

The new Nicor Gas Smart Neighborhoods™ are designed to be net zero and built with the most efficient building envelope to keep energy bills cost-effective for Habitat families.

Below is some information about the new smart homes. A net zero home produces as much energy as it uses through energy efficient construction and technology as well as the integration of renewable energy sources, like solar. The illustration below highlights some of the unique building features that make these new homes smart and efficient.



1. Solar panels

These panels collect energy from the sun that can be stored in the home battery. Solar technology offers cost savings and environmental benefits.

2. Battery storage system

The new homes will be built with battery storage systems that capture energy from the solar panels to power the home during an outage.

3. Insulating concrete form walls

Utilizing insulating concrete forms (ICF) means less energy is required to heat and cool your home and can offer savings of up to 50%.

4. Spray foam

Concrete slabs and attics are sprayed for added thermal layering to keep the home free from unnecessary air leaks.

5. Energy efficient windows

Double pane windows are high efficiency and reduce risk of drafts.

6. Energy Recovery Ventilation (ERV)

ERV systems provide a controlled way of ventilating a home while minimizing energy loss. They reduce the costs of heating ventilated air in the winter by transferring heat from the warm inside exhaust air to the fresh (but cold) outside supply air. In the summer, the inside air cools the warmer supply air to reduce cooling costs.

7. LED lighting

LED lighting uses up to 85% less energy than traditional bulbs, demonstrating additional efficiency and savings.

Leading the way to a smarter energy future.

Nicor Gas is an important leader in the State of Illinois and is recognized for its cutting-edge research and development focused on a more affordable and resilient clean energy future.

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What is net zero?

Net zero refers to the netting out of greenhouse gas emissions, where the home saves more CO2 emissions than consumers produce to power, heat, and cool the home on an annual basis.

What makes these homes smart?

When talking about smart homes, it is important to think of construction and lifestyle decisions that keep our energy bills manageable and support more environmentally friendly living. Internet connectivity plays an important role in home automation and integrating more renewable sources of energy that lower the home's carbon footprint.

The Nicor Gas Smart Neighborhoods™ have been designed and built with the most energy efficient building technology materials and smart technologies to allow residents to live a smarter energy lifestyle.

What kinds of smart technology are in the homes?

The new homes will include a number of smart technology features. Aside from a smart thermostat, these homes also will include:

- Backup power supply in the form of batteries that can keep the power on during outages
- Rooftop solar panels
- 240 VAC circuit in the garage for EV charging

What is an energy efficient building envelope?

A home's "building envelope" refers to engineering and building practices that help manage the energy use in a home. This can be related to indoor heating or cooling, insulation or the thermal barrier of the home. In Illinois, where it can get very cold, using specific products and approaches can help keep energy bills more efficient.

The Nicor Gas Smart Neighborhoods™ homes have the following features:

- Solar panels
- Battery storage system
- Insulating concrete form walls
- Spray foam
- Energy efficient windows
- Energy Recovery Ventilation (ERV)
- LED lighting

Where can I learn more about how I can make my own home smart or more energy efficient?

More information and energy savings tips can be found at [NicorGas.com/WaysToSave](https://www.nicorgas.com/WaysToSave).