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Interview with Ethan Beck, Ethan Beck Homes, 2011 (audio)

Ethan Beck

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PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
SUSTAINABILITY HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW INDEX

INTERVIEWEE: **_Beck, Ethan**

Interviewer: **Scott, Sara**_____

Date: **_June 2nd, 2011**_____

Location of Interview: **Ethan Beck's home office** _____

Research Assistant: **Jamie Price**_____

Interview Series: Documenting Sustainable Practices in the Pacific Northwest

Recording Equipment: DIGITAL RECORDER (WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO FILE) WITH AN
 EXTERNAL, OMNIDIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE

Time Notes

:39	You moved to Portland in 2002, why?
2:12	You have a degree in environmental science, why home building?
4:27	When did your interest in construction begin?
7:06	What made you decide to start your own business?
9:05	Was the first home builder you worked for interested in sustainability?
10:54	How do you define the term sustainability?
13:17	How do you asses or gauge progress towards sustainability?
15:15	Please describe a typical day?
18:09	What kind of challenges come with designing a sustainable home?
24:53	Do you experience challenges trying to meet deadlines?
28:47	How involved are you in the design process?
30:41	Do architects you work with think of passive heating and cooling?
31:33	How important is passive heating and cooling to you?
33:21	Senate bill 79, how has it affected your business?
37:05	Ethan talks about "Earth Advantage" and "LEED" certifications
39:10	How are you working towards the 2030 challenge?
41:55	Is it a matter of cost that solar panels are not used all the time?

Time	Notes
44:00	How do you feel about renovating old homes?
46:02	What is the weatherization program?
49:35	Do you only build spec homes? Custom? Or both?
50:56	Are spec homes more risky?
53:59	What is the average price of your homes?
54:50	Do custom homes have a tendency to be less expensive?
56:14	How do you balance environmental sustainability with economic sustainability?
58:51	How have you changed your strategy when the market tanked?
1:01:46	Recent homes built cheaper? Poor quality?
1:03:43	What is your most memorable project?
1:06:03	The advantage of well insulated homes
1:08:40	What project are you working on now?
1:10:16	What future projects are you excited about?