# ZERO COMMUNIITY

**IPRO 323** 

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#### Mission

- Create a zero energy housing module which can expand to an entire community
- Encourage Chicago suburbs to reassess standards
- Influence sustainable planning of future communities



#### **Team Development**

- First semester for IPRO 323
- Create research base
- Team Organization
  - Team Leader
  - Subgroups
  - Individual Roles



#### **Team Structure**



### **Team Performance**

- No project history
- Goals
  - Use new and existing technology to create a home that had zero net energy consumption
  - Design homes in a replicable module that can expand to an entire community
  - Make homes more efficient and comfortable
  - Examine established zoning and building regulations
  - Establish new guidelines for planning innovative sustainable communities
  - Document and present findings to Chicago area suburbs

## Project Work

- Collaboration of each subgroup
- Demographics
- Average vs. Prototype Home
- Criteria
  - LEED
  - Energy Star



# **Problem Solving Techniques**

#### Problems

- Multitude of systems
- Using credible sources
- Simulating solutions
- Sharing information
- Efficiency v. Price
- Solutions
  - Google Docs
  - eQUEST
  - Standardization of units



## Specific Techniques

#### Google Docs

- Lists all systems by subgroup
- Reduces overlapping research
- Accessible to all group members
- Simulating solutions
  - eQUEST
    - Compare to average
    - Compare systems
- Standardization of units
  - Compare costs
    - Monetary
    - Energy

# **Problem Solving**

- Cooperative process
  - All subgroups participate equally
  - Subgroups constantly advise one another
- Design for efficiency
  - Process based upon sustainability
  - Emphasis on reducing energy use
- Feedback loop

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 Solution is refined and reanalyzed with new information



#### Demographics

Statistic	Oak Park	Evanston
Average Household Size	2.26	2.27
Average Family Size	3.06	3.03
Median Age	36	32
Median Income/Household	\$74,614	\$69,303
Median Income/Family	\$103,840	\$102,580
Per Capita Income	\$36,340	\$33,645
Children Under 18	29.5%	25.4
Married Couples	42.1%	40.4
Population	52,524	74,239
Families	12, 970	15,952

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### **Zoning Analysis**

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Requirement	Oak Park	Evanston
Zoning District	R-5/2-family	R-4/2-family
Minimum Lot Size	5,000/ duplex	2,500/d.u.
Max Building Height	35 feet	35 feet or 2.5 stories
Max Impervious	65%	55%
Front Setback	20 feet	27 feet
Side Setback	5 feet	5 feet
Rear Setback	25 feet	25 feet

Similar Code





#### Average Home

- > 3,000 square feet
- 2–Stories
- Wood–Stud construction
- Poorly insulated
- Small windows
- Inefficient use of space
- Does not take advantage of natural light or ventilation
- Antiquated mechanical systems and appliances















## Prototype Site Concept

#### Typical block



- Narrow lots
- North-South alleys
- Restricted solar access
- Less daylight

Proposed Checkerboard

- Repurposed alley
- Large shared green space
- Increased solar access
- Improved ventilation













#### Module Planning...



Higher density with more green space



# Full Site Planning...

Enhanced CommunIITy through shared site features and green space







#### Shared Plumbing Wall



#### **Common Basement**



Circulation and Stack Ventilation



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#### Bathrooms



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#### **Building Stats**

- 2 Dwelling units
  - 2 Bedroom
    - @ 1500 sqft
  - 3 Bedroom
    - @ 2000 sqft
- Total 3500 sqft



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- Ventilation:
  - Operable windows near floor
  - Clear-stories in bedrooms
  - Open-riser stair
  - Damper at top of stair



- Green Roof:
  - Evaporative cooling



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#### Light-shelf/Insulating Shutter:

- Day: natural light brought deeper into rooms, reducing dependence <</li>
  on electric lighting, LED bulbs used when needed
- Night: shutter covers glass to reduce heat loss





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#### **Floor Plans**



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### Floor Plans

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Second Floor Plan

1259 SF



Third Floor Plan

375 SF

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#### Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs)



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#### Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs)

- High R-Value
- Low air infiltration
- Can provide 50% annual energy savings
- Improves indoor air quality
- Reduces construction waste
- Made from sustainable, low cost, materials
- Requires 24% less energy to produce than fiberglass insulation

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\* Tests show that in the "worst case commonly found of procedures for installing batt insulation" the performance drops to R-11. Figure courtesy of APA.













