



# ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIGENOUS NON-PROFIT HOUSING PROVIDERS IN BC

COMPILED BY AHMA • APRIL 2024

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## INTRODUCTION

Energy conservation and building electrification have become a critical part of capital planning. Environmental, regulatory and occupant comfort and safety responsibilities drive these projects. Retrofitting buildings to use less energy can meet these needs. It will also keep housing affordable to maintain and run. Energy studies yield valuable insights. They inform future energy-efficient building retrofits and renovations.

While Capital Renewal Funding (CRF) can be available to complete many retrofit projects, accessing incentive programs can free up funding for other needs. This resource briefly summarizes programs available to the Indigenous social housing sector.

The Clean BC website hosts funding information for Indigenous Communities [Home - Community Climate Funding \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/cleanbc/indigenous-communities). It includes rebates, incentives, loans and project-based funding. The [CleanBC Better Homes](https://www.gov.bc.ca/cleanbc/better-homes) search platform is a tool for finding rebates and incentives. Current funding opportunities are listed below.

***FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT AHMA TODAY!***

Sara Fralin, Engagement and Technical Services Manager [sfralin@ahma-bc.org](mailto:sfralin@ahma-bc.org) can support your sustainability journey.



## FUNDING PROGRAMS

### BCNPHA

#### SOCIAL HOUSING INCENTIVE PROGRAM (SHIP)



The [Social Housing Incentives Program \(SHIP\)](#) offers funding for energy study, support for the electrification project implementation, and incentives to reduce GHGs.

#### Eligibility:

This program is only available for multi-unit residential buildings (MURBs) with a minimum of nine units and a customer in a BC Hydro service or FortisBC electric territory.

#### Incentives:

- *Energy study:* up to \$5,000 per energy study
- *Implementation support:* up to \$7,000 for project implementation support
- *Retrofit Incentives:* 75% of project implementation costs up to \$200,000
- *Electrical Load Analysis:* up to \$7000 to cover 100% of the costs for an electrical load analysis
- *Electrical System Upgrade:* BC Hydro top-up the CleanBC Capital Incentives up to 100% of the cost of upgrading the building's electrical system as part of the implementation measures

#### How to apply:

Contact the BC Non-Profit Housing Association at [energy@bcnpha.ca](mailto:energy@bcnpha.ca) or BC Hydro program contact at [socialhousing@bchydro.com](mailto:socialhousing@bchydro.com)



## SOCIAL HOUSING RETROFIT SUPPORT PROGRAM (SHRSP)



The [Social Housing Retrofit Support Program \(SHRSP\)](#) offers free energy studies and funding for energy upgrades. It also provides support and incentives for high-efficiency natural gas and electric upgrades. The program is for renovation projects for charities and non-profit housing providers.

Social housing providers have mainly used SHRSP to subsidize or pay for engineering and implementation support. Social housing providers can get funding to implement electric and natural gas energy conservation upgrades.

### Eligibility:

- This program is only available for multi-unit residential buildings with a minimum of nine units.
- Spaces being retrofitted should be common areas.
- The building must be a customer of FortisBC (gas or electricity) and/or BC Hydro or a municipal utility.

### Incentives:

- *Energy study:* up to \$8,000 to complete an energy study. FortisBC provides additional funding of up to \$20,000 for a gas absorption heat pump feasibility study.
- *Implementation support:* up to \$11,000 for implementation support, such as project management, project specification, contractors and preparing documentation and invoices for submission.
- *Incentives for energy conservation measures:* rebates available for boilers, mechanical systems and controls, windows and insulation, heat pumps and electric water heaters, lighting and controls; [click here](#) to view available rebates.

### How to apply:

Contact the BC Non-Profit Housing Association at [energy@bcnpha.ca](mailto:energy@bcnpha.ca)



## BC HOUSING & BCNPHA

### THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFIT PROGRAM (EERP)



**BCNPHA**  
BC Non-Profit Housing Association



**BC HOUSING**

[The Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program](#) (EERP) offers non-profit housing providers funding for small-scale, energy-saving retrofits of items such as light fixtures and boilers. This program complements the BC Hydro and FortisBC Social Housing Retrofit Support Program and other funding streams.

#### **Eligibility:**

This program is available for non-profit housing societies or Indigenous organizations except for emergency shelters and transition housing. Please refer to the [Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program Framework](#) for more details.

#### **Incentives:**

BC Housing provides EERP funding via capital grants up to a maximum of \$100,000. They go to eligible and approved projects to cover the gap between project costs and utility incentive program contributions.

For more details, see the guidelines about incentives for gas and electric upgrades.

