

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

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**EarthCraft House™ Pilot Program Houses Open for Public Tour**

Charlottesville-area homebuilders will be featured in a Blue Ridge Home Builders Association Parade of Homes open house over the weekend of August 13-14, 2005. Five of the six Charlottesville-area homebuilders who are building model homes under this program will be involved with the open house which takes place from noon to 5 pm on the two days.

EarthCraft House™ homes include a variety of features that save homebuyers money on energy bills, provide excellent indoor air quality, and include environmentally friendly and durable products. These builders, all members of the Blue Ridge Home Builders Association (BRHBA), are working with Virginia Sustainable Building Network (VSBN) and the U. S. Department of Energy Building America Program, to introduce EarthCraft House™ Program building guidelines to Virginia homebuilders and to the home-buying public.

The EarthCraft House™ Program was originally developed as a joint effort in Georgia between the Southface Energy Institute and the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association. The Earthcraft House™ Program earned the 2004 Green Program of the Year award, given by the National Association of Home Builders, for its success in providing an effective program that has already engaged over 150 builders and certified over 2,000 homes in the Atlanta area.

The builders involved with the program are Doug Lowe, President, **Artisan Construction, Inc.**; Doug Kingma, President, **Kingma Developers Inc.**; Duncan MacFarlane, Owner, **MacFarlane Homes, Inc.**; Linda Lloyd, Principal, **The Quarries LLC**; and Glenn Robertson, Owner, **Smith Robertson Inc.**, and Mark Watson, **Piedmont Housing Alliance**. The Smith Robertson house is already occupied and will not be part of the tour. They are working with VSBN and building science consultant, Charles Bowles, of The Energy Consortium, to develop house designs and construction practices that will yield homes with high levels of energy savings and increased comfort for homeowners.

Supporters and sponsors of this program include the Energy Division, Virginia Division of Mines, Minerals, and Energy; the Home Builders Association of Virginia; and the U. S. Department of Energy Building America Program. Find out more information about the Blue Ridge HBA involvement with the EarthCraft House™ Program by contacting Katie Hayes, Executive Vice President, at 434-973-8652. For information on Green Building, visit VSBN's website: [www.vsbnet.org](http://www.vsbnet.org). For information on EarthCraft House™ Program visit [www.southface.org](http://www.southface.org); for information on the U.S. Department of Energy Building America Program, visit [www.buildingamerica.gov](http://www.buildingamerica.gov).