



## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

# BACKGROUND

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For immediate release

## Regional Energy Efficiency Program

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The Regional District Central Kootenay (RDCK) is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and has developed the Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP). The program offers two streams: **Home Renovation** and **New Home**. The energy efficient home renovation stream provides incentives that support energy audits and access to rebates. The energy efficient new-home education stream provides training and access to information for all new home builders.

The program offers environmental and social benefits.

- **Environmental benefits:** The Home Renovation program is designed to reduce 309 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) per year (equivalent to the GHG emissions of 66 passenger vehicles driven for one year). The New Home program will encourage a standard of construction, outlined in the BC Step Code that will produce 1.03 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year (equivalent to the emissions of 440 liters of gasoline) less per home than a home built to the prescriptive path of the BC Building Code.
- **Social benefits:** The program makes energy efficiency accessible first by reducing the cost of EnerGuide home energy evaluations, second by installing free energy efficiency products (LEDs, Water Efficient Shower Heads and Taps) and third by supporting residents' participation in Fortis and BHydro's income qualified Energy Conservation Assistance Program (ECAP).

The Regional Energy Efficiency Program is a partnership with all RDCK member municipalities, local utilities—BC Hydro, FortisBC and Nelson Hydro—Community Energy Association (CEA), and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). A grant from the FCM's Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (MCIP) provides 71% of the funding for REEP.

Community Energy Association (CEA) and Nelson Hydro are REEP's primary partners. They share the role of delivering the program by providing the following services:

- Nelson Hydro leads the Home Renovation program to offer EnerGuide home energy evaluations, retrofit incentives and rebates and with the goal to penetrate 3% of the existing housing stock or 774 homes.
- CEA leads the New Home program to offer education, training and workshops to builders and officials with the goal of 80% penetration. This supports the transition of building practice in our area to the new BC Energy Step Code, a component of the BC Building Code. ([www.energystepcode.ca](http://www.energystepcode.ca))

*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, water services, and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca).*

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