



2021 EPA Indoor airPLUS Leader Award

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 enhanced 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 collateral;
- 2021 Leader Award Winner banner;
- 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:

- Have built at least three (3) Indoor airPLUS qualified homes in the previous calendar year (2020).
- Be in good standing as an Indoor airPLUS partner and with EPA regarding compliance with all applicable regulations.
- Submit a valid, completed application for the award.



What you need to submit:

- Complete all fields below. Responses to each narrative question must be typed. Supplemental materials such as photos, images, or illustrative examples are strongly encouraged.
- We're looking for your favorite Indoor airPLUS home. This section is designed to allow our partners the opportunity to showcase the home they are most proud of and all the features contributing to the health and safety of the home. Please see the *Showcase Form* at the end of this application, and for more details, please reference the [Criteria Details](#) section.
- 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, May 31, 2021.**

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 status of your application by July 30, 2021.

Ceremony Details: The Indoor airPLUS Leader Awards will be publicly announced on or before August 2, 2021 and will be formally presented during the [EEBA High Performance Home Summit](#), September 14-16, 2021.

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 Leader Award application. These two 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 2021 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 2020 (total volume constructed): _____

Number of Indoor airPLUS qualified homes built and verified in 2020: _____

Note: For Corporate Builder applications (builders with three or more eligible divisions), include the total volume constructed and total number of labeled homes for all eligible Indoor airPLUS builder partner divisions. Eligible divisions must each have individual Indoor airPLUS partnerships and must each have built a minimum of 3 Indoor airPLUS homes in 2020.

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:

See additional streamlined instructions for "[Repeat Award Recipients](#)" on page 12.

1. Describe how you sell and market the Indoor airPLUS Program and how you educate clients on IAQ, health, and safety. Provide specific examples of your marketing materials and sales approaches, including their reach and impact. *(Please upload examples in your online folder provided by EPA following receipt of your application.)*

2. The Indoor airPLUS Leader Award recognizes partners that champion the program and also provide healthier living environments to their clients while differentiating themselves in the homebuilding market. Why does your organization deserve to be recognized as a 2021 Indoor airPLUS Leader Award recipient?



3. a) Has your organization made the Indoor airPLUS 100% Commitment for 2021, intending to label all of your homes this year? YES NO

*Note--the 100% Commitment is not a requirement to be awarded the 2021 Leader Award.

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

c) If no, what details are you considering or barriers are you encountering in building all your homes to Indoor airPLUS?

4. With the increased focus on IAQ over the last year, how have your messaging or sales techniques changed?



5. As Indoor airPLUS continues to grow and evolve with the market, what is your organization's focus regarding IAQ? What are the most important IAQ features of your homes?

6. Homeowner Testimonial: To earn points for Homeowner Testimonials please attach up to two (2) testimonials in a supplemental document or paste text in the box below. Please attribute the quote to the homeowner(s) (first name and last initial are sufficient) and provide any other insights you are receiving from homeowners. If testimonials are used for educational or promotional purposes, EPA will abbreviate or anonymize testimonials at the partner's request. **Please limit testimonials to those captured since the last award cycle.**





Indoor airPLUS Showcase Submission Form

This form is required by all applicants, including Repeat Award Recipients. Please provide at minimum 4 high resolution images of the home during construction and at completion. Additional images are highly recommended. These details and images will be used to create featured profiles of the winners.

Examples of Indoor airPLUS home images must include, but are not limited to:

- Under construction interior/exterior (minimum 2)
- Finished exterior (minimum 1)
- Finished interior (minimum 1)

Indoor airPLUS Showcase Home

Please provide information for one home that you are entering as your “Indoor airPLUS Showcase Home.” Any home verified between 1/1/20 and the date of application is eligible.

Home Overview:

Home Location (address or city/state/community):

Home Size (sq.ft): _____

Other Building Labels and Certifications Achieved:

HERS Score: _____

Climate Zone: _____

Radon Zone: _____

Indoor airPLUS Verifier(s):

Radon System: PASSIVE ACTIVE N/A

Conducted Radon Test: YES NO

(note: Radon testing is not required for Indoor airPLUS)



Construction & Indoor Air Quality Features:

Provide brief descriptions (1 – 2 sentences) of your “Indoor airPLUS Showcase Home” for each of the following categories. Suggestions on what to provide have been included in parenthesis, but you are not limited to those suggestions. This is your opportunity to showcase the ways your home meets the Indoor airPLUS standard through innovative construction techniques, attention to detail, and commitment to IAQ.

Walls (Describe primary wall assembly including interior-to-exterior materials and estimated R-value):

Attic Details (Describe attic type, insulation type, and R-value):

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); filter locations, dimensions, and MERV Rating):

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, kitchens):



Low Emission Products: At minimum, please list the 3rd-party standards and/or certifications met for the following materials used in the home: 1) composite wood used for trim and cabinets, 2) paints/finishes, 3) carpet products, 4) adhesives/sealants, and 5) hard surface flooring. (Note—items 4 and 5 not yet required). Additionally, use this space to describe any other low-emission or contaminant control products utilized in the home, even if they are not specifically required by Indoor airPLUS.

