



## Pima County

### MEDIA RELEASE

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## TUCSON IS GOLDEN: FIRST LEED FOR HOMES GOLD CERTIFICATIONS FOR A SUBDIVISION AND AN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY IN THE STATE

*Tucson, Arizona* (August 20, 2010) – Two Tucson projects, Silverbell by Doucette and the Academy Villas, were awarded their LEED Gold certifications by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for achievement in green homebuilding and design. LEED for Homes is a green home certification system for assuring homes are designed and built to be energy- and resource-efficient and healthy for occupants. The grand opening and plaque presentation will be held July 7 at 9:00 am at the Academy Villas 13775 E. Langtry Lane. Congresswoman Giffords and Matt Libby, Manager of Residential Alliances from the national office of the US Green Building Council will be on hand to present the plaques.

The Academy Villas is the first assisted living facility in the Arizona to receive a certification. Two model homes at Silverbell by Doucette are the first production homes in a subdivision to achieve LEED certification in Arizona.

“We are extremely pleased to participate in the USGBC LEED for Homes process”, said Tom Doucette of Doucette Homes. “We are honored to have our distinguished guests present us with this award for sustainable housing development. Silverbell by Doucette is a unique opportunity to offer homes in an affordable price range with partners like the City of Tucson, Pima County, and the USGBC.”

“Academy Villas, the first of three planned 12-room assisted living residences in Southeast Tucson, was built entirely with generous donations from the residents of Academy Village.” said Gary D Fenstermacher, Ph.D, “Members of the community requested a building that would be beautiful in design, highly functional for providing outstanding care, and cost effective. We are delighted that LEED standards assisted us in achieving all three goals, and proud to have attained the Gold level of certification.”

“I am thrilled with Academy Villas and its leadership committed to building green. This approach goes hand in hand with our overall goals at Indevco,” said Kory Dingle, architect at Indevo Inc the architect

and builder of the Villas. “To be able to create such a beautiful, livable environment while also adhering to and exceeding the sound principles of LEED design is quite an achievement. We are very proud to have designed and built the first LEED Gold Assisted Living Home in Arizona.”

LEED stands for leadership in green homebuilding. LEED certification provides third-party assurance to homebuyers and residents that their home complies with rigorous technical requirements for energy and water efficiency, indoor air quality, non-toxic materials, and environmental performance. Homes that are certified through LEED complete a technically rigorous verification process that includes a home energy (HERS) rating and onsite inspections. Lower insurance rates, advantageous financing, and government incentives may be available for LEED-certified homes.

For over thirty years, Doucette Homes has been building communities in the Tucson market. The Academy Village and our Silverbell Community reflect the broad range of our experience and goals for building sustainable residential development

Pima County Building Safety and Sustainability is a LEED for Homes Provider and provides technical support and verification of compliance with LEED for Homes program through out Arizona. For more information about LEED for Homes in visit [www.pimaXpress.com/green](http://www.pimaXpress.com/green)

See also: <http://azstarnet.com/business/local/e43c752a-e320-55a7-8569-6b59777c7359.html>

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### **About USGBC**

The U.S. Green Building Council is a nonprofit membership organization whose vision is a sustainable built environment within a generation. Since USGBC’s founding in 1993, the Council has grown to more than 20,000 member companies and organizations and a comprehensive suite of LEED® green building certification systems. Its membership includes corporations, builders, universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations all sharing the Council’s commitment to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. For more information, please visit [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

### **About LEED® for Homes**

LEED® for Homes is a third-party certification system for building and designing high-performance green homes that are energy-and-resource-efficient and healthy for its occupants. Developed and administered by USGBC, LEED for Homes awards points to projects in eight categories of environmental performance: Innovation & Design Process, Location & Linkages, Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Indoor Environmental Quality, Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources, and Awareness & Education. To date, more than 2,200 homes have been LEED-certified, and over 14,600 are registered and under development. For more information, visit [www.thegreenhomeguide.org](http://www.thegreenhomeguide.org).

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