

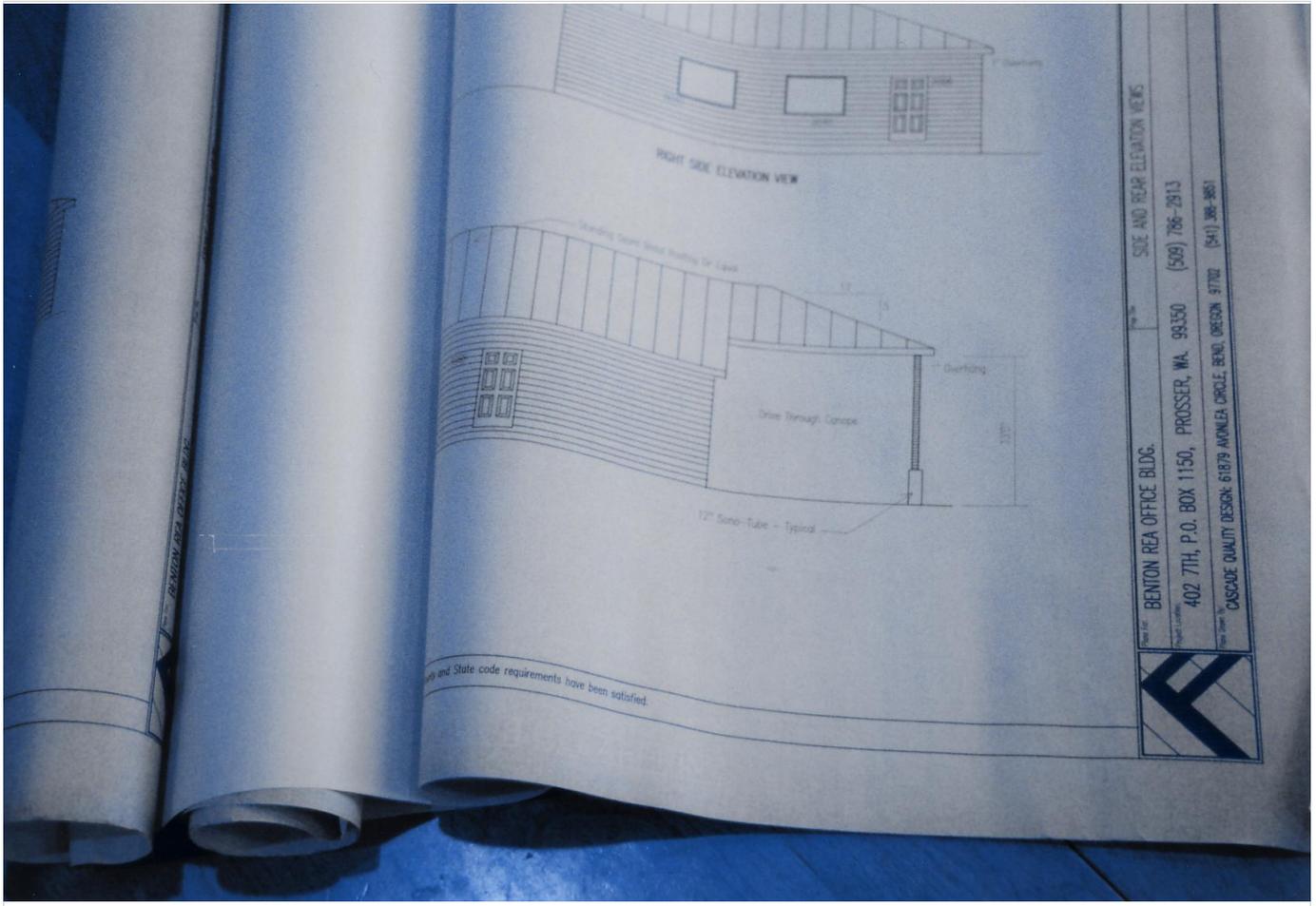


Area Takeoffs

Calculating the areas of the building components (e.g., windows, doors, exterior walls) is easily the most time-consuming step in energy code compliance. Below are some helpful hints for calculating area takeoffs. Note that the concept of the building envelope is important (see [What is the Building Envelope?](#)).

When calculating area takeoffs:

- Use dimension lines when available
- Scale with an architect's scale only if necessary
- Estimate only if necessary



Walls

- Only measure the wall area in the building envelope
- Measure the wall height from the finished floor to the insulation in the ceiling
- Include the wall area between finished floors (e.g., between first and second floor)
- Measure to the outside of the exterior wall for width



Windows



- Use the rough opening on the building floor plans or window schedule
- Only count the glazing in the building envelope surrounding conditioned space

Doors

- Use the rough opening on the building floor plans or door schedule
- Check the door type for opaque vs. glass
- Only count the doors in the building envelope - between conditioned space and unconditioned space

Roof

- Measure the roof area of the conditioned space at the insulation level
- Check for vaulted ceilings or other irregular ceiling heights in the building
- The roof area must be the same as or equal to the building footprint area

Skylight

- Use the rough opening dimensions from the roof plans, floor plans, or the window schedule

Raised Floor

- Measure the area of the floor over unconditioned space or outdoor air

Slab Perimeter



- Measure in linear feet the slab edge of the conditioned space

Here is an example house with a basic floor plan:

