

Columbus Ohio's First Green Subdivision Achieves Industry First in Affordable Housing

MiraCit Development Corporation Wins MEEA's Inspiring Efficiency IMPACT Award

Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance announced today that MiraCit Development Corporation won the Inspiring Efficiency IMPACT Award for Columbus, Ohio's first green subdivision called Greenview Estates. The green development is part of Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman's "Get Green, Columbus" initiative, in partnership with the Building Industry Association of Central Ohio (BIA), the Affordable Housing Trust and MiraCit Development Corporation. Homes in the subdivision are 25 to 40% more efficient than standard homes.

MiraCit (which stands for "miracle city") is a nonprofit community based organization formed out of the vision of Living Faith Apostolic Church. Under the leadership of chairman, Bishop Edgar Posey, MiraCit spearheaded the redevelopment of its surrounding community through housing development, job and entrepreneurship training, childcare, education, and programs for seniors and youth. Greenview Estates has transformed what was once a neighborhood brownfield into a "field of dreams fulfilled" for many area residents and new homeowners.

The project dispels the notion that energy efficient homes are not affordable, by providing attractive, energy-efficient and green technology homes in the affordable price range of \$130,000-\$180,000. The development has thirty buildable lots of which twenty are targeted as affordable housing and being sold to low to moderate-income families. In less than a year, twenty-five of the thirty units are in contract.

All the homes in the neighborhood will be built to far more rigorous environmental standards than typical homes. Homes feature durable, energy-efficient construction, ENERGY STAR-rated appliances & other amenities. As a result, homes are typically 40% more efficient than traditional homes and homeowners in Greenview Estates can expect to save about \$900 per year in utility costs.

Mayor Coleman said, "The development will increase home ownership in an area where traditionally that has been lacking and it will reinforce a trend towards environmentally conscious building in Columbus."

"Greenview Estates is breaking down critical barriers and making an impact in home building efficiency in the Midwest," said Alecia Ward, president of MEEA. "The project is a unique collaborative effort between local and regional governments, non-profit organizations and builders to change the mindset and behavior with regard to development, affordability of green technology, energy use patterns and efficiency."

The goal of Greenview Estates is to demonstrate that high performance or "green" housing can be built affordably. Each of the high performance specifications or requirements aims to achieve at least one of the following objectives:

- Increase energy efficiency
- Reduce construction cost or waste
- Improve indoor air quality
- Improve building durability
- Improve occupant comfort
- Reduce the environmental impact of the building

The success of Greenvue Estates has catalyzed support for green residential developments throughout Columbus; the City of Columbus now requires that non-profits seeking funding for low-income housing developments must build at least one green development annually; Franklin County created a green specification checklist for all projects funded by the county; and Sovereign homes, the lead builder in the development, has announced company-wide adoption of the high performance specifications of the current project for all its future homes.

Summary of MEEA's 2008 Inspiring Efficiency Award recipients, recognizing the Midwest's efficiency leaders:

Inspiring Efficiency EDUCATION Award—Schools for Energy Efficiency for implementing a program to save energy and money by changing behavior throughout school districts through increasing energy awareness among operations staff, students, teachers, and administrators. The program is in 400 schools, resulting in average energy savings of 10-20% and avoiding \$9.2million in energy costs in its first four years.

Inspiring Efficiency MARKETING Award—Rochester Public Utilities for developing a Commercial Communications Plan to maximize commercial customers' participation in efficiency programs.

Inspiring Efficiency INNOVATION Award—George Bialecki for founding Alternative Energy Builders, a corporation that builds energy efficient communities, and for founding Alternative Energy Living, a non-profit foundation focused on research and energy efficiency education.

Inspiring Efficiency LEADERSHIP Award—Minnesota: Senator D. Scott Dibble, Representative Jeremy Kalin, Sheldon Strom from Center for Energy and Environment, and Christy Brusven of the Department of Commerce for their coalition effort to lead the first, most comprehensive energy policy adoption in the Midwest.

Inspiring Efficiency LEADERSHIP Award—Illinois: Senator Don Harmon and Anne Pramagiorre from Commonwealth Edison for their leadership to gain adoption of the Affordable, Clean Energy Standard, creating a 2% efficiency standard for Illinois.

Inspiring Efficiency LEADERSHIP Award—Ann Arbor, Michigan: The Ann Arbor Energy Office for its long-standing commitment to sustainable energy use. The Energy Office manages projects and programs, develops information resources, and provides expert advice to move the city toward more sustainable energy use.

Inspiring Efficiency CHAIRMAN'S Award—Sara Ward: Retiring Director of the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Energy Efficiency, a founding and active member of the MEEA Board of Directors and stalwart supporter of energy efficiency and renewable energy policy in the Midwest.

Winners will be honored at MEEA's **Inspiring Efficiency Awards Ceremony**, being held at the **Drake Hotel in Chicago, Illinois**, on **January 10, 2008**. Please visit www.mwalliance.org/awards or www.mwalliance.org/conference for more information on the Midwest Energy Solutions Conference.

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