

Andrew Hoffman

Mandalay Homes: Building Sustainable Innovation in Residential Construction

In early 2022, Dave Everson, CEO of Mandalay Homes, drove home from a meeting with developers of a new master-planned residential community and was greeted by a cool and dry northern sunset over Prescott, Arizona. His company had been tirelessly pushing innovation for more than a decade and was looking toward its next “new frontier” of work. Since starting in the Phoenix metro area in the late 1990s as a small-firm homebuilder, the company had grown to develop a reputation as a cutting-edge green-construction company, winning numerous awards for energy-efficient designs. This pivot into sustainable construction had started in the early 2010s when Mandalay partnered on an energy-efficient project with the City of Phoenix. The company accomplished the goals of the project and made an internal commitment to permanently keep pursuing sustainability.

Mandalay’s current slate of work was primarily partnering with developers in northern Arizona to build large subdivisions of new homes, all of which would be built to Mandalay’s specifications of energy efficiency and sustainability. The company was enjoying a stable demand for new construction and received more requests per year than it could accept. While the company had made significant progress and achieved widespread recognition in transforming its processes around energy-efficient building, indoor air quality, and sustainability, Everson was not satisfied. He felt there was still more that could be done to push forward the construction industry as a whole.

As he drove through the proposed neighborhood, he thought about the bigger impact that the company could make and what pathways lay ahead. While Mandalay had reached a high standard of operational efficiency for homes, there was room for additional exploration by the company into sustainable supplier sourcing and material resource management practices. There was also a growing tension in the construction industry between antiquated building codes and new innovations that many certification programs required. Therefore, the company often straddled a line between pushing regulating bodies to consider code updates

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