

Sustainable and stylish: First Place homes cut energy bills

High eco-efficiency means lower energy bills for people who own a City of Edmonton First Place home in Caemaron neighbourhood.

The new townhomes aimed at first-time buyers have a federal [EnerGuide](#) rating averaging 84. That's just one step below the top category of energy-efficient housing.

Annual energy costs for a typical 1,500 square foot house built in 2011 with an EnerGuide rating of 71 is about \$1,500, compared to \$900 for a home with a rating of 80.



"This is great news for young families buying their first home in Edmonton," says Tim McCargar, Director, Corporate Properties Branch and project leader for housing development on some of the City's [surplus school sites](#). "Young buyers may not always see energy efficiency as an affordable option, but with these [First Place](#) homes it's built right in."

Built by Landmark Group, the homes qualified for grants of between \$1,000 and \$7,000 per unit as part of a City of Edmonton pilot program for First Place homes that achieve higher EnerGuide ratings. Homeowners benefit from lower utility bills thanks to 96% energy-efficient furnaces, tankless hot water, spray foam insulation, triple pane windows, drain water heat recovery and more. The City is testing grant programs like this to assess their effectiveness at improving energy efficiency in the residential home market and reducing Edmonton's overall carbon footprint.

First Place homes are also part of a City of Edmonton strategy to use available land for housing that will attract and retain young skilled people within the community. Caemaron Keep is the third site being developed, with another nearing completion in Tawa, and all units are selling quickly. A showhome at [Caemaron Keep Phase 1](#) is open Monday to Thursday, 3 to 8 p.m. for anyone wishing to check out the First Place program firsthand.

Visit edmonton.ca/surplusschools, scroll down and choose [First Place Program](#) to learn more. Get energy-saving ideas by visiting Edmonton's [Green Home Guide](#).

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