

# Building America Near Zero Energy Habitats



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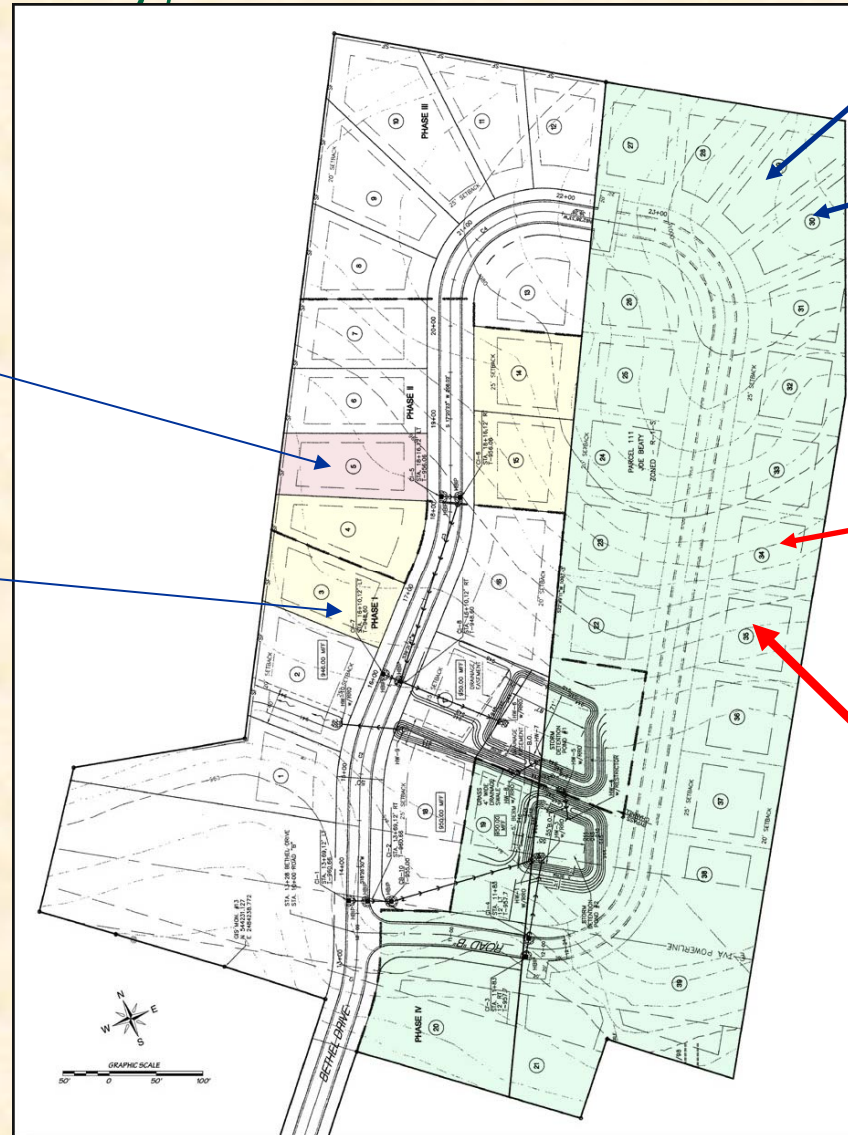


# Building America near Zero Energy House Test Site; Lenoir City, TN.

✓ ZEH1  
BSC

✓ Base House

South



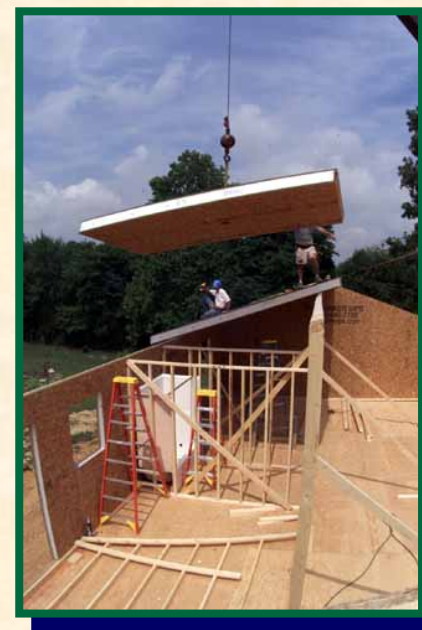
✓ ZEH2  
IBACOS  
✓ ZEH3  
IBACOS

✓ ZEH4  
CARB

ZEH5  
CONSOL

# ZEH1 first house to sell solar power to TVA

- Annual measured heating cost - \$98,
- Cooling - \$79,
- Domestic hot water \$96,
- Space heating and cooling energy \$0.48 / day
- Solar credits \$0.82 / day
- Net off site total energy \$0.93 / day
- Construction cost - \$100K



