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Air Force furthers commitment to greener communities

Hickam Communities LLC



More new homes at Hickam Communities have received prestigious LEED Silver Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for meeting rigorous sustainable building standards. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a USGBC green building rating system.

The homes are located in Onizuka Village where construction of 304 LEED Silver homes began in 2008.

Upon completion, Onizuka will be one of the Air Force's most energy-efficient neighborhoods.

"Actus Lend Lease and the Air Force's commitment to build sustainable communities that positively impact the environment and health of our families has made it possible for us to deliver hundreds of quality, energy-efficient homes," said Jerry Schmitz, project director of Hickam Communities. With the delivery of 100 new homes in the next three months, a total of 204 homes in Onizuka will be completed and certified.

LEED homes are designed and built to meet rigorous standards, which includes a resident education program that teaches families about the sustainable elements of their home and how to maximize their home's energy-efficient features. Additionally, LEED Silver homes use at least 30 percent less energy and water and minimize the use of natural resources. They also provide improved indoor air quality. A healthier and more comfortable feel in homes is achieved by varied components and amenities, including high-efficiency windows, compact fluorescent lighting, EnergyStar quiet bathroom fans, and higher efficiency air conditioning filters to keep more dust out of the air. "Reducing energy is an important objective of the Department of Defense, and we are excited to have the opportunity to work with Air Force leadership and our families to achieve that objective," Schmitz said.

Onizuka Village is part of the Air Force's \$820 million residential development that includes the construction of 1,208 new homes, renovation of 428 historic homes, and building of property and maintenance management facilities and community recreational amenities. To date, more than 1,500 Airmen and their families are living in a new or renovated home.
