

## CHALLENGING PROBLEMS- INTERESTING PARTNERS

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### ***Presentation Summary (limited to 200 words)***

The Houseboats to Energy Efficient Residences (HBEER) project is the result of applying the design thinking process to persistent problems found in Kentucky. The goal was to identify local problems with global implications. The University of Kentucky's College of Design assessed its research agenda and identified Design+Energy as the focus of its portfolio, and determined future projects would address three areas: building communities, sustainability and employment.

These three areas lead researchers to the issue of stabilizing family life. Many problems observed were the result of the quality of housing available for low wage earners due to bankruptcy resulting from fluctuating heating and cooling costs; housing stock being depreciable versus appreciable; and communities suffering from a lack of a tax base. Researchers were able to identify several individuals and organizations that were addressing some aspect of these problems.

Through the use of scenario planning, prototyping and community engagement, researchers arrived at the first project, HBEER, with a goal of building a \$100,000 house that operates on \$1 day. This presentation will demonstrate how the design thinking process was used to bring together partnerships, common goals and create future agendas.