

Better Homes through Environmental Stewardship

Builder Guide



DESCRIPTION

A typical residence in the United States produces more air pollution in a year than a car. Because ENERGY STAR labeled homes are more energy efficient than standard code homes, they require less energy from utility power plants and fuel-fired equipment such as furnaces and water heaters. When power plants and home combustion equipment run less, the pollution they produce is reduced, contributing to a healthier environment.

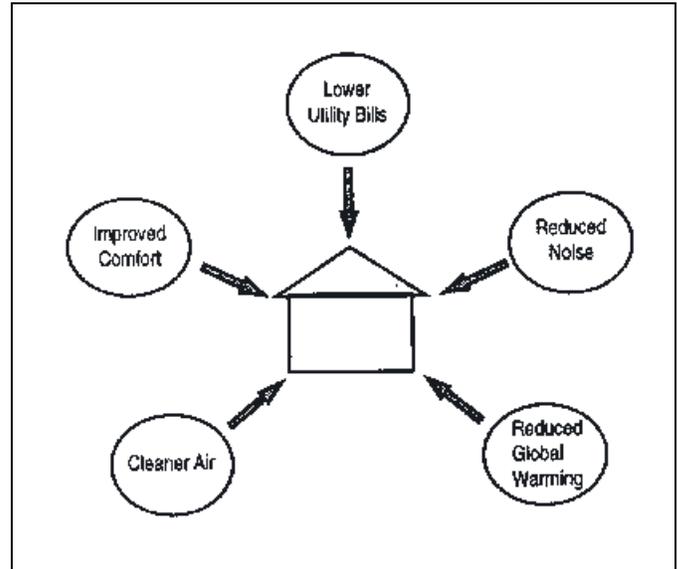
Polls consistently show that consumers have preferences for environmentally responsive products and are often willing to pay more for them. Now they can pay less! This is because ENERGY STAR labeled homes cost less to own with monthly utility bill savings exceeding small increases in monthly mortgage payments. Thus, your customers can feel pride helping to protect the environment while living in a comfortable, quiet home that costs less to own.



BENEFITS

ENERGY STAR labeled homes can use a wide variety of high quality features to improve energy efficiency performance. Less energy use results in reduced air pollution and contributes to a healthier environment.

Benefits of Building for Environmental Stewardship



- ENERGY STAR labeled homes use at least 30% less energy for heating, cooling, and hot water than a standard home meeting the Model Energy Code.**

An ENERGY STAR labeled home uses 70 percent or less of the energy used for heating, cooling, and hot water than a home built to the national Model Energy Code (MEC). That's a direct and significant environmental benefit resulting from pollution prevention.

- ENERGY STAR labeled homes reduce global warming.**

The energy used by homes in the United States accounts for 20 percent of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. CO₂ is a major contributor to global warming. Thus, reducing emissions of CO₂ is a key strategy for slowing or preventing global warming. Purchasing an ENERGY STAR labeled home can help in the fight against global warming.

Environmental stewardship is good for the pocket book as well as the environment.

A minimum 30 percent savings in energy used for heating, cooling, and hot water translates to a significant reduction in energy cost to the homeowner. Owning an ENERGY STAR labeled home is not only a sign of good environmental stewardship, it saves money on monthly utility bills. These savings, if invested, can add up to tens of thousands of dollars over the life of a thirty-year mortgage.



RESOURCES

- For more information on the ENERGY STAR Labeled Homes program, call 1-888-STAR-YES; or access the ENERGY STAR labeled homes web page on the Internet at:
<http://www.energystar.gov/homes>
- "Environmental and Economic Impacts of Various Residential Building Products, Construction Methods, and Design Choices,"* Mark Pierce and Joseph Laquatra, Cornell University, Energy Efficient Builder's Association, *Excellence In Housing Conference Proceedings 1995.*
- "The Triple-E House - Energy Efficient, Economical, and Ecological,"* Robert Borsch-Laaks and Ralf Pohlmann, Ladesbausparkasse Nordrhein-Westfalen, *ACEEE 1994 Summer Study on Energy Efficiency In Buildings.* American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, 1001 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 801, Washington, DC 20036, 202/429-8873.