

## Our Winners, Finalists, Judges and Sponsors

Learn about our winners' and finalists' impressive efforts in sustainable building! They embody our mission: to support industry's progress toward more holistic sustainable building practices—these are our trailblazers. And a big thank you to our judges and sponsors for their integral contributions.



### Profiling Leadership in Sustainable Building: Honouring Our Past & Present Mavericks

Built Green Canada's formation in 2003 was the result of builders wanting a means to progress and showcase their sustainability efforts through rigorous, relevant and practical third-party certification programs—voluntarily choosing to do more than building code. From this, they created the organization, formed in collaboration with Canadian Home Builders' Association, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Alberta Research Council, Natural Resources Canada, Climate Change Central and other key stakeholders.

Since then, we've grown a lot. It's only fitting that we recognize those who were with us from the beginning, including our founding member, Jayman BUILT.

✦✦ A special shout out to Jay Westman, who spearheaded the formation of Built Green Canada and since has never waived in driving sustainable building practices, alongside David Bengert, also from Jayman BUILT, for his tireless work to realize this vision. They were our original Mavericks. ✦✦

To these leaders, we pay homage. They've inspired our inaugural awards program: the **Maverick Awards**. Like them, we're doing things differently. Our program offers three exclusive awards; develops assets for winners; and occurs primarily online.

The Mavericks is a niche program focused on Built Green Canada's key underpinnings: ambassadorship, innovation and transformation.

- The **Ambassador Award** recognizes those on the ground, encouraging and promoting sustainable building. It speaks to our origins in industry engagement and the value of word of mouth.
- The **Innovation Award** recognizes creative ways sustainable building is happening and progressing industry. It's in this spirit that our programs were originally developed and continue to evolve.
- The **Transformational Award** recognizes the impact sustainability practices can have in driving real change. These achievements embody our mission to progress industry.

Our awards program takes a non-traditional approach in that it doesn't culminate with an event. Rather, winners are announced, followed by the roll out of our marketing communications, including a series of assets about our winners that inform the campaign. The creation of these is also intended for the winners' own promotional efforts. We're focused on putting a spotlight on our Mavericks!

As part of our membership requirements, builders are required to be part of a professional association. Examples include CHBAs, UDIs, VRBA, construction, environmental, etc. Through their awards programs, these associations do great work to highlight industry achievement over comprehensive award categories—we recognize this important role filled by these valued industry associations, who provide wonderful in-person events.

A huge thank you to our sponsors—those also working to advance sustainable building practices—including title sponsor, **BC Housing**, and category sponsors **Excel Homes**, **Heidelberg Materials** and **Travelers Insurance**.

### A Snapshot of Our 2024 Winners & Finalists

In our inaugural awards, we were thrilled to see entries from British Columbia through to Ontario. Congratulations to our three winners and remaining six finalists, all worthy of recognition!

#### Winners:

- Kelly Williams, Sterling Homes Edmonton – *Ambassador*
- Orion at Lumino Park, Kanas Corporation – *Innovation*
- Major Homes – *Transformational*

#### Finalists:

- Jayman BUILT – *Ambassador*
- Joe Geluch, Naikoon Contracting – *Ambassador*
- Path to Net Zero by Jayman BUILT – *Innovation*
- Mountain-View Homestead by Ellenwood Homes – *Innovation*
- Spring Creek Mountain Village – *Transformational*
- Verling Avenue by Città Group – *Transformational*



Watch for featured videos on our Mavericks' winners!



**AMBASSADOR MAVERICK**

**Kelly Williams, Sterling Homes Edmonton**

Kelly Williams at [Sterling Homes Edmonton](#), took home this year’s most popular category award—for Ambassadorship—the purpose of which is to recognize those on the ground, promoting and encouraging sustainable building: those ambassadors driving real change towards the progression of industry.



Kelly has worked in residential construction for over 30 years and joined Sterling in 2015, originally as a Drafting Manager. Over the last two years, in her role as Design and Sustainability Manager, she systematically pursued improved sustainability practices and inspired a cultural and operational shift, and today, every home they build is BUILT GREEN® certified, most at Gold or Platinum level. Through Kelly’s ambassadorship,

Sterling would prove, once again, that a volume builder can construct green homes and take meaningful action on climate change.

She spearheaded the implementation of the BUILT GREEN® third-party certification programs, effectively engaging all departments across the corporation, while working closely with Construction Manager, Jonathon Aiken. Together, they determined which checklist items they wanted to integrate into their building spec. Next, Kelly rallied their trades and suppliers, ensuring their ecosystem was educated and engaged in Sterling’s new direction. As part of this, she introduced regular meetings to review metrics and pinpoint areas for improvement, while spurring on healthy competition amongst the team to produce the greatest gains—all to maintain their commitment moving forward. She knows that lasting changes within an organization takes buy-in from everyone.

