

---

# News Release

---

2010/32  
May 25, 2010

## Drake Landing Solar Community Surpasses Targets

**OKOTOKS, ALBERTA** — Drake Landing Solar Community, Natural Resources Canada, project partners and community members today celebrated a world record: the Drake Landing project is North America's first large-scale seasonal storage solar system and the first system of its kind in the world to deliver 80 percent of the community's space heating requirements from solar energy. With this success, the project is well on its way to achieving its goal of providing greater than 90 percent of its heating needs from its solar-powered district heating system by its fifth year.

"This project is an excellent example of Canada's leadership in developing and implementing innovative solar energy technologies," said Mr. Ted Menzies, Member of Parliament for Macleod and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance. "By supporting clean energy projects like Drake Landing, our Government is reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and creating clean energy jobs."

Natural Resources Canada provided \$3.3 million in funding to design, build and monitor this pioneer project. The Drake Landing Solar Community, a three-year-old residential development in Okotoks, just south of Calgary, is home to 52 solar-heated residences built within the larger master-planned community.

"As the operator and part-owner of the heating system, ATCO Gas is pleased that the Drake Landing Solar Community is leading the world in environmentally sustainable technologies," said Brian Hahn, President, ATCO Gas.

Deputy Mayor Ed Sands of Okotoks also launched a live Web site where the public can track the performance of the solar collection and storage system. The site provides current data for solar energy availability, the amount of solar radiation collected, the ambient temperature and the heat put into the district heating system, as well as showing current temperatures of the energy storage tanks.

The Government of Canada is committed to supporting technology and innovation that helps to reduce Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent from 2005 levels by 2020, a target that reflects the importance of aligning with U.S. policy.

.../ 2



---

FOR BROADCAST USE:

Natural Resources Canada and project partners marked the achievement of Drake Landing Solar Community in Okotoks, Alberta, being the first community in the world to have 80 percent of its yearly space heating requirements provided by solar thermal energy. The community is North America's first to use a large-scale seasonal storage solar system and is home to 52 solar-heated residences built within a larger master-planned community.

- 30 -

Media may contact:

Mary-Ann Dewey-Plante  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Minister  
Natural Resources Canada  
Ottawa  
613-996-2007

or

Media Relations  
Natural Resources Canada  
Ottawa  
613-992-4447

The general public may contact:

Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT  
Telephone: 613-995-0947  
TTY: 613-996-4397  
(teletype for the hearing-impaired)  
E-mail: [questions@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:questions@nrcan.gc.ca)

**NRCan's news releases and backgrounders are available at [www.nrcan.gc.ca/media](http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/media).**

- more -



Natural Resources  
Canada

Ressources naturelles  
Canada

Canada