



The Chapman residence has solar hot water and radiant floor heating installed by Sundance Power Systems.

Green Building is SMART BUILDING

A few development companies have the expertise and commitment to carry out a true green building vision. Advantage Development Company is committed to “green” building so much so that they have made a decision to only build green homes in the future built to N.C. HealthyBuilt Homes program standards, NAHB certified green, or LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified standards. All of these programs require third party verification, and Advantage is also a member of the WNC Green Building Council.

But what is green building? John Green, Vice President of residential construction for Advantage Development, explains that green building is basically comprised of five components.

First is the site which encompasses decisions from preserving trees and native plants to how the home is situated to the south for solar energy.

Next is energy efficiency. Enclosing the building envelope and properly sealing and insulating will keep energy in and wind and water out. This is also where higher efficiency Energy Star appliances come into play. Green noted that Energy Star Certification is a basic for any green building program, and that Energy Star efficient windows, heating and air, lighting and other products are all part of energy efficiency.

Indoor air quality is the third component and involves using low VOC paints and materials (formaldehyde and vinyl free with no toxins in them) and also separating, sealing and venting the garage area so carbon monoxide and VOCs don't seep into the house. All this assures breathing less toxic materials within the home and keeping an indoor healthy air makeup which involves fresh air turnover.

Green building also involves using recycled type materials within the home giving a second life to reclaimed wood and other resources. Advantage Development uses products made from smaller less mature trees and only deals with lumber manufacturers getting lumber from Forestry Stewardship Certification (FSC) certified dealers. FSC suppliers use good practices by replanting the forest. Advantage also seeks to integrate other renewable materials such as bamboo and cork flooring and recycled products for countertops. Recycling extends to waste management, and Advantage Development, as good stewards of resources, builds smarter and wastes less materials.

The final element is water conservation which starts at the landscape level. Natural native landscaping requires much less water and less sod. The use of low flow showerheads within the house and dual flush toilets also help conserve our precious water resources. For more information on any of these aspects of green building go to www.AdvDevCo.com.

There are financial incentives to go green as well. There are huge federal and state tax credits available in regards to alternative renewable energy. For example, solar technology boasts a federal tax credit of 30 percent and a North Carolina tax credit of 35 percent. Tax credits can be huge for alternative renewal energy including solar, hydro, wind, and geothermal.

Along with tax credits, Energy Star certification homes get a five percent utility bill reduction from Progress Energy which is transferable to future owners. Lastly, green building homes are typically 20-60 percent more energy efficient than normal homes.

In addition, Richard and John Green of Advantage Development are both degreed

engineers, unlimited licensed contractors and certified green professionals. “We are excited about being part of the new green revolution,” noted John Green, and thus they will provide limited time free building consultations to potential clients.

For more information go to www.AdvDevCo.com or call 215-9064



John Green,
owner of Advantage
Development.

GREEN BUILDING SEMINAR

Who: Advantage Development, as a good steward of the earth, is offering free monthly green building seminars which are open to the public.

Where: New Hope Presbyterian Church at 3070 Sweeten Creek in Asheville.

When: The last Sunday of every month from 2-4 pm.

Speakers: Matt Siegel, director of the WNC Green Building Council, will be present on May 31 for the first seminar, and there will be a different guest speaker every month.

Contact: Please RSVP to John Green at 215-9064 as space is limited.

