

8. RiverClay

DENVER, COLORADO

Making solar power more affordable to homebuyers is a continuing challenge. Buyers of condominiums at RiverClay in Denver, Colorado, were able to take advantage of not only federal solar tax credits and utility rebates, but also a mortgage that includes the cost of each unit's share of the photovoltaic system of 30 rooftop 1.26-kilowatt solar modules. Completed in 2008 for Zocalo Development of Denver and designed by John Gagnon of Samuel Engineering in Greenwood Village, Colorado, the six-story, 60-unit RiverClay project is located across from a seven-acre (2-ha) park a couple of blocks north of Invesco Field stadium. Nine of the condos are earmarked for households earning 80 percent of the area median income.

RiverClay has been awarded LEED Silver certification for features such as water-efficient fixtures, reflective roofing to reduce solar heat gain, a high-efficiency mechanical system, highly insulated low-emission glass, and high levels of building insulation. Close to mass transit, RiverClay provides numerous bicycle parking spaces as well as a community bicycle maintenance facility.

