

Furman University
David E. Shi

As part of its involvement with the President's Climate Commitment, Furman began construction in the summer of 2007 on Cliffs Cottage, a collaboration with *Southern Living* Magazine and the Cliffs Communities. Slated to become one of the nation's first fully certified LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) residences in America, the structure is designed to serve a higher purpose.



Cliffs Cottage at Furman, which is scheduled to be completed by June, is the fourth showcase home featured by *Southern Living*. It is also the magazine's first and only LEED certified "green" home, offering an array of sustainable features that highlight the use of renewable and alternative energy. The house will include 45 Kw of



photovoltaic power generation, geothermal ground source heat pumps, modern sprayable insulation and rainwater harvesting cisterns, as well as a number of new and improved technologies, such as high efficiency toilets, bamboo floors and wood shingles.

Both the home and surrounding gardens will be featured in a June 2008 cover story in *Southern Living* as well as 11 more feature stories during the next year highlighting green construction systems and methods, energy efficiency and sustainability. Cliffs Cottage will remain open for public tours for one year before becoming Furman's Center for Sustainability. Specifically, the Cliffs Cottage at Furman project will:

- implement new landscape strategies, including water conservation and pervious parking structures
- highlight ornamental gardening with native plants
- incorporate and expand the university's current organic garden
- become a local center for planting "legacy" trees
- demonstrate xeriscaping (landscaping that employs drought-resistant plants to conserve resources, especially water)
- offer educational workshops for K-12 students and lifelong learners



- welcome architects, designers and contractors from across the country for tours
- provide a new venue for the university's Center for Sustainability after the public showcase period
- serve as a meeting space for corporate and business partners working to address sustainability issues

For more information about Cliffs Cottage, contact Edward Marshall, Furman's Director of Special Projects, at ed.marshall@furman.edu.