

How the Smart home was born in Richmond,

How many times did you leave your home lately with the heat on behind? Ever got concerned about how much it cost now that energy rates are breaking new records almost daily?

Well, a Richmond company is trying to change all that. Energex Power Saver Systems Inc. is a developer of innovative, passive infrared energy management occupancy sensors. The sensors are designed to connect with most household and commercial thermostats and automatically adjust the temperature in the space they control when no occupancy is detected.

The company has gained worldwide success in the past four years by marketing its technology to hotels. In the hospitality industry, many guests leave their rooms and suite for hours on end while the lights and air conditioners are burning behind. Hotels from the Plaza and Warwick New York to Richmond's own Holiday Inn, Holiday Inn Express and Richmond Inn have deployed the technology successfully.

"The recent hikes in energy costs makes the technology attractive to other application now" says Ellia Belson Energex V.P of sales "in fact, we can deploy our system now in any application starting with your hotel room, your home, your office and provide you with a decisive return on investment and help you reduce your environmental footprint.

The company is in negotiations now with several downtown buildings and property managers and have worked with BC Hydro's Power Smart program and Natural Resources Canada Office of Energy Efficiency to further the reach of the technology into applications like student dormitories, care facilities, hospitals, rental properties, military housing and even cruise ships.

"The technology is capable of reducing about 25% of your home heating and or cooling bills" continues Ellia Belson "that means that the average home will see its investment back in less then three years – it's not as dramatic as in the hospitality and commercial sectors, but it's a chance to do your part and feel good every winter day – and that's big"

What's more, deploying the Energex system in a house, can help the family of four meet almost 1/4 of the one-Tonne challenge issued by the Canadian Government. "That means that each home can cut about 5 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) that add to climate change." Continues Belson

The company designs and manufacture its technology here in Richmond and hopes to continue riding the green energy wave well into the future. "we believe that every one of us holds the key to sustainable and healthy future" concludes Belson "it all boils down to a decision to do good things.. and more and more people are starting to believe that too"