- [Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program - FAQ - Electric](#)
- [Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program - FAQ - Gas](#)

#### **How to apply:**

Send your funding questions by email to [energy@bchousing.org](mailto:energy@bchousing.org). For project questions, email the BC Non-Profit Housing Association at [energy@bcnhpa.ca](mailto:energy@bcnhpa.ca).



## BC HYDRO & FORTISBC

Note: **BC Hydro's** Program supports work in **electrically heated** homes, and **FortisBC's** Program supports work in homes heated with **natural gas**.

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### ENERGY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ECAP)



The [Energy Conservation Assistance Program \(ECAP\)](#) provides free energy advice and upgrades for single-family homes, townhouses, and apartments. They must meet the [income qualification](#). Free home energy assessments look at building efficiency. They find areas for improvement. They also include free energy-saving products. Professionals install them. They include energy-efficient light bulbs, high-efficiency showerheads, and draft protection.

#### Eligibility:

AHMA members and tenants in social housing are automatically approved. There is no need to provide proof of income. However, they need to fill out an application form.

#### Incentives:

For apartments, possible upgrades include replacements of showerheads, tap aerators and fridges. For single-family homes and townhouses, upgrades could include insulation and high-efficiency furnaces.

#### How to apply:

Contact [Its On Electric](#) at 1-855-560-3227 or email [ecap@itsonelectric.com](mailto:ecap@itsonelectric.com) to help facilitate your participation in this free program.



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## PORTABLE AIR CONDITIONER OFFER

The [Energy Conservation Assistance Program \(ECAP\)](#) was expanded to include portable air conditioners (ACs). This change will support vulnerable customers and residents of social housing. It will help them stay safe during extreme heat events. You can use this [portable AC funding](#) to buy AC units for both common and targeted suits.

### Eligibility:

This program is offered to non-profit housing societies that have not received other AC unit rebates and do not currently have an AC unit installed.

Both multi-unit residential buildings and single-family dwellings can apply for this program.

ANY Income-qualified person or medically heat vulnerable person (in a Housing Society or Individual who owns or rents their home) can apply to receive an AC unit through the [expanded ECAP program](#).

### How to apply:

- Tenants: Apply for the AC offer online through the [online application portal](#) (if they have a BC Hydro Acct # in their name)

*\*Note: If you rent your home and do not have your own BC Hydro account, please call our team at 1-800-224-9376 so we can help with your application. Make sure to have your signed [landlord consent form](#), proof of income and/or a recommendation letter from your regional health authority's Home Care Program before calling.*

Share this [info sheet](#) with your landlord and discuss the installation of the air conditioner in your unit. After successfully securing your landlord's permission, submit one of the following landlord consent forms:

- [Landlord consent for apartments and condos only](#)
- [Landlord consent for all other housing types](#)



## INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ICCP)



The [BC Hydro Indigenous Communities Conservation Program](#) and the [FortisBC Indigenous Communities Conversation Program](#) support community-led home energy upgrades in their respective service areas. The program provides free energy-saving products. It also provides salary support and training for local installers to recommend energy-saving opportunities and install products.

### Eligibility:

In order to qualify for this program, all the following requirements must be met:

- Homes must be located in BC Hydro's or FortisBC's service territory.
- Upgrades must be delivered by an Indigenous Governing Body (IGB) or Indigenous housing provider.
- For BC Hydro support, homes must be existing BC Hydro customers with primary electric heating.
- For FortisBC support, homes must be existing FortisBC electric customers or homes with primary natural gas heating (provided by FortisBC).

### Incentives:

The [Indigenous Communities Conservation Program \(ICCP\)](#) consists of two program offers:

1. The Home Energy Check-up: \$150 per participating home plus a training stipend. The following upgrades can be eligible for this rebate:
  - Free energy-saving products (including LED light bulbs, water-saving fixtures for the kitchen and bathroom, and various draft-proofing measures)
  - Training for community members and staff, and salary support to hire community members to do energy conservation work.
2. Home Energy Upgrade Rebates: the rebate varies by upgrade type. The following larger energy efficiency upgrades can be eligible:
  - Air sealing, insulation, windows and doors
  - Ventilation\*
  - Health and safety upgrades\*
  - Primary space heating
  - Water heating
  - Replacement of old, inefficient refrigerators and freezers





*\*Note: A home must receive rebate-eligible building envelope upgrades in at least one category (e.g., insulation, windows, doors) to qualify for the health and safety or ventilation rebates.*

Please refer to [BC Hydro's information sheet](#) for eligible upgrades.

### **How to apply:**

BC Hydro and FortisBC work directly with communities to assist with the application process. To get started, contact BC Hydro at 1-866-266-6366 or email [indigenousconservation@bchydro.com](mailto:indigenousconservation@bchydro.com), and contact FortisBC at 1-866-884-8833 (Press 4) or email [conservationassistance@fortisbc.com](mailto:conservationassistance@fortisbc.com).

