



2023 EPA Indoor airPLUS Leader Award

Affordable Builder Application

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Overview:

The Indoor airPLUS Leader Awards were created to recognize outstanding Indoor airPLUS Program partners who construct and verify Indoor airPLUS homes, designed and built for improved indoor air quality (IAQ). This annual award acknowledges market leading builders and raters that promote the benefits of IAQ protections and educate consumers on the value of safer, healthier, and more comfortable homes with the Indoor airPLUS label.

Benefits:

As an Indoor airPLUS Leader Award recipient your organization receives the following benefits:

- Customized Leader Award marketing material;
- 2023 Leader Award winner website banner;
- Physical award, presented at ceremony hosted at the EEBA High Performance Home Summit;
- Recognition and web linking on the EPA website;
- Email and social media promotion; and
- Opportunity to earn EPA's *Indoor airPLUS Leader of the Year Award* (awarded to just one builder and rater).

Eligibility:

To be considered eligible for the award, a builder must:

- Be an affordable builder as defined below:
 - Builders of income-eligible housing typically designated for lower-income households whose construction is publicly subsidized by federal, state, or local housing agencies, usually via grants, loans, tax credits, and/or tax-exempt bonds.
- Have built at least one (1) Indoor airPLUS labeled home in the previous calendar year (2022).
- Be in good standing as an Indoor airPLUS partner and with EPA regarding compliance with all applicable regulations.
- Submit a valid, complete application for the award.

Note, only one organization will be awarded per application. If your organization worked collaboratively with another Indoor airPLUS partner on a project or development and each organization wishes to be



recognized as Indoor airPLUS Leader Award winners (e.g., both a builder and developer partner working on a project together), each organization must submit individual applications.

What you need to submit:

- Complete all fields below. Responses to each narrative question must be typed.
- Submit at **minimum 9 media assets with descriptions** to be included in featured profiles of the winners. Assets should include one high resolution organization logo, three marketing and sales related materials, including social media, trainings (internal and external), and/or presentations at conferences, and five images of Indoor airPLUS measures clearly on display in homes under construction or finished. Supplemental materials such as additional photos or illustrative examples are strongly encouraged. See the [Media Submission Form](#) at the end of this application for more details.
- When finished, submit via email to Indoor_airPLUS@epa.gov. Once you have submitted the completed application, the Indoor airPLUS Program will provide a link to **your own online folder where you will be able to easily submit all supplemental and bonus materials.**

When you need to submit:

- **Applications are due by 8 pm EDT, June 8, 2022.**

What to expect after you submit:

- **Confirmation of Receipt:** A confirmation email will be sent to the email address listed in your application within 2 business days of its submission and will contain further instructions on how to access and submit all supplemental materials via your online folder. If you do not receive confirmation within this timeframe, please contact Indoor_airPLUS@epa.gov.
- **Notification:** You will be notified of the result of your application by August 7, 2023.

Ceremony Details: The Indoor airPLUS Leader Awards will be publicly announced on or before August 14, 2023 and will be formally presented during the [EEBA High Performance Home Summit](#), October 10-12, 2023.

EPA will also be presenting the Indoor airPLUS Leader of the Year Award to just one outstanding builder and rater partner, selected from the pool of Leader Award winners. The builder winner may be selected from any of the builder categories. The winning builder and rater will be chosen based on their achievements with Indoor airPLUS in the previous year, showcased by the quality of their Indoor airPLUS Leader Award application. These two Indoor airPLUS Leader of the Year winners will be announced during the award ceremony at the EEBA Summit.

This is an excellent opportunity to showcase your great work at a nationally recognized conference for high performance building!

We strongly encourage you to review the Indoor airPLUS 2023 Leader Awards scoring criteria, located in the [Appendix](#), prior to completing your application.



Required Information:

Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Physical Address (for award distribution):

Company Website: _____

Company Social Media Pages:

Facebook: _____

Twitter: _____

Other: _____

Number of homes built in 2021 (total volume constructed): _____

Number of Indoor airPLUS labeled homes built and verified in 2022: _____

Number of Indoor airPLUS labeled homes built and verified in 2022 that qualify as affordable housing: _____

Commitment to Continued Participation:

- ☐ By checking this box, you acknowledge your intention to remain actively involved in the construction of at least one Indoor airPLUS home in the next 12 months.



Narrative Questions:

1. Describe the efforts you've made in the last year to promote IAQ to your clients and constituents throughout your local community. This may include web-based promotion or other broad outreach (not client-specific) surrounding healthier homes and Indoor airPLUS. Provide specific examples of your efforts, including their reach and impact. *(Please upload examples in your online folder provided by EPA following receipt of your application.)*

2. a) Has your organization made the Indoor airPLUS 100% Commitment for 2023, intending to label all of your homes this year? ☐ YES ☐ NO

*Note: The 100% Commitment is not a requirement to be awarded the 2023 Leader Award.

b) If yes, how have you leveraged this designation?

c) If no, what barriers are you encountering in building all your homes to Indoor airPLUS? Are there specific IAQ features that you have considered that are currently cost prohibitive for you to implement in your affordable housing offerings?



