

Village Technologies Newsletter – Fall 2009

As we head into the Fall season, historically a time of reaping harvests and planning for the future, we hope you had a good and relaxing summer. With the new equinox, we wanted to send this update about some of the initiatives we have been working on.

**Village Technologies now approved energy management firm by City of Toronto**

We're pleased to announce that Village Technologies has recently been approved by the City of Toronto's Better Building Partnership as a partner energy management company. The BBP's goal is to help Toronto's property owners improve the energy efficiency of their buildings, resulting in greenhouse gas emission reductions and reduced costs.

In joining partner firms such as Trane, Ameresco Canada, OZZ Corporation, Stantec, Johnson Controls, Honeywell and Siemens Building Technologies, Village Technologies will be the newest, youngest and likely smallest affiliate partner in the program. This will enable us to continue with our goal of providing sophisticated energy efficiency services to small and mid-sized property owners who don't have the resources needed to work with global giants.

Check out the BBP here at : <http://www.toronto.ca/bbp/index.htm>

**Our work with affordable and co-operative housing groups**

This past summer, Village Technologies began working with two affordable housing properties in Toronto, the **Riverdale Housing Action Group** and the **Spruce Court Housing Co-Op**. With these two new clients we'll be growing our experience and track record helping clients turn modest properties into high-performance properties.

Starting in October, we'll begin our retrofit of a 6 unit affordable housing property operated by the Riverdale Housing Action Group in Toronto's Riverdale neighbourhood. We'll enhance the energy efficiency performance of this circa 1985 property through a building program that will see us:

- Re-skin the building with a new insulated cladding system
- Replace the building's windows with a new, efficient window system
- Convert the electric baseboard heating and window mounted air conditioning system to geothermal ground source heating and cooling
- Integrate a high-performance hot water heating system comprised of on-demand water heating and drain heat recovery units
- Rework the site to improve building access and install a rainwater capture system so that rainwater can be used in the on-site community garden

Also starting this Fall will be the first phase of our work retrofitting the Spruce Court Housing Co-Op in Toronto's historic Cabbagetown neighbourhood. The Spruce Court Housing Co-Op was the first non-profit housing project built in Canada. As the complex approaches its centenary anniversary, we'll be undertaking an energy efficiency retrofit program that will bring the property into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Both projects will benefit from funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation which was secured as a result of planning and auditing exercises conducted by Village Technologies. If you would like to discuss an evaluation and planning exercise that could help your property qualify for energy retrofit funding, call us today at 416.465.0729.

### **Village Technologies – teaching and in the news**

As interest in energy efficiency and ecologically integrated buildings grows, you'll want to ensure you are up on the latest ideas, education and developments.

Starting this Fall, Village Technologies managing partner, Greg Bonser, will be joining the Continuing Studies program at the **Ontario College of Art and Design** as a course instructor. At OCAD Greg will be teaching about energy systems, building technologies and building retrofit strategies, all topics which become increasingly timely as energy prices rise and the costs of operating a home or property increases.

And, if you're looking for a regular dose of green building updates, check out our new blog, the Village Green, hosted by **Green Living Magazine**. See our blog here at: <http://www.greenlivingonline.com/blog/TheVillageGreen>

### **VT in the USA**

Do you have a property in the US northeast that you want to re-imagine for energy efficiency? Maybe we can help.

We're pleased to announce our recent partnership with US-based engineering and project management company, **Amerifxd**. With operations based in and around the Pennsylvania and New York area, Amerifxd specializes in construction and project estimation, procurement management, documentation and performance measurement and auditing for small and mid sized commercial properties. The company has particular expertise working with governmental agencies including the Army Corps of Engineers, the Veterans Association and state agencies.

Over the coming months we'll be growing our relationship with Amerifxd and our new friends in and around the Pennsylvania area.

### **Some of the opportunities we're currently exploring – let us help you explore too!**

And just in case you think we only work with homeowners and housing co-ops, we're finding that almost any building can be re-imagined for energy efficiency. Some of the opportunities we're currently exploring include:

- Solar water heating for an ice cream shop
- Geothermal heating and cooling for a new production facility
- Ecologically integrated designs for new condominium projects
- Solar pool heating for municipalities
- Drain heat recovery for the showers in a sports facility
- Real estate development on infill sites

Call us today if you would like to have us help you explore the possibilities for your project.

### **Getting your plan together for your home efficiency project**

While there's many reasons to have an energy efficient home, we can think of three reasons why you will want to consider doing your project in 2009

- 1) \$10,000 in government grants are still available to every Ontario homeowner for energy efficiency projects. Arrange for a home energy audit today and we can help you re-imagine your home as a high-performance home.
- 2) The Home Renovation Tax Credit – worth up to \$1,350 on your home renovation project - is set to retire in February 2010

- 3) Starting in July 2010, the Harmonized Sales Tax will add an 8% tax to renovations and home retrofits that are currently not subject to PST

If you'd like to discuss how we can help you turn your home into a high-performance home, call us today for an initial consultation at 416.465.0729. In the meantime, check out our video with **A Greener Toronto's Candice Batista** where we discuss home energy audits, grants, energy efficiency at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-QF3\\_QJFCc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-QF3_QJFCc)

Happy Fall,

Regards,

The Village Technologies Team  
416.465.0729  
villagetechologies.ca