



HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION
of Dayton

HOMEBUILDERS TO LAUNCH NATIONAL GREEN BUILDING PROGRAM

By Greg Vreeland, President
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More and more, each week, potential homebuyers or those considering remodeling their current home call the Home Builders Association of Dayton's office and ask about "green building". They are looking to buy a new green-built home or do some green remodeling. The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) is about to launch an important new program to make that task easier.

NAHB is creating a national green building program to provide a template for voluntary, market-driven green building all over the country. A brand-new Web site with extensive consumer information and resources and a national directory of green builders are also being developed.

The new program includes certification based on the National Green Building Standard, a model for residential construction and renovation written by builders, architects, environmentalists and product experts that will be released in early 2008.

This standard is based on NAHB's Model Green Home Building Guidelines, which are the foundation of more than 20 existing state and local residential green building programs.

"With a national program, home buyers can be assured that their home is truly green, whether they live in Seattle or Savannah, in a condo or a ranch house, and whether they're renovating or buying new," said NAHB President Brian Catalde, a Southern California home builder.

"It's also the next logical step for us as leaders in the green building movement. Our members have built nearly 100,000 green homes in voluntary programs launched by home building associations all over the country. Each of these homes is unique, representing local geography, climate and consumer preference. With an affordable national program, we will provide home buyers with green homes even where there is no local program in place," Catalde said.

Like the Model Green Home Building Guidelines and the Standard, the National Green Building Program takes into account a home's lot development, resources use, energy and water efficiency, indoor environmental quality, durability and ease of maintenance, and homeowner education efforts when determining its "greenness."

The program will be housed at the NAHB Research Center, the country's premier institute of home building product certification and research. It will include an interactive, web-based certification system as well as other tools and resources for homebuyers, builders and certifiers, and a national registry of green builders and green homes.

"When it comes to residential building and remodeling, NAHB members are leading the way to creating a new, green-built nation," Catalde said. "With the expertise and resources of the NAHB Research Center, our new national program will help accelerate that process."

Locally, this means that the Dayton HBA builders and remodelors will continue their green building education and certification knowledge and will have a national resource to meet the demand of those wanting green building. By next spring, we should see the impacts of the new program begin to bloom.



