

Green building finds a home in Greenville

Greenville
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Groups hope city's first earth-friendly house leads to construction of others

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The house being built at 620 Pettigru Street will be the first of its kind in Greenville; it's environmentally friendly.

Members of the home building and conservation communities hope it won't be the last of its kind.

A 150-point checklist is used to build these homes, making them kinder to the environment and gentler on the respiratory system.

The Home Builders Association of Greenville and Upstate Forever joined forces to bring more environmentally friendly houses to Greenville, saying it will revolutionize construction here, said Hal Dillard, president of the builders association.

The two groups announced Friday the launch

of the EarthCraft House, a program they hope will serve as a model for future construction in Greenville. The program will bring together parties who want to build houses this way.

They say owners will save money on utilities because these homes are more efficient. They'll save on medical bills because construction design will prevent things such as mold. The houses are built with added sealants, better duct work, high-rated insulation, and all with no wasted materials.

The Pettigru Street house owned by Carlton Owen, chairman of Upstate Forever, will be the first EarthCraft house built in South Carolina.

The first 1,000 EarthCraft houses built in the Atlanta area saved more than \$5 million in energy, said Dennis Creech, executive

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■ To learn more about EarthCraft houses and finding a certified builder, go to www.southface.org and click on EarthCraft house

director of Southface Energy Institute, a nonprofit environmental outreach program.

While only one house is being built in Greenville, it can be done in mass quantity to meet the needs of the growing subdivisions on the Eastside and Golden Strip, Creech said.

Dillard said he hopes the idea will catch on quickly in Greenville.

"This could revolutionize how we build houses," he said.

Builders wanting to become certified to do EarthCraft need to be a member of the Homebuilders Association; attend a training seminar; do a design review with EarthCraft staff; and participate in a pre-drywall walk through.