

Energy Efficiency a Priority at EGADZ

By ANGIE BUGG

SES ENERGY CONSERVATION COORDINATOR

EGADZ has 16 My Homes, as well as their downtown youth centre, in Saskatoon, for youth who are interested in leaving their high-risk street lifestyle. The homes are supportive living environments, where youth can gain tools and learn skills for their own positive independence. In order to maximize comfort and safety, while keeping utility bills low, EGADZ works to keep their buildings energy efficient.

Saskatchewan Environmental Society's Energy Conservation Coordinator, Angie Bugg, met with EGADZ Acting Executive Director Don Meikle and Executive Assistant Geselle Doell, to see if they would like an energy assessment on their new youth centre downtown. When Angie talked with EGADZ senior staff, she was inspired by their commitment to energy efficiency and wanted to share their story.

All new My Homes are of ENERGY STAR® design and construction. Any time renovations are done on an existing house, to add a bedroom for example, they ensure the space is well-insulated and properly air- and vapor-sealed to prevent drafts and moisture.

Efficient water heaters are installed in all houses, including high efficiency, tankless water heaters in two of the newer houses. Water consumption is minimized by the installation of two-button toilets, low-flow showerheads, and ENERGY STAR® washing machines.



(Don Meikle, EGADZ Acting Executive Director, at one of the EGADZ My Homes.)

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In order to keep heating and cooling systems running efficiently, all filters are changed monthly, and furnaces are tuned up annually.

They take advantage of opportunities during renovations and equipment replacement. The incremental cost to increase efficiency at this stage is small and the return on investment is maximized. Meikle says, "With 16 houses, even small savings add up. We make safety, comfort, and efficiency a priority in all of our buildings." EGADZ has a commitment to energy efficiency in their buildings that begins at the planning stage of each project and carries through, right to the end.

For more information on how your non-profit can save energy, contact Angie Bugg, SES Energy Conservation Coordinator: angieb@environmentalsociety.ca or call 306.665.1915.



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