

ECONOMIC GAIN THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

# Sustainable Industries



LivingHomes Santa Monica design.

## **LivingHomes takes prefab to next level** by Becky Brun - 10.2.06

In the race to become the first Platinum-rated LEED for Homes project, developer LivingHomes recently took the prize [see “[Living homes for the cultural creative](#),” *SIJ*, April 2006].

LivingHomes used ample technology to create what it calls a “Zero Energy, Zero Water, Zero Waste, Zero Carbon, Zero Emissions” home.

Founded by CEO Steve Glenn, LivingHomes makes and sells prefab homes that are all designed to achieve at least a Silver LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) rating. The Platinum model home, designed by Southern California architect Ray Kappe, received 91 points out of a possible 108.

The 2,500-square-foot house costs about \$250 per square foot, excluding the land, foundation, transportation from the company’s Santa Fe Springs factory, or installation.

LivingHomes’ design is 80 percent more efficient than a conventional residence of similar size, which qualifies the home for Energy Star certification. The company estimates homeowners will save about \$1,500 per year on utility bills.

LivingHomes will release five or six standard models later this year, Glenn said, adding that he is also developing a LivingHomes community on 20 acres in Joshua Tree, Calif. The community’s four homes are designed to achieve a minimum of a LEED Silver rating.

Launched in 2005, the LEED for Homes pilot project is a voluntary initiative to help usher sustainable building practices into mainstream homebuilding. Of the roughly 400 commercial projects registered with the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED program since 2000, about 20 have attained Platinum certification.

© [Celilo Group Media](#). All rights reserved. Permission is required for reproduction in whole or in part. For high-quality reprints of articles, contact FosteReprints at 866-879-9144 or via email: [sales@FosteReprints.com](mailto:sales@FosteReprints.com)  
<http://www.sijournal.com/greenbuilding/4284687.html>