



ENERGY AUDIT & UPGRADE GRANT FUNDING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA FOR MUNICIPALITIES

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 municipalities in BC and we've outlined the eligibility criteria & the available funding amounts.

Click on the grant name for more information.

Green Municipal Fund - Brownfields Sector Funding

Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Eligibility Criteria

If the initiative is built on a remediated brownfield, it must have the potential to reduce design energy consumption by at least 45% compared to the National Energy Code for Buildings (NECB) 2011. It must also conform with provincial soil quality standards.

Available Amount

A low-interest loan is available and the amount is determined on a per-project basis. Certain municipal applicants may be eligible for a grant worth up to 15 percent of the loan.

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.

Capital project: New Construction Of Energy-Efficient Facilities

Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Eligibility Criteria

The capital project must include a combination of energy efficient measures that together, target net zero energy performance in a new municipal facility (administration buildings, police stations and fire halls, recreation centres and arenas, wastewater treatment plants, etc.). Most of the funding goes to projects in municipally owned buildings, but a non-municipally owned building may be eligible if it is used mostly for municipal purposes.

Available Amount

Regular loans and grants: Receive a low-interest loan of up to \$5 million and a grant worth up to 15% of the loan; cover up to 80% of your eligible costs. High-ranking project loans and grants: These qualify for a low-interest loan of up to \$10 million and a grant worth up to 15% of the loan; cover up to 80% of your eligible costs.

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.

Pilot and Full-Scale Technology Development & Demonstration Projects

BC Bioenergy Network (BCBN)

Eligibility Criteria

Potential for significant environmental benefits, especially reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; Innovative technologies deploying best-in-class, first-time in BC technologies; Pilot to full-scale commercial facilities; Likely to be replicated in BC and/or export markets; Partnering with other strategic private and public stakeholders; and Regional diversity with representation from different parts of BC

Available Amount

Typically 10 to 30% of total project costs; Grants are considered for projects that demonstrate more innovation or commercial risk with huge potential; and Loans or convertible loans are utilized where the commercial risk is less and warranted where superior returns are probable.

Climate Action Partners Program

FortisBC

Eligibility Criteria

The program is available for local governments with populations of more than 75,000 residents, regional districts where multiple smaller local governments could benefit, and provides a tailored approach for Indigenous communities. The program funds a Senior Energy Specialist (SES) role, a designated team resource dedicated to applying FortisBC's suite of low carbon and renewable energy solutions such as corporate and community energy efficiency, low and zero carbon transportation, and renewable gas to help achieve the organization's climate action goals.

Available Amount

FortisBC provides the following funding per year to support a temporary full time, two year, renewable Senior Energy Specialist position. FortisBC's natural gas service territory: Year 1 - 100% funding up to \$100,000; Year 2 - 80% funding up to \$80,000. FortisBC gas and electric service territory: Year 1 - 100% funding up to \$100,000 Year 2 - 100% funding up to \$100,000.

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.

Farm Credit Canada

AgriSpirit Fund

Eligibility Criteria

Capital projects - construction or upgrades to a hospital, medical centre, childcare facility, rink, sportsplex or the purchase of fire and rescue equipment. Sustainability projects - upgrades to heating and cooling systems in a community building, installing new windows in a recreation centre or purchasing capital items for a recycling facility

Available Amount

The FCC AgriSpirit Fund may provide between \$5,000 to \$25,000 to projects that qualify in a city, town or Indigenous community with fewer than 150,000 people.

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 for total project cost.

SDT & ICE Funds

Sustainable Development Technology Canada and Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources

Eligibility Criteria

Clean energy projects and technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and that fall within the mandates of both the ICE Fund and SDTC are eligible.

Available Amount

The contribution from each fund will not exceed 33% of eligible project costs. The maximum amount funded through ICE is \$3 million.

CleanBC Custom-Lite Program

CleanBC

Eligibility Criteria

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).

Available Amount

The Program offers Capital Incentives of \$60/tCO₂e of lifetime GHG savings for heat pump roof top units up to a maximum of \$72,000 and \$40/tCO₂e of lifetime GHG savings for all other qualifying measures up to maximum \$48,000 incentive per customer. The Program also offers Energy Study funding for 50% of the cost of an energy study, up to a maximum of \$2,000.

CleanBC Commercial Express Program

CleanBC

Eligibility Criteria

The CleanBC Commercial Express Program provides support to building owners and operators who wish to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in their existing commercial buildings. 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. Your building must be a Commercial Building as defined by Part 3 of the BC Building Code

Available Amount

The Program offers capital incentives up to a maximum of \$100,000 per project. Incentives are based on various factors specific to your building, including building: type, age, location, square footage, hours of operation, and the type of equipment being considered.

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 Energy Assessment Program

FortisBC

Eligibility Criteria

You must be a commercial FortisBC natural gas and/or electricity customer or municipal electricity customer of Grand Forks, Penticton, Summerland and Nelson Hydro. You must be the owner or long-term leaseholder of a medium-sized business or small industrial/manufacturing facility.

Available Amount

Your business can receive a free walkthrough energy assessment conducted by an authorized FortisBC consultant. This assessment will identify low- and no-cost energy conservation measures, potential energy efficiency upgrades for you to consider and available rebates from FortisBC.

EV Charging Solutions For Multi-Unit Residential Buildings & Workplaces

FortisBC

Eligibility Criteria

The building must be connected to a current electricity account with FortisBC or the municipal utilities of Grand Forks, Penticton, Summerland or Nelson Hydro. The building where the charging station is to be installed must have been constructed before August 31, 2020 (i.e. new construction buildings are not eligible). Eligible multi-unit residential buildings include condominiums, high-rises and apartment buildings that have dedicated parking for residents. Eligible workplaces must have five or more employees who work primarily at the premises where the charging station(s) will be installed and have dedicated parking for employees. Workplace premises may be owned or leased by the applicant. Applicants of the EV Ready Program must be a multi-unit residential building.

Available Amount

50% of eligible purchase and installation costs,* up to \$4,000 per station, to a maximum of \$14,000 per application.

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.

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

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

Rink Deaerator Rebate

FortisBC

Eligibility Criteria

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 on a commercial rate. Purchase date of products (as shown on the paid invoice) must be after May 1, 2019.

Available Amount

For a limited time, until December 31, 2021, you can qualify for an even bigger rebate of \$27,000 on an eligible rink de-aerator.
