



ENERGY AUDIT & UPGRADE GRANT FUNDING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA *FOR HOUSING*

As part of Canada's demand to drive down Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to 30% below 2005 levels by the year 2030, our team in British Columbia have been helping clients from all sectors take advantage of some of the available grants being offered by BC Utilities, BC Hydro, Fortis BC and other funding bodies, to carry out studies and to partially or fully fund work that comes from those studies. We've put together a list of the energy audit & upgrade grant fundings currently available for housing in BC and we've outlined the eligibility criteria & the available funding amounts.

Click on the grant name for more information.

Community Energy & Emissions Planning

BC Hydro

Eligibility Criteria

The CEEP offer is open to local governments (including regional districts) within the BC Hydro service territory that meet one of the following eligibility criteria: Population over 75,000; Champion community - population over 20,000 and demonstrated leadership in electricity demand-side management.

Available Amount

Provide 50% funding (up to \$60,000) towards the creation of a Community Energy Efficiency Plan that includes electricity reduction strategies for communities with a population of over 75,000. \$20,000 in funding for energy experts to help create a community energy plan including assisting with data collection, integrating energy conservation and efficiency opportunities, and tracking of electricity savings.

Sustainable Affordable Housing Fund

Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Eligibility Criteria

Existing building retrofit: 25% or greater reduction in energy consumption. New build: Net-Zero Ready

Available Amount

Planning Grant for up to 80% of eligible costs Up to a maximum of \$25,000. Study Grant for up to 50% of eligible costs Up to a maximum of \$175,000. Pilot Project Grant for up to 80% of eligible costs Up to a maximum of \$500,000. Capital Project: Retrofit - Financing for up to 80% of eligible costs Up to a maximum combined financing of \$10 million. Grants are available for 25-50% of total financing - grant and loan proportions are based on anticipated energy performance. Capital Project: New Build - Financing for up to 20% of eligible costs Up to a maximum combined financing of \$10 million 50% grant and 50% loan.

Business Energy Saving Incentives

BC Hydro

Eligibility Criteria

Financial incentives are available to replace inefficient products with energy-efficient technologies. They are offered for lighting, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration. Commercial customers and local governments can apply for these incentives.

Available Amount

Varies but incentives on average cover about 25% of energy efficiency upgrades. They could fund up to 75% of costs. Incentives depend on hours of operation, energy savings, project cost and payback period.



Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program

BC Government - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the grant, local governments must have signed the B.C. Climate Action Charter and by doing so, committed to take action and develop strategies to achieve the following three goals: Work toward becoming carbon neutral in their local government corporate operations; Measure and report on their community GHG emissions profile (reporting requirements waived for 2019 reporting year); Create complete, compact, energy-efficient rural and urban communities.

Available Amount

The Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) is a conditional grant program that typically provides funding to local governments that have signed the B.C. Climate Action Charter equal to 100 percent of the carbon taxes they pay directly to support local government operations. The program encourages investment in climate action.

CleanBC Renewable Energy For Remote Communities (RERC) Program

Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources

Eligibility Criteria

All applications must be endorsed by the eligible First Nation's governing council or in the case of non-First Nation applicants, the local government. Applications must be for capital projects that use proven and commercialized technologies to displace some or all of the diesel used by the community to generate electricity. Certain activities may not be eligible for funding. Appendix A provides a list of eligible project types as well as ineligible activities. Applications should include design and implementation details and a business plan to demonstrate that the project is ready for tender. Projects must have received all or most permits or approvals.

Available Amount

Coast Funds: \$7.9 million. Fraser Basin Council: \$8.5 million.

Community Energy Leadership Program (CELP)

Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources

Eligibility Criteria

The Community Energy Leadership Program (CELP) provides funding to support local government and First Nations investments in energy efficiency and clean energy projects. Projects must: 1) be clean energy or energy efficiency projects 2) involve community ownership 3) be capital projects, such as construction, renewal, retrofit, expansion, or material enhancements. The funding excludes community energy planning, project design or feasibility studies.

Available Amount

From \$10,00 to \$175,000 for construction costs of each project. Overall, up to a \$2 million dollar for total project cost.

