Developer Playbook for ZNE Residential

Zero Net Energy (ZNE) means the total annual energy use of a building equals the amount of renewable energy created onsite. California has set an ambitious goal that all new residential buildings will be ZNE by 2020. In San José, this new generation of buildings will be predominately multifamily and built in the city's urban villages.





Tight Buildling Envelope

Thoughtful integration of a building's site orientation, insulation, high-performance windows and heat recovery ventilators can deliver excellent thermal comfort, indoor air quality, sound mitigation, and natural daylight to create a tranquil and beautiful home.

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All-Electric

Some developers are successfully going to all electric appliances, hot water, and heating systems, foregoing natural gas altogether. This includes inductive stove tops that cook faster and cleaner than natural gas.





Heat Pumps and Smart Thermostats

Provide occupants with easy management of their thermal comfort.



Walkable Neighborhoods

Increase a project's marketability and provide for the Good Life 2.0 by selecting sites with high walk scores that are within biking distance to parks, grocery stores, employment centers, and transit.



Solar Panels

For building occupants, solar panels are often a source of pride because they're less reliant on the grid for their power.



Charging Stations and Bike Storage

Future-proof buildings by providing EV chargers and areas for bike storage.