

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 11/15/2023 8:22:38 AM
Subject: Upcoming information bulletin: Hot water at home engagement launch (Nov 16, 2023)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will issue the below information bulletin on Thursday, Nov 16 inviting Vancouver residents to provide feedback on proposed changes to shift to higher efficiency hot water heaters in existing detached homes when undertaking a large renovation, or when a hot water heater is being replaced. Public engagement to help shape the details of the proposed regulation runs from Thursday, Nov 16 to Thursday, Dec 7.

Please keep this information bulletin embargoed until it goes live from the City media account on November 16.

Over the three week engagement period, our City social media channels will invite residents to learn more and take the survey by visiting Shape Your City. Maria will share the initial social links with you once live, should you wish to amplify on your channels.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
Information bulletin
November 16, 2023

Help shape proposed updates to reduce emissions from detached homes

Vancouver residents are invited to provide feedback on how we can move toward higher efficiency hot water equipment in existing detached and duplex homes.

Over the past decade, Vancouver has updated its building code to reduce emissions as technology improves and more energy efficient equipment becomes readily available. The two proposed updates to the Vancouver Building By-law for existing single-family detached homes and duplexes are

1. Home renovations over \$75,000 would no longer be required to upgrade airtightness and attic insulation, and instead would be required to replace existing hot water heaters with higher efficiency equipment (to go into effect in July 2024).
2. When hot water heaters are replaced, they must be replaced with higher efficiency equipment (to go into effect in January 2025)

Higher efficiency means equipment that is at least 100 per cent efficient, which includes electric water

heaters, electric heat pump systems, hybrid gas/electric systems, and high-efficiency gas heat pumps. It does not include typical gas water heaters, condensing or on-demand gas water heaters (often called “high-efficiency”), as these are all less than 100 per cent efficient.

Several exceptions, most notably for emergency replacements of hot water heaters, are also being proposed to provide flexibility and smoother uptake of the regulations in the early years.

Tell us what you think

Learn more about the proposed changes and complete the survey before Thursday, December 7:

<https://shapeyourcity.ca/hot-water-at-home>

Background

Nearly 60 per cent of Vancouver’s carbon pollution comes from burning fossil fuels to heat our buildings, which includes both space heating and hot water. Through the City’s [Zero Emissions Building Plan](#), most new buildings will be near zero-emissions by 2025. Now, as part of the [Climate Emergency Action Plan](#), the City is exploring ways to decrease emissions from existing buildings by reducing the amount of energy needed and switching to renewable sources, while also simplifying the City’s renovation requirements.

The proposed changes to Vancouver’s building code are aligned with upcoming CleanBC regulations and supported by financial incentives offered by both BC Hydro and Fortis, along with additional training for local suppliers to support market readiness.

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