



Press Release May 2014



Solon Homebuilder Meets DOE Energy Efficiency Challenge:

A recently constructed home in Solon is really pushing the envelope. The home constructed by Legacy GreenBuilders at 3978 Macbride Place in Solon, Iowa, has earned certification under the US Department of Energy *Zero Energy Ready Home*® (*ZERH*) program. The home is the first of its kind in Iowa to achieve certification under this prestigious program, and Legacy GreenBuilders is the first homebuilder in the state to build to this standard.

“We wanted to do something different with this home and all future homes. Both the homebuyer and Legacy GreenBuilders were passionate about making this home an example of what is possible to achieve with conventional construction. That’s why we chose DOE *ZERH*,” said Chris Mottinger, owner of Legacy GreenBuilders and Mottinger Real Estate Group based in Solon.

The *ZERH* program is the next step in the evolution of energy efficient home certification programs. For years, Iowa has been a leading state in homes certified under the US EPA *ENERGY STAR*® *New Homes* program. With *ZERH*, certification under *ENERGY STAR* is a prerequisite; to earn the *ZERH* label the home must go beyond *ENERGY STAR* to achieve further levels of efficiency through increasing insulation levels, reducing drafty air leakage, and installing higher efficiency mechanical and lighting systems. The end goal is a home that can be easily converted into a net-zero energy home - one which produces as much energy as it consumes to operate – at a future point where the cost of on-site renewable energy systems such as solar panels are less expensive.

The result is that a home built to the *ZERH* standard is designed and verified to achieve optimal comfort, efficiency and quality of life for its occupants. *ZERH* also incorporates additional important high performance criteria that should appeal to any homebuyer. A special focus on water heating efficiency ensures that occupants have the hot water they need when they need it, while mandatory certification under the EPA Indoor airPLUS New Homes program results in a home that is not only comfortable and efficient, but has good indoor air quality as well.

“For many years, the energy utilities have offered strong incentives for homebuilders to build to the *ENERGY STAR* standard,” said Troy Zimmerman of Preferred Energy Consultants, the Marion-based Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Rater and *ZERH* Verifier for the project. “What makes this project special is that the builder decided to take it to the next level without any incentives to do so. The *ZERH* program is the next, important step, and Legacy GreenBuilders is leading the market. This home’s HERS rating is an incredible 39!”

To achieve *ZERH* certification, the homebuilder must first sign a partnership agreement with the program. Next, they must choose a *ZERH* verifier partner. The verifier must also be a Certified HERS Rater who can perform required field inspections and testing to verify that all program criteria is met, as well as software modeling to produce the HERS Index score for the home. If the home achieves the level of efficiency on the HERS Index required by the program and passes all site inspections and diagnostic tests, the home becomes a certified *ZERH* project.

For more information on *ZERH*, visit the DOE’s website: <http://energy.gov/eere/buildings/zero-energy-ready-home>

To learn more about the information in this release, contact Chris McTaggart, Building Efficiency Resources, Chicago, at www.theber.com.



News Release December 2012

Legacy GreenBuilders Designated as a RESNET Energy Smart Homes Builder for Committing to Build Energy Efficient Homes and Marketing Their Homes HERS Index Score



Solon, Iowa based home builder Legacy GreenBuilders is the first Custom Builder in Iowa to enter into an agreement with the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) to provide new home buyers an important measurement of long-term energy performance of each new home the company builds. The intent of the agreement is to raise consumers' knowledge of new home energy performance by using RESNET's HERS Index. Use of the HERS Index will differentiate homes built by Legacy GreenBuilders from other homes for sale in the Eastern Iowa housing market.

Legacy GreenBuilders builds energy efficient and environmentally sound homes in the Eastern Iowa housing market. Working together, the company helps homeowners understand the benefits of green building science, and their creative design principles make it easier to choose quality sustainable materials throughout your home.. For more information on the company visit their web site at www.legacygreenbuilders.com, or they can be reached by phone at 319-624-6027.



The RESNET HERS Index is the industry standard by which a home's energy efficiency is measured. The HERS or Home Energy Rating System was developed by RESNET and is the nationally recognized system for inspecting and calculating a home's energy performance. Certified RESNET Home Energy Raters conduct inspections to verify a home's energy performance and determine what improvements can be made to increase it. For more information visit their website at www.resnet.us/home-energy-ratings.

Owner Chris Mottinger and Construction Manager Chris Martin of Legacy GreenBuilders said RESNET's HERS provides a quantitative measure of energy efficiency and permits comparisons between homes. "It is our expectation that Legacy GreenBuilders' agreement with RESNET will serve as a model to other local and regional builders that will have positive outcomes for consumers and the new home industry". Further, Chris said "Matt Hoskins with The Element Group (A local energy consultant), has been instrumental in introducing us to RESNET, helping us rate our homes and grow our knowledge of energy efficient building science".

Steve Baden, executive director of RESNET has lauded Legacy GreenBuilders' leadership for improving the energy performance of new homes. "Today's new homes are much more efficient in comparison to homes built just a decade ago. These homes are more affordable to maintain, comfortable and have a higher value. Thanks to leaders like Legacy GreenBuilders, builders are increasing the energy performance of the homes they build. This is good for consumers, the environment and the local economy. It is great to have such a quality builder like Legacy GreenBuilders educating homebuyers on the RESNET HERS Index".



In making the commitment Legacy GreenBuilders has been designated by RESNET as an RESNET Energy Smart Builder. RESNET Energy Smart Builders are leading the transformation of the housing towards high energy performance homes. These leading builders are committed to having all of their homes energy rated following RESNET's stringent standards and marketing their homes HERS Index Score.