



## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

June 2, 2006

For Immediate Release

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Chris Smith, Media Relations Coordinator  
Sierra Club Gulf Coast Environmental Restoration Task Force  
(504) 884-4008

### **ALABAMA HOME TO BE REBUILT WITH GREEN TECHNOLOGY Sierra Club Helps Woman Return to House Built by Her Grandfather**

**NEW ORLEANS** – An Alabama house damaged by Hurricane Katrina is being rebuilt using “green,” low cost technology to demonstrate that energy efficient building strategies are not restricted to higher income neighborhoods.

Construction of the home in a low income neighborhood of Coden, Ala., will begin on Friday, June 2 and will proceed through the weekend. Volunteers from the Sierra Club of Alabama and neighboring states will work on the house.

“I think that many people believe that energy efficient building strategies are too expensive or too complicated, but that’s simply not true,” says Peggie Griffin, Southeast Associate Regional Representative of the Sierra Club. Her primary job is working with local groups to build sustainable communities. “The technologies we use are more affordable and easy to implement. We want the house to serve as a model for those who are not familiar with green building technologies, but who are interested implementing simple energy efficient and money-saving techniques as they rebuild their homes.”

The house will feature the following green technologies:

Roofing – Galva-lume roof, which reflects heat away from the house and does not absorb heat as traditional shingles. “By not taking the old roof off, we won’t be

disturbing the old shingles and putting them in a land fill,” says Griffin. “We will use hurricane straps on the roof, where possible.”

Insulation – Walls: Cellulose made from recycled newspaper, treated with boric acid, which will help to prevent insect and termite infestations; Attic: radiant insulation that will reflect the heat out of the house; Underneath floor: insulated sheathing to control air flow and heat loss.

Lighting – “We will install compact, fluorescent lamps that will last about 10 times longer, use less electricity and put out one-third the heat of regular light bulbs,” says Griffin.

Appliances – An energy efficient water heater will be installed.

Interior Walls - Floors and walls will be bolted to the foundation for hurricane protections.

Air Sealing – Air cracks will be sealed with caulking and weather stripping.

Paint – Paints with reduced levels of volatile organic compounds will be used to promote better indoor air quality.

Griffin says that the number one priority is to complete the repair of the house by the beginning of hurricane season.

“Our goal was to reconstruct a house so that its occupants could live in a solid home, rather than a FEMA trailer,” she says. “We also want to highlight the fact that many people are still not able to live in their own homes. Many people remain in FEMA trailers which are not safe in the event of severe weather.”

Griffin says that the Green Rebuild Project is a service that helps those who are not being served by other organizations or by government programs.

“Other organizations might require that the owner be required to meet certain conditions, including being able to have a low-cost mortgage,” says Griffin. “We wanted to provide this service for someone who was falling through the cracks while providing those in need with practical information about green technologies.”

The project is underwritten by the Sierra Club’s Gulf Coast Environmental Restoration Task Force. Barbara Frank, a member of the Sierra Club’s national board of directors, will travel from her home of Wisconsin to view of the hurricane’s destruction and to help in rebuilding efforts.

# # #

The Sierra Club's 750,000 members work together to protect communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Alabama Chapter of the Sierra Club has more than 3,500 members and has been active in local conservation projects for more than 30 years. For more information, contact the organization’s website: [www.alabama.sierraclub.org](http://www.alabama.sierraclub.org).