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**First Active House in North America Nears Completion in Webster Groves, Mo.,
Opens its Doors for Public Open House on Saturday, March 9, 2013**

*Hibbs Homes and Verdatek Solutions built Active House USA,
an industry innovating, green prototype home in suburban St. Louis*

ST LOUIS, February 19, 2013 – The coasts seem to get most of the credit and big projects when it comes to green building, but that paradigm is changing with the completion of Active House USA in the St. Louis suburb of Webster Groves, Mo.

This industry innovating home was built as a prototype home using the Active House specifications developed in Europe, and will be certified under four prestigious, US green building standards including the ANSI-700 National Green Building Standard, EPA Indoor Air Quality, Energy STAR, and Builder's Challenge Home initiatives. As a prototype, this home is helping to promote and advance these green building standards, and includes many top-of-the-line green building technologies and products used today, making it a shining example of what high performance green building is capable of.

Because of the mixed climate zone in St. Louis, the Active House USA location is ideal for a prototype. The design and components of the home meet both the needs of hot, humid summers and frigid, icy winters, making the prototype translate well both in the north and south, as well as more consistent climates around the country.

Active House USA takes a holistic approach to energy efficiency and whole house systems integration. The home's solar orientation and systems actually produce more energy than is used via lighting and solar products that harness the natural and free energy sources.

The home's location in the historic Old Webster district of Webster Groves, Mo. meant that it had to uphold and blend well with the character and charm of the surrounding, century old homes. This challenge meant that, unlike the other Active

Houses around the world, the energy collection could not dictate the aesthetics of the home. So this very advanced home has all the charm of an old home, but far out performs it's neighbors in terms of energy usage and indoor air quality.

In addition to bringing together industry leading products, the Active House USA partners and providers are some of the most respected and knowledgeable companies in the green building field. Thanks to an outstanding team and products, this innovative home is pushing the edge of green building.

The homeowners, David and Thuy Smith and family, will take up residence in this custom home in March 2013, and have agreed to allow the University of Missouri's Midwest Energy Efficiency Research Consortium monitor the home for the first year they are living there. This data collection represents one of the first times that the benefits of green building will be documented and proven out via statistics.

Before the Smiths move in, Active House USA will host a public Open House on **Saturday, March 9, 2013** from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., allowing local homeowners, real estate agents and others interested in green building to experience and learn about its features up close. A separate open house for construction industry professionals will be held on **Friday, March 8, 2013 at 12 p.m.** For more information, visit ActiveHouseUSA.com.

To schedule a media interview or tour, or for more press information, please contact Amy Burger at 314-265-1372 or amy@amyburger.com.

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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.