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[ActiveHouseUSA.com/Press-Room](http://ActiveHouseUSA.com/Press-Room)



**First Active House in US Breaks Ground in Webster Groves, MO**

*Builders, Active House International Alliance Members, Homeowners, Architect, Homeowners, and local officials were on hand for groundbreaking ceremony May 2.*

ST LOUIS, MO – MAY 2 2012 – [Active House USA](http://ActiveHouseUSA.com), a custom, sustainable home under construction in Webster Groves, MO, began the construction process by breaking ground at the construction site at 205 Gray Avenue on May 2, 2012. The ceremony drew a large crowd of neighbors, trade partners and media outlets including Webster Groves Mayor Gerry Welch, and key Active House Alliance members from Denmark, Henrik Norlander and Mikkel Olsen.

This prototype home is the first of its kind in the United States, and will define the next generation of sustainable home building in this country. This innovative, sustainable home is being built by Hibbs Homes and Verdatek Solutions, St Louis's leading green homebuilders, in cooperation with Laclede Gas, Velux, the Active House Alliance, and many local and national trade partners are building this innovative home. You can see a full list of project partners who have signed on to support this important project by visiting [www.ActiveHouseUSA.com/partners](http://www.ActiveHouseUSA.com/partners).

Active House USA combines innovations and expertise from industry leading sustainable building practices and certifications here in the United States and abroad, including: Energy Star, EPA Indoor Air Plus, Building America Builder's Challenge and ANSI-700, also known as the National Green Building Standard, and those developed by the Active House Alliance in Europe.

"I am both thrilled and honored to be involved with this project. Hibbs Homes has been building high-performance sustainable homes for several years in the St. Louis area, but the Active House raises the bar for me, my staff, and my trade partners," said Kim Hibbs, owner and general contractor of Hibbs Homes. "We look forward to the challenge and delivering a truly unique home to our client."

Construction began with the groundbreaking and the homeowners, David and Thuy Smith, expect to take occupancy of the home in the fall. The University of Missouri Columbia Center for Sustainable Energy will monitor and document energy consumption and indoor air quality during the first year the Smiths live in the home,

an effort which will also be one of the first of it's kind to officially document and prove out the benefits of green home building using these criteria.

The geographic location of the home in St Louis, MO is ideal because designing the prototype in the area's mixed-humid climate requires that cold and warm climate specifications be taken into account, allowing for easy translation of the prototype into other homes built to the north and south in the United States. This prototype home is also unique in that it is being built as an infill project in an historic neighborhood close to downtown shopping and restaurants, which means that the architecture and the materials used in the home not only have to meet Active House and green building requirements, but also compliment the personality of the surrounding neighborhood.

Please visit [www.ActiveHouseUSA.com/press-room](http://www.ActiveHouseUSA.com/press-room) for materials and information. Additional photos, video and interviews are available upon request, or to schedule and interview please contact Melody Meiners, [melody@hibbshomes.com](mailto:melody@hibbshomes.com) or 314-807-5929

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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.*