



## **New Sunconomy™ Zero Energy Home – Press Release**

### **New Orleans Builder wants to put an end to Electric Bills, provide a Healthier Living Space and a More Durable, Hurricane Resistant House**

New Orleans, LA (May 6, 2009) On Tuesday, May 12 at 11 AM, the future of home building showcases itself in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward. Road Home Builders, a green home pioneer, will break ground on the "next generation" of new home construction. The New Sunconomy™ home, being built for long time resident Mr. Valentine at 1905 Caffin Avenue, New Orleans, is this area's first affordable "Zero Energy" home. The Sunconomy™ home will be built with advanced building techniques which offer superior energy efficiency coupled with electrical power production to effectively create a "no energy cost" house.

Mr. Valentine has been interested in building an environmentally friendly house for years and now sees his dream come true as he helped design and create his vision of the future. "I want a tight, energy efficient house that is safe and healthy to live in. Road Home Builders brought up the concept of a Zero Energy house to me and I jumped at it".

While the house is still connected to the local utility company, the net energy bill at the end of the month should be zero based on an annual average. With net metering provided by Entergy, the electric meter actually runs backward to "credit" the power produced to the consumer. Mr. Valentine stated; "I can't wait to see the meter run backward and know that I'm getting the energy from the sun for free!"

Participants in this futuristic trend hope to show homebuyers that technology and advanced building techniques can actually pay people to live in these homes. For instance, if a homeowner could save \$200 per month on their electric bill and would put the savings in a mutual fund earning an average 10% over a 30 year period (the same as the mortgage), the homeowner would end up with a paid off house and \$452,098 in savings. "That's your grand kid's college education and a huge buffer against the unknowns of retirement" said Larry Haines, President of Road Home Builders. "We ask people if they would like the money or if they would prefer to give it to the utility company and so far not one has said they would like to give it away!"

"Currently, with a 50% solar tax credit from the state of Louisiana, a 30% solar tax credit from the federal government and a homebuyer's incentive of up to \$8,000 to buy a home this year, Mr. Valentine will literally be getting free power for the rest of his life" said Mr. Haines.

The groundbreaking ceremony will showcase affordable housing with the addition of free energy from the sun, a healthier "Green Living" interior, and a house that is designed to withstand 150 MPH winds.

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