

Dear (Reporter Name),

When you buy a new home, you expect it to be constructed to the highest standard for energy efficiency and comfort. Unfortunately, that's not always the case in Utah. In fact, most new homes are built to outdated energy codes, resulting in higher energy bills and costly home repairs.

But there are a handful of homebuilders in Utah that are taking it upon themselves to build to higher energy-efficiency standards than what the state requires – and it's paying off big time – for them and for homeowners.

These builders have proven that it is not only possible, but profitable, to build energy-efficient new homes and save their customers money while doing so – debunking the myth perpetuated by other builders that updating the code would increase costs for them and consumers.

Earlier this year, lawmakers passed on the opportunity to update the state's home energy code. They are now reconsidering. And as Utah's home energy code remains antiquated, ironically, the nation's leading energy code experts will be convening in Salt Lake City next week at the Energy Codes 2011 conference.

Below is more information on Utah's home energy code situation; profiles and contact information for leading homebuilders and their customers; and a round-up of visual opportunities should you decide to cover this story.

Thank you for your attention and please feel free to contact me anytime if you need additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,
Brandy Smith
Utah Clean Energy
brandy@utahcleanenergy.org
801.363.4046

Homebuilder & Homeowner Profiles/Interview sources:

1. Mountain Vista Homes – *Ever Improving Efficiency*

Vitals:

- Builds ~40 homes a year
- Based in Tooele (35 miles from Salt Lake City)
- Price point \$120,000 - \$290,000
- 30-40% more efficient than Utah's current energy code requirements
- Website: <http://utahsgreenbuilder.com/>

Mountain Vista Homes has found it cost-effective to build affordable homes and still make them energy-efficient. In fact, Mountain Vista Homes has increased the energy

efficiency of its home building every year, and last year was awarded *Utah's State Energy Champion* at the capitol Energy Summit.

Tyler Kukahiko, Vice President, Marketing Communications: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2. Garbett Homes – *Efficiency for Everyone*

Vitals:

- Builds ~150-300 homes a year
- Based in Salt Lake City
- Price point \$150,000 - \$269,000
- 30-40% more efficient than Utah's current energy code requirements
- Website: <http://www.garbetthomes.com/>

Garbett Homes is a production homebuilder that builds highly efficient, yet affordable, homes and townhomes in Utah. Families living in a Garbett home can expect to pay up to 60 percent less on energy bills than families in standard homes. They even offer solar as a standard feature on all homes. While the recession has most homebuilders constructing homes at only 25 percent of their pre-recession rate, Garbett Homes has only slowed to 50 percent because homeowners have made energy efficiency a priority in their buying decisions.

Rene Oehlerking, Marketing Director: [REDACTED]

Homeowner **Heather Robbins** bought her first home from Garbett and has seen significant savings. Moving from a two-bedroom condo into a four-bedroom Garbett home, her monthly power and gas bill went from an average of \$173 to \$11.58 last August.

Heather Robbins, Homeowner: [REDACTED]

3. Haskell Homes – *Reaching Beyond the Energy Stars*

Vitals:

- Builds ~20-25 homes a year
- Based in Bountiful
- Price point \$190,000 - \$325,000
- 30-40% more efficient than Utah's current energy code requirements
- Website: <http://www.haskellhomes.com/index.html>

Haskell Homes is raising the bar when it comes to energy-efficient home construction. The Bountiful-based company has developed its own, patented building system, Green Lean, which nearly eliminates construction waste, vastly increases energy savings *and* is cheaper to build than a typical new home. Haskell's homes are 20 percent *more* efficient than an ENERGY STAR new home, the nation's highest standard for efficient home construction.

Guy Haskell, Owner: [REDACTED]

Visual Opportunities:

1. Intermountain Weatherization Training Center

- This new warehouse facility in Clearfield provides hands-on training for the state's home weatherization technicians on a host of different home energy performance and construction measures, including energy-efficient lighting technologies, air leakage testing, and infrared imaging that are used to diagnose and improve the energy-efficiency of Utah's housing stock. The center is available for media tours upon request.
- Scheduling: A tour can be arranged through Jeff Fullmer, 801-773-7877 jafullmer@utah.gov
- Location: Freeport Center Building, A 16-D, Clearfield, UT 84016
- Website: <http://housing.utah.gov/wap/training.html>

2. Garbett's "Deconstruct" Home

- Garbett has taken an entirely new approach to model homes by offering visitors a view of the inner workings of an energy-efficient home. Their model homes are cut in half, literally, so visitors can see into the walls, ceilings, and floors.
- Scheduling: A tour can be arranged through Rene Oehlerking: [REDACTED]
- Locations: Daybreak (Solaris): 4837 West Fish Hook Road, South Jordan UT 84095 *or* The District: 3753 W. Mandrake Way, South Jordan UT 84095

3. Haskell's Green Lean Homes

- Haskell Homes welcomes reporters to tour one of their homes currently under construction or to tour their model home. Owner Guy Haskell can arrange for an energy assessor to come at the same time for live testing with an infrared camera and/or blower door tests of the home's energy-efficient construction.
- Scheduling: [REDACTED] Haskell directly to arrange a time to visit one of their homes: [REDACTED]