

Reid's Net Zero home demonstrates off the grid living in Westminster Woods



LIVING OFF THE GRID IS A REALITY FOR

homebuyers in the Guelph area now that Reid's Heritage Homes has unveiled its first of five Net Zero energy homes to be built in the builder's flagship community of Westminster Woods.

The public grand opening on Saturday, Sept. 19 had more than 400 people in attendance, lined up to get a tour of the Net Zero Discovery Home. This inaugural 2,043-sq.-ft. home will be used as a showhome for the remaining four Net Zero Energy homes to be built by Reid's Heritage Homes. The second home is already for sale at a price of \$523,525 for a two-storey 1,775 sq. ft. of living area with three bedrooms and 2.5 baths. The remaining three homes will be completed by spring of 2016.

The house is the first completed as part of a national demonstration project to prove that Net Zero homes can be built on a community-level scale. The goal is to make Net Zero Energy homes – which can produce as much energy as they consume on an annual basis – fully accessible and affordable to all Canadians. Unlike other custom Net Zero homes that have been built across Canada in previous years, this project will utilize existing technology and products that are readily available to the average builder.

"Instead of building these homes as one-off, custom-built projects, this project is geared to the mainstream public, and the lowrise production builder," says Blake Seeberger, senior vice-president of residential, Reid's Heritage Homes. "In fact, standing on the driveway facing the house, there is little indication that this is a real-world example of the future of housing."

The living area offers the high level of stylish finishes and design found in all Reid's Heritage

"On the back roof, 33 solar photovoltaic (PV) panels from Bluewater Energy are an obvious sign of the innovative technology being implemented."





homes. An obvious difference is in the tablet technology where the home's systems are managed, and in the basement with its space age appearance of systems and conduits.

On the back roof, 33 solar photovoltaic (PV) panels from Bluewater Energy are an obvious sign of the innovative technology being implemented. The PV panels will produce the energy required to offset the energy demands of the home, netting out on an annual basis.

Seeberger pointed out that as they were preparing for the industry grand opening, the central air was on, doors and windows were open as people were walking in and out – and still readings showed that the house was producing more energy than it was consuming.

It is the underlying technologies that make this home innovative and affordable. The Owens Corning CodeBord Air Barrier System creates an advanced envelope system significantly reducing air leakage

in the home. Triple pane windows, by JELD-WEN Windows, enhance comfort and insulation while reducing noise. The home incorporates the latest air source heat pump space heating technology from Mitsubishi Electric and a leading-edge hybrid air source heat pump hot water tank from Rheem Canada.

For more details and to book a tour of the Net Zero Discovery Home, visit livenetzero.com



-  **Location**
Guelph
-  **Builder**
Reid's Heritage Homes
-  **Development**
Westminster Woods
-  **Home Type**
Net Zero home, backsplit, 2,043 sq. ft.
-  **Sales Centre**
197 Goodwin Dr., at Clair Rd. E., open Monday to Wednesday 2 to 7 p.m., weekends noon to 5 p.m.
-  **Contact**
1.519.265.0826
dokrafka@heritagehomes.com
livenetzero.com