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First Home to Receive Pima County Green Remodel Certification

Troy and Kristi Young have completed the “greenest” remodel in Tucson. The Youngs wanted to remodel a mid-town home to meet the needs of their growing family. They believed that the most sustainable home is one that already exists, so they would not contribute to urban sprawl nor deplete as many natural resources as a new home. After a special request to City of Tucson mayor and council to work with the Pima County Development Services’ Green Remodeling Program was approved, the Youngs included gray water plumbing, low flow plumbing fixtures, energy efficient new windows, energy star appliances and other initiatives during the remodeling. Pima County then inspected these initiatives to verify that the Young’s earned the first ever Silver Certificate from the Regional Residential Green Remodeling Program.

“We are excited to be the first recipients of the Pima County Silver Green Remodel Certification,” said Troy Young, homeowner and builder. “The Pima County Green Remodeling Program (PCGRP) provided the framework for building a higher quality, higher performance home. Ultimately, the PCGRP certification will provide assurance and prove value to potential buyers that the best building practices were used,” said Young. “In addition to the certification, our objectives were to add square footage to meet the needs of our growing family, maintain the charm and character of our 1930’s bungalow, increase property value and ultimately, set our home apart from the rest,” said Young. “We are so encouraged by the PCGRP and the certification process that we plan to add a solar hot water system and rain water harvesting to irrigate native landscaping in hopes of achieving Gold certification,” said Young.

“The Youngs remodel was the first remodel to be certified the County’s Green Remodeling Program,” said Rich Franz-Ünder, Pima County Green Building Program Manager. “The existing homes in our community represent a tremendous opportunity and a tremendous challenge,” said Franz-Ünder. “They represent an incredible investment in ‘embodied energy’, or the energy that it took to build them and the infrastructure to support them in the first place.”

The Pima County Regional Residential Green Remodeling System is unique in the region as the only green remodeling certification system that will inspect and certify the green features of a remodel. “National green building systems like LEED will certify major remodels, but we are trying to encourage partial remodels and additions of at least 500 square feet to go green,” said Franz-Ünder. In addition to providing the Regional Green Building Certification Program at no charge, Pima County is the only governmental jurisdiction in the United States authorized to review and inspect homes for ‘LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for Homes’ certification. Pima County Development Services provides the LEED for Homes third-party inspections for a fee and brings green home construction to area residents looking to lower utility bills, use less water, and improve quality of life. For additional information on the Regional Green Building Certification Program, call (520) 740-6892.