



Dallas Area

**Habitat for Humanity®**

**News for Our Partners**

## Habitat Builds "Green", Why Isn't Everyone?

### Investing in Our Region

The City of Dallas' largest homebuilder is also building green. Having constructed over 100 LEED-certified homes (more than 83% of all LEED-certified homes in Dallas), Dallas Area Habitat's commitment to green building enhances the long-term affordability of our homes, reduces utility costs for our homeowners and improves the overall impact on the environment.



Dallas Habitat's mission is to transform neighborhoods by engaging families and community partners in creating affordable homeownership opportunities. As ambitious as this undertaking is, Dallas Habitat has also had a long-standing commitment to energy efficient green building. Many of our early Habitat homes utilized geo-thermal air systems and energy efficient SIP (Structural Insulated Panel) construction. Then in 2004, we decided to go to the next level by building all new homes Energy Star Certified, embracing the green building movement to improve the overall sustainability and efficiency of our homes. This progress was accelerated when, in 2008, work began on the entire 40-home neighborhood of Frazier Courtyard Homes which was built to LEED-Silver standards, a major feat for any residential builder. All homes built since August 2010 have been built to LEED Certified standards. Dallas Habitat also makes it a priority to educate homeowners on the function and correct maintenance of the building systems to maximize sustainability and energy conservation.

**Today, all of our new homes are constructed Energy Star Certified and LEED Certified to use at least 15% less energy than the average new home.**

The third-party inspections of the building envelope ensure efficiency standards are kept to the highest level. To date, Dallas Habitat has built 107 LEED Certified homes, with over 300 LEED Certified homes planned by the end of 2012.

To make this major accomplishment possible, Dallas Habitat collaborates with numerous organizations and utilizes green building materials through Gift in Kind partners. From the green cement to the 35 year shingles, Dallas Habitat's partners contribute immensely to the overall energy efficiency of the new homes. In addition to Gift in Kind partners, Dallas Habitat also works with government agencies, vendors, and other nonprofits every step of the way.

Even the Dallas Habitat offices are becoming more energy efficient through a grant from Green Mountain Energy Company and Oncor to install solar array panels on Dallas Habitat's offices and ReStore. This move makes Dallas Habitat the first Habitat for Humanity affiliate in the country to have solar array panels in the roof. Dallas Habitat is always looking for new ways to become more energy efficient and to be a good steward of our resources.

### Partners



EPA, HUD, Tex Energy, City of Dallas, Dallas Sustainable Skylines Initiative, Sue Pope: A Project of Downwinders at Risk, GAF Materials, Exelon Weatherization, Dow, Home Depot Partners in Sustainable Building, Valspar, JCPenney, Whirlpool, Kohler, Hunter Douglas,



USGBC, Green Mountain, Oncor, Texas HERO Program, Tempo

To read the study about Dallas Habitat's Green Building by the University of Texas A&M, please click [here](#). Thank you for your support. If you have any questions about revitalizing neighborhoods, please call us at 214-678-2300 or contact us at [ni@dallas-habitat.org](mailto:ni@dallas-habitat.org).

Sincerely,

## Dallas Habitat News and Notes:



- In addition to saving you money, our ReStores help the environment by facilitating the re-use of building materials and gently used appliances. Recycling these materials keeps them out of local landfill sites and diverts them from the waste stream. Donated materials are used in construction whenever possible. For more info click [here](#).

- The Census Bureau will present 2010 census information regarding the Dallas area at the next NTCDA membership meeting which will be at the Dallas Habitat offices on September 1st from 10:30am to noon. Come join us if you are interested in learning more about the changing demographics of Dallas County and how you can access census information.