

COMMUNITIES AND GOVERNMENT

The Energy Efficient Buildings Strategy (EEBS) takes steps to improve energy efficiency in B.C.'s urban and rural communities and in public sector buildings.

Community leadership in energy efficiency and conservation is necessary to meet our Province's future energy needs and to achieve electricity self-sufficiency.

EEBS will help B.C.'s urban and rural communities improve energy efficiency through the following actions:

- ▶ \$20 million for community energy plans, energy saving kits, energy efficiency investments and alternative power supplies for remote communities.
- ▶ \$500,000 to expand the Community Action on Energy and Emissions program, under which local governments and First Nations are encouraged to provide accelerated approvals, other incentives and new policies to support efficient new homes and buildings.
- ▶ Complete energy plans for all B.C. communities.
- ▶ Require local governments to incorporate greenhouse gas reduction targets in their Official Community Plans and Regional Growth Strategies.
- ▶ Set targets for new buildings' energy needs from community based clean energy sources.

British Columbia has set the most aggressive greenhouse gas reduction targets in North America. The Province is leading by example with its own operations, developing energy efficient standards, introducing tax measures, and investing in improved energy performance in public sector buildings.

EEBS will help B.C.'s public sector improve energy efficiency through the following actions:

- ▶ Reduce government's electricity demand by 20 per cent, reduce natural gas demand and promote alternative energy options.
- ▶ \$75 million in capital funding, to retrofit existing public sector buildings, including measures such as higher efficiency lighting and more efficient boiler systems.
- ▶ Government will become carbon neutral by 2010 through efficiency measures combined with offsets.
- ▶ All new provincial public buildings will be constructed to LEED® Gold or equivalent standards.
- ▶ BC Hydro and FortisBC will install digitally operated smart meters for their residential and commercial customers.
- ▶ New rate structures will encourage energy efficiency and conservation.
- ▶ Coordinate energy efficiency programs among governments, utilities and the private sector.
- ▶ Set energy efficiency targets with utilities, supported by a \$500,000 contribution to a province-wide energy conservation potential study and implementation plan.