

Green Living

Environmentally-Friendly Homes

Where to turn when you want to buy a home

Who says there is nothing new under the sun?



Lisa Martin, owner of Rolling Bay Land, was the developer of the solar-powered Valley Farm home. She is one of several Seattle-area developers who specialize in green projects.



PHOTOS BY HEATHER TRIMM / SPECIAL TO THE SEATTLE TIMES

Open houses give prospective buyers a chance to see the latest in green technology. One at this house, known as Valley Farm on Bainbridge Island, lets visitors examine a home that's "like a mini-powerplant," says architect Russ Hamlet. It's designed to produce more electricity than its owners will need. Any surplus will be sold to the power company.

FINDING THE ONE

OPEN HOUSES, GREEN SPECIALISTS HELP PROSPECTIVE BUYERS

Custom homes to prefabs available

BY STACEY SOLIE
Special to The Seattle Times

When Koben Calhoun set out to buy his first home a few years ago, he was most interested in price and place. In his mid-20s, single and not fond of driving on the weekends, he wanted a home near friends and amenities in North Seattle. He also needed a yard for his dog, and he wanted to pay less than \$500,000.

Unsuccessful in his search, he took a break, but by February he was ready to go back out again, this time with another criteria on the wish list. He wanted his home to be green.



The 1,900-square-foot house features a kitchen that includes Energy Star-rated appliances, formaldehyde-free cabinets and countertop made of recycled glass and cement.