

NEWS

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

Green technology ready to be put in new or old houses

JENNIFER SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Kelowna may not be crowning in green buildings yet, but with the funky new technology available to builders, the volunteers working on this year's Green Skyline tour certainly garnered some weighty attention.

Thursday afternoon Cascadia Region Green Building Council representatives hosted the city's first official Green Skyline tour which saw the mayor and sustainability-focused business leader Joanne de Vries checking out grey water recycling methods currently in use in an Okanagan Mission home.

The G Group development is using the unit to recycle water from showers, laundry facilities and so forth, so it gets another cycle through the house in places like the toilet, where drinking-quality water is not a necessity.

The unit costs roughly \$2,000 for the tank and another \$1,000 to \$2,000

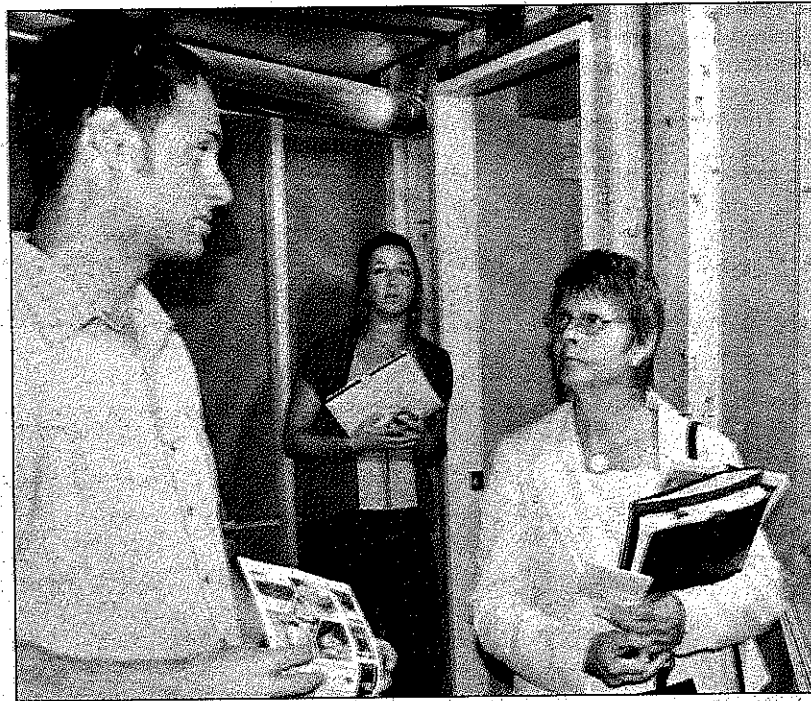
to install and can be retrofitted into homes, according to Cascadia host Deren Sentesy, whose just done so to his own home.

The addition is saving him about half the water he uses monthly—although there's still more room for improvement, he said. The bylaws are not in place to start using the systems for irrigation, as yet, but other municipalities are heading in that direction.

Shepherd said she was not sure where Kelowna is at with using the technology for irrigation, but noted the city is currently re-doing its irrigation by-laws for development.

The tour visited four Kelowna sites to point out some of the new green building efforts underway within the city, including Okanagan College's new Centre for Learning, the G Group Green Home, Mode, a Mission Group Development on Dickson Avenue and the Best Western.

Both Mode and the Best Western have been



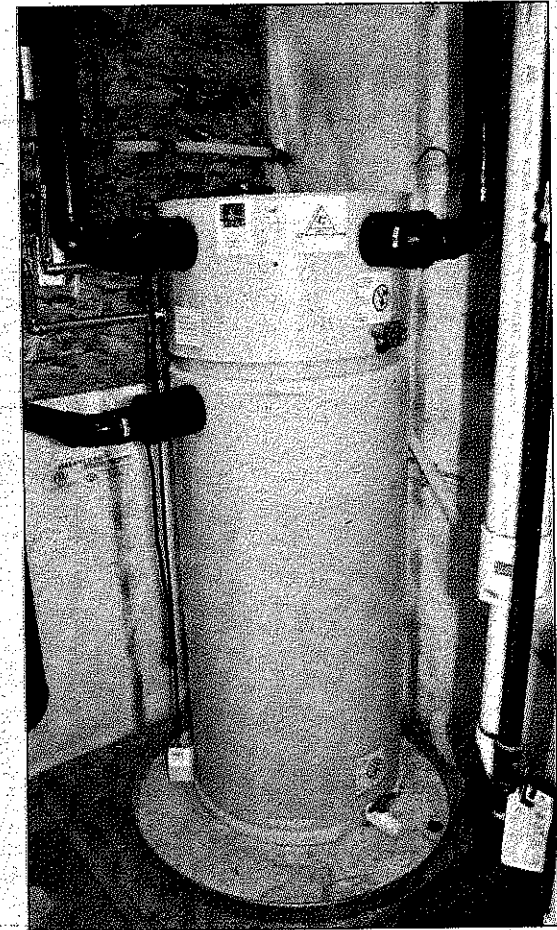
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DEREN SENTESY shows Kelowna Mayor Sharon Shepherd (centre) and Fresh Outlook Foundation CEO Joanne de Vries (right) the electrical room of a green-focused home in the Okanagan Mission, where a grey water recycling system, foam insulation, high efficiency furnace and sealed ducts are helping reduce the buildings' environmental footprint.

in the news several times for their solar installations and efforts to include greener building technol-

ogies, and the Okanagan College building is targeting LEED Gold status, the second-highest rating in

the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system. jsmith@kelownacapnews.com



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A GREY WATER tank installed in the house ensures the water used in the home cycles through twice.