

How We Build



Buildings are at the centre of our daily lives — they're where we live, work, learn and gather. They also use a lot of energy and are the second-largest source of emissions in Coquitlam.

Most of these emissions come from burning fossil fuels like natural gas for heating and hot water. By making our buildings more efficient and switching to low-carbon energy sources like electricity, we can cut emissions while also adding cooling to keep homes and workplaces safe and comfortable all year.

Where we build matters too. Complete, well-designed communities bring shops, parks and services close to home, making it easier to stay local and use active or sustainable travel to reach the things we need.

There is strong community support for improving our buildings, from making them more energy efficient to reducing emissions, while also balancing other priorities like resilience and affordability.

Action is already underway. Provincial rules like the Energy Step Code and Zero Carbon Step Code are setting higher standards for new construction, helping ensure that buildings are low carbon and resilient. The City is also working with other levels of government and community organizations to connect residents with information, rebates and incentives for energy-efficient upgrades and retrofits that reduce emissions and provide cooling.

Our vision is a community where new buildings are constructed using low-carbon materials and processes where possible. In addition, all new and existing homes and buildings are thermally safe, comfortable, healthy, efficient and affordably powered by low-carbon energy sources so Coquitlam is more livable, sustainable and resilient.



In 2022, 93% of building emissions in Coquitlam came from natural gas used for heating and hot water.



Photo Credit: Metro Vancouver Housing

Celebrating Success

Since 1980, the Le Chateau apartment in Coquitlam has provided supportive living for families, seniors and individuals with disabilities. Through collaborative efforts by the Pembina Institute, the Province, Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation and the BC Non-Profit Housing Association, the building is undergoing a deep energy retrofit and will be upgraded with electric heat pumps, energy-efficient windows and doors, and new insulation to enhance tenant comfort and improve safety. These retrofits will significantly reduce the building's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.



Example Actions

#	ACTIONS	TIMELINE
B1.3	Explore opportunities to encourage innovative, low-carbon and resilient construction, including heating and cooling solutions in new residential construction.	Medium Term
B2.1	Explore ways to support and promote programs and initiatives that help protect vulnerable individuals from extreme weather events including ones that support access to cooled indoor and cleaner air spaces, as well as income-qualified programming through government and utility partners.	Short Term
B3.2	Continue to integrate a climate and sustainability lens into new and updated land-use plans by developing complete and well-connected neighbourhoods that offer a mix of land uses, and that support transit and active transportation.	Ongoing
B4.3	Work with utility partners to identify capacity-constrained neighbourhoods and advocate for the prioritization of electrical service upgrades that support housing growth.	Ongoing

▶ See the full list of **How We Build** strategies and actions at coquitlam.ca/ClimateAction

What You Can Do

- ▶ Switch to LED lighting and look for appliances and electronics with the ENERGY STAR certification.
- ▶ Explore incentives and rebates to make your home or business more energy efficient.
- ▶ Consider climate-friendly home retrofits like a heat pump.

Co-Benefits



Supports green job creation



Reduces extreme temperatures



Improves community livability and vitality