

# FOUR POINTS NEWS

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## Longhorn Village earns three-star energy rating

*By Charles Wood, FPN*

Longhorn Village can now boast something few other retirement communities can. The facility, located in Steiner Ranch, recently earned a three-star rating from the Austin Energy Green Building Program.

“I promised that we would get at least one star,” said George Stacy, senior project manager of CRSA, the developer of Longhorn Village. “We qualified for three. I was totally surprised. We met with Austin Energy every two or three months throughout the 18 months of construction and made modifications. I’m very excited about it. We are the first if not only retirement community to earn this rating.”

Austin Energy gives out ratings between one and five stars based a rigorous review process. The development, which opened in summer 2009, achieved the rating for construction that reduces energy use, water use, operation and maintenance costs, and improves indoor air quality and occupant health.

Austin Energy began giving multifamily ratings in 2001 and has only awarded three stars to 29 out of 69 projects that completed the rating process.

Features that helped win the award include efficient appliances and lighting, efficient heating, air conditioning and water systems, a recycling program, use of recycled construction materials, environmentally friendly insulation, maintaining native vegetation, xeriscaping with low water-use plants, efficient irrigation, proximity of greenbelts and hike and bike trails.

Longhorn Village is the first and only retirement community developed in association with the Ex-Students Association of The University of Texas. For more information, about Longhorn Village visit [www.LonghornVillage.com](http://www.LonghornVillage.com).