

# The Times Herald

## Wave of the Future

Bridgeport is home to first U.S. Department of Energy Zero Energy Ready Homes in Montgomery County

By Gary Puleo



The Zero Energy single-family attached twins are the result of a unique collaboration between developer, Bridgeport Properties, architectural firm, Architetra and builder, Alter Eco.  
Photo courtesy of Matt Wargo

BRIDGEPORT — When it comes to saving energy and offering homes that are uncommonly durable, one innovative builder has done his part by constructing Montgomery County's first Zero Energy Ready Homes.

Alter Eco, LLC , a high performance residential and commercial design and build firm based in Paoli, recently announced the completion of four Bridgeport Properties, LLC homes.

A press release noted that the homes, which have all been sold, make up the county's first Zero Energy Ready Homes.

One homeowner marveled at the home's "clean and fresh" environment.

Located in Bridgeport, the single-family attached twins are the result of a unique collaboration between developer, Bridgeport Properties, architectural firm, Architetra and builder, Alter Eco.

“We started with a vision to attract homebuyers with a unique market offering that also supports Bridgeport's growth and revitalization efforts,” said Joseph Lombardi, Alter Eco's co-founder and partner.

The partnership enabled the innovative design and construction required for homes that meet and exceed the stringent technical requirements of the DOE's ZERH Program, while supporting Alter Eco's vision for a new paradigm in homebuilding.

According to [energy.gov](http://energy.gov), the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home is a "way to recognize builders for their leadership in increasing energy efficiency, improving indoor air quality, and making homes zero energy ready. The program builds upon the comprehensive building science requirements of ENERGY STAR for Homes Version 3, along with proven Building America innovations and best practices.

DOE Zero Energy Ready Homes are verified by a qualified third-party and are at least 40 to 50 percent more energy efficient than a typical new home.

“Our mission is to deliver exceptional value that combines high-performance features, ultra-energy efficiency and stylish design at a competitive construction price compared to a standard code-built home,” Lombardi added.

Boasting an open floor plan, space-conscious roof deck, designer kitchens, luxury baths and garages, the homes were designed for maximum curb appeal with front elevation that blends in seamlessly with the historic aesthetic, but with a modern touch.

The renewable-energy ready homes have achieved ENERGY STAR Certification, featuring smartly designed rooms with ENERGY-STAR certified appliances, windows, and doors, and ENERGY-STAR qualified light-emitting diode (LED) lighting throughout.

The four twin homes are built with industry-leading building technologies: Structurally Insulated Panels (SIPs) roofs and Superior Walls form the basis of a tight, highly insulated building concept that makes the homes ultra-energy-efficient.

A Bridgeport Properties twin homeowner said, "In my opinion it is definitely better than a standard built home. I had a chance to go into several homes over the two and a half years I was looking, and the comfort level is striking when you first walk-in. I can't even really describe it. It's like you know that something is very different and that there's something comfortable about it. It's just open and clean and fresh, and it flows nicely. The layout is great and the temperature consistency is the same on each floor."

Overall, purchasing the home was the right decision, the homeowner said.

"I happened to stumble on this home and didn't really know what I was looking at, but the more I began to research, I began to understand all the features it has in terms of the air quality, the low energy bills, the overall feel of the home, and the comfort level. It was vitally important to me. It definitely paid off. Overall it's a great choice and I'm very happy with the home."

The press release added that the homes are also airPlus qualified and include additional features to help protect against potential health risks such as moisture, mold, pests, combustion gases, and garage pollutants. Bridgeport Properties also employs locally and responsibly sourced materials and finishes with no or ultra-low volatile organic compound (VOC) paints, flooring, and carpet. They provide a more comfortable living environment with a whole house advanced HVAC system with improved duct and fresh air ventilation designed for energy-efficient new homes.

For more information; contact Alter Eco by phone at 610.389.1175 or email: [jlombardi@alterecobuild.com](mailto:jlombardi@alterecobuild.com).