

Green Building Features and Benefits

Blue Heron builds value into every custom home by designing communities that are environmentally sensitive and ecologically smart. The elements of each development are carefully considered with a long-term perspective on the region and community. That includes thoughtful site selection, improved energy efficiencies, passive solar design, environmentally friendly building materials and the latest building systems and methods. Blue Heron is a proud member of the U.S. Green Building Council, and an active participant in the National Association of Home Builders Green Building Program. The U.S. Department of Energy has partnered with Blue Heron to implement and study the latest in Best Practices relating to energy efficiency and superior home construction.

AWARDS

Green Home Project of the Year
2009 Gold Award, Dream Home Awards

Sustainable Residential Neighborhood
2009 Golden Nugget Award of Merit, PCBC

Best Green Build
2009 Parade of Homes

METHODS

Passive solar design: Maximizes natural light in the home while minimizing direct solar heat gain

On-site waste recycle program (throughout the construction process)

Smart site selection: Blue Heron strives to develop infill sites that use the existing grid rather than pushing the urban boundaries further out into our natural environment

GREEN INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN YOUR NEW HOME

- On-demand tankless water heaters: Extremely energy-efficient because they only heat water when hot water faucet is turned on - with no hot water tank to run empty, on-demand water heaters create an endless supply of hot water
- Blown-in recycled cellulose exterior wall insulation: Provides superior wall insulation
- 2x6 and 2x8 exterior wall construction: Allows for additional insulation material and an extremely tight building envelope
- Sealed and insulated attic spaces: Insulation is run all the way to the roof deck so that air conditioning duct work is contained in insulated spaces and the entire home is sealed and insulated
- Highly reflective cool roof system: Closed cell foam roofing material is an extremely efficient green product and creates an R-30 roof
- Internal roof insulation: Additional insulation is attached to the underside of the roof to further insulate and supplement the cool roof exterior
- Natural concrete floors: Use of existing foundation of the home as a finish material eliminates the need to manufacture redundant building materials
- Energy Star™ appliances
- Low-flow toilets

- High-performance, low-emissivity windows and sliding doors: Ultra efficient
- High SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) A/C units
- Low-VOC (volatile organic compound) paint: Provides healthier interior environment through improved indoor air quality

AVAILABLE GREEN FEATURES

- Active solar design (photovoltaic solar panels): Flat roof design ensures plenty of space for south-facing solar panels to take advantage of our intense desert sun, while the roof design screens panels so that they are not apparent from the street
- Vapor barrier for exterior walls: Supplements blown cellulose insulation
- LED light fixtures
- Automated energy consumption management systems
- Window packages certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Automatic drop-down solar shades: Further reduces direct solar heat gain
- AISIN™ natural gas-powered heating and cooling system: Revolutionary technology developed by Toyota to conserve electricity and save money on energy bills
- Insulated concrete exterior walls by ARXX™: Effective R-50 insulation values
- Water smart landscape packages
- Storm drain network and underground cistern: Allows for rainwater collection and recycling
- NAHB National Green Building Certification
- SNHBA Green Building Partnership Certification

