Steps to a "Zero Energy Ready Home"

How Habitat for Humanity of Summit and Wasatch Counties is building homes of the future today!

**STEP #4: STRATEGIC APPLIANCES**

1. **Stick with Energy Star**
   
   Appliances can account for up to 60% of a home’s energy load, which is why ENERGY STAR appliances and LEDs go hand-in-hand with Zero Energy Ready homes. We encourage ENERGY STAR throughout, but there are also a few key appliance decisions that will make a big impact on a zero-energy ready home. Last but not least, use LED lights throughout the house.

2. **Induction Stove Tops**
   
   An induction stove is the best choice for a net-zero home. They are far more energy efficient than a gas range, and even more efficient than a standard electric stove. Essentially, induction cuts out the intermediate step of heating up a burner and then transferring the heat to the pot.

3. **Innovative Washers**
   
   High efficiency washers use a higher RPM spin cycle (1400 RPM) along with a fan fresh (fluff) option to remove more water from clothing, which in-turn helps them dry them faster. In addition, we recommend cold water washing to save on energy used to heat water.

4. **Heat Pump Dryers**
   
   If you can’t rely on drying laundry outside, and need a dryer, purchase a heat pump condensing dryer. These dryers get more heat from each unit of electricity than a typical electric dryer, typically saving 50 to 60% on energy costs.

5. **Protect Against Phantom Loads**
   
   It’s the dozens of different electronic devices around our homes that generally use the most collective energy. Almost all electronics have “phantom loads” energy being used even when the device is turned off, but still plugged in. Protect against phantom loads by using power strips for electronics or event better, “smart strips” that automatically cut power to devices not in use. There are also special switches, and new apps available that allow you to control much of your home’s energy remotely or turn off entertainment centers!