# TVA Green Power Switch Generation Partner Program

- **Residential retail rate ~\$0.067/kWh**
- **Sells green power for ~\$0.094/kWh**
- **Buys solar AC for**
  - \$0.15/kWh
  - 10 years
- **Going up to \$0.20/kWh?**
  - Retroactive
  - -\$0.27 / day
  - New net cost of \$0.66/ day

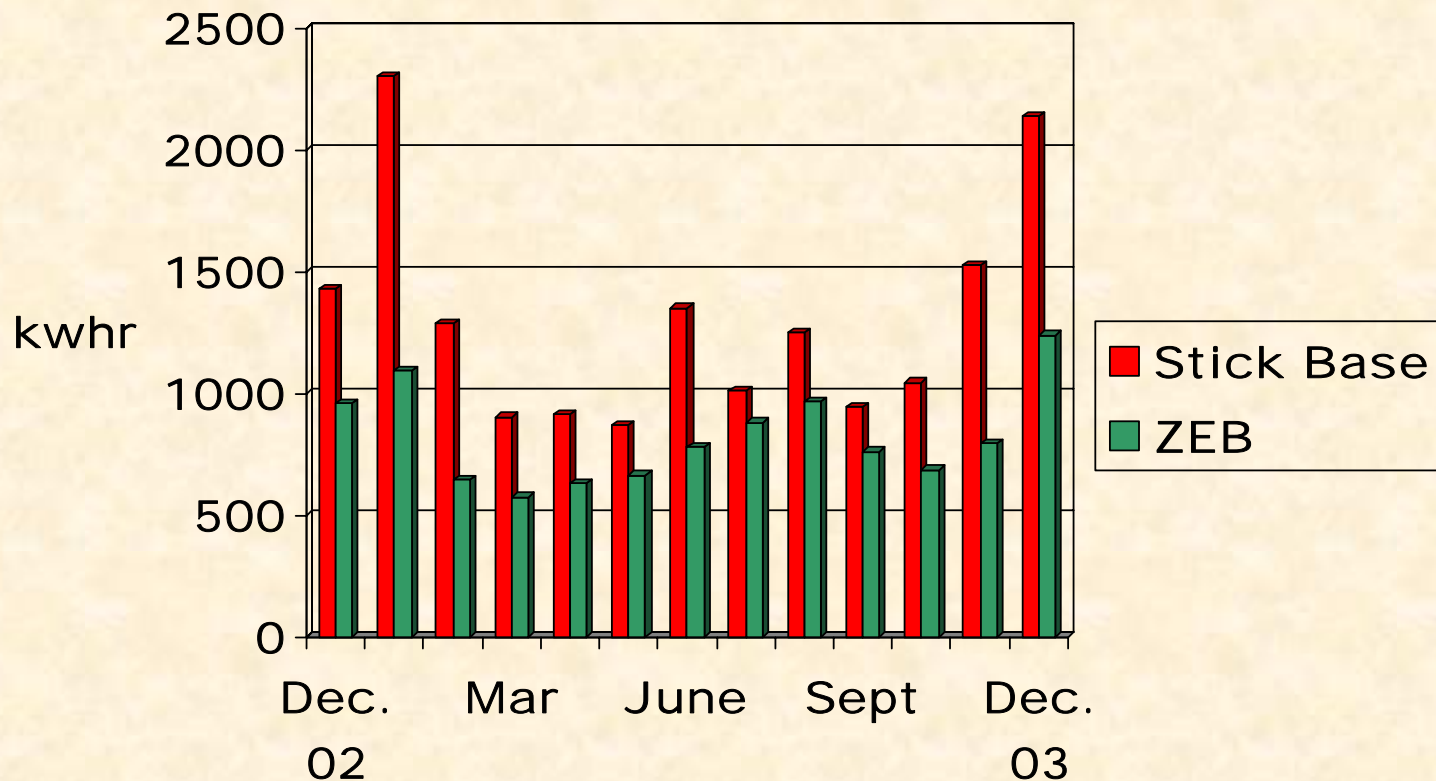


# ZEH1 Features

- **Air-tight floor, wall and ceiling SIPS**
- **All ducts inside conditioned space**
- **Mechanical supply ventilation- Air-cycler**
- **14 SEER - 1.5 ton HP**
- **CFL and Energy Star Appliances**
- **Windows .34 U-value, .36 SHGF**
- **Reflective hidden metal seam roof (light grey)**
- **Grid-connected 2 kWp PV**
- **Integrated HPWH**



