

# REAL ESTATE

## Decker Builds Area's First Zero Energy Home

The futurists of the 1950's are finally getting their due. No flying cars yet, but robots paint cars, mow lawns and vacuum carpet. And homes are now run by the sun.

Decker Homes is building northwest Ohio's first zero energy home using Building Integrated (BIPV) Solar Electric. Photovoltaic roofing shingles, generating power without detracting from the beauty of the home.

The firm began construction in the May on the energy efficient, [Energy Star](#) home combined with solar technology. The home is designed to produce as much electricity, which should result in an annual zero net electric consumption, i.e., one which produces as much as it uses. Although the home will remain connected to the utility grid, the electric meter runs backward when sending excess electric power to the grid during the daytime hours, while drawing electric power from the grid during the nighttime hours. The sun friendly home is located in the Deer Valley development, a 100% Energy Star community in Monclova, Ohio. An Energy Star-rated home is at least 30% more energy efficient in its heating, cooling, and water heating than a comparable home built to the Model Energy Code. Energy Star is a national, voluntary program that promotes energy-efficient products.

Bill Decker Sr. is president of Decker Homes. His firm is building the home for a buyer who has an interest in solar power and who had seen a previous Decker solar assisted model. That solar assisted home has met or exceeded its owners' and Decker's expectations in energy return.

The solar shingles were purchased from the Auburn Hills, Michigan firm, [Uni-Solar](#). The shingles' life expectancy is at least 20 years and they are guaranteed for that period of time. According to Bill, the roofers and electricians needed special training. The electricians went through a 5-day school put on by [Green Energy Ohio](#) and the roofer received on-the-job training.



Decker said, "I have always been interested in and have always built, since 1980, energy-saving homes. We were the first building in Monroe County, Michigan to be an Energy Star Building and our company along with Jim Moline Builders are the first two 100% Energy Star builders in Lucas County." 100% means every home we build is promised to be a certified Energy Star home.

"Building a home that produces its own electrical energy is just the next step on the ladder to energy savings for our customers and lowering emissions from dirty coal fired power plants," Decker added. "Fifty percent of our electrical generation now comes from these plants. Both Michigan and Ohio have been cited by the Department of Energy for creating excessive emissions from these plants. It's one of the reasons why the city of Bowling Green has built 4 giant wind generators. I could go on and on...but the truth is I feel as a builder I have an obligation to demonstrate the latest and best energy saving technologies to homebuyers."

Decker Homes is a full service semi-custom homebuilder and land development company offering home design. The firm assists in all areas of the home building process, from plan layout and design through interior design and after closing customer service. "At the forefront of our building philosophy lies a deeply rooted commitment to personal attention - the type of attention that is unparalleled in the home building industry - attention that easily guides clients through the home building process," said Decker.

Since 1981, over 700 purchasers have selected a Decker Homes-built home.

