

Ministry Report



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Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

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WANT TO SAVE \$3 MILLION IN ENERGY COSTS? WE ALREADY HAVE

The projects in this newsletter have achieved an energy savings equivalent to \$1.5 million in annual gas bills and \$1.4 million in annual electricity bills, using current energy rates in the Lower Mainland.

That's nearly \$3 million in total - the equivalent of paying 20 years' worth of energy bills for 40,000 homes!

Supported by the Province's Energy Efficient Buildings Strategy, these projects have already achieved annual energy savings of 111,793 gigajoules of natural gas and 23,134 megawatt hours of electricity. This equates to annual reductions of 13,842 tonnes of CO2 equivalent and an overall cost effectiveness of \$12.78 per gigajoule per year.

Keep reading to learn how the Province is supporting energy efficiency projects that are helping all British Columbians use less energy and save more money.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY: RAISING THE BAR, NOT THE BILL

Raising the bar, not the bill, is the goal of several new initiatives to implement the Province's energy efficiency and conservation goals. These efforts are focused on the buildings in which we live and work everyday.

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Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (centre left) announced the Opportunities Envelope funding provided by the Federal Government of Canada. This funding is used for a number of British Columbia energy efficiency initiatives, including the Community Action on Energy Efficiency program. Mr. Rob Dean, President of Homeworks Services Inc. (far left) and Mr. Peter Sundberg, Executive Director of City Green Solutions (far right) liaise with communities such as the City of North Vancouver, represented by Mayor Darrell Mussatto (centre right) to implement the CAEE program.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Richard Neufeld
Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

It's an exciting time in the Ministry, and I'm proud of the efforts staff make every day to ensure safe, efficient, and accessible delivery of our initiatives. The vital role our new initiatives

will play in the lives of our children and grandchildren is more apparent every day.

As you'll see in this newsletter, many programs are underway. With almost \$3 million in annual savings, we're making real progress. But there's much more still to accomplish.

In the past five years, British Columbia became a net importer of electricity, and, if we do nothing, that shortfall will only get bigger. As our economy grows and increasingly more people recognize B.C. as the best place on earth to live and work, demand for electricity and other forms of energy is greater than ever.

In the coming months, watch for new details on our plan to ensure B.C.'s energy future is secure, sustainable, and self-sufficient. We'll introduce new measures and opportunities designed to ensure that our families, businesses, and services have low-cost, environmentally friendly sources of power for decades to come.

Of course, reliable, clean power is but one building block in the future of B.C. I know that foremost in many of our minds is the outlook for our healthcare system. It's an issue that touches all of us, and one that needs your input and perspective. The newly launched Conversation on Health is an important opportunity for you to help shape the dialogue and direction of the care you and your children receive, and I urge you all to take part. You can learn more by visiting www.bconversationsonhealth.ca.



BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

ENERGY EFFICIENCY HOMES BUILT NOW, WITH SAVINGS INTO THE FUTURE

More value for home-buyers through reduced operating costs and better air quality and comfort is the goal of a partnership between the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, the Canadian Home Builders Association B.C. and the province's major utility companies.

This partnership will encourage B.C. builders and developers to implement energy efficiency solutions in new homes with a package of up to \$3,000 in incentives to builders who achieve an EnerGuide rating of 80 or better. This is a 32 per cent reduction in total energy demand for the average new home.

Entire communities are being developed around the energy efficiency concept. Minister Richard Neufeld toured a new community in Wilden in March developed in partnership with FortisBC incorporating geothermal technologies.



Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Minister Richard Neufeld (second from right) and Federal MP Ron, Cannan, Kelowna - Lake Country, visited a geothermal drilling site at the new energy efficient Wilden Subdivision in March as part of a Kelowna Alternative Energy, Energy Efficiency tour. Joining them are Brian Parent, Manager, Energy Efficiency, FortisBC PowerSense (far left); Jim Leask, President, GeoTility Systems Corp.; MLA Al Horning, Kelowna - Lake Country; and Gerhard Blenk, Owner/Developer, Blenk Development Corp.

