

Green Homes Sell for More: LEED Introduces Program Designed for Residential Construction

It is evident that green homes use less natural resources, create less waste and provide superior living environments for occupants. Energy and water bills are lower, maintenance costs are less and high-quality building materials generate greater value. As a result, people who live in green homes save money, enjoy a healthy living space and make a significant environmental contribution.

Today, buyers are aware of the economic, environmental and health benefits of sustainable housing. Recent studies have proven that environmentally certified homes sell for more and stay on the market for less time than comparable homes (1). With release of the *LEED Canada for Homes* rating system in March 2009, builders now have the opportunity to differentiate themselves in this emerging market (2). The innovative program has been adapted to climate and construction practises in Canada, based on feedback from 50 case study builders and more than 500 homes across the country.

As demand for high-performance green homes continues to increase, industry professionals should be familiar with this rating system and the benefits to homeowners. Project teams are encouraged to visit www.cagbc.org/leed/homes and download the rating system.

(1) *Link to MLS Study on Green Homes:*

<http://blog.seattlepi.com/greenbuilding/archives/136589.asp>

(2) *Link to LEED Canada for Homes:*

<http://www.cagbc.org/leed/systems/homes/index.php>