

Energy Efficiency

Incentives and Rebates New Builds and Retrofits



The City of Castlegar has recently committed to the implementation of the **BC Energy Step Code**. The BC Energy Step Code is a provincial regulation that local governments in British Columbia may use if they wish to incentivize or require a level of energy efficiency in new construction that goes above and beyond the requirements of the BC Building Code.

BC ENERGY STEP CODE TIMELINES FOR CITY OF CASTLEGAR

STEP 1	Building Bylaw Amendment DECEMBER 2020	Building Energy Modelling
STEP 2	Building Bylaw Amendment DECEMBER 2022	Increase 10% Energy Efficiency
STEP 3	Building Bylaw Amendment DECEMBER 2022	Increase 20% Energy Efficiency

WHAT IS THE BC ENERGY STEP CODE?

The BC Energy Step Code is a performance-based approach to meeting the energy performance requirements of the BC Building Code. This approach establishes a desired outcome and leaves it to the design and building team to decide on how to achieve it.

To comply with the BC Energy Step Code, builders must use energy software modelling and on-site testing to demonstrate that both their design and the constructed building meet the requirements of the standard. They may use any materials or construction methods to do so.

WHAT IS AN ENERGY RETROFIT?

The BC Energy Step Code addresses new construction and is not applicable to construction projects that pre-date December 2020. The City's existing built environment contributes to 32% of the City's GHG emissions. To meet our GHG emissions targets of 33% less energy by 2033 the City will need to retrofit up to 1,120 existing homes, while improving the energy efficiency standards of new buildings. The City has compiled a list of available incentives and rebates that are available to residents wishing to pursue energy and thermal upgrades to their homes to assist in meeting this objective.

It is important that residents inform themselves of the eligibility requirements of these programs, as available incentives and rebates may change over time. The City will make every effort to keep this list as up to date as possible but there may be circumstances in which programs change and the City is not provided notification of those changes.

WHAT INCENTIVES ARE AVAILABLE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION?

The City is providing builders a **full rebate for mid-construction blower tests**. A mid-construction blower test is a tool used to ensure that construction will meet targeted steps as per the pre-construction compliance report. This tool allows builders to understand what they may be missing during the construction process regarding air barriers and seals better preparing them for the higher levels of the BC Energy Step Code when they come into effect. Builders will need to arrange testing directly with an Energy Advisor and bring their invoice to the City for direct payment or re-imbusement if already paid for in 2021. Better Homes BC keeps an up-to-date list of qualified professionals who can help you with your project. For more information, please visit their website at: <https://betterhomesbc.ca/ea/>.



Mid-Construction Blower Door Test

Steps

1. Submit a Building Permit Application.
2. Submit pre-construction report.
3. Schedule a mid-construction blower door test with an Energy Advisor (or qualified professional).

A mid-construction blower door test is conducted once the air barrier is in place, but before the drywall has been installed. This allows the air barrier to be tested, and if required, repaired prior to drywall installation.

4. Within 90 days of the test, submit a copy of your invoice to the City for payment or re-imbusement.



Provincial and Federal Programs

The Province of BC has several programs in place that can assist homeowners and home builders under the **Clean BC** initiative, including **rebates for your home** and for **electric vehicles**. We encourage residents to visit <https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/> for more information.

The Federal Government has also recently launched the **Canada Greener Home Grant** which provides grants up to \$5000 for home retrofits and up to \$600 available toward EnerGuide Evaluations. Natural Resources Canada also offers financial assistance for commercial and institutional building retro-fits under the **ISO 50001 program**. We encourage residents and business owners to visit www.nrcan.gc.ca for more information on these programs.



Available Programs

Steps for New Build

1. Choose your rebate pathway – either the Energy Step Code Pathway or the Heat Pump Pathway.
2. Visit the Regional District of Central Kootenays Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) website: <https://rdcksavenow.ca/programs/> to determine what programs are applicable to your construction project and to register.
3. The REEP program will provide you information on energy efficient high performing homes, information on BC Energy Step Code, information on available incentives and rebates, advice on heating systems and support on the integrated design process.



Local Programs

The City of Castlegar participates in the Regional District of Central Kootenay's (RDCK) **Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP)** that provides guidance on the available programs, incentives and rebates available to Castlegar residents. More information can be found under <https://rdcksavenow.ca/programs/>.

The REEP program includes direction for new home construction and existing home improvements, including free home energy evaluations and upgrades for income qualified households through the **Energy Conservation Assistance Program**. More information on this program is provided through **Fortis BC** under **rebates and energy savings**.



Available Programs

Steps for Renovations

1. Contact a local Energy Advisor to conduct an **EnerGuide Evaluation** of your home to determine what renovations or energy upgrades would provide the greatest benefit. This pre-renovation assessment is required to access available rebates, incentives and financing.
2. Visit the Regional District of Central Kootenays Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) website: <https://rdcksavenow.ca/programs/> to determine what programs are applicable to your construction project and to register.
3. Your local Energy Advisor will provide advice as to what rebates, incentives and financing may be available to help offset the costs associated with your project.

