

BUSINESS

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Homebuilder Herndon Honored With 'Certified Green' Award

Michael Herndon of Herndon Construction Inc. in Kingston is the first homebuilder in the area to earn the Certified Green Professional designation offered by the National Association of Home Builders University of Housing.

Last year, Oklahoma State Home Builders Association endorsed stringent national guidelines by NAHB Green Building program, one of the first in the country to do so. NAHB is the only green building program certified by ANSI.

The designation recognizes a high degree of professional competence. Achieving the designation requires 24 hours of NAHB-approved training, combined with additional continuing education every two years.

Training for the certification covers several subjects including how green homes require lower energy and strategies for incorporating green-building principles into homes with minimal increase in the cost of construction.

Experts estimate the return on investment comes in about 3.5 years on lesser utility bills. Many people find having a more comfortable, family-friendly environment is worth it.

In addition, Herndon is a Certified Professional Builder, which means he has taken a number of required educational courses, has been a member of the home builders association for at least two years and maintains continuing education hours.

"We chose the NAHB green building professional certification program because it is certified by the American National Standards Institute, which

makes for a true third-party certification," said Herndon of Kingston, vice president/secretary of the Oklahoma State Home Builders Association.

"This sets the gold standard — or should I say emerald — for all programs for its consistency and gives the public confidence that they are truly getting a green home when they see that a builder has the CGP designation."

Also, OSHBA will be hosting a Green Building Summit Sept. 17 with area Realtors. For more information about this, contact OSHBA at (405) 843-5579 or toll-free at (800) 256-9980.

What is a Green Home?

Many elements of a green home are not readily apparent and are designed to minimize environmental impact both during construction and for the lifetime of the home.

The guidelines for the design, construction and operation of a green home cover seven categories a builder is to consider and uses a point system to determine what level of "green" a builder builds.

Categories include: lot design; preparation and development; resource efficiency; energy efficiency; indoor environmental quality; operation, maintenance, and homeowner education; and global impact.

The construction, maintenance and demolition of buildings consumes an incredible amount of energy and resources.

Building green protects ecosystems, maintains safe air and water quality and conserves renewable and



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nonrenewable natural resources. In addition, energy efficiency and resource conservation mean less dependence on imported petroleum products.

Energy and water efficient buildings have lower operating costs. Green buildings typically have a higher appraisal value and owners may qualify for Energy Efficient Mortgages.

For more information about green building and certification go to www.nahb.org or for a listing of Certified Professional Builders, go to Oklahoma State Home Builders Association website at www.oshba.org or go to the Southern Oklahoma Association of Home Builders at www.sokba.com site.