



SKY FIRE AT NORTH FORK  
FIRST LEED-H CERTIFIED HOME IN THE CENTRAL TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

Larson-Thompson Home  
256 Bear Creek Scout Rd, Hunt, TX  
Hunt, Texas 78024

The Thompson home was completed in August 2007 and awarded a LEED-H Silver certification in January 2008. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and was established by the U S Green Building Council to set standards for sustainable design and building in the commercial and residential areas. LEED differentiates itself from Energy Star in that all LEED certified building has to be tested and verified by non-related third party testing companies. The LEED recognition honors the homeowner's commitment to build a green home that would cost less to own and operate, would last for generations and reflects their dedication to environmental sustainability.

The architect, LaVerne Williams of [Environment Associates](#), designed the home for passive sustainability. If necessary, the homeowners can live in relative comfort without any off-site sources of power or water.

The home envelope is SIPS (structured insulated panel system, made by [Chapman Building Systems](#) in Kerrville), with extensive use of environmental preferred products. In addition, the owners chose to install a rainwater harvesting system and rely totally on rainwater for all their water needs. Practicing water conservation and use of low water plumbing fixtures, the Thompson's have never gotten below one half of their water storage capacity, which is fifteen thousand gallons.

Some other features of the home are site orientation to take advantage of natural ventilation, a conditioned (non-vented) attic to eliminate the heat oven effect of conventional attic space and it performs as a closet, a high efficiency HAVC system with an ERV (energy recovery ventilator) to dehumidify and provide fresh air ventilation, low water use washer and dishwasher, and low-e argon windows. An efficient and healthy indoor environment is achieved by the use of wall paints without VOCs (volatile organic compounds), solid wood finish materials, flooring of hardwood, tile and marmoleum, energy star appliances, and fluorescent and led lighting. A complete list of items used in the home can be obtained at the home site during the tour.

“The U.S. Green Building Council is proud to help celebrate the owners’ and Environment Associates’ commitment to greener living,” said Michelle Moore, Senior Vic President of Policy & Market Development, U.S. Green Building Council. “... Their example can help us all to live better by reducing our environment footprint, cutting our utility bills, and coming home to a healthier place to live.”