Building Electrification Scorecard

2024 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), part of the Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC), 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	
No coordinated activity	1
Promised/Planned	2
In development	3
Partial implementation	4
Full Implementation	5

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BERM Theme		Actions	2021	2022	2023	2024
Provincial Policy Announcements	Create Market Demand	Commitment & timeline to regulate GHGs for new & existing buildings	1	3	4	4
		Confirm BC Hydro's LCE mandate	2	5	5	4
		Establish a timeline for mandatory labelling	2	3	3	3
		Establish a timeline for mandatory benchmarking	1	3	3	4
Actions with Short-Term Effects	Create Market Demand	Maintain a public building electrification campaign	3	5	5	4
	Improve Cost Competitiveness	Continue fuel switch incentives & expand to whole home	2	4	4	4
		Continue carbon pricing on fossil fuels	4	4	4	4
		Help building owners & trades prepare for fuel switch well in advance	1	3	3	3
	Expand Industry Capacity	Increase uptake of building electrification projects	3	3	4	4
Actions with Long-Term Effects	Expand Industry Capacity	Form building electrification coalition & knowledge hub	1	5	5	5
		Improve training requirements	1	3	4	4
		Build industry knowledge, experience, & competence	2	3	4	4
		Coordinate trades communications plans & work with key stakeholders	1	1	3	4
		Implement consumer awareness campaign about quality installation	1	1	1	3
		Increase recruitment to BC trades & professions	1	1	3	4
	Improve Cost Competitiveness	Review & update BC Hydro's rates to support electrification	2	2	3	3
		Review/update BC Hydro's connections tariffs & distribution upgrades	1	3	3	3
		Establish low-income electrification plan	1	3	4	5
		Establish low-income programs	3	4	4	4
		Phase out fossil fuel heating equipment incentives	1	3	4	4
	Address Sytemic Barriers	Improve access to capital for building electrification projects	2	1	3	3
		Create clear guidelines & streamline permitting	2	3	3	3
	Accelerate Introduction of New Technologies	Support development of building & equipment standards	3	4	4	4
		Accelerate the certification of promising new technologies	2	2	2	2
		Support the introduction of certified technologies	2	2	2	2
		Accelerate the adoption of technologies with low GWP refrigerants	1	1	1	3

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Major Policy Announcements

The **Zero Carbon Step Code** continues to be one of the brightest lights from a building electrification policy perspective. By the end of 2024, thirty-two communities had adopted the Zero Carbon Step, a provincial opt-in regulation that restricts the operational emissions of new buildings. Together these communities represent about 46% of province's annual housing starts. Among these communities are the City of Vancouver and City of Richmond who both reaffirmed the zero carbon emissions requirements they had previously approved.

Existing buildings represent the majority of building sector emissions. In early 2024, the Provincial Government consulted with stakeholders on the "point-of-sale" component of a **Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard** (HEES). As per the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, the HEES would require all new space and water heating equipment installed in BC to have a coefficient of performance of 1 or better by 2030. Unfortunately, no further activity was undertaken on the HEES in 2024 nor has a timeline for its enactment been announced.

Two existing building policy areas showing some development were **mandatory benchmarking** and **home labelling**. The City of Vancouver reported results from the first year in its mandatory benchmarking program, Energize Vancouver.

Several other local governments, including Victoria, Saanich, and Richmond are also consulting with their communities on mandatory energy and carbon reporting requirements.

For smaller residential homes, the Province piloted a virtual labelling tool, BC Home Energy Planner, in several communities but did not release a date for its province-wide roll out.

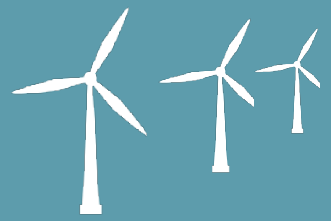
A significant policy setback in 2024 was the Metro Vancouver Board's decision to not support a staff recommendation to seek public consultation on a similar reporting and emissions requirement for large buildings that already exists in Vancouver.

BC Hydro Announcements:

BC Hydro made several major announcements that will help to expand its electrification capabilities. On the generation side, it will seek to secure **power purchase agreements** with nine wind and one solar project that together will provide nearly 5,000 gigawatt hours per year of clean electricity. Eight of the successful projects will have 51% First Nations equity ownership. The projects are spread across nearly every region in the province and are expected to generate up to $6 billion in private capital investment.

