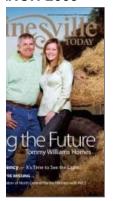
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## Tommy Williams Homes - SAVING ENERGY: It Starts at Home

Imagine living in a home that creates enough energy to sustain itself - one that would put an end to paying out big bucks for that dreaded monthly utility bill. The "Zero Energy Home" - the home of the future - is on the verge of changing the face of the nation's housing industry. Longtime builder Tommy Williams, one of Alachua County's energy-conscious leaders, is the first production builder in the country to take on the challenge, according to national energy experts.

An Alachua County native, Williams grew up on a farm in Archer, and, after obtaining a degree in agriculture, he carried on the family tradition as a farmer for many years. The family's nurturing of the land - Williams is a fourth generation - works well with the homebuilding industry. As a farmer, he accidentally got the homebuilding 'bug' in 1978 while building the family home in Archer, which is where Williams and his wife, Anne, raised three children. "I've always heard farmers were really the first environmentalists, and that is so true," Williams said. "We always took steps to take care of our natural surroundings."

Williams' vision to bring energy-efficient homes to the area began years ago at Longleaf Village in southwest Gainesville and at Belmont in the northwest, where his commitment to the Building American Program® resulted in more than 200 of the most energy efficient homes in Florida. For Williams, the next logical step is to set a trend with the Zero Energy Home, one that is designed to completely eliminate your electric bill. To master this challenge, Williams works closely with experts from the U.S. Department of Energy. The DOE's research and development of cutting edge technology, energy-efficient construction techniques and equipment with renewable energy systems has led to extraordinarily energy efficient homes.

The goal is to help builders create homes that produce as much energy as they consume. Like a typical home, a Zero Energy Home is connected to the local electric company. At times the home

draws electricity from the electric company. Other times, when the home makes more electricity than it uses, it rolls the home's utility meter backward. Over time, the amount of electricity used equals the amount sold back to the utility company. At the end of the month, you get a net zero electric bill.

Aesthetically, the Zero Energy Home will look like other Tommy Williams homes, which feature 10-foot ceilings, a spacious, open floor plan, crown molding and wood floors. The difference lies in the design and construction of the home, along with solar panels and a solar water heater.

"By committing to build a true Zero Energy Home, Williams is demonstrating a singular commitment to improving our environment for our children and grandchildren, not to mention building a home that significantly advances the state-of-the-art in homebuilding," said Subrato Chandra, PhD, an expert with the Florida Solar Energy Center.

The goal of this futuristic home is to show everyone that they can save money, breathe healthier air, conserve resources and reduce greenhouse effects - affordably. Few people realize that homes are bigger polluters than vehicles. The typical home can cause twice as much greenhouse gases compared to the typical car, according the Environmental Protection Agency.













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commitment to the Zero Energy Home will create a huge impact in Florida and across the cording to William Haslebacher, a DOE expert. "It will demonstrate to other builders that very ouses can be built and marketed in competition with conventional houses. Building America will ero Energy Home to develop case studies, best practice guides and other tools that help other crease the quality and efficiency of their homes," he said.

eyears, we've taken baby steps to build more energy efficient homes. We see a lot of interest nergy-efficient homes from the Y-generation and from baby boomers," Williams said. "We feel eright time to take a big step and set a trend in the market. And it's also nice to think our and their grandkids will benefit too."

Tiffany Thomas, who live in a Tommy Williams home in Longleaf Village, were thrilled to move naller home into a larger home and have their utility bill go down. "Basically we liked everything offer – energy efficiency and all the bells and whistles that go with it. We know we got a great 1 lot of value, at a great price," Tiffany said. "Longleaf Village is a special place to live because hour gym, awesome pool, great location and really top-notch quality construction."

ne goals of Building America is to create energy efficient homes that are affordable for the nomebuyer and to ensure that consumers do not end up paying more for energy efficiency. analysis is conducted to decide on the features and tradeoffs that are necessary to be cost daslebacher said.

of the first Zero Energy Home in Longleaf will fall in the \$275,000 to \$300,000 range, after nd tax incentives, for a home just over 2,000 square feet. After rebates and tax incentives, the o Zero Energy will be about the same as an upgrade to granite countertops and wood floors. nite countertops will never write a check for your electric bill. But these new energy features pay for those granite countertops," Williams said.

nomes he builds, Williams' reputation in the industry is based on a solid foundation — a hard 2, integrity and honesty — values he and Anne passed on to their children. Ginney, their daughter, a graduate of the Santa Fe College building construction program, is following her notsteps as part of the Tommy Williams team. Their son, Wesley, manages the farm in the majority of which is now planted in pine trees, and Emilee is a college student. Ginney ndustry at the most opportune time: to take her father's green imprint on the community to a el with the beginning of the Zero Energy Home — the home of the future.

nation on the Zero Energy Home or other homes built by Tommy Williams, call 352-331-8180 or .TommyWilliamsHomes.com.

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