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## Practical pad: Habitat house built for efficiency

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### Special Photo

This Habitat for Humanity home in Lawrenceville is the first in Georgia to receive Right Choice Energy Star certification.

hard-earned dollars to go toward the important things like caring for their family and furnishing their home, and wasting energy dollars shouldn't be part of that equation."

Jackson EMC employees volunteered on the demolition team, tearing out Sheetrock, insulation and shingles to prep the home for its energy efficient retrofit.

The company partnered with Gwinnett Technical College and R.E. Michel Company Inc. for installation of the geothermal heat pump. Geothermal pumps, or ground source heat pumps, are considered one of the most energy efficient heating and cooling water systems, according to the Department of Energy. Geothermal heat pumps are similar to regular heat pumps, only they rely on the constant temperatures of the earth in their exchange systems rather than outside air to provide heating, air conditioning and water heating.

"The geothermal heat pump and Right Choice Energy Star certification will help the homeowner manage electricity consumption," said Meredith Wilson, a residential marketing representative with Jackson EMC who led the project team to secure materials, service, funding and volunteers. "They'll also receive Jackson EMC's lowest residential rate, the Energy Advantage Rate, for being Right Choice certified."

12 Stone Church, which has two locations in Gwinnett, served as the sole financial sponsor for the Habitat home.

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