



For Immediate Release: June 30, 2008

ENERGY STAR®

Qualified Homes

THE POWER TO PROTECT THE  
ENVIRONMENT THROUGH ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY



## An ENERGY STAR® Qualified Home is a solid investment that pays for itself.

For new 1,400 square foot homes built in Gainesville, Florida:

- A recent study conducted by the University of Florida's Program for Resource Efficient Communities found that annual energy costs are about \$1,850.
- Homes built to meet or exceed the **ENERGY STAR®** standard can reduce energy consumption up to 30%, reducing average annual energy costs to about \$1,300.
- The estimated additional cost to build an **ENERGY STAR®** qualified home is about \$2,500\*. A homeowner would actually save money by building an **ENERGY STAR®** qualified home because the additional cost, spread out over the life of a typical mortgage, is offset by the energy savings each month!
- For more details see [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)



Money Isn't All You're Saving

<sup>1</sup> This document is FCS3282, one of an Energy Efficient Homes series of the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. This material was prepared with the support of the Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Energy Office. However, any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Original publication date: June 2008. Visit the EDIS Web Site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

<sup>2</sup> Nicholas W. Taylor, Research Associate, Jeffrey Michael, Housing Systems Analyst, Craig Miller, Associate In, Program for Resource Efficient Communities, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.



# It Pays to Buy ENERGY STAR®!

You can increase the value of your home and put more money in your pocket – while enjoying added comfort!

How? By upgrading to an ENERGY STAR® Qualified Home.

Here's how it works. Let's say you build a new \$150,000 home that meets the energy provisions of the 2004 *Florida Residential Building Code*. It is estimated that your annual energy costs for the home will be \$1,850.

Now, suppose you upgrade to an ENERGY STAR® qualified home – one that is **20 to 30 percent more energy efficient** than the Code home – with an additional investment of \$2,500. Because your home is more energy efficient, you'll pay only \$1,300 a year in energy costs\*\*.

	Monthly	Yearly
Additional Mortgage	(\$18)	(\$216)
Energy Savings	\$46	\$550
Tax Savings****	\$2	\$27
<b>Net Cash Flow☀</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>\$361</b>

This gives you a net positive cash flow from the first month you're in the home! The results below, calculated using HomeCalc software\*\*\*, show the savings gained by current ENERGY STAR homeowners in the Gainesville area\*\*.

	<b>Compare Value</b>	
	<b>Base Home</b>	<b>Energy Star® Home</b>
Sticker Price	\$150,000	\$152,500
Down Payment	\$15,000	\$15,250
Mortgage Amount	\$135,000	\$137,250
<b>Mortgage Payment</b>	<b>\$1,078</b>	<b>\$1,096</b>
Monthly Utility Bills	\$154	\$108
Tax Savings****	None	-\$2
Net Monthly Payment	\$1,233	\$1,203
<b>Net Monthly Savings☀</b>		<b>\$30</b>
Expected Savings After:***	7 Years	\$3,189
	30 Years	\$33,271

**You never talk payback with upgrades on counter tops, cabinets, or carpets— with ENERGY STAR® you never stop talking about payback.....**

\*Based on an estimated 2% increase for standard upgrade features, including a more efficient air conditioning system, hot water system, upgraded windows, increased attic insulation, efficient lighting and appliances. Consult your builder for actual costs of upgraded features.

\*\*Annual energy costs are based on a recent residential energy analysis conducted by the University of Florida Program for Resource Efficient Communities.

☀Yearly figures may not equal 12 times the monthly numbers due to rounding.

\*\*\*Calculations are provided by the ENERGY STAR® HomeCalc model at

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=bldrs\\_lenders\\_raters.pt\\_homecalc](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=bldrs_lenders_raters.pt_homecalc).

\*\*\*\*The tax savings results from a larger federal income tax deduction from the additional interest on the larger mortgage for the ENERGY STAR® home.

**For more information about the ENERGY STAR program, contact:**

### Florida Energy Office

600 South Calhoun Street, Suite 251  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300  
850-487-3800

[www.dep.state.fl.us/energy](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/energy)