Through their marketing communications, Sterling shows not only that they’re building greener homes verified through certification, but they also help to educate the consumer, for greater understanding of the value of green building features, further driving demand for better building practices. For example, they provide videos focused on air tightness in the built environment, how it’s tested, and how it affects energy performance and occupant comfort—helping the public understand what factors into a greener home and what that means to them. These informative videos are posted through their communication channels, including social media, helping to engage people and to have a conversation about the benefits of sustainability practices.

Kelly has been influenced by the extreme weather across the planet, saying there was no ignoring the wildfires and extreme temperatures, but rather than feeling hopeless, she focused on doing what was in her power. She says her motivation was three-fold:

“ I want to take meaningful action on climate change; I want to see Sterling advance our building practices towards net zero; and I want our customers to benefit from the operational savings of our sustainable product line. Built Green really helped Sterling move the needle—it’s offered guidance and enabled us to share our achievements and inspire others to care about and address sustainability. ”

Kelly believes that, as a high-volume builder, Sterling Homes can make meaningful change to GHG emissions: helping the environment and their customers. By making steady and incremental changes to their building specifications and focusing on air tightness, they have achieved a

downward trend of roughly 0.5 tonne per year per house (an average home is 14 tonnes per year in heat and domestic hot water, with roughly 4 tonnes for electricity). Meanwhile, customers benefit from reduced utility bills—and, on those homes that reach 20 per cent improvement in energy performance, mortgage loan insurance companies reward homeowners with 25 per cent rebate eligibility. The substantial rebate is discussed with new homeowners in what they call the “good-news meeting”, which often ends in happy tears. This is very much inline with Sterling’s mission to provide the opportunity for affordable home ownership without compromise.



Kelly recognizes that sustainability can be a hard sell if it comes at a high price, but if integrated strategically at full scale, it becomes what she calls “a surprising benefit and a topic of conversation”. She goes on to say that Built Green’s certification levels are simple to understand, and people

can boast to their neighbors that their home is Gold or Platinum certified by Built Green Canada, which gets people thinking about their own efforts. Sustainability can have the same sort of buzz as any good topic of conversation—it spreads fast, and everyone starts asking questions.

They continue to look forward, and their next step is a net-zero-ready project to be certified through Built Green and the Canadian Home Builders’ Association, which will implement a high R-value wall assembly, air-source heat pump, and their standard tight air sealing.

“We are so impressed with Kelly’s unwavering pursuit of sustainability practices that has boosted Sterling Homes into the next generation of sustainable production builders,” says Jenifer Christenson, chief executive officer at Built Green Canada. “Kelly has shown remarkable leadership in what is still a burgeoning sector of the industry—she is one of our trailblazers, embodying our mission to progress industry toward more holistic sustainable building practices.”



Sterling has been building homes in Edmonton for 70 years, and is one of the area’s bestselling, move-up builders, with four-consecutive Consumer Choice Awards. A member of [Qualico Group](#), and now a proud BUILT GREEN® builder, they boast

above-average EnerGuide performance, on average 20 per cent better than National Building Code, and exceptional airtightness, alongside a holistic approach to sustainability. [Read more.](#)

Thank you to our category sponsor, [Excel Homes](#), and to our title sponsor, [BC Housing](#).

**Sterling Homes Edmonton**  
@SterlingEdm

We are thrilled to announce that our very own Kelly Williams, Design and Sustainability Manager at Sterling Homes, has been honored with the inaugural Ambassador Maverick Award from Built Green! 🏆

[@BuiltGreenCan](#)



**INNOVATION MAVERICK**

**Orion at Lumino Park by Kanas Corporation**



The Built Green team was keen to see what new processes and solutions would be unveiled through the Innovation Award submissions. It would be **Kanas Corporation's** Calgary project, Orion at Lumino Park, that was awarded this distinction. Its purpose is to recognize creative ways sustainable building is happening and progressing industry: those with a new approach that challenges status quo.

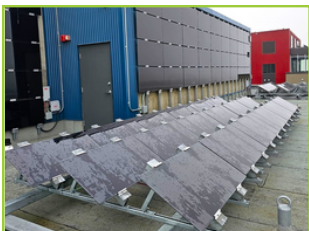
Lumino Park is a residential development comprised of three high-rise apartment buildings—each BUILT GREEN® certified and offering below-market units in collaboration with government and nonprofits. This high-density living helps curb the affordable housing crisis affecting Calgary, alongside many urban centers across Canada.

In 2023, Kanas put the finishing touches on the Lumino Park development with Orion, a high-rise apartment building with 135 units, certified BUILT GREEN® Platinum. Orion is the tallest ICF building in Western Canada and is the crown jewel of their portfolio—their most ambitious project to-date, with a variety of innovations.

To start, their state-of-the-art cogeneration system (energy system that produces both electricity and heat from a single fuel source) provides 534kW of electricity. It includes a heat recovery system, which provides energy for domestic hot water, heats the parking garage, and melts snow on public spaces in the winter. This system has an efficiency of over 81 per cent, far exceeding that of the grid—and supports their net zero goal progress.

