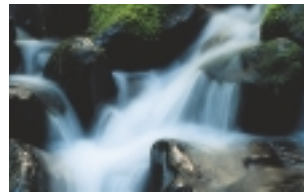


Canada's Home Building Industry

Building a Greener Future

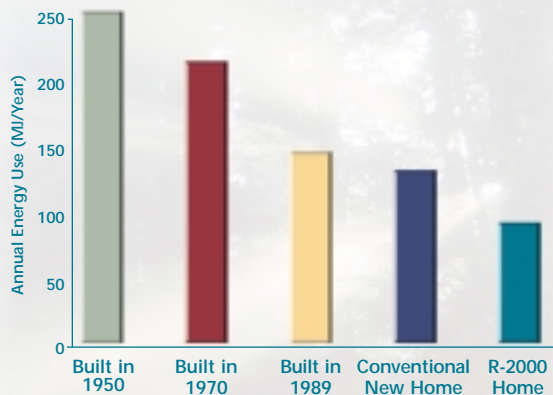


Canada is blessed with an extraordinary natural environment—something Canadians want to protect and preserve for future generations. In communities across our country, Canada's professional home builders are helping to make this happen.

Over the last three decades, our industry has worked to make Canadian homes among the most energy efficient in the world. Our industry is committed to protecting the environment and proud of what it has already achieved.

Canada's home builders are taking action to address environmental concerns like climate change and the preservation of forest resources. Our environmental commitment will guide us into the future, as we continue to provide Canadians with high-quality homes and communities that are great to live in.

Typical Annual Energy Consumption of a Natural Gas Heated House Located in Ottawa



Source: Natural Resources Canada

Taking the Lead on Climate Change

As Canada works to reduce climate change, today's new homes lead the way.

The home building industry and government researchers began to develop a more energy-efficient home building system in the 1970s, when world energy prices soared.

The result was the R-2000 Standard, a way of building that delivers exceptional energy efficiency and a healthy indoor environment.

R-2000 technology has earned recognition around the world and represents an important Canadian environmental achievement.

Many of the technical features pioneered in R-2000 homes are now built into every new home, resulting in a significant improvement in the energy efficiency of all new homes. Today, the average new home uses about 40% less energy than a similar home built in the 1970s, while an R-2000 home requires even less energy.

The Greening of Older Homes

The majority of Canadian homes were built before the introduction of energy-efficient building practices. As a result, improving the performance of existing homes can provide very significant environmental benefits.

Canada's professional renovators are making this happen.

And the good news for homeowners doesn't end there. Improved environmental performance can also mean increased comfort and better indoor air quality.

Professional renovators know how to apply R-2000 technology when renovating older homes. This can include improvements like high-performance windows and doors, high-efficiency heating systems, whole-house ventilation systems and finishing materials that don't release harmful chemicals into the air.

A Healthier Environment and a Healthier Home

Protecting the environment doesn't require any compromises when it comes to the comfort, safety and financial well-being of Canadian homeowners.

As Canada works to meet our Kyoto commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the residential housing industry is doing its part. Carbon dioxide emissions from Canadian homes are already projected to be lower than 1990 levels by the end of this decade. The environment wins, and so do Canadian families.

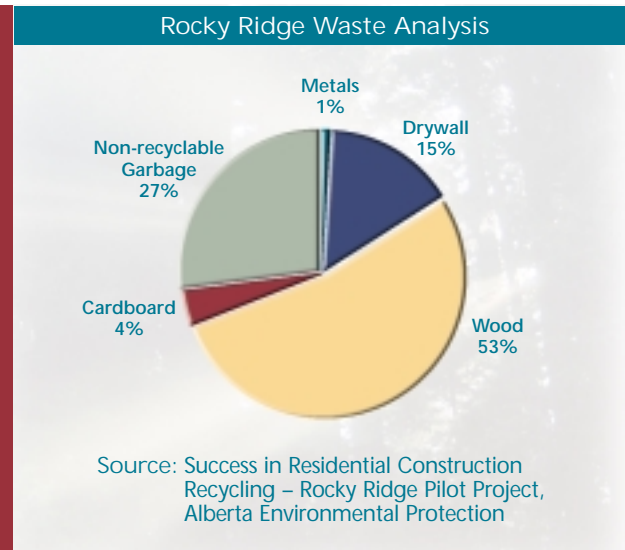
That's the type of environmental achievement we can all support.

