

SUCCESS STORY: SOUL'S HARBOUR RESCUE MISSION DEMONSTRATES LONG-TERM FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP WITH HIGH EFFICIENCY BUILDING

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"Soul's Harbour Rescue Mission estimates that their energy costs will be **50% lower** than a conventional building, and that operating and maintenance costs will be **70% lower** than with a conventional building."

When I'm doing energy audits for non-profit organizations, I see many examples where organizations have saved some capital dollars by compromising energy efficiency. They may not even know that they have done this, but they are then stuck with high operating costs for the life of the building. Soul's Harbour Rescue Mission in Regina recently completed their new Samaritan Project with a different mindset. They built their new men's shelter, clothing store, daycare, and housing project to the highly efficient Passive House standards.

As well as having a durable, comfortable building, Soul's Harbour Rescue Mission estimates that their energy costs will be 50% lower than a conventional building, and that operating and maintenance costs will be 70% lower than with a conventional building. They have achieved these savings with a solar array combined with very high efficiency furnaces and water heaters, LED lighting, and energy efficient appliances throughout the building. Because they don't have a boiler system, maintenance is reduced to only changing some air filters a few times a year.

Soul's Harbour Rescue Mission also avoided typical proprietary building systems to eliminate expensive maintenance contracts, and installed simple mechanical systems for ease of operation. For example, their cold storage room in the basement uses a manual damper system to cool the room to an estimated 5 degrees C during the fall and throughout the winter.

And they did all this for the same cost as a conventional build. I asked if maybe they got some things much cheaper because they are a non-profit, doing a new thing. Michael Towers, Director of Programs, answered that even though donors and partners have donated materials and cash, that would have happened either way. He goes on to say that it is important to note The Samaritan Project was built at the same cost as a conventional build, so other organizations know that it is possible, and consequently it just makes financial sense for others to build passive. Michael credited this accomplishment to the integrated design process, and says, "I believe the reason why we were able to construct this building at the same cost was because we continued to challenge the conventional norms at every step of the project."

For more information on how your business or nonprofit organization can save energy and water, contact SES Energy Conservation Coordinator Angie Bugg at angieb@environmentalsociety.ca or call 306.665.1915.



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