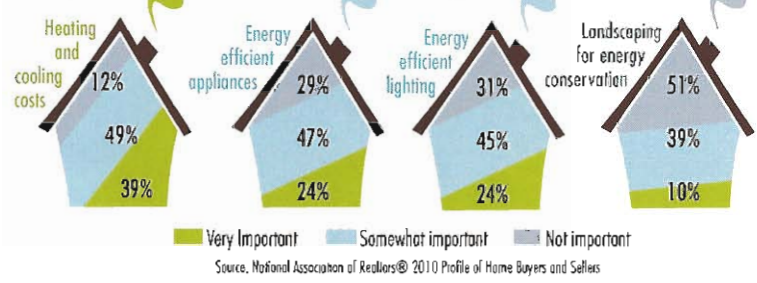


Home Buyers Look For Energy Efficiency Homes

A recent study confirmed that:

- Almost nine in ten buyers felt that a home's heating and cooling costs influenced their buying decision.
- Roughly seven in ten buyers felt that energy efficient appliances and energy efficient lighting impacted their choice.
- Half of the buyers surveyed felt that landscaping for energy conservation and environmentally-friendly community features affected their decision.

Importance of a Home's Environmentally-Friendly Features



Heat Leak? Point & Find

Now, before the cold weather ends, take the time to find out where the "heat leaks" are in your home. It's easy with a Black & Decker Thermal Leak Detector. It's an inexpensive and an easy-to-use tool. Just aim the Detector at a known warm spot on an inside wall to create a reference point, then aim it at an area where you suspect a "heat leak." Check windows, doors, power outlets, and attic doors. If there is a temperature difference, the light on the Detector changes.

Once you've identified the "leaky" areas, you're ready for a spring maintenance plan!

Eco-friendly is a Home Selling Feature

A recent survey confirmed that environmentally-friendly home improvements are becoming a factor in home buying decisions. There's been a lot of talk about switching to CFL or LED bulbs for "green" lighting, but it goes further.

Today, home buyers are looking for features such as energy-efficient windows and doors, a high-efficiency furnace, ENERGY STAR® ratings on appliances, a tankless water heater, as well as water-conserving fixtures like shower-heads, low-flow or dual-flush toilets. Buyers are even considering the point - using a finish that's low in VOCs (volatile organic compounds) is a plus.

Even if you're not in selling-mode today, thinking "green" when you're upgrading is a win for the planet and for your wallet as you lower the cost of running your home. And buyers see your savings as their savings too.

Recycle Your Old Car - Donate It To Charity

Got a clunker that's seen better days, or depreciated your vehicle and now it's time for a new one? Here's an idea - give your car as a charitable donation. It's a great way to help those in need, the environment, and you benefit from a tax receipt.

Here's how it works. Go to www.charitycar.ca. The first step is completing an online form. A representative then calls and goes over the details of the vehicle and gives you an idea of the charitable donation dollar value. If you decide to proceed with the donation, your vehicle is picked up by an auto recycler and completely dismantled - re-usable parts are salvaged and the rest is recycled. The salvage value is donated to one of the, more than 100, charities registered on the site. And you receive a tax receipt from the charity.

To see if this win-win-win idea works for you, speak with your Tax Advisor.

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People know us for our real estate smarts. From young couples searching for their family home, to executives looking to "move-up," to career-oriented singles ready to stop renting. In any given week, people from all walks of life call on us to help them find their new place. And just like you, they want someone who knows the area, and is always ready to deliver the information needed to make an informed decision.

If a friend, colleague, or neighbour could benefit from our professional service, please let us know. It would be our pleasure to call and introduce ourselves. And if they're thinking of selling, who knows... we may have already met the perfect buyer.

Best regards,

Doug & Roz

Value = Knowledge + Experience = Advice

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Surprise! What's In The Forecast Now?

Positive indicators lead the way into 2011. Economic numbers looked good, with employment up, and consumer confidence on the rise.

With all the positive news, continued low interest rates had the government concerned that too much debt was being taken on. So they changed the mortgage rules... twice.

In January, just before the announcement of the second mortgage rule reset, CREA and other forecasting agencies boosted their 2011 housing market predictions.

The one "watch-out"... Core Inflation, both here and south of the border. So far, inflation is within range so there's been no move by either Central Bank to raise interest rates.

But there's been an unexpected twist – soaring energy costs. What kind of inflationary pressures will it cause? And how will the Central Banks react? Look for a real push to keep interest rates low as everyone works together to keep the economy in growth-mode.

Turn Your Lights Off, Put Your "Green" On

At 8:30 PM (local time) on Saturday, March 26th, lights around the globe will be switched off for what has become the annual Earth Hour event.

One of Alberta's most successful cities to save energy during the 2009 Earth Hour was Edmonton, with a 5.5 per cent reduction in power usage across the City.

Now in its fifth year, the "movement" keeps growing - from one city in 2007 to 128 countries in 2010. Find out more at www.earthhour.org and celebrate what we all share in common – Planet Earth.

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MacEwan Glen

Exciting multi-level floor plan built by Jayman. Newer broadloom in the last year. Backs onto park. 3bdrms up with a spacious master and remodeled ensuite. Living room with cathedral ceiling.



Hamptons

View from your kitchen window. Exceptional Calbridge built 2 storey backing into the Hamptons golf course. 9ft ceilings, hardwood, stone-facing fireplace, bonus room and walk-thru pantry. \$849900



Cochrane Lake

Stunning, walkout bungalow. Over 3200 sq.ft country estate fully finished backing into the wetlands. Offers 3 bdms plus den, Fully developed walkout. Triple car garage. Open concept. \$824900



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