Technology moves quickly, and even since this project's beginnings, there have been some cogenerations to this scale; however, at the time of implementation, it was more rare, and Kanas's electrical team had numerous challenges to work through, including connecting their generators and attaching them to the grid in a way that allowed excess electricity to support their community. As part of this, Kanas wrote proprietary algorithms to maximize energy efficiency: predicting electrical usage and optimizing the times their cogenerators would run.

These technologies have proven themselves in Lumino Park, where they support 370 units. Kanas spent months perfecting their measuring sensors and algorithms and addressing bugs. And as part of their monitoring plan, they rolled out their resident energy plans and monitoring—all of this has enabled many learnings for Kanas about how to continue to improve upon their infrastructure design and support how residents use features in their units.



Residents are encouraged to participate in the energy package program, which covers their electricity, water and heating at a lower-than-market rate, powered by the cogeneration technology and rooftop solar cells on all three buildings, which generate 30 kW/h of energy. According to their modelling,

Kanas is reducing building emissions down to only 67 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

With triple-pane windows, additional seal protection, an ICF envelope, alongside their innovative energy reclaiming ventilation system, the building is extremely efficient, with a thermal transmission of only 0.18 W/(m<sup>2</sup>K)—all towards a better and more affordable living environment.

“ Our core values are innovation, sustainability, long-term solutions and energy efficiency—these drive us, as we constantly strive to improve. Innovation is reserved for the brave, the risk takers and the entrepreneurial spirits. It takes a lot of push through the resistance of what is known to make change for the better. ”

- Founder & President, Robert Sipka, Kanas Corporation.

While they recognize that often the leaders are not the “winners”—it's those that follow, who travel an easier path, standing on the shoulders of those that came before, and therefore may see more benefit—but without the innovators, there is no progress. And yet, in this case, Kanas did walk away the winner: of Innovation Maverick.



“We applaud Kanas Corporation's bold leadership and creativity in advancing sustainable building,” says Chief Executive Officer at Built Green Canada, Jenifer Christenson. “This is a

builder addressing affordable housing and climate mitigation, finding innovative solutions in the process—they're one of our trailblazers, whose work helps to progress industry toward more holistic sustainable building practices: the very mission of our organization.”

Founded in 1996, Kanas has a core focus on building structures with superior building envelopes, durable finishes and low operating costs. Their innovative methods and materials ensure their buildings are comfortably occupied and environmentally sustainable over the long term. This focus enables Kanas to design, develop and manage affordable rental housing with a triple bottom-line philosophy: of social, economic and environmental stewardship.



This inaugural Maverick Awards' recipient is known for progressive approaches, such as insulated concrete form construction, high-ash content concrete, co-generation units, solar energy, triple-pane windows, Hambro Composite Joist Systems, Exterior Insulation and Finishing

System (EIFS), and HVAC systems that deliver clean air to each unit. To-date, all their buildings are non-combustible construction. [Read more.](#)

Thank you to our category sponsor, [Heidelberg Materials](#), and to our title sponsor, [BC Housing](#).



**Kanas Corporation**  
@KanasCorp



We're so proud to announce that we have received the inaugural Built Green Maverick Innovation Award for our Lumino Park Orion Building!



## TRANSFORMATIONAL MAVERICK

### Major Homes

For the Transformational Award, the purpose is to recognize the impact sustainability practices can have in driving real change: enabling fundamental progress, whether that be a company refocus or is project specific. Following the judges' review, it was **Major Homes** from Surrey, British Columbia, who scored highest—for their company's transformative focus on sustainability and environmental impact.



When Major Homes was founded in 2002, they were a small, spec home builder following traditional methods. Their emphasis was not on sustainability; however, since they joined Built Green Canada in 2016, the company has been evolving into a leading custom home company specializing in sustainable and energy-efficient homes, which has been cemented in the last couple years.

Today, Major Homes brings three generations of expertise, going back to Punjab, India. Major Garcha, who immigrated to Canada in 1980, followed his father's footsteps into the building industry. Then, in 2002, he started the company, where he remains the President and Chief Executive Officer. As a second-generation builder, he brings over 30 years of experience in the home construction industry. After having a successful stucco company for 20 years, Major decided to focus full-time on his passion for building homes. His perseverance and incredible attention to detail are evident in every project.

Third-generation builder, Rick Garcha, has driven a company-wide evolution, through his role as Chief Operating Officer and licensed Real Estate Agent. Initially wanting to pursue a career in accounting, Rick obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration in Financial Management from the British Columbia Institute of Technology and worked in financial institutions, before embracing his passion for real estate and development. He uses his knowledge from all aspects of the industry to continuously implement new concepts into their projects.

The strategic shift in their business model came from recognizing the growing demand for environmentally conscious living spaces and the need to adapt to evolving market trends. A significant influence was the growing awareness of environmental issues and the need for stewardship of natural resources. Meanwhile, the discovery of Built Green Canada and its certification programs played a pivotal role in guiding their transition.

