

SMUD News Release

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

• News Media Services

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Ultra-energy-efficient “Home of the Future” certified LEED Platinum

Folsom home one of only three homes in California to achieve top green building standard

The U.S Green Building Council (USGBC) has awarded the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and RJ Walter Homes “Home of the Future” the highest rating for “green” and sustainable building design and construction. USGBC’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Platinum certification means the home meets the most rigorous criteria in terms of low energy and water consumption, the use of environmentally preferred materials and being located and built in a socially and environmentally responsible way.

The home, located in the Sacramento suburb of Folsom, is the only LEED Platinum certified home in the Sacramento region and one of only three LEED Platinum custom homes in the entire state of California. The project is part of SMUD’s overall strategy to reduce the region’s overall energy use and create a more sustainable energy future.

It is estimated that the home’s total energy bills, including electric and gas, will be just \$24 per month, which compares very well to \$140 for a home built to current new-home standards, according to the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), SMUD’s technical assistance partner. The house is built so tightly that it will be easy to heat or cool no matter what the outside temperature.

The home’s energy generation features, such as the solar panels and the solar hot water system, work in concert with miserly energy efficiency features to enable the home to produce almost as much energy as it uses and leave a very small carbon footprint.

SMUD, the local municipal electric provider, provided financial incentives and technical advice in a partnership to build the home with NREL and local builder RJ Walter Homes. SMUD is a national leader in partnering with builders to construct super energy-efficient homes. The Home of the Future is meant to showcase to the building community and the home-buying public that attractive and ultra-energy-efficient homes can be built and marketed at reasonable prices.

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2-2-2-2 Ultra-energy-efficient “Home of the Future” certified LEED Platinum

The 1,940-square-foot bungalow and its accompanying unattached casita feature the very latest energy efficiency innovations including:

- solar electricity and solar hot water.
- 2 inch by 6 inch optimum value engineering framing to allow more room for advanced insulation.
- advanced water-based air conditioner.
- very tight and conditioned attic space and walls.
- 100 percent CFL and LED lighting.

A home automation system remotely controls the home’s lighting, thermostat, and window blinds to maximize energy savings.

Even the home’s construction follows guidelines designed to preserve the environment. The framing was premade at a local factory instead of being built on site, which reduced a lot of hammering and sawing and debris typical of new home construction.

The new bungalow is built near historic old town Folsom among older homes and replicates the design of its neighbors. The unattached casita includes a 720-square-foot guest quarters in the upper level and a garage below. The home was completed in September and its sale is pending on contingency for \$625,000.

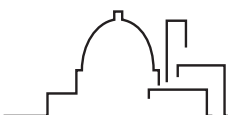
About U.S. Green Building Council and the LEED rating system:

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a non-profit organization committed to expanding sustainable building practices. USGBC is composed of more than 15,000 organizations from across the building industry that are working to advance structures that are environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy places to live and work.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Green Building Rating System™ encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria. LEED is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

USGBC certified the SMUD Customer Service Center building as LEED Platinum in 2007.

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3-3-3-3 Ultra-energy-efficient “Home of the Future” certified LEED Platinum

About The Sacramento Municipal Utility District:

SMUD has been a national leader in developing energy-efficient new homes and in deploying solar technology for more than 20 years. SMUD has also helped customers install and own PV systems on existing homes. SMUD began partnering with homebuilders to build energy-efficient homes with solar electric systems in 2001 and has since partnered on more than 4,000 solar-powered homes in the SMUD territory.

As the nation’s sixth largest publicly owned utility, SMUD has been providing low-cost, reliable electricity for more than 60 years to Sacramento County (and a small portion of Placer County). SMUD is a recognized industry leader and award winner for its innovative energy efficiency programs, renewable power technologies, and for its sustainable solutions for a healthier environment. For more information, visit smud.org.

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