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Venture into homes built with focus on environment

[By Dudley Brown](#)

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From left, Molly, Luke, Curt and Noah McPhail will open their EarthCraft-certified home to tours this week.

Spartanburg's first two EarthCraft-certified homes will be on display this week for those seeking ideas for building their own green home or just wanting to see what one looks like.

EarthCraft House is a green building program designed to protect the environment and reduce utility bills.

Upstate Forever will host the tour of the private residences. It is a nonprofit conservation organization that promotes sensible growth and protection of greenspace in the Upstate. Thursday night's tour will serve as a fundraiser for Upstate Forever.

"Wouldn't it be great if we could no longer keep up with all of the EarthCraft homes being built," said Ned Barrett with Upstate Forever.

The tours begin Thursday night from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday's tour will cost \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. The tour will include light hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer. Tickets are required for Thursday's tour. Friday's tour is intended for builders, Realtors, architects and other building professionals from 10 a.m. to noon. There will be a free tour for the public from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Upstate Forever often receives phone calls from people wanting information on building green, and the organization's Web site is packed with information, including details about special mortgages and local builders who are EarthCraft-certified.

The tours will be self-guided and information will be available on the features in the homes and building materials used.

More information

EarthCraft Tours

Upstate Forever is hosting tours of Spartanburg's first two EarthCraft-certified homes, 117 Sycamore Court in the Andrews Farm neighborhood and 424 Mustang Drive in the Pierce Acres neighborhood. Thursday's tour will be from 6 to 9 p.m. and cost \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Light hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer will be served. Tickets can be purchased by calling 327-0090, or e-mail nbarrett@upstateforever.org.

Friday's tour is for builders, Realtors, architects and other building professionals from 10 a.m. to noon. A free tour will be held for the public from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

On The Web

[EarthCraft House](#)

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