Commercial New Construction Performance Program

FortisBC

Eligibility Criteria

The project must be located in a FortisBC natural gas and/or electricity service area, including municipal utilities of Grand Forks, Penticton, Summerland and Nelson Hydro. The program is for the construction of new Part 3 commercial buildings. Projects must be in the pre-construction phase when applying to the program. For projects where electricity will NOT be supplied by FortisBC, including the municipal utilities of Penticton, Grand Forks, Summerland and Nelson Hydro, projects should use natural gas as their primary source (i.e. more energy supplied by natural gas than other sources such as electricity) for two or more of the following end uses: space heating, ventilation, domestic hot water. For other projects that use natural gas, please contact your FortisBC key account manager to determine eligibility.

Available Amount

Once an energy model is reviewed and approved, the first instalment of the capital incentive is paid, which is equal to 10 per cent of the total capital incentive, as verified by the model, to a maximum of \$25,000. For the additional energy model rebate, submit an invoice for the energy model and receive 50 per cent of the cost, up to a maximum of \$15,000. Both of these incentives are paid out at this time. The remaining 90 per cent of the capital incentive rebate is paid after the building construction and commissioning is complete, subject to a successful site inspection to confirm that energy conservation measures were installed as described in the energy model. These should be submitted after each stage for an airtightness rebate equivalent to 75 per cent of the cost of each test, up to a maximum of \$5,000.



Commercial Performance Program For Existing Buildings

FortisBC

Eligibility Criteria

You must be a FortisBC commercial rate class natural gas customer and/or a FortisBC electricity customer or municipal electricity customer of Grand Forks, Penticton, Summerland and Nelson Hydro. You must be an owner or long-term leaseholder of an existing medium to large commercial, institutional, multi-unit residential, light industrial or agricultural building or facility. You must select a consultant included in FortisBC's list of approved consultants to perform a detailed energy study. For natural gas customers, your project must have the potential to save a minimum 1,200 GJ of natural gas annually. For FortisBC or municipal electricity customers, your non-lighting project must have the potential to save 50,000 kWh of electricity annually.

Available Amount

This funding is offered to help you have a detailed engineering analysis of your facility performed to identify opportunities for cost-effective natural gas and/or electricity projects. Until March 31, 2021, we've increased energy study funding² to up to 100 per cent of the cost of the study, subject to review and approval, to a maximum of \$50,000.

Commercial Lighting Rebates

FortisBC

Eligibility Criteria

You must be a commercial, industrial or irrigation FortisBC or municipal electricity customer of Grand Forks, Penticton, Summerland or Nelson Hydro. You must be an owner or long-term leaseholder of an existing commercial or industrial building or a builder/developer or owner of a new commercial or industrial construction project. You must submit an application and supporting documentation no later than 365 days after the purchase date of the product(s) (as shown on the paid invoice) or installation date, whichever is first.

Available Amount

Funds varies based on different product, see Fortis BC's website for details.

Condensing Make-Up, Air Handling & Rooftop Condensing Units

FortisBC

Eligibility Criteria

You must be a FortisBC natural gas customer under any rate class except Rate 1. You must be an owner or long-term leaseholder of an existing commercial or industrial building or a builder/developer or property owner of a new commercial or industrial construction project. The purchase date of products (as shown on the paid invoice) must be after May 1, 2019.

Available Amount

Units with input up to 199 MBH: \$3,500 per unit. Units with input 200 to 599 MBH: \$7,000 per unit. Units with input 600 MBH and higher: \$9,000 per unit.

Grant Programs

Columbia Basin Trust

Eligibility Criteria

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) offers a variety of funding programs, three of which are most pertinent for energy and infrastructure initiatives. Local governments and indigenous organizations within the Columbia River watershed are eligible to apply.

Available Amount

Community Development Program: Funding amount is not provided but CBT prefers to not be the only funder. Environment Grants: Small grants are \$5,000 or less, while large grants are over \$5,000.

Energy Study

BC Hydro

Eligibility Criteria

An energy study will identify, analyze and recommend cost-effective solutions to improve inefficient systems, and increase the reliability and energy efficiency of your facility. After the energy study is complete, you'll receive a report that provides detailed suggestions for improvements, and data you can use to make informed decisions and build a solid business case.

Available Amount

Co-funding with the potential for 50% co-funding of the energy study.



