



BC Housing's *livegreen* Employee Council

The *livegreen* Employee Council takes the lead for BC Housing on employee engagement elements of our broader *livegreen* Housing Sustainability Plan. The plan puts us at the forefront of innovative people practices and helps our staff become environmental leaders. As BC Housing's ambassadors, it's important our employees share in this commitment, contributing ideas and generating awareness.

LEADING THE WAY IN SUSTAINABLE LIVING

The *livegreen* Employee Council strives to influence the personal choices our employees make every day – at work, at home and in our communities – that impact the environment. This innovative group of leaders creates and promotes activities that engage their fellow employees to live more sustainably. The council also leverages opportunities to work with community organizations.

REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Aligning with the objectives of *livegreen*, the council is committed to reducing green-house gases, reducing waste and promoting overall sustainable living in these areas:

- Home
- Commuting and travel
- Food

AMONG THE INITIATIVES THE COUNCIL HAS UNDERTAKEN:

- Conducting an annual Employee Sustainability Survey for BC Housing staff to measure our performance in various areas of sustainability, enabling us to compare ourselves to other progressive organizations;
- Developing and launching a new interactive intranet site; and
- Implementing various initiatives such as: the BC Housing Recycles Days; Next Steps green commuting challenge; composting and community gardening; Green Cleaning Kits and the Shopping Bags sustainable shopping program; and Lunch and Learn sessions on various green living and sustainability topics.

BC Housing is committed to developing and managing environmentally sustainable social housing for British Columbians. Our 2010/11 *livegreen*: Housing Sustainability Plan is our comprehensive sustainability strategy that sets out our approach for working with our many partners in the housing sector in the following areas:

- Leadership and innovation in sustainable social housing buildings, design, construction and management;
 - Guiding and supporting others in taking actions leading towards sustainability; and
 - Integrating sustainability into all business areas and activities.
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BC Housing's *livegreen* Employee Council *(continued)*

WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS

The *livegreen* Employee Council follows a traditional volunteer governance model. It is comprised of a chair, vice-chair and secretary, as well as members-at-large. Positions are held for two-year terms and are filled through a nomination and election process. All BC Housing employees around the province are eligible to participate. Three non-elected and non-voting (ex-officia) members provide support, guidance and advise the council.

Findings from the Employee Sustainability Survey demonstrate that BC Housing employees are striving to work and live sustainably. Some notable results included:

- More than half of all commuting trips made by employees involve alternative choices to single occupancy car travel such as walking, biking and telecommuting. When cars are used, carpooling accounts for almost 22 per cent of all trips. That's more sustainable than the regional average of 12.5 per cent;
- In terms of home and food, staff make conscious choices in such areas as: cleaning and gardening products; electricity and gas usage; recycling electronics and computers; minimizing packaged foods; and reusing plastic bags or using cloth bags; and
- At work, staff are diligent about supporting recycling of reusable mugs and containers, turning lights off when leaving rooms, sharing copies of meeting materials, and taking alternate transportation at least once a week.

livegreen – BC Housing's pledge to you!