"Built Green provided a comprehensive framework and set of guidelines for incorporating green building practices—in not only energy efficiency, but also indoor air quality, water conservation, waste management and more," Rick says. He continues:

“By integrating these diverse metrics into our approach, we demonstrate our dedication to shaping a more sustainable and resilient built environment that enhances quality of life, preserves natural resources and promotes the well-being of current and future generations. Embracing BUILT GREEN® certification empowered us to formalize our commitment to sustainability and align our practices with our vision—Built Green served as a catalyst for our transformation.”

Their process involved a comprehensive re-evaluation of their practices, materials and design principles. The team researched sustainability

techniques, and integrated renewable energy sources, such as solar panels, to reduce reliance on traditional energy sources and lower carbon emissions. Energy-efficient HVAC systems, appliances, and lighting fixtures helped reduce energy consumption and utility costs. Meanwhile, superior ventilation and eco-friendly materials and techniques minimize environmental impact and promote healthy indoor air quality. While the adoption of low-flow fixtures, greywater recycling systems and rainwater harvesting systems helped them conserve water resources. And smart home automation allows homeowners to adjust the house's daily operations, serving a more efficient lifestyle.



Major Homes also implemented measures that helped increase the safety and security of residents. Each year, homes across Canada are affected by natural disasters and severe weather, and given the

increase and severity of both, largely due to climate change, Built Green offers disaster preparedness options, improving a home's resiliency. While a lesser discussed aspect of sustainable building, this is a growing area of the BUILT GREEN® programs with measures to improve resiliency to environmental changes and natural disasters.



In part, Rick attributes their success to the team's dedication to building strong partnerships with suppliers, contractors and industry organizations. These relationships enable knowledge-sharing and access to specialized expertise, towards collective problem solving. One

such partnership was with their Energy Advisor, **Energysaver Solutions**, who Major Homes says has been crucial in their shift from traditional into energy-efficient practices. Through their Energy Advisor's guidance, Major Homes gained valuable insights into innovative technologies and materials that prioritized energy conservation, and the advisor's tailored assessments enabled them to optimize their performance. Rick believes that it's through greater collaboration and collective action, alongside innovation, that industry is transitioning towards a more progressive, responsible built environment.

"Major Homes has made strategic and comprehensive changes to achieve their full potential, adapt to external changes in the built environment and enhance their performance. We're thrilled to know our programs guided their transformation," says Jenifer Christenson, chief executive officer at Built Green Canada. [Read more.](#)

Thank you to our category sponsor, **Travelers Insurance**, and to our title sponsor, **BC Housing**.



**Major Homes Ltd.**  
@MajorHomesLtd

Thrilled to share that we've won **#TransformationalMaverick** at **@BuiltGreenCan** **Maverick Awards** for the impact our **#sustainability** practices have had in driving real change at Major Homes!



**TransformationalMaverick**  
2024 FINALIST

**MAJOR HOMES**

BC HOUSING TRAVELERS



The Ambassador Award was this year's most popular category—the purpose being to recognize those on the ground, promoting and encouraging sustainable building; those ambassadors driving change towards the progression of industry. This award speaks to Built Green's origins in industry engagement and the value of word of mouth—internally and externally.

**Finalist: Jayman BUILT**



Fitting, that in the Maverick's inaugural year, its founding member, **Jayman BUILT**, was a finalist for not one, but two of the three offered awards: Ambassador and Innovation. For the Ambassador Award, rewarding sustainability stewardship, Jayman is

recognized for their mandate centered on sustainable building practices that resonates through industry, their progressive four-step approach to homeowner packages, which starts with a high-performance standard spec, alongside their extensive marketing that spotlights the value of green building practices.

Sustainability has always been important to their business model, as evidenced by them being the driving force behind the formation of Built Green Canada. However, this ramped up in 2016 with the introduction of their "Core Performance" energy-efficient inclusions, offered as their standard. These inclusions provided a way to meet future energy codes sooner, instead of waiting until renewables were mandated. In 2019, they introduced a six-panel solar system on every single-family home. As a result, Jayman BUILT was becoming a recognized leader in energy efficiency in Alberta and even across the country. The introduction of solar panels garnered local and national press coverage, as the first builder in Alberta to include solar as standard. They built their brand strength around energy efficiency, which has become a source of pride and accomplishment for their team.



Every year since 2019, they've improved on these energy systems. As part of this, Built Green's program continues to guide their annual specification improvements, as they consider energy, water conservation, indoor air quality, homeowner comfort and durability—for a holistic approach to sustainability. All their homes go

through third-party certification, and today, the majority are BUILT GREEN® Gold—with a total of 13,271 certified, including both their Single Family and High Density projects. This is more than any other builder that has participated in Built Green Canada's programs—and Jayman has many more slated for certification, including upcoming projects in their Magna community in Calgary's University District.



