



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## The Future of Affordable Housing: Innovative Construction Designs and Methods on Display in Hampton

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### *Virginia Housing hosts cutting-edge companies showcasing off-site built, energy-efficient construction*

**HAMPTON, Va.** — The future of innovative, efficient and affordable homebuilding is on display at the Virginia Governor's Housing Conference Nov. 15-17, inside the Hampton Roads Convention Center.

Virginia Housing is hosting **Clayton**<sup>®</sup>, a Berkshire Hathaway company and leading single-family home builder, and **Van Metre**, a homebuilding and development firm serving Northern Virginia since 1955, to display each company's advanced home designs.

The Virginia Housing display will include Clayton's 1,150-square-foot, state-of-the-art, modern home and Van Metre's small-concept, modular prototype of a kitchen and bathroom built at its Winchester factory. Experts from all three organizations will give tours, answer questions and share benefits from the advanced, off-site-built construction techniques, including:

- increased efficiency with materials and labor
- decreased waste for more sustainable construction
- scalable operations with adaptable, plug-and-play options
- tighter homes with lower energy consumption
- flexibility that allows the homes and their features to adapt over time
- shortened timelines, enabling year-round construction

"Innovation in affordable housing requires taking fresh and creative approaches," said **Chris Thompson**, director of strategic housing for Virginia Housing. "It requires new ways of thinking to design, build and deliver quality, efficiency and, most importantly, affordability. In recent years, Virginia Housing has explored innovative approaches such as 3D printing and using recycled shipping containers. Public-private partnerships like this pave the way for awareness and adoption of new approaches to make homeownership attainable for more Virginians."

Virginia Housing supports modular and manufactured homeownership by providing mortgage-rate financing, down payment assistance and closing cost assistance as well as financing modular and manufactured rental housing development. The agency is seeking additional ways to help make homeownership possible for those who are interested in this concept.

**Randy Grumbine**, executive director of the Virginia Manufactured and Modular Housing Association, said, "We value our relationship and the coordination required with Virginia Housing and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to make this exhibit possible. This year, we opted to present a single-section home due to the significant price inflation in housing, and a single

section represents the most affordable option. Single-section homes are the most affordable and represent approximately 45% of all manufactured home deliveries in Virginia and nationwide.”

### **About Clayton’s eBuilt™ Home**

As it becomes harder for the average American family to achieve homeownership, Clayton is proud to offer [eBuilt™ energy-efficient homes](#) that help lower the overall cost of homeownership. Every eBuilt home meets the U.S. Department of Energy’s Zero Energy Ready Home™ specifications, which can help homeowners save up to 50% on their annual energy costs.<sup>1</sup> These eBuilt homes are also built to allow the addition of a renewable solar energy system, which can offset up to 100% of the home’s energy usage.

Clayton’s home model on display is the Cool Breeze™ floor plan and features three bedrooms, two bathrooms and an optional kitchen island. Additional standard features in all eBuilt homes include:

- Rheem® hybrid water heater
- low-E windows with argon gas
- ENERGY STAR® certified appliances
- LED lighting throughout
- ecobee® smart thermostat
- sealed duct system
- additional insulation

**Ramsey Cohen**, Clayton’s director of industry and community affairs, said, “The off-site-built housing industry is uniquely positioned as a solution to the affordable housing crisis. By building energy-efficient homes at scale, we can increase affordable new home inventory for buyers at all levels that – thanks to eBuilt features – can save homeowners on monthly expenses throughout the life of the home.”

### **About Van Metre’s Modular Prototype**

Designed and built by Van Metre, the small-concept modular prototype featuring a kitchen and bathroom will highlight the unique features of the factory-built units. Benefits over traditional stick-built construction with BASE include:

- **Factory Construction:** Being built in a factory protects the units from harsh weather and minimizes waste as materials are efficiently utilized.
- **Efficient Shipping:** The modular cartridges are constructed to a specific and consistent size, enabling them to be transported efficiently by truck, train or ship. This is a significant improvement over traditional housing that requires multiple shipments and often complex logistics.
- **Adaptability:** The plug-and-play nature of these homes allows for various sizes and variations. Homeowners can expand their homes over time by purchasing additional cartridges, offering flexibility not typically available with stick-built housing.
- **Pre-Installed Utilities:** These homes come pre-plumbed and pre-wired, complete with an efficient HVAC system. This eliminates the need for additional installation work and reduces overall construction time.

- **Disaster-Relief Potential:** The ease of shipping and quick assembly makes these homes ideal for disaster-relief situations. Modulares can be shipped anywhere in Virginia or across the globe where they can be assembled quickly and provide immediate shelter for those in need.

**Mike Sandkuhler**, vice president of BASE at Van Metre, said, “We want to figure out the best, most efficient way to build houses and to deliver them on time. The labor market is going to force the inevitable evolution to modular homes. The future of home building is clearly modular. We will continue to reduce waste, both in materials and time, moving forward as we hone our assembly-line approach.”

### **About Clayton**

Founded in 1956, Clayton is committed to opening doors to a better life and building *happyness*® through homeownership. A Berkshire Hathaway company, Clayton is a leading single-family, values-driven home builder dedicated to attainable housing, sustainable practices and creating a world-class experience for customers and team members. The company’s portfolio includes a comprehensive range of site-built, off-site, Tiny, CrossMod® and modular housing. In 2022, Clayton built 62,620 homes across the country. For more information, visit [claytonhomes.com](https://claytonhomes.com).

*CrossMod is a registered trademark of the Manufactured Housing Institute.*

<sup>1</sup>[ZERH Factsheets.pdf \(energy.gov\)](#).

ENERGY STAR is a registered trademark owned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

### **About Van Metre Homes**

Since 1955, Van Metre Homes has been a distinguished figure in the new home construction industry. Recognized as the 2022 Builder of the Year by *Pro Builder*, Van Metre Homes exemplifies dedication, innovation and growth. With roots deeply planted in Northern Virginia, the company is a symbol of reliability and trust. Its unwavering commitment to client satisfaction ensures that every home they construct stands the test of time. By prioritizing their clients’ desires and needs from design to completion, they have solidified their reputation as a leading private homebuilder and a top choice for homebuyers in the region. Van Metre Homes has joined forces with consultant Joseph Wheeler on the modular POWERhaus initiative. A professor and researcher at Virginia Tech, Wheeler is an experienced hand in modular design, industrialized architecture, affordable housing, disaster relief housing, sustainability and renewable energy. Recently recognized as one of the top 100 innovators in housing by *Builder Magazine*’s HIVE100 program, Van Metre Homes is at the forefront of industry innovation. For more information, visit [vanmetrehomes.com](https://vanmetrehomes.com).

### **About Virginia Housing**

By investing in the power of home, Virginia Housing transforms where and how thousands of Virginians live and thrive, strengthening communities and the economy. Founded in 1972 as the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), Virginia Housing works in partnership with the public and private sectors to help Virginians attain quality, affordable housing. While receiving no state taxpayer dollars, Virginia Housing raises money in capital markets to provide mortgages to first-time homebuyers, invests in developments and innovations in affordable housing, and makes homes for people with disabilities and older Virginians more livable. Virginia Housing is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion among its associates, customers and affordable housing partners. Learn more at [virginiahousing.com](https://virginiahousing.com) and review its [most recent annual report](#).

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