Custom Efficiency For Buildings

FortisBC

Eligibility Criteria

You must be a FortisBC natural gas customer under any rate class except Rate 1 and/or a FortisBC electricity customer or municipal electricity customer of Grand Forks, Penticton, Summerland and Nelson Hydro. You must be an owner or long-term leaseholder of an existing commercial, institutional, or multi-unit residential building or facility. For natural gas customers, your project must have the potential to save a minimum of 1,200 gigajoules of natural gas annually. For FortisBC or municipal electricity customers, your project must have the potential to save 50,000 kWh of electricity annually.

Available Amount

Energy study funding up to 50% of the energy study cost, to a maximum of \$25,000. Implementation incentives: the lesser of 50% of the incremental cost of the project, an amount that brings project payback to two years, up to a maximum of \$500,000. Implementation bonus equal to the approved energy study incentive, to a maximum of \$25,000

HVAC Controls

FortisBC

Eligibility Criteria

You must be a FortisBC natural gas customer under any rate class except Rate 1 and/or a commercial or industrial FortisBC electricity customer or municipal electricity customer of Grand Forks, Penticton, Summerland or Nelson Hydro. You must be a long-term leaseholder of an existing commercial or industrial building, or a builder/developer or owner of a new commercial or industrial construction project. You must submit an application and supporting documentation no later than 365 days after the purchase date of the product(s) (as shown on the paid invoice) or installation date, whichever is first. You must submit an application and supporting documentation no later than 365 days after the purchase date of the product(s) (as shown on the paid invoice) or installation date, whichever is first.

Available Amount

Connected thermostats: \$40 per unit. Domestic hot water recirculation controls: \$1,500 per unit. Hydronic additives: \$200 per gallon

Natural Gas Boiler Rebates

FortisBC

Eligibility Criteria

You must be a FortisBC natural gas customer under any rate class except Rate 1. You must be a property owner or long-term leaseholder of an existing commercial building or a builder/developer or property owner of a new commercial construction project. Boilers must be used to meet your site's thermal loads: space, service hot water, domestic hot water (DHW), pool and/or process heating. Boilers installed to meet other operational needs (such as backup, standby or secondary boilers) are not eligible.

Available Amount

Improve your building's energy performance and qualify for a rebate of up to \$20,000 when installing an eligible mid-efficiency natural gas boiler. For a limited time, until December 31, 2021, got an even bigger rebates on eligible high-efficiency condensing models, of up to \$60,000 per boiler.

Natural Gas Water Heater Rebates

FortisBC

Eligibility Criteria

You must be a FortisBC natural gas customer under any rate class except Rate 1. You must be a property owner or long-term leaseholder of an existing commercial building or a builder/developer or property owner of a new commercial construction project. Water heaters must be used for service hot water (such as domestic hot water, sanitation or process hot water). You must submit an application and supporting documentation no later than 365 days after the purchase date of the product(s) (as shown on the paid invoice) or installation date (as listed on the application form), whichever is first.

Available Amount

Storage tank water heater (90 per cent TE and higher) up to 199.90 MBH: \$1000/unit. Storage tank water heater (90 per cent TE and higher) 200 MBH up to 399.99 MBH: \$2000/unit. Storage tank water heater (90 per cent TE and higher) 400 MBH and higher: \$3000/unit. Hot water supply boiler (90 per cent TE and higher): \$12/MBH. High-efficiency tankless water heater (90 per cent TE and higher): \$1000/unit



Custom-Lite Program

CleanBC

Eligibility Criteria

The building must be a commercial, institutional, or a multi-unit residential building. The project must demonstrate the potential to implement measures at a single facility that will lead to at least 500 and less than 1,200 tCO₂e of lifetime savings. To qualify as an energy measure, projects must: Provide a net decrease in greenhouse gas emissions; Result in energy impacts that are measurable and verifiable; Result in energy impacts that can be estimated using standard engineering calculations; Involve a technology that is not covered by other utility DSM programs (e.g. FortisBC's Commercial Custom Program). Individual Custom-Lite Projects are limited to a total of \$48,000 or \$72,000 in incentives depending on the equipment. The overall customer cap for combined Custom-Lite and Custom projects (Energy Study and Capital Incentives) is \$750,000 which can be spread over multiple projects and locations. Equipment cannot be purchased before finalizing and signing the Capital Incentive Agreement.

