

ENERGY SAVING IDEAS

Homebuyers Building Comfort, Savings Into New Homes Ⓟ

(NAPSA)—Buying a new home can be an emotional decision, with passion for what is pleasing to the eye frequently overcoming reason and logic. Attributes such as interesting floor plans, designer kitchens and large master suites often take precedent over the features that make a home perform better—energy-efficient construction, windows and equipment.

Selecting a home that has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR® allows homebuyers to keep their focus on the aesthetics while their builder takes steps to ensure better comfort and air quality, minimal maintenance, lower energy bills and a cleaner environment.

Building smarter

ENERGY STAR labeled homes meet stringent energy efficiency specifications set by the EPA and are independently certified by a third-party expert.

During the past five years, the number of new homes earning the ENERGY STAR label has grown exponentially, with newly constructed, ENERGY STAR labeled homes available in all 50 states.

"Homebuyers who choose an ENERGY STAR labeled home can expect to save \$200 to \$400 per year in energy costs," notes Sam Rashkin, national director of ENERGY STAR for new homes. "Even in areas where ENERGY STAR labeled homes are slightly more expensive to build, the energy efficiency features pay for themselves because of lower monthly ownership costs."

Homeowners Alan and Marilyn Cable of Medina, Wis., were pleased to discover the package of benefits that their ENERGY STAR home had to offer. "Our ENERGY STAR labeled home met so many needs. We wanted lots of light, a tight house and low heating bills. We got exactly that—ENERGY STAR really does work!"

Buying a home that has earned EPA's ENERGY STAR is like making a down payment on a cleaner world.



New ENERGY STAR labeled homes help save money on utility bills, but also have a positive effect on the environment.

Making a difference each day

The benefits of owning an ENERGY STAR labeled home extend beyond what the homeowner sees and feels every day.

The energy used in an average home produces nearly double the greenhouse gas emissions of the average car. By reducing energy demand, just one ENERGY STAR labeled home keeps 4,500 pounds of greenhouse gases out of the air each year.

"We need to think beyond the effect that ENERGY STAR labeled homes have on our wallets," says Rashkin. "These homes are a smart investment in our future. They provide a high-quality living space for the families who enjoy them today, while protecting our environment for future generations."

Last year alone, Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved about \$50 billion on their energy bills and prevented greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to that of 10 million cars. Look for other products that have earned the ENERGY STAR, including lighting, appliances, home electronics, windows and heating and cooling equipment.

For more information about ENERGY STAR and to locate a participating builder in your area, visit www.energystar.gov.