



Brian U. Stratton  
Mayor

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
**CITY OF SCHENECTADY**  
**NEW YORK**

105 Jay St., City Hall, Room 111  
Schenectady, NY 12305-1938  
(518) 382 - 5000  
Fax : (518) 382-5272  
mayor@nycap.rr.com

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Contact: Ann Petersen,**  
**Home Ownership Coordinator**  
**Office: 382-5199 Ext: 5392**  
**Cell: 573-7969**

**SCHENECTADY WINS NATION'S HIGHEST AWARD FOR**  
**EXCELLENCE IN "GREEN" AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT**

***H.U.D. Secretary Gives Agency's Highest Honor to Schenectady, Community Partners  
In City's Universal Design / Green / Affordable Housing Prototype Home***

**SCHENECTADY** – The City of Schenectady, in partnership with 10 community partners, has received the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) highest award for housing excellence for the city's innovative universal design, green affordable housing program, initiated last year.

U.S. Housing Secretary Steven C. Preston recently named the City of Schenectady and its community partners as the recipient of the Platinum Award in HUD's 25<sup>th</sup> annual *Best in America Living Award* (BALA) competition. The award specifically recognizes the excellence and features of the city's first prototype home, recently completed and sold, as one of 13 homes that are being built and marketed to lower-income, owner-occupant families under Schenectady's \$2 million Affordable Green Housing Initiative.

Mayor Brian U. Stratton said, "Winning first place in the country is an outstanding achievement and a high honor for Schenectady. I congratulate each of our community partner individuals and organizations who have worked with us to make this truly unique, affordable housing project such a success for our city, and so unique in the nation. This award demonstrates that Schenectady is leading the way in the development of sustainable, energy efficient housing."

Since 2007, the City of Schenectady has worked with Better Neighborhoods, Community Land Trust of Schenectady, Architect Dave Sadowsky, General Contractor J. Luk Construction Company and a number of other community partners to design, construct and market the first three prototype homes. They are located at 1005 Glendale Place, 301 Victory Avenue and 845 Grant Avenue in the city's Mont Pleasant, Hamilton Hill and Vale neighborhoods, respectively. The new homes were constructed following the demolition and removal of abandoned and blighted structures at the same locations.

**-more-**

**November 20, 2008**

**Page 2**

This national award competition is jointly sponsored by HUD, the **National Association of Home Builders** (NAHB), and **Professional Builder Magazine**. The BALA awards spotlight the nation's most creative and innovative builders, designers, developers, land planners and interior designers. The annual competition redefines excellence for the residential building industry.

A panel of distinguished judges, from a broad range of disciplines and expertise – architects, builders, interior designers, planners, and federal government officials - reviewed, evaluated and ranked entries from across the country in the HUD Excellence category.

Schenectady's unique project has developed single family homes that are affordable, green, universally designed and super energy efficient. The city's housing project will be featured in an editorial in **Professional Builder Magazine** and on the web.

“Winning this national honor lets us know that we are on the right track and reflects BNI's mission to develop green and energy efficient housing.” added Edward August, Executive Director of Better Neighborhoods, Inc.

Dave Sadowsky, Architect, LEED Accredited Professional, said “I appreciate the opportunity to assist HUD and the City of Schenectady in developing green housing that is not only affordable to build, but is affordable to own, promotes aging in place, and has a carbon footprint that is 1/3 of the national average.”

***This project has been sponsored by HUD and the City of Schenectady in partnership with:***

***Better Neighborhoods, Inc. (BNI)***

986 Albany St., Schenectady, NY 12307

Ed August, Executive Director, (518) 372-6469, [eaugust@better-neighborhoods.org](mailto:eaugust@better-neighborhoods.org)

***Community Land Trust of Schenectady, Inc. (CLTS)***

1677 VanVranken Ave., Schenectady, NY 12308

Bev Burnett, Executive Director, (518) 372-7616, [bburnett@cltofschdy.org](mailto:bburnett@cltofschdy.org)

***Dave Sadowsky, Architect, P.C., LEED AP***

97 Maxon Rd., Petersburgh, NY 12138, (518) 658-2830, [dave@sadowskyarchitect.com](mailto:dave@sadowskyarchitect.com)

***J. Luk Construction Company, LLC –General Contractor***

796 Burdeck St., Schenectady, NY 12306

John Hodorowski, Managing Member, (518) 356-1435, [jluk@adirondackdevelopment.com](mailto:jluk@adirondackdevelopment.com)

***Michael P. Stangl, P.E., NYSERDA Home Energy Rating System Representative***

PO Box 697, Averill Park, NY 12018, (518) 674-5808, [mstangl@rpspower.com](mailto:mstangl@rpspower.com)

***City of Schenectady Department of Development***

Room 14, City Hall, 105 Jay St., Schenectady, NY 12305

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November 20, 2008

Page 3

*Richard Purga, Director of Development*, (518) 382-5149, [rpurga@schenectadyny.gov](mailto:rpurga@schenectadyny.gov)

*Ann Petersen, Homeownership Coordinator*, (518) 382-5199 Ext. 5392, [apetersen@schenectadyny.gov](mailto:apetersen@schenectadyny.gov)

*Vera Genter, Housing Finance Assistant*, (518) 382-5199 Ext. 5455, [vgenter@schenectadyny.gov](mailto:vgenter@schenectadyny.gov)

**Additional Support:**

*New York State Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)*

17 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203-6399

Karen Villeneuve, Director, Residential Efficiency and Affordability Program

(518) 862-1090, [www.nyserda.org](http://www.nyserda.org)

*Capital/Saratoga Energy Smart Communities Coordinator*

Mark De Chiro, 38 Fairfax Ave., Schenectady (Niskayuna), New York 12304

Cell: (518) 542-5175, [mdechiro1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mdechiro1@nycap.rr.com)

*Re-Tree Schenectady*

1806 Morningside Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12309

Betsy Henry, Director, (518) 370-5132, [bhenry01@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bhenry01@nycap.rr.com)

*Schenectady County Cornell Cooperative Extension - Horticultural Center*

Schaffer Heights, 107 Nott Terrace, Suite 301, Schenectady, NY 12308

Laura Milak, (518) 382-5150, [ljm36@cornell.edu](mailto:ljm36@cornell.edu)

The notification letter follows this press release.

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