

Set the stage >>> *Economic Development*

The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County (RDA) is leading the transition to sustainable neighborhoods by kicking off the Net-Zero Home Demonstration Project on one of its currently vacant properties -- 3719 34th Street in Mount Rainier. This new home will serve as a model of future residential development in Prince George's County.

What is a Net-Zero Energy Home?

A Net-Zero Energy (NZE) home has two key energy features: (1) proven, highly energy-efficient technologies that significantly reduce energy demand (with particular emphasis on specially designed building envelopes), and (2) renewable energy sources produced on site that supply at least as much energy as the home needs over the course of a year.

One key aspect to achieving a NZE home is using whole-building design processes that address the building as an integrated system—improving energy efficiency and minimizing both construction and operating costs.

Why Mount Rainier?

The Net Zero Energy home will be located in Mount Rainier, within the Gateway Arts District, a community that has embraced sustainable living. Mount Rainier has proven itself to be a leader in sustainability efforts in the County – willing to innovate and step out of the “business-as-usual” ways of operating. The community has expressed willingness to be the location for this first model of NZE housing in the County, and the RDA anticipates that Mount Rainier will provide the public support and interaction that this innovation requires.

Why is NZE important?

Net-Zero Energy homes are important for reasons that affect the residents that live within them, the surrounding neighborhoods, and our global community. In 2007, there were nearly 128 million residential housing units in the U.S. Buildings account for approximately 39% of this country's total energy use, and residential buildings account for 53.7% of that total.

Residential buildings account for roughly 20% of the nation's total carbon emissions. The statistics revealing residential buildings as high energy consumers and high carbon-emission generators are startling, and rethinking the baseline design of residential homes is essential for bringing energy costs down and slowing the rate of global climate change. Net Zero Energy homes are part of the solution to our local and global environmental problems.

What are the benefits?

For occupants, Net Zero Energy homes are cheaper to operate and maintain (often with zero-cost energy usage), and they are usually healthier homes to occupy. Under the RDA's requirements, the model home will be designed to optimize indoor air quality, green the surrounding site, work with (rather than against) natural processes, and ultimately, to stand out as a home where people want to live and spend time.

>>> **Code 101 - Summary of Legislation Adopted in 2014**

Ordinance 1 — 2014 — an ordinance to provide for occupancy licenses to be issued and license fees paid annually, rather than biannually; to acquire all premises requiring an occupancy license to be inspected at least every two years for compliance with the Maryland Lead Risk Reduction in Housing Act as a condition of issuance of a residential rental occupancy license.

Ordinance 2 — 2014 an ordinance amending the Mount Rainier Code Chapter 13A, Snow Emergency Routes, and Chapter 13, City Emergencies, to clarify that the City Manager has the authority to determine whether City government offices are open or closed during a snow Emergency or other City Emergency. Public Notices may be given via email alerts, television, radio and website.—**full details on the website.**

Ordinance 3—2014—an ordinance amending Chapter 3 Building Code, and Chapter 7, Licenses and Permits, and Chapter 11, Refuse Collection of the

Mount Rainier Code to increase fees. The fees increases are as follows:

New Construction, alterations and repairs of \$10,000.00 or less, the charge for a building permit shall be a filing fee of \$100.00 plus 50% of the Prince George's County permit fee for new construction regardless of the estimated cost of the construction.

For installation and construction of a new fence on a property with a single street address, the charge for a permit shall be \$35.00.

Ordinance 4—2014—an ordinance establishing the tax rate, adopting an annual budget, and appropriating funds for fiscal year 2015, beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2014.

Ordinance 5 — 2014 an ordinance extending the City of Mount Rainier's cable franchise agreement with Comcast of Maryland to allow continued negotiations for renewal of the franchise agreement with Comcast of Maryland.

Ordinance 6 — 2014 an ordinance revising Chapter 11 Refuse Collection amending the day for recycling, bulk trash, and yard waste collection when the normal recycling collection day falls on a holiday or on a day that inclement weather prohibits collection.

Significant revisions are as follows:

If the City collection day for regular trash or recyclables falls on a holiday or inclement weather prohibits collection, then this materials will be picked up the next regular work day following the holiday or inclement weather. If the City collection day for bulk trash or yard waste falls on a holiday or inclement weather prohibits collection then this materials will be picked up on the next scheduled collection day for bulk trash or yard waste.

Full details of each ordinance can be found on the City of Mount Rainier's Website: www.mountrainiermd.org