



Michael K. Walker & Associates 849 Siesta Key Circle – Sarasota

Certified: April 2, 2015

Score: 196

Level: Platinum

Certifying Agent: Drew Smith, Two Trails, Inc.

At the time of its certification, this impressive three-story home built by **Michael K. Walker & Associates** located at **849 Siesta Key Circle** in **Sarasota** held the best (lowest) HERS score (-11) of all green homes certified this year by the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC). Only two other homes in the past 4 years have scored a lower HERS.

A home with a HERS of “0” or less is referred to as a “Net Zero Energy” home, meaning it produces as much energy as it uses (or more in the case of -11) through renewable resources, such as solar panels. The excess energy is typically sold back to the utility, reducing the home’s energy costs. (Check out the [RESNET searchable HERS database](#).)

To help reach this level of energy efficiency, the home incorporated a number of green approaches, such as sealing and insulating the floor joist perimeter, installing energy-efficient appliances, using light-colored paint on the interior and exterior walls, sealing the penetrations of recessed ceiling lights, and equipping the home with a comprehensive set of ENERGY STAR qualified light fixtures.

The green certification designation represents achievements in a comprehensive set of categories in addition to energy efficiency, such as water conservation, site preservation, indoor air quality, materials, and durability – including disaster mitigation.

To conserve water, low-flow water fixtures and appliances were installed, and reclaimed water is used for irrigation. In addition, the landscape consists of drought tolerant plants compatible with the local environment and grouped by maintenance requirements, such as sun and water needs.

All slab penetrations were sealed and a central dehumidification system installed to control moisture within the home. Low VOC paints, stains, finishes, and sealants reduce the risk of poor indoor air quality that can result in respiratory ailments, as does minimizing the use of carpet. Other approaches include installation of a controlled mechanical ventilation system, ENERGY STAR bath fans, venting to outside for range hoods, fireplaces and dryers, and an efficient HVAC filter.

Some other unique green achievements of this platinum-level certified home include:

- High efficiency irrigation system which utilizes the geothermal well as the primary irrigation water source
- Geothermal heating and cooling (HVAC) used for the domestic hot water, the pool & spa
- The high performance solar system produces approximately 15,000 watts
- Bamboo flooring
- Contains an emergency power backup system
- Uses high efficiency LED lighting

Serving as FGBC Certifying Agent, Drew Smith, President of Two Trails, Inc. in Sarasota, guided the project through the certification process and helped its green team optimize green strategies.