

It starts at HOME

Applauding the people who build with a conscience

I visited Edmonton's first EnviroHome last week and it really is true that sometimes seeing is believing.

It wasn't that I didn't believe in the environmental cause beforehand, it's just that being able to witness, in person, the efforts and tangible outcomes of such a project can really make a person even more committed to the cause.

Edmonton's Effect Home Builders has done a great job with the two-storey, 1920s-style EnviroHome in Crestwood, and the company's employees should be duly proud of themselves for taking such a responsible approach to their building practices.

This wasn't a cheap project, by any means. The switch from old ways of thinking to the wave of the future, in green terms, is going to cost us all. Still, the efforts to improve our way of life and how we treat the planet can't be given a price tag.

There are plenty of ways to become more conscious, and many of them are simple and fast.

Sure, we might not have the time to tear down our home's foundation and replace it with concrete, or the funds for giant solar panels on the roof, but a simple phone call to a company such as Alberta-

based Bullfrog power will switch you over to wind-generated power in less time than it takes to order a pay-per-view movie.

And, not to exclude other green builders in Edmonton, it should be noted that while Effect Homes is the first to achieve the Canadian Home Builders Association's EnviroHome standards, others are doing very well, too.

I find it encouraging that the public, along with business and industry in general, is finally

listening to what has been repeated for years: We need to change the way we live. Effect Home Builders' example is a good one to follow.

Other features of the home in Crestwood include: Triple pane windows, skylights throughout and solar panels which attract enough light to heat almost all of the house's water needs. The list goes on and on. If every home was like this one we would be in a much better position when looking to the future.

"It is the best of the best," said Canadian Home Builders' Association President John Hrynkow, on site last week for a certificate presentation.

"These people (Effect Homes) have done a tremendous job."



Richard
Wright
EDITOR

EnviroHome



RICHARD WRIGHT/SUN MEDIA

Edmonton's Effect Home Builders has completed Edmonton's first EnviroHome on MacKenzie Drive in the westend community of Crestwood. Concrete walls, solar panels, triple pane windows and dual flush toilets, are just a few of the conscious-minded home's features.



Canadian Home Builder's Association president John Hrynkow presents Dale Rott (far left), Dave Brettelle (middle) and Les Wold of Effect Home Builders with a certificate commemorating the company's environmental achievement.