

Calgary's first Net-Zero home opens to public

Wednesday, February 10, 2010, Calgary, Alberta – Going green is about to take on a whole new meaning for home owners now that Calgary's first Net-Zero home, Avalon Master Builder's Discovery 4 House, is open for public viewing.

"The Discovery 4 House was built on SAIT Polytechnic's campus to research, test and demonstrate the latest in environmentally efficient building technologies," said Irene Lewis, President and CEO. "With thanks to government and industry partners, SAIT's Applied Research and Innovation Services team helped to make Calgary's first Net-Zero home a reality."

A Net-Zero house generates as much or more energy than it consumes over an annual period. This includes the energy used to heat the home, domestic hot water, lights, appliances and daily living.

"The Discovery 4 House is the culmination of years of work towards our meeting our vision of building Net-Zero homes at no additional cost to consumers by 2015," said Ryan Scott, CEO of Avalon Master Builder. "We are excited to work with SAIT Polytechnic, Carma Developers and Climate Change Central to complete this innovative demonstration home."

"Carma is always looking for opportunities to evolve and innovate and we were proud to partner with a like thinking group in Avalon. This is a great opportunity to learn as an industry and allow people to experience new home technologies such as Net Zero," said David Allen, VP Carma Developer. Carma is pleased to be part of this project and provide the opportunity for these homes to be offered in our communities.

The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment and Minister for Southern Alberta, joined the celebrations at today's opening of Discovery 4 to present SAIT with \$2.24 million from the College and Community Innovation Program, a collaborative initiative among the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

The federal funding will be used for SAIT's Green Building Technologies program in four key areas of research that will support the over-arching goal to develop a Net-Zero energy standard and certification for Western Canada. The research areas are: Net-Zero envelope – system performance and advanced assemblies; architectural ecology (focus on water use, waste and air quality); building integrated renewable energy/alternate energy; and, public education and student integration.

The Green Building Technologies program was established by SAIT's Applied Research and Innovation Services department in 2008. The program provides training to students in green building technologies, and works with industry to implement and help commercialize these technologies.

The Discovery 4 House will be housed at SAIT until June. It will then be moved to the Carma community of McKenzie Towne where Avalon has featured its "Emerge" product since 2008. Public viewings will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Research tours are available by calling SAIT's Applied Research and Innovation Services at 403-284-7056.



NEWS RELEASE

Additional details on the Discovery 4 House can be found at: www.avalonmasterbuilder.com.

– END –

Media inquiries, please contact:

Terra Davidson
Avalon Master Builder
403-862-6135