



For immediate release

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Canadian's spending habits: Should we be ashamed of ourselves?

Richmond, BC - A growing number of Canadians are becoming more concerned with the future state of our environment. For due reason too, as the WWF Canada senior director of conservation policy Steven Price recently said Canadians should be ashamed of themselves for overheating their homes in the winters and overcooling them in the summers.

But with all this talk, is anything actually being done to curb our energy spending habits?

A BC company is attempting to change our habits one building at a time. Based in Richmond, BC, Energex focuses its entire business on energy sustainability within the hospitality sector and more recently, residential buildings.

The Devonshire Project is an Ontario housing unit in the city of Mississauga that holds 400 government-assisted suites. This past summer, a pilot project initiated by Energex and its Energy Management System (EMS) unit found a 30 per cent savings in their energy bill. Energex attributes this to their EMS, a passive infrared occupancy sensor located in each room, which is installed in a wall cavity behind the room thermostat.

After a room is vacated, the energy management unit maintains the last selected temperature and holds it, resulting in HVAC energy savings of 35 to 45 per cent while maintaining a comfortable room condition.

Rami Belson, president of Energex, says older buildings have a larger saving potential due to the way they are built. "You can replace the windows and save the energy escaping their suites, but it's more cost efficient to do it our way," he says. These days, buildings are built to be more energy efficient, with 'green' appliances, window and door treatments and controlled heating, but with the programmed EMU system, there is a guaranteed savings.

There are three factors that Energex engineers evaluate when calculating the energy consumption – the temperature based on Environment Canada's findings, the dollar value in the energy bills and the occupancy status.

More locally, a housing unit in Richmond called Redwoods is currently running an Energex pilot in a portion of the residential building. Craig Edwards, Redwoods energy manager is excited at how much the building will see in savings. The building has already made other physical improvements to the building towards energy conservation, adjusting the lighting, windows and doors.

BC housing has a huge mandate to cut costs and hopes to become more energy sustainable, Edwards says.

About Energex Inc.

Energex is a BC-based developer and manufacturer of advanced energy, information and security solutions for the hospitality industry.

Since 1992, Energex has been developing advanced energy management occupancy sensors for use in hotels, time share units, assisted care living homes and other residential developments. The Energex system makes it possible for the world to significantly reduce energy waste, via a simple yet effective system that monitors occupancy. The Energex technology, which is worth two LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) points, is deployed in over 14 countries and has been tested and approved by major North American utilities, including BC Hydro.