

By Matthew Andrews

The industry of residential construction must go through a transformative revolution to move away from the profiteering model to one that meets human needs. The average US citizen spends \$1.2 million dollars over a lifetime on housing. This is usually accomplished by accepting oppressive debts that intimidate workers from taking risks to defend their rights. The residential construction industry of 2050 must focus on providing adequate housing for all. State and local government must intervene to take housing out of the market system and abolish homelessness.

Waste will be greatly reduced by 2050. Movements against gentrification will not allow perfectly good housing to be torn down just so investors can maximize the profitability of the property. Communities will become more stable and strong as housing and jobs are guaranteed. Contractors will be required to recycle waste and encouraged to use materials that come from recycled or renewable resources.

Further encroachments on the natural environment will be banned. Massive government funded programs to provide deep energy retrofits to older homes will reduce the energy consumption needs and subsequently the cost of living.

Renewable energy will be generated by de-centralized local consumer/worker co-ops that minimize their impact on the environmental and eliminate the need for resource extraction around the world.

Networks of worker co-ops and unions will break down racist, sexist, and homophobic barriers in the construction industry. In collaboration with worker centers, the floor will be raised so that all workers earn a living wage.

Communities will plan the development of their communities with energy, transportation, environmental and employment needs all taken into consideration. Unions will refuse to build prisons, casinos, war factories or other facilities for destructive industries.