

Northern Lights College

Dawson Creek, British Columbia, Canada



British Columbia carpentry students learn energy-efficient construction techniques with Advantage ICFs

First year carpentry students at Northern Lights College are getting hands-on experience by constructing a 1,034 sq. ft., energy-efficient home in Dawson Creek, British Columbia. The school's home-to-market program gives first year students the opportunity to build a home from the ground up that will eventually be sold on the open market.

With home sales a key part of sustaining the program, instructors like Mark Heartt are looking at energy-efficient technologies and LEED certification to meet consumer demands. Heartt designed the Dawson Creek home using the Advantage ICF System® for the above-grade walls to improve durability and energy efficiency. A home built with the Advantage ICF System can save 30 percent or more on utility costs and is less likely to have the type of moisture-related issues that are common in wood frame construction.

"I chose ICFs because I believe that warranty-wise it is much easier to warranty a house with ICFs than any other building material," said Heartt. "If anything happens to the moisture

protection it is not going to ruin the structure—all you have is foam and concrete."

Heartt's students also benefit by learning how to use an increasingly popular building system that they will likely encounter in the job market.



"As energy demands go up, the market is starting to steer away from wood frame construction," Heartt said. "The students need to know about new products and how to use them."

"I've used quite a few different ICFs and we typically have to be very delicate with consolidation, but with the Advantage ICF System we were able to vibrate it until no tomorrow without any bulging," he added. "We had no blowouts anywhere, not a single one, and it looked great when it was done."

"The students at Northern Lights College are learning to build the type of homes that will be popular in the near future," said Plasti-Fab representative Doug Dyck,. "As with any house built with the Advantage ICF System, the energy efficiency and durability are huge selling points."