

August 29, 2025

Dear Prime Minister Carney and Honourable Minister Robertson,

We are pleased that Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada has taken on the important challenge of building new homes through the Build Canada Homes initiative.

We wholeheartedly support the federal government stepping in to spur much-needed affordable housing construction.

We would like to see these new homes use the most modern technologies for heating and cooling air and water. Rather than building these homes with antiquated oil or gas heating, residents of Canada would greatly benefit from homes that come equipped with high efficiency electric heat pumps or other low-carbon alternatives like high-efficiency direct electric or geothermal district heating. We call on you to explicitly add this requirement to the investment criteria in your [Market Sounding Guide](#).

Electric heat pumps are a proven technology and are now able to provide heat in temperatures as low as -25C, making them an excellent choice across nearly all climate zones in Canada. There are examples of heat pumps working in northernmost regions, including in Nordic countries.

Heat pumps are several times more efficient than oil or gas-fired equipment, making them significantly less polluting (no matter the electricity source). They are cost comparable for builders and developers, and take less time to install as they do not require new gas lines or hookups.

Homes equipped with electric heat pumps will meet cooling demands for our ever-warming climates, improving the comfort, health, and safety of residents across the country. Heat pumps can also be outfitted with filters which improve indoor air quality, a necessity at a time when wildfire smoke is impacting a growing number of communities.

In line with the Build Canada Homes goal of building faster, better and smarter, requiring government-funded homes to be equipped with the latest technologies would send an important market signal to the construction industry, creating green jobs and spurring the training needed for Canada to fully step into the modern building age.

Choosing low carbon heating options would also ensure that Build Canada Homes does not undermine the government's own climate reduction targets. Buildings are Canada's third largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, mostly stemming from fossil fuels used for heating and hot water. Building millions of new homes with non-emitting heating systems is one of the most effective and simple actions we can take to meet our climate commitments while making life more affordable for Canadians.

We urge you to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used in a way that is consistent with the country's climate goals, while keeping housing affordable and comfortable for residents and helping the building industry progress towards a low-carbon future.

Signed:

#### Building and construction industry experts

1. Philippe Dunsky, Dunsky Energy + Climate Advisors
2. Bruce Murdoch, K-Country Homes
3. Erica Wolowidnyk, EW Architecture Inc.
4. Tom Berkhout, Birch Energy and Climate Consulting
5. Eric Doherty, Ecopath Planning
6. Austin Hawkins, f2a architecture + construction
7. Terry Bergen, RJC Engineers
8. Lukas Armstrong, Stand Architecture Inc. Nelson BC
9. Danny Robinson, Sol40 Energy Inc.
10. Hayes Zirnhelt, Whole Systems Energy Consulting
11. Kevin D Brown, think design consult passive house inc.
12. Stephen MacDonald, EfficiencyOne
13. Ryan Zizzo, Mantle Climate
14. Betsy Agar, Efficiency Canada
15. Melina Scholefield, Zero Emissions Innovation Centre
16. Emma Norton, The ReCover Initiative
17. Jake Miller, Toronto Home Energy Network

#### Business leaders

18. Tyler Hamilton, MaRS
19. Steve Anderson, NewMode
20. Jason Mogus, NetChange Consulting Inc
21. Meeru Dhalwala, Co-Founder of Vij's and Lila Restaurants, B.C.
22. Jacqueline Voci, We Love Communicating
23. Donovan Woollard, OPEN Technologies
24. Jordan Lewin, Digital Sparks Media
25. Jennifer Cutbill, Lateral Agency
26. Rochelle Owen, Rochelle Owen Consulting
27. Sarah Chiasson, Halifax Climate Investment, Innovation and Impact Fund

