

Builder gets sun-savvy

Florida Today - Melbourne, Fla.
Author: ANNE STRAUB
Date: Apr 25, 2009
Start Page: F.1
Section: Real Estate
Text Word Count: 489

Document Text

ANNE STRAUB

For Florida Today

LifeStyle Homes rose to the challenge and is unveiling the result today.

The Melbourne-based builder, in partnership with the Florida Solar Energy Center at University of Central Florida in Cocoa, has produced a home under the U.S. Department of Energy's Builders Challenge program.

The program encourages builders to build homes with at least 30 percent more energy efficiency than typical new homes.

Results must be independently verified -- in LifeStyle's case, by FSEC -- and also must meet indoor air quality, durability and comfort criteria.

LifeStyle's Capri model, part of the builder's new SunSmart series, is the first home in Brevard County to be certified by the Department of Energy.

The builder and FSEC officials will be on hand today to host tours of the home and demonstrate the testing that shows the effectiveness of the energy efficient features. The home is in the Whispering Winds subdivision in West Melbourne.

SunSmart features include:

- HVAC duct system pressure-tested to ensure less than 3 percent leakage.
- Microwave/range hood vented to exterior.
- R38 insulation in attic.
- Double-paned, low-E PGT windows and sliding glass doors.
- Radiant barrier under roof.
- Photovoltaic-powered attic fan.
- Solar-powered water heater.
- FSEC inspection of all door and window penetrations to ensure proper installation and sealings.
- Compact fluorescent bulbs throughout.
- TED, "The Energy Detective," monitors energy usage and is accessible online.

To qualify for the Department of Energy program, homes must score no more than 70 on the EnergySmart Home Scale. The lower the score, the more efficient the home.

The department hopes consumers use the measurement, known as an E-Scale score, to compare the energy efficiency

of various builders, much as consumers check estimated miles-per-gallon figures when buying a car.

Homes account for 21 percent of the energy used in the United States every year, with an average annual utility bill of \$1,767, according to the department.

"We are extremely proud of our collaboration with LifeStyle Homes," Subrato Chandra, FSEC's Building America program director, said in a statement.

"We look forward to many more of these high-performance Builders Challenge homes being built. We plan to work alongside LifeStyle Homes every step of the way as they work toward our mutual goal of building zero energy homes, which provide their total energy needs from the power of the sun."

If you go

--- What: Tours and demonstrations in the LifeStyle Homes model that features a 40 percent reduction in energy use compared with typical construction

--- When: 2 p.m. today

--- Where: 3384 Soft Breeze Circle, in the Whispering Winds subdivision in West Melbourne. Whispering Winds is on the east side of Dairy Road, south of U.S. 192.

We want your input

Developers, builders or real estate agents with information on new communities to feature or update can make suggestions to Custom Publishing News Editor Eric Garwood via email at egarwood@floridatoday.com or 242-3759.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction or distribution is prohibited without permission.

Abstract (Document Summary)

Results must be independently verified -- in LifeStyle's case, by FSEC -- and also must meet indoor air quality, durability and comfort criteria.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction or distribution is prohibited without permission.