

# Showcase green home building

## Tour brings attention to local energy-efficient builders

**Miles Dyson**  
*Living Green*



The Las Cruces Home Builders Association's annual Spring Showcase of Homes begins Friday, April 19, and continues that weekend and next.

Be sure to schedule time to see the homes

over one of the two showcase weekends. We really have a great community of homebuilders in Las Cruces and I don't think you can match the quality and value anywhere else in the state.

While you are enjoying these 30 beautiful homes, keep in mind that seven of the homes on tour are also certified energy efficient and green. I am sure that this is a record for the number of green and efficient homes available during our Las Cruces showcase.

Flair Custom Home Builders have been a pioneer in construction of Energy Star-certified homes in southern New Mexico and have completed more Energy Star homes than any other active builder in the area. Flair continues the trend with two homes on tour, one in White Sage at Sonoma Ranch and the other in Corazon del Valle in the north valley.

Veloz Homes' showcase entry at 4248 Canterra Arc is an example of this builder's Energy Star-certified product option. This home utilizes an energy and material efficient offset wall frame structure and boasts a very respectable Home Energy Rating index of 58.

Kyle Schueller at Schueller Homes continues to add to his list of Build Green New Mexico (BGNM) certified projects with the new home at 4476 Maricopa Circle in Sonoma Ranch East. BGNM homes must meet stringent guidelines for low energy use while also meeting requirements for low water use, healthy indoor air quality, value protecting site selection and smart use of building materials.

The other BGNM certified entry is from Coyle & Associates. David Coyle is a National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) certified green builder. The Insulated Concrete Form (ICF) home at 2551 Mesilla Hills is a beautiful example of how ICF construction provides exceptional structural and thermal performance with no tradeoff in design.

NetSolar Construction is the new guy on the block, but you would not know it

when you walk through its LEED for Homes platinum and Energy Star 3.0 certified homes in the new Metro Verde NAHB Sustainable subdivision.

Emmanuel Dominguez and Javier Cabrera call on a wealth of design and engineering experience throughout the construction of their structural insulated panel (SIP) homes. SIP is an advanced wall design that uses simple plywood and polystyrene insulation sandwich panels to create structural walls and ceilings that are stronger and far more thermally efficient than standard wood framed construction.

Similar to BuildBGNM, but probably more recognized in the architectural community, LEED-H rigorously requires green best practices are implemented at each stage of construction. NetSolar achieved LEED platinum with the showcase entry at 3602 San Clemente Ave. and is targeting platinum for 3655 Santa Cecilia as well. LEED platinum is recognized as the pinnacle of green and energy-efficient building.

Home Energy Rating indexes on these NetSolar homes that include solar photovoltaic electric production range from 30 down to 20.

Spend some time in these green and efficient homes. Talk to the builders about the low utility costs that their customers pay. Smell the air in these homes and slam the doors – you will see that this is not just a fad but a great way to design and build homes.

*Miles Dyson is the owner of Inspection Connection LC - Professional Home Energy Rating and Home Inspection Services in Mesilla Park and can be reached at 202-2457. Dyson is a RESNET certified Home Energy Rater and ASHI certified Home Inspector. For more information, visit [www.icenergyrate.com](http://www.icenergyrate.com).*

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