

Sustainable Success Stories

ENERGY STAR for New Homes Ordinance

Goal:

Kansas City, Mo., approved this ordinance to jump-start the development of energy-efficient houses in the city's urban core; to encourage others, who are not involved in the city's annual consolidated planning process, to develop similar housing in competition for home buyers and renters; and to lead the market in development of affordable, energy-efficient houses.

Project Description:

Through the ENERGY STAR for New Homes program, Kansas City created guidelines for all new and rehabilitation residential construction projects up to three stories in height.

The guideline also applies to existing owner-occupied homes receiving services through the city's Minor Home Repair and Weatherization programs to the fullest extent possible.

Community Benefits and Lessons Learned:

By implementing these requirements, the burden of energy cost on low- and moderate-income homeowners of the city is reduced. However, since it is newly adopted, the impact of this ordinance has not yet been realized. Recent completion of five new ENERGY STAR homes prove it can be done in partnership with the city, using leveraged federal funds.

Estimates are that low- to moderate-income families may realize annual energy cost savings of \$400 - \$700 as a result of a one-time investment of approximately \$1.00 - \$2.00 per square foot in the housing.

Funding Sources and Partnerships:

Department of Housing and Urban Development
Community Housing Development Organizations

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