



## **WINDFALL CENTRE NEWS RELEASE**

### **Windfall Centre Launches Cutting-Edge Virtual Home Energy Assessment Tool, vHEAT**

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Aurora, Ontario – [Windfall Centre](#) has launched its AI-powered [Virtual Home Energy Assessment Tool, vHEAT](#), reinforcing its unwavering commitment to designing and delivering innovative home energy solutions. The interactive user-friendly tool aims to engage homeowners in monitoring, understanding and getting custom recommendations to improve their home energy efficiency from the comfort of their homes.

Just launched in Durham Region, this free-to-use AI tool is now available to over 200,000 Durham homeowners who apply for the [Durham Greener Homes](#) program, an initiative by the [Regional Municipality of Durham](#), administered by Windfall Ecology Centre. The program provides home retrofit support to foster widespread uptake of energy efficient homes throughout the region. In addition to vHEAT, home retrofit supports include free expert home retrofit coaching, financing from local credit unions, and cash incentives

With the use of Artificial Intelligence, vHEAT helps homeowners to discover their home's energy use at the click of a button, model a variety of retrofits to see real-time changes, receive recommendations to reduce their energy consumption, claim their energy score, and speak with a Home Energy Coach for expert guidance to turn their findings into actionable plans for improved energy efficiency. This interactive tool serves as a prelude to an actual onsite home energy audit, providing an initial assessment that prepares homeowners for more detailed evaluations.

Windfall Centre is currently in the process of extending the accessibility of this innovative tool to Indigenous communities. In partnership with [Cambium Indigenous Professional Services](#), vHEAT will be available to remote communities through an Indigenous-led pilot. This initiative aims to build capacity among Indigenous Community Energy Champions (CECs) and fine-tune vHEAT to effectively serve the unique needs of remote communities. In the coming months, vHEAT will be accessible to the general public through the Windfall Centre's website, expanding its reach and impact to promote energy efficiency and sustainability across all regions.

For more information about the Virtual Home Energy Assessment Tool, vHEAT, and the Durham Greener Homes program, please visit <https://durhamgreenerhomes.ca/v-heat/>

#### **Quotes:**

“vHEAT represents a significant advancement in home energy management, leveraging Artificial Intelligence to provide personalized, actionable insights for homeowners. Our partnership with Durham Region and Cambium Indigenous Professional Services are steps in the right direction towards ensuring that Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities benefit from this cutting-edge technology to drive sustainability and transform energy efficiency in the country.”

**- Brent Kopperson, Executive Director, Windfall Centre**

“I’m thrilled with the expansion of the Durham Greener Homes program to include the Virtual Home Energy Assessment Tool (vHEAT). This powerful tool offers homeowners a choice of energy retrofit options, all while showing how the improvements impact home energy use, comfort, and savings. This interactive tool, in combination with new incentives, is a fantastic way to demonstrate the benefits of home retrofits in Durham Region.”

**- John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Region of Durham**

The CIPS team is very excited to be a part of this project. It is imperative that early inclusion of unique First Nations perspectives will ensure more robust and accurate assessment tools for all of Canada, including our Indigenous communities.

**- Michael Jacobs, CEO, Cambium Indigenous Professional Services**

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**About Windfall Ecology Centre**

Windfall Ecology Centre is a non-profit organization dedicated to building sustainable communities through our innovative programs that promote energy efficiency, conservation, and environmental stewardship.