

How green is my condo?

Sept 27, 2008

Green power replacing traditional sources of energy



Bullfrog Power is certainly a green company,

but not so little since its birth in September 2005. It has been growing in leaps and bounds, so to speak. That's because electricity users learned that Bullfrog can help them do their part to keep our earth from croaking.

Bullfrog's customers are replacing the power they have been drawing down from Ontario's electrical grid. Thousands of private, corporate and municipal consumers have contracted to purchase fresh, clean, green power to replace the electrical energy they consume in their homes, offices, schools, factories, etc. They pay Bullfrog 3.5 cents/kilowatt hour of power consumed – on top of their monthly electrical bill – and the company sends an equivalent amount of free energy back into the province's power grid.

Bullfrog's electricity is produced by generators driven either by wind or flowing water. Jo Coombe, vice-president, at Bullfrog said the firm owns a portion of three large wind generators standing near

Ferndale on the Bruce Peninsula, plus small generators on rivers throughout Ontario. They also have wind towers standing near Pincher Creek, Alberta that offer the same replacement opportunity to Alberta consumers.

Condominium developers are signing onto Bullfrog's green power concept. The Toronto Condo Show will be demonstrating all the additional "green thinking" that has been going into the design, construction and operation of new condominium projects in Ontario.

The Metro Convention Centre itself is a Bullfrog Power client and replenishes the electrical energy it consumes with free, green power. Coombe said management at the Convention Centre tries to persuade each show that rents space in their complex to consider the Bullfrog Power concept.

So far her firm has 7,000 residential clients and 700 blue chip companies, such as three of the country's biggest banks, Wal-Mart, Cadbury, City of Mississauga and the Town of Caledon.



Going green will help protect our planet and future generations.

Style and sustainability are not mutually exclusive

Toronto is considered one of North America's busiest cities for condominium developments and that has also made it a principal home for innovative thinking in all fashions, décor, appliances etc. designed specifically for high-rise condo living.

Protecting the environment while creating a new housing stock will be a major theme at the Toronto Condo Show.

Stacey Fruitman, owner of Eco Inspirations Inc., a firm that promotes ecology-friendly interior design finishes, plus construction techniques to builders, said the line up of green speakers won't be just for consumers attending the Condo Show.

"We expect the developers and builders themselves will be taking in the seminars too, because developers realize that

today their potential customers are eco aware and want features in their homes which are either going to reduce the impact on the environment, or even contribute to a home's health, plus their own.

"As a result, developers and designers are looking for all that's new in building green," said Fruitman. She produced the popular Eco-suite at Tridel's new Element condominium at Wellesley and Sherbourne Sts.

The 24-storey Element is considered one of the most ecologically-advanced high rise condos in the country and the eco-suite was created as a

showcase for the leading eco-friendly features on the market today in furnishings, appliances and décor.

Fruitman said you'll also need less muscle power at this year's Toronto Condo Show. Most of the previous coloured brochures have been replaced by CDs. "The show is aiming at zero waste removal" she said, with all materials not carried home by show visitors able to be recycled for other uses.

"We find most people do their condo research on the web and that has greatly reduced the use of paper goods at shows like this," Fruitman added.