1<sup>st</sup> ZEH used 40% less total energy than HERS rated 84 stick base house (already 20% better than IECC)



# ZEH1 Performance

- **This all electric house used 28 kWhr/day**
- **Other loads averaged 17 kWhr/day**
- **Solar AC generation 5.5 kWhr/day**
- **On site power 20% of total energy**
- **41% of solar goes to the grid.**
- **Solar system**
  - **Current first cost \$13.6K**
  - **Simple payback**
    - **@\$0.20/kWh – 34 years**
    - **@\$0.30/kWh – 23 years**
  - **First cost must drop to \$8K for 20 payback @\$0.20/kWh**

# Lessons learned from ZEH1

- **Downsize and near zero energy is affordable**
- **Potential for creating a whole new product**
  - Small affordable near zero energy houses
  - Grouping premium components
    - SIPs
    - High performance windows
    - Metal roof
    - Solar PV
    - High SEER Heat Pump
    - Heat Pump Water Heater
  - Construction cost less than \$100K
  - Use less than a dollar a day, for energy
- **National Scale zero energy housing is a stretch goal**
- **Creates a buildings technology R&D focus**



# ZEH 2 Features

- **R-15.5 walls, R-23 ceiling, SIPs 1.8 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> EPS R-4/in and R-23 floor**
- **2 ton HP two speed compressor, variable speed ECM indoor fan**
- **HPWH hard duct linked with crawl and fridge on outside wall, wall, COPs of 2.0, pulling from the crawl space.**
- **Occupancy sensor for energy control**
- **6/12 pitch, grid-tie 2kWp Sharp 165W Solar PV, 15% efficiency**
- **Insulated-unvented crawlspace**
- **Airtight taped joints with supply supply mechanical ventilation, preconditioned fresh air.**



Sept. 03, 2003

# August 04 total energy bill \$14.52



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# ZEH 2 Integrated Heat Pump Water Heater

- **Located on outside wall**
- **Ducts**
  - Much shorter
  - No flex
- **HPWH using 2.7 kWh/day( 36gal/day)**
- **Fridge using 1.23 kWh/day**



# After 10 months of detailed monitoring

- **ZEH 2 using \$0.92/day**
- **\$0.12 less than ZEH1 during this same period**
- **Using \$0.20/kWhr for solar credit currently at \$0.59/day**
- **Looks like about a \$0.05 day improvement over ZEH1**
  - No CFL
  - No dishwasher
  - Found low space heat pump charge beginning of summer
  - Accidental high setting of heat pump water heater 155 F first four months

# Lessons learned from ZEH2

- **HPWH integration with fridge works well**
- **SIPS / metal roof / solar module connections need some work**
- **Elevated RH in crawl mystery solved homeowner opened vents, cold pipes must be insulated or installed in floor system above floor insulation**
- **Commissioning important part of install; solar, HPWH, HPWH, HP**
- **ZEH friendly homeowner is critical to attaining long term goal.**
- **Homeowner is delighted**

# ZEH test house 3

- **less than \$100k and \$0.68/day for off site site energy**
- **50% savings from BA benchmark**
- **6 inch SIP wall, 10 in. roof**
- **Cool pigmented roof(0.23 instead of 0.17) 0.17)**
- **2 ton direct exchange geothermal heat pump with SEER of 16.**
- **Whole house 0.06 ACH.**



# ZEH 3 using geothermal



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# No HVAC noise, compressor unit located in crawl

