



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

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FIRST ECO-COTTAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN HANCOCK COUNTY

Pearl –Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Director Mike Womack announces the first Eco-Cottage is under construction with the help of Bay-Waveland Habitat for Humanity, the Mississippi Development Authority and a group of nearly 50 volunteers in Hancock County.

The project kicked off Monday as volunteers began construction on the three-bedroom, two-bath, 1,100 square foot home.

This project is funded by a \$1.7 million grant from the Mississippi Alternative Housing Program's Eco-Cottage Program, with the goal of creating a sustainable, environmentally friendly and energy efficient homes for residents impacted by Hurricane Katrina. This project will cost nearly \$85,000.

“During the holiday season it is very gratifying to know that so many agencies, organizations and volunteers will pitch in to help families get back on their feet,” said MEMA Director Mike Womack. “This is the kind of project where working together ensures success.”

Today at 4 p.m., 704 Union St., Bay St. Louis, the volunteers will hold a “Builders Blessing” to recognize the work which has been completed and to thank the volunteers for their hard work.

The family receiving the home is required to put in 250 hours of sweat equity for each adult, in helping to build their house and or the house of others. The project is expect to be nearly 70 percent complete this Friday with additional volunteers, Americorps, Habitat staff and subcontractors completing the project in April 2011.

This home features eco-friendly materials and energy efficient appliances and construction techniques, which will mean lower utility bills for the homeowners. MEMA's partnership with Habitat for Humanity Bay-Waveland Area will build 20 cottages in the Seal Point neighborhood in Bay St. Louis. When completed the Seale Point neighborhood will have more than 40 affordable, energy efficient units thanks to various partnerships including \$4.3 million from the Mississippi Development Authority Long Term Workforce Housing Grant. The land for this project was donated to Bay-Waveland Habitat by Habitat for Humanity International.

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