

SustainableWorks

Affordable Utilities. Quality Jobs. Healthy Environment.

We are a community-based solution to climate change that focuses on making utilities affordable, and creating jobs for Albertans. We do this through eco-refits – done on a large scale through a non-profit community co-op.

The process of getting an eco-refit today is a complex maze that often leaves people feeling confused and paralyzed. Between finding an auditor, choosing contractors to get the work done, making appointments, applying for rebates, selecting what work needs to be done, and determining what's best for the environment as well as your pocketbook there are too many steps, conflicting opinions, and difficulties. That's unfortunate because an eco-refit can dramatically lower your utility bills, and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Lower utility bills help everybody, but they especially help people struggling to get by – working class Albertans, seniors, and people in affordable housing. Eco-refits need to be accessible to all; it's about eco-equity.

Sustainable Works organizes citizens, labour, and suppliers together in a non-profit co-op. By moving ourselves from being isolated consumers to organized citizens we can uncover dramatic savings, buy in bulk, simplify complexity, provide accessible financing options, and create living wage jobs for Albertans.

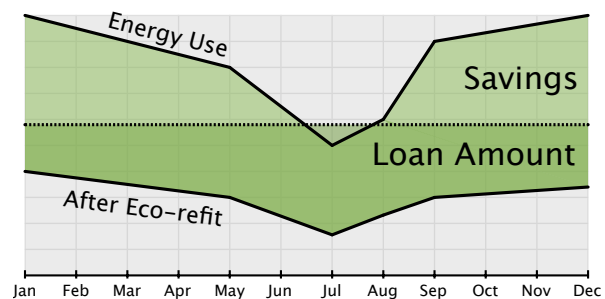
The “Sustainable Works” idea developed out of a need first recognized by over fraught trade unions in Spokane three years ago: helping homeowners and small business with their utility payments, and environmental impact. It's since gained wide acceptance, created hundreds of new jobs, and been adopted by state, municipal and federal governments as an ideal strategy for solving two of our greatest problems – jobs and the environment.

Sustainable Works began in Edmonton in early 2009. It's part of the Greater Edmonton Alliance (GEA), a group of nearly 40 faith, community, union, and small

business organizations. GEA has helped to create 438 units of affordable housing, organized 500+ people around local foods in City Hall, and raised awareness around long-term housing, sustainability, and local economies.

Sustainable Works is currently completing 15 pilot eco-refits (9 from affordable housing), and developing the infrastructure, and systems it will need to go to scale in 2010. The goal is to pledge 500 people to eco-refits by our public launch on November 18th to demonstrate to utility providers, governments, and others that this is a viable idea they should be a part of.

One of the major hurdles Sustainable Works is trying to remove is the capital outlay cost that prevents people from carrying out an eco-refit. We all know we can save money over the long run, but the initial expense is just too much to bear. We can remove this barrier by using the expected utility bill savings to cover the initial costs, thus encouraging more people to do eco-refits. Governments, and Utility providers in BC, Manitoba, and Ontario have been helping people finance their eco-refits this way. We think Edmonton can to.



Sustainable Works is being built right now, by leaders like you. Sign-up...

www.greateredmontonalliance.com/sw

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Sustainable Works Forecast: \$50 million in new construction work • \$15 million in utility bill savings • 800 Full time jobs • 90 Apprenticeship positions • 100,000 T of CO₂ reduction

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