Recycling Construction Wastes

On average, building a new home results in approximately 2.5 tonnes of waste and scrap material, most of which ends up in landfill sites. Across Canada, new home builders and renovators are working to cut construction waste. A successful pilot project in Calgary demonstrates how effective these efforts can be.

In 1997, the Calgary Region Home Builders' Association teamed up with developer Marquis Communities and a waste disposal company to test waste reduction practices in a major Calgary housing development.

The Rocky Ridge Pilot Project was a resounding success, reducing construction waste by 73% and earning the Mayor's Environmental Achievement Award from the City of Calgary. The project involved large-scale separation of recyclable wood, drywall, cardboard and metal waste from non-recyclable garbage. After completion of 191 homes, a total of 628,429 kg of waste was diverted from landfill—some 285 truck loads!



ENVIROHOME

Pointing the Way to the Future

The CHBA's EnviroHome Initiative, supported by TD Canada Trust, recognizes homes that are "better for you, better for your community and better for the environment". Each year, only a select few new home projects across Canada are awarded the EnviroHome designation.

EnviroHome projects showcase the most innovative home building technology available today, incorporating R-2000 technology plus many other environmental features.

Here are two recent examples of what EnviroHome builders can achieve.

The Teixeira EnviroHome, located near Perth, Ontario, features insulated concrete form (ICF) construction, in-floor radiant heating, a high-efficiency oil boiler, and an active solar hot water system.

This 1,932 sq. ft. bungalow uses about 60% less energy than a similar new home built to conventional standards while providing improved year-around comfort and superior indoor air quality.

EnviroHome 2000, near Kentville, Nova Scotia, incorporates a number of active, renewable energy systems including solar hot water panels and roof-mounted photo-voltaic panels that produce



Teixeira EnviroHome, Teixeira Construction Ltd.

electricity directly from sunlight, with excess power sold to the utility company.

Advanced wood framing and extensive use of building materials with recycled content are also featured in this 1,900 sq. ft. bungalow-style home. Barrier-free design increases accessibility and ease of use.

For on-line information about EnviroHome projects and builders, visit www.envirohome.chba.ca.



EnviroHome 2000, Crowell Constuction Ltd.

Want a home that's better for the environment? Here's what to ask for . . .

If you're **buying a new home**, ask your professional new home builder about these energy-saving and environmental features.

- Built and certified to the R-2000 Standard.
- High-efficiency (90%+) gas or oil furnace.
- High-efficiency heat pump, if you use electricity for space heat.
- An automatic set-back thermostat.
- High-efficiency water heater.
- Extra insulation in the basement, above grade walls and attic areas.
- A Heat or Energy Recovery Ventilator system (HRV or ERV).
- Appliances with an Energy Star® rating.
- High-performance windows.
- Placement of windows for the most passive solar heat during winter months.
- Roof overhangs and/or deciduous tree plantings to block out solar heating during the summer.

If you're **renovating your existing home**, talk to your professional renovator about what you can do to reduce environmental impacts, cut energy costs and increase your comfort.

- Arrange for an EnerGuide for Houses™ inspection of your home to identify your best energy efficiency investments.
- Upgrade wall, basement and attic insulation.
- When replacing your furnace, choose a new high-efficiency (90%+) model.
- Install an automatic set-back thermostat.
- Air seal your home to reduce air leakage.
- Replace older appliances with models carrying the Energy Star® rating.
- When adding ventilation, use a Heat or Energy Recovery Ventilator system (HRV or ERV).
- When replacing or adding windows, select high-performance models.

Where to Get More Information

There is a wealth of great information about your home and the environment available on-line from these sources:

The Canadian Home Builders' Association

Home Renovation
New Homes
R-2000 homes
EnviroHome
Hiring a contractor

www.chba.ca
www.myhomereno.com
www.NewHomesMonth.com
www.r2000home.com
www.envirohome.chba.ca
www.hiringacontractor.com

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

(information on Healthy Housing™, home buying, renovation and other consumer topics)

www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca

Natural Resources Canada

Office of Energy Efficiency
The R-2000 Program
EnerGuide™
Energy Star®
EnerGuide for Houses™

www.nrcan.gc.ca
www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca
www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/r-2000
www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/energiguide
www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/energystar
www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/houses-maisons



Canadian
Home Builders'
Association