

# Eco-Solar Home Tour – 2009

Saturday, June 6, noon to 4pm



Better Choices  
Better Homes  
Better Lives

## Site #6: The Re-Use House

**Address:**

**Parking:**

**Directions:**

A. The Re-use home, transforming a home, preparing for the future!

- This home is a 1957 bungalow that has been extensively renovated by the owners from 2006 to 2008
- The present EnerGuide rating for this home is 78-79.
- This home now features double wall construction, triple pane windows, Energy Star steel doors, and a tight building envelope.
- Mechanically this home has a high efficiency furnace, an HRV air heat exchanger, new plumbing, a programmable thermostat, low flow toilets and other features.
- Other features of this home include compost bins, rain barrels, Energy Star appliances and cork flooring

B. Why this house is on the Eco-Solar Home Tour...

- Many of us need to start somewhere in improving the performance, comfort and health of our homes, this home demonstrates what you can do to retrofit your home before considering adding renewable energy systems.
- To meet VerdaTech energy experts and get your energy improvement questions answered, so that you can consider an energy retrofit for your home too. To demonstrate options to cut home energy bills, improve comfort levels, reduce energy usage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- These energy experts will also be demonstrating how the home energy audit is done and can answer your questions about rebates and government incentives to help with your home improvements.
- To see what these homeowners did to increase their energy efficiency and make a difference with the energy bills and home comfort and learn what they did right and how they might have done it different with their hard earned hindsight..

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**Note:** Items with a "→" symbol above are presented on the Tour.  
"❖" will not be presented. "•" are information points.



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## Site #2: Elliott Home Energy Efficiency Retrofit

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### C. What is a home energy evaluation?

- A home energy evaluation estimates the annual energy costs (space heating, water heating and electricity), determines where the house is losing heat, establishes the heating equipment efficiency, identifies areas for improvement, and recommends maximum-benefit upgrades to the homeowner.
- A Home Energy Evaluator visits your home and goes through a comprehensive 5-step walk-through of your house to collect data for modelling your home's energy use.
  - ❖ Step 1: Full measurements are taken of your home.
  - ❖ Step 2: The efficiencies of heating appliances are evaluated.
  - ❖ Step 3: The insulation in the walls, ceiling, doors and windows are checked.
  - ❖ Step 4: Unique architectural features that may impair performance are checked.
  - ❖ Step 5: A “blower door test” is done to find where your home's air leakage points are and to determine your home's air leakage rating.
- ❖ “HOT2Xp” software developed by Natural Resources Canada is used to evaluate all the data.
- You get a report with customized energy upgrade recommendations for your home and an estimate of its annual energy consumption with the upgrades.
- Then you decide which upgrades you want to do and get them done at your own cost.

### D. What is a home energy efficiency rating?

- The energy efficiency of a home is assessed by a qualified energy advisor using “EnerGuide for Houses” procedures developed by Natural Resources Canada through their EcoEnergy program. A rating from 0 to 100 points is calculated for your home plus an estimate of how the recommended improvements would increase its efficiency rating.
- Zero points on the scale represent an uncomfortable house that has major air leakage, no insulation and extremely high energy consumption. 100 points represents a house that is very well insulated and airtight though well ventilated, and that requires no purchased energy (called a Net Zero Energy home).