

Building Electrification Scorecard

2022 Scorecard

The purpose of this scorecard is to track progress on implementation of actions outlined in the BC Building Electrification Road Map (BERM). The scorecard will be updated annually and published on b2electrification.org.

The BERM, which includes over 50 recommended actions, was written with extensive stakeholder engagement over a 12-month period and published in March 2021. As a result of BERM actions, nearly all new and most replacement heating and domestic hot water systems in BC buildings will be high-efficiency electric by 2030. The goal of the BERM is a rapid and enduring province-wide shift to low-carbon buildings.

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

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

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Highlights

Actions with Long-Term Effects:

Most recommendations listed as having a long-term market effect when fully implemented have progressed over the past six months, albeit typically at a slower rate than the two preceding major categories.

Under Expand Industry Capacity, activities such as the launch of the Home Performance Contractor Network, ZEBx's resources and webinars, and EGBC's building decarbonization Practice Advisory have helped to strengthen awareness and overall industry knowledge of building electrification. Although workforce shortages continue to be cited as one of the biggest barriers by industry participants, increasing recruitment remains the action with the least tangible progress made to date. More concerted effort is needed to address this barrier.

Other areas of note under the long-term effects category include the launch of the Provincial Government's Income Qualified Program, and the recent publication of the Vancouver Economic Commission's BC Heat Pump Strategy which has identified a number of pathways for accelerating the introduction of new electrification technologies to the Canadian and BC markets.

On the rates side, BC Hydro continues to review its residential rate structure and also plans to submit an updated interconnection tariff to the BCUC in the summer or fall of 2023.



Provincial Policy Announcements:

There has been significant movement in this BERM category over the past six months. The Province has been consulting stakeholders on a number of regulatory measures, including a Carbon Pollution Standard for new buildings, the highest-efficiency equipment regulation for existing buildings, and updates to the Demand Side Measures Regulation that will all but disallow natural gas utilities from providing incentives for conventional gas equipment. Although all of these are still awaiting approval, it is expected that they will all do so in 2023.

Two recommended policy areas that have shown less movement are mandatory benchmarking and home labelling. However, progress does continue in both of these areas with the City of Vancouver's first mandatory benchmarking requirement for large buildings coming into effect in January 2024 and the province beginning work on developing a voluntary virtual home energy label.

Actions with Short-Term Effects:

Strong progress has been made on a number of recommendations with less enduring although more immediate positive building electrification market impacts. These include province-wide communications campaigns, continued incentives and a further rise in the carbon tax (now at \$50/tCO_{2e}).

In terms of incentives, one area still lacking in support is apartment buildings – both condominiums and rental. Given this shortcoming, incentives were scored as “partially implemented”.

Two categories with little to no change since the last BERM scorecard are programs aimed at helping building owners prepare in advance for fuel switching and additional upstream electrification incentives for contractors. 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. Under the guidance of the Leadership Council and recommendations by the committees, seed funding was awarded to the following projects:

- Climate-Friendly Homes Tour
- Domestic Hot Water Electrification Rebate Pilot
- Electrification Retrofit Best Practice Guide for Commercial Buildings
- MURB Electrification-Ready Planning: Integrating Building Systems & EVSE
- Heat Pump Installer Training Pathways
- MURB In-Suite Electrification (without panel upgrades)

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 panel).

Seven electrification-focused resources, highlighting best practices for: new construction, retrofit, residential, commercial, Part 3 and Part 9 buildings.

Community-Building

The B2E network fosters community-building and encourages The collaboration between its members. In 2022, two in-person networking events were held, one in Victoria and one in Vancouver, to cultivate lasting relationships within the community.

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.



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