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Earth Day Event at Stapleton: Come see a home that uses no energy at all, and pays for the added cost from day one



MARK SAMUELSON

What could make for a better way to celebrate Earth Day than visiting a new Stapleton home that uses absolutely no energy at all? You can come tour New Town Builders' Zero-Energy Home today in Stapleton's Central Park West neighborhood; get Earth Day treats for the family including SunChips and Coke Zero; and see all of Stapleton's other attractions that draw buyers the other 355 days-a-year, including big values on new home space at attainable prices.

That's what first lured Stephen and Jenny Sanderson to Stapleton in 2005, when with a baby on the way and their Uptown condo looking tiny, they compared Stapleton to older Denver areas

such as Park Hill. Now they have kids aged 7 and 4 and are headed for their second Stapleton home, one that will have that same zero-energy performance, including 9.9 kilowatts of solar panels, as the model you'll see today.

Actually, every home New Town Builders builds in Stapleton is a remarkable performer – a 2.8 kilowatt solar system at the standard price, and HERS ratings in the mid-40s (lower is better), miles better than typical resale homes, well beyond most new builders, too. As an option with its Solaris Collection, you can opt for the full Zero Energy package, including even better insulation, window, appliance, and HVAC performance; plus tankless water heating, and the extra seven solar kilowatts, for an add-on of around \$30,000.

"And you don't have to make a bad economic decision to make a good energy decision," adds builder Gene Myers, who's been doing super-energy-efficient



Stephen and Jenny Sanderson and kids Jayla, 7, and Weston, 4, were the first buyers to contract on a zero-energy-use home from New Town Builders at Stapleton.

homes for 20 years. The cost of adding zero-energy mortgages out at around \$100/month – pretty much a trade-off to what models show you'll keep from paying Xcel at today's prices. "It'll be a competitive advantage," says Stephen Sanderson, photographer who has also picked up an MBA in sustainability management. In the new place, his family will get three big bedrooms with a loft up; a main floor study; and finished basement with a darkroom for him

and a fourth guest suite for Jenny's parents during their visits from Michigan.

You'll also take the family through an energy education exhibit by New Town, see new sites opening for these Solaris homes at Bluff Lake on the Sand Creek Greenway Trail; see the parks, pools, schools and rec center; and Stapleton's Town Center where the Sanderson kids find their favorite grilled cheese sandwiches at Casey's Bistro. To

reach the models in Stapleton, take Quebec Street north from MLK, then head east on E. 35th to models on a greenbelt between Ulster and Uinta.

Mark Samuelson writes on real estate and business; you can email him at mark@samuelsonassoc.com. You can see all of Mark Samuelson's columns online at DenverPostHomes.com

IF YOU GO...

WHERE: Solaris Collection by New Town Builders at Stapleton; 3 furnished models including Zero Energy Home, 3-5 bedrooms, all with standard solar electric panels; Earth Day treats today, SunChips and Coke Zero. 8126 E. 35th Ave., Denver; take Quebec Street north from Martin Luther King Blvd., east on E. 35th Avenue 0.7 mi. to the models on a greenbelt between Ulster & Uinta Streets

PRICE: From \$389,900

WHEN: Today Noon to 5 p.m., daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PHONE: 720-941-0359

WEB: StapletonDenver.com