## **Gas-Filled Windows**



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- Low-E gas reduces heat transfer
- Applicable to standard windows
- Non-toxic, transparent, odorless
- Argon: low cost (~\$0.12/ft<sup>3</sup>)

	Average Home	Prototype Home
	Single Pane	Triple Pane Argon
Heat Transfer (kW)	7313	29
Yearly Cost	\$6,854.00	\$27.18

Reduces heat transfer by  $\sim 99\% \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \$$ 

## Green Roof

- Reduces water runoff
- Reduces heat island
- Protects roofing from sun and environment increasing roof life
- Reduces heat gain from sun
- Cools building due to evapo-transpiration
- Attractive

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## **Sustainable Finishes**

- Use recycled or naturally abundant materials
- Require less energy to produce
- Improve indoor air quality

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# **Active Systems Utilized**

- Geothermal Heat Pump
- Radiant Floors
- Grey Water System
- Solar Thermal
- Photovoltaic Panels

# Geothermal

Vertical Loop

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- Disturbs less surface area
- Ideal for densely populated areas
- Drilled 150–300 ft deep
  - Low maintenance cost
  - Protection from weather and vandalism
- Temperatures are more stable











### **Radiant Floors**



- Better than Forced Air Heating
  - Doesn't use air as a heating medium
  - Directly heats objects
- Perceived temperature is higher
- Heating components are built directly into the flooring
- Works on the principle that heat rises

## **Grey Water Systems**

Reduces water waste

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Not to be confused with "black water"





# Solar Thermal

- Closed loop drainback system
- Freeze tolerant
- Low maintenance
- Low profile and lightweight

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# Shared Wall

- Shared wet wall
- Hot water collected
  - Water
  - Spaces

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- Green roof filters rain
  - Grey water
  - Landscaping
- Integrated systems reduce waste



#### **Photovoltaic Panels**



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### **PV Economics**

#### MONTHLY PRODUCTION

(210 W ea. unit) x (48 units)x (10/24 hours of sunlight)x (720 hrs/mo)

= 3019 KW\*hr per month

#### MONTHLY ELECTRIC BILL SAVINGS

(\$.107 Kw\*hr) x (3019 Kw\*hr)

= \$323.03 per month

#### PAYBACK TIME

(\$42566.00) / (\$323.03 per mo.)x (12 mo/year)

~ 11 years

#### TOTAL COST = \$42566.00

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#### MATERIALS 4% DC DISCONNECT .7% AC DISCONNECT .4% METER UP-CHAR

#### PV Panels \$25026 FV Panels \$25026 57% 57% 57% 57% S7000.00 NSTALLATION \$10800





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#### Average Home

TOTAL YEARLY ELECTRIC CONSUMPTION

#### 21,200 kWh

TOTAL YEARLY GAS CONSUMPTION

26,400 kWh (converted from Btu)



Area Lighting Task Lighting Misc. Equipment

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Water Heating Ht Pump Supp. Space Heating Refrigeration Heat Rejection Space Cooling



#### **Prototype Energy Consumption**

ANNUAL ELECTRIC CONSUMPTION

#### 15,300 kWh

ANNUAL GAS CONSUMPTION

0 kWh (converted from Btu)



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kWh x 1000



kWh x 1000



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#### **Prototype Energy Consumption**

ANNUAL ELECTRIC CONSMPTION

#### 15,300 kWh

ANNUAL GAS CONSUMPTION

0 kWh (converted from Btu)



Area Lighting Task Lighting Misc. Equipment

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Exterior Usage Pumps & Aux. Ventilation Fans Water Heating Space Cooling Space Heating AVERAGE VS. PROTOTYPE AVERAGE ANNUAL USAGE 47,600 kWh PROTOTYPE ANNUAL USAGE

15,300 kWh

SAVINGS **32,300 kWh** @ \$0.107 **\$3,456**/year OVER A 30 YEAR MORTGAGE **\$188,611** 

# **Carbon Offset**

# One pound of coal produces 1.22 kWh



COAL SAVED BY PROTOTYPE kWh SAVED 32,300 /1.22 POUNDS OF COAL 26,475 lbs coal/ year



#### Conclusion

Multidisciplinary approach **Design for efficiency** Enhance green space and community **Reduce infrastructure costs** Reduce energy consumption Produce all energy on site (no gas) Use sustainable materials and methods Greatly reduce carbon emissions

