



LOCAL BUILDER WINS NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARD

Nelson Construction Named Energy Value Housing Award Gold Winner

Press Release: February 17, 2010—Nelson Construction, 340 Main Street, Farmington, Connecticut.

Nelson Construction of Farmington, Connecticut, has been recognized by the NAHB (National Association of Home Builders) Research Center as a leader in energy-efficient construction. As a winner of a **2010 Gold Energy Value Housing Award (EVHA)**, Nelson Construction has demonstrated a laudable commitment to building energy-efficient homes.

Nelson Construction was one of many builders to enter this national competition for 2010 in the “cold climate, production” category and the only one to win gold. In fact, this is the first Gold award received in the state. Owner Chris Nelson is an active member and current president of the **HBA** (Home Builders Association of Hartford County, Inc.), and he has a sincere desire to help advance energy design in the local building community. His company was one of the first Energy Star contractors in the state and also the first US Department of Energy "Building America" builder in Connecticut.

The award winning energy efficient home is one of ten built on Hamilton Way in Farmington Connecticut. Hamilton Way is a small community designed and constructed through a partnership between **Landworks Development** and **Nelson Construction**. Building Science Corporation (BSC) began working with Landworks/Nelson Construction in 2008. Chris Nelson and Armin Rudd (a principal at BSC) connected the goals of the Building America program with the desires of Nelson Construction to build an energy efficient showcase community in the Hartford area. The result of that collaboration was a new community that sold out in less than a year — truly a testament that people want to purchase energy efficient homes in the Farmington Valley.

WHAT IS THE EVHA? Energy Value Housing Award

Now in its 15th year, the EVHA program not only recognizes energy-efficient practices, but also serves to educate the home building industry and the public about advanced technologies and successful approaches to energy-efficient construction that can be implemented by mainstream builders. EVHA winners select framing methods, insulation, HVAC technologies, and appliances that result in high efficiencies, paying careful attention to air sealing, ductwork, and ventilation as well.

Michael Luzier, president of the NAHB Research Center said, “EVHA winners are truly pioneers and innovators in high performance home construction. But the beauty of what they do is not in its novelty, but rather in its ability to be applied to mainstream construction across the county. That is especially important in



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the current economic climate when homebuyers and owners are looking for every opportunity to optimize the value of their home and energy purchases.”

Nelson Construction had a “great deal of focus on the value of energy efficiency before, during, and after the sale of the home. The company demonstrated a very strong commitment to energy efficiency,” the EVHA judges said. “They had an excellent outline of criteria and they clearly demonstrated how those criteria informed the design and selection of materials.” Careful parametric analyses performed during the design phase resulted in only a very small increase in sales price—3% excluding PV—due to the home’s efficiency features.

More about Nelson Construction and their award winning entry

A second-generation builder — Nelson Construction has been in the business of building quality homes and communities in the Farmington Valley for 19 years. In 1996 Chris Nelson was named Builder of the Year for Hartford county and over the years he has accumulated 20 awards for various homes and communities. In fact, every project since forming Landworks Development with Ron Janeczko has earned at least one HBA award. His company’s focus is on excellent design, quality materials, and energy efficient construction. In a changing world of environmental awareness and rising energy costs they are committed to leading the way by building better homes — healthy homes.

With that philosophy in mind, this award winning, 3,128 square foot home is constructed with materials and methods that are leading the industry in healthy, energy efficient construction. These details included: Thermo-mass foundation system - a method where the footings and foundation are fortified with special insulation and sealants; 2 x 6 construction with R-19 blown in cellulose insulation with an additional 2” polyisocyanurate insulation sheathing; critical air sealing of the conditioned space; low-E gas-filled windows; efficient heating and cooling systems; a tankless water heater; solar panels mounted on the south facing roof; and energy star lighting fixtures and appliances.

This award winning home represents the first generation of *green* homes to be built by Nelson Construction in the Farmington Valley; representing an evolution of sustainable building techniques and energy efficient materials. Nelson Construction continues to be at the forefront for their craft producing twenty-first century classics of enduring style and quality.

For more information on Nelson Construction, visit www.NelsonConstructionCT.com or contact Mary-ellen Nelson at 860-674-8061. To learn more about the EVHA program, contact Debra Sagan, EVHA program manager, at dsagan@nahbrc.com or (800) 638-8556, ext. 6210.

ABOUT THE NAHB – The National Association of Home Builders

The EVHA program is managed by the NAHB Research Center, and operated in partnership with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and the U.S. Department of Energy through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. The 2010 award sponsors included BASF – The Chemical Company, Dow Building Solutions, SEISCO International, The Vinyl Institute, American Clay, BuildingGreen LLC, The Vinyl Siding Institute, and Whirlpool Corporation.



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