



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parkland County celebrates “Net-Zero” residents.

Dennis and Christy Cuku open unique environmentally-friendly home to public.

PARKLAND COUNTY, AB. Imagine a home that produces as much energy as it consumes, is built with the environment in mind, and yet is spacious and beautiful. Parkland County residents Dennis and Christy Cuku not only imagined a home like this, they built it. On Saturday, October 15th, they opened their home to the public to show that you do not need to sacrifice comfort, style or luxury to be green.

“What Dennis and Christy have done is quite extraordinary,” said Mayor Rod Shaigec. “They have set the standard for what can be achieved with time, research and creativity. They exemplify Council’s vision in the County’s Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP).”

A day before the event, the Cukus received word that they had achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Certification. LEED is a rating system that promotes the design and construction of high-performance green homes that use less energy, water and natural resources, create less waste, and are healthier and more comfortable for the occupants.

“Ours is the first executive-style home in the Edmonton region to receive LEED Platinum Certification and only the second residential building in the province of Alberta,” said Dennis Cuku. Platinum certification is the most difficult performance tier to achieve and Christy and I are extremely excited about this designation.”

The Cuku home incorporates the most advanced energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. It is completely solar powered and does not have a gas line. It also produces as much energy as it consumed, giving it the ‘net-zero’ designation. The home incorporates many environmentally-preferable materials, products and practices. Interesting concepts for a couple that own an oil and gas company.

"Net-zero residents"

"This dichotomy is so important for all of us Albertans to come to terms with," said Christy Cuku. "Just because the oil and gas industry employs most of us, either directly or indirectly, doesn't mean we can't or shouldn't be taking measures to reduce energy consumption and the demands on fossil fuels where we can."

Parkland County will be working with the Cukus over the next while to learn more about the technologies and practices used in the net-zero home and determine the best ways to share the information with other residents in the county.

"What I admire most about Dennis and Christy is their desire to share information with the public, to raise awareness of the environmentally-friendly things that can be done when building, renovating, and operating our homes," said Mayor Shaigec. "We are proud to have them as residents and look forward to working with them in the future to share all they have learned with the rest of the community."

More information on the Parkland Net-Zero home can be found on Cuku's website, www.net-zero.ca.

Information on Parkland County's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan can be found at www.parklandcounty.com.

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Parkland County is a rural municipality located immediately west of Edmonton. Covering an area of 242,595 hectares (599,500 acres), it is one of the largest in size and one of the highest populated of all rural municipalities in Alberta. Parkland County has grown to a community of over 30,000 people and has seen generations of families continue to enjoy country living.

For more information about this release, please contact:

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