

# WEST WINNIPEG BUSINESS REVIEW

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

 **The Chamber**  
The Assiniboia Chamber of Commerce

SPRING 2024



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A home built by Dueck Builders in Stonewall. (Submitted Photos)

# Building on solid sustainability practices

By Jennifer McFee

**W**ith environmental issues top of mind, eco-conscious businesses continue to consider their climate and sustainability practices.

One such company is Dueck Builders, a Winnipeg-based custom sustainable builder. In 2006, Cal Dueck launched the

business as Dueck Homes with a focus on building better homes. He made his mark by completing Manitoba's first privately built LEED-certified house.

Then, in 2016, the company changed its name to Dueck Builders while maintaining its focus on designing and build-



Josh Friesen.

ing high-performance custom homes.

Josh Friesen, the company's co-owner, says climate and sustainability issues continue to inform their business practices.



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Josh Friesen,  
Co-owner, Dueck Builders



“Since our inception, our focus has been on more energy-efficient, sustainable homes that work better for the occupants, the neighbourhood, and the environment. Since residential energy use accounts for roughly 20 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, we feel there is room for substantial improvements,” he says.

“Choosing smarter building options and materials can reduce that number drastically.”

As examples, Friesen points to environmentally friendly products such as Lafarge Canada’s EcoPact low-carbon concrete, the Swiss Eco Tap sustainable faucet, and Mitsubishi Electric’s Zuba cold-climate heat pumps.

“We believe in using recycled and local material when we can,” he adds.

“Our home details are specifically designed to reduce air infiltration and increase thermal efficiency. All our homes perform 50 percent better than a code-built home, which means code-built homes cost twice as much to heat and cool.”

Friesen says customers benefit from living in less expensive, healthier and more comfortable homes.

“They pay half as much for the utilities in their homes and there’s less load on their systems, allowing for less maintenance and replacement costs over the ownership of the home,” he says.

“The attention to detail with the air barrier means they have more control over the air inside their home. We reduce radon concerns and leave you breathing healthier air. Our construction details reduce mould and rot concerns and leave a longer-lasting, healthier environment for your family.”

With new builds, the company focuses on energy-saving steps, including reducing thermal bridging. Friesen also offers advice for those tackling their home reno projects.

“When you’re doing renovations and additions, that’s usually a really good time to think about how to make your carbon footprint smaller or reduce your energy use. If you’re replacing siding, you can add two inches of insulation to the outside of the wall to keep heat from leaving the house through the studs,” he says.



Josh Friesen and his family.



A dining room table made of reclaimed wood from the home site.

(Submitted Photos)



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