



Net Zero Manufactured Home Receives DOE Housing Innovation Award

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently declared MHI member, SE Homes/Clayton, a DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Housing Innovation Award Winner for 2014. It is the first manufactured home in the nation to qualify for this DOE Zero Energy Ready Home designation. According to DOE, the Zero Energy Ready Home “represents a whole new level of home performance, with rigorous requirements that ensure outstanding levels of energy savings, comfort, health, and durability.” SE Homes will compete in the Affordable Housing category with other homebuilders throughout the country for the DOE Grand Award to be announced in September.

The SE HOME’s Zero Energy Home is one of three homes that are part of a year- long test underway by the Systems Building Research Alliance (SBRA) to evaluate energy performance. The homes represent three levels of energy efficiency: The Zero Energy Ready Home, a home that complies with the HUD thermal standards, and an ENERGY STAR home.

The side-by-side tests are intended to answer a fundamental question: do the energy savings benefits justify the costs associated with achieving these exemplary energy efficient designs. The effort will provide insight into a number of other related issues, such as:

- What specific combination of measures provides the optimal investment in efficiency improvements; that is, minimizes home ownership costs?
- To what extent do advanced envelope designs—those sporting very high R-values, reduced thermal bridging and air tight construction—contribute to overall energy savings and how can these measures be seamlessly integrated into the home production process?
- Do very high performance homes introduce building science challenges that need to be addressed as standards and building practices become more stringent?

This DOE award is timely, in light of the upcoming meeting of the DOE Working Group on Manufactured Housing, recently appointed as a part of DOE’s negotiated rulemaking process, to develop a recommendation for new energy efficiency standards for manufactured housing.

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