Renewable or Smart Technology (Describe featured technology such as solar panels; EV charging stations; thermostats; IAQ monitors; lighting or whole-home systems):

Other:

Please use the space provided below to highlight any marketing and sales efforts, related to Indoor airPLUS for this specific home, as well as any additional construction features that contributed to the improved IAQ, comfort, durability, or overall performance of this home.



Appendix

i. Scoring Matrix

Scoring Criteria:						
EPA recognizes that small and large builders have different approaches to marketing and promotion. As such, applications submitted for the 2021 Indoor airPLUS Leader Award will be scored based upon the following criteria.						
Criteria	Points By Category					
	Small Builder (<30 homes ¹)	Max Pts	Large Builder (≥30 homes ¹)	Max Pts	Corporate Builder (multiple divisions ²)	Max Pts
Percentage of total volume constructed that are Indoor airPLUS qualified (average per division for Corporate Builder)	0-5% = 2 6-25% = 5 26-74% = 10 75-99% = 15 100% = 20	20	0-5% = 5 6-25% = 10 26-74% = 20 75-99% = 25 100% = 30	30	0-5% = 5 6-25% = 10 26-74% = 20 75-99% = 25 100% = 30	30
Indoor airPLUS web presence (website, social media)		20		15		15
Examples of Indoor airPLUS in marketing, education, and outreach		20		15		15
Review of Narrative Questions		10		10		10
Homeowner testimonials (5 pts/each, up to two. Attach examples.)		10		10		10
Indoor airPLUS Home Showcase		20		20		20
BONUS		10		10		10
Total (110 possible w/ bonus)		100		100		100

¹ Refers to the total number of homes built by a single entity OR a single division within a corporate entity.

² Corporate builders that have three or more eligible Indoor airPLUS partner divisions at the time of application must apply in the Corporate category. In this category, the “percentage of total volume constructed” applies only to the eligible Indoor airPLUS partner divisions.



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 strongly encouraged to offer Indoor airPLUS as a standard across all of their homes, streamlining their construction process and simplifying the message to the consumer. Maximum points are awarded only for 100% participation. See breakdown of point structure in 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;
 - Indoor airPLUS videos, publications, and other applicable media;
 - Original material created by the organization to showcase Indoor airPLUS homes, such as a photo gallery, educational materials, and videos;
 - Relevant keyword tags for improved search engine optimization (SEO).
- Social Media – Builders are strongly encourage to follow and interact with Indoor airPLUS social media accounts ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)), 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 – builders who post related content evenly throughout the year will be scored higher;
 - Posts that include content specific to Indoor airPLUS, not just IAQ. For example, a post that says “Per 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 accounts: a higher number of likes, comments, shares, and retweets will positively impact your score.

Examples of Indoor airPLUS in marketing, education, and outreach

- The applicant utilizes the Indoor airPLUS label as a marketing tool to promote healthier homes to consumers. **For Example:**
 - Traditional advertising such as radio, TV, print, direct mail, newsletters, or billboards/transit signage;
 - Onsite promotions such as outdoor signage (yard signs, flags, banners), in-model displays, videos, trade show promotion, or Indoor airPLUS-themed community events; and
 - Collaterals, fact sheets, case studies, testimonials, or other materials explaining the benefits of an Indoor airPLUS home to the resident.



- NOTE: Please describe and upload marketing examples that have been utilized by your company only since the last award cycle.
- Builder provides training activities for construction staff, trade contractors, real estate agents, 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.
- 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;
 - Educational events, such as presentations, community films, or gatherings with the goal of educating about Indoor airPLUS and IAQ;
 - Resources on 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.
- Simplified Instructions for Repeat Award Recipients: If your organization received a Leader Award last year, your narrative responses may be streamlined. If you are eligible, in questions 1, 2, and 3 please enter in these fields, “We affirm that we are continuing to undertake the Indoor airPLUS related activities as described in our last application,” **and describe any changes to your Indoor airPLUS activities since your last application was submitted.**
- Please note applications that highlight the use of new and innovative approaches to promote Indoor airPLUS are viewed favorably during the application scoring process.

Homeowner testimonials

- Please provide examples of one or more testimonials describing their experience living in an Indoor airPLUS labeled home.
- Examples of content might include: noticeably improved air quality, reduction in health issues, and/or overall satisfaction with durability and construction quality of home. Please also explain your process for collecting testimonials (e.g. email, homeowner evaluation, follow-up questions upon closing, social media posts, etc.).



Showcase Submission Form Response

- Select your favorite “Indoor airPLUS Showcase Home” and provide details per the submission form above. Any home verified between 1/1/20 and the date of application is eligible for submittal.
- Images that specifically showcase Indoor airPLUS related features or construction specifications are preferred. We encourage you to provide as many photos and as much information as you can about your Indoor airPLUS Showcase Home.

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 to count towards their score, along with a brief justification for the additional submission, if necessary.
- Please provide any supplemental materials in your online folder. Examples of bonus materials include, but are not limited to:
 - Informational 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.

