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SAN ANTONIO
EXPRESS-NEWS

BUSINESS

Which city best builds green? S.A.

That's National Association of Home Builders' verdict.

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Who knew that sprawling San Antonio could be so green?

The National Association of Home Builders on Friday named San Antonio's green building program the best in the nation.

Build San Antonio Green won the "green building program of the year" award at the National Green Building Conference in Dallas.

And the city of San Antonio rolled out its first Green Building Awards program Friday to celebrate commercial and residential projects that have improved energy performance.

Build San Antonio Green, geared toward new-home construction and remodeling, has certified 254 homes.

Executive Director Anita Ledbetter said the program works because builders don't have to hire consultants to walk them through the process. "We're easier for builders to follow and we're cheaper than other green building programs," she said. "More and more builders are coming on board."

Build San Antonio Green is a partnership of the Greater San Antonio Builders Association, the city of San Antonio, Bexar



EXPRESS-NEWS FILE PHOTO

Kyle Lindsey Custom Homes, which built this house at Cibolo Canyon in San Antonio, won a city Green Building Award for residential custom homes over 2,201 square feet.

County, CPS Energy, the San Antonio Water System, VIA Metropolitan Transit, Solar San Antonio, the Greater Bexar County Council of Cities and the Alamo Area Council of Governments.

Those partnerships are key, said Becky Oliver, executive vice president of GSABA. "Everybody worked together to make it happen," Oliver said. "I don't think they have that in any other city like we have."

The program is based on common construction methods — such as stick frame building — and ties into local utility rebate programs.

Frank Sitterle Jr. of Sitterle Homes plans to build 350 garden homes under the program in Campanas at Cibolo Canyons.

He said the program requirements aren't so difficult that the home becomes too expensive for regular homeowners. "They came up with a good medium where people get the benefit of green building and it doesn't cost so much that you price everyone out," Sitterle said.

The city's Green Building Awards went to:

COMMERCIAL PROJECT: Alamo Architects, SoFlo Studios
COMMERCIAL HONORABLE: Sally

Cheever Girl Scout Leadership Center and Marmon Mok Architecture; city of San Antonio's John Igo Branch Library and RVK Architects

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOM HOMES OVER 2,201 SQUARE FEET: Kyle Lindsey Custom Homes

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOM HOMES UNDER 2,200 SQUARE FEET: Lion-Force Building Systems

RESIDENTIAL PRODUCTION HOME: Imagine Homes

BILL SINKIN SOLAR AWARD: Northside Independent School District Aquatics Center

GREEN PRACTITIONER AWARD: H-E-B