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## **LaGrange Housing Authority Wins National Award**

### **Future of Vision Award for Green Initiatives**

**The City of LaGrange Housing Authority-** We are pleased to announce that the LaGrange Housing Authority received the National Future of Vision Award for Green Initiatives from the Southeastern Regional Council of Housing and National Association of Housing Redevelopment Officials (SERC-NAHRO). SERC-NAHRO is a council that aims to provide housing and community development agencies with education and training to better serve their communities.

The LaGrange Housing Authority (LHA) has been taking the initiative to incorporate Green Living in every aspect of our business. We here at LHA understand that gaining knowledge in Green Living is a crucial element for the future. Ernest Pickett, the Director of Construction for the LaGrange Housing Authority, has worked alongside Chad Cooper, in transitioning the homes. Pickett said the first project to be transitioned to green energy was Phoenix Way. The homes in that community have energy-efficient appliances, low-volume flush toilets, updated windows with better insulation, and Earth Craft materials. LHA is also trying to incorporate the use of solar energy where possible. We actively educate the youth on the importance of Green Living.

Since 2014 LHA has been partnering with different organizations to gain knowledgeable information about testing homes and what materials to use. Also, in 2021, LHA joined and became a significant contributor to the SOUL program. SOUL, which stands for Save On Utilities Long term, is a pilot program to help low- and moderate-income residents with higher-than-average utility bills by improving energy efficiency. SOUL pays for additional home energy efficiency modifications from attic insulation to new HVAC equipment — providing energy savings on the resident's utility bill.

According to Chad Cooper, the Director of Development and Marketing, "We always want to push green energy, anything that can help the community with saving money. If people can save money, they will have more disposable income to do other things with their families and preserve the planet's natural resources in the process.

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