

## Home sustainable home

From your favourite room to your comfy chair, your home is your palace. Here are a few ways to make sure your energy bills don't cost a princely sum:

- Install a programmable thermostat and lower the temperature by 3° C at night.
- Lower your hot water temperature to 49° C.
- Wash your clothes in cold or warm water.
- Hang your clothes to dry.
- Draft proof and insulate your home and duct work.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR appliances.
- Use compact fluorescent lightbulbs.
- Use the energy-saver option for your dishwasher.
- Look for Ecologo certified consumer products.

— *News Canada*

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

# Designing to reduce your use

## *UVic student puts down roots in green development*

Having to wait until the end of the month to gauge an energy use total will be a thing of the past for Dockside Green residents. Reading the “energy use meter” is likely to become a daily ritual — one that can be conveniently performed indoors.

Developed by Reliable Controls of Victoria and researched for use at Dockside by recent UVic Business grad David Jawl, a handy computer interface in each unit will allow homeowners to keep close tabs on their carbon footprint by measuring daily and monthly energy and water consumption. They will be able to view a breakdown of electricity usage, hot and cold water use and even compare their consumption with other Dockside residents.

The potential to monitor and minimize their footprint, “could inspire a kind of competition between residents,” says Jawl, who researched the technology while a co-op student and is now Dockside’s associate project coordinator.

Jawl vouches for similar technologies that empower unit owners to take responsibility for their consumption patterns and to minimize their ecological footprint.

“Studies show people who monitor their energy use in the home end up using approximately 15 per cent less energy than they would otherwise,” he explains.

Last spring, as part of a co-op placement that connects students with relevant work experience in their field of study, Jawl helped research and establish the feasibility for the energy use meter with Reliable Controls and Houle Electric to develop a user-friendly computer interface. Now a permanent employee of the developer, Jawl will help coordinate the installation of the meters in the upcoming months.

Jawl’s career beyond UVic has been shaped by his work experience at Dockside Green. “When I was taught about triple bottom line in



*David Jawl and Windmill West partner Joe Van Belleghem discuss the energy needs of Dockside Green residents.*  
Jo-Ann Richards/Works Photography

school,” Jawl says of the social, economic and environmental impacts of development, “it was just theory. Now I get ... to apply it in reality.”

Jawl’s studies helped guide his research on the benefits of many sustainable technologies that were considered during the design stage of the development, as he calculated the cost/benefit relationship of each possible strategy. Targeting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification for all 26 buildings, and striving to be greenhouse gas neutral, Dockside Green will showcase a wide variety of the sustainable strategies Jawl has helped bring to reality, including biomass heat generation, onsite storm water and sewage treatment, installation of energy-efficient appliances and fixtures, passive solar, car share co-op participation, and the inclusion of a green waterway that will run through the 13-acre site.

Joe Van Belleghem, an established leader in the green building industry and partner in Windmill West, Dockside’s co-developer, was Jawl’s work-term supervisor. Hiring Jawl as a way to link with UVic’s co-op

program was a smart business transaction in Belleghem’s view.

“It’s a technology transfer,” he says. “UVic Business is a good place to hire students who want to get into the development industry.”

Working at Dockside, the largest sustainable development of city land in Victoria’s history, was Jawl’s first hands-on experience with holistic, closed-loop building design.

He learned how sustainable real estate developments have the power to demonstrate that a commitment to the environment and sustainable urbanism pays off in the long run through job creation, improved marketability and energy cost savings. Jawl praises how they “always kept in mind the triple bottom line.”

As a co-op student, Jawl became an Accredited Professional. Now, one of three Dockside Green representatives who work at the development site, he helps coordinate documentation of LEED credits during construction.

Anticipating the day when residents begin to realize those energy efficiencies, he can’t wait to hear how low residents’ energy meters help them go.