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Green Idea House Earns Leadership Award

ThermalCORE™ PCM Panels Contribute to Net-Zero Energy Goal

Los Angeles County recently presented one of its 2012 Green Leadership Awards to Robert and Monica Fortunato for the net-zero renovation of their Hermosa Beach home.



The Fortunatos moved into their home in March and energy savings from the remodeling have improved 74% over the pre-renovation period, even though the project added 800 square feet to the house. At the beginning of the renovation, engineers had estimated the energy savings would be 45%.

The family is harvesting 80 kilowatts of additional energy per month from rooftop solar panels. The home features passive solar heating and cooling, a thermal chimney, rainwater harvesting, and dozens of other eco-friendly technologies.

Those technologies include ThermalCORE panels, produced by National Gypsum. The panels incorporate Micronal® a phase change material from BASF, to maintain a constant room temperature in the home. The phase change material absorbs and stores heat during the day to keep rooms cool. At night, the panels release heat, keeping the rooms comfortable. ThermalCORE was used on all the ceilings and on the living room wall.

The Fortunatos remodeled and upgraded their home under the auspices of the Southern California Edison's Net Zero Energy Initiative. Their Green Idea House serves as a model to help others achieve the California Public Utility Commission's net zero energy residential construction guideline by 2020.

On the web: [Green Idea House](#)

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