

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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****Media Alert****

First Active House in US Breaking Ground in Webster Groves, MO
Builders, Active House Alliance Members, Homeowners, Architect, Homeowners, and local officials will be on hand for groundbreaking ceremony May 2.

WHAT: Active House USA partners and Active House Alliance are celebrating the beginning of construction on the first Active House prototype home being built in the US. For more information about Active House USA, please visit the website at ActiveHouseUSA.com.

WHO: Active House USA building partners, local officials, and Active House Alliance members from Denmark will be on hand for the ceremony, interviews, and a luncheon meeting will immediately follow the ceremony.

Kim Hibbs-[Hibbs Homes](http://HibbsHomes.com), Active House Builder

Matt Belcher-[Verdatek Solutions](http://VerdatekSolutions.com), Active House Project Manager

Jeff Day-[Jeff Day and Associates](http://JeffDayandAssociates.com), Active House Architect

Mikkel Scott Olsen-Chairman of the European based [Active House Alliance](http://ActiveHouseAlliance.com)

David, Thuy and Cameron Smith-Active House homeowners

WHEN: Wednesday, May 2, 2012

10:00am-Speeches and Groundbreaking Ceremony

11:00am-Lunch and project presentation at Highway 61 Roadhouse sponsored by Active House partner [Laclede Gas](http://LacledeGas.com)

WHERE:

Groundbreaking Ceremony - 215 Gray Avenue Webster Groves, MO 63119

Luncheon – Highway 61 Roadhouse, 34 South Old Orchard Avenue Webster Groves, MO 63119

WHY: Active House home builder Kim Hibbs of [Hibbs Homes](http://HibbsHomes.com) and Active House project manager Matt Belcher [Verdatek Solutions](http://VerdatekSolutions.com) will mark the beginning of

construction on the first Active House prototype in the United States on May 2, 2012 with a groundbreaking ceremony.

Active House USA is a custom, green home prototype being built in Webster Groves, MO that brings together industry leading sustainable building practices in the United States and the Active House practices developed in Europe to 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 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 it is being built 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 North America.

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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.

Verdatek Solutions is a construction firm specializing in green homes, light commercial construction, agricultural building, and low-impact development. Verdatek Solutions is owned and operated by Matt Belcher, a nationally recognized green builder, consultant, and educator. Belcher has been actively involved in the St. Louis construction industry for three decades, including six years as a building code official, and has recently become a consulting partner with Hibbs Homes. 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.