

## **Edmond will break ground on energy-efficient model home today**

*Micah Gamino*

*NewsOK*

*Published: September 10, 2008*

EDMOND — An effort to show how an ordinary home can be turned into an environmentally friendly, energy- and money-saving abode is under way today in Edmond.

Edmond Electric and partner Red Rock Builders will break ground on the Edmond Electric Energy Efficient Home, also known as the E4 Home, at 10 a.m. today at 3716 Bonaire Place in the Villages of Stonebridge housing addition in south Edmond.

A city of Edmond news release says, "The E4 Home will offer homebuyers an affordable, comfortable and sustainable home. The energy-efficient, environmentally friendly home will cost less to operate and maintain, saving significant energy costs over the life of the home." Builder Brian Turner of Red Rock Builders said keeping energy costs down becomes more attractive to homeowners during economically uncertain times.

"As of two or three years ago, the economy wasn't there to invite this process," Turner said. "I think it's there now."

Edmond-based Red Rock Builders agreed to construct the E4 Home, which will have energy-efficient features that go beyond Energy Star standards, without the assistance of city of Edmond funding. Instead, the city is handling all advertising and promotion of the home.

Edmond Electric, meanwhile, plans to use the E4 Home to show its customers ways to use energy more efficiently. Edmond Electric officials hope the promise of energy-cost savings will increase demand for energy-efficient homes and amenities.

If homeowners use less energy, then power suppliers such as the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority, which supplies electricity to Edmond Electric, will save money on energy production, and those savings will in turn be passed on to energy providers such as Edmond Electric, officials said.

Turner said builders will begin building homes to meet higher energy standards if the public demands it.

"A lot of the time, it's the public that guides the builder," Turner said. "Builders are only going to build what the public wants."