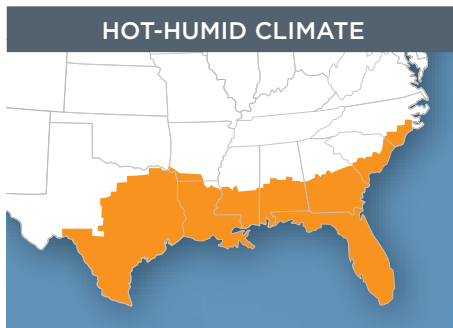




RESNET Raters Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity

Indian River County, Florida

Volunteer raters assisted Indian River Habitat with ENERGY STAR ratings in Grace Woods, a 36-home subdivision in Vero Beach, FL.



BUILDER PROFILE

Affiliate: Indian River Habitat for Humanity Vero Beach, FL

Founded: 1990

Homes Built:
225+ homes (24 built in 2009)

Awards: Grand Aurora Award, Promising Practice Award, Indian River County Green Construction Award, Affiliate of the Year Award (2005, 2006, and 2008)

RESNET is a membership organization that produces national standards for building energy efficiency rating systems.



Overview

Since 1995, The U.S. Department of Energy's Building America program has provided technical assistance to Habitat for Humanity International and local Habitat affiliates interested in building cost effective, energy efficient homes. RESNET supports Building America efforts by encouraging their members to provide free home energy ratings to their local Habitat affiliates. Partnerships between RESNET and Habitat for Humanity increase awareness of the home energy rating process and help affiliates identify areas of improvement and set goals such as ENERGY STAR® or the Department of Energy's Builders Challenge by conducting preliminary ENERGY STAR® ratings.

RESNET Volunteers

RESNET member Banks Clark of Environment, Safety, and Health LC has committed to offering HERS energy ratings to Indian River Habitat for Humanity since 2009. By assisting this affiliate, Clark is helping to raise expectations of affordable housing performance in communities. "I truly believe in Habitat. We [energy raters] are all passionate about energy conservation. It's more than just testing a house. It's building a scrutiny into the process to ensure that the basic elements of sound energy construction happen through verification. We all feel good about it. We all know it's the right thing to do," says Clark.

Clark also encourages the growth of qualified home energy rating specialists in his field by offering probationary training to new energy raters. Not only does Indian River Habitat receive free ratings from Clark, but new raters receive training under the supervision of an experienced RESNET rater, creating a win-win situation for everyone involved in the process.

One such new rater is Amy Thoma. Through Clark's support, Thoma completed her three probationary ratings required for rater certification. Now Thoma assists Clark in coordinating probationary training for other certification candidates. Spanning from Jacksonville to Miami, FL Thoma has received considerable feedback from probationary raters who are eager to assess Indian River Habitat homes.



Indian River HFH won the Grand Solar Aurora award in 2009 for its Grace Woods subdivision.

Habitat Advantages

“Banks and Amy really understood and helped us understand what improvements helped our rating. They also understood the need for Habitat to keep the homes affordable, both in the short term and long term,” states Kelly Brown, Grant Coordinator at Indian River Habitat. Brown says that the raters also consider initial costs versus savings in the long term which has helped the affiliate make informed decisions when choosing building materials.

Through ENERGY STAR® ratings, Indian River Habitat for Humanity has increased its eligibility for rebates and additional grant funding. Brown adds that by having energy rated homes, the affiliate has gained recognition for their efforts. These efforts, in turn, have promoted awareness of the affiliate throughout the community.

In addition to the many benefits of this partnership, Banks Clark explains that homeowners will ultimately benefit from energy ratings. “Energy efficient homes require less to operate and maintain. After securing affordable homeownership, the homeowner can more affordably live in an energy efficient house,” he says.

Join the Partnership

Benefits of Becoming a Volunteer RESNET Rater:

- Increase awareness of the home energy rating process in the community
- Meet other construction industry Habitat volunteers and expose them to the rating process
- Expand the energy rating field by providing probationary rater training to new raters in your community

For more information on how you can become a volunteer RESNET rater with Habitat for Humanity please visit: www.natresnet.org/rater/partnership/application.aspx

For more information on Building America’s Partnership with Habitat for Humanity, see www.baihp.org/habitat



Indian River Habitat’s Grace Woods subdivision features solar hot water heaters to improve energy efficiency.



Ducted return plenums ensure that no attic air is accidentally pulled down the wall cavities into the return air stream.



Enclosure

- Tight construction
- R-30 ceiling insulation
- Simple configuration with relatively low window to floor area ($\approx 10\%$)
- Tinted single pane glass
- RBS decking
- Medium to light roof colors

Systems and Appliances

- Solar hot water heaters - 80 gallon tank with 4 X 8 collector – (see photo)
- ENERGYSTAR® refrigerators
- Air handler closet and ducted return plenum within envelop (see photo)
- Extensive use of CFL lighting
- Sealed and tested ducts

Average HERS Index

- All homes exceed ENERGY STAR certification criteria
- Oslo and Grace Woods Subdivision (Block Construction): HERS ≈ 74
- Grace Meadows Community (Frame Construction): HERS ≈ 68