



June 6, 2024

## **Addendum to Criterion 5.4, Achieving Zero Energy**

### **Eligibility/ Background**

On May 2, 2024, Enterprise Green Communities released an addendum to Criterion 5.2b, Moving to Zero Energy: Near Zero Certification that provides a new compliance option specifically for rehabilitation projects pursuing Green Communities Certification Plus. As Criterion 5.4, the alternate means of achieving Green Communities Certification Plus, builds off of the deep energy reductions specified in Criterion 5.2b, we are releasing the following changes to 5.4 to specifically support and recognize rehabilitation projects prioritizing zero energy.

With this addendum, we are aligning Green Communities Certification Plus with the [National Definition of a Zero Emissions Building, Part I: Operating Emissions](#).

*The National Definition of a Zero Emissions Building, Part I: Operating Emissions incorporates energy efficiency, clean energy, and eliminating on site combustion (emissions). Demonstration of compliance with Option 1 or Option 2 below will satisfy the energy efficiency and clean energy aspects of the National Definition. In order to demonstrate the project has eliminated combustion on site, the project must also comply with Criterion 5.5b, Moving to Zero Carbon: All-Electric.*

### **Requirements**

Buildings that demonstrate compliance with one of the following options will be considered compliant with Criterion 5.4 and be recognized as achieving Enterprise Green Communities Certification Plus:

#### **Option 1**

Certify each building in the project to DOE ZERH program.

AND

Either install renewables and/or procure renewable energy, which in sum will produce as much, or more, energy in a given year than the project is modeled to consume. The renewable energy may be owned and produced on-site or off-site if the associated RECs are retained or retired by the building



owner. Or, the renewable energy may be procured through a contract of at least 20 years from community solar, virtual power purchase agreements or Green-E certified renewable energy certificates.

**Option 2**

Certify each building in the project to a program that requires Zero Energy performance such as PHIUS ZERO, PHI Plus, PHI Premium, PHIUS+ Source Zero, or International Living Future Institute's Zero Energy Petal, Zero Carbon Petal, or Living Building Certification.

**Option 3**

Projects that already demonstrate compliance with the Addendum to 5.2b, Prioritizing the Path to Certification Plus for Existing Buildings.

AND

Either install renewables and/or procure renewable energy, which in sum will produce as much, or more, energy in a given year than the project is modeled to consume. The renewable energy may be owned and produced on-site or off-site if the associated RECs are retained or retired by the building owner. Or, the renewable energy may be procured through a contract of at least 20 years from community solar, virtual power purchase agreements or Green-E certified renewable energy certificates.