

BUSINESS



COURTESY PHOTO

An Imagine Homes property in Lakeview, off Texas 151 on the city's Far West Side. Imagine Homes captured the affordable home category at the National Green Building Awards.

S.A. builder grabs another green award

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San Antonio-based Imagine Homes was named one of the nation's top environmentally "green" builders — again — by the National Association of Home Builders.

Imagine Homes won the affordable home category at the NAHB's National Green Building Awards in Dallas over the weekend, a year after being named the top green builder among companies that build single-family production homes.

"It really validates what we are about," said partner Jim Bastoni, who started the company with John Friesenhahn in 2006. "You can have a home that is green and is still affordable.

It's a recognition of where the industry in general is going."

The winning home is a 1,200-square-foot house in the Lakeview neighborhood off Highway 151. To qualify in the affordable home category, judges considered materials, features of the home, use of space and whether the home was affordable to buyers in a particular market, said Calli Schmidt of the NAHB. Homes in Lakeview cost from the \$130,000s to the \$180,000s.

Imagine is the only local production builder that meets both federal Energy Star guidelines and Build San Antonio Green certification standards.

The company builds homes from the \$130,000s to the \$300,000s in six San Antonio

neighborhoods. It also has a build-on-your-lot program.

Imagine Homes holds the majority of Build San Antonio Green's certifications.

"They've been with us all along," said Stephen Colley of Build San Antonio Green. "They were the first ones to step forward and say that 100 percent of their homes would be built to the standard."

Last summer, the San Antonio builder started using a foam insulation in attics. It increases energy efficiency and typically is found locally only in some high-end custom homes.

"Maybe our price is 3 to 5 percent higher than a code-build house, but the energy savings balance that right away," Bastoni said.