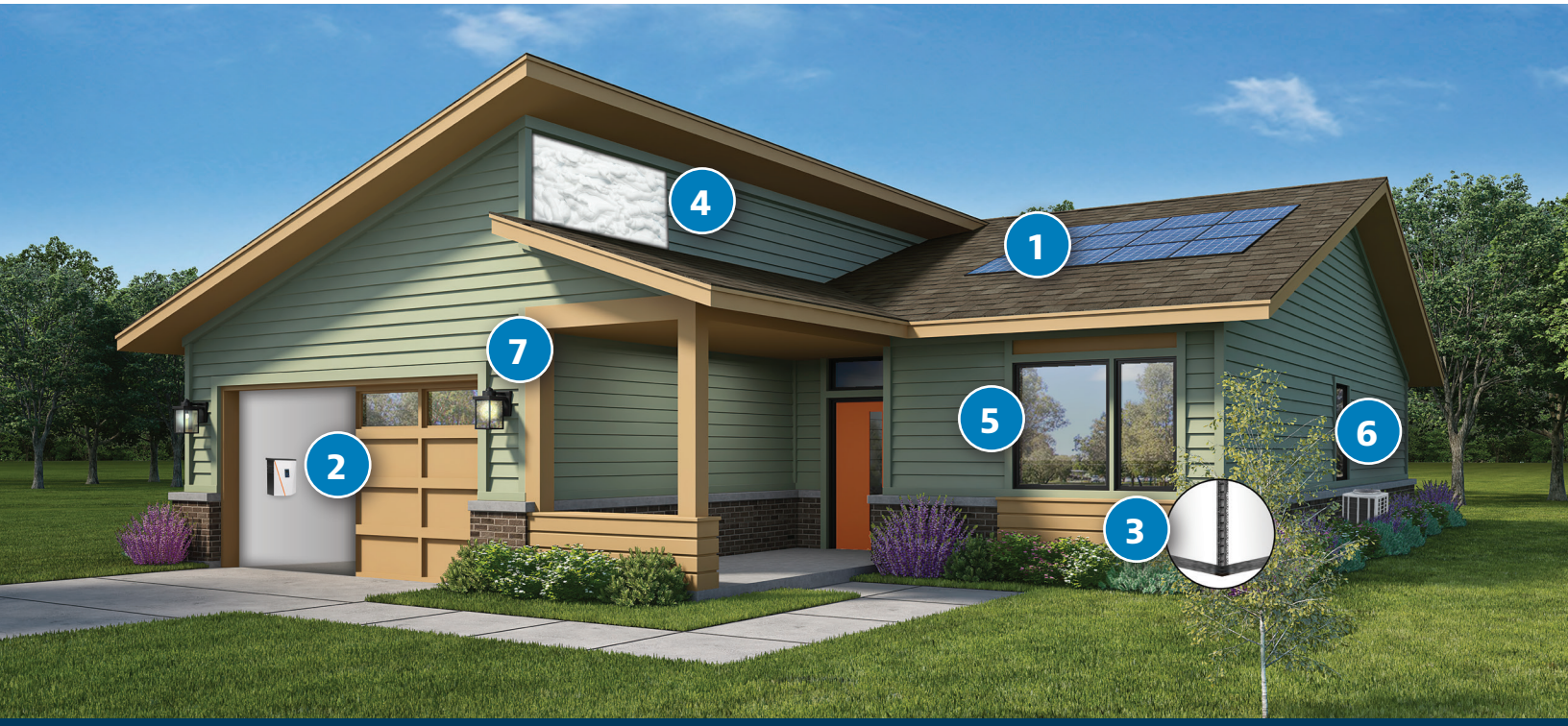
Nicor Gas | SMART NEIGHBORHOOD™

ngsmartneighborhoods.com

The new Nicor Gas Smart Neighborhoods™ are designed to be net zero and built with the most efficient building envelope, designed 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 efficiency 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 in the garage that capture energy from the solar panels to power the home during an outage.
3. **Insulated concrete foam walls**
   Utilizing insulated concrete foam (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. **Heat Recovery Ventilation (HRV)**
   HRV systems allow for preheating and precooling the air coming inside your home to keep energy bills low.
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 recognized for its cutting-edge research and development focused on a more affordable and resilient clean energy future.

The new Nicor Gas Smart Neighborhoods™ are designed to be net zero and built with the most efficient building envelope, designed to keep energy bills cost-effective for Habitat families. Below is some information about the new smart homes.

What is net zero?

Net zero homes produce as much energy as they use through energy efficiency buildings and technologies as well as the integration of renewable energy sources, like solar.

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 that you may or may not be familiar with. Aside from a smart thermostat, these homes also will include:

- Backup power supply in the form of batteries in the garage that can keep the power on during outages
- Rooftop solar
- 240 VAC circuits 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, and 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
- Insulated concrete foam walls
- Spray foam
- Energy efficient windows
- Heat Recovery Ventilation (HRV)
- 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.**

To learn more about the Smart Neighborhoods or if you're interested in becoming a corporate sponsor, contact **info@ngsmartneighborhoods.com**.