Jayman has positioned sustainability not as an extra feature, but as the standard that homebuyers should expect—and that industry must meet. Standard across their single family homes is their **Core Performance Package**, featuring 10 solar panels, 96 per cent high

efficiency two-stage furnace, active heat recovery ventilator, tankless hot water heater, foundation wrap, triple pane R-6 windows and UV light air purification system. [Read more.](#)

**Finalist: Joe Geluch, Naikoon Contracting Ltd.**



Joe has long been a force in working to advance sustainable building practices—both within his own company and through industry and government initiatives. His dedication to promoting sustainability is driven by his deep-rooted connection to the land, his respect for Indigenous wisdom and his commitment to leaving a positive legacy for future generations.

**Naikoon Contracting** has completed 46 BUILT GREEN® certified projects, including eight in 2023, along with several Passive House and Net Zero Carbon builds. Guided by Built Green Canada programs, Joe puts his values into practice, prioritizing environmental impact reduction, energy efficiency and occupant well-being. These programs also serve as valuable educational tools with the firm's clientele, bridging the gap for those unfamiliar with green building practices.



Finding purpose in the tangible benefits of his work, Joe sees reduced carbon emissions, enhanced indoor air quality and lower utility costs. And so, his passion lies in inspiring others to embrace sustainable construction and nurturing a culture of environmental stewardship and resilience. Outside of Naikoon, Joe has dedicated time to industry efforts, including being a

founding member of Canada's Net Zero Energy Housing Council, a member of the Executive Board of Directors of the CHBA-BC Technical Research Committee, serving as Chair of BCIT's Carpentry Advisory Committee and holding terms on multiple municipal advisory design panels.

Joe believes that the Canadian construction industry must build better to combat our national housing crisis, lagging sector productivity, skilled labour shortage and the impacts of the climate crisis. He says none of these factors exist in isolation, and each contributes to the challenging situation builders face, as they strive to build quality, affordable and low-emission housing.



To ensure his messages resonate, Joe invites dialogue and encourages accountability among stakeholders. By openly sharing his real-world experiences through project case studies and workshops, he creates opportunities for learning and engagement,

allowing others to see the firsthand benefits of sustainable building practices.

Giving dozens of interviews, Joe has served as an expert on building podcasts and regularly speaks at industry events, such as BuildEx, to share information with the broader industry. [Read more.](#)



The Innovation Award's purpose is to recognize creative ways sustainable building is happening and progressing industry: those with a new approach that challenges status quo. It's in this spirit that Built Green's programs were originally developed and continue to evolve.

### Finalist: Mountain-View Homestead by Ellenwood Homes



Longtime builder member, **Ellenwood Homes** from Nelson, British Columbia, was recognized for their Mountain-View Homestead: a 1,675 square foot single family home located on an acreage in Slokan Park. Mountain-View Homestead offers a range of innovative features, with a focus on prioritizing a fast carbon cycle, energy performance, alongside resilience and health.

Ellenwood strives to keep operational carbon emissions as low as possible, preferably close to zero. They don't usually install any gas-fired mechanical equipment or appliances. Working with experts to model their homes, they do embodied carbon analysis on all their projects. Embodied carbon refers to all those emissions straight from raw material extraction, through transportation, waste, surrounding operations—it's the hidden carbon footprint. This professional analysis helps Ellenwood make material substitutions to reduce the home's embodied carbon.

As a first step, they began substituting insulation materials (using cellulose and mineral wool fibers versus foam plastics) and reducing traditional concrete. Now, they're analyzing not just building materials and assemblies, but also mechanical systems in the embodied carbon calculations, towards further addressing operational carbon.



Ellenwood Homes already targets holistic sustainability practices, integrating advanced, net-zero building methods as part of their strides to be innovative, while prioritizing locally sourced, low-impact materials, which is especially resourceful in their more remote region. And then,

from this project's inception, the homeowners emphasized the importance of energy efficiency and sustainability. Their clear vision provided Ellenwood with guidance, shaping many aspects of the design and construction process. This unwavering commitment to energy efficiency motivated Ellenwood to push boundaries and explore new avenues for sustainable construction.

Compared to a typical house, the homestead has a 46 per cent reduction in energy use. The annual expected costs for electricity, including all loads, heating and ventilation, is around \$1,700 per year. This house does not use any natural gas or propane, which saves on utilities, and alongside the additional insulation, utility savings will have a payback period of less than six-and-a-half years.

The kitchen is outfitted with a mass heater and wood-fired cooker and bread oven. This provides warmth to the entire home and allows the homeowners to use firewood, a renewable resource with a fast carbon cycle, rather than gas. While a homeowner favourite, this appliance also challenged Ellenwood on a critical goal: air tightness was required to reach their efficiency goals, alongside their municipality's Step 5 building code. [Read more.](#)



### Finalist: Path to Net Zero by Jayman BUILT



Built Green's founding builder member **Jayman BUILT**, is recognized for taking yet another step forward, introducing an impressive new standard across their builds, alongside optional packages that go up to net zero—which they refer to as their four-step solution: their Path to Net Zero.

