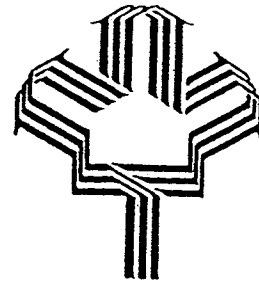




LE PLAN VERT DU CANADA  
CANADA'S GREEN PLAN



ADVANCED HOUSES PROGRAM  
PROGRAMME DE MAISONS PERFORMANTES

## Design and Performance of the Waterloo Region Green Home

### Prepared For:

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Waterloo Region Green Home is one of ten houses built as part of the Advanced Houses Program of CANMET, Natural Resources Canada. The goal of the project was to demonstrate that houses can be built and operated in a manner that is environmentally responsible. The house contains the latest developments in energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, CFC reduction and environmentally appropriate material use. Innovative features include precast basement walls, walls from engineered wood products, high-performance windows, reused and recycled materials, sealed-combustion gas stove, integrated heating ventilating appliance (IHVA), ground loop cooling, cistern, and energy-efficient appliances, lights and fans.

The house was built over the winter of 1992/93 and opened to the public in April 1993. For the first year, the house was open to the public. In May 1994, the house was sold and a family took occupancy. The performance of the house was monitored from July 1994 to June 1995.

Tests and monitoring show that the building envelope meets or exceeds design requirements. The airtightness was measured at 0.8 ACH at 50 Pa, almost half the design requirement of 1.5 ACH. The building space heating load met the design predictions. Formaldehyde, radon and VOC concentrations are significantly below the most stringent guidelines in the world.

Total energy use was 14,987 kWh or 65 kWh per square metre of floor area (natural gas use is converted to equivalent kWh). Although the energy use was 25% higher than predicted, it was within 8% of the Advanced Houses target and represents a 65% reduction over energy use in conventional new housing. The increased energy use is attributed to three main factors: lower than predicted IHVA efficiency, higher than predicted back-up water heating requirements and high plug loads. The IHVA had a seasonal efficiency of 65%, lower than the design value of 85%.

The total demand for city water was only 183 litres per day, 73% lower than conventional housing. The cistern provided half of the cold water used in the house. The five-person family consumed 108 litres per day of hot water, higher than the design value (based on a four-person family).

Furnace and HRV fan energy consumption was only 830 kWh per year, half the design value. The low use is attributed to the efficient ECM furnace fan motor and only operating the fans during the heating season. The electricity used for appliances, and lighting was close to design values. The plug loads and outdoor loads were higher than expected because of a transformer required to operate the European refrigerators and a sump pump which ran almost continuously during the spring.

The Green Home has demonstrated that houses can be built that have a much lower impact on the environment than conventional housing. Detailed monitoring and analysis has revealed the following reductions in environmental impact compared to conventional new housing:

- 65 % reduction in purchased energy,
- 33 % reduction in embodied energy (based on an analysis of the wall system),
- 73 % reduction in purchased water,
- 99 % reduction in use of ozone-depleting chemicals, and
- 98 % reduction in waste sent to landfill

## **RÉSUMÉ**

La maison écologique de la région de Waterloo fait partie de dix maisons construites dans le cadre du Programme de la maison performante de CANMET, un élément de Ressources naturelles Canada. Le but du projet était de démontrer que des maisons peuvent être construites et utilisées d'une façon respectueuse de l'environnement. La maison est dotée des plus récents perfectionnements en matière de rendement énergétique, de conservation de l'eau, de gestion des déchets, de réduction des émissions de CFC et d'utilisation de matériaux sans danger pour l'environnement. Les éléments nouveaux comprennent, notamment, les murs préfabriqués du sous-sol, les murs fabriqués à partir de produits du bois, des fenêtres à haute performance, des matériaux réutilisés et recyclés, un poêle à gaz à chambre de combustion étanche, un appareil de chauffage-ventilation intégré, un système de climatisation à boucle souterraine, une citerne, et des appareils, des systèmes d'éclairage et des ventilateurs à haut rendement énergétique.

