



## WELCOME TO EAST GWILLIMBURY!

This document is designed to provide you with an introduction and overview of the Sustainability features of the homes in East Gwillimbury and your community as a whole.

The sustainability of the Hillsborough Community and the areas inside and surrounding your Home will largely depend on you and your relationship and commitment to your environment. Preserving the health and integrity of wetlands, watercourses, woodlands and wildlife is a key Goal of the Town and the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority.

By following the suggestions set out here, you will help achieve the sustainability goals and ensure the conservation of the community's natural environment. We also provide a brief overview of some of the sustainability features included in your home and the community along with links to additional information related to garbage and recycling, the use of clothes lines, fencing, community parks and trails, recreation and cultural guides as well as the Energy Star program.

### **Parks, Ponds and Trails**

Your surrounding community will include a system of parks, ponds and trails. Additionally, buffer lands adjacent to natural features will be planted with native species to enhance and protect the natural environment and protect local wildlife. Storm water management ponds are provided within the community to treat and control storm water runoff from rainfall events before the water enters the local creeks and waterways. Natural features found within the Natural Heritage System help promote the health of the community. They support the flora and fauna, promote sustainability and provide a number of important ecological and social functions. Additionally, these ponds provide recreational value and a green backdrop to the community.

### **The Town of East Gwillimbury's Sustainable Development Guidelines**

Andrin Homes and the Land Developer have worked with the Town and York Region to help implement the Town's Sustainable Development Guidelines. As homeowners, you are encouraged to follow the suggestions and recommendations in this document to help achieve the sustainability goals and objectives of the Town, Region and Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority. This will ensure a better environment for you and your family both inside and outside your home. You will also be helping to ensure the Stewardship of the land.

## Landscaping Your Lot

You are encouraged to treat your property as an extension of the natural Holland Landing environment by taking a more sustainable approach to landscaping your lot.

This includes:

1. planting gardens, composting and keeping all garden sheds, structures and fences within your property and not encroaching into any naturalized areas;
2. planting native drought resistant tree species, shrubs, perennial flowers and shade tolerant ground cover and vines;
3. not disposing of composting, yard waste or soil materials in natural areas as this could introduce harmful invasive species;
4. Selecting plants that provide shade and nesting areas for birds and wildlife habitat;
5. Selecting plants that provide food for birds, butterflies insects and other wildlife; and
6. Selecting plants that are native and non-invasive to adjacent properties. A list of noninvasive plants species contact or visit the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority web site: [www.lsrca.on.ca](http://www.lsrca.on.ca)

## Water Quality and Conservation

As mentioned earlier, the storm water management ponds and storm system in your community controls water quality and quantity to protect, feed and support nearby streams, wetlands, woodlots and wildlife habitat. In addition to this, it is important that homeowners do their part to protect and preserve water. This includes the following:

1. Never dispose of household cleaners, other chemicals or paints down sinks, toilets or catch basins. These should be disposed of at a York Region household hazardous waste depot free of charge;
2. Avoid using pesticides and fertilizers on your yards as they may run off and affect your community's water quality and harm natural vegetation and wildlife.
3. Consider use of plant groundcover requiring minimal irrigation, increased rainwater infiltration and minimizing run off.
4. Where possible, use permeable pavement surfaces such as unit pavers for your patios, walkways to allow water to infiltrate into the ground and reduce run off into the storm sewers.
5. Keep storm catch basins in front of your lot free of leaves and other debris to avoid debris from flowing into the storm system and ponds.

6. Consider installing rain barrels to collect rainwater from your downspouts to irrigate gardens. This reduces use of potable water and your water bill.

For additional information on hazardous waste drop-off sites, and water conservation visit the York Region website at: [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

### **Garbage and Recycling**

Prior to occupancy, Andrin Homes will either provide homeowners with green bins and blue bins or with information on where to obtain these bins. Recycling bins, garbage containers and yard waste bags should be placed at the curb before 7a.m. on your scheduled pick-up day but not before 8 p.m. the night before. The Town of East Gwillimbury's website will have the Garbage and Recycling Collection Calendar your community. This website also provides information on how to sort items for recycling and garbage.

Additional information on recycling larger household items, visit York Region's Bin-Dicator website at [www.york.ca/binindicator](http://www.york.ca/binindicator).

### **Clothes Lines**

The Town of East Gwillimbury encourages the use of clothes lines /hanging racks within residential rear yards to minimize the use of clothes dryers and reduce energy consumption. This is part of the Town's commitment to environmental sustainability and energy conservation. Please consult the Town's website for more information.

### **Fencing**

The maximum height of rear yard fences permitted by the Town is 6 feet (1.8m). If your lot is adjacent to parkland, storm ponds or the natural heritage system, access gates are not permitted from your rear yard to these lands. For more information, please consult the Town's website prior to commencing any fence construction.

### **Guide to Community Parks, Recreation Centres and Culture**

The Town of East Gwillimbury offers a wide range of recreational activities, programs and services for all ages. New homeowners are encouraged to participate in these activities make use of these services. For more information, please consult the Town's website – "Things to Do".

### **The Energy Star Program**

The ENERGY STAR® for New Home's Initiative promotes energy efficiency guidelines that enable new homes to be approximately 20% more energy efficient than homes built to the building code. The increased efficiency of these homes includes improvements to the heating and cooling systems, windows and doors, walls and ceilings, air tightness and electrical items, which together can translate to reduced energy costs and added home comfort for the homeowner.

