



Pima County Development Services Green Building Program

MEDIA RELEASE

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FATHER-SON TEAM BUILDS TUCSON'S FIRST PLATINUM HOME

Tucson, Arizona (October 6, 2010) – Tucsonans David and Andrew Lutz have gone Platinum! Confirmation was received from the US Green Building Council that a home built in Tucson by Lutz Construction has achieved the highest rating possible in the LEED for Homes Green Building Rating System and the first LEED certified Platinum home built in the Tucson area. This father-son team initially set their sights on building a home meeting LEED Gold certification. After they started the process and received feedback on the energy efficiency of the home, they decided to go for Platinum. 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.

“We started off building this home with the latest iteration of building techniques that we have used on our previous projects,” said Andrew Lutz, “and it turns out that this happens to be LEED Platinum.” To be LEED Platinum, the home includes green features in all six broad categories of sustainable measures from its location in the community to indoor air quality. The home, at 1240 E Blackledge, is served by over 280 possible transit rides per day achieving the maximum points for community resources. The home has measures to improve indoor air quality including low VOC finishes that are sustainable, durable and attractive. To conserve water, the home has a grey water collection and reuse system, rain water harvesting for the yard, in addition to low flow water fixtures. Also, the home is 70% more energy efficient than a standard code built home, which will conserve energy and save the residents money for years to come.

Lutz Construction is a father-son team that has been serving the Tucson area for the last 25 years, focusing on custom remodels, additions, and new construction. The team specializes in energy efficient construction methods including LEED, Energy Star, ICF (Insulated concrete forms), SIPs (Structural insulated panels), and Autoclaved concrete. Lutz Construction believes in a truly hands-on approach to building, being involved in all aspects of a project from design to completion.

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What is LEED?

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and in this case, leadership in green homebuilding. LEED certification assures homebuyers and residents that their home has met 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 rating (HERS) and onsite inspections. Lower insurance rates, advantageous financing, and government incentives may be available for LEED-certified homes.

Who Can Help a Builder Go LEED?

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 visit www.pimaXpress.com/green .

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.

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.