

Background & Contact Information about Ecofutures Building, Inc.

Eric Doub founded award-winning Ecofutures Building in 1994 and is now a nationally recognized expert in super-efficient and healthy homes. Since completing construction of his family's net-zero energy home Solar Harvest, in 2005, Eric has dedicated his company to advancing zero energy home design. Ecofutures currently has several NZEHs under way, including one of the nation's first Beyond Zero Energy / Cradle-to-Cradle homes.

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Explanation of Entry

In an uncertain housing market, Ecofutures Building's continued success as Colorado's leading high performance homebuilder is a testament to President and Founder, Eric Doub's forward-thinking approach to residential design and construction of *verified* net-zero energy homes. Prior to 2005, Ecofutures' new home construction and residential remodels were as "green as they could be" given currently available technologies and best practices, but it was in 2005 that Ecofutures Building rose to the forefront of the green building field by going beyond "green"; Ecofutures became a leader in homes that consume less energy than they produce over the course of a year - the most sustainable kind of home possible from an energy standpoint.

It is for the tremendous contributions to the field of energy efficient home building explained below that Ecofutures Building should be recognized for a GreenDot award. Ecofutures' success as a net-zero energy homebuilder qualifies the company for recognition in both the Design + Build and Services categories, and because the company is continually advancing the art of zero-energy homebuilding through innovation in design, Ecofutures should also be considered as an exemplary candidate for a GreenDot award in the Concept category.

Delivering Comfort, Health, Durability, Value, and Energy Bills Too Low to Matter to Owners of New and Newly Remodeled Homes

In 2005, the company took a huge leap of faith when Eric Doub used personal funds to design and build the award-winning zero energy home, "Solar Harvest." This model home was the City of Boulder's first Net-Zero Energy home and possibly the first in the nation to be code-approved for construction in a cold climate without wood or fossil-fuel burning backup space heat or hot water equipment. As one Stanford researcher commented in 2008, "I'd also like to say congratulations on creating a true zero energy home - this kind of pioneering work is exactly what we need if we're to mitigate climate change impacts. I spent a good deal of time searching the internet on these homes and I can pretty confidently say the Solar Harvest home is the only home with documented, publicly available proof of energy measurements that attest to its performance within the United States".

Solar Harvest achieved Colorado's highest rating for energy efficiency by ENERGY STAR home raters and was received the 2006 CRES Sustainable Building Award. Eric was published over 20 times in 2 years, including the New York Times, and enjoyed speaking engagements at energy and green building conferences nationwide. For the innovation expressed at Solar Harvest, Eric emerged as a national leader in verified net-zero energy residential construction, and has been asked to contribute to a number of green building and energy-related publications.

Since Solar Harvest, Ecofutures has successfully designed, built, and verified performance of 2 new net-zero energy homes and 1 net-zero energy home remodel. The first net-zero energy single-family remodel completed in October 2007 is an all-electric home, efficient enough that the solar electric produces extra energy for charging a Plug-In Hybrid or EV. With Boulder's Smart Grid underway, this home can become a forerunner of V2G (vehicle to grid) technology and practices. The two net-carbon-

neutral luxury homes came on line in May 2008. At 7,000 and 6,000 square feet, respectively, these all-electric net-zero energy homes have live, real-time monitoring to verify their performance.

While these homes were under construction, Ecofutures donated considerable overhead time and resource to research, self-education and innovation. Ecofutures Building pioneered research efforts that lead to the successful implementation of cloudy cold-snap solar storage and advanced regional understanding of thermal envelope assemblies most suited to Colorado's climate.

Beyond the successful design and construction of some of the first net-zero energy homes to grace Colorado's landscape, Eric Doub and Ecofutures Building also share an unwavering commitment to green building in the community by engaging in and supporting several local initiatives. One of the greatest accomplishments this year of Boulder's green building community was the passage of the Boulder County BuildSmart Program – one of the most stringent building codes in the country - made possible in part by Ecofutures Building's support and proven examples of homes performing at the net-zero energy level.

