



About zHome

EMBARGOED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

Overview

On September 29, 2008 in Issaquah, Wash., a revolutionary, yet easily replicable model for sustainable living will break ground—zHome. This new community will offer 10 attached homes built to a ultra-green standard. Spearheaded by the City of Issaquah, in partnership with King County, Puget Sound Energy, Built Green, Port Blakely Communities and the Washington State University Energy Office, and developed and built by Howland Homes, zHome will be one of the most innovative multi-housing projects in the nation.

Slated for completion in fall 2009, the project will feature 10 attached homes designed to produce as much power as they consume, and thus offer net zero energy performance resulting in a carbon neutral community. The project will also incorporate other aggressively green practices and products, resulting in homes that will meet the Built Green 5-Star certification.

zHome will demonstrate to the public and the building community the feasibility of, and demand for, affordable, practical, yet sustainable homes and will serve as a replicable model for the future of mainstream, production housing in the Northwest region. The project will also foster a public understanding that there are innovative and cost effective ways for homeowners to lessen their environmental impact.

zHome will be located in Issaquah Highlands, just east and within walking distance of the neighborhood Park & Ride.

Project Features

zHome will have its share of cutting edge green features, yet will also showcase basic, common sense design and construction principles that will serve as an example for the homebuilding industry at large.

Energy Efficient:

To achieve net zero energy use and carbon emissions, zHome will start first with conservation, using a number of techniques to reduce each home's energy use by two-thirds, including super-insulated walls, double-paned windows, hydronic heating and ground source heat pumps for hot water. To offset the remaining energy use, each home will generate its own power through photovoltaic solar panels.

Water Efficient:

zHome townhouses will use 60 percent less water than the typical home, achieved in part through drought tolerant landscaping, water-efficient fixtures and an integrated rainwater recycling system that will be used for toilet flushing and clothes washing.

Health:

zHome townhomes will offer high indoor air quality through proper ventilation and the use of low-toxicity materials. For example, each unit will contain materials that are free of urea formaldehyde, a commonly-used toxic adhesive in home products such as cabinetry. The homes will also be carpet free to reduce allergens.

Resource Conscious:

zHome units will use a high percentage of salvaged, reclaimed and locally manufactured materials, from countertops to flooring. During construction, at least 90 percent of all construction debris will be diverted from the landfill through waste prevention, reuse and recycling.

For More Information:

Visit www.z-Home.org