

## CLARUM UNVEILS CALIFORNIA'S FIRST ZERO ENERGY HOME COMMUNITY

### "Enviro-Home™" at Shorebreeze is Designed to Reduce Homeowner Energy Bills by up to 90%

PALO ALTO, CA — April 1, 2003 — Clarum Homes announced today that it is unveiling California's first Zero Energy Home community. Every home in the builder's Shorebreeze community in East Palo Alto is an "Enviro-Home™." Clarum's state-of-the-art energy-efficient and environmentally friendly home. The "Enviro-Home™" is designed to reduce homeowner energy bills by up to 90%.

Clarus Homes has partnered with several program partners in the development of the "Enviro-Home™," including AstroPower, Inc. of Newark, DE, with its SunLine™ roof-integrated solar electric home power systems, Rinnai Corporation, with its Continuum tankless water heating system, and ConSol of Stockton, CA, through its ComfortWise<sup>SM</sup> energy-efficiency program.

Featuring the Zero Energy Home designation from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), each "Enviro-Home™" has been professionally designed, certified, and inspected to reduce energy consumption and use sustainable resources while improving comfort.

Each "Enviro-Home™" in the Shorebreeze community features an AstroPower solar electric home power system, a Rinnai tankless on-demand water heater, and a high-efficiency furnace as standard features. The homes also feature a foam-wrapped building envelope, increased insulation, radiant roof barrier, advanced HVAC technology, tightly sealed ducts, and low-E energy-efficient windows. Ceiling fans, fluorescent light bulbs, water conserving plumbing fixtures, and water conserving landscaping are also incorporated, providing homeowners further utility savings.

"Enviro-Home™" features that are included as standard equipment will provide more than \$20,000 of added value to homebuyers at no cost," says John Suppes, Vice President of Clarum. The Zero Energy Home is no longer a concept. It is a reality today thanks to the collaboration of several partners. With a combined goal of bringing the value of solar electric power, green-building products, and energy efficiency to homeowners, Clarum, AstroPower, and ConSol designed and built a home that will serve as a benchmark within the community, and within the industry.

AstroPower's roof-integrated solar electric power system enables homeowners to generate their own electricity, reduce their utility bills, and protect the environment. This AstroPower roof-integrated system aligns seamlessly with the home's roof for a streamlined appearance and improved aesthetics. The systems range in size from 1.2 to 1.6 kilowatts, and are available for upgrade should homeowners wish to generate even more electricity.

In addition to its energy-efficient features, the "Enviro-Home™" incorporates sustainable building materials, such as engineered lumber, recycled decking material, fiberglass doors, recycled content carpet, bamboo flooring, cork flooring and environmentally friendly paint. The "Enviro-Home™" has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR® seal, ConSol's ComfortWise<sup>SM</sup> designation, and the California Building Industry Institute's California Green Builder certification. These are all in addition to the Zero Energy Home designation from NREL.

(more)

Says Robert Pernell, Commissioner of the California Energy Commission: “Change is not always easy, but the building industry is extending great efforts to build communities that are energy efficient, economical, and environmentally friendly. The Energy Commission is working together with industry partners to address the challenges facing us. Given the expected growth of housing over the next 20 years, building energy-efficient homes that can generate a portion of their own energy is a worthy investment. As California builds energy-efficient communities, the Energy Commission and the building industry are enhancing California’s future.”

Shorebreeze is located in the heart of the Peninsula in East Palo Alto, close to everything in Silicon Valley. Prices begin at \$595,000. Homebuyers who are interested in learning more about the Shorebreeze community should call the sales office at 650-853-1337 or view the online brochure at [www.clarum.com](http://www.clarum.com).

#### About Clarum Homes

Headquartered in Palo Alto, California, Clarum Homes is a family-owned company devoted to building quality and innovative communities. Clarum constantly seeks the newest and the best building materials and products to accommodate homebuyers’ changing tastes and desires and is always in touch with customers in an effort to further enhance its homes and services. Clarum Homes was the first builder in Northern California to provide solar electric systems as standard equipment in their homes and they are now taking the concepts of green building to a new level with the introduction of zero energy and environmentally friendly features as standard equipment in all the homes they build. For more information, please visit [www.clarum.com](http://www.clarum.com).

#### About ConSol

ConSol, energy consultants, has been working for builders since 1981 providing a full range of services to improve quality control of energy-related features in new homes. ConSol created ComfortWise<sup>SM</sup> from its experiences developing successful resource-management programs and training more than 200 builder companies on quality construction. ConSol is heavily involved in the building industry at the local, state and national levels and won the Energy Star Homes Ally of the Year award in 1997. ConSol is committed to assisting the builder in cost-effectively achieving the highest level of quality. For more information, please visit [www.ComfortWise.com](http://www.ComfortWise.com).

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