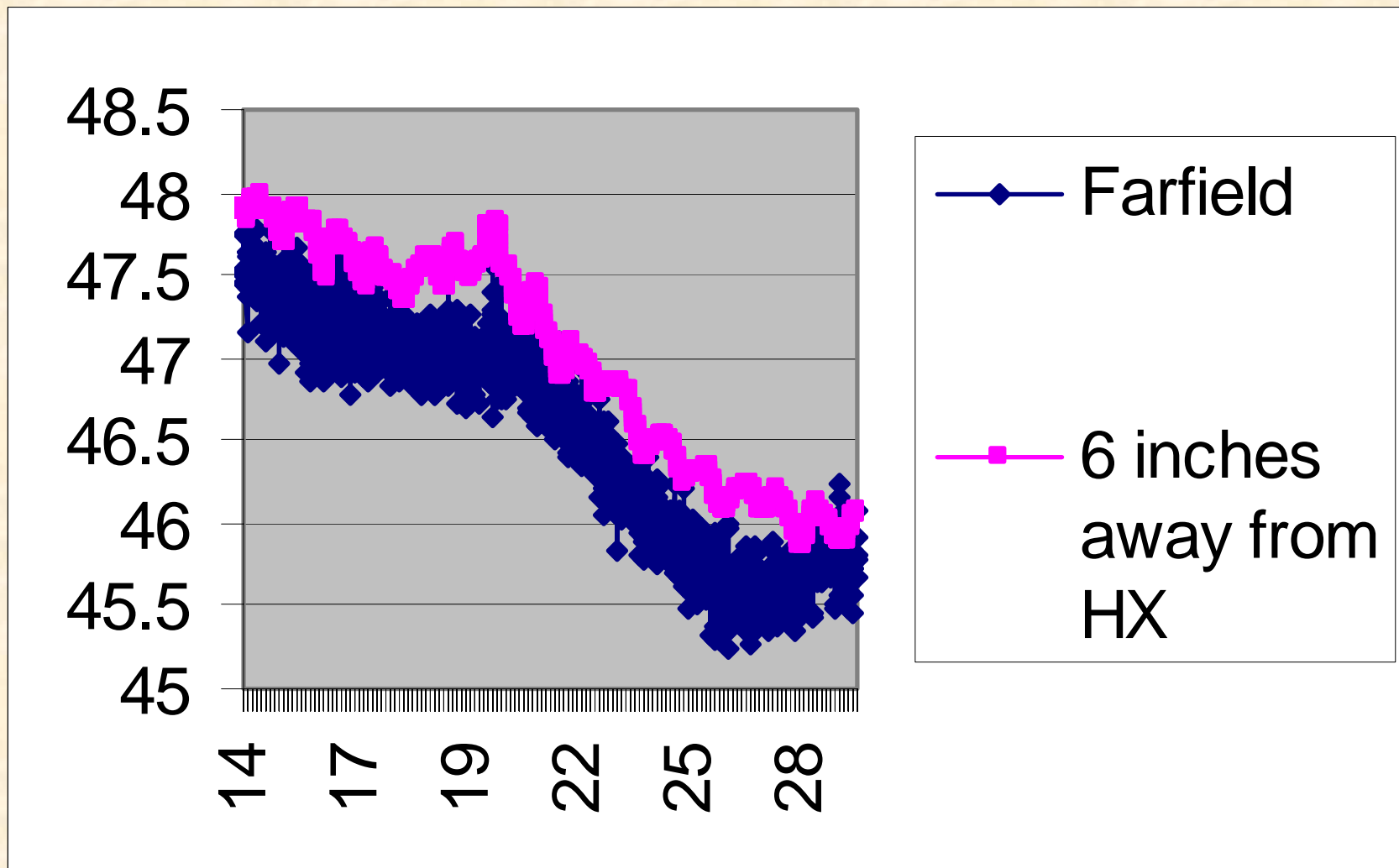


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