



EarthCraft House

Program Milestones

The EarthCraft House program began in fall 1999 when the phrase “green building” was unfamiliar to most home builders. The Greater Atlanta HBA partnered with Southface Energy Institute to develop the EarthCraft House program as a blueprint for healthy, comfortable homes that reduce energy and water bills, conserve natural resources and help protect the environment.

EarthCraft House was immediately met with critical acclaim, which has continued into 2007, the program’s seventh year. Recent media coverage includes CNN Headline News, *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, *Atlanta Home and Design*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Atlanta Intown*, *Creative Loafing* and WSB’s current Going Green public service campaign. ABC’s *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* featured an EarthCraft House in its March 11 broadcast.

EarthCraft House recently passed a milestone with more than 4,000 homes certified, with 226 certifications completed in the first quarter of 2007 alone. Also in the first three months of 2007, EarthCraft House staff trained 86 builders who represent all home styles, locations and price points.

More and more builders are concluding they want all their homes to receive EarthCraft House certification. To date, the following Georgia builders have committed to build 100 percent EarthCraft House: Atlanta Habitat for Humanity; Brewster Builders, Inc.; Calhoun Properties, Inc.; Capstone Partners, Inc.; Creech Development Group, Inc.; Culver & Grimshaw, Inc.;

Fortress Construction, LLC/Pine Mountain Builders; Hatcher Homes, Inc.; Haven Properties, Inc.; Hedgewood Properties, Inc.; Icon Development Corporation; John Willis Homes, Inc.; Leland Homes in Tributary; Live Oak Builders, Inc.; McConnell Homes, Inc.; Monte Hewett Homes, LLC; O’Dwyer Homes, Inc.; Renewal Construction, Inc.; Rosewood, Inc.; Summerfield Homes, Inc.; The Hoots Group, Inc.; Vaughn Homes, Inc.; Whitehall Homes, Inc.; and Winslow Homes, LLC.

Originally EarthCraft House standards only applied to new construction of single-family homes. Builders involved in the first few years saw a need to apply the building science principles to other forms of residential construction, and the EarthCraft House Renovation initiative was launched. Home owners can now bring existing homes up to the high performance standards of EarthCraft House and enjoy all the energy-saving benefits of a newly constructed home. Following renovation, multifamily standards were developed, including townhomes and condominiums, as well as affordable workforce housing.

The EarthCraft House program has also created an initiative to certify entire communities as environmentally responsible. EarthCraft Communities, developed with the help of the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Urban Land Institute, not only sets a standard for the buildings, but impacts the whole development and addresses issues related to urban sprawl in a whole new way. By increasing the focus on effective land use, the EarthCraft Communities program has been able to create communities that are more efficient and less wasteful.

Regionally, EarthCraft House is gaining acceptance across the Southeast, with programs in Virginia, Alabama, South Carolina and Tennessee in varying stages of development. The building science behind EarthCraft House is geared toward mixed-humid and hot-humid climates. In addition, the program places a high priority on indoor air quality and the effectiveness of the heating and cooling system, which are of crucial importance in areas with high heat and humidity.

EarthCraft House’s growing reputation confirms that this program will continue to provide a sustainable way for Atlanta’s growing population to be housed while protecting our valuable resources. As a builder, if you have not yet looked to the EarthCraft House program as a way to verify the quality of your homes, reduce callbacks and set yourself apart from your competition, visit www.earthcrafthouse.org for more information. 🏠

EarthCraft House Partners

GRAND PARTNERS

- The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
- Cosella-Dorcken/DELTA
- Dow StyroSystems
- Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority
- Georgia-Pacific
- Home Depot Foundation
- Icynene Insulation Systems
- LP TechShield
- P²AD
- Packer Industries
- U.S. Department of Energy Building America
- Whirlpool

PARTNERS

- ENERGY STAR
- Johns Mansville
- LYPTUS Wood Products
- Marvin Windows and Doors/ Integrity from Marvin
- Milesbrand
- STO Guard

ASSOCIATE PARTNER

- Arrow Exterminators of Georgia
- Patterson Services
- Pestban of Georgia
- Torrey Building Systems, LLC