Available Amount

Energy Study Funding – The program will support up to 50% of an energy study cost, up to a maximum of \$2,000. Custom Capital Funding Incentives – based on a rate of \$40/t CO₂e of lifetime GHG savings, the program will support up to \$48,000 per project. For heat pump rooftop units, the rate will be 60/t CO₂e up to \$72,000 per project.

New Multi-Unit Residential Building Rebates

FortisBC

Eligibility Criteria

The project must be located in a FortisBC electricity service area, including municipal utilities of Grand Forks, Penticton, Summerland and Nelson Hydro. You must be building new or extensively renovating a multi-unit residential building, such as an apartment or condominium complex that may include commercial space. You must receive approval before installing eligible energy-saving products.

Available Amount

Choose from a variety of rebates for energy-saving products, both in suites and in common areas. See the detailed list on the Fortis BC website.

Pipe & Tank Insulation Rebates

FortisBC

Eligibility Criteria

You must be a FortisBC natural gas customer under any rate class except Rate 1. You must be an owner or long-term leaseholder of an existing commercial or industrial building or a builder, developer or owner of a new commercial or industrial construction project. You must submit an application and supporting documentation no later than 365 days after the purchase date of the product(s) (as shown on the paid invoice).

Available Amount

Pipe insulation (min 1" thick): \$4 per linear foot. Tank insulation (min 1" thick): \$6 per square foot of tank. Tank insulation (1" to 2" thick): \$6 per square foot of tank. Tank insulation (min 2" thick) \$9 per square foot of tank

Commercial Express Program

CleanBC

Eligibility Criteria

You must be a BC Hydro Commercial customer on either the Small General Service (SGS), Medium General Service (MGS) or Large General Service (LGS) rate. The building must be in the BC Hydro service territory, including New Westminster. To qualify as an electrification measure, your project must: Provide a net decrease in greenhouse gas emissions; Result in energy impacts that are measurable and verifiable; Result in energy impacts that can be estimated using standard engineering calculations; Involve a technology that is not covered by other utility demand side management programs (e.g. FortisBC's Commercial Performance Program); Involve a technology that provides net electrical load growth; Involve a technology that is accessible/viewable for site inspection and/or measurement and verification if required; and Be hardwired or permanent in nature.

Available Amount

The Program offers capital incentives up to a maximum of \$100,000 per project.



Building Excellence Research & Education Grants Program

BC Housing

Eligibility Criteria

The grants program is designed to encourage externally generated research and education to improve the quality of residential construction and enhance consumer protection for buyers of new homes in British Columbia. Industry and consumer organizations, education providers and independent researchers can identify projects and apply for funding. Sharing information, fostering excellence and advancing best practices help us deliver our ongoing mandate: strengthening consumer protection for home buyers and improving residential construction.

Available Amount

Researchers can apply for up to \$30,000 in funding.

Social Housing Retrofit Support Program

Clean BC

Eligibility Criteria

You are a non-profit housing society, housing co-operative or municipal housing authority that operates multi-unit residential buildings. You are in Good Standing with the BC Corporate Registry. If you have an existing agreement with BC Housing, there are no existing breaches or major unresolved issues identified through BC Housing's regular review process and no material debts outstanding under any agreement with BC Housing. Program projects will have a preferred minimum threshold for eligibility of 500 tCO₂e of lifetime savings at a single facility. Measures eligible for Demand Side Management (DSM) funding through utilities are not eligible for additional Program funding. The one exception is building envelope measures for buildings heated by natural gas, oil, propane or diesel. In certain cases, these buildings may be eligible for Program funding as well as DSM funding for envelope upgrades.

Available Amount

Energy Study Funding – The SHIP offers up to \$5,000 per energy study for projects that do not qualify for the full SHRSP energy study incentive from BC Hydro and FortisBC. The total combined energy study incentive received from the SHRSP and from this program cannot exceed \$5,000. Project Implementation Support – This funding is intended to help navigate various aspects of the project such as project management, project specification and a request for proposals, and engaging contractors to install equipment. The SHIP offers up to \$7,000 toward implementation support for projects that do not qualify for the full SHRSP implementation support incentive. The total combined support from both SHRSP and SHIP cannot exceed \$7,000. Retrofit Incentives – Up to \$200,000 is offered. The incentive amount is based on a rate of \$70/tCO₂e of lifetime greenhouse gas savings up to a maximum of 75% of a project's incremental cost. If a project is receiving an incentive or grant through another third-party program, the total amount of this other funding will be subtracted from the project's incremental cost before the eligible SHIP is calculated.

