

**Become a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Rater:  
Everything High School Students Need to Know  
About Entering this Growing Field**

March 16, 2023

NEHERS  
NORTHEAST HOME ENERGY RATING SYSTEM ALLIANCE

## Announcements:

### 2023 HERS Rater Training Schedule:

#### Spring 2023:

- Online Modules: May 15-26, 2023
- Classroom/Practical (on Zoom): June 5-9, 2023

#### Fall 2023:

- Online Modules: October 2-13, 2023
- Classroom/Practical (on Zoom): October 23-27, 2023

<https://nehers.org/hers-rater-trainings>

## Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions – (5 minutes)
- Presentation – (~60 minutes)
- Questions and Answers – (~25 minutes)

## Audience Reminders:

- Participating in listen-only mode
- Submit a question by typing it into the Question's Pane at the right of your screen any time
- Download the Handout from the Handout Pane
- Please follow NEHERS on Facebook and LinkedIn
- Provide feedback through our electronic survey following the webinar.
- The recording of this webinar will be posted on our website by Friday. <https://nehers.org/webinars>

## Speakers:



### **Cindy Zeis, Vice-President of NEHERS**

Cindy is the Manager of Provider Services and Primary QAD for Performance Systems Development, a national RESNET Rating/Training Provider and Consulting firm. She has a diverse background including Energy Efficient Construction, Affordable Housing, Disaster Recovery, Adult Education and is a Military Veteran. Relevant certifications: Certified HERS Rater, RESNET Quality Assurance Designee, RESNET Instructor, and ACCA Residential System Design.



### **Chris Mazzola, President of NEHERS**

Chris is the Production Manager at Home Energy Raters. He oversees five office staff and nine full-time certified HERs raters performing utility efficiency program inspections, IECC code compliance, Builder and Municipal Inspector informational sessions. In addition to twelve years of service the military, Chris also has 25 years of experience in logistics and engineering. Chris has worked as a residential framer, HVAC installer and Electrician. Relevant certifications: FLIR Infrared and Energy Star Homes.



5

## Poll Question:

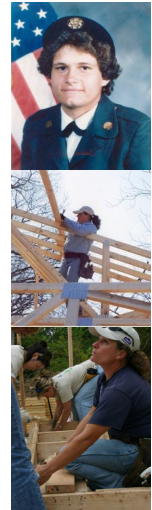
If one of the answers provided does not apply,  
please type your answer in the chat.



6

## Cindy's Story:

- Growing Up - Rural, Worked with Tools, Preferred Hands-On Learning
- Joined Military
- Automotive Industry
- Construction
  - Affordable Housing
  - Disaster Relief
    - Sustainability
    - Energy Efficiency
    - Green Codes and Programs
      - Participating in community outreach and helping shape changes in public policy



## Chris's Story:

It all started on a stormy night in 1973!

The **Rehabilitation Act of 1973** had just been signed and the excitement sent my mother right into labor... since that day, I have devoted my life to mentoring those willing to learn something new.

**Building science can be fun, and a great career!**

### Fun Pics

9

### The actual time line! Cindy's Pic are way better!

- I also served in the U.S, Military as a Quartermaster
- I have worked as:
  - HVAC contractor
  - Electrician
  - Framer
  - Project manager
  - Worked in warehouses
  - Agriculture industry farming and livestock.
  - And now a HERs rater

10

## A road less traveled

- The road you all travel will have bumps, potholes, twists and turns.
- Most Adults will have 2 or more careers in their lives. What you learn from each betters your ability to do the next.
- HERs rating can be a great way to start your journey.
- Experiencing is a great learning strategy.



## HERS Certifications:

- ❖ HERS RFI Certification
- ❖ HERS Modeler Certification
- ❖ HERS Rater



## Various Certifications After HERS Certification:

- ❖ IECC/HERS Code Compliance Specialist
- ❖ Above Code Programs
  - ❖ Energy Star Certification
  - ❖ LEED Certification
  - ❖ Passive House Certification
- ❖ HERS H2O - Water Efficiency Certification
- ❖ HERS QAD Provider
- ❖ HVAC Qi
- ❖ And more....



