

ZEH Survey
Says: "Great,
Tell Us More"

A recent market survey for CARB member **Mercedes Homes** of its customers to determine interest in solar hot water and solar electric systems typically incorporated into Zero Energy Homes (ZEH) revealed that the public is interested, but wants more details. Steven Winter Associates,

Inc. (SWA) developed a survey questionnaire to gauge market acceptance of solar technologies in Mercedes' East Florida market area. Of the 200 surveys handed out to potential homebuyers, 117 were completed and returned – a response rate of approximately 60%. Not surprisingly, most of those surveyed indicated a lack of knowledge about solar hot water or electric systems. Sixty-six percent and 54%, respectively, reported that they are not familiar with solar electric and solar hot water systems and 14% and 21%, respectively, indicated familiarity. Only 3% and 4%, respectively, said they are "very familiar" with the systems. SWA concluded that the best approach to gain near-term market acceptance and penetration is to showcase the solar systems on a model home, and recommended the design and construction of model homes. Mercedes' division in Jacksonville, where there are significant utility incentives for solar electric and thermal systems, might be a likely location to introduce solar systems.



Focus on Multi-
Family Housing

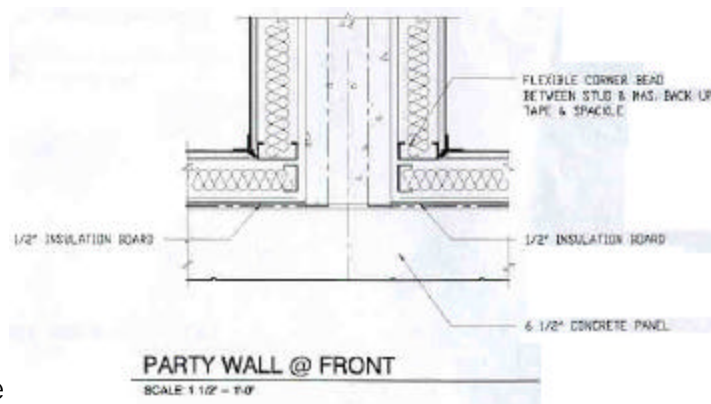
We know that existing houses, especially large, multi-family buildings, are often energy sieves. **Building America's** renewed focus on rehab and energy retrofit met an enthusiastic audience at the annual **Affordable Comfort** conference in Kansas City, Missouri, this month, where SWA's Andy Padian presented an all-day session on multi-family performance. Combining classroom and field presentations, Padian talked about how to perform energy audits in multi-family buildings, stressing efficiency, health, safety, durability, and affordability. After a morning in the classroom discussing basic principles, attendees took a walk-through audit of a Kansas City Housing Authority property, Brush Creek (photo above). The session, which was sold out, was designed to give those who work primarily with single-family buildings the necessary tools to take on multi-family buildings, which can benefit from weatherization, utility, and commercial contracting programs.



Building America/CARB Project Honored

As part of the packed **Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA)** conference in Boston last month, the organization presented the annual **Northeast Green Building Awards** to recognize outstanding achievements in high-performance architecture in the Northeastern U.S.

Projects considered for this year's awards had to be completed between January 1, 1998 and January 1, 2003, and could be either new construction or renovation. First prize in one of the five categories, "Residences," went to Melrose Commons II in the Bronx, New York, a **Building America/CARB** project of 30 three-family homes developed by **MCII Associates** and designed by architect **David Danois Architects, PC**. Melrose (detail above) received the first affordable housing ENERGY STAR rating by the **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)**. In making its selections, the awards jury emphasized architectural form that integrates energy efficiency, renewable energy systems, sensitivity to natural surroundings, and the health of the building for occupants, along with the environmental impact of materials, construction, and operation. The award was accepted by Les Bluestone of MCII Associates.



Put It On Your Calendar

CARB/SWA staff Ric Guilbert, Amanda Magee, and Andrew Padian will be featured presenters at the **NESEA Mid-Atlantic Sustainability Conference (MASC)** in Trenton, New Jersey, June 4-7. Steven Winter will be the keynote speaker. This conference boasts a detailed residential track on small, multi-family, rehab, retrofit, and new construction. For more information visit: www.nesea.org/buildings/be/midatlantic2003/. And in May, SWA will again offer its popular series, "Energy Management Practices for Multiple Dwellings," to take place in New York City. Originally run in 2001, this 30-hour training program reviews all aspects of designing and managing multiple dwellings for greater efficiency, health and safety, durability, and affordability. More than 550 participants took the class in 2001, and over 90% said they would recommend the class to a colleague. Registration is available through SWA's website at: www.swinter.com.

www.carb-swa.com

CARBNEWS is published monthly by the **Consortium for Advanced Residential Buildings (CARB)**, part of the **Building America** program, sponsored in part by the **U.S. Department of Energy** through the **National Renewable Energy Laboratory**. For further information and suggestions for inclusion in **CARBNEWS**, please contact Michael J. Crosbie, Steven Winter Associates, Inc., 50 Washington St., Norwalk, CT 06854; 203-857-0200, 203-852-0741 (fax); swinter@carb-swa.com (e-mail). **CARB** Primary Team Members are: Steven Winter Associates, Ryan Homes, Del Webb Corp., Beazer Homes USA, Crosswinds Communities, Mitchell Homes, Mercedes Homes, McStain Enterprises, Cambridge Homes, D.R. Horton, Unibilt Industries, Don Simon Homes, Tindall Homes, Wausau Homes, and William Ryan Homes. Also Weyerhaeuser, Andersen Windows, Owens Corning, Honeywell, Whirlpool Corp., DuPont, Simpson Strong-Tie, Steel Floors, LLC, CertainTeed Corp., and Trus Joist MacMillan. More **CARB** information and an archive of past issues is available on its web site: www.carb-swa.com.