

Woodland townhomes are first to reach LEED platinum level

Mutual Housing at Spring Lake has received LEED platinum certification, the first for a multi-family affordable housing complex in Yolo County. The community also received the Environmental Protection Agency's Indoor airPLUS certification.

The 62-apartment and townhome community, built by the Sacramento-based nonprofit Mutual Housing California, opened last year in Woodland's Spring Lake neighborhood.

Energy generated by solar panels on buildings and carport roofs will cover the complex's electricity needs, a news release said. Each home also has a real-time, color-coded meter that helps residents track their energy use and stay within expected amounts for their apartment size.

A water-based system for heating and air-conditioning adds to the energy savings, which are expected to reach 45,439 kilowatt hours and \$58,000 annually, the release said.

Achieving zero-net energy is not just a matter of installing efficient systems; the buildings also must be sealed so energy is not lost.

"It's a much more complicated process to achieve (zero-net energy) than people think," said Vanessa Guerra, Mutual Housing California project manager. "You have to design it in from the very beginning."

Making the complex zero-net energy added only 9 percent to the cost of construction, Guerra said.

With energy-saving devices such as shower heads that turn off once water heats up, low-flow toilets, drought-tolerant landscaping and an intelligent irrigation system, there also should be a 40-percent reduction in water use and costs, the news release said.

Founded in 1988, Mutual Housing California develops, operates and advocates for sustainable rental housing throughout the Sacramento region. Its developments are home to more than 3,000 residents, nearly half of whom are children.

For information, visit www.mutualhousing.com.

Mutual Housing California develops housing that is affordable to a diversity of households. Our housing builds strong and stable communities through resident participation and leadership development. For more information, call (916) 453-8400 or visit our website at mutualhousing.com.



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