

**For Immediate Release**

**WEST\*GROUP to Build First Carbon-Neutral House  
in the Mid-Atlantic Region**

*Groundbreaking Ceremony to take place June 19; Local Elected Leaders to Participate*

**McLean, VA (June 16)**—WEST\*GROUP is announcing the launch of a major new initiative intended to create more awareness about sustainability with the construction of the first “carbon-neutral” house in the mid-Atlantic region.

Groundbreaking for this landmark project will take place June 19 at 10:00 am at 1310 Calder Road in McLean, Virginia. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerald Connolly, Dranesville District Supervisor John Faust, Virginia Delegate Margi Vanderhye and other local elected leaders will participate in the ceremony.

The project will showcase a new approach to development which combines more efficient building design, innovative technology and a smart location to reduce carbon emissions—the leading source of harmful greenhouse gases. At completion, the house is projected to use 70-80 percent less energy per square foot than a comparable new house. The home is being built in partnership with Fairfax-based GreenSpur, Inc.

“Climate change demands that we learn to build more efficiently, understand renewable energy and that we locate development in places where people can live, work and be less dependent on automobiles,” said WEST\*GROUP Chairman Jerry Halpin.

GreenSpur founder and President Mark Turner added: “The project will showcase how energy-efficient design and renewable-energy systems come together in a home that is not only environmentally friendly but also a beautiful place to live. This will be both a model project and home that fits right into the surrounding community.”

The home site was selected because of its walkable proximity to the amenities of McLean and to a Metro bus stop. The house will be less than a five-minute walk from the grocery store, pharmacy, restaurants and numerous other shops in downtown McLean. “A family can live here and use the Metro bus and train to get downtown or to Tysons in less than a half hour. Reliable and attractive public transportation is a key piece of the carbon puzzle; we must increase opportunities for people to get out of their cars if we are going to be successful in addressing climate change,” said Mark Lowham, Senior Vice President of WEST\*GROUP.

The house is being designed by Cunningham Quill Architects of Washington and will feature four bedrooms and three and a half bathrooms. It will encompass approximately 3,800 square feet of living space—a substantial size yet smaller than other new houses in the neighborhood. “Part of the mission of the project is to show how we can live better with less,” noted Lowham.

**(more)**

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Environmentally friendly features of the house include a geothermal system for heating and cooling, a solar hot water system, and photovoltaic panels to generate electricity. The design and site plan are being subjected to extensive energy modeling to position most efficiently the house on the site and to incorporate architectural elements for thermal efficiency. The walls and roof will be insulated at roughly twice the standard for new construction.

WEST\*GROUP is partnering with McLean-based CharityWorks to decorate and furnish the house using sustainable, environmentally responsible resources. The “CharityWorks Dream House” will be open to the public for several weeks next Spring. Nationally acclaimed interior designer Barry Dixon of Barry Dixon, Inc. will lead the Design Committee. Ticket proceeds from the Dream House will benefit CharityWorks’ mission “to transform lives in the Washington Region.”

For more information about the project visit [www.CO2FreeLiving.com](http://www.CO2FreeLiving.com) (launches June 19).

### **About WEST\*GROUP:**

For more than 45 years WEST\*GROUP has provided leadership in developing new ways for people to live and work in the Washington, D.C. region. Looking forward, our goal is to focus on locations such as Tysons Corner where we can embrace both innovative building principles and smart planning to accommodate the projected growth of the region in a manner that is sustainable and environmentally responsible.

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