

NET ZERO HOMES AND THE FUTURE OF HOME BUILDING

As of January 1st 2019, all new homes built by Doug Tarry Homes will be built to Net Zero Ready as the minimum standard. This is the final outcome of being committed to this goal specifically while on the path of continual improvement over the last decade.

But why is this even a goal? Perhaps a better question might be why all new homes are not being built to this standard. Many governments are now targeting 2030 as the date for when all homes must be built to this requirement.

Let's face it, we are having more frequent and more extreme weather events. Weather you believe in climate change, or simply feel that the earth is warming naturally, the outcome remains the same. From longer, hotter summer heat waves to wintertime polar vortex events the evidence is growing that our weather is changing and our homes need to be able to withstand these extremes.

So why build to Net Zero Ready? Isn't a home built to the Ontario Building Code (OBC) good enough. Yes and no. If you were to build a home in California to the OBC, it would be Net Zero Ready and be one of the best built homes in that state. But except being up in the high mountains, California does not have winter, at least not the way we experience it here in Southwestern Ontario.

But Net Zero and Net Zero Ready Homes are a significant improvement over a home built to the OBC. These homes are much tighter, far more energy efficient, have significantly lower energy usage (lower utility bills) and are more resilient than an OBC built home. With increased insulation, more efficient mechanicals and better windows, these homes are also quieter, healthier, and far more comfortable.

Can I afford a Net Zero Ready Home? This is an excellent discussion to have with your financial institution and more of them are now recognizing that the dramatically lower operating costs more than offset the added cost on the mortgage of a Net Zero Ready Home.

So more comfortable, healthier, durable and energy efficient homes that costs less to run. And one last point! Lowering your energy footprint on the environment and helping to give HOPE to our grandchildren's future. *That seems like a good deal.*



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