



BC Housing's mandate is to fulfill government's commitment to the development, management and administration of subsidized housing for British Columbians most housing need. More than 93,000 individuals and families in about 200 communities across the province are assisted through our social housing programs and initiatives.

We are among one of the largest landlords in the province, directly managing about 7,000 public housing units. We also have funding partnerships with more than 800 non-profit housing organizations that provide about 58,000 social housing units housing. BC Housing also provides cash assistance to about 27,800 households to make their rent more affordable in the private market.

We are also involved in developing new housing across the province in partnership with non-profit housing providers and the private sector. Each year hundreds of new social housing units are completed through our development programs, providing homes for a range of households in greatest housing need, including low-income seniors, individuals with special needs, Aboriginal households as well as those who are homeless/at risk.

In the two years since the introduction of our first **livegreen: Housing Sustainability Action Plan**, BC Housing has accomplished many goals in our commitment to develop and manage environmentally sustainable social housing. The plan calls for BC Housing to work with its partners to use less energy and implement sustainability initiatives, promote energy savings and foster a conservation culture, and set a positive example for British Columbia's residential construction industry by encouraging sustainable building and property maintenance practices.

We've had some significant achievements:

- 26 multi-unit supportive housing projects are being designed and constructed to achieve LEED Gold certification and are registered with the Canadian Green Building Council;
- Energy consumption and related greenhouse gas emissions in our directly-managed public housing portfolio have been reduced by seven per cent over the 2005 baseline;
- The biggest social housing renovation and renewal plan in our history is underway with funding from the \$177 million Housing Renovation Partnership; and



- We have adopted innovative modular construction which uses local contractors and local and recycled materials (including pine beetle wood) for a new building program called the Seniors' Rental Housing initiative in communities across the province. These developments will also meet or exceed the EnerGuide 80 standard and use Energy Star rated products.

BC Housing's corporate vision calls for '*housing solutions for healthier futures*'. New understanding of the impacts of global trends such as increasing air and water pollution, loss of green spaces, agricultural land and biodiversity, climate change, and many others redefine healthy futures. Individual health is dependent on a healthy environment, both physical and social. BC Housing's 2010/11 **livegreen**: Housing Sustainability Action Plan connects the links between individual health, housing and future sustainability and builds upon our original priorities within three strategy areas calling for:

1. Innovation in design, construction and management of social housing buildings;
2. Leadership in guiding and supporting others in taking action towards sustainability; and
3. Integration of financial, social and environmental considerations into all business activities.

We are also exploring further opportunities to encourage sustainability in the residential construction sector through our new responsibilities under the *Homeowner Protection Act*.

We will continue to build new social housing to sustainable building standards and are on track to meet the provincial government's target to be a carbon-neutral organization by 2010. Our 2011/12 targets include a 15 per cent reduction of GHG emissions from our owned and leased buildings relative to the 2005 base year. These targets become more ambitious over the course of time.

Never has the time for the housing sector to adopt sustainable actions been more critical. There is growing awareness that climate change represents significant challenges for the economy, society, and communities as well as for the environment. BC Housing is committed to meeting these challenges as well as providing a leadership role within the sector.

For more information, please visit
www.bchousing.org/aboutus/livegreen

livegreen – BC Housing's
pledge to you!

