



ADVANCED ENERGY'S  
*SystemVision* PROGRAM  
SAVES HOMEOWNERS  
2,400 KWH PER YEAR!

# **SystemVision**

## **Guaranteeing Energy Savings In New Affordable Housing Communities**

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### **Opportunity:**

The majority of families living in affordable housing communities spend close to 20 percent of their household income on energy. With energy usage and costs expected to rise dramatically over the next couple of decades, *SystemVision's* Affordable New Homes Program can help significantly lower homeowner usage and expenses. In addition, as consumers become more sensitive to the environment, they want to make a contribution to reducing their carbon footprint and greenhouse gases.

### **Solution:**

Advanced Energy has designed and successfully implemented a process proven to decrease the total energy use of affordable homes by 15 percent while improving the health, safety and durability of the homes. With the help of *SystemVision*, more than 1,900 homes in our home state of North Carolina have been ENERGY STAR® certified and include a heating, cooling and comfort guarantee. Nationally, more than 180,000 homes have been built to the *SystemVision* performance standard.

### **Methodology:**

*SystemVision* simplifies the standards, training, verification and feedback process for affordable housing developers and builders. The *SystemVision* process includes four phases:

#### **Market Assessment and Program Design**

– *SystemVision* identifies partnerships with local finance agencies, building performance organizations, nonprofit developers and construction organizations to coordinate a successful project. The data gathered is used to customize the program to fit seamlessly within the community and integrate with existing affordable

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housing groups. Upon the end of the assessment, partnerships are solidified and roles are defined. The flow of information and funding are defined and communicated to everyone in the market assessment and program design phase.

### **Training and Integration**

– Once the program is customized to the needs of the market, *SystemVision* incorporates the program into the construction process. In this phase, training is provided to builders and contractors. Marketing, verification and certification processes also begin in this phase.

### **Implementation**

– Construction begins when funding, infrastructure and communication channels are defined and builders and developers are trained. During the implementation phase, *SystemVision* staff monitor quality control and provide ongoing training and support as needed.

### **Verification / Certification**

– *SystemVision*'s final phase monitors the guarantees and provides feedback on the home's performance to occupants, builders, building performance companies and program sponsors.

### **Results:**

*SystemVision* is a flexible, turn-key program. It provides quantifiable energy savings to affordable housing communities. A *SystemVision* home helps families remain in the home they

have worked so hard to purchase by reducing their total energy usage by 15 percent. More than 60 affordable housing developers in North Carolina use *SystemVision*, including Habitat for Humanity affiliates, local governments, community development corporations and a host of nonprofit organizations. Together, they build approximately 400 high performance homes each year. For these homes, Advanced Energy guarantees the heating, cooling and comfort of the home (temperature will not vary by more than three degrees from the thermostat setting in the center of each room).

### **Benefits To Families:**

Using *SystemVision* in the design and construction of affordable housing reaps multiple benefits, including:

- ▶ energy-efficient, comfortable, durable, safe and healthy homes with fewer complaints
- ▶ guaranteed average monthly cost for heating and cooling
- ▶ savings of up to half on heating and cooling bills
- ▶ eligibility for reduced rates from utilities with ENERGY STAR certification
- ▶ guaranteed whole-house comfort
- ▶ long-term durability and affordability of homes
- ▶ increased skills, knowledge and new business potential for professionals in the building industry

- ▶ improved economic development in local communities
- ▶ decreased greenhouse gasses, cleaner environment, less need for new power plants
- ▶ improved home investment and resale value

### **Advanced Energy's Qualifications:**

Advanced Energy is a pre-eminent national resource for energy-efficiency consulting and program design for new residential construction. Our programs and partnerships with utilities, builders, building product manufacturers and contractors have resulted in more than 180,000 homes receiving an energy-efficiency guarantee. The guarantee ensures homeowner energy savings and comfort.

With more than 28 years of experience developing and delivering effective energy-efficiency methods and programs, Advanced Energy is a trusted partner to help you exceed your energy program requirements.

### **For More Information:**

Please contact *SystemVision* at 919-857-9000 or visit our Web site at [www.SystemVision.org](http://www.SystemVision.org)