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Manufactured and modular homes are super smart energy savers

OKEMOS, Mich., March 2021—Manufactured and modular home builders are inherently environmentally conscious and the homes they build are consistently energy efficient—two good reasons to consider a manufactured or modular home for you and your family.

“Energy efficiency is a popular topic in today’s world, but sometimes challenging to address practically,” said Jerry Jewell, senior vice president of operations and sales, Sun Communities. “We focus on items that we know will help reduce energy usage and save money for our customers like LED lighting, smart thermostats and upgraded storm doors.”

In addition to energy-saving items within the house, the actual production and construction of a manufactured home is also very environmentally friendly.

- Unlike a site-built home, which can have nearly 30 percent product waste, the factory setting includes detailed design and planning practices, resulting in very little waste in the manufacturing process, which reduces time and material costs.
- Constructed in a controlled environment, manufactured and modular homes are especially well-insulated because the filling material is placed in every nook and cranny of a home, and around all electrical boxes and plumbing pipes, which allows for maximum efficiency.
- Manufactured and modular homes have little to no air leaks or gaps in their construction, which helps keep the home climate controlled as opposed to letting warm or cool air escape. Doors and windows are sealed to the walls, making a very tight construction and the duct work is sealed to ensure no leakage. An air flow test is performed prior to leaving the factory and another is completed after the home is placed at its site.
- Appliances like laundry units, refrigerators and dishwashers account for 20 percent of a typical home’s energy consumption. ENERGY STAR® appliances and fixtures save nearly 30 percent in energy use and often come with income tax credits.
- Many manufactured and modular home builders offer ENERGY STAR® certified homes. These homes are heavily infused with energy-efficient products and practices and save nearly 30 percent more energy above the building codes.
- Water heaters and windows are main culprits in energy loss, but manufactured homes often install low emissivity (Low-E) windows and energy efficient hot water heaters with thick wall sides.

When it comes to your home, there are other ways to lessen your carbon footprint. Here are a few suggestions:

- Limit your water usage by installing low-flow toilets, faucets and showerheads. Lowering the hot water temperature will also save energy and money.
- LED and CFL (compact fluorescent lights) bulbs offer more attractive and longer lighting options. There are even “smart” light bulbs connected to Wi-Fi that fit into regular light sockets but can be turned on and off, dimmed and even change color via a smartphone app.
- Upgrade the thermostat to a programmable version, which can be used to set the temperature based on time of day. Take it a step further and invest in a smart thermostat that allows you to monitor energy usage and control the temperature from your smartphone.

The Michigan Manufactured Housing Association (MMHA) is a nonprofit trade association representing the manufactured and modular home industry in Michigan. MMHA works to improve the image of manufactured housing by educating consumers, media and government about the quality, affordability, design and beauty of the homes. It also works to protect the interests of the industry and the owners of manufactured and modular homes. For more information about manufactured housing, visit www.michhome.org or contact MMHA, 2222 Association Drive, Okemos, MI 48864-5978; 517.349.3300.

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