

Earth Craft House Program Welcomed to Virginia

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The Earth Craft House program was officially welcomed to the Commonwealth by Governor Tim Kaine Thursday.

Earth Craft homes were first spotted in Virginia about one year ago when the program did a test run in Charlottesville. A year later, this program is being called a success.

Spending a little extra money while building your home could save you a lot of money for years to come. Earth Craft Homes use more energy efficient lighting and appliances as well as recycled high air quality standards and recycled building materials.

Governor Tim Kaine endorsed the efforts of the Earth Craft House program and the Virginia Home Builders Association. The organizations say they want to bring these environmentally friendly and energy efficient homes to everyone who wants one in Virginia. It is an investment they say will be a little costly up front but beneficial down the road.

Eric Oliver of the Virginia Sustainable Building Network stated, "The additional costs, on that mortgage, on a monthly basis is going to be much lower than the energy savings that you are going to be getting each month. It's not unreasonable to think that 40 to 60 percent of your energy bills can be reduced each month."

Doug Kingma of Kingma Developers Inc. stated, "The goal would be to make it a brand that is one of the features that you should be asking for in your home."

Homebuilders have to apply to be part of the Earth Craft House project and then have the homes privately inspected and certified through the program.

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