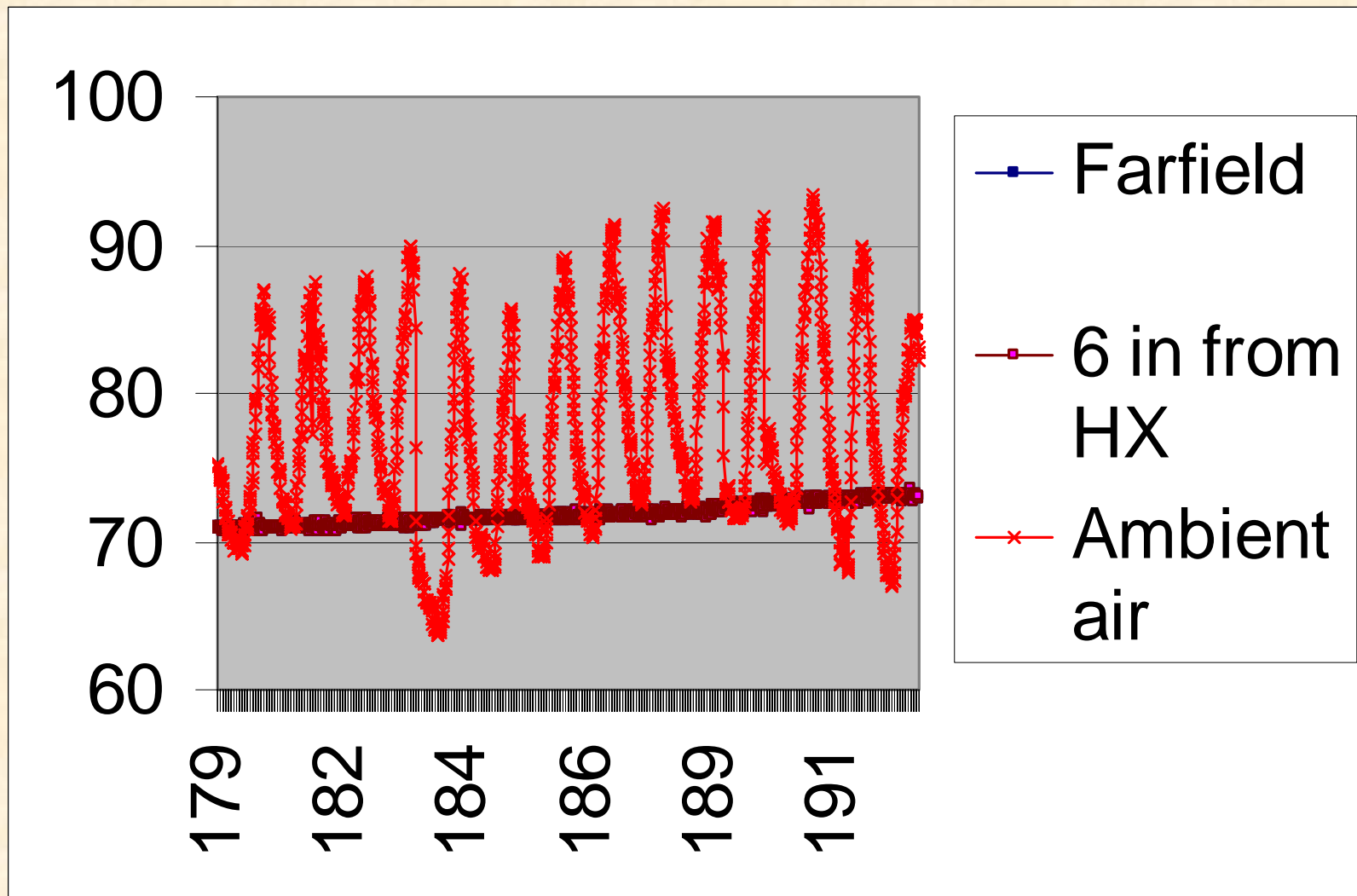
  
