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NEXT LEVEL HOMES

CASE STUDY

BUILDING COMFORTABLE HOMES PEOPLE CAN AFFORD

How Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County built their first Net Zero home without compromising affordability.

For over 30 years, [Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County](#) has stayed committed to providing home ownership opportunities to first time buyers earning less than 80% of Area Median Income—successfully building more than 100 affordable homes to date. But affordability is only part of the equation. Each home is designed with the people who will live there in mind, prioritizing safety, health, and long-term durability. However, building high performance homes isn't always straightforward. It requires careful coordination of cost, timelines, and technical expertise. That's where the Next Level Homes program comes in.

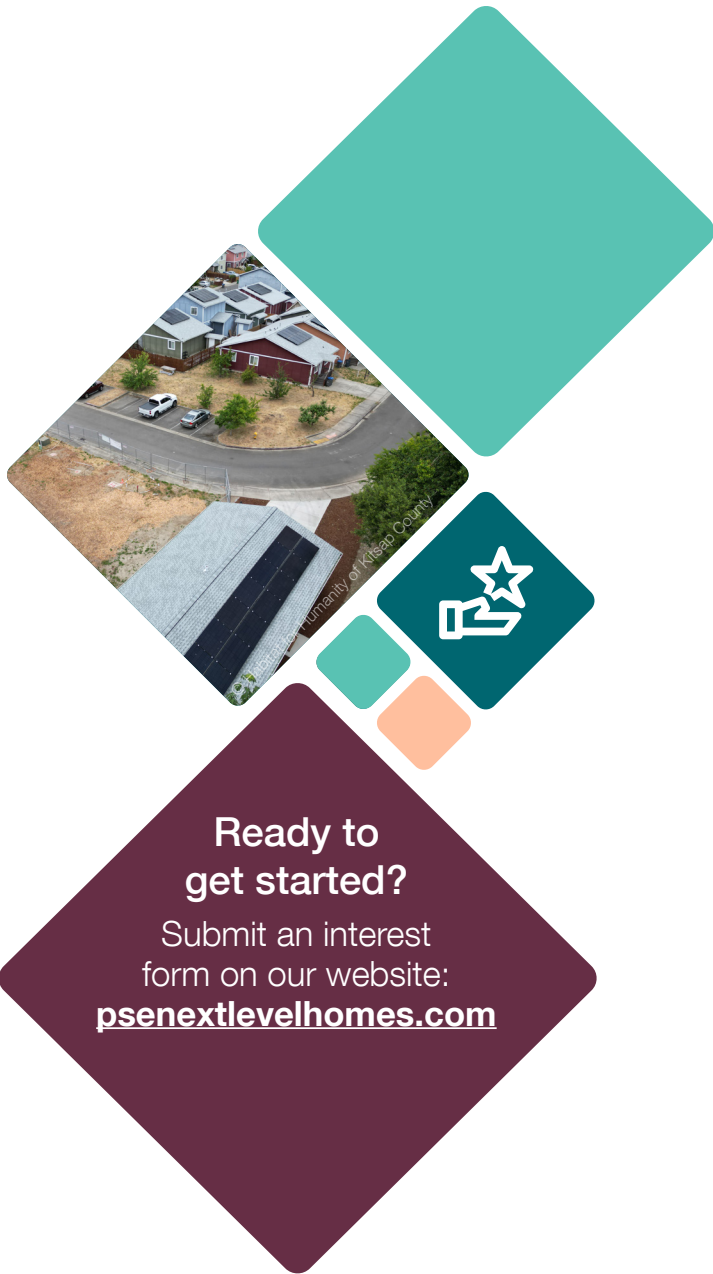
“ I recommend that builders large or small partner with a HERS Rater early in the process and use this program to help make informed decisions and avoid costly oversights. ”

-Jake Carter, Director of Construction at Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County



PROJECT DETAILS

- » **Project type:** Single-story home
- » **Square footage:** 1,100 sq ft
- » **Builder name:** Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County
- » **Total incentives received:** \$7,325
- » **Pathways implemented:** Energy Credits+, Building Opportunity tier
- » **Estimated annual carbon savings:** 2 tons CO₂e
 - Equivalent to powering an electric vehicle for over a year!
- » **Final HERS Rating:** -4



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get started?**

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psenextlevelhomes.com

Ten years ago, Habitat for Humanity began installing solar panels on homes in their Harris Court neighborhood in Port Orchard, Washington. This sparked a long-standing goal to install solar on every Habitat for Humanity home of Kitsap County. However, Jake Carter, Director of Construction, noticed an opportunity to take things a step further by building the affiliate's first Net Zero home. This opportunity expanded after learning about Next Level Homes incentives at [BuildRight](#), an industry conference, hosted annually by the [Home Building Association of Greater Portland](#). From there, the Next Level Homes team provided ongoing support, including facilitating the incentive paperwork process which simplified participation and ultimately saved valuable time. The Harris Court home started construction in August 2024 and was completed in May 2025. After construction was complete, the home received \$7,325 total in incentives.

By June 2025, the 1,100 square-foot, three-bedroom, two-bath, single-story home was officially sold. The buyers were able to participate in the construction process from start to finish, getting first-hand insight into what makes a home high performance. Habitat for Humanity has also stayed in touch with the family since move-in and received positive feedback. The occupants note how comfortable the home feels year-round and joke about how little they need to run the air conditioning and heat. After building their first Net Zero home, Habitat for Humanity plans to build the last four in the Harris Court neighborhood with the same energy efficient measures.