

ECO-FRIENDLY OPTIONS

A developer of master-planned communities gives green building the green light



Architectural rendering: home under construction at press time.

Ponderosa Classics is a new master-planned community under construction near downtown Pleasanton. Every home will include the standard energy efficiency and green features listed here in “Green at a Glance.” In addition, homebuyers can make a further commitment to green living by opting for the Zero Energy Home package and other green features offered by the developer, Ponderosa Homes.

The 2,162-square-foot Alder model, one of four model homes now open, serves as the development’s green building showcase. This three-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath house, built as a Zero Energy Home (described below), includes a Green Gallery exhibit of eco-friendly products and features.

“At Ponderosa Homes, we know that energy efficiency and a healthy environment are important to our homeowners, and we are proud to employ green building principles at Ironwood.”

—Cindy Douglas, developer

ENERGY SAVINGS

ComfortWise® and Energy Star®. Ponderosa Classics at Ironwood are ComfortWise® homes — designed and built for energy efficiency and independently inspected for quality by energy experts. ComfortWise® homes qualify for the U.S. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency’s Energy Star® Homes program. Compared to conventionally built homes, ComfortWise® homes have lower energy bills, are more comfortable, and help protect the environment by reducing pollution associated with energy generation.

Getting down to zero. Homebuyers can choose an optional Zero Energy House (ZEH) package designed to bring the home’s net energy use to very low levels through a combination of energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.

GREEN at a GLANCE

ENERGY & SYSTEMS

- ComfortWise® energy-efficient homes with Energy Star® designation
- Built to be 15% more energy efficient than required by Title 24 Standards
- Recycled-content fiberglass insulation with no added formaldehyde (CertainTeed)
- Double-pane, low-e windows (Milgard)
- Duct mastic on all duct joints
- Water heater jacket (per plan)
- Recirculating hot water pump
- Lighting controls in specified areas
- Range hood vented to outside
- Energy Star® dishwasher (Whirlpool)
- Energy Star® refrigerator (optional)
- Whole house fan (optional)
- Zero Energy Home package (optional)

MATERIALS & PRODUCTS

- 15% flyash in concrete
- Fiber-cement exterior siding (James Hardie’s Hardiplank)
- Approximately 10% of wood framing is FSC certified
- Engineered lumber for beams and headers
- Engineered roof and floor trusses
- OSB subfloor and sheathing
- Fingerjointed studs
- Bamboo flooring (optional)

OTHER GREEN FEATURES

- Recycling of 84% of construction site waste
- Reuse form boards
- Water-efficient irrigation system
- Low-VOC interior paint (Kelly-Moore Enviro-Cote)
- Owner’s manual describing green benefits

Features in the ZEH package include radiant barrier roof sheathing (LP Techshield), which consists of oriented strandboard (OSB) faced with foil to reflect heat away from the roof, keeping the home cooler in the summer. An energy-efficient air conditioner (14-SEER) and furnace (0.92 AFUE) reduce utility bills. Attic ducts and hot water pipes are insulated to further save energy. A tankless water heater (Rinnai) produces hot water on demand rather than storing it in a tank. Recessed fluorescent lighting fixtures save a significant amount of energy compared to standard incandescent light bulbs while providing comparable lighting quality. On selected lots with good south-facing orientation, homebuyers can opt for rooftop solar panels to heat water and a photovoltaic system to generate electricity from sunlight.

BUILT:

Master-planned community under construction

SIZE:

2,100 to 3,000 SF

ARCHITECT:

WILLIAM HEZMALHALCH ARCHITECTS

DEVELOPER:

PONDEROSA HOMES

GREEN GALLERY

Learn why green matters. The Alder model home includes a Green Gallery that showcases energy-efficient and green products and technologies. Attractive, informative signs explain the benefits of green building, including energy efficiency, resource and water conservation, healthy indoor air quality, and more. The Green Gallery offers a convenient way to get an up-close look at technologies such as tankless water heaters and solar electric equipment.

Homebuyers can make a further commitment to green living by opting for the Zero Energy Home package and other green features offered by the developer.