Jayman's Chairman and CEO, Jay Westman, is relentless in his ongoing pursuit of new and improved advancements and technologies. And so, Jayman's mandate has always been to lead the industry in innovation and sustainability, while providing a high-quality home that homeowners can afford. Their vision for the Path to Net Zero was driven by the need to meet future building code requirements today, but with an attainable offering that still provides liveability, desirable floorplans, on-trend designs and at a price point that's realistic. Energy savings are a key piece of this, as Jayman recognizes energy costs are expected to continue to rise.



As the first Alberta builder to standardize solar panels, Jayman's first of four packages that homeowners can choose from is impressive. To start, all Jayman homes are BUILT

GREEN® certified and include a set of energy-efficient inclusions designed to save homeowners money on their utility costs and protect the environment. The first spec, called "Core Performance", saves each homeowner up to \$1,300 on their annual energy costs. This is about 33 per cent more efficient than building code and provides up to 50 per cent reduction on their electricity bills with their 10-panel solar system. It also includes a 96 per cent high-efficiency two-stage furnace, tankless hot water heater, triple-pane windows, active heat recovery ventilator and dimpled membrane foundation wrap, while the Smart Home technology package aids homeowners in further reducing their energy costs by adjusting their heating and cooling to their living habits.



Their holistic approach improves more than energy. For instance, their Merv13 furnace filter has ultra-violet light air purification system, which kills 99 per cent of airborne germs, pathogens, and surface mould—coupled with the HRV, which refreshes the air every three hours, these features improve the home's indoor air quality. Meanwhile, locally sourced products, water conservation and waste management are other critical areas of focus. They integrate low-flow fixtures, saving 84 million litres of water, and their building practices and materials have contributed to 40,000 metric tonnes of waste material being recycled instead of going to a landfill—even their carpets are made from recycled water bottles.

Meanwhile, each of the three optional packages, over and above Core Performance, does include additional cost, alongside additional features and increased utility savings. Option two saves homeowners up to \$1,500 annually, prevents 4.2 metric tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and is 60 per cent more energy efficient than 2023 Alberta Building Code. [Read more.](#)



The Transformational Award's purpose is to recognize the impact sustainability practices can have in driving change—enabling fundamental progress, whether that be project-specific or a company refocus. These achievements embody Built Green's mission to progress industry.

**Finalist: Verling Avenue by Città Group**



When the time came for their new office building, Città Group decided to design and build it themselves. This was the beginning of the transformation of not only this build site, but their wider commercial build processes, inspired by partnering with Built Green Canada on their Small Commercial pilot.

Città Group has a long history with Built Green Canada, being an early adopter of the programs, certifying their projects since 2008, while Owner and Founder, Bill Patterson, sat on the Board of Directors for years, including a term as Chair. Being a strong proponent of the program, Città wanted to be able to streamline their processes for both residential and commercial—and to be able to say all their projects were BUILT GREEN® certified.

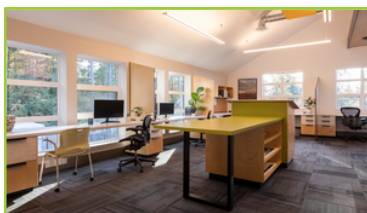


Built Green received inquiries over the past few years about a small commercial program, and it was with Città's ask that resources were put into a pilot. It would be with considerable input from their team that the BUILT GREEN® Small Commercial program was developed. This process also

resulted in their BUILT GREEN® Platinum certified build—and an evolution of Città's practices.

Their goal was to build an energy efficient and durable build, which was aesthetically pleasing, with minimal maintenance and a small environmental footprint. Bringing a commercial build to rural Victoria, while reimagining the commercial side of their work through the BUILT GREEN® lens, Città had numerous considerations to work through.

They started with a reinterpreted barn style, as a nod to the rural location, and to soften the transition of light industrial to rural-residential. Insulated panels were used for the concrete tilt-up portions of the build, while an inverted roof system kept roof penetrations to a minimum—the clean lines increased durability and longevity, further aided by concrete and metal siding exterior. Città intentionally reduced the use of wood to create a low-maintenance, durable finish.



A highly efficient VRF/HVAC system would provide simultaneous heating and cooling in one heat pump—both this and the generator equipment, they placed at the rear of the building, to limit noise to residential neighbours.

Extra care was taken to consider the placement of the building, parking, septic services, and yard storage for minimal impact to the surrounding area.

This build site was in a covenanted tree protection area with high rainfall. Careful planning ensured there was no net loss of tree canopy, while stormwater management was designed to be partly managed through a unique grasscrete paver system connected to an underground stormwater detention center. [Read more.](#)

**Finalist: Spring Creek Mountain Village**



Canmore's Spring Creek Mountain Village was originally a dairy farm in the 1920s and then a mobile home park in the mid- and late-1900s; this 28-hectare redevelopment has seen a massive transformation into a stunning, sustainable alpine community like no other in Canmore.

