



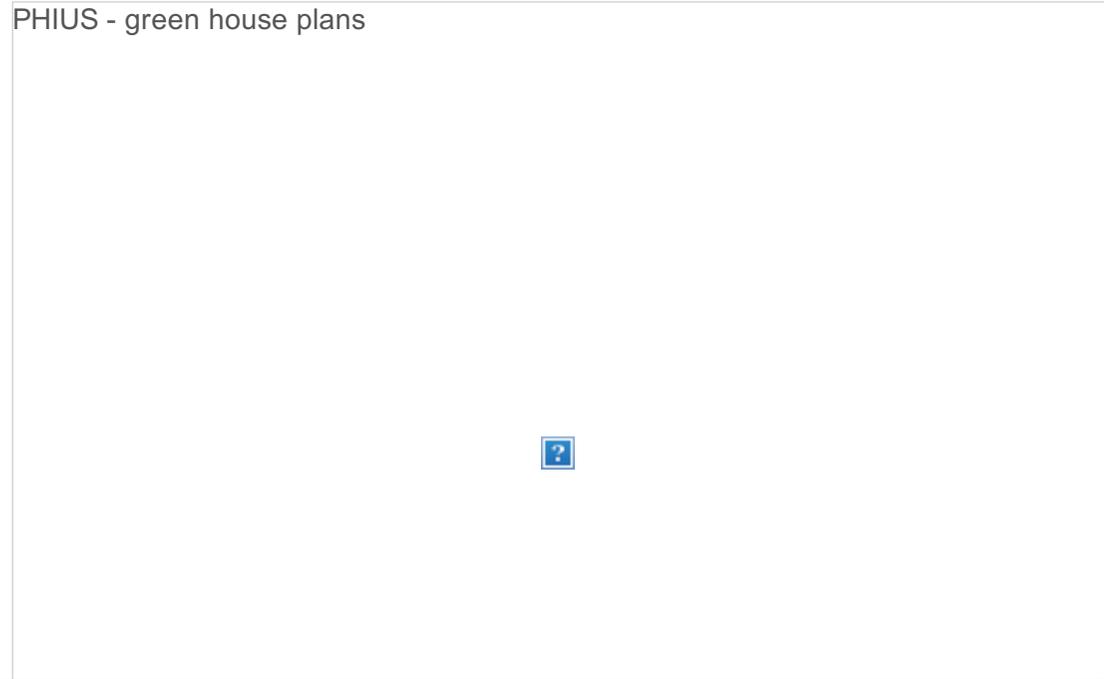
The Blog



5 PHIUS Homes Pay Residents for Living in Them by Cutting Energy Bills 90%

Posted on 18. Jun, 2012 by Maryruth Belsey Priebe in Articles

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The [Near Zero Energy Housing Development](#) in Emlyn community, Whitley County, Kentucky has been unveiled, and residents of the homes should pay 90% less on their energy bills than they would have in a conventional home. The five homes in the development should be near zero energy when they're all complete, which means they will produce as much or more energy than they consume.

So not only will the homeowners pay significantly less in natural gas and electricity costs, they may even receive a payment from the utility company for excess clean energy generated by their rooftop solar panels. In fact, estimates put the income from the solar panels close to several hundred dollars every year.

“These homes will provide low-income families with more financial freedom to budget for other necessities without relying on government energy assistance programs every winter,” said Congressman Hal Rogers and the unveiling ceremony. “The families who will be moving into these energy-efficient homes in Emlyn mirror families across the nation who are searching for affordable homes with affordable energy bills.”

The homes, of which three are already occupied, are being built to [Passive House](#) Institute US (PHIUS) standards, and are supposed to be the first PHIUS homes developed in Kentucky. They're designed using a strategic orientation to maximize solar heat gain and loss depending on the season, and have 14" of super insulation to achieve outstanding energy savings for heating and cooling. ENERGY STAR appliances and other energy saving features round out the [green house plans](#).



The project is a collaboration between three dozen agencies, including the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the University of Kentucky, Kentucky Highlands



Investment Corporation, US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Rural Housing Economic Development program, and the Community Development Block Grant-Recovery program. The homes were built for approximately \$200,000 each for 1,300 square feet, but the homes' prices will be closer to the appraised value of \$115,000, putting them within reach of lower income families. These homes are a great example of how to develop affordable housing that frees of valuable income which families can spend on more pressing needs. Of course, the smaller carbon footprints are a fabulous bonus.

Image via Flickr: [BuddaBoy](#)

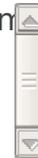


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