La maison a été construite au cours de l'hiver de 1992-1993 et elle a été ouverte au public en avril 1993. Pendant la première année, la maison était ouverte au public. En mai 1994, elle a été vendue et une famille s'y est installée. Le rendement de la maison a été étudié de juillet 1994 à juin 1995.

Les essais et la surveillance montrent que l'enveloppe de la maison satisfait aux exigences théoriques ou les dépasse. L'étanchéité à l'air a été mesurée à 0,8 renouvellement d'air par heure et à 50 Pa, soit presque la moitié de l'exigence théorique de 1,5 renouvellement d'air par heure. La charge de chauffage des locaux de la maison a été conforme aux prévisions théoriques. Les concentrations de formaldéhyde, de radon et de COV sont sensiblement inférieures aux normes les plus élevées au monde.

La consommation totale d'énergie s'est élevée à 14 987 kWh ou 65 kWh par mètre carré de surface de plancher (la consommation de gaz naturel est convertie en kWh équivalents). La consommation d'énergie a été de 25 % supérieure à la consommation prévue, mais elle n'a pas dépassé par plus de 8 % l'objectif fixé pour les Maisons performantes, et elle représente une baisse de 65 % par rapport à la consommation d'énergie dans les nouvelles maisons classiques. Cette consommation accrue d'énergie est attribuable à trois facteurs principaux : rendement de l'appareil de chauffage-ventilation intégré plus faible que prévu, besoins de chauffage d'eau d'appoint plus élevés que prévu et charges branchées aux prises de courant élevées. L'appareil de chauffage-ventilation intégré avait un rendement saisonnier de 65 %, ce qui est inférieur au rendement nominal de 85 %.



La demande totale d'eau municipale n'a été que de 183 litres par jour, soit 73 % de moins que dans les maisons classiques. La citerne a fourni la moitié de l'eau froide utilisée dans la maison. La famille de cinq personnes a consommé 108 litres d'eau chaude par jour, ce qui est plus élevé que la valeur théorique (basée sur une famille de quatre personnes).

La consommation d'énergie par la chaudière et le ventilateur-récupérateur de chaleur s'est élevée à seulement 830 kWh par année, soit la moitié de la valeur théorique. Cette faible consommation est attribuable à l'efficacité du moteur du ventilateur de la chaudière (moteur à commutation électrique) et au fait que les ventilateurs ont été utilisés seulement pendant la saison de chauffage. La consommation d'électricité par les appareils et par le système d'éclairage était voisine de la consommation théorique. Les charges branchées aux prises de courant et les charges extérieures ont été plus élevées que prévu parce qu'un transformateur a dû être utilisé pour faire fonctionner les réfrigérateurs européens et qu'il a fallu utiliser une pompe d'épuisement de façon quasi continue au printemps.

La projet de la maison écologique a permis de démontrer qu'il est possible de construire des maisons qui ont sur l'environnement des répercussions beaucoup plus faibles que les maisons classiques. La surveillance et l'analyse détaillées ont montré l'atténuation suivante des répercussions environnementales par comparaison aux nouvelles maisons classiques :

- réduction de 65 % de la quantité d'énergie achetée,
- réduction de 33 % de l'énergie intrinsèque (basée sur une analyse du système de murs),
- réduction de 73 % de la quantité d'eau achetée,
- réduction de 99 % de l'utilisation de substances chimiques appauvrissant la couche d'ozone, et
- réduction de 98 % de la quantité de déchets envoyés aux décharges.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Waterloo Region Green Home is one of ten houses built as part of the Advanced Houses Program of CANMET, Natural Resources Canada. The construction, promotion and monitoring of the house were a joint venture between Enermodal Engineering Limited and the Kitchener-Waterloo Home Builders' Association. The goal of the project was to demonstrate that houses can be built and operated in a manner that is environmentally responsible. The house contains the latest developments in energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, CFC reduction and environmentally appropriate material use. The house was designed to consume less than 30% of the energy and water used in a conventional new home.

The house was built over the winter of 1992/93 and opened to the public in April 1993. For the first year the house was open to the public. In May 1994 the house was sold and a family took occupancy.

This report covers five aspects of the project:

- design features of the house,
- expected performance of the house,
- lessons learned during the construction and operation of the house,
- summary of communication activities, and
- energy and indoor air quality monitoring results.