

2009 Builder's Guide to Energy Efficient Homes in Louisiana

Introduction

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Technology Assessment Division (DNR) has updated the 2002 edition of the Builder's Guide. This edition expands important information and includes energy code updates from Chapter 11 of the 2006 International Residential Code (2006 IRC). New chapters have been added on roofs and site selection. The other chapters have been revised to agree with the 2006 IRC.

The purpose of this book is to help the homeowner understand that if his home is energy efficient; not only will they benefit by lower energy bills, but the offshoot of using less energy will be a healthier environment, and a longer time for their family to be able to utilize present energy resources.

This book is therefore to help consumers become more conscious and capable of conserving energy resources. The more energy each family conserves, the less utility companies have to spend for plants and distribution facilities to provide for their customers energy requirements. This translates into less disturbance and destruction of the natural environment, less use of its nonrenewable resources (such as natural gas and coal), and less pollution. Thus the Louisiana citizen, and the environment and natural resources, are all in a "win-win-win" situation if less energy is consumed.

Energy conservation directly benefits Louisiana with less direct energy costs. On an individual basis, residential housing lasts approximately 45 years. Therefore, nominal costs for installing and using more energy efficient construction techniques, materials and, appliances (such as Energy Star appliances) when a customer builds or restores a house will be paid back many, many times over the life of the house.

DNR hopes that updating and publishing the "Builders Guide to Energy Efficient Homes in Louisiana" will enable homeowners and building professionals make Louisiana code compliant homes as energy efficient as possible.

We at the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources feel that the 2009 version of the "Builder's Guide" is a current and "full fledged" reference book for our citizens as well as for building professionals. It is our hope that our customers find it a useful document to guide them in improving present and future housing stock throughout our state.