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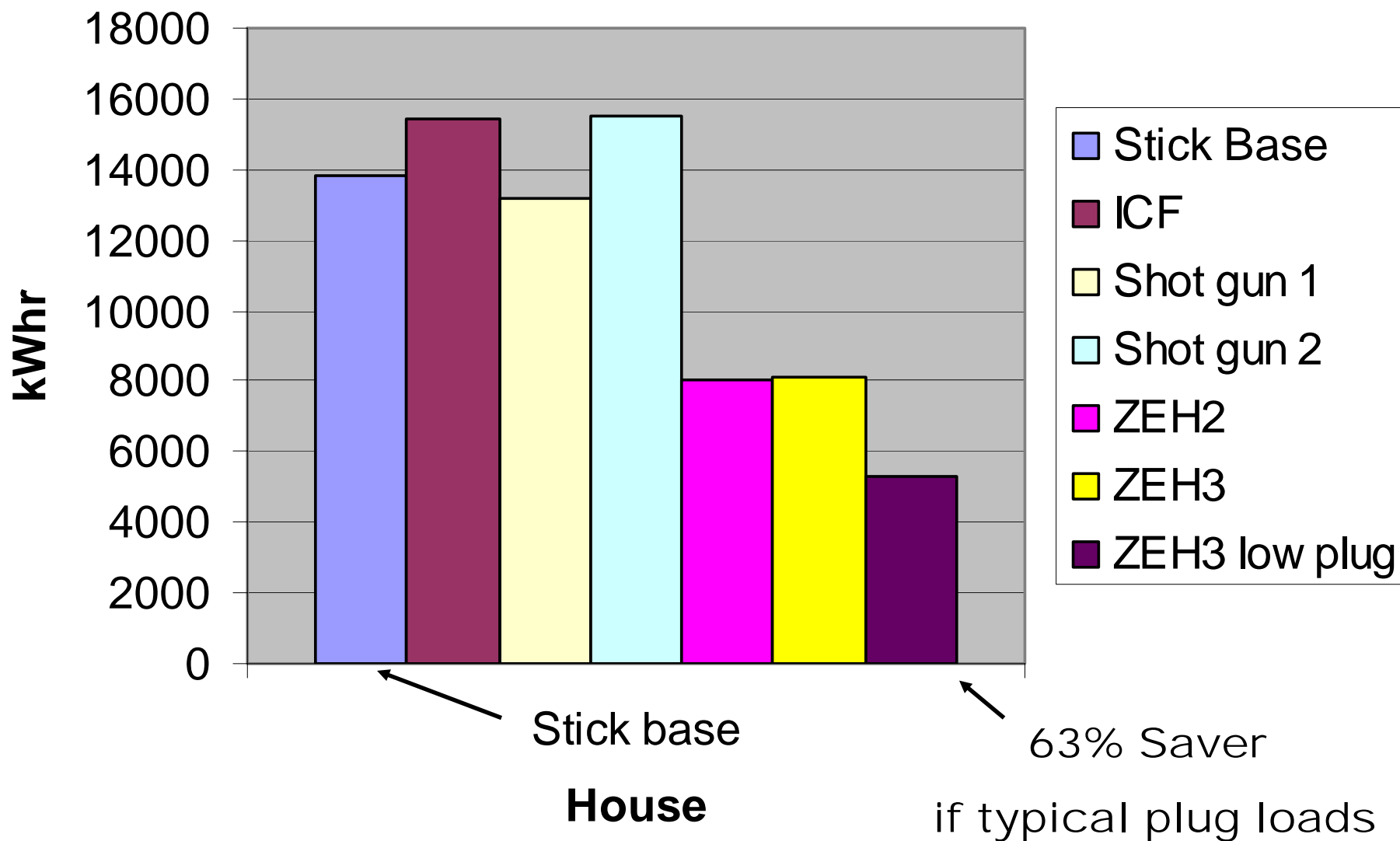
# Ground Temperature °F in January



# Ground Temperature °F in July



ZEH2 & 3 performing 44% better than base houses in same development 9(mo)



# Lessons learned from ZEH3

- **Bigger the panels the easier the assembly**
- **Geothermal HP terrific energy savings**
- **Sufficient roof area to reach net zero energy**
- **If TVA were to offer \$0.31/kWhr zero energy bill attainable**
- **Dehumidification would help in June-August**
- **Thermal mass would offer improvement in energy performance and enhance comfort**
- **Add dishwasher**
- **Add CFL package**
- **Go beyond energy star appliances**

