



For Immediate Release

HVCE, Bolder Architecture and Greenhill Contracting Partner
to Develop Green Acres, the Country's First Zero-Energy
Single-Family Housing Development

(NEW PALTZ, NY) — Builder Anthony Aebi of Greenhill Contracting in Esopus, architect David Toder of Bolder Architecture in Highland, and Hudson Valley Clean Energy (HVCE) of Rhinebeck have teamed to develop the country's first zero-net energy single family residential development. With three residents moved in, four houses under construction, and more than a dozen more in development, Green Acres in the Village of New Paltz offers homeowners the opportunity to secure their energy independence and free themselves of utility bills forever.

"Green Acres is the way of the future in not only trying to make it the first zero-energy subdivision, but that the standards for the homes are such that they shall structurally survive for many generations," said Aebi. "In this real estate market, we have been able to sell all of our spec homes before they have been completed, and for the full asking price. The buyers have all realized that it has been a sound financial investment – if not before the purchase, definitely after moving in."

A home is designated as zero-net energy when it produces more energy than it consumes, resulting in "net-zero energy usage." A zero-energy home (or ZEH) is achieved by implementing a combination of renewable energy sources, heat recovery ventilation, and superior insulation.

"An entire development of zero-energy homes is definitely the cutting edge of the ecological design movement," said Toder. "Once built, each of these homes will use less energy than they generate, which is a sound investment in the environment and in eliminating heating and electricity bills. Additionally, these houses are extremely healthy to live in, with low or no-VOC materials (locally-sourced when possible) and high rates of air exchange and filtration."

Photovoltaic solar panels deliver Green Acres' electricity, and geothermal technology provides heating and cooling by using the earth's constant core temperature to heat the homes during the winter and reversing air back into the ground for cooling in the summer months.

"Given that we built the first commercial zero-energy building in New York State, we were really excited to work on this project," said John Wright, vice president of HVCE, referring to the company's zero-energy Rhinebeck headquarters. "We found that by combining energy efficiency, high-performance building envelope techniques, and geothermal and solar electricity/photovoltaics, we could make this possible and provide these same rewards for all homeowners."

The homes in Green Acres are air-tight, constructed using insulated concrete forms (ICFs), which envelope six inches of reinforced concrete, as well as triple-pane glass windows exceeding Energy Star criteria by 30 percent. Green Acres houses are also equipped with heat recovery ventilation systems which provide superior indoor air quality by continuously circulating fresh air into the home and recapturing heat from stale, outgoing air.

"With the generous state and federal incentives, the elimination of utility bills, and the added value of a certified high-performance home, purchasing a ZEH is a sound financial investment," said David Shepler, the first resident of Green Acres who moved into his ZEH in March 2009. "As the first resident of Green Acres, I can certainly testify that my house and the HVCE systems (solar electric, geothermal HVAC, total recovery ventilator) are in every way living up to their potential. I am proud of these homes, this technology, and HVCE's sound commitment to promoting zero-energy practices and technology."

For those interested in becoming a Green Acres resident, please contact Wendie Reid Realty, the exclusive broker for Green Acres, at (845) 255-5634 or send an e-mail to Wendie@WendieReidRealty.com.

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ABOUT HUDSON VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY: Exclusively serving the Hudson Valley, HVCE is the region's pioneer renewable energy company, with more than 400 systems installed. HVCE's headquarters, located at 13 Hook Road in Rhinebeck, is the first and only zero-net energy, carbon-free commercial building in the entire Northeast. **www.hvce.com; (845) 876-3767**

ABOUT ANTHONY AEBI: As the builder of New York State's first zero-energy home, Aebi is the clear leader in the design and construction of high-performance houses in the Northeast, providing direct contracting as well as a range of consultation services. **greenhillcontracting.com; (845) 594-5076**

ABOUT DAVE TODER: Registered architect and LEED-accredited professional Toder has been running BOLDER Architecture, a full-service green building and design firm creating wise-use spaces for residential and commercial projects, since 2005. **Bolder-Architecture.com; (845) 532-8354**