



Affordable Homes nearing “Zero Energy” Rural Development, Inc.

Colrain, MA

Project Data: Affordable, Single-Family Home

Rural Development, Inc. (RDI) has been recognized nationally as a leader in developing and building sustainable, affordable housing; part of RDI's mission is to provide efficient, healthy, affordable homes to residents of Franklin County, MA. RDI partnered with SWA through the U.S. Department of Energy's Building America Program and the Consortium for Advanced Residential Buildings (CARB) to achieve even greater levels of home performance. With this project, in partnership with local architects Austin Design, Inc., RDI took a significant step towards creating Zero Energy Homes.

During the design of the home, RDI worked closely with CARB and Austin Design, Inc. to incorporate efficiency and renewable energy systems effectively and affordably. The 1,350-sq.ft. home, located in Colrain, MA, is expected to require 72% less energy to operate than a typical code-compliant home. The PV system is expected to provide 74% of the home's electricity needs, and the solar thermal system should provide more than 44% of the space and water heating loads.

This home is also serving as a prototype for RDI. Using many of the same advanced systems (such as double-wall construction and solar electric systems), RDI is working with Austin Design and CARB to design a 20-unit development in Greenfield, MA. The first homes in this development are scheduled for completion in Spring 2008.



Client: U.S. Department of Energy Building America Program

Builder: Rural Development, Inc.

Location: Colrain, MA

Building Type: Residential

Building Size: 1350 sf, 3 bedroom

Project Status: Completed

Reference: www.buildingamerica.gov
www.ruraldevelopmentinc.org

SWA Contact: Robb Aldrich
raldrich@swinter.com