

News Release

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City launches videos, incentives and free workshop to improve home energy efficiency

Surprised by high energy bills? Interested in improving home energy efficiency? Three short videos from the City of Campbell River provide useful information and a reminder that incentives are available to help homeowners and builders.

"As part of the City's Power Down initiative, these videos offer tips and tricks for improving home energy efficiency and saving money," says Amber Zirnhelt, the City's long range planning and sustainability manager. "They showcase common problems, solutions and ways to get information – including how builders can build more energy-efficient homes with minimal increases in construction costs."

The short videos use contemporary animated graphics and focus on:

- How to improve home comfort and reduce energy bills
- Building to the BC Energy Step Code
- Incentives available

Rebates for Home Energy Evaluations and Improving Home Energy Rating highlight resources for homeowners to improve home comfort and efficiency. (The City offers a \$150 incentive to support home energy performance evaluations as well as \$2,000 for converting oil or natural gas heating systems to heat pumps, with additional incentives available from the Province.) Step Up Your Home Construction explains the BC Energy Step Code and City incentives to help residential builders construct more energy efficient dwellings.

See the videos in the home energy playlist on the City's YouTube channel (one click from the icon at the top of the website at campbellriver.ca or via <u>www.youtube.com/cityofcampbellriver</u>.

With support from BC Hydro, the City is also hosting a free home energy efficiency workshop Feb. 20 to highlight tips and tricks for energy efficiency upgrades and renovations, and energy use considerations when buying a house. The workshop will take place at the Coast Discovery Inn in Campbell River from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

"As part of our Power Down Campbell River program, this workshop will introduce the community to our local energy advisors and share ideas for improving home energy efficiency," says Amber Zirnhelt, the City's manager of long range planning and sustainability.

Find more information, resources and incentives to improve home energy performance, at: campbellriver.ca/rebates

The BC Energy Step Code was enacted by the Province in April 2017 to move toward better building energy performance.

The City of Campbell River is a signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter, which seeks to improve building energy efficiency. The City's Community Energy and Emissions Plan aims to have energy-efficiency retrofits conducted annually on two per cent of all buildings 2020.

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