

The House That GREEN BUILT



The Home Builders Association of Greater Little Rock (HBAGLR) is constructing its first ever GREEN BUILT model home.

The house is located in west Little Rock's Woodland's Edge, the 2009 Green Development of the Year. The project is a sustainable construction set to ANSI-approved National Green Building Standards. The standards state: "a builder, remodeler or developer must incorporate a minimum number of features in the following areas: energy, water and resource efficiency, lot and site development, indoor environment quality and homeowner education."

April's mild weather was a true boon for the crews working on the house. They have completed the framing and rough-ins for the electrical, HVAC and plumbing installations. These elements are key to some of the home's green features. Plumbing rough-ins were prepared for the two tankless hot water heaters that will be part of the system as were the rough-ins for low-flow faucets and showerheads in the kitchen and baths.

"Electrical features to provide for automation of certain ventilation as well as venting all bath and exhaust fans to the outside air versus the attic were installed as well," Keith Wingfield said. Wingfield is co-project coordinator and president of the HBAGLR.

They've also installed a 20 SEER, two-stage condensing unit HVAC system (the more energy-efficient an air conditioner is, the higher its SEER — seasonal energy efficiency

ratio — rating; a typical system rates between 13 and 23, consumerenergycenter.org). A 95+ AFUE gas furnace with variable speed air handler has also been installed; 95+ refers to the efficiency of the furnace, meaning 95 percent of the fuel used by the furnace is being used to warm the home. A gas furnace with an annual fuel utilization efficiency rating of 95 percent is the most efficient available on the market today.

Wingfield said the system is fully-programmable and includes the best air filtration system available; it removes 99.98 percent of the airborne particles in a home's air to "promote good health and a clean environment." Energy Master Home of North Little Rock provided the system for the GREEN BUILT home.

The tornado shelter has been installed, as have the low-emissivity windows. The windows reduce the amount of radiant heat that enters the home in the summer and help retain heat in the home in the winter. Solaris singles by CertainTeed have been installed on the roof. The shingles "contain advanced colored granules that reflect the sun's rays and can reduce a roof's temperature by as much as 20 percent in the summer" (certainteed.com). The shingles were supplied by Bradco Supply.

For more information about the GREEN BUILT house, log onto hbaglr.com. ■