# ZEH4 Combination of Polyiso-pentane blown SIPS and T-Mass most promising



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# ZEH4 features

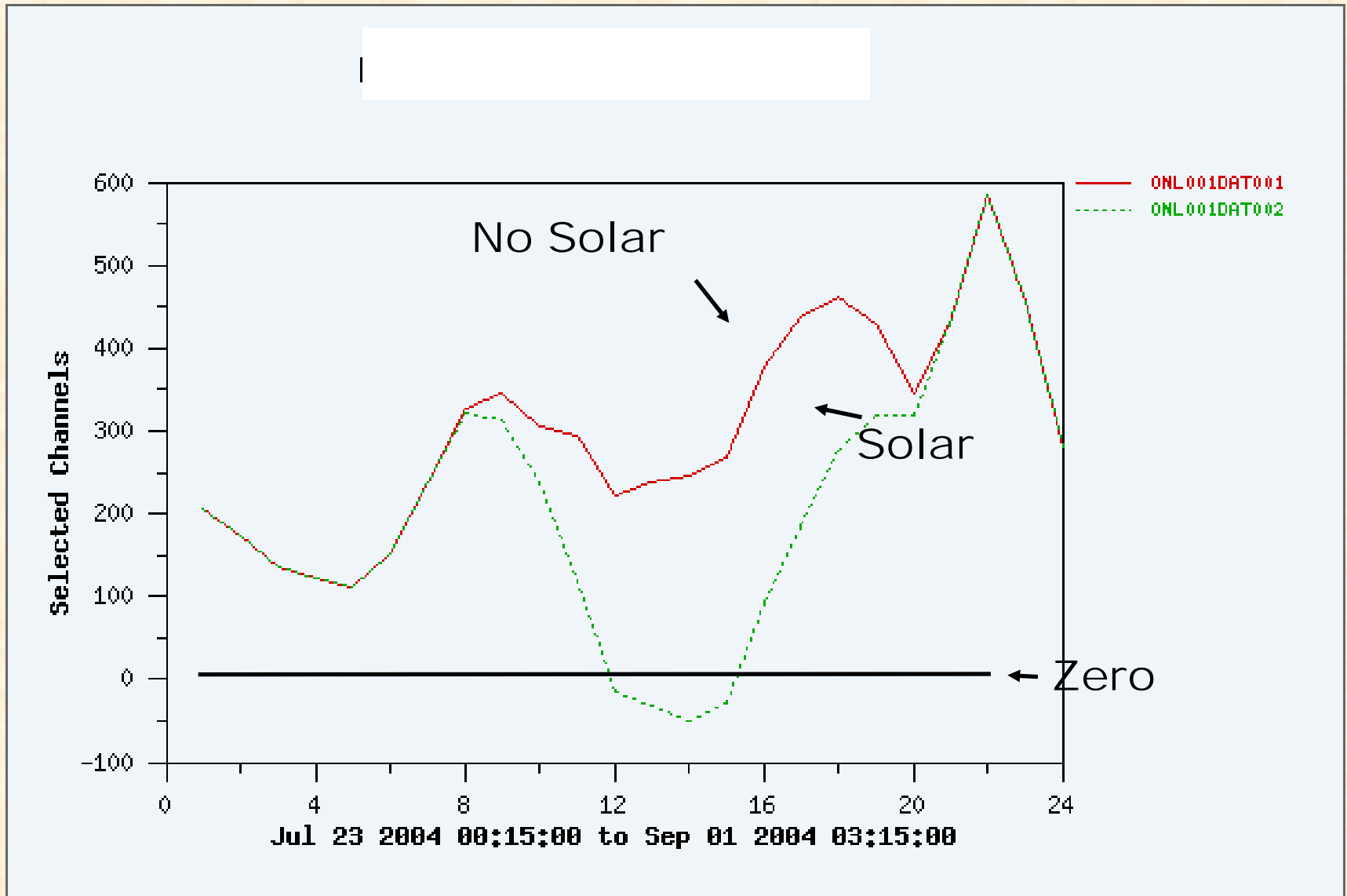
- **2.2 kWp Evergreen cedar**
  - 110 V output
  - 20 modules
- **Sunny Boy 2500 inverter**
- **Lennox 2 stage HP**
  - 17 SEER
  - Programmable thermostat
- **Air cycler controlled**
  - Supply ventilation
  - Upstairs 1/2 bath fan
- **Tmass foundation**
- **Polyiso- pentane blown SIPS, 4 in walls, 8 in 4X12 cathedral roof**
- **ATAS highly reflective metal tile roof, engineered solar connection to SIP**



# Meter watching the next hot eco-tourism activity



# ZEH4 PV on average helps meet summer early PM peaks from July 23-August 31, 2004





# Industry Partners

- **TVA**
- **SIPA / Insulspan / FischerSIPs) / Winter Panel**
- **Andersen Windows**
- **Habitat for Humanity**
- **Dow**
- **Lennox**
- **American Geothermal**
- **Metal Roofing Alliance/ATAS**
- **Dupont**
- **EMI heat pump water heater**
- **BASF**
- **Design Basics**
- **Sharp**
- **NOVA Chemicals**
- **Nextech Power/EPRI (DC power)**



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# Opportunities

- **Market for affordable healthy near zero energy houses with capability for integration of on-site power**
- **Assembling partners for ZEH Kit to enable**
  - a mass purchase
  - Conduct critical path integration
- **Community scale demonstrations**
- **Learning Module for University graduate level Architecture and AIA Continuing Education**