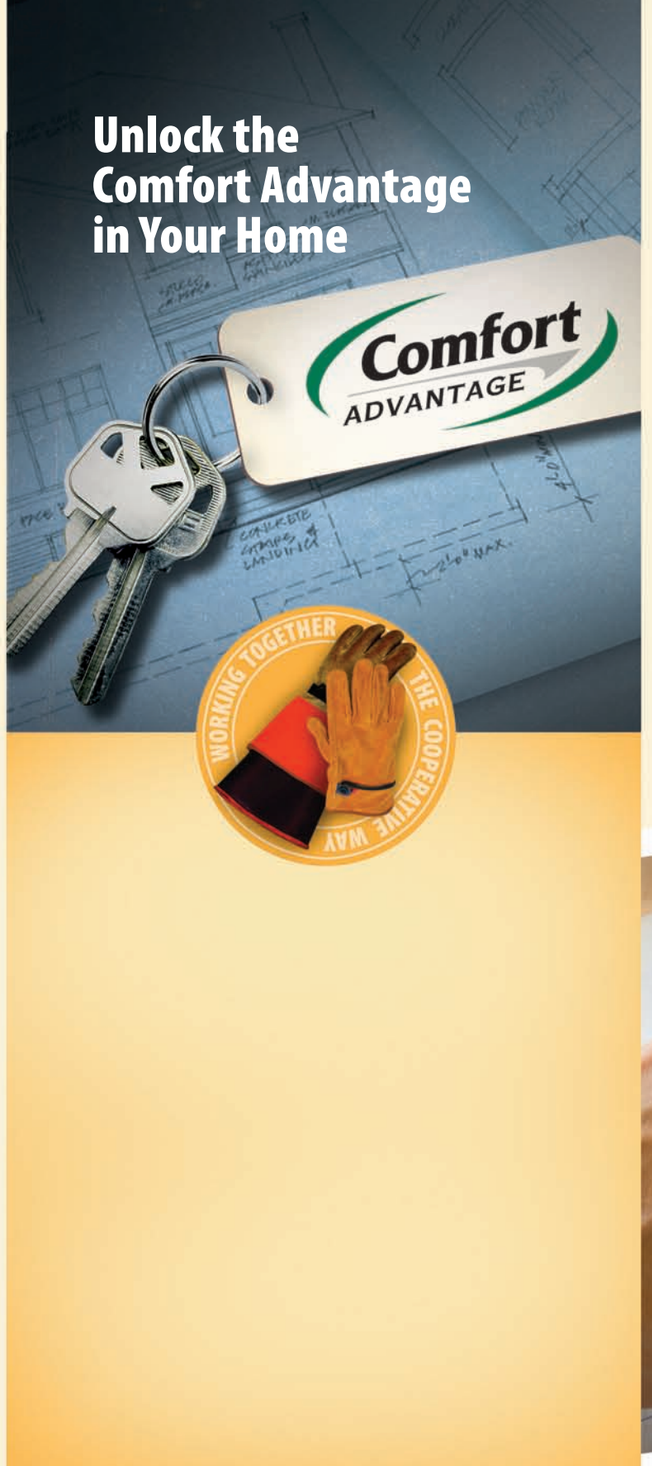
Look for the ENERGY STAR®

ENERGY STAR® is a United States government backed symbol for energy efficiency. Look for the ENERGY STAR logo on construction products, appliances and heating/cooling equipment. ENERGY STAR provides a trustworthy label on over 50 product categories for the home and office. These products deliver the same or better performance as comparable models while using less energy and saving money.

For more information, check out www.energystar.gov before you build.

To receive ENERGY STAR certification, a newly constructed home must be inspected and rated by a third party, certified ENERGY STAR home rater. The rating includes a blower-door test, a procedure which measures the effectiveness of air sealing in home construction.

For more information on ENERGY STAR certification for a new home or for a listing of third-party raters, go to www.energystar.gov and click on New Home.



CALL BEFORE YOU BUILD

Prior to construction, call your local electric power association to schedule a house plan evaluation. Planning ahead can save construction costs as well as energy dollars. Ask your representative to assist you in meeting Comfort Advantage requirements.

ENERGY SAVINGS - TWO PLANS

For the basic Comfort Advantage home, your builder must verify that standards have been met. Comfort Advantage Plus standards take energy efficiency a step further for those who want greater energy savings. For Comfort Advantage Plus, we offer inspection services. Your representatives will offer energy management suggestions on proper application and installation of energy saving technologies. Inspections during construction will confirm that your new home meets all Comfort Advantage Plus standards.

When you build a Comfort Advantage Home, you will be rewarded with financial incentives, but the real incentive comes from years of energy savings and comfortable living.

COMFORT ADVANTAGE INCENTIVES

$300	Comfort Advantage Home
$500	Comfort Advantage Plus Home
$150	Per additional qualified heat pump system

Comfort Advantage is a recognized standard for energy efficient construction and quality products for the home.

The program is promoted by electric cooperatives who provide electric service to more than 390,000 homes and businesses in Mississippi.

