruzca.gov.