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(PNI) Scottsdale community Sterling at Silverleaf has become Arizona's first single-family, new-construction project to be awarded gold-level certification by the [National Association of Homebuilders](#) green building program, NAHBGreen.

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The luxury community is among fewer than 400 single-family new construction projects in the U.S. to achieve gold certification.

The 12-acre residential development, which opened in November, earned the distinction by meeting six categories of green-building practice set forth by the [International Code Council 700 National Green Building Standard](#), a national benchmark for rating green homes created in 2007 by the NAHB and International Code Council.

Under the standard, homes are rated on factors such as lot and site development, origin of building materials, indoor environmental quality, use of advanced-building

methods, homeowner education and overall resource efficiency.

Homes can earn -- in order from lowest to highest -- a bronze, silver, gold or emerald rating, based on the level of energy efficiency and sustainability.

The Villas at Sterling at Silverleaf scored an overall rating of 56 points. Energy-efficiency, site selection and other factors determine what rating a project receives. A 60 rating is the minimum for emerald certification.

The Villas are estimated to be 74 percent more efficient than most existing homes, according to developer Sterling Collection Development Group and Scottsdale-based homebuilder Luster Custom Homes, which equates to roughly \$1,347 in annual energy savings over the typical existing home, and \$808 in annual savings over a typical new home.

Currently under construction, the first phase of Sterling at Silverleaf consists of 16 single-family villas and will be followed by larger homes and luxury condominiums in the second and third phases.

--J. Craig Anderson



STERLING

*At Silverleaf*