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**U.S. Green Building Council Awards the First Home in Blacksburg
with the LEED® Silver Certification**

The Lewis' home in Mt. Tabor Meadows is an example of the benefits of building green

August 26, 2010 – (Blacksburg, Virginia) – Today, the Lewis family has something no one else in Blacksburg does. Their home at 804 Petra Pass in Mt. Tabor Meadows was certified as Blacksburg's first home to receive the LEED® Silver Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

LEED for Homes is a green home certification program that rewards homes that are designed and built to be energy- and resource-efficient and more healthy and durable for the occupants. For the homebuyer, LEED is like the nutrition label on the side of a cereal box. It clearly labels in measurable terms that the home has healthy, green, efficient features that have been third-party verified.

"Living in a LEED-certified home not only means you will be saving money and precious resources, it also means that it's more durable than a non-certified home," said Monica Rokicki-Guajardo, LEED AP BD+C, Chair of the Southwest USGBC Chapter. "The quality of the products and the different green strategies means that the Lewis family will be enjoying their high-performing home for years to come."

The home was built by Green Valley Builders, who are known for their expertise in building LEED for Homes, ENERGY STAR, EarthCraft Virginia and EPA Indoor airPLUS homes. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, there are 120 million homes in the U.S., and 2 million new homes are constructed each year. Combine that with the fact that the average size of new homes has doubled in the past 50 years, and it's no wonder that the residential building sector is responsible for 22% of total energy consumption and 74% of water usage.

"Those statistics alone are enough to see that the residential building industry is part of the problem, it can also be part of the solution," said Justin Boyle, co-owner and CFO of Green Valley Builders. "Green homes like the Lewis' are an immediate and measurable way individuals can make a difference for the environment, and this project will serve as an example to the community of the benefits of building green."

Located three miles from downtown Blacksburg, 804 Petra Pass focuses heavily on reducing energy use. The three-bedroom home features low-e argon windows, high efficiency lighting fixtures, compact fluorescent bulbs and both spray foam and recycled cellulose insulation. Other energy efficiency upgrades include tank less water heaters, programmable thermostats, high efficiency electric heat pump and air conditioners, as well as mechanical ventilation. Solar hot water is currently installed, as well as necessary wiring for future solar photovoltaic systems.

As a result of incorporating energy saving products and technologies, 804 Petra Pass has achieved a 51 Home Energy Rating Systems (HERS) score. That means the Lewis were able to make their home in 49% more energy efficient than the standard home. (Homes must achieve a minimum score of 86 – on a 100 point scale – to be deemed "ENERGY STAR" qualified).

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About Green Valley Builders & Mt. Tabor Meadows

Since 1997, Green Valley Builders (GVB) has designed and built custom homes of the highest quality in new communities and estate lots in Southwest Virginia. As a certified EarthCraft, ENERGY STAR, EPA Indoor airPLUS and LEED for Homes builder, the company focuses on a sustainable approach to building to create a whole house system that is healthy, comfortable, reduces energy bills and protects the environment. GVB is a small design/build team dedicated to customer service and satisfaction in order to meet each client's needs, budget and long-term well-being.

Mt. Tabor Meadows is the only all EarthCraft certified community located ½ mile from North Main Street, on the corner of Happy Hollow and Mt. Tabor roads. That means each home is built to sustainable building practices and certified by the national third-party programs. Mt. Tabor Meadows is also home to Blacksburg's first home to be certified for LEED for Homes.

About USGBC

The U.S. Green Building Council is a nonprofit membership organization whose vision is a sustainable built environment within a generation. Since USGBC's founding in 1993, USGBC has grown to more than 18,000 member companies and organizations and a comprehensive suite of LEED green building certification systems. Its membership includes corporations, builders, universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations all sharing USGBC commitment to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. Visit www.usgbc.org for more information.

About LEED for Homes

LEED for Homes is a third-party certification system for building and designing high-performance green homes that are energy-and-resource-efficient and healthy for its occupants. Developed and administered by USGBC, LEED for Homes awards points to projects in eight categories of environmental performance: Innovation & Design Process, Location & Linkages, Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Indoor Environmental Quality, Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources, and Awareness & Education. To date, more than 5,000 homes have achieved certification with LEED for Homes program, and over 20,000 have registered and are in process. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org/homes.