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## **FORTIS GAS – HYBRID DUAL FUEL ROOFTOP UNIT REBATE**



FortisBC has discontinued incentives for gas equipment operating below 100% efficiency. That means any gas high-efficiency furnace, boiler, or domestic hot water unit is no longer eligible for a rebate.

They have been piloting hybrid units for forced air space heating and DHW. These are high-efficiency heat pumps and furnaces that exceed that 100% requirement.

The hybrid rooftop unit (RTU) program is finally live. The FortisBC website has not yet been updated to include this offer, but you can access it by working directly with the AHMA staff.

### **Eligibility:**

This offer is available to housing providers located in both the FortisBC and BC Hydro territories.

### **Incentives:**

The electric heat pump unit includes an indirect-fired natural gas unit, providing heating (hybrid) and cooling (electric heat pump only). The rebate amounts for Social Housing Retrofit Support and Indigenous are:

- Condensing efficiency: 50% of total project cost up to a maximum incentive of \$150,000 per installation or building.
- Standard efficiency: 50% of total project cost up to a maximum incentive of \$100,000 per installation or building.

### **How to apply:**

- If a project is going through SHRSP, the SHRSP team will process the invoice through the regular SHRSP process.



Aboriginal Housing Management Association  
Celebrating 25 Years

- If the project is going through the Prescriptive Rebate Program, please contact Darryl.Kwee@fortisbc.com for more information.

If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Sara Fralin at [sfralin@ahma-bc.org](mailto:sfralin@ahma-bc.org)

## CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

### CANADA GREENER AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM: PRE-RETROFIT



Community housing providers with an affordable housing mandate can access CMHC energy retrofit financing to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. This funding is part of the Government of Canada's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

#### Eligibility:

Eligible housing types need to ensure that projects must:

- be primarily residential
- include at least 5 units or beds
- be a minimum age of 20 years old:
  - Flexibility on building age may apply to Indigenous\*, Northern, or remote located organizations.

*\*Indigenous applicants do not need to be in a Northern or remote area for flexibilities to be considered.*

Eligible activities include, but aren't limited to:

- a building condition assessment (BCA) report
- an energy audit (ASHRAE 3 or equivalent)
- an energy modelling study
- project drawings and specifications
- engineering studies
- construction cost estimates
- developing a business case to demonstrate the benefits or impact of the retrofit



- environmental site assessments or a hazardous materials report
- site surveys

### **Incentives:**

Funding is available for up to \$130K per pre-retrofit project.

Contact your [CMHC Housing Solutions Specialist](#) before preparing your application.

### **How to apply:**

Please find more information on CHMC's webpage: [Pre-retrofit funding for residential buildings | CMHC \(cmhc-schl.gc.ca\)](#)

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## **CANADA GREENER AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM: RETROFIT**



Providers of community housing with an affordable housing mandate can get financing for energy retrofits. These retrofits make their rental buildings more climate friendly by reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Eligibility:**

Eligible housing types need to ensure that projects must:

- be primarily residential
- include at least 5 units or beds
- be a minimum age of 20 years old:
  - Flexibility on building age may apply to Indigenous\*, Northern, or remote located organizations

*\*Indigenous applicants do not need to be located in a Northern or remote area for flexibilities to be considered.*

### **Incentives:**

Funding is available as a forgivable loan for 100% of eligible retrofit costs, up to \$170k per retrofit project.

Deep energy retrofits must target the following:



- 70% reduction in energy consumption relative to pre-retrofit performance, and
- 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions relative to pre-retrofit performance.

### How to apply:

Project submissions are accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis until the remaining funds are committed.

Apply here: [Canada Greener Affordable Housing – Retrofit Funding | CMHC \(cmhc-schl.gc.ca\)](https://cmhc-schl.gc.ca/canada-greener-affordable-housing-retrofit-funding)

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## NATIONAL HOUSING CO-INVESTMENT FUND – REVITALIZATION



The [National Housing Co-Investment Fund – Revitalization](#) fund was renamed the Affordable Housing Fund: Renovation. It prioritizes partnerships between governments, non-profits, and the private sector. This fund provides low-cost and forgivable loans to develop energy-efficient, accessible, and inclusive housing. It is for mixed-income, mixed-tenure, and mixed-use affordable housing.

### Eligibility:

All projects must:

- Have a minimum of 5 units/beds
- Have primary use as residential
- Meet the minimum requirements for partnerships, financial viability, affordability, accessibility, and energy efficiency.

### Incentives:

There are different options available to non-profit housing providers including low-interest loans and contributions to renovate and repair affordable and community housing. Please refer to the [webpage](#) for more details.

