

Now House™: What if your home had an energy bill of zero?

At a time when energy costs are rising and houses are neck and neck with cars in their production of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, along comes Now House™ with some simple solutions to help homeowners and the environment. Now House is Canada's first near zero energy retrofit of a small single detached house, in this case a wartime bungalow. RBC is a platinum sponsor of the retrofit that is currently underway in Topham Park, Toronto with expected completion in August.

National design competition winner: In 2006, Canada Mortgage and Housing initiated a national design competition to set new standards in healthy, energy efficient, environmentally friendly homes. The main goal was to design a home that has net zero energy use. Out of 72 entries across Canada, Now House was chosen as one of the 12 winning teams in CMHC's EQUilibrium Sustainable Housing Demonstration Initiative.

RBC promotes environmental sustainability: We applaud Now House as a strong example of environmental responsibility and a practical solution for homeowners everywhere looking to reduce their energy costs. RBC Environmental Blueprint™ is committed to environmental sustainability and the support of responsible business practices, services and products. Now House will show homeowners how to dramatically improve energy efficiency of existing homes with a few relatively easy modifications.

An energy bill of zero: Now House is turning a 60-year old wartime bungalow into a near zero energy home – one that produces as much energy as it uses on an annual basis. With a projected annual energy bill of zero, an expected GHG emissions reduction of 5.4 tonnes of annually, a 60% reduction in electricity use, and the use of solar power to produce electricity and hot water, Now House will dramatically change the way we think of older homes and their role in easing climate change.

One small house. One million opportunities: Originally built for munitions workers and veterans returning from World War II, wartime houses are a unique form of Canadian architecture that brand every community in Canada. There are an estimated million wartime houses across Canada. The Now House team, made up of designers, architects, engineers and researchers, plans to start with one house, then a community of houses, then a million wartime homes across Canada.

Now House will be open for a mid-construction open house on Saturday, June 21st between 1 pm and 4 pm at 12 Topham Road, East York, Toronto. For details see: www.nowhouseproject.com