



What Net Zero means for a Lyttonite

July 28, 2021 - A Net Zero home (also known as a Passive home) produces as much clean energy as it uses. Net Zero Homes are very well built with extra insulation, high-performance windows, and superb airtightness that minimizes heating and cooling needs, making them up to 80% more energy efficient than typical new homes. Their appliances, lighting, and mechanical systems are all as energy efficient as possible allowing any remaining energy needed to come from a renewable energy system such as solar panels. These are reliable, don't need a lot of ongoing maintenance and some Net Zero homes can even store in batteries the electricity they generate then use it to power the home during peak hours or blackouts.

Net Zero homes have extremely airtight outer structures (windows, walls etc) that don't let heated or cooled air leak out, or moisture get inside the walls, keeping your home healthy for years to come. These same qualities make for a quieter home, too, keeping noises outside where they belong.

The comfort continues with more even temperatures in every room. Air quality is better, too, because of the ventilation system created to bring fresh air in and take stale air, reducing pollen and dust and keeping the air inside the home fresh. The airtightness of the home means it can use a smaller heating/cooling system, reducing costs significantly.

Because of the immense scope of the destruction in Lytton, it's possible for us to rebuild as a whole Net Zero model community with funding from multiple sources. This will mean even people who didn't have insurance will be able to get their home back. We don't want anyone left behind because of this tragedy; we want all our residents to have the opportunity to have a home that is better suited to the demands of the region while lowering the extremely high costs of heating and cooling that people living in Lytton often pay. Since Lytton has burned down several times now, insurance companies might begin refusing to insure in the village as they can say it is too likely another fire will hit.

One of the materials reviewed by the Village is demonstrated with a fire burning inside the building. After the fire is extinguished, the building is then cleaned and re-painted. No structural damage occurs, greatly lowering an insurance company's risk and replacement costs. This would allow residents to feel secure that even if another fire struck in the future, going home would be a much simpler matter than it currently is. This material can be designed as desired, meaning houses in Lytton could retain their heritage look despite being brand new.