



COLD CLIMATE HOUSING RESEARCH CENTER
CCHRC



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University of Alaska Fairbanks and Cold Climate Housing Research Center Design UAF Sustainable Village

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) in partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) is designing a sustainable student village that includes a cluster of super energy-efficient homes with shared open space, a community garden, and footpaths between buildings. The village will be on University property adjacent to CCHRC's research center off Fairbanks Street.

The goal is to build the first cluster of four 4-bedroom homes by Summer 2012. It will be as much a research project as a development, where students, faculty, and departments at UAF will work with CCHRC building scientists to improve on each iteration of the UAF Sustainable Village over the coming years.

“We still need to solve critical design and technology problems related to building in this climate. The Sustainable Village will help solve those problems, while providing hands-on learning and fostering a community of students who are committed to sustainability,” said Jack Hébert, President and CEO of CCHRC.

The project will blend the latest cold-climate technology, environmentally sound land use and sustainable infrastructure with a new model of campus housing—students as live-in researchers who test, interpret, and help refine their building's design as part of their college education. It also emphasizes community design, as CCHRC is working with the UAF Office of the Chancellor, the UAF Office of Sustainability, and student groups on the concept and design. UAF is hosting a design competition this fall where groups of students submit ideas and attend design seminars for credit and the chance to join CCHRC's design team.

Every aspect of the project, from siting to materials to waste water to power, will minimize environmental impact and maximize energy efficiency—in hopes of achieving net-zero energy buildings with low construction, operating and maintenance costs. The village will incorporate renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and biomass, and will use local and recycled materials whenever possible. Researchers also want to test innovative water catchment, such as gray-water recycling, as well as waste management, with on-site sewage treatment.

The first cluster of homes will house between 16-40 residents—a mix of undergrad and grad students. UAF and CCHRC plan to build on this cluster, spreading out the financing and adapting new technology with each phase.

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