

## **Opening of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Sustainable Village**

Students began designing the University of Alaska Fairbanks Sustainable Village last fall and helped build it this summer. Now they are making it their home for the next year.

Seventeen student residents—sophomores through grad students—moved into the four homes in August. The University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Cold Climate Housing Research Center will host an open house at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 3 at to celebrate the opening of the Village and invite friends and local media to see the finished homes. The Sustainable Village is located off the CCHRC driveway at 1000 Fairbanks Street.

The Sustainable Village is a living laboratory for CCHRC researchers and UAF students and faculty to study energy efficient design, alternative energy technology, cold climate housing, and sustainable ways of living. It is a partnership between CCHRC and the UAF Chancellor's Office, Office of Sustainability and the Dept. of Residence Life.

Four 1,400-square-foot homes were constructed this summer, each with a unique combination of wall assembly, foundation and heating and ventilation system. For example, two homes are heated by solar thermal collectors with hydronic in-floor heating and two use a small diesel heater tied into the ventilation system. They employ different versions of the REMOTE wall—three with 8 inches of exterior rigid foam and one with a 12-inch standoff wall filled with cellulose—for about an R-60 envelope each. CCHRC researchers will monitor things like construction cost, energy consumption, electricity use, indoor air quality, and ground temperature to see the impacts and value of different techniques.

UAF students came up with the concept for the homes through a design contest last fall. Many of their ideas—such as a spacious second-floor deck with large solar windows, thermal shutters, a shed-style roof, and a natural, vegetated site—were incorporated into the plans. About 10 students worked together with seasoned carpenters on the construction crew this summer. Student residents will help monitor fuel and electricity use, study various scientific and social aspects of the Village, and collaborate with CCHRC researchers to improve the prototype.

The Village reflects UAF's commitment to sustainability and to nurturing an interest among students in sustainable development, research and hands-on learning. The rent for the homes resembles the cost of a mortgage for an equivalent single-family home in Fairbanks.

UAF may build on the Village with more homes—using emerging technologies—over the next decade.

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Ribbon Cutting at the UAF Sustainable Village  
Cold Climate Housing Research Center  
1000 Fairbanks Street, Fairbanks, AK  
October 3, 2012 at 12 p.m.

**Agenda**

- 11:30—Press invited to tour the interior of a student home & interviews
- 12:00—Ribbon cutting & brief words by Chancellor Brian Rogers & Jack Hebert
- 12:15—Move to CCHRC for short ceremony—student posters & video on display
- 12:30—CCHRC President/CEO Jack Hebert welcoming and short speech
- 12:50—Words from student on design/construction team – Skye Thurm
- 1:00—Words from student resident – TBA, Lakedra or Abdel?
- 1:15—Time for interviews
- 1:30—Optional public tour of a student home