

2017 BASIX energy target changes

○ Frequently Asked Questions

August 2018

Why have the BASIX energy targets changed?

- Existing homes in NSW use around 17% of our state's total energy consumption. We expect around 1.8 million new homes to be built across NSW over the next 40 years.
- By changing the BASIX energy targets, energy bill savings will deliver more than \$2.6 billion to the NSW economy, or around \$155 per household, every year for the next 30 years.
- These changes bring an additional 83 gigawatt hours of energy savings toward the State's 16,000 GWh energy savings target by 2020.

What changes have been made to BASIX?

- The BASIX energy targets changed on 1 July 2017, typically rising by 10 per cent for houses and low-rise units, and by 5 per cent for mid and high-rises units. The stringency for the thermal comfort heating and cooling caps has also changed. This will mean efficiency is considered when these homes are designed and built, locking in a lifetime of bill savings.
- A map showing the new energy targets for each regional area of is available [here](#).
- A table of the new thermal comfort caps is available [here](#).
- Alternations and additions to existing homes are unaffected by the changes. The BASIX water targets have not changed.

What do the changes mean for BASIX certificates created before 1 July 2017?

- Revisions can be made to certificates that have already been lodged with the consent authority during the development assessment period or following granting of consent using the targets that applied at the time the certificate was generated.
- If you have a certificate created before 1 July 2017 that has not been lodged with the consent authority within the three-month certificate validity period, the certificate is no longer valid. As you revise the certificate, you will need to comply with the new targets. This means that you may need to make some changes to your project.

For project-specific queries, contact Service NSW on 1300 650 908 or info@service.nsw.gov.au. Make sure you include your BASIX username and the project name.

What do the changes mean for BASIX Certificates created after 1 July 2017

- New BASIX projects created after 1 July will be subject to the new energy targets and thermal comfort standards.

Why is the Rapid method no longer available when completing the Thermal Comfort Index?

- Due to the low volume of users of the Rapid method, this method will be unavailable from 1 July 2017. The DIY and Simulation methods may still be used.

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Has the BASIX water target changed?

- No. There are currently no plans to change the water targets in BASIX.
- As part of the Draft Plan to Save NSW Energy and Money, the Department and the Office of Environment and Heritage consulted with stakeholders on ways to improve BASIX. The Government is continuing to explore opportunities to improve the sustainability of houses and units. More information on the Government's energy efficiency policies can be found [here](#).

How can I get my BASIX project to meet the new higher energy targets?

- The new targets may require a more energy efficient design or products with higher energy efficiency ratings.
- Try selecting services or appliances with higher energy star ratings. Improving your thermal comfort score will also result in improvements to the energy score. If you need further assistance, you can contact us through Service NSW on 1300 650 908 or info@servicensw.gov.au. Make sure you provide your BASIX username and the project name.
- Some common ways to increase the BASIX energy score can be found [here](#).

How can I get my project to pass thermal comfort using the BASIX DIY method?

- Check that your project meets the [criteria](#) for using the BASIX DIY method. If not, you may need to use the Simulation method.
- Tips for passing thermal comfort using the DIY method can be found [here](#).

I am building a secondary dwelling ('granny' flat), will the changes to BASIX affect me?

- New secondary dwellings ('granny' flats) will need to meet the new BASIX targets.
- This also applies where an existing building or part of an existing building, such as a garage, outbuilding or undercroft, is subject to a change of use by being converted from a non-habitable space to a secondary dwelling.
- An exception is when an existing habitable space, such as a bedroom, is divided off from an existing house to create a new secondary dwelling. This is subject to the BASIX alterations and additions tool, the stringency of which has not been changed.

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Can I make changes to my existing BASIX Certificate?

- To make changes to a BASIX certificate that has already been generated, you must have access to the BASIX user account where the project was created.
- If you are not the owner of that BASIX account you will need to either contact the BASIX account holder to make the changes for you, or you may have the project transferred to your BASIX account by completing the [Application for Transfer form](#).

What changes can I make myself?

- BASIX account holders can make changes to the building systems and construction materials that form part of the BASIX commitments at any time – either before or after the certificate is issued, provided those changes still allow the project to meet the BASIX targets.
- However, once the certificate is issued, the user will need to enter the development application or complying development certificate number and date of lodgment or the project will be transferred to the latest version of BASIX. For projects created before 1 July 2017, you may be required to make changes to your project to meet the new BASIX energy targets.

What do I need to call Service NSW/DPE about?

- Once a BASIX certificate is issued, the user cannot change the project address details or the type of dwelling, such as from a single dwelling house to a dual occupancy or residential flat.
- If there is an error or minor correction required to the project address, will need to contact Service NSW and ask the BASIX help desk to correct these details for you. Include all relevant details in your request, including;
 - your BASIX username,
 - project name,
 - full details of changes required.

Where can I find out more information?

- Visit the [NSW Planning Portal](#).
- Call Service NSW on [1300 650 908](#).

How can I find out more about what the NSW Government is doing to save energy?

- More information on what the NSW Government is doing to save energy can be found [here](#).