

livegreen

A HOUSING SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

BC Housing has a new sustainability strategy called livegreen: A Housing Sustainability Action Plan.

livegreen outlines BC Housing's vision of being a leader in North America in developing and managing environmentally sustainable social housing.

livegreen has three main objectives:

- Using less energy and acting in more sustainable ways
- Working with our non-profit partners, suppliers, employees and social housing residents to promote energy savings and foster a conservation culture
- Setting a positive example for British Columbia's residential construction industry to encourage sustainable building and property maintenance practices

Why BC Housing is Committed to livegreen

Livegreen supports the Government of British Columbia's climate action commitments to:

- Reduce British Columbia's greenhouse gas emissions by 33 percent by 2020 from current levels
- Make provincial government operations carbon neutral by 2010
- Set new energy efficiency standards for buildings in British Columbia by 2010
- Use energy efficient technologies and environmentally friendly building designs when constructing new provincially-funded facilities

How We'll Learn to livegreen

livegreen sets sustainability goals in five priority areas:

- Building new facilities to be carbon neutral and to achieve the highest standards in environmental design and construction
- Reducing energy consumption and green house gas emissions, including achieving a 50 percent reduction in emissions by 2020 from current levels by retrofitting existing buildings and by building and travelling green
- Decreasing resource consumption and waste, including establishing recycling programs and completing water efficiency retrofits at 100 percent of public housing sites and reducing social housing construction waste in landfills by 50 percent
- Creating and supporting a livegreen culture among employees by appointing a livegreen employee council to lead engagement
- Increasing environmental awareness and action among non-profit and industry partners as well as social housing residents by supporting the development of tenant-led livegreen plans and activities

BC Housing Success Stories

- Initiating a pilot project to complete energy efficiency retrofits at 49 social housing buildings across the province for a total energy savings of 5 million kilowatt hours a year – enough to power 500 homes in British Columbia
- Designing 30 LEED™ social housing buildings
- Constructing all new buildings to a higher standard of sustainability
- Establishing a new energy manager to work directly with non-profit housing operators to increase energy savings. This is in addition to an existing manager of energy projects working on sustainability and conservation initiatives for BC Housing
- Developing three LEED Gold certified buildings at Southeast False Creek including one that consumes net zero energy
- Completing four projects to meet federal EnerGuide 80 standards
- Ensuring office additions and renovations are energy efficient and low impact
- Reducing resources and waste by using hybrid cars, 'greening' work stations, recycling in office buildings and recycling vinyl siding from building improvement projects
- Participating in the 'commuter challenge' Jack Bell Ride Share program, Earth Day
- Offering transit pass discounts