13

## Various Certifications Coming in this Industry:

- ❖ Grid Carbon Certification
- ❖ Embodied Carbon Certification



A PROPOSAL FOR A NEW  
RESNET STANDARD ON  
EMBODIED CARBON



<https://nehers.org/embodied-carbon>



14

## Various Roles After HERS Certification:

- ❖ In-House Rater or Trainer for HERS Company
- ❖ Independent Rater (run your own company)
- ❖ Indoor Air Quality Specialist (Covid Ventilation)
- ❖ Green Housing Design
- ❖ Affordable Housing Design
- ❖ HERS Rating Trainer
- ❖ PHIUS Trainer
- ❖ NEHERS Board Member / President
- ❖ Program Administrator
- ❖ RESNET Board or Staff Member

## Why People Hire HERS Raters:

- ❖ IECC Code
- ❖ Stretch Code
- ❖ Duct Testing
- ❖ Blower Door Testing
- ❖ Building Diagnostics (finding problems)
- ❖ Forensics
- ❖ And more...



## Career Map:

There is an interactive career map here:

<https://greenbuildingscareemap.org/>

Can be very helpful to see different career pathways.

## If You Think You Might Want to Be A:

- ❖ Carpenter
- ❖ Electrician
- ❖ Engineer
- ❖ Estimator
- ❖ Framer
- ❖ Insulation Installer
- ❖ Home Builder
- ❖ HVAC Installer or Technician
- ❖ Mason
- ❖ Plumber
- ❖ Surveyor
- ❖ Utility Employee

Being a HERS Rater may be for you!

## Recommended Qualities and Interests:

- ❖ Self-motivation and persistence
- ❖ Ability to communicate clearly and patiently
- ❖ Ability to master and communicate a wide range of building science and programmatic details
- ❖ Ability to focus on consistent high standards
- ❖ Willingness to talk with trades people
- ❖ Willingness to work on Home Building or Construction Sites
- ❖ Interfacing with computers and software
- ❖ Geometry (if you ever wondered where you'd use algebra)
- ❖ Math
- ❖ Reading building plans
- ❖ Problem solving

## What Does the HERS Rater Training Involve?

- ❖ Learn Basic Building Science
- ❖ Learn Energy Modeling (EkoTropo/ REMRate/ Energy Gauge)
- ❖ Learn Diagnostic Testing (Blower Door/ Duct Blasting)
- ❖ Two Probationary Ratings (from plans)
- ❖ Pass Three Exams
  - ❖ Combustion Safety Test
  - ❖ Practical Simulation Test (Rate 2 Virtual Houses)
  - ❖ HERS Rater Written Exam (50 questions)

Completing the above earns your HERS Rater Training Certificate, which is the first step towards RESNET certification.

## What Happens After the HERS Rater Training?

- ❖ Sign up with a Quality Assurance (QA) Provider
- ❖ Three More Probationary Ratings
- ❖ QA Provider will help you get certified with RESNET
- ❖ Join a HERS Rating Company or Become an Independent Rater (own your own business).

## Day In the Life of a HERS Rater:



Please Pause This Video Now  
to Watch this YouTube Clip About Blower Doors:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icZG05XU9pM&t=28s>



## Questions and Answers:



**Cindy Zeis**  
Manager of Provider Services and Primary QAD  
Performance Systems Development  
czeis@psdconsulting.com



**Chris Mazzola**  
Production Manager  
Home Energy Raters  
Chris@EnergyCodeHelp.com

To submit a question, please type it into the Question Pane  
at the right of your screen, at any time.



## Thank You for Participating in Today's Webinar

Please take a moment to complete the brief survey.  
Your feedback is very important to us.

### Upcoming NEHERS Webinars: Steps to Becoming a PHIUS Verifier

April 26, 2023

3:30-5:00 PM

<https://nehers.org/webinars>