Comfort ADVANTAGE

PLUS Comfort ADVANTAGE

The Comfort Advantage Home

YOUR GUIDE TO *REQUIRED FEATURES*

HOME CONSTRUCTION:
ENERGY STAR® is a United States government-backed symbol for energy efficiency. Look for the ENERGY STAR label on construction products, appliances and heating/cooling equipment.

ICAT (Insulated Ceiling Air Tight) is a rating for recessed can light fixtures. ICAT indicates air-tight fixture design for insulation contact.

R-Value is a rating for insulation efficiency. Higher ratings are better.

Low E is a window coating that reduces radiant heat flow for energy efficiency.

SHGC (Solar Heat Gain Coefficient), a window rating, tells how much solar heat enters through the window. Lower ratings mean less heat.

Thermal break is an insulating section between the inner and outer sections of a metal window frame. Thermal breaks help prevent condensation on window frame surfaces.

U-Factor is a window rating which indicates how well it prevents heat from escaping, ranging from poor at 1.2 to excellent at .20. Look for the lower number.

EQUIPMENT AND SIZING:
Air-Source Heat Pump is an energy efficient, electric heating/cooling system that transfers heat between the house and the outside air.

Geothermal Heat Pump System is the most efficient heating/cooling and water heating system that transfers heat between the house and a water loop buried in the earth.

Heat Traps are valves or loops of pipe designed to reduce heat flow out of the water heater tank, when not in use.

Manual J is an Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) procedure performed by equipment contractors for sizing heating/cooling loads in homes.

Programmable thermostats can be set to automatically adjust heating/cooling temperatures while you are away or while you are sleeping.

Whole house tankless water heaters should be avoided. Small point-of-use tankless units may be used for remote sinks, such as pool houses or utility sheds.

EFFICIENCY RATINGS:
Energy Factor is an efficiency rating for water heaters. Higher ratings are better.

HSPF is a measure of a heat pump unit's average heating efficiency throughout the heating season. Range is 7.7 to around 10 with higher being better.

SEER is a measure of the heat pump unit's average cooling efficiency throughout a cooling season. Range is from 13 to around 19. Higher numbers mean greater energy savings.

EER is the primary efficiency indicator for geothermal heat pumps, with higher numbers being better. The EER range for closed-loop geothermal heat pump systems is from 12 to around 28.

REQUIRED FEATURES	Comfort Advantage	Comfort Advantage Plus
HEATING AND COOLING EQUIPMENT		
13 SEER or higher Electric Heat Pump or an ARI-Rated Geothermal System	✓	
14 SEER or higher Electric Heat Pump or an ARI-Rated Geothermal System		✓
ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostat		✓
Ductwork sealed with mastic (no duct tape)	✓	✓
Duct Insulation: R-4 in conditioned space, R-6 in attic and crawl space	✓	✓
Heating and cooling equipment sized according to industry standards in Manual J	✓	✓
5% or less duct leakage found with pressure test by a third party (at cost to the member)		Optional
HVAC equipment and duct work inspected after installation		Optional
WATER HEATING		
Electric tank water heater with a 0.90 energy factor or higher	✓	✓
Insulate pipes. Select unit with built-in heat traps or installed traps.	✓	✓
INSULATION		
R-38 Attic Insulation	✓	✓
R-20 Cathedralized Unvented Attic Insulation (Encapsulated Attic) - foam insulation between roof rafters on under side of roof decking and on attic sidewalls and gable ends.	✓	✓
R-13 Wall Insulation	✓	✓
R-19 Floor Insulation for crawl spaces	✓	✓
Insulation fills entire cavities. (Exceptions apply for some high R-value insulating materials); No compressed batts or gaps are allowed. Even coverage is required.	✓	✓
WINDOWS		
Double Pane Windows, thermal break recommended for metal windows	✓	
Double Pane low-e windows		✓
Glass area no more than 20% of floor area	✓	✓
Windows rated to .60 U-factor and 0.60 SHGC (or lower for each)	✓	
Windows rated to .40 U-factor and 0.35 SHGC (or lower for each)		✓
AIR RETARDERS		
All penetrations through exterior walls sealed	✓	✓
Sill insulation between slab and bottom plate	✓	✓
Housewrap or building paper covers exterior sheathing in wood framed houses	✓	✓
Canned lights rated as airtight and for insulated ceiling (ICAT)	✓	✓
Electrical boxes on exterior walls caulked or gasketed	✓	✓
Holes into attic sealed	✓	✓
Air leakage determined with blower door test by a third party (at cost to the member)		Optional
ADDITIONAL FEATURES	**Choose 2**	**Choose 3**
Radon vent pipe installed		
Exhaust System in kitchen and baths		
ENERGY STAR qualified windows, doors and skylights		
Duct system in conditioned space		
Compact fluorescent lighting (hard wired on 25% of fixtures)		
ENERGY STAR Refrigerator		
Supply and return air vents in each room		
Air handler in conditioned space		
Mechanical ventilation system (for extremely tight houses)		
Continuous ridge vent		
Radiant barrier in attic		
Light color roof		
Polyethylene (plastic) vapor barrier below gravel		
Perimeter Slab Insulation with termite shield		

COMFORT ADVANTAGE HOME PROGRAM STANDARDS