



## 2011/12 *livegreen* Housing Sustainability Plan

We are one of the largest landlords in the province, directly managing about 7,200 public housing units and have funding partnerships with more than 800 non-profit housing organizations that provide about 60,000 social housing units for low-income seniors and