In addition to the homes construction other ENERGY STAR ® products such as lighting, appliances etc. will contribute to additional monthly energy cost savings. For more information on the

ENERGY STAR® program, please visit National Resource Canada website at the following address: [www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy-efficiency](http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy-efficiency)

## **Let us tell you about the benefits**

### Enjoy better indoor living

Living in a home built with features to improve comfort and your life indoors is what we all look for when we are going to purchase a new home. An ENERGY STAR certified home delivers just this, a home that you want to live in and enjoy. How so? Homes that have been certified with the blue ENERGY STAR symbol are generally more air sealed than a typical new home and this helps to reduce drafts and cold spots, which will make you and your family more comfortable. It also helps to reduce dust, pollen, and pests from getting inside.

Typical features such as energy-efficient windows and higher insulation levels also help to improve the overall comfort of the home and aid in creating temperatures that are more balanced. This is beneficial during hot and cold seasons when you want your home to be at a temperature you find more comfortable than what it is like outdoors. Picture yourself inside your new home. It is quiet and calm. As you inhale deeply then exhale to relax after a long day at work, the indoor air is refreshing. There is a device installed in your home just for this, exchanging the indoor stale air with outdoor filtered air.

### Save energy

When built to the latest standard, an ENERGY STAR certified home is built to be about 20% more energy efficient than a typical home. Every year, an ENERGY STAR certified home saves the same amount of energy as watching 17 hockey seasons on TV or running a refrigerator for 10 years. Imagine all of the energy being saved and used conscientiously if every home on your street was certified as ENERGY STAR.

Why is energy conservation important? Today, 17 percent of the energy consumed in Canada is used to operate our homes. By saving energy, we can help protect the environment.

### Save money

Budget-conscience households look for ways to save money every year. We cut back on our morning coffee grab, we make more lunches during the week, and we pass on dining out to stay on track. However, picture a savings source that is invisible yet still provides you with extra funds to go towards a money goal: a road-trip, paying for summer camp, attending a music festival, or buying that coveted leather jacket.

Did you know every homeowner of an ENERGY STAR certified home could save up to \$300 per year in utility costs? There it is -the invisible money saver. You get these savings as soon as you start living in your new home. These savings are invisible, you will not see them or even feel the bills on your fingertips, but you will get those savings either way. So go ahead and grab your double espresso occasionally. Have peace of mind about energy efficiency.

Your biggest investment is built to use energy efficiently. How can you be sure? ENERGY STAR certified homes are evaluated, inspected and labelled in the basement by a third party energy

advisor. A builder who is dedicated to building to a higher energy-saving standard also constructs these homes. This gives you peace of mind that your home meets the ENERGY STAR energy efficiency standard that was developed by Natural Resources Canada. It is important for buyers to know that the building code for your region sets the requirements for the construction of your home. The ENERGY STAR standard is an add-on to the regional building code and is specifically designed to improve the energy efficiency of the home.

### Help the planet

Every time we use energy from fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas, we produce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that contribute to climate change. This is why it is important for our homes to be energy-efficient and lower our energy use as much as we can. By operating an ENERGY STAR certified home and conserving energy, you are saving over 1,000 kilograms of GHGs that could have been emitted into the planet every year. This is estimated to be about the same as the emissions emitted from your car when taking a 6,000 kilometre road trip to Calgary from Toronto and back (source: NRCAN calculation, 2016). Lower energy consumption conserves our natural resources and protects our environment by reducing emissions that contribute to climate change.

### Appreciate the resale potential

It happens every year, as the weather gets warmer, homeowners start cleaning out their homes and one-by-one "For Sale" signs pop-up. Will your home stand out when you decide to sell one day? An energy-efficient home may provide appeal for potential buyers. Prospective buyers look for homes that will be comfortable and save them money. Does the home have newer windows? What about the furnace or boiler? With an ENERGY STAR certified home, you are already ahead of the game. Energy saving features like high-performing windows and heating and cooling systems are attractive features for a buyer.

Here are some typical features:

- Higher insulation levels
- Walls and ceilings are insulated beyond what is required by the building code, which contributes to more even temperatures in your home.
- Efficient heating and cooling systems. These systems help you save energy, which saves you money every year.
- Additional air sealing. ENERGY STAR certified homes are built to meet a specific energy target and are built sufficiently airtight to save energy and provide better comfort. The homes are more air-sealed than a typical new home and help to reduce drafts and cold spots, dust, pollen, pests, and noise.
- High performing windows, patio doors, and skylights. Energy-efficient windows, doors, and skylights, such as ones certified ENERGY STAR, help to save energy and allow you to enjoy that cup of coffee or tea by the window without being cold.
- A whole-home ventilation system
- An air-exchanger, called a heat or energy recovery ventilation system, can help improve the indoor air quality by expelling stale air and replacing it with filtered outdoor air.

Welcome to East Gwillimbury

### **ENERGY STAR certified products**

A variety of ENERGY STAR certified products such as lighting, appliances, or air conditioners save you money by using less electricity.

### **Additional Homeowner Resources**

The following organizations offer additional information natural features and programs outlined in this document.

Town of East Gwillimbury: [www.eastgwillimbury.ca](http://www.eastgwillimbury.ca) Telephone: 905-478-4282

York Region: [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca) Telephone: 905-830-4444

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority: [www.lsrca.on.ca](http://www.lsrca.on.ca) Telephone: 905-895-1281