



zHome Fact Sheet
EMBARGOED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

What is zHome?

- zHome is a revolutionary townhome community to be built in Issaquah, Washington, 16 miles east of Seattle.
- The zHome project involves the design and construction of 10 attached residential homes, built to a ultra-green standard, including using no more energy than they generate over the course of a year.
- The project is 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 built and developed by Howland Homes.

Project Goal: While these “zero-energy” homes will be sold to families upon completion, zHome’s primary goal is to serve as an inspirational demonstration project for sustainable building practices that go far beyond the average “green home,” yet are replicable and affordable.

Why is zHome Revolutionary?

- Is the first production multifamily housing project in the U.S. to use no more energy than it generates over the course of a year, resulting in a carbon neutral community.
- In addition to zero-energy use, the homes will be designed and constructed using the highest environmental design principles, technologies and products.
- The homes will meet the following additional environmental and livability benchmarks:
 - Use 60 percent less water compared to the average home, achieved in part through an integrated rainwater recycling system and water-efficient fixtures
 - Incorporate high percentage of salvaged, reclaimed and locally manufactured materials
 - Divert 90 percent of all construction related debris through waste prevention, reuse and recycling.
 - Offer extreme low toxicity and proper ventilation. Building materials will be highly durable and low maintenance.
 - Reduce stormwater impacts through low-impact development strategies such as raingardens and rainwater reuse.

- Meet Built Green 5 Star certification requirements
- Upon completion, there will be a three-month open house period, whereby the public will be invited to tour the homes. Nine of the homes will be sold, and one will be donated by Howland Homes to a non-profit organization and made available as a demonstration unit to educate the public on green design and building practices.

Location: Issaquah, Wash., east of the Issaquah Highlands Park and Ride

Builder: Howland Homes, Shoreline, Wash.

Architect: David Vandervort Architects, Seattle, WA

Groundbreaking date: September 29, 2008

Anticipated completion date: October 2009

Size: 10 homes; each unit varies in size from 800 to 1,750 square feet of living space with one to three bedrooms

About the Environmental Impact of U.S. Buildings:

Within the United States, buildings account for:

- 39% of total energy use
- 72% of total electricity use
- 38% of greenhouse gas emissions
- 60% of non-industrial waste
- 40% of all raw materials

For More Information Visit:

- www.z-Home.org