2030 ERP: BUILDINGS

Transitioning Canada’s building stock to net-zero over the long term creates new opportunities to promote a low-carbon supply chain, adopt net-zero ready building codes, transform space and water heating, improve affordability through energy efficiency, and accelerate private financing and workforce development to support the sector’s transition.

What We’ve Already Done

- Established the $2.6 billion Greener Homes Grant which helps homeowners make their homes more energy efficient and grows domestic green supply chains.
- Launched the $1.5 billion Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program which provides funding to support projects that improve energy efficiency through retrofits, repairs or upgrades and new builds.
- Supported energy efficiency in Indigenous housing through the $48 million First Nation Infrastructure Fund, the $64.3 million Northern REACHE program and the $220 million Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities program.
- Launched the Public Buildings Retrofits Imitative and the Commercial Building Retrofit Initiative using the Canada Infrastructure Bank dedicated funding target of $2 billion for green infrastructure.

Key New Actions

To meet Canada’s 2030 emissions reduction target and reach net zero by 2050, the Government of Canada will focus on the following key areas to reduce emissions in the buildings sector:

The Government of Canada will invest $150 million to develop a national net zero by 2050 buildings strategy, the Canada Green Buildings Strategy. The Buildings Strategy will:

- Develop a Low Carbon Building Materials Innovation Hub to drive further research, building code reform, and demonstration activities, all promoting the use of lower carbon construction materials (e.g., wood, steel, cement, etc.) in the built environment;
- Develop regulatory, standards, and an incentive framework to support the transition off fossil-fuels for heating systems;
- Develop an approach to require EnerGuide labeling of homes at the time of sale, and design a complementary Climate Adaptation Home Rating Program;
- Launch a new Net Zero Building Code Acceleration Fund to accelerate adoption and implementation of the highest performance tiers of the national model energy codes, incentivizing stakeholder participation while addressing persistent challenges in Canada’s codes system and paving the way to a code for alterations for existing buildings;
- Improve federal capacity and technical support to provinces, territories and key stakeholders for the development and adoption of net zero emission codes, and alteration to existing buildings codes; and,
- Develop an approach to increase the climate resilience of the built environment.
Supporting communities to upgrade homes and buildings, including affordable housing, is key to reaching Canada’s climate goals. To help meet those goals, the following investments are being made:

- $458.5 million in contribution and loan funding to support the low-income stream of the Greener Homes Loan Program, which will support increased energy savings.
- $33 million to implement a Greener Neighbourhoods Pilot Program, which will retrofit homes or units in up to six communities across the country. This support for community-level home retrofits aligns with the Net-Zero Advisory Body’s recommendation to seek out opportunities to decarbonize multiple buildings at once.
- $200 million to support deep retrofits of large buildings through a retrofit accelerator initiative, which will provide help to address barriers to deep retrofits (such as audits or project management).
- $183 million to support a decarbonized and climate resilient construction sector.

Going Further

The Government of Canada will also explore additional opportunities, including:

- Mobilize private sector financing to support deep retrofits in existing residential, commercial and institutional buildings.
- Mobilize Indigenous sector financing to support deep retrofits and clean energy initiatives.
- Explore increased stringency of federal funding programs to avoid locking carbon into the building sector, for example through requirements for high performance new construction, deep energy retrofits, and addressing embodied carbon and resiliency.
- Review of CMHC’s market tools to promote climate compatibility in new construction and within the existing housing stock, and increase the stringency of energy efficiency standards of the National Housing Strategy programs.