

For Immediate Release

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**Idaho Builder Wins National Home Production
Builder of the Year Award**

*– Active West Builders of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho wins
Outstanding USGBC LEED-Home Production Builder –*

TORONTO (October 2011) – The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) has named the recipients of the 2011 LEED for Homes Awards, recognizing projects, developers and homebuilders who have demonstrated leadership in the residential building marketplace. The awards were presented during the 2011 Greenbuild International Conference & Expo held in Toronto, which had over 23,000 attendees. The 2011 award categories recognize innovative multi and single-family projects, production builders, affordable housing projects and developers, an overall commitment to LEED for Homes, and Project of the Year.

“Healthy, high performing residential projects don’t have to cost more, and that is evidenced in many of this year’s winning projects” said Nate Kredich, Vice President, Residential Market Development, USGBC. “LEED builders continue to push the envelope in areas of innovation and affordability, and so we tip our hats to the dedicated leaders represented in this year’s winners circle.”

ActiveWest Builders (AWB) was recognized as the winner in the **Outstanding LEED-Home Production Builder** category for its Meadow Ranch Development in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Certified as a LEED® for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) project, Meadow Ranch embodies the ideals of livable, healthy and efficient community design. Dennis Cunningham designed the project with an aging population in mind, as it was developed to meet the changing needs of active adults looking to downsize but maintain homeownership. Furthermore, AWB was also a **Finalist in the Outstanding Commitment** category.

All of the homes in Meadow Ranch are built to the stringent standards of USGBC’s LEED for Homes Certification Program. A LEED-certified home is designed and constructed in accordance with the rigorous guidelines of the LEED for Homes criteria. LEED for Homes is a consensus-developed, third party-verified, voluntary rating system which promotes the design and construction of high-performance healthy green homes. In 2011 AWB will have over 32 LEED Platinum or Gold homes registered or certified.

“Living in a LEED-certified home not only means you will be saving money and precious resources, it also means that it’s more durable than a non-certified home “The quality of the products and the different green strategies used within the home means that its owners will be enjoying their high-performing home for years to come. “While demand for traditional residential construction is slowing, the green housing market continues to grow and Meadow Ranch is a great example of why this is,” continues Nate. “LEED certified homes are healthier places to live, produce lower utility bills, have better air quality, and leave a smaller environmental footprint behind.”

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According to Dennis Cunningham, President of ActiveWest Builders, the developer and builder of Meadow Ranch, "By following LEED principles we offer healthier, more energy-efficient homes and neighborhoods that revitalize an existing urban area and help preserve our environment. In 2009, Meadow Ranch won the Idaho Smart Growth & Green Building Award. In 2011, we were awarded LEED-ND Certification, and finishing up 2011 with Outstanding LEED-Home Production Builder on a national scale is a great achievement. This small builder in N. Idaho jumped ahead of several Fortune 500 builders like KB Homes to win this year's category!"

The independent panel of judges included:

- Les Blueston, **President of Blue Sea Development**
- Daniel Clark, **Director of Facilities and Safety, Bastyr University**
- Jay DeChesere, **Architect**
- Wendy Koch, **USA TODAY reporter and editor, and "Green House" blog writer**
- Chad Ludeman, **President of Postgreen Homes**
- Tom Wade, owner of **Artistic Homes**
- Dan Wilson, **Director of Construction, Habitat for Humanity Sacramento**

This past summer Active West Builders completed a 3-story, 14-unit Student CO-OP Housing building geared for Gonzaga University students. The state-of-the-art contemporary building achieved LEED-Platinum Certification by USGBC in July.

To learn more about ActiveWest Builders, visit ActiveWestBuilders.com

To learn more about LEED for Homes, visit usgbc.org/homes.

About U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

The U.S. Green Building Council is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. With a community comprising 79 local affiliates, nearly 16,000 member organizations, and more than 168,000 LEED Professional Credential holders, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to contribute \$554 billion to the U.S. GDP from 2009-2013. USGBC leads an unlikely diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org, [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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