



For Immediate Release

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MHC Announces Seven Green Homes Competing for Prize Money
Judging to Begin in December, Winners Announced in January

Jackson, MS—The Mississippi Home Corporation (MHC) today announced the seven entries in its Growing a Greener Mississippi competition that will compete for \$100,000 in prize money to be awarded to the top three entries. An independent panel of judges will inspect the homes December 7 through 9, and MHC will announce the winners at its Annual Affordable Housing Conference in Jackson on January 14, 2010. At the conference, the contestants will also have the opportunity to address their fellow builders and share their experiences with green building.

“MHC's Growing a Greener Mississippi competition has been an incredible challenge and has really pushed me to fine tune the tradeoffs between affordability and green building,” said Bill Lilly, a contestant who built his home in Oxford. “In this economy, most people assume they can't afford to build green. It is an exciting time to be in green building, and it is the future of residential construction. MHC's competition has provided an incredible opportunity to educate both the public and the residential construction industry in sustainable building practices,” he continued.

Three entries come from Brandon, and one each from Starkville, Oxford, Gulfport, and Bay St. Louis. “We're pleased with the statewide turnout for the Growing a Greener Mississippi competition,” said Dianne Bolen, Executive Director of MHC. “Each of these homes explores ways that green building practices can be used to build quality affordable homes for Mississippians. Expanding the benefits of green building to more income ranges is important because it produces real monthly cost savings for home buyers and helps the environment through use of renewable materials,” she added.

Homes built for Growing a Greener Mississippi must meet the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Model Green Home Building Guidelines level Bronze or above.

The NAHB Model focuses on energy efficient appliances, architecture, and building methods as well as more renewable building materials. Homes built for the competition must sell for less than \$175,000.

Anyone interested in the Growing a Greener Mississippi competition should contact MHC at 800-544-6960 or visit the website at www.mshomecorp.com/green.

The Mississippi Home Corporation was created by the State in 1989 to serve as the State's Housing Finance Agency. In that capacity, MHC administers the Mortgage Revenue Bond program and the Housing Tax Credit program, among others. MHC's mission is to enhance Mississippi's long-term economic viability by financing safe, decent, affordable housing and helping working families build wealth.

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