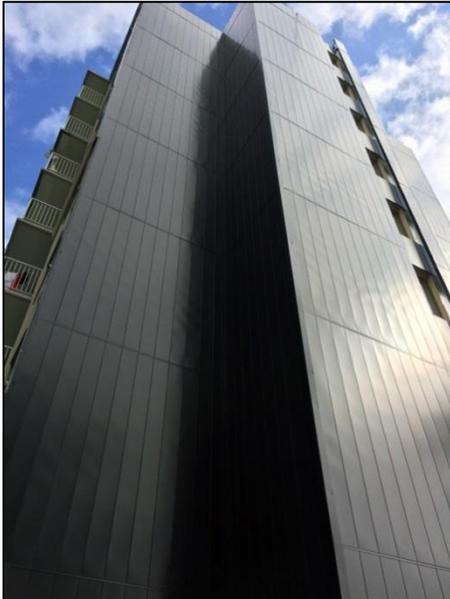


Windsor Essex Community Housing Corp



Combining aesthetics with functionality; a flat-panel SolarWall® system was installed in a multi-residential building re-cladding project for the City of Windsor. The architectural SolarWall system spans over 10,000 ft² on both the southeast and southwest walls. It greatly enhances the appearance of the building, creating a sleek and modern façade that will generate heat energy onsite and reduce operating costs while protecting the 30+ year old building.

“As leaders in social housing, we look to partners in our pursuit of continuous improvements...I am proud of our efforts in maintaining and improving our buildings and the SolarWall as part of our overarching plan has proven to be the perfect complement, in upgrading our building envelopes with a vision of improving energy management and our bottom line on operating costs.”

~ Mr. Jim Steele, CEO
Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation

Background

Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation manages 4,700 units of affordable housing in over 732 buildings throughout the City of Windsor and County of Essex. The multi-residential building located at 2455 Rivard Dr in Windsor was scheduled for a building re-cladding in 2014 as the building envelope was suffering from localized deterioration, air infiltration, and moisture damage. This is very common in brick buildings that have gone through several decades of freeze/thaw cycles.

Solution

An Exterior Insulated Finish System (EIFS) was specified for the building façade and a SolarWall® Flat Panel system was specified for the southeast and southwest-facing stairwell walls. The SolarWall system is a solar *air* heating technology that also acts as a second skin for a building. It draws in outside air through tiny micro-perforations in the surface of the wall collector and heats that air before it is ducted into the building’s HVAC system. This reduces the conventional daytime heating load on the building.

A 10,745 ft² (1,000 m²) black SolarWall system was installed on the two south-facing walls. The particular SolarWall system specified was a hidden-fastener flat panel system designed to maintain a smooth monolithic appearance, suitable for high-end architectural buildings. Nevertheless, in terms of capital costs, the SolarWall system ended up being less expensive on a per square foot basis than the EIFS system on the other areas of the building – without even factoring in the ongoing energy reductions – so it was heralded as an all-round stellar economic & environmental solution for the City.

Results

The SolarWall system on Rivard Dr. will displace over 1.4 million cubic meters of natural gas over its 40 year lifespan.

This was the second multi-residential SolarWall system for the City of Windsor. The first system was also installed for building re-cladding purposes in the 1990s and to this day, it remains one of the tallest SolarWall systems in the world, measuring over 20+ stories.

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SolarWall® by Conserval Engineering Incorporated

Testimonial provided by:

Mr. Jim Steele, CEO

Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation (CHC)

As leaders in social housing, we look to partners in our pursuit of continuous improvements; considering innovative, financial building improvements, as we seek regeneration and renewable energy revenue generating opportunities.

In 1991, as Housing Manager at Sarnia and Lambton Housing Authority, we became the owners of the first residential solar wall installation. In 1994, as the Manager for Windsor Housing Authority, a SolarWall® touted at the world's tallest solar collector for the time, was added to our 24 story, 400 apartment seniors building on Ouellette Manor in Windsor, Ontario. Ouellette Manor became the flagship for innovation in the 1990's – 2000's. The SolarWall is still in place and providing comfort to residents and savings to the owner.

In 2014, as CEO at Windsor Essex CHC, Fontainebleau Towers, seniors' apartments in Windsor, required necessary repairs. We opted for an EIFS to not only protect our envelope but provide thermal efficiencies in tandem with SolarWall in 2 locations.

I am proud of our efforts in maintaining and improving our buildings and the SolarWall as part of our overarching plan has proven to be the perfect complement, in upgrading our building envelopes with a vision of improving energy management and our bottom line on operating costs.

High efficiency, maintenance free and low capital costs makes the SolarWall building technology a best practice for CHC in our environmental plan and energy management savings targets.

BACKGROUND:

Windsor Essex CHC is the largest social housing provider in Windsor and Essex County, and the fourth largest in Ontario. Operating as an independent local housing corporation, with a Board of Directors, CHC provides 4,708 homes to about 12,000 seniors, parents, children, singles and persons with special needs. We also provide limited market rental opportunities to the people of Windsor and Essex County. Our portfolio includes high rise apartments, low rise apartment buildings, town homes, row housing, detached homes in the City of Windsor and the County of Essex.

Jim Steele, Chief Executive Officer of the Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation (CHC) is an experienced Director, Chief Executive and senior executive with a substantial and successful career in the housing industry. Jim's extensive 30 year public and non-profit sector experience at the local, regional and provincial levels has qualified Jim to commit to improved sustainability, neighbourhood revitalization and quality of services which will enhance and create affordable housing. As a mentor and consultant for numerous housing initiatives, Jim's focus is on capacity building, planning, with a track record of facilitating strong corporate and community relationships as well as introducing innovative programs and services.

- END

Permission to reproduce all or part of the testimonial is required.

Contact CHC, Public Affairs Manager at 519 -254-1681 x 3235 email kschofield@wehc.com.