

Eco-friendly homes unveiled

A new eco-friendly community in Peterborough packed with energy-saving features has been unveiled.

Developer Mason Homes showed off its environmentally-conscious development, Avonlea, which has become the largest development of *Energy Star* rated homes in Eastern Ontario, Canada.

The company said all the homes in the development are *Energy Star* qualified and boast energy saving features such as top-quality insulation, high performance windows and high-efficiency heating and cooling systems, all of which can reduce annual energy bills by up to 30%.

Although it is surrounded by green space, Mason Homes chiefs said it provides easy access to essential amenities such as schools and shops, which are all within walking distance.

"I'm very proud of this project," said Sean Mason, vice president of sales for Mason Homes.

"Our team has managed to create a thoroughly modern and energy efficient community, here, using the most innovative green techniques and materials.

"Homeowners will conserve water and energy while reducing their carbon footprint. These homes are designed to be green for life."

The scheme reflects some of the environmental ambitions being pursued in Peterborough's namesake across the pond. Peterborough, in England, is planning a zero-carbon neighbourhood in the town centre.

Energy Star for New Homes is a label given to houses in Canada that meet balanced, whole-house energy efficiency standards, which guarantee their owners big savings on their annual bills.

They are up to 30% more energy efficient than those built to the minimum standards required by Ontario's building codes.

- Kate Martin