

Building Electrification Scorecard

2023 Scorecard

The purpose of this annual scorecard is to track progress on implementation of actions outlined in the BC Building Electrification Road Map (BERM). Published in March 2021, the BERM includes over 50 recommended actions to support the adoption of high-efficiency electric heating and hot water systems. The goal of the BERM is a rapid and enduring province-wide shift to low-carbon buildings by 2030.

The Building to Electrification Coalition (B2E), was launched in September 2021 as a direct response to the recommendations of the BERM. B2E acts as a convening body for BERM implementation while coordinating, monitoring, tracking and reporting out on the progress of building electrification in BC.



Status Legend	1	2	3	4	5
No coordinated activity	1				
Promised/Planned	2				
In development	3				
Partial implementation	4				
Full Implementation	5				

BERM Theme		Actions	2021	2022	2023
Provincial Policy Announcements	Create Market Demand	Commitment & timeline to regulate GHGs for new & existing buildings	1	3	3
		Confirm BC Hydro's LCE mandate	2	5	5
		Establish a timeline for mandatory labelling	2	3	3
		Establish a timeline for mandatory benchmarking	1	3	3
Actions with Short-Term Effects	Create Market Demand	Launch major public building electrification campaign	3	5	5
	Improve Cost Competitiveness	Continue fuel switch incentives & expand to whole home	2	4	4
		Continue carbon pricing on fossil fuels	4	4	4
	Expand Industry Capacity	Help building owners & trades prepare for fuel switch well in advance	1	3	3
		Increase uptake of building electrification projects	3	3	4
	Actions with Long-Term Effects	Expand Industry Capacity	Form building electrification coalition & knowledge hub	1	5
Improve training requirements			1	3	3
Build industry knowledge, experience, & competence			2	3	3
Develop trades communications plan & work with key stakeholders			1	1	3
Implement consumer awareness campaign about quality installation			1	1	1
Increase recruitment to BC trades & professions			1	1	3
Improve Cost Competitiveness		Review & update BC Hydro's rates to support electrification	2	2	3
		Review/update BC Hydro's connections tariffs & distribution upgrades	1	3	3
		Establish low-income electrification plan	1	3	4
		Establish low-income programs	3	4	4
		Phase out fossil fuel heating equipment incentives	1	3	4
Address Systemic Barriers		Reflect high-efficiency features in property appraisals	1	1	1
		Improve access to capital for building electrification projects	2	1	3
		Create clear guidelines & streamline permitting	2	3	3
Accelerate Introduction of New Technologies		Support development of building & equipment standards	3	4	4
		Accelerate the certification of promising new technologies	2	2	2
		Support the introduction of certified technologies	2	2	2
		Accelerate the adoption of technologies with low GWP refrigerants	1	1	1

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Highlights

Actions with Short-Term Effects:

Progress compared with last year is slower, but effects from last year's short-term actions are beginning to be seen. **Residential heat pump demand** is on the rise and contractors are responding. The supply of eligible heat pump retrofit contractors increased to 546 members in the Home Performance Contractor Network (a 56% increase over 2022). Incentive uptake has been strong; in the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Province of British Columbia provided 6,018 heat pump rebates, bringing the total number of heat pump incentives to over 11,000 since 2018.

While there are multiple programs that support previously underserved markets, such as affordable housing and purpose-built rentals, **more financial tools are needed for the multi-unit housing sector** – which includes condominiums and rentals. Additional progress in this area is anticipated during 2024.

In the commercial sector, building electrification and portfolio decarbonization planning are becoming priority topics for many building owners. Municipalities are seeing a trend towards **all-electric buildings in new construction** projects. Increasingly, retrofit projects are focusing on emissions reductions in addition to energy savings, resulting in electrification within heating systems. **New virtual decarbonization tools** are gaining popularity among



Provincial Policy Announcements:

A new provincial regulation, the **Zero Carbon Step Code**, was introduced in May 2023 as part of the BC Building Code updates that limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from new construction. In 2023, twenty-two local government adopted the standard at an accelerated timeline, reducing carbon pollution limits ahead of the provincial schedule. The Province is also consulting stakeholders on regulatory measures for existing buildings, including the point-of-sale requirements for highest-efficiency equipment standard (HEES) for 2030.