### How to apply:

[Reach out to your CMHC specialist](#) at 1-800-668-2642 or email [contactcentre@cmhc.ca](mailto:contactcentre@cmhc.ca) to help you get the specific documentation required for your application to the Co-Investment Fund.



## CleanBC

### BETTER HOMES



Energy Coach Services from CleanBC provide free building science-based information about the options and opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of your home or building.

Contact them via a toll-free hotline: Toll free: 1-844-881-9790, Greater Victoria: 250-412-0489, or send them a message online: CleanBC [Energy Coach](#)

### CLEANBC INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY ENERGY COACH PROGRAM AND HEAT PUMP INCENTIVE



The Province of B.C. offers free energy coaching services [through the Indigenous Community Energy Coach Program](#). They support Indigenous communities in taking advantage of the CleanBC Indigenous Community Heat Pump Incentive and related energy efficiency offers.

#### Eligibility:

Please see the program details and eligibility criteria for the [CleanBC Indigenous Community Heat Pump Incentive](#).

#### Incentives:

The Indigenous Community Heat Pump Incentive covers up to \$12,000 for residential homes or up to \$200,000 for community buildings. They must be switching from fossil fuel heating systems (e.g., propane, natural gas, or oil furnaces) to electric heat pumps. The program is designed for community-led, bulk installations.

#### How to apply:

Contact the Indigenous Community Energy Coach program at [ICEC@coach.betterhomesbc.ca](mailto:ICEC@coach.betterhomesbc.ca) to ask questions and learn more about the program.

For general information about available rebates, incentives and programs, contact [betterhomesbc.ca](http://betterhomesbc.ca) at [ask@betterhomesbc.ca](mailto:ask@betterhomesbc.ca) or call 1-844-881-9790



## INCOME QUALIFIED PROGRAM



Based on household income, the CleanBC Income Qualified Program offers enhanced rebates to make energy-saving home upgrades more affordable.

### Eligibility:

Eligible buildings:

- single-family detached
- semi-detached
- row home or townhome

### Incentives:

Funding is available for 95% of project costs up to \$33,000.

Rebates are available for insulation, windows and doors, heat pumps, heat pump water heater, electric service upgrades, ventilation, health and safety.

You must pre-register and receive an eligibility code before completing the upgrade. Learn more and apply here: [CleanBC Income Qualified Program • CleanBC Better Homes \(betterhomesbc.ca\)](#)

## FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES

### GREEN MUNICIPAL FUND - SUSTAINABLE AFFORDABLE HOUSING



The Green Municipal Fund's [Sustainable Affordable Housing \(SAH\)](#) supports local affordable housing providers. These include not-for-profit organizations and housing co-ops. They help them retrofit existing affordable housing units or build energy-efficient new ones that emit lower GHG emissions.

### Eligibility:

Canadian non-profit, mission-driven affordable housing providers are eligible for this program. Other project eligibility criteria need to be met as part of the project deliverables. Please refer to the [application guide](#) for more information.



### Incentives:

The fund offers support throughout the life cycle of a construction project through five funding options:

- [Planning](#) – Grant up to 80% of costs up to \$25,000.
- [Studies](#) – Grant up to 50% of costs up to \$175,000.
- [Pilot projects](#) – Grant up to 80% of costs up to \$500,000.
- [Retrofit capital projects](#) – Financing up to 80% of costs up to \$10 million (50% loan). Grant and loan proportions are based on anticipated energy performance (e.g., a 35% energy reduction would result in a 35% grant).
- [New-build capital projects](#) – Financing up to 20% of costs up to \$10 million (50% loan).

### How to apply:

For questions about how to apply, contact an FCM representative at [gmfinfo@fcm.ca](mailto:gmfinfo@fcm.ca) or 1-877-417-0550.

## VANCITY NON-PROFIT HOUSING RETROFIT GRANTS



Funding is for projects that help non-profit housing providers and co-ops. They put their buildings on a pathway to net zero and climate resilience. These are buildings that emit no greenhouse gases and withstand a changing climate.

### Eligibility:

- A non-profit housing society, non-profit housing co-operative or an organization that helps non-profit housing providers implement climate-friendly retrofits.
- A Vancity member.

### Incentives:

- Funding for energy retrofit planning and studies is up to \$80,000.
- Funding for retrofit projects is 10% of capital costs up to \$90,000 + up to 10% of capital grant for implementation support.

For more information regarding the program, eligibility, and project deliverables, please refer to their webpage: [Non-Profit Housing Retrofit Grants - Vancity](#)

### How to apply:

Contact [Patrick Caraher](#), Portfolio Planning Specialist, at [pcaraher@ahma-bc.org](mailto:pcaraher@ahma-bc.org) to apply.