Since day one, creating a truly sustainable mountain town has been critical to the vision behind Spring Creek. The motivation for Frank Kernick, developer and owner of Spring Creek Mountain Village, was largely driven by the region's spectacular natural beauty and his commitment to keep Canmore an alpine town. This is also a nod to Frank's parents and grandparents as well as to Canmore—to be a legacy for the town in which he grew up, and his contribution to building a sustainable future for his grandchildren.

The Spring Creek team has proudly participated in two pilot programs through Built Green Canada: Multi-Family and most recently, the Communities pilot. Going back to their first BUILT GREEN® certification in 2008, so far, this community includes 62 certifications: for Single Family (53), High Density (8) and Community—Phase One, with Phase Two slated for certification shortly; meanwhile, four more High Density projects are enrolled, as this community continues to grow.



Home to commercial, single- and multi-family housing, Spring Creek is designed for all ages and stages of life. It includes a special project designed for active senior living, with unique live/work condominiums that allow owners to operate street-front shops connected directly

to their homes; a luxury hotel and conference centre with a living roof; and affordable housing: five per cent is offered as part of [Canmore's Vital Homes Program](#), helping staff and residents continue living there.

As well, Canmore has a unique mining heritage, which they worked to preserve through replication of the original Canmore Opera House (built in 1898)! This is about honouring the past, creating community, as well as enhancing health and wellness, with ongoing activities hosted here. This building also serves as a gathering hall for the Property Owners' Association—it helps bring together the neighbourhood and create a sense of belonging, conducive to the social elements of sustainability. With multiple businesses, this community is also one of the largest employers in the Bow Valley.



Their systems have been evolving for the last 15 years, reflected in their certification elevation—the most recently certified is yet another to be awarded Platinum level. In working to keep up with Built Green's

programs, which encourage incremental improvements, their benchmark continues to increase—which they're proud of, recognizing it's to the benefit of everyone. [Read more.](#)

## Meet Our Judges

These industry experts have been hand-picked and bring extensive knowledge to the judging process. Their diversity in experience and geographic markets bring unique perspectives with wide-ranging scope to our panel.

A big thank you to our esteemed judges for their invaluable contribution. As industry leaders, their expertise and dedication have been critical in recognizing building excellence. We're grateful for their time and commitment!

### Sydney Bond, Rescom



Sydney, Vice President Residential at **Rescom**, Edmonton, has over a decade of experience in residential construction. She currently serves as Vice Chair at BILD Alberta, instructs at the University of Alberta, and served as Past President at CHBA Edmonton Region. With a keen emphasis on sustainable building and design, Sydney actively contributes to industry advancement, valuing the opportunity to learn and collaborate with fellow professionals to raise the collective bar.

### Martin Chabiera, GableCraft Homes



As a Construction Manager at **GableCraft Homes** in Victoria, Martin is instrumental in realizing the company's vision of creating safe, sustainable and welcoming communities where families can flourish for generations. He helps ensure that each home built by GableCraft reflects these values, overseeing every detail of construction with precision and care.

### Roger Chayer, Talus Green Building Consulting



Owner of Talus Green Building Consulting, a reputable firm providing expertise and guidance for sustainable energy solutions out of Fanny Bay, Roger is dedicated to advancing sustainable building practices in the residential building industry. He also serves as a BUILT GREEN® High Density Verifier and contributes his expertise as a valued member of Built Green's Technical Standards Committee.

### Shawna Henderson, Blue House Energy



Founder and CEO of Built Green's longtime training partner, **Blue House Energy**, and President and CEO of **Bfreehomes Design Ltd**, Shawna has over three decades of experience and has been driving innovation and sustainability. Operating out of Halifax, she's presented at regional and national conferences on deep energy retrofits, solar thermal system design and more, and has authored several sustainable housing books. She's also a member of CHBA's Net Zero Energy Retrofit Working Group and co-chair of the Atlantic Home Construction & Renovation Council.

### Steve Jackson, Enviromatics Group



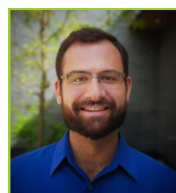
President and Owner of **Enviromatics Group** and **Enervision**, Steve leads his team on delivering energy modelling services across Canada and in-home (air tightness, thermal) services in Western Canada. With 15+ years of experience, Steve and his team of experts provide industry-leading consulting. They're committed to simplifying complex requirements, with a mission to leverage deep insights into evolving industry demands. He has also served as Chair of BC Energy Step Code Committee and on CHBA Edmonton Region's Board of Directors.

### Cooper Le, 4 Elements



Cooper is a multifaceted professional serving as the Production Manager, Master Energy Advisor, and Senior Technologist at **4 Elements** in Calgary. With extensive expertise in rating systems like EnerGuide, Energy Star, LEED, Built Green and more, Cooper plays a pivotal role in driving the success of 4 Elements, a company distinguished for its services and focus on sustainable building in both residential and commercial sectors.

