



## Billerica goes green

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Billerica, Mass.-

With housing costs on the rise and the market moving steadily downward, ZN Custom Building, made the decision to switch from the traditional stick-built construction to modular homes, which have proven to be more environmentally-efficient along with cheaper to build.

Owner Michael Zenga said these homes provide more insulation and a tighter design, ensuring the heat won't be wasted on the outdoors. Insulation between floors is also greater than that used in stick-built construction.

"Modular homes are constructed indoors," Zenga said. "The studs can't get wet, then contract or expand as a result."

Eighty-five percent of the work putting a modular homes together is done at a facility in Maine, and transported to the site, where it is completed. Leftover scraps from the construction process are recycled and used on the next project. While stick-built construction can see as many as a dozen trucks used, modular homes only need one vehicle trip, cutting down on fuel cost, and the amount of pollutants added to the air.

Green heating systems like solar power can be added to design, either before or after the home is built. Zenga said 10 percent of the homes being built today are modular, and his own company is in the process of constructing 14 of these homes.

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