

BC Energy and Zero Carbon Step Codes

In 2017, the BC Energy Step Code established performance requirements for energy efficiency in new buildings. The Step Code was created because:

- Local governments require new energy-efficient buildings
- Builders wanted more consistent requirements across neighbouring local governments
- The province wanted to reduce energy use and greenhouse-gas emissions from buildings

The BC Energy and Zero Carbon Step Codes is a compliance path in the BC Building Code that local government may use to incentivize or require a level of energy efficiency in new construction that goes above and beyond the requirements of the base BC Building Code.

It consists of a series of steps, representing increasing levels of energy-efficiency performance. By gradually adopting one or more steps, local governments can increase building performance requirements in their communities. The Province of BC has set a goal that all new buildings must reach a net-zero energy ready level of efficiency by 2032; the BC Energy Step Code serves as the policy pathway to reach that goal.

The District has adopted the [Building and Plumbing Bylaw 1150](#) for the implementation of the BC Energy Step Code. We are currently at Level 3 for all buildings with the exception of guest cottages, which will remain at Level 2. Smaller renovations and additions are not subject to the Energy Step Code but will be subject to the prescriptive requirements of the BC Building Code.

To learn more BC Energy and Zero Carbon Step Codes, please visit BC Energy Step Code Website at [BC Energy Step Code Website](#) or contact the Planning and Community Services Department at **250-655-5470** and speak with a Building Official.