

Report on Green Solutions

EARTH DAY EDITION

A special report highlighting people, ideas, businesses and technologies that are making an environmental difference

Pioneering.
Visionary.
Self-sustaining.
Energy-efficient.
A green dream made real for 2,500 residents. **Richard Blackwell** takes you inside Victoria's \$600-million Dockside Green community for a look at how this enviro-friendly development became a design icon

INNOVATIVE SUPPLIERS

Dockside Green is using products and materials from innovative Canadian companies, whenever possible. Here's a look at some of the suppliers:

NEXTERRA ENERGY:

This Vancouver company is building the biomass gasification system. It takes wood waste – such as scraps from construction and old pallets – and breaks it down into combustible gas, which is then burned cleanly to provide heat and hot water to the buildings. Two or three truckloads of waste each week is enough to fuel the system, which has a backup gas burner.

ZENON:

This Oakville, Ont., company now owned by General Electric Co. is supplying the filtering systems that help clean water in the on-site sewage treatment plant. The membrane bioreactor system draws water through microscopic pores, filtering out solids, bacteria and viruses.

SOL-AIR SYSTEMS:

Based in Kelowna, B.C., Sol-air is supplying the on-site sewage treatment plant with air decontamination equipment to eliminate any smells. The chemical-free system uses ultraviolet light to create short-lived free radicals that oxidize contaminants in the air.

TRITON LOGGING:

This Victoria company is supplying reclaimed wood for some of the construction. Triton uses a remotely operated submersible to harvest wood from forests that have been flooded by reservoirs over the past century and preserved by cold water.

RELIABLE CONTROLS:

Also of Victoria, Reliable Controls makes the monitoring system that allows residents to control the temperature of their units and keep track of energy and water consumption. The device also calculates overall greenhouse-gas emissions for each unit. Two other Victoria companies, Houle Controls and Syscor Research & Development, customized the system.

» Richard Blackwell