



general information [our journey]

The Parkland Net-Zero Project: Our Journey

We bought this 20 acre piece of heaven on earth 5 years ago because we wanted to live in the country where the air was cleaner, the children dirtier and the neighbours farther away. We met with Habitat Studio & Workshop Ltd. and started to conjure up a grand plan for our “forever home”. Well, into revision 3 or 4 we got the bright idea to invest our life savings into a start-up business, which necessitated putting house planning on hold. Thankfully, the stars aligned, business went well, and a couple of years later we were back at the drawing board (once again with Habitat Studio & Workshop). But something had changed...we had been reading so much about rising energy prices and the demise of the natural environment that we felt compelled to revisit the way we lived on every level and we wanted to start with the place we spend most of our time-our home. And so began the infamous “learning curve”.

By a stroke of very excellent luck, as we began to learn more about sustainable building and options available to us in the Edmonton area, we came to realize that while we were off slaying dragons in the oil and gas industry (our company designs drilling rigs) our chosen construction management company just happened to have completed construction on their landmark Riverdale Net-Zero Home. We toured that home, along with a few others on the Edmonton Eco-Solar Tour that year and came home completely inspired...and overwhelmed! Where to begin?

Many hours were spent reading books, taking courses, surfing the net, and consulting with Peter Amerongen of Habitat (our most treasured resource), trying to piece together the techniques & technologies used “out there” so that we could incorporate them into our forever home. Some of the highly efficient homes we had visited tended to be small or lacking in some modern day conveniences, and we didn’t want to compromise comfort or luxury. We were adamant to find a way to have our cake and eat it too! Ultimately we endeavoured to build a home that would provide us with:

- Comfortable and attractive living spaces
- Environmental sustainability & energy efficiency
- Healthy living environment
- Opportunity to be self sufficient

We sincerely hope you enjoy the journey through our home today. It is entirely possible that you will find the volume of information we present to be a little overwhelming...we sure do and it took us several years to collect and learn all of this! Never fear, all of the posters around the house will also be posted on our website www.net-zero.ca so that you can revisit them later. You might also find our resources page handy. Also, know that we treasure opportunities to meet like minded people and also to share the tidbits of information we’ve picked up along the way. So if after today you feel like you’d still like to learn more, just drop us a line from our “Contact Us” page and we’ll make a date!

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.” ~ Native American Proverb.

“May God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done”. ~Unknown

Sincerely,

Dennis & Christy Cuku