

Friday, AUG 27, 2004

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Energy Department's Zero Energy Home is in Frisco

JERI PETERSEN 09.JUL.04



Through an initiative called the Zero Energy Home (ZEH), the U.S. **Department of Energy** has shown that a home can generate as much energy as it consumes. Ground was broken on the first Zero Energy Home in North Texas in April; it will debut Sept. 4-26 at the 13th annual **Dallas Parade of Homes** at Lone Star Ranch in Frisco. The two-story, 3,800-square-foot luxury home is valued at about \$600,000.

A Zero Energy Home combines energy-efficient construction and appliances with commercially available renewable energy systems such as solar water heating and solar electricity. Today's buildings consume more than two-thirds of all the electricity used in the United States; 50 percent of new homes are being built in the Sunbelt, where air-conditioning loads create intense demands for electricity. The ZEH initiative seeks to build homes that perform at least 50 percent more efficiently than those built to current minimum efficiency standards.

The basis for a national ZEH program began in 1998. The Florida Solar Energy Center collaborated with a municipal utility and a private builder to quantify energy demands of identical floor plans built side by side - one a standard home, the other a super-energy-efficient home. At the end of year, the energy-efficient home, because of energy produced by its photovoltaic system, showed a 92 percent energy savings over the standard home. During periods of peak energy consumption, the ZEH placed nearly net zero demand on the utility system.

The North Texas Zero Energy Home was designed by Austin architect **Peter Pfeiffer**. Dallas' **Jim Sargent**, of **AndersonSargent Custom Builder LP**, is the builder.



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