



U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL
IDAHO CHAPTER

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MEADOW RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD AWARDED LEED® ND CERTIFICATION

Boise, Idaho – (January 21, 2011) - The U.S. Green Building Council® (USGBC) – Idaho Chapter is proud to announce the recent certification of Meadow Ranch under the USGBC LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED ND) Pilot Program, which is a rating system that integrates the principles of smart growth, new urbanism and green building into the first national standard for neighborhood design.

LEED ND certification is a distinctive achievement for Idaho and the region. Meadow Ranch is one of approximately 80 certified projects out of the 239 projects registered for the pilot program around the world and one of two such neighborhoods in Idaho.

LEED ND evaluates projects in three primary categories: Smart Location and Linkages, Neighborhood Pattern & Design and Green Buildings & Infrastructure. Meadow Ranch achieved a balance of credits between these categories, with the strongest performance in Green Buildings. All homes are registered for LEED for Homes certification, with 5 homes certified at the highest level of LEED Platinum, 2 Gold (next highest) and 13 more pending national review.

According to current USGBC Idaho Chapter Chair, Lindsay Erb, “Of all the LEED Rating Systems, LEED ND has the most significant impact in making our communities more livable and sustainable. It is a model for planners everywhere. Meadow Ranch is leading the way for a better Coeur d’Alene.”

Meadow Ranch, an active adult community in Coeur d’Alene, has applied these principles to create a livable, healthy and efficient neighborhood where residents pick vegetables from the community gardens, share wine on each other’s front porches and compete on who has the lowest utility bills and least maintenance.

What LEED ND calls a “smart” or “preferred” location; residents of Meadow Ranch call convenience. This infill location next to Fred Meyer is within a half mile of over a dozen local amenities—from stores and restaurants to schools and bike trails. This neighborhood offers a variety of semi-custom home designs, square footage and pricing for those seeking an active simpler lifestyle.

The benefits of LEED neighborhoods go beyond individual appeal and include a cleaner environment, a more robust local economy and healthier communities. Neighborhoods with decreased car use combat toxic air pollution, which can cause asthma and other respiratory illnesses. By building compact neighborhoods in previously developed areas, projects can help conserve water and other natural resources, protect habitat from fragmentation, keep air clean, and support local agriculture. Inviting streets and great public spaces foster a sense of community, and invite casual interaction among neighbors. Locating housing nearby community conveniences can increase foot traffic to local businesses.

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. This is a great achievement for us starting 2011. In 2009, Meadow Ranch won the Idaho Smart Growth & Green Building Award and LEED ND is another major mile stone.”

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The U.S. Green Building Council is a nonprofit membership organization whose vision is a sustainable built environment within a generation. Its membership includes corporations, builders, universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations. Since UGSBC's founding in 1993, the Council has grown to more than 18,000 member companies and organizations, a comprehensive family of LEED® green building rating systems, an expansive educational offering, the industry's popular Greenbuild International Conference and Expo (www.greenbuildexpo.org), and a network of 80 local chapters, affiliates, and organizing groups. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.

USGBC Idaho Chapter is a 501(c)3 organization in Idaho dedicated to accelerating the implementation of sustainable planning and building concepts, technologies and practices in Idaho through education and advocacy. The members envision a healthy and sustainable future through the promotion and application of environmentally, economically, and socially responsible strategies to the built environment.
www.usgbcidaho.org

ActiveWest builds high performance, healthy, green homes and buildings in Idaho and Washington.
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