

NEWS From GEORGIA TECH'S ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

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September 13, 1978

For Immediate Release

DESIGNING "TOTAL ENERGY COMMUNITY" STUDIED BY GEORGIA TECH

ATLANTA, GA...How to design a community for maximum energy efficiency is the object of a new research project begun this summer by Georgia Tech's Engineering Experiment Station.

Working with local architectural and engineering firms and specialists in planning and design, EES personnel hope to put together a plan that will show developers how to design a "total energy community"--a community that has been designed with energy conservation in mind. The 12-month project has been funded by the Department of Energy for more than \$222,000.

According to Nick Gibson of EES, the project will start at the planning stage of a community and consider everything that might make the community more energy efficient. Included in this are such things as land use, central utility systems, solar energy systems, landscape design and building location. The economic and legal aspects of building a new community will also be studied.

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Gibson says that there is currently no complete plan on how to design a total energy community. When this project is finished, however, developers will have available to them a guideline to follow when planning a community.

To carry out this project, EES is using a 235-acre site within the 7,400-acre Shenandoah community development 25 miles south of Atlanta. This nationally recognized community is known as a conservation community because of its efficient use of both land and energy.