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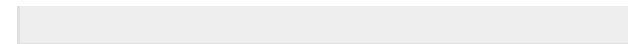
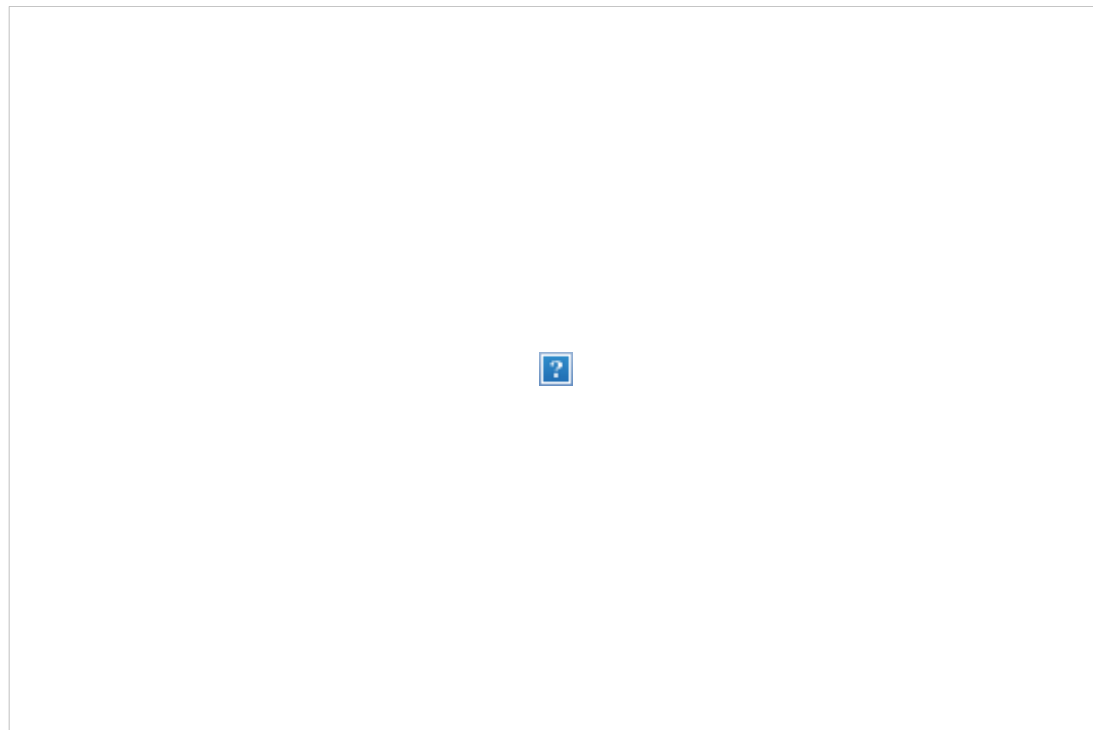


## zHomes Raise the Bar with Net Zero Green House Plans

Posted on 03. Oct, 2011 by [Maryruth Belsey Priebe](#) in [Articles](#)

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With a claim of being the first net-zero community in America, [zHome](#) has to do a lot to impress people who specialize in developing [green home plans](#). The 10-unit townhouse project in the City of Issaquah was recently completed, and they have much for to be proud of.

The zHome benchmarks are what drove the innovations in this community, which include:

- Zero net energy
- 40% water use (compared to conventional homes)
- Healthy indoor air quality
- Really green materials
- Sustainable outdoors



The results are pretty impressive. Check out this list of [green home features](#) and benefits the residents will enjoy:

- R-38 wall insulation and R-60 ceiling insulation to reduce energy consumption by 15%.
- High-efficiency double-paned windows to reduce energy needs by 5%.
- Very tight air sealing to cut energy use by 5%.
- Heat recovery ventilator for fresh air delivery.
- Ground source heat pump for heating and cooling.
- Solar photovoltaics for electricity.
- Forest-Stewardship Council-Certified lumber.
- Multi-family community design to increase density and lower land footprint.
- No lawns and drought-tolerant plants to reduce outdoor water consumption.
- Rain gardens to collect water for use in landscaping, toilet flushing, and clothes washing.
- Pervious pavement to minimize the impact on local sewer systems and

replenish groundwater supplies.

- High efficiency toilets that cut 9% from the water budget.
- High efficiency appliances (clothes washer and dishwasher) to reduce water needs by 21%.
- Sealed garages with ventilation to reduce indoor air pollution from exhaust, gas, and other auto materials.
- Zero urea formaldehyde cabinetry and finishes.
- Construction materials that are manufactured within 500 miles of the project whenever possible.
- Highly durable materials to minimize the need for replacements, such as roofing, siding, and so on.
- Micro car parking to encourage residents to choose fuel efficient vehicles.

Overall, these homes will typically use just over 5,000 kWh of energy, which is a far cry from the nearly 14,000 kWh in a conventional townhome. The homes sell for between \$400,000 and \$600,000, making them priced in the mid-range but since much of this energy will be provided by solar, that means big savings in the long run.



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Tags: [energy efficiency](#), [green house plans](#), [indoor air quality](#), [multi-family](#), [net zero](#), [sustainable materials](#)

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We blog about green building practices to help you create energy efficient homes.

