



## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

# MEDIA RELEASE

July 13, 2020  
For immediate release

## Regional Energy Efficiency Program – Home Renovation One year update and a new campaign to save energy and money

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Nelson, BC: To celebrate the second year of the Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) – Home Renovation program, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is pleased to announce a new **REEP** campaign: **REEP – SaveNow** which goes live today! Due to COVID-19, our approach to REEP had to either stop, or, like us all, adapt. Working hard with our partners at FortisBC and Nelson Hydro, we adapted and are excited that our new REEP – SaveNow will offer RDCK residents, both renters and homeowners, with online access to free energy saving products.

REGISTER NOW AT [WWW.RDCK.CA/REEP](http://WWW.RDCK.CA/REEP)

“Saving energy and money is even more important at this time of uncertainty, so we’ve adapted REEP to support residents in making their homes more energy efficient,” said Paul Faulkner, Senior Energy Specialist, RDCK. “By offering residents access to energy saving products, we are creating an opportunity for renters and homeowners to save money now, while we wait for energy evaluations to start up again.”

As part of the SaveNow campaign, participants can choose energy efficiency products at no charge. Depending on their preference and heating system, they can choose from programmable or smart (such as the Ecobee or Nest) thermostats which enable remote control of your home’s heating system, plus various energy saving bundles. Simply follow the steps online, go through the ordering process and then products will be shipped directly to your address for free. Installing energy saving measures not only can help with utility bills through the summer and the upcoming heating season, but for many years to come.

FortisBC, the natural gas and electricity provider to many residents in the area, is continuing to provide funding for the program as part of their ongoing campaign to reduce energy consumption in British Columbia.

“We appreciate the opportunity to partner with RDCK’s Home Renovation initiatives to help our customers save energy and improve the comfort of their homes,” said Beth Ringdahl, Residential Program Manager, FortisBC. “We encourage everyone - homeowners, renters and income-qualified customers to take advantage of this program.”

The RDCK is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. REEP – Home Renovation was developed to assist homeowners in making their buildings more energy efficient. REEP is an expanded version of

Nelson's EcoSave Program and is now open to all residents within the RDCK. Since the program's launch last April (2019), 335 residents have registered.

To claim your free energy saving gift(s) and learn more about the Regional Energy Efficiency Program, visit [www.rdcksavenow.ca](http://www.rdcksavenow.ca). The order form will be set up to select various energy saving products as well as an option to register for the REEP. It is not mandatory to register for the program in order to receive the free products, however, a program representative will contact you and explain how you can access free product installation.

*Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca).*

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**Backgrounder:**

**REEP – Home Renovation basics:**

- RDCK residents register at [www.rdck.ca/reep](http://www.rdck.ca/reep)
- Registrants can then access a subsidized EnerGuide home energy evaluation.
  - The energy evaluation recommends energy efficient upgrades (retrofits) to reduce energy consumption, save money and lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- The combined cost for the pre-retrofit and post-retrofit evaluations is \$725 and with the program subsidy and current rebates, the resident only pays \$140.
- There is also an income-qualified option - FortisBC and BC Hydro's Energy Conservation Assistance Program - ECAP. For those who qualify, the evaluation and installation of energy saving products is free and may even include a new energy efficient refrigerator and natural gas furnace.
- Upon registration, program registrants access current rebate offers, financing options, a local contractor guide and energy coaching.