



RECYCLED: Pat Bixler of AltEnergy stands in front of a solar hot water heater that uses a back-up on-demand hot water heater on gray days. The house, in the Mount Tabor Meadows project off North Main Street in Blacksburg, is filled with EarthCraft-certified homes built by Justin and Jason Boyle of Green Valley Builders. In building these homes, the Boyles recycled 42 percent of their construction waste, including continuously emptying an 8-cubic-yard dumpster of flattened cardboard. They have also gained multiple points — Earth Craft certification is based on accumulated points, tallied by an independent certifier — through site selection and erosion sediment and control measures. By year's end, the site at Mount Tabor Meadows had seen massive recycling to the tune of 12.5 tons of spruce framing lumber/pallets that have been ground for mulch; 260 pounds of plastic pop bottles; three tons of cardboard; and 452 pounds of aluminum cans and scrap aluminum material.

2008 in review

By Sarah Cox

The themes for the 2008 real estate scene in the New River Valley predominantly have been marketing and sales creativity, along with sustainability as a means of attracting energy-aware consumers and answering the demands of a more cost-conscious society. From EnergyCraft-certified homes to NAHB Gold houses, the buzz words for the year range from green building to energy efficiency in terms of the building envelope, the HVAC equipment and doors and windows.