

What will ESS do for the Homeowner:

• ESS works with your Homebuilder to provide you an energy efficient home with integrated state of the art technology

The ESS energy system will include; geothermal heating/cooling, Solar PV, and a connection to the community wide GeoGrid.

Each component of the ESS energy system package is reliable and durable, is designed to conserve natural resources and dramatically reduces energy costs

The energy efficiency of your home is certified using the national industry standard HERS (Home Energy Rating System). Homes with the ESS system will target a HERS rating of 25 or below. The rating is based on a scale of 1 to 130, the lower the number, the more energy efficient the home. The U.S. national average HERS score is currently 62. Further information is available at www.hersindex.com/understanding

Once you occupy the home ESS monitors your energy system to make sure it is performing properly and will provide you maintenance and warranty service

ESS staff is available to assist you with any questions on the operation of your system and how to optimize its performance

What are the costs and benefits of an EcoSmart Home:

- A quiet and comfortable home that is free from external HVAC noise.
- The ESS system increases the value of your home. Appraisers are recognizing

the additional value of the Solar PV, the integrated geothermal heating/cooling system and the other ESS system components. Further information is available at sf.freddiemac.com/articles/insights/energy-efficient-home-improvements-can-increase-home-value

- Residential lenders serving Whisper Valley have been anxious to provide “green” mortgages which allow addition of the ESS Solution components to be included in the home loan
- Homeowners receive federal, state or local tax credits for the installed ESS system (at Whisper Valley each Homeowner received a federal tax credit of up to \$10,000)
- The ESS system provides you an affordable home energy solution and is part of an environmentally sensitive lifestyle.
- At the Whisper Valley community in Texas, the average investment by the Homeowner in the ESS system ranges from \$20,000 to \$30,000
- For the service and maintenance of the GeoGrid, the Homeowner in Whisper Valley pays a monthly ESS fee between \$40 and \$80 depending on size of the home.
- The investment in the ESS system yields significantly lower energy operating costs for the Homeowner. The savings are higher than the monthly ESS fee (based on HERS ratings)
- The value of an ESS energy efficient home

is expected to increase over time as the operating costs of the home are more predictable and less reliant on carbon-based energy production and pricing.

What else does ESS provide to a Homeowner:

- ESS will provide the Homeowner an information kit, access to an ESS community specific web site and customer service to address questions and concerns on operating their new home
- ESS will provide the Homeowner with an energy monitoring mobile app to visualize and track their energy consumption with a data privacy and usage policy
- ESS is fully responsible for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the ESS GeoGrid

What will the Homeowner need to agree to and provide ESS:

- Homeowners will be required to sign an agreement with ESS for the provision of energy services
- All energy system components within the house are to be purchased by the Homeowners from ESS at closing
- ESS will maintain ownership of the GeoGrid and other community wide energy infrastructure
- The Homeowner will allow ESS to monitor their energy system and collect data on its operation and performance

- The ESS monthly service and maintenance fee is unconditional, it must be paid even if the Homeowner removes or disables the system.
- When the home is resold, the commitment to the ESS monthly fee passes to the next Homeowner

