

OUR HOMES

The oil and gas we use to heat our buildings produces around a third of our climate pollution in BC. If your home or business uses a gas or oil furnace for heat, how can you keep warm without endangering nature, or our children's future?

- You can make your home or business more efficient, so that it needs less energy.
- You can install a heat pump, which will channel heat in from the outside to keep you cozy and warm. In summer, during a heat wave, it can work in reverse to keep you cool.
- Local businesses can help you do this, and there are grants and rebates to reduce the cost.



Better Homes Grants and Rebates

CleanBC's Better Homes - www.betterhomesbc.ca - has all the details. Here is a sampling of grants that may be available, depending on where you live and how your home is heated:

- An Energuide home evaluation – \$200
- Insulation – up to \$5,500
- A heat pump – up to \$3,000
- A Zero Interest loan – up to \$40,000
- An upgrade of your electrical service – \$500
- An electric heat-pump water heater – \$1,000
- More efficient windows and doors – \$50 to \$100 each
- A 25% refund on your home mortgage insurance once you have improved your home's efficiency
- Heat pump top-up grant – \$350
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- Energuide pre-upgrade evaluation rebate – up to \$350
- Low income households: free energy saving kit and energy conservation assistance

- Overall efficiency improvement – \$750 to \$2,000
- Two or more energy upgrade initiatives – \$300
- Free advice from an Energy Coach

An Energuide Home Energy Evaluator will tell you how much your home is leaking, letting in cold air and making it more expensive to heat. She or he will recommend steps you can take to reduce the leakage.

Federal Retrofit Grants

You can also apply for a federal grant:

- Up to \$600 for a home evaluation and expert advice to plan your retrofit
- Up to \$5,000 to help you make energy efficiency retrofits.
- Apply at www.tinyurl.com/federal-retrofit-grants



A red blower door, used by an Energuide Evaluator to seek heat leaks

Solar Panels

In British Columbia our electricity is 100% renewable from hydro, wind and solar, and BC Hydro is currently producing more power than we need, so while an investment in solar panels makes good financial sense, it will not reduce your climate pollution. As soon as the whole province begins to act on the climate emergency, however, solar power will be needed to help power all the electric cars and heat pumps. To get a quote, call a local solar company. There are no grants available.

Write Letters, Seek Change

If you live in a rental property or condo, write to your landlord or your strata council, asking them to investigate how they could retrofit the whole building to use a building-scale heat pump instead of gas or oil. There are similar grants for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBS). If you have friends who share a concern about the climate crisis you write your letter together, to give each other support.

To achieve more widespread change, write to your Mayor, Council and MLA urging them to develop a rapid, province-wide home retrofit program, including Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. If someone takes out a loan to make your home more energy efficient and to install a heat pump, PACE attaches the loan to the property title, so that if they sell, the new owner, who gains the benefit of the work, will continue to pay off the loan. See www.tinyurl.com/PACE-Retrofits