3. Improved IAQ is particularly important for occupants of affordable housing. How can EPA help your efforts in bringing improved IAQ to your homes and occupants? Are there any resources, tools, or program refinements that would help increase adoption of the Indoor airPLUS Program in the affordable housing sector?

4. The Indoor airPLUS Program continually evaluates the program requirements, publishes Policy Record updates, and develops updated specifications to ensure the program is growing with the industry and technology, while also remaining attainable and affordable. What Items within the Construction Specifications are most difficult for you to attain? What changes to the specifications would you recommend either from the perspective of improving indoor air quality, or to reduce burden while not sacrificing indoor air quality? Are there any ambiguities or points of clarification throughout the Indoor airPLUS program (partner eligibility, specifications, verification process, etc.) that would improve your ability to build more Indoor airPLUS homes?



Media Submission Form

This form is required by all applicants, including Repeat Award Recipients. Please provide **at minimum 9 media assets, including one (1) high resolution organization logo, three (3) marketing and sales related materials, and five (5) Indoor airPLUS measures clearly on display in homes. Supplemental materials such as additional photos or illustrative examples are encouraged.** These details and images will be used to create profiles of the winners. This is your opportunity to showcase the ways you achieve Indoor airPLUS certification for your homes through innovative construction techniques, attention to detail, and commitment to IAQ.

Examples of Indoor airPLUS measures can be, but are not limited to:

- **Air Sealing Measures** (Describe key air sealing techniques, materials used, and final air change rate)
- **Heating/Cooling** (Describe HAC system type and fuel, AFUE, SEER, duct type, location of air handler(s), and filter locations, dimensions, and MERV Rating).
- **Radon protections and/or summary of testing results.**
- **Ventilation Strategy – Whole Dwelling** (Describe overall strategy (e.g., balanced, central supply, integrated supply/exhaust, exhaust-only, etc.), equipment type, and location).
- **Ventilation Strategy – Local Exhaust** (Describe exhaust fan features and controls for bathrooms and kitchens).

Examples of marketing assets can include marketing and sales materials, social media, trainings (internal and external), and/or presentations at conferences. See the [Scoring Criteria](#) section for further examples on marketing and outreach.

***Required Asset 1 – File Name**

Description of asset/feature(s) shown in image:

***Required Asset 2 – File Name**

Description of asset/feature(s) shown in image:

***Required Asset 3 – File Name**

Description of asset/feature(s) shown in image:

***Required Asset 4 – File Name**

Description of asset/feature(s) shown in image:



***Required Asset 5 – File Name**

Description of asset/feature(s) shown in image:

***Required Asset 6 – File Name**

Description of asset/feature(s) shown in image:

***Required Asset 7 – File Name**

Description of asset/feature(s) shown in image:

***Required Asset 8 – File Name**

Description of asset/feature(s) shown in image:

***Required Asset 9 – File Name**

Description of asset/feature(s) shown in image:

Optional Asset 10 – File Name

Description of asset/feature(s) shown in image:

Optional Asset 11 – File Name

Description of asset/feature(s) shown in image:

Optional Asset 12 – File Name

Description of asset/feature(s) shown in image:



Appendix

i. Scoring Matrix

Scoring Criteria:	
Applications submitted for the 2022 Indoor airPLUS Award will be scored based upon the following criteria.	
Criteria	Maximum Points
Percentage of total volume constructed that are Indoor airPLUS labeled. (e.g., 60% participation = .6 X 30 points possible = 18 points)	30
Indoor airPLUS web presence (website, social media)	20
Approach to Indoor airPLUS in promotion, education, and outreach	20
Strength of Narrative Questions	10
Indoor airPLUS Media Submission	20
BONUS	10
Total (110 possible w/ bonus)	100

ii. Scoring Criteria

Criteria Details: Below are additional details describing how EPA will be reviewing and scoring these applications.

Percentage of total volume constructed

- Builders are encouraged to offer Indoor airPLUS as a standard across all of their homes, streamlining the construction process and simplifying the message to the consumer. Maximum points are awarded only for 100% participation. See breakdown of point structure in the scoring matrix above.

