

How Do Our Homes Fit into the Climate Change Picture?

Climate change is the central environmental issue of our time. At the end of 2006, Canada's GHG emissions had actually increased by 21% since 1990. Notably, in 2006, Canadian homes accounted for just under 7% of the total, according to Environment Canada.

Where do Canada's greenhouse gas emissions come from?

Agriculture.....	9.6%
Fossil fuel industries.....	21.9%
Electricity.....	16.4%
Transportation.....	22.1%
Heavy industry & manufacturing.....	15.7%

Service industries.....	7.6%
Residential.....	6.8%

Source: Canada's Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Understanding the Trends, 1990-2006, Environment Canada 2008

The residential sector has shown strong leadership in reducing its GHG emissions. At the end of 2006, Canadian homes were releasing 8.1% less GHG emissions than in 1990, despite a 30% increase in the number of homes in the country.

Canadians want to see progress in addressing important environmental issues such as climate change, air quality and protection of our natural resources. In both new home construction and home renovations, Canada's housing sector is setting the standard for environmental performance. Greenhouse gas emissions are being cut. Energy efficiency is continuously improving. Indoor air quality is advancing. And we are using our natural resources more prudently.

Programs like Built Green™ and R-2000 promote construction of buildings and building methods that are healthier for the occupants and healthier for the environment. These sustainable or "green" building practices work toward reducing the impact and achieving the results Canadians want:

- Better energy efficiency means comfort and long term savings
- Healthier indoor air
- Durable, reduced-maintenance materials
- Preserving natural resources

Some of the key benefits are:

- Lower electric and water utility costs
- Environmentally effective use of building materials
- Enhanced health and productivity
- Long-term economic returns
- Reduced environmental impact

Resource and environment-conscious homeowners can look to the Canadian Home Builders Association members to help them build or renovate homes that represent their commitment to the environment, future generations, and improving the way they live.

Homeowners are asking for the 'green' options when they plan their project. Given the diversity of construction methods and equipment that go into a home, expert help is essential to getting value, lower home operating costs, improved performance, and increased occupant comfort.

New home builders and renovators are constantly looking for better ways to build in order to deliver greater value and higher performance to consumers.

GO WITH A PRO... to Build or Renovate Your Home

Contact the professionals on this page for more information. For a complete list of member companies visit www.chbafv.com. You can visit our Consumer Links page for more information for the homeowner including links to the grants, rebates and incentives.

Coming Events...

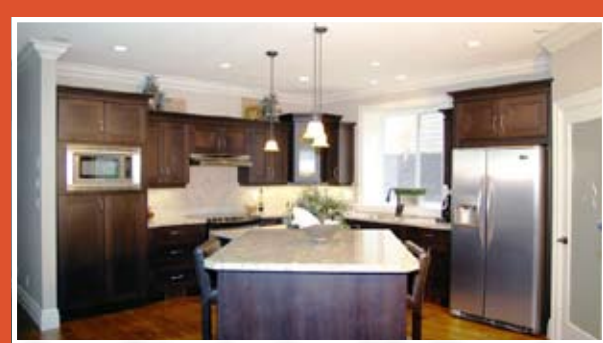
Nuts 'n Bolts of Construction Contracts Seminar

Presented by Adnan Habib of Baker Newby LLP

March 31, 2010

This is a valuable seminar for anyone in the residential construction industry.

Pre-registration required. For more information please visit www.chbafv.com and click on Events tab or call 604-755-9306



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