

Incredible Net-Zero Homes you would Love to Live In

Here are some eco-living families who are doing it right in net-zero homes

A net-zero home is so much more than just a place to hang your hat. As environmental concerns grow and homeowners strive to curtail ballooning energy bills, net-zero homes are growing in popularity. You see, the net-zero home produces the same amount of energy as it consumes. They are generally built with eco-friendly building materials and allow homeowners to live in homes that are self-sufficient and don't negatively impact the environments in which they are built.

Riverdale

One of the first Canadian net-zero homes, [Riverdale](#), was built by Peter Amerongen in Edmonton in 2007 with a team of 45 professionals and volunteers. Riverdale is a semi-detached duplex with each home occupying 234 m². It features several striking eco-friendly architectural features and currently produces more energy than it consumes. Riverdale was constructed from green building materials that were locally sourced.

The E-Cube

You don't have to be a millionaire to build a net-zero home. Net-zero or passive homes also come in funky, affordable versions. Take this example from Ghent University designers in Belgium who created the [E-Cube](#); a DIY kit home that can be constructed by homeowners without special skills. Its pre-engineered modular design means you can start small and expand as your budget allows, making custom alterations to the design to suit your unique lifestyle.

Wyne Residence

British Columbia's first foray into net-zero housing was thanks to ski patroller, Richard Wyne. The house was constructed using structural insulated panels and the 55

m² of solar panels ensure that the home produces as much energy as it consumes. Nestled in the suburb of Rainbow, the Wyne family enjoy sumptuous views of Whistler and Blackcomb mountains for living that is luxurious without negatively impacting the environment.

Halo Dome

From yurts or igloos to grander structures like the Pantheon, the strength that a dome structure offers has made it an enduring and endearing design concept. Situated in Genglou, China, the [Halo Dome](#) is an unusual living space constructed from sustainably harvested timber. Thanks to the dome shape, the home is constructed from meticulously crafted wood panels that are completely self-supporting with no columns or pillars.

Echo Haven

Located in Calgary, Alberta, this plucky passive house is the first step in what will be a village of net-zero homes that offer comfort without compromising the environment. Through rainwater harvesting, a greywater treatment system and low-water fixtures, Echo Haven homes are able to significantly reduce their water usage. Solar panels and solar hot water heaters utilize the sun's energy to keep things cozy.

Net-zero homes allow homeowners to take responsibility for their carbon footprint. Negating the energy use throughout their lifestyle and utilizing eco-friendly building materials allows homeowners to not only reduce their monthly energy and water bills, but also to live a healthier lifestyle that leaves the earth in an even better state for having hosted them.

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