On the transmission and distribution side of its business, BC Hydro announced that it will spend $36 billion over ten years to **expand and upgrade its electricity distribution system** to support electrification and load growth. This represents a twofold increase over its previous capital plan.

While these grid infrastructure projects are very welcome news, BC Hydro was less active in promoting building electrification than it was in the previous two years of its Low Carbon Electrification Plan. We hope that 2025 will see a renewed commitment by BC Hydro to electrifying both new and existing buildings.



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Actions with Short-Term (more immediate) Effects:

Promotion of building electrification was considerably more muted in 2024 than the previous three years. Fortunately, targeted incentive programs and more regional activity kept heat pumps top of mind.

On the incentive front, there was a big **shift in CleanBC rebates** toward income qualified households and people living in multi-unit residential buildings. Some households in BC could receive up to $19,000 for heat pumps.

The Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC) launched the **BC Retrofit Accelerator** (BCRA), a program to support electrification and energy conservation upgrades across hundreds of buildings across the province. BCRA will provide hands-on guidance to the owners and managers of larger commercial and residential properties—including strata-owned, rental, non-market, and off-reserve Indigenous housing. These join similar local government provided programs, such as the Home Energy Navigator and Retrofit Assist, that work closely with homeowners in select communities throughout B.C.

Unfortunately, the Provincial Government announced in 2024 that it will scrap the Provincial Carbon Tax if the Federal Government rescinds its national carbon tax requirements (something which looks increasingly likely). If the **carbon tax** is removed, it will make it more challenging to convince homeowners and business to switch off of fossil fuels and for the provincial and local governments to achieve their reduction targets.

Actions with Long-Term Effects:

Every year more contractors and building professionals become more experienced and knowledgeable about building electrification opportunities and solutions. By the end of 2024, the Home Performance Contractor Network included 645 registered (and another 605 in-progress) **heat pump contractors** with representation across all parts of the province. For large buildings, the B2E Commercial Building Electrification Guide was published with engineering designers and building owners in mind. The Guide represents an incredible collaboration from across industry and will help to ensure the very best practices are being deployed throughout the province.

In June 2024, BC Hydro's **proposed new connection tariff** was submitted to the BCUC and is under review. Strong engagement with the building sector was completed prior to the proposal and is reflected in what will be a much improved policy if approved by the BCUC.

As of 2024, FortisBC is only permitted to offer incentives for equipment that complies with the province's proposed Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard, such as dual-fuel furnace/heat pump heating systems and gas absorption heat pumps. B2E members are keeping a close eye on these systems to see how significantly they save energy and reduce GHG emissions.

Manufacturers, suppliers, and installers prepared for the **phasing out of refrigerants** with a high global warming potential (GWP). This transition will result in manufacturers replacing traditionalrefrigerants with moderate GWPs (such as R-32 and R454B), which reduce by about one-third. There is still room for improvement but this is a big step in the right direction.

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Building to Electrification Coalition (B2E)

The Building to Electrification Coalition supports industry leaders to accelerate the electrification of all buildings in BC. At the end of 2024, there were **215 member organizations**, with many of their staff participating in the coalition. B2E serves to coordinate actions, share knowledge, and support its members to continue their excellent work on decarbonization through electrification.

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 and represent organizations on the leading edge of policy, technology and implementation. In 2022, B2E received external funding to launch a small granting program, which continues to be topped up by several funding partners.

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 2024, B2E published seven additional electrification-focused resources. Key themes included induction cooking, high-rise new construction, commercial retrofits, and domestic hot water.

In 2024, under the guidance of a selection committee, seed funding was awarded to the following projects:

- Accelerating Cost-Effective Electrification – Window-Mounted Heat Pumps
- Advancing Decarbonization and Safe Indoor Temperatures in Rental Buildings
- Demystifying Electrical Capacity and Servicing Sizing: Training and Pilot
- HVAC Design Packages for BC Standardized Housing
- Worker Owned HVAC Business Model

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

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Ready to join B2E? Visit **b2electrification.org/get-involved**