

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE TINY HOME COMMUNITIES



GREENLIGHT GREENPAPER

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GreenLight Solutions conducted research into sustainable sourcing strategies, provided recommendations for building a sustainable tiny home community, and coordinated volunteer build days to physically build the initial pilot project homes.



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Visit GLSolutions.org to learn more & donate. Contact info@GLSolutions.org to get involved.

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Challenges & Opportunities

Build Us H.O.P.E. is a visionary nonprofit working to end veteran homelessness by building sustainable tiny home communities to get people off the streets and into secure housing. Led by Elizabeth Singleton, BUH was working through zoning battles and just trying to get permits to build, meanwhile they came to GreenLight to help with sustainable sourcing and purchasing of their housing materials. The designated purpose of this project was to design and build a tiny home community for those in need of housing. Our challenge was to advise our partner on the best practices, methods, and materials to accomplish this in the most sustainable way possible. This afforded us an excellent opportunity to research cutting edge materials that when implemented will have a positive effect on the environment, and the feasibility of the tiny homes. The project team also coordinated numerous volunteer build days for folks from the community to work together to build this first tiny home pilot project.

Recommended Solutions

The feasibility of the building materials was evaluated by multiple matrices comparing cost, environmental impact, health, community, maintenance, time, energy, and other variables that would impact the sustainability of the project. As a result, the recommended materials were sustainably obtained, long lasting, energy efficient, beautiful and functional. GreenLight was uniquely qualified due to the cross discipline makeup of its student membership. There were members from many majors, which to draw from with a variety of knowledge and experience. For the building and fundraising of the homes, greenlight provided volunteer management and event planning assistance.

Project Benefits

BENEFITS TO PROJECT PARTNER

The work done on the Build Us H.O.P.E. project will have a lasting impact on the Project Partner as well as the community it now houses. Elizabeth and her team brought together the right partners to bring their tiny home vision to life. We hope that this project will be the first of many sustainable tiny home communities.

BENEFITS TO SOLUTIONEERS

The GreenLight team garnered a lot of knowledge on the subject of tiny homes and how to design and build them to obtain economic viability, environmental sustainability and a sense of community. The experience and wisdom acquired from such real world projects was priceless.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Homeless verteran living on the street of Phoenix were given houses, and an incredible precedent was set for the future of housing in our urban centers. This project was at the forefront of the urban tiny home movement which will hopefully continue to grow.