### Isaiah Littley, Introba



Isaiah is an Intermediate Building Analyst at **Introba** in Toronto. He collaborates with clients to develop living systems that are not only smart, secure and resilient but also connected to their communities and the planet. Through his expertise, he contributes to the creation of spaces that uplift communities, protect the environment and adapt to the evolving needs of the future.

### Joanne Sawatzky, Light House



Managing Director of Regenerative Built Environment Services at **Light House** in Vancouver, Joanne brings 20+ years of experience to the green building industry, finding ways to elevate a built environment that nurtures both human and ecological well-being. She offers expertise in sustainable, energy-efficient, low carbon design—working with clients to navigate sustainability goals through facilitation, visioning, green building documentation, and analysis. She is a leader in shaping a better built environment for all and is proud to be a BUILT GREEN® High Density Verifier.

### Dave Turnbull, Enerspec Consulting



President, Owner and Lead Energy Advisor at **Enerspec Energy Consulting** in Edmonton. Through his extensive experience, Dave provides straightforward solutions to complex challenges for builder clients; boards; committees; and in his teaching capacity, delivering webinars, presentations, and classes. He is Past Chair and now serves as Director Emeritus and Technical Advisor to Built Green's Board of Directors. As Past Director of the CHBA Edmonton Region, he remains on their Government Relations Committee, and sits on the City of Edmonton's Emissions Neutral Buildings Industry Advisory Group.





**Meet Our Sponsors**

As we profile our Mavericks and their achievements, we're spotlighting our sponsors for their generosity in helping to make this happen. Each is a leader supporting sustainable building, and we applaud their efforts. We are truly grateful for their partnership and welcome you to learn more about their important contributions to our industry.

**BC Housing,  
Title Sponsor**

BC Housing is dedicated to developing, managing and administering a wide range of subsidized housing options across British Columbia, and are focused on advancing sustainable, low-carbon, innovative and resilient buildings. Working in partnership with the private and non-profit sectors, provincial health authorities and ministries, other levels of government and community groups, their mission is to provide access to safe, quality, accessible and affordable housing options to people across British Columbia.

They strive to promote strong, inclusive communities where people can thrive, with a vision that everyone has a place to call home. Additionally, they license residential builders, administer owner-builder authorizations, and carry out research and education that benefit the residential construction industry and consumers. They work with about 800 housing providers and help more than 110,000 households in communities across British Columbia!



**Excel Homes,  
Ambassador Sponsor**



Excel Homes is a long-time Built Green builder who has been voluntarily verifying their energy performance and green features through our certification since 2007, making them one of the earliest adopters of our sustainable building programs—they're leaders embracing better building practices. Over the past 35-plus years, they have built 14,000 homes in over 80 communities and received many awards for design and industry excellence.

Their extensive experience has helped them develop a refined homebuying experience that values their clients' time, simplify major decisions and minimizes any stress that can come with building a new home. In alignment with Built Green's values, they carefully consider the impact of their actions and choices, aspiring to lead industry in areas such as safety and sustainability. This builder is dedicated to building excellence, third-party certification and progressing industry!

**Heidelberg Materials,  
Innovation Sponsor**



Heidelberg Materials is one of the world's largest integrated manufacturers of building materials and solutions, offering innovative cement, aggregate, ready-mix concrete and associated products. They are industry leaders working to decarbonize the cement and concrete sector with intelligent and sustainable building materials for the future. Their products and services are used in the construction of houses, infrastructure, commercial and industrial facilities and anywhere else cement and concrete products are used.

Their commitment to sustainability extends beyond reducing carbon emissions; they actively drive circularity by promoting the recycling and reuse of materials, minimizing waste and conserving natural resources. Heidelberg Materials prioritizes sustainability at every level of their operations, striving to make a positive impact on the environment to contribute to a more sustainable future for all. They are a leader in low carbon products and digital solutions that enable more sustainable and durable building.

**Travelers Insurance,  
Transformational Sponsor**



Travelers Canada is part of an industry-leading international team dedicated to helping Canadians prepare for, prevent and recover from loss through comprehensive insurance solutions, including new home warranty programs. Committed to continuously evolving to meet ever-changing needs, Travelers' approximately 1,400 employees across Canada provide outstanding service and comprehensive insurance-based solutions, giving individuals and businesses the confidence they need to feel secure.

Travelers understands the importance of sustainability practices and their impact on transforming the building industry towards better-built homes and healthier communities!

**Mavericks in the News**



Maverick Awards media coverage included: BizReflections, Calgary Herald, Canadian Business Journal, Canadian Family News, Canadian Industry Online, Canadian Insider, CEO.CA, Construct Connect, Construction Canada, Corporate Knights, Edmonton Journal, Madison's Lumber Reporter, Masthead, Real Estate Magazine, RENXHomes, The Four Town Journal, Toronto Business Journal, Weekly Voice, Western Built, Yahoo Finance and more.



The Built Green Team

**Mark Your Calendar for 2025 Mavericks!**

Oct 24	Entries open
Feb 14	Entry deadline