

For Immediate Release  
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NEWS RELEASE

### **GRANDVIEW HOMES TO CERTIFY ALL NEW HOMES AS EPA ENERGY STAR AND SUNBUILT**

New Port Richey, FL, May 29, 2006 – A first in Pasco County, starting in December 2005, all the new homes built by Grandview Homes in both their Windsor Place at River Ridge and Hampton Village at River Ridge subdivisions are certified as EPA ENERGY STAR homes. To receive this certification, the homes must operate with a minimum of 30 percent lower utility costs than the standard home. To achieve this standard, Grandview Homes is installing passive solar water heaters on every home, another first for Pasco County. By making the solar water heating a standard feature, Grandview is the first SunBuilt Gold Builder in Pasco County, as well. SunBuilt is a program operated by the Florida Solar Energy Research and Education Foundation (FlaSEREF) and the Florida Home Builders Association, for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, to recognize and support builders that offer solar water heating in Florida.

The passive solar water heater Grandview is offering, is a no-moving-parts (passive) pre-heater to the standard water heater in the home. This feature reduces water heating costs by 70 to 90 percent, lowering utility costs by over 20 percent for an average family of four. Combining this solar water heater with the other standard features of the Grandview homes, achieves the 30 percent reduction in utility costs required for Energy Star certification. Beyond the energy savings, the solar water heater also doubles the hot water supply for the home, and provides hot water even if the power is out.

In addition, Grandview Homes is planning two new models in the New Port Richey developments that will be the most energy efficient, disaster resistant, healthy model homes in Pasco County. These model homes will offer 60 to 75 percent lower utility bills than a standard home, using State of Florida Energy Rating calculations. They will also include solid poured concrete walls that have been wind tested to over 250 mph. This wall structure also prevents mold growth in the walls and pest intrusion, and it carries a two-hour fire rating. Other model features will include energy efficient, impact resistant windows, a healthy foam-sealed attic that keeps dust, heat, moisture and insects out of the attic space, the passive solar water, and water-cooled air conditioning system which performs at over 20 SEER. Greywater recycling, saving 30 percent of water and sewer costs, plus nontoxic paints, a fresh air system and Florida-friendly landscaping and irrigation systems are also planned.

Grandview Homes has made a commitment to being a leader in protecting the environment, and in protecting their clients' health and wealth, by working with Eco-\$mart, Inc., the local "green" construction supply arm of the nonprofit Florida House Institute (FHI) for Sustainable Development. Last Summer, the FHI celebrated the ten-year anniversary of its partnership with Sarasota County Cooperative Extension Service in building the Florida House Learning Center, an environmentally friendly model home open to the public in 1994. The learning center is located in Sarasota.

Grandview Homes will be conducting public educational seminars at their new, super efficient models, in order to educate homebuyers about the variety of options available to reduce utility costs, improve health and safety, and reduce environmental impact. According to Mike Boyce, president of Grandview Homes, these features are not expensive, and in fact lower the cost of home ownership every month. "While construction costs for such a home will run 5 to 8 percent higher than a standard home, the 60 to 75 percent lower utility bills, and the lower maintenance costs, actually put extra spending money in the home buyer's pocket every month, after the mortgage plus the utility bills are paid. The healthier indoor air and greater resistance to fire, insects and hurricanes are therefore free to the buyer, paid for by energy bill savings," said Boyce.

Mike Boyce has been building in Pasco County for over 30 years. Grandview Homes builds over 150 homes per year in Pasco County.

For more information, please contact either Matt Ross, President of Eco-\$mart, Inc. at (941) 376-8484, or Mike Boyce, President of Grandview Homes at (727) 846-0000.