Indoor airPLUS web presence

- Website – A strong web presence can include but is not limited to the following:
 - The Indoor airPLUS logo featured on the company website as an indicator of partnership;
 - A description of the Indoor airPLUS program features and benefits;
 - Link(s) to Indoor airPLUS web page(s);
 - Homeowner testimonials and/or videos about their experience in Indoor airPLUS homes;



- A page dedicated to Indoor airPLUS and/or healthy homes and IAQ;
- Videos, publications, and other media referencing Indoor airPLUS;
- Relevant keyword tags for improved search engine optimization (SEO).
- Social Media – Builders are encouraged to follow and interact with EPA social media accounts, and to post their own Indoor airPLUS content regularly. Applicants will be scored on:
 - The number of posts related to Indoor airPLUS and/or healthy homes and IAQ;
 - The distribution of their posts across the calendar year – higher scores will be given to builders who post related content evenly throughout the year;
 - Posts that include content specific to Indoor airPLUS, not just IAQ. For example, a post that says “Per the Indoor airPLUS specifications, all of our homes are built with HVAC systems that are equipped to handle MERV 13 filtration” would score higher than one that says “All of our homes are built with HVAC systems that are equipped to handle MERV 13 filtration.”; and
 - Interactions with the Indoor airPLUS social media posts: the number of likes, comments, shares, and retweets will impact your score.

Examples of Indoor airPLUS in promotion, education, and outreach

- Affordable builder actively promotes their IAP partnership with clients, staff, and industry partners and makes a concerted effort to raise awareness of the importance of IAQ through participation in the Indoor airPLUS program.
- Promotional and educational examples can include:
 - Traditional Advertising such as radio, TV, print, direct mail, newsletters, or billboards/transit signage;
 - Onsite Promotions such as outdoor signage (yard signs, flags, banners), displays at home openings/dedications, videos, trade show promotion, or Indoor airPLUS-themed community events; and
 - Fact sheets, case studies, testimonials, or other materials provided to residents, staff, or volunteers explaining the benefits of an Indoor airPLUS home.
 - NOTE: Please describe and upload promotional examples that have been utilized by your organization only since the last award cycle.
- Affordable builder provides training activities for construction staff, trade contractors, community members, or other stakeholders on best practices for design, construction, and implementation of Indoor airPLUS features. **For example:**
 - Encouraging staff to attend external training programs and conferences relating to healthy homes and IAQ;
 - Holding in-house training or educational sessions for staff to learn more about building for IAQ; and
 - Encouraging staff to register for, view, and actively participate in Indoor airPLUS-hosted webinars.
- Affordable builder provides educational material focusing on the importance of IAQ, the Indoor airPLUS features included in their home, and strategies for long-term maintenance. **For Example:**



- Use of the “Breathe Easy In Your New Indoor airPLUS Home” or “Discover Indoor airPLUS Homes” co-brandable resources;
- Events and presentations, community films, or gatherings with the goal of educating about Indoor airPLUS and IAQ;
- Resources regarding home maintenance and upkeep to help maintain improved IAQ;
- Original material created by the builder to educate on IAQ and/or the Indoor airPLUS program; and
- Outside material used by the builder to educate on IAQ and/or the Indoor airPLUS program.

Review of narrative questions

- Respond to the Narrative Questions in the text boxes provided above, fully addressing each part of the question. Please provide any supplemental materials to your answers in your online folder referenced above.

Media Submission Form Response

- This form is required by all applicants, including Repeat Award Recipients.
- Provide at minimum 9 media assets, including one (1) high resolution organization logo, three (3) marketing and sales related materials, and five (5) Indoor airPLUS measures clearly on display in homes. Supplemental materials such as additional photos, graphics, or other images are strongly encouraged.
- The technical images can be from the same or multiple homes. Images that specifically showcase Indoor airPLUS related features or construction specifications are preferred.
- Marketing assets can include marketing and sales materials, trainings (internal and external), and/or presentations at conferences. See the preceding sections for further examples.
- Use the space provided on the form to provide any relevant context for each image. It does not need to be overly detailed but sufficient to clearly understand the reason it was submitted.

Bonus Materials (MAX 10 extra points)

- Did we miss something you’d like us to consider? Applicants are encouraged to submit additional examples and materials they would like us to consider towards their score.
- Please provide any supplemental materials in your online folder. Examples of bonus materials include, but are not limited to:
 - Information or promotional video related to Indoor airPLUS;
 - Information packets for your Indoor airPLUS homes;
 - Letters of recommendation from rater or trades about your Indoor airPLUS homes;
 - IAQ testing or monitoring results; and
 - Energy modeling and/or monitoring results.
 - Homeowner testimonials
 - Examples of homeowners describing their experience living in an Indoor airPLUS labeled home.



This collection of information is approved by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq. (OMB Control No. 2060-NEW). Responses to this collection of information are voluntary (Section 103(a) of the Clean Air Act). An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to 7.5 hours per response. Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden to the Regulatory Support Division Director, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2821T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Include the OMB control number in any correspondence. Do not send the completed form to this address.

