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**First Active House in the USA To Be Built in Webster Groves, MO**

*Hibbs Homes to Partner with several key building partners and Active House Alliance to build Active House USA in Spring 2012*

ST LOUIS, MO - DECEMBER 14, 2011 - Kim Hibbs of [Hibbs Homes](#) and consulting partner Matt Belcher of [Verdatek Solutions](#) are partnering with the Active House Alliance to begin construction on the first Active House prototype in the United States in early 2012.

This custom home brings together expertise from industry leading sustainable building practices in the United States and the Active House practices that have been developed in Europe, and will define the next generation of sustainable building.

Hibbs Homes is working with key Active House Alliance partners in Europe as well as industry leading green building partners here in St. Louis to develop and construct the home in Webster Groves, MO. The home is being designed using Active House Standards and to meet, or exceed, four North American sustainable building certifications: Energy Star, EPA Indoor Air Plus, Building America Builder's Challenge and [ANSI ICC-700-the National Green Building Standard](#).

Active House USA balances three key sustainability factors: actively balanced energy consumption, outstanding indoor climate, and positive impact on the surrounding environment. These three key, sustainability components help guide decisions on materials, resources, and design, and are defined by the [Active House Alliance](#) as follows:

**Energy**

An Active House is a building that is energy efficient and easy to operate; a building that substantially exceeds the statutory minimum in terms of energy efficiency; a building that exploits a variety of energy sources integrated in the overall design.

**Indoor Climate**

The indoor climate of an Active House promotes health, comfort and sense of well-being; is a building that ensures good indoor air quality, has adequate thermal climate and

appropriate visual and acoustical comfort; provides an indoor climate which is easy for occupants to control; and encourages responsible environmental behavior.

### **Environment**

An Active House building exerts the minimum impact on environmental and cultural resources; is a building that avoids ecological damage and adds to local biodiversity; is a building that is constructed of materials with high recycled content; and provides for its own recycling or re-use.

This project marks the first Active House in the USA, and is located just fifteen minutes outside of downtown St. Louis. This location is ideal because designing the prototype in St. Louis's mixed humid climate requires that cold and warm climate specifications be taken into account, allowing for easy translations of the prototype into other homes in the United States.

Architect Jeff Day of Jeff Day & Associates is working with the homeowners now to define the design requirements, and the homeowners are excited to begin construction on their new home in spring of 2012.

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*Hibbs Homes is a leading custom green homebuilder in the St. Louis area. Since leaving his career in broadcasting in 2006, owner and general contractor Kim Hibbs has been building high-performance and luxury homes for a variety of price ranges and lifestyles. Hibbs speaks to local building professionals and architecture students on a variety of green building topics, and built one of the first gold level green verified homes in the St Louis area. Hibbs is a Certified Green Professional through the National Association of Home Builders, and is active in the St Louis Home Builder's Association where he currently serves on the board.*

*Matt Belcher is a nationally recognized green builder, consultant, and educator. He has been actively involved in the St. Louis construction industry for three decades, including six years as a building code official. His firm, Verdatek Solutions, specializes in green homes, light commercial construction, agricultural building, and low-impact development. Belcher serves as Chair of the NAHB's Green Building sub-committee and also served on their Energy and Construction Codes and Standards committees. Belcher was appointed by the ICC to serve in the development of the new International Green Construction Code and was recently appointed to the ICC's Residential Energy Committee.*