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B.C.'s Energy Efficient Buildings Strategy received an \$11-million boost from the Government of Canada's Opportunities Envelope program to support energy-efficiency initiatives. The funding was announced July 14 by Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and Nina Grewal, Member of Parliament for Fleetwood-Port Kells, on behalf of the Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources for Canada.

Energy costs are rising, and there are new energy-efficient designs and technologies that can be incorporated into new and existing buildings. The Province has worked with public- and private-sector stakeholders, including federal agencies and utility companies, to develop cost-effective energy efficiency targets.

Energy Efficient Buildings: A Plan for B.C. is the first of its kind in Canada and encompasses all types of buildings and has guidelines to help builders, consumers and communities conserve energy and improve energy efficiency.

The Energy Efficient Buildings Plan sets voluntary targets for 2010 and encourages industry, businesses and homeowners across the province to participate in energy efficiency programs to help manage rising energy costs and improve indoor air quality and comfort. The Plan could result in potential net savings of up to \$1.2 billion over 15 years, saving enough natural gas to heat 200,000 homes over the life of the project and enough electricity to power 340,000 homes by 2020.

With numbers like that it's easy to see why B.C. is leading the way in improving energy efficiency in buildings and homes. We are helping B.C. communities save money while reducing our environmental impact. For more information and a copy of the strategy visit: www.em.gov.bc.ca/AlternativeEnergy

PROVINCE SUPPORTS ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

The Provincial Government is working with B.C.'s major utility companies to expand energy efficiency programs for residential homes.

- ▶ The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has hired a Capacity Building Coordinator to help window and door manufacturers develop Energy Star-rated products.
- ▶ BC Hydro and FortisBC offer Energy Star windows programs to residential customers.
- ▶ BC Hydro co-hosted Energy Star educational seminars for manufacturers in Victoria, Surrey and Vernon.
- ▶ Provincial funding has been earmarked for testing labs to provide incentives for manufacturers to achieve Energy Star certification.
- ▶ Terasen Gas and Pacific Northern Gas have received provincial support for high efficiency furnace programs.
- ▶ Terasen Gas has also launched an efficient boiler program for commercial, institutional and industrial sectors.

For more information on participating in these programs visit:

- ▶ www.saveenergynow.ca
- ▶ www.bchydro.com/powersmart
- ▶ www.terasengas.com
- ▶ www.fortisbc.com

ENERGUIDE 80 PROJECTS

Approximately 34,000 new homes are built across the province each year with an average EnerGuide rating of 70 - 72. Energy efficiency improvements to help achieve an EnerGuide rating of 80 include:

- ▶ Energy Star furnaces or heat pumps.
- ▶ Higher levels of insulation.
- ▶ Energy Star windows, lighting and appliances.
- ▶ Heat recovery ventilators and solar water heaters.
- ▶ Instant-on “tank-less” water heaters.

Several EnerGuide 80 projects have already been built in British Columbia:

- ▶ Thetis Vale, a 28-home subdivision built by Victoria-based Limona Construction Ltd.
- ▶ Palatino Homes, a 35-townhouse development in Richmond by Am-Pri Construction Ltd.
- ▶ Am-Pri also plans to build the first solar hot water new home development in B.C.

ENERGUIDE



FUEL CELLS ARE LIGHTING THE HYDROGEN HIGHWAY

As part of the Hydrogen Highway, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources contributed \$25,250 towards a hydrogen fuel cell demonstration project for hydrogen fuel cell powered technology for use by security staff at the Royal BC Museum. Minister Richard Neufeld (left) and Angstrom Power Inc. CEO Paul Zimmerman tried out the fuel cell flashlights on July 14, 2006. The Province has made alternative energy a part of its strategy to enhance economic development and address climate change. Hydrogen and fuel cell companies in Canada have invested over \$1 billion in research and development over the last five years and continue to invest - the majority occurring in B.C.

LOW INCOME HOMES GET ASSISTANCE WITH HEATING BILLS

Several new initiatives are underway by the Provincial Government to help lower heating bills in low income homes.

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources is supporting BC Housing by funding a new energy manager position, an energy efficiency feasibility study, a pilot project to implement energy efficiency measures, and a review of the technical specification for new multi-unit residential buildings to achieve an energy performance of 25 per cent better than the Model National Energy Code for Buildings. In addition, an energy performance assessment of some existing residential care facilities will be completed.

The BC Housing Management Commission directly manages 7,800 residential units in the province, and subsidizes energy and other costs for an additional 34,000 units. They have endorsed all of the Ministry's energy efficiency targets outlined in the Energy Efficient Buildings Strategy. (see www.bchousing.org/programs/sustainability/MEMPR).

As well, City Green and Homeworks will work with the BC Non-Profit Housing Association, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Habitat for Humanity to identify opportunities for saving energy to complement this BC Housing initiative. The Ministry is providing financial incentives to improve the energy efficiency of low-income households managed by these and other partners (see www.saveenergynow.ca).

CONTACT US

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources e-newsletter welcomes your comments. If you would like to comment on one of our stories or suggest a future story please e-mail us at: Pub.EMPR.Newsletter@gov.bc.ca

Please advise us by e-mail if you would like to unsubscribe to this newsletter. Please view our [privacy statement](#).

TRAINING THE TRADES TO MEET ENERGY SAVINGS TARGETS

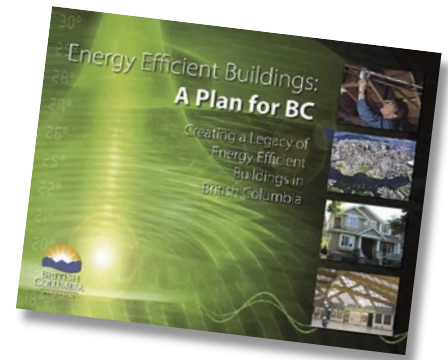
Several new training programs are being supported by the Provincial Government through industry representatives to ensure that the construction industry has the capacity to meet the energy savings targets established in the Energy Efficient Buildings plan.

The Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Institute of Canada is hosting a series of one-day workshops for contractors and realtors across the province to learn more about the benefits of energy efficiency. Likewise, the Heating Ventilation and Cooling Association of B.C. is expanding its Quality First program to provide training specifically for heating contractors. The Home Owner Protection Office focused its latest round of Building Smart seminars on energy efficiency and had great response from B.C. contractors.

ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS: A PLAN FOR BC

To learn more about the Energy Efficient Buildings plan and associated programs, visit our website at www.em.gov.bc.ca/EnergyEfficiency or contact our team at the Energy Efficiency and Community Energy Solutions section of the ministry's Electricity and Alternative Energy Division:

- Andrew Pape-Salmon
Manager, Energy Efficiency and Community Energy Solutions
Andrew.Pape-Salmon@gov.bc.ca
- Liz Kelly
Energy Efficiency Program Officer
Liz.Kelly@gov.bc.ca
- Keith Veerman
Senior Policy Advisor,
Keith.Veerman@gov.bc.ca
- Christina Ianniciello
Community Energy Solutions Coordinator,
Christina.Ianniciello@gov.bc.ca



SOLAR ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

The BC Sustainable Energy Association earned the Canadian Solar Industries Association's 2005 Solar Advocate of the Year award for its solar hot water acceleration program through its SolarBC initiative, which:

- ▶ aims to install 100,000 solar hot water systems by March 2020;
- ▶ receives Provincial support to initiate a pilot for the first 100 installations;
- ▶ offers financial incentives for the installation of solar thermal systems;
- ▶ reduces the use of conventional energy by using the sun's energy to heat water.