A **new call for power** to be issued in 2024 was announced after BC Hydro updated their Integrated Resource Plan. Based on recent electrification trends, accelerated electrification scenarios were analyzed and triggered a need for new generation by as early as 2028. In addition, the provincial government announced a \$36-billion capital investment for community and regional infrastructure projects that will deliver clean, affordable electricity to people and businesses in the future.

Two policy areas showing some development include mandatory benchmarking and home labelling. The City of Vancouver is demonstrating leadership with its first **mandatory benchmarking** requirement for large buildings (>100,000 ft²) coming into effect in January 2024. Several other local governments across BC have expressed interest in mandatory energy and carbon reporting requirements for large buildings. In early 2024, the Province is preparing to pilot a **virtual home energy label** tool in several communities prior to widespread adoption.

portfolio owners to help them plan for decarbonization of mechanical equipment prior to the end of their useful life.

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Highlights (cont.)

Actions with Long-Term Effects:

Under **Expand Industry Capacity**, stakeholder consultation and engagement surrounding roadmaps and strategies for skilled trades were well underway. Implementation of the recommendations will begin in 2024. ZEIC's program areas, ZEBx and B2E continue to develop educational **resources and webinars** that are relevant to overcoming building electrification challenges and showcasing opportunities.

Recruitment into the trades is being promoted by multiple industry associations, and tremendous work is underway to improve diversity in the construction sector through organizations such as BC Centre for Women in the Trades and Construction Foundation of BC.

Under **Improving Cost Competitiveness**, a Low-Income and Social Housing Electrification Roadmap was published by BC Housing. The roadmap builds off the

BERM, and implementation of its recommendations should begin in 2024. The past year also marked the **end of conventional natural gas heating incentives**. Although hybrid/dual-fuel systems are still being incentivized, the addition of a heat pump into the system will improve efficiency and should reduce emissions over full natural gas systems. For larger buildings, access to capital is also improving through private investment solution companies focused on building decarbonization.

The Province's work on the **highest efficiency equipment standard** should help to lay the foundation for increasing availability of electrification technology in the years to come. While less action has occurred on accelerating the certification of new technologies, several leading-edge manufacturers are supporting building owners to certify technologies for the BC market that are readily available in other

jurisdictions (including lower GWP refrigerants). Both provincial and national governments will need to coordinate to attract manufacturers of mechanical equipment utilizing low GWP refrigerants to accelerate adoption.

Two other long-term BERM actions that have seen little to no movement include a **consumer awareness campaign** about quality installation, and **property appraisals reflecting high-efficiency/low carbon features** (i.e., future proofed). Both of these areas would benefit from an assessment to determine their level of priority and next steps if still deemed beneficial.

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B2E Actions Supporting BERM Implementation

Coordination

A Leadership Council and three committees have been established to coordinate activities related to central BERM themes, including awareness building, industry capacity, and technical challenges. Committees meet 4-6 times per year to discuss and act on priority actions that advance building electrification. Committee members represent organizations on the leading edge of policy, technology and implementation. In 2022, B2E received external funding to launch a small granting program. In 2023, under the guidance of the Leadership Council and recommendations by the committees, seed funding was awarded to the following projects:

- State of Electrification Presentation
- Part 3 Electric Database + Case Studies
- Grants to attend the Building Decarbonization Alliance 2024 Forum
- Induction Cooktop Campaign

Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building

Since launching in September 2021, B2E has served as a central convener of a multi-sector network in the building industry who view electrification as a critical climate solution. B2E has developed resources and hosted/participated in many education events highlighting emerging topics related to building electrification (eg. ZEBx Decarb Lunches, Buildex panels). In 2023, B2E published four additional electrification-focused resources, highlighting best practices for: retrofits in residential and commercial buildings, and load management.

Community-Building

The B2E network fosters community-building and encourages collaboration between its members. B2E is free to join and the membership has benefits including:

- A growing email listserv that offers participants a forum to ask questions and share knowledge.
- All-member calls that serve as a venue to receive policy updates from different levels of government, and for members to share successes and provide updates on projects.
- Early access to electrification news, updates and events.
- Recognition of organizations who are fully engaged in the decarbonization of the building sector.