#### Environmental and climate organizations and community voices

28. Lana Goldberg, Stand.earth
29. Tim Gray, Environmental Defence Canada
30. Cameron Esler, David Suzuki Foundation

31. Colleen Thorpe, Équiterre
32. Maggy Burns, Ecology Action Centre
33. Alexandra Woodsworth, Dogwood
34. Dr. Melissa Lem, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)
35. Angela Bischoff, Ontario Clean Air Alliance
36. Seth Klein, Climate Emergency Unit
37. Megan Lohmann, Community Energy Association
38. Isabel Siu-Zmuidzinis, Wilderness Committee
39. Adam Scott, Shift: Action for Pension Wealth and Planet Health (a project of Makeway)
40. Ann McAllister, Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in NB (CRED-NB)
41. Beatrice Frank, Georgia Strait Alliance
42. Tracey Saxby, My Sea to Sky
43. Gareth Gransauil, re-generation
44. Julia Langer, The Atmospheric Fund
45. Christian Savard, Vivre en Ville
46. Maggie Chao, Leadnow
47. Amara Possian, 350.org
48. Zoe Grams, Climate Caucus
49. Sarah Buchanan, Toronto Environmental Alliance
50. Andrea Long, Generation Squeeze
51. Wyanne Sandler, For Our Kids
52. David Miller, Elbows Up for Climate
53. Angelika McLaren, Chase Environmental Action Society
54. Julia Beatty, Shuswap Climate Action Society
55. Michael Barkley, Climate Action for Lifelong Learners (CALL)
56. Kim Perrotta, Canadian Health Association for Sustainability and Equity (CHASE)
57. Lori Goldman, First Things First Okanagan
58. Eoin Finn, Force of Nature (North Shore Team)
59. Laurie Parkinson, Force of Nature Alliance
60. Donelda Rose, South Fraser Unitarian Congregation
61. Rita Bijons, Green 13 Toronto
62. Parkdale-High Park 4 Climate Action
63. Karen Crosby, New Westminster Climate Action Hub
64. Salome Waters, Saanich Eco Advocates
65. Kate McMahon, For Our Kids, Burnaby
66. Anne Keary, For Our Kids Toronto
67. Tylene Appel and David Smith, Seniors for Climate Action Now!
68. Catharine Jean Gibson, Seniors for Climate Action Now! Kelowna Chapter
69. Sherry Hillman, Seniors for Climate Action Now! Kawarthas Chapter
70. Gina Lammel, Seniors for Climate Action Now! - Guelph Chapter
71. Pamela Stevenson, Seniors for Climate Now! South Okanagan Chapter
72. Linda Sivyer, Seniors for Climate Action Now! - Brant, Hamilton, Norfolk, Niagara Chapter
73. Lidija Biro, Seniors for Climate Action Now! Niagara chapter

74. Hart Jansson, Halton Action for Climate Emergency Now (HACEN)
75. Melanie Langille, New Brunswick Lung Association (NB Lung)
76. Pamela Nicholas and Dora Stroud, Greater Victoria Community Climate Hub
77. Brian MacLean, Etobicoke Climate Action
78. Jane Devonshire, South Island Climate Action Network
79. Donna Jennison, Guelph Climate Action Network (GCAN)
80. Karen Rathwell, Guelph Wellington Coalition for Social Justice
81. Carol Essex, Citizens Climate Lobby, Toronto West Chapter
82. Sherry Olson, Climate Justice Saskatoon
83. Glenn Wright, Saskatchewan Coalition for Sustainable Development
84. Jared Blustein, Calgary Climate Hub
85. Laura Sacks, West Kootenay Climate Hub
86. Sue Cairns, East Kootenay Climate Hub
87. Stephen Crozier, White Rock South Surrey Climate Corps
88. Claudia Cornwall, Climate Safe Cities
89. Herb Sawatzky, 50by30Niagara
90. Wei Li, Vancouver Cohousing
91. Suzanne Senger, Sunshine Coast Conservation Association
92. Liz Benneian, Biodiversity and Climate Action Niagara
93. Janet Parkins, Frack Free BC Vernon Chapter
94. Annette Gibbons, Grimsby Environmental Network
95. Evan Ferrari, eMERGE Guelph Sustainability
96. Dawn Pearson, Toronto350
97. Derek Coronado, Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario
98. Ian D. Brown, View Royal Climate Coalition
99. Roger Bryenton, BC Hydro Ratepayers Association
100. Avril Torrence, Council of Canadians South Okanagan Chapter
101. Richard Sivyer, West Lincoln Green Team
102. Jane Weixl, CAN! - Climate Action Now, North Okanagan
103. Giovanna Boniface, Occupational Therapy Climate Action Network
104. Stefan Hostetter, Green Majority Radio
105. Dawn Tremblay, Ecology North
106. Andy Kubrin, Citizens' Climate Lobby
107. Kiran Dhatt, Inclusive Place of Pickleball (IPOP)
108. Louise Schwarz, Recycling Alternative
109. Kathleen Molesk and Carole Holmesi, Grand(m)others Act to Save the Planet
110. CaroleAnn Leishman, Powell River Sunset Homes (Seniors Housing) Society
111. Jeff Boniface, OT Climate Action Network