

Idea House in Bellevue to Promote Energy Independence

Construction to begin soon on Zero Energy Idea House; Fall 2008 opening planned

(Bellevue, WA) – Plans are actively underway on the Zero Energy Idea House, an innovative demonstration project being constructed in Bellevue. Built by Issaquah-based Shirey Contracting, the project aims to increase awareness of products and systems that can help inspire homeowners to move toward energy independence. Construction on the 1,700 sq. ft. home is slated to begin in February 2008 and be completed in the fall.

“We’re committed to showing the public and the industry how stylish a green, energy-efficient home can be,” says Donna Shirey, president of Shirey Contracting and a longtime advocate for green building. Located at Bass Cove just off of West Lake Sammamish Blvd., the Zero Energy Idea House will blend cutting-edge green products and systems with inspiring and modern design elements.

Energy self-sufficiency, or “zero energy,” involves combining on-site power generation with measures to reduce energy needs. Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and a wind turbine will provide most of the home’s power, while a 1,200 sq. ft. vegetated “green” roof, ENERGY STAR® lighting, windows, and appliances, in-floor radiant heating, and structural insulated panel (SIP) construction will make this residence extremely energy-efficient.

The project will be thoroughly documented during design and construction via a website (www.zeroenergyideahouse.com), progression photography, educational presentations, media outreach, and public and building industry tours. The home will also be equipped with an energy monitor that displays energy input and output in real-time.

The project has been endorsed by Built Green® of King & Snohomish Counties and Northwest ENERGY STAR® Homes and is receiving technical support from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Building America program. Project partners include Clinkston Brunner Architects, Swenson Say Faget, Triad Associates, WSU Extension Energy Program, Ecohaus, Cedar Grove Composting, Northwest Property Imaging, and Green Dog Enterprises. 425 Magazine is providing media support to the Zero Energy Idea House.

About Shirey Contracting

Shirey Contracting is celebrating its 25th anniversary of offering “total solution” construction services, from concept and planning to the finished touches. The company specializes in custom residential homes and commercial facilities, remodels, and is a national leader in building with structural insulated panels (SIPs). Active within its industry and community, Shirey Contracting has been consistently recognized by its peers for remodeling excellence and their “build smart” philosophy.

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