

NEWS RELEASE

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Nanaimo Council invests to help residents reduce emissions & save money

Rebates are available for home energy saving renovations

Summary

On May 30, 2022, Nanaimo City Council allocated an additional \$100,000 from the Climate Action Reserve Fund to support the City's continued participation in the Province of British Columbia's CleanBC Better Homes Rebate Program. This supports the continuation of a two-year partnership between the City of Nanaimo and the Province of BC to encourage home energy retrofits and reduce residential building emissions.

Through the CleanBC program, Nanaimo homeowners who apply for a home energy renovation rebate may be eligible for additional rebates provided by the City of Nanaimo. Nanaimo homeowners could receive up to \$15,000 in rebates from the Provincial CleanBC funding as well as an additional \$1,400 from the City. These additional amounts are also processed by CleanBC, and qualifying homeowners will receive these top-up amounts with their CleanBC rebates - no additional applications are required.

Rebates are available for a variety of home energy renovations including installing a heat pump, home energy assessments, door and window replacement, insulation, ventilation equipment and electrical and hot water heating equipment upgrades. Although the CleanBC program no longer includes a rebate for home energy assessments, the City of Nanaimo continues to offer a rebate to offset the cost of both initial and follow-up home energy assessments.

Existing low-rise residential buildings make up approximately 18 per cent of the City's total emissions or about 89,070 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. Since the start of the program with an initial investment of \$100,000 in April 2020, Nanaimo has been one of the most active municipalities in B.C. in terms of program uptake. The program issued 359 rebates in Nanaimo and helped reduce approximately 774 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, primarily through upgrades from oil and natural gas to electric heat pumps. Electric heat pumps produce 97 per cent less greenhouse gas emissions than a high-efficiency natural gas furnace, can provide heating and cooling without a secondary air conditioner and are up to 300 per cent more efficient than electric baseboards. They have become an effective option for homeowners to reduce their emissions, receive year-round comfort and save money on home heating.

CleanBC has recently launched an income-qualified zero interest financing program to provide a loan of up to \$40,000 for switching from a fossil fuel (oil, propane or natural gas) heating system to a heat pump. Other income-qualified rebates are available that can cover up to 60 to 95% of home upgrade costs with maximum values of \$9,500 for windows, doors and heat pumps, \$5,500 for insulation and up to \$3,500 for heat pump water heaters.

For more information on available, visit the Rebate Assessment page on www.nanaimo.ca and the CleanBC website at www.betterhomesbc.ca

Strategic Link: This program supports Council's goal of Environmental Responsibility by taking a leadership role and focusing on our environmental impact and climate change contributions.

Key Points

- On May 30, 2022, Nanaimo City Council allocated an additional \$100,000 to support Nanaimo's continued participation in the CleanBC Better Homes Rebate municipal top-up program.
- Home energy renovation rebates and income-qualified financing opportunities are available to Nanaimo residents. More information about available rebates can be found on the City of Nanaimo and CleanBC websites.
- The City of Nanaimo has been coordinating with the Province of BC to deliver a streamlined CleanBC Better Homes Rebate Program to support home energy retrofits and reduce emissions of existing residential buildings since April 2020.
- Grant top-ups for Nanaimo residents include a \$350 top-up for residents that switch to an electric air-source heat-pump or heat pump water heater and an additional \$500 top-up to support an electrical upgrade needed to support the heat pump.

Quotes

"Partnering with the Province to support CleanBC rebates is an effective way to help the City reduce residential building emissions. By taking advantage of the available rebates, Nanaimo residents will not only save money on home energy renovations, they will also save money in the long term on their utility bills while helping the City reach its emission targets."

Leonard Krog
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

Quick Facts

- In April 2019, Nanaimo City Council declared a Climate Emergency and set a target to reduce community green house gas emissions from 2010 levels by 50 to 58% by 2030 and 94% to 107% by 2050.
- Existing low-rise residential buildings make up approximately 18% of the City's total greenhouse gas emissions (City of Nanaimo 2017 Community Emissions inventory)
- Between April 2020 to March 2022, the City of Nanaimo issued 359 rebates and helped reduce approximately 774 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

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