*Press Release*

*For Immediate Release*

**Sustainable Off-Grid Solutions for Your Home**

Sustainability has become a vital focus in the property sector, driven by a growing awareness of the value of nature in our well-being and the daily challenges that we face as South Africans, such as loadshedding and access to essential services. In a Rainmaker Marketing ‘Key to Property’ podcast, Geoff Perkins - Head of Residential Projects at Collins Residential, discussed the latest trends and shared his insights on the sustainable initiatives implemented at their KZN North Coast developments and how homeowners could potentially adopt these as long-term solutions to their daily problems being faced.

“There are a few key points that people should be aware of when it comes to off-grid solutions. The initial investment for retrofitting can be significant, although long-term savings on energy bills can offset this. Proper planning, assessment, and professional guidance are essential to ensure compatibility with existing systems and to maximize efficiency. It’s also crucial to understand local regulations, permits, and potential incentives for renewable energy installations. Regular maintenance of the systems is important to ensure optimal performance and longevity”, said Perkins.

Geoff emphasized the importance of incorporating sustainable elements in the property design process and the significance of this approach for developers. Integrating sustainable elements before construction reduces environmental impact, lowers long-term costs, improves occupants' well-being, and aligns with market demands. By considering factors such as energy efficiency, water management, and material selection during the design phase, projects can minimize their carbon footprint and resource consumption.

Addressing water-related off-the-grid solutions, Geoff highlighted rainwater harvesting as a practical option. This method involves collecting rainwater from roofs or other surfaces and storing it for various uses, such as irrigation, toilet flushing, or laundry. Rainwater harvesting systems range from simple rain barrels to more complex setups with filtration and storage tanks. At Lalela Estate, all homes are equipped with water harvesting tanks, promoting water conservation and self-sufficiency.

Solar panels emerged as a viable and accessible option, particularly at Lalela Estate, where homes are inverter-ready and suitable for solar panel installation. Additionally, incorporating gas hobs and stoves can be retrofitted into most homes after construction, providing alternative energy solutions. “Some common sustainable options for power and electricity include solar panels, energy-efficient appliances and lighting, and smart energy management systems. Off-the-grid solutions, such as solar power systems with battery storage, enable homeowners to generate and store their electricity independently. For example, at Zululami Luxury Coastal Estate, excess solar power is fed back into a micro-grid that reduces the draw off the national grid and builds u credits back to the homeowner”, says Perkins.

Collins Residential also prioritizes environmental rehabilitation, tree planting, and the creation of biomes, wetlands, and nature trails within their developments. They believe in developing entire ecosystems and environments, ensuring a residential setting that thrives with biodiversity and draws inspiration from nature. Geoff expanded on the broader concept of incorporating sustainability into homes and lives beyond just the physical aspects. This includes eco-friendly construction, access to green areas, walking trails, and biking routes.

As sustainability increasingly takes centre stage, Collins Residential sets an example with its commitment to integrating sustainable elements into property design. With a vision that encompasses nature conservation, energy efficiency, and the overall well-being of residents, their developments on the KZN North Coast provide an exciting blueprint for sustainable living.

To listen to the full podcast episode on Rainmaker Marketing’s ‘Key to Property’ series, [click here.](https://open.spotify.com/episode/1Gr1624GSVACKXhUiWVkXs?si=LU37YRQTQQ-LKBmvpw_D_A&nd=1)

**ENDS**

|  |
| --- |
| **Words**: 658**Images**: Profile image of Geoff Perkins and image of the Lalela Estate Showhouse**Distributed on behalf of**: Collins Residential**Date**: August 2023 |

**Notes to the editor:**

About – The Collins Group is a multi-faceted business based in KwaZulu-Natal, with interest across Southern Africa. Driven by leading experts with a hunger for crafting only the excellent, Collins dream and conceptualise big ideas and turn them into realities. Pioneering a culture of quality with conservation at the heart of all we do, our goal is to deliver exceptional real estate opportunities and unrivalled leisure tourism destinations with further interests in numerous commercial offerings.

***Lalela Estate:*** Situated in Sheffield, Lalela is spread across approximately 104 hectares of lush greenery with natural wetlands, 5km of walking trails and a community clubhouse where you can relax poolside with the kids or try your hand at putt putt on the lawn. In this idyllic landscape, nature is present in every direction and invites you to be part of a new lifestyle on KwaZulu-Natal’s North Coast.

**Seaton** **Estate:** Seaton Estate is a unique coastal paradise situated on Kwa-Zulu Natal's north coast. Developed by Collins Residential, the estate is in a class of its own with an unprecedented 1.1km stretch of Christmas Bay beachfront and access to world-class lifestyle facilities.Recognising the inimitable beauty, lifestyle and location benefits of Seaton Estate, the developers have placed great care into rehabilitating the grasslands and forests on the estate to their former glory from over 100 years ago.

**Zululami Luxury Coastal Estate**: KwaZulu-Natal has always been recognized as a coastal region that boasts exquisite beaches and is equally known for its high sub-tropical rainfall, lush forests and dense vegetation. Zululami Luxury Coastal Estate is situated in Sheffield Beach, where you can enjoy having all the unspoilt and revitalised natural splendours on your doorstep. Life here offers a sanctuary in which to live holistically, naturally, and purposefully.

For more information or visuals, please contact Janna Strang on

janna@rainmakermarketing.co.za / 082 551 3865 or email on mbali@rainmakermarketing.co.za