

From B2E's Leadership Council: Our Strategic Priorities

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TO OUR COMMUNITY

The Building to Electrification Coalition (B2E) consists of more than 140 members from industry, government, utilities, the financial sector and housing providers. Founded in 2021, it is Canada's first building electrification coalition with a vision to decarbonize British Columbia's building sector through electrification. The B2E is led by its 16-member Leadership Council and the activities of the B2E are guided by the [BC Building Electrification Roadmap \(BERM\)](#).

With each year that passes, the global climate crisis is more apparent in our everyday lives. Buildings are the places where we work, live, play, and sleep. It is also one of the first sectors that can fully decarbonize because of advances in technologies, building science expertise, and BC's clean and abundant source of renewable electricity. The co-benefits of building electrification, such as cooling and air filtration, are also critical in a time of rising temperatures and more frequent poor air quality events. There is no time to waste!

With this imperative in mind, the Leadership Council is striving to support the successful implementation of recent provincial and local government policies to decarbonize new and existing buildings. For new construction, B2E supports electrification as a means to achieving moderate, strong and zero carbon performance in the Province's Zero Carbon Step Code, which will help enable its adoption by communities.



For existing buildings, the Leadership Council, along with the B2E's three committees, recognizes that policies and regulation have a critical role to play in advancing building decarbonization, and enabling electrification as the priority pathway, such as the development of the Province's highest-efficiency equipment standard, and the City of Vancouver's carbon pollution limits for large buildings and zero carbon equipment standards at time of replacement.

In addition to the implementation of these foundational policies, in early 2023 the Leadership Council identified the following four priority areas of work for the coalition to focus on over the next two years to help ensure a successful and more equitable building electrification transition.

1. **Contractors** – Build a broad willingness, ability, and motivation to sell heat pumps and electrification technology for new and existing buildings.
2. **Multi-Family Building Retrofits** – Increase market readiness to undertake electrification retrofits in multi-family buildings and provide comprehensive programs and services to support owners and decision makers.
3. **Peak Demand & Load Management** – Establish clear and consistent strategies to minimize the need for electrical service upgrades and reduce the burden on the electricity grid.
4. **Planning for Building Electrification** – Ensure building electrification retrofits are being planned by building owners well in advance of equipment failure.





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These are by no means the only actions that need to be taken to ensure a successful transition. In 2022, the B2E undertook a review of the progress made since the BERM was published in 2020.

The review's findings, which are summarized in the 2022 BERM Scorecard, concluded that considerable progress has been made on a number of major recommended actions, including:

- **a strong electrification mandate for BC Hydro, the province's primary electricity utility,**
- **increased public awareness of heat pumps, and**
- **the establishment of a provincial qualified low-income electrification program.**

This early progress in coordinating and enabling actions across sectors is good news and even more progress is possible through continued collaboration within the B2E network. To help ensure we stay on track to achieve the B2E's vision of a decarbonized building sector, we will continue to track and publish our collective progress on the more than 50 recommended actions included in the [BERM](#).

Join the B2E community today and be part of the group that is accelerating actions to decarbonize buildings through electrification in BC.

Signed,

B2E'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

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info@b2electrification.org | b2electrification.org

