

Report In Progress

City homes for the next 100 years

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East Liberty
DEVELOPMENT, INC.

East Liberty Development, Inc.
Liberty Bank Building, Suite 201
6101 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

T: 412-361-8061
F: 412-362-3231

www.eastlibertypost.com



Prototype homes on North Euclid Avenue in East Liberty are built well beyond the International Building Code requirements for energy efficiency.

In a historical neighborhood like East Liberty, many homes lack the energy-saving features of more updated, modern houses. Thanks to several green residential development projects, the neighborhood's homes are becoming more sustainable and energy-efficient.

Zero-energy house

East Liberty Development, Inc. is partnering with **West Penn Energy Solutions** to rehab the home at 710 North St. Clair St., turning it into a zero-energy house that will actually produce more energy than it uses. WPES is serving as the contractor on this project, overseeing an energy-efficient retro-fit for the entire house.

In support of WPES, ELDI has raised funding for the implementation of this project as well as education and outreach. **PurBlu Beverages**, with **The Sprout Fund**, has provided a \$1,000 grant to spread the word about the house throughout the region. ELDI provided a grant of a \$5,000 through its East End Sustainability

Project (funded by the **Heinz Endowments**) for the energy-efficient rehab.

Energy efficient prototype homes

In addition to this zero-energy house, ELDI has built six prototype homes, all twice as efficient as an Energy Star-rated residence. The high-performance HVAC system, designed to circulate just the right amount of air, is a big contributor to each homes' energy efficiency. Plenty of insulation also saves energy, keeping warm air in during the winter and out during the summer. Finally, homes are built using thermal bridging. This technique places stronger studs further apart, eliminating some of the cold air that can travel through the studs.

These homes bring new construction into the city, said ELDI Project Manager Eric Jester, and show suburban home builders that building within the city limits is indeed possible. So far, ELDI has sold three of the prototype homes, with a fourth in the works. ELDI has also received a signed agreement from a buyer to construct a

In other news...

CDCP Grant

ELDI recently received a Community Design Center of Pittsburgh (CDCP) Grant to support the Borland Garden project, which will transform vacant lots into a sustainable, multi-purpose urban garden on Black Street.

new home on a vacant lot, following the prototype models.

Happy homeowners

Chuck and Julia Reynolds were the first people to purchase one of the energy efficient prototype homes, the Dickinson model.

"This gave us the chance to have a decent-sized home that is really well laid out, and bright inside, without a lot of work to do," said Julia. "We still have the feeling of being in the city, in an older neighborhood, which we like."

"I love the clean, modern lines and the high ceilings," said Chuck.

East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) is dedicated to revitalizing East Liberty. We are a Community Based Organization (CBO) that plans, advocates, facilitates and invests in our neighborhood.