Community Sustainability Initiatives

Vancity

Eligibility Criteria

We work with local businesses, not-for-profit organizations, social enterprises, co-operatives, labour unions, Indigenous organizations or First Nation governments that align with our values. Your project must take place within Vancity's operating area (Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley, Squamish, Capital Regional District - Victoria/Gulf Islands and/or Cormorant Island) and directly benefit these local communities.

Available Amount

up to \$10,000

Housing Needs Reports Program

Union of BC Municipalities

Eligibility Criteria

The following expenditures are also eligible, provided they relate directly to the eligible activities identified above: Consultant costs; Incremental staff and administration costs; Public information costs; Training and capacity building for local government staff specific to developing housing needs reports.

Available Amount

The funding maximum for all regional projects is \$150,000. The Program can contribute a maximum of 100% of the cost of eligible activities.



Energy Manager Program

BC Hydro

Eligibility Criteria

Organizations in the Energy Manager Associates program have access to training, networking, financial incentives and the Energy Management Assessment. This is ideal for organizations wanting to learn more about what is involved in taking a strategic approach to energy management or who have integrated energy management into their business practices and want to continue having access to the resources provided. Funding to hire an energy manager is considered when you're ready to dedicate a full-time position and resources to energy management and are getting programs and projects underway.

Available Amount

BC Hydro funds 50% (up to \$50,000 per year) of an Energy Manager's salary, who is employed by the participating organization.

Continuous Optimization

BC Hydro

Eligibility Criteria

The Continuous Optimization Program is a joint offer from BC Hydro and FortisBC which provides customer assistance to save energy and improve operations in large commercial buildings without having to undertake a major capital investment. The primary focus of the program is to help you improve the efficiency of your most energy-intensive systems, such as heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC), with simple, low-cost solutions.

Available Amount

Recommission - Traditional or Direct* Investigation - 75% Payment; Implementation/Completion: 25%. * Direct Payment Offer: payment will be issued to your Consultant.

Project Implementation Funding

BC Hydro

Eligibility Criteria

Project Implementation funding is available to commercial, government and institutional Key Account customers with a BC Hydro-funded Energy Manager. The funding is designed to help reduce the capital cost of implementing electrical energy efficiency projects.

Available Amount

Project Implementation allows customers to meet internal hurdle rates, such as payback periods and return on investment. Through the program, you could receive funding for up to 75% of the incremental cost of lighting projects.

Building Innovation Fund

CleanBC

Eligibility Criteria

The CleanBC Building Innovation Fund (CBBIF) provides funding for projects that accelerate the availability and affordability of low-carbon building solutions including advanced building components and designs, new construction methods, low-carbon HVAC systems, and digital technology solutions.

By supporting innovation in the B.C. building sector, the CBBIF will increase the capacity of B.C.-based industries and generate consumer confidence in high-performance buildings, at the same time helping to lower the costs of new technologies and building approaches over time.

Available Amount

1. Material, Component and System Manufacturing (\$300,000-\$1,000,000). Funding to support investment in manufacturing facilities to diversify and expand existing product lines or commercialize new low-carbon product lines.
2. Digital Technology Solutions (\$200,000-\$500,000). Funding for low-carbon technology development for new or improved digital solutions.
3. Demonstration Projects (Up to \$250,000). Funding to help offset the incremental capital or operational costs of low-carbon demonstration projects relative to industry standards. Demonstration projects are those that involve the construction or renovation of a discrete building and the demonstration of innovative technologies/materials within that building.
4. Open Call for Innovations (\$250,000 - \$500,000). An open call for other types of low-carbon projects not covered by other funding streams, including but not limited to development, testing and certification. Preference will be given to projects that include innovative applications for currently commercialized technologies or lead to near-term commercialization of technology and/or new building products/materials.