



Launching The Net-Zero Energy Home Awards at CaGBC's Shifting Into the Mainstream Summit

Sustaining Members



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Toronto – June 12, 2008 -- The Net-Zero Energy Home (NZEH) Coalition is proud to announce the launch of the **Net-Zero Energy Home Awards**, which will be held June 2009 in Toronto.

To help advance the market and accelerate the deployment of net-zero energy homes in Canada, the NZEH Coalition has developed the Net-Zero-Energy Home Award to recognize and celebrate the integration of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the residential construction industry. Awards will be given under four categories:

The "closest to net-zero energy" retrofit project of the year;

The "closest to net-zero energy" custom builder of the year;

The "closest to net-zero energy" production builder of the year;

The Net-Zero Energy Home champion of the year

A net-zero energy home integrates advanced energy efficiency design and building materials with onsite renewable energy, which is then capable of producing an annual output of energy that is equal to the total amount of its annual purchased energy.

The Coalition is proud to make this announcement today at CaGBC's Shifting Into The Mainstream Summit. This is a celebration of green building in Canada and NZEHs are on this continuum helping accelerate us on the path toward sustainable community development.

The award event is unique in nature and will recognize those builders who are responding to a changing marketplace; one that is increasingly influenced by concerns for energy security and climate change, says, Gordon Shields, Executive Director

"Our homes are important aspects of sustainable communities, and we're proud to support the NZEH's effort to recognize the contribution of home builders in Canada and encourage continued market transformation," says Thomas Mueller, president and CEO of the Canada Green Building Council.

Net Zero Energy Home Coalition

With housing responsible for 17 per cent of energy use and 16 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions in Canada, addressing the way we use and consume energy in the home is essential as we move toward truly sustainable community development. Net-zero energy housing is an essential and parallel step toward CaGBC's vision of certifying 1 million LEED homes by 2015.

"Builders across Canada are recognizing the need and importance for building homes that consume significantly less energy than typical energy efficient models while at the same time providing consumers with the tools for choosing and using onsite renewable energy. Recognizing and honouring this emerging trend in the builder community is important as there is a program vacuum above R-2000 that makes it difficult for near net-zero and net-zero energy home innovation to be recognized. It's the initiative of these builders who are helping steward our communities toward a cleaner environment and smarter, sustainable energy future", says Alex Joseph, Executive Director of EnerVision.

For more information, visit the coalition's website at www.netzeroenergyhome.ca or contact Gordon Shields, Executive Director, Net-Zero Energy Home Coalition; (613) 852-2316

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Background Material

[NZEH Announcement](#)

MEMBERSHIP

DuPont Canada Inc., BASF Canada Inc., Climate Change Central, Alberta Research Council, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, EnerVision, Thomasfield Homes, Canadian GeoExchange Coalition, Canadian Solar Industries Association, Milton Hydro Distribution Inc., PFB Corporation, Hydro Ottawa Limited, Howell-Mayhew Engineering Inc., Solar Buildings Research Network, Emercor, Mindscape Innovations, Canadian Residential Energy Services Network



THE NET-ZERO ENERGY HOME AWARDS

A Search For The Best In Design And Construction That Approaches Or Reaches Net-Zero Energy

A net-zero energy home is capable of producing an annual output of renewable energy that is equal to the total amount of its purchased annual energy. This next generation of design and construction represents the cutting edge of environmentally responsible construction. It combines advanced energy-efficient construction and renewable energy systems such as solar, geothermal and wind, all the while offering comfort and reducing the building's impact on the environment.

Celebrating Great Achievement

To help advance and accelerate the deployment and market for net-zero energy homes in Canada, the NZEH Coalition has developed the Net-Zero Energy Home Award to recognize and celebrate green building in the residential construction industry. Awards will be given under four categories:

- The "**closest to net-zero energy**" retrofit project of the year;
- The "**closest to net-zero energy**" custom builder of the year;
- The "**closest to net-zero energy**" production builder of the year;
- The **NZEH champion of the year**

Judging

A panel of four knowledgeable and distinguished Canadians in the fields of green building and renewable energy will assess the submissions.

Requirements

To be eligible for the award, projects must fall under one of the four categories and have verifiable data to substantiate its information. The contest is open to projects across Canada. Winners will be announced June 2009.

Evaluation Criteria

Projects will be assessed on their ability to approach or reach net-zero energy. Entries will also be judged on the basis of several design attributes, including repeatability, affordability, and potential for market transformation.

Submission Deadline

Entries are due no later than March 2009.

Registering Your Project

Beginning in the Fall, through the NZEH Coalition's website, you will be able to download and submit the application materials. Proponents may also submit their application by mail.