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Section F Saturday, April 23, 2011

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Avtec Homes building 'greener' in Brevard

BY ANNE STRAUB
FOR FLORIDA TODAY

Forget what you might have heard about the added expense of green building.

Brevard County-based Avtec Homes is including a long list of green features in its homes, which start at just \$139,900. High-impact features include double-pane low e windows, 14-SEER heat pump air conditioner, Energy Star appliances and R-30 ceiling insulation.

"These are items we can include and still make the home affordable," said Sandi Forest, Avtec division manager.

Avtec Homes are FPL Build Smart certified, which provides 20 percent to 30 percent more energy efficiency than homes that are just built to code. "High-priced homes are going this route," Forest said. "People who buy a lower-priced home are the ones who need the savings."

Builder: Avtec Homes

Locations: Avtec builds in Manchester Lakes in West Melbourne and Adamson Creek in Cocoa. Both communities feature models. The company also operates a model at 2105 Emerson Drive SE in Palm Bay to promote its Palm Bay properties.

Home size: Living area starts at just over 1,300 square feet within communities. The Palm Bay Gulfstream model covers 2,108 square feet.

Price range: Homes, including land, start at \$139,900 in communities and \$149,900 in Palm Bay, which offers larger home sites.

Green features: Energy Star appliances, 14-SEER heat-pump air conditioners with programmable thermostats, R-30 ceiling insulation, double-pane low e insulated windows, tightly sealed air conditioning ductwork, water efficient faucets and low flush toilets, low VOC paint on interior, recycled aggregate and steel.

For more information: Visit www.avtechomes.com or call 321-733-6014 for Manchester Lakes, 321-636-2176 for Adamson Creek, or 321-676-4668 for Palm Bay.

Avtec builds in Manchester Lakes in West Melbourne, Adamson Creek in Cocoa and on scattered lots in Palm Bay. Every Avtec home receives a third-party inspection to test ductwork,

air quality, and other standards before acceptance by FPL BuildSmart.

Thanks to the increased attention given to the environment and events such as Earth Day, celebrated

on Friday, customers are more aware of energy efficient features and are asking for greener homes. Avtec promotes its homes as environmentally friendly, comfortable for living, and

inexpensive to operate and maintain.

The Florida Green Building Coalition awarded the company's Deltona model the Green Home Platinum Certification — the top

category.

Brevard homes are built to the same standard, Forest said, with the solar water heater available as an upgrade at the company's cost.



Photos by Casey DeCotis, FLORIDA TODAY

Avtec Homes' Gulfstream model in Palm Bay is open 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday (closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch). Some of the home's green features include: lighter colored roofs that absorb less heat, tight building envelopes that limit air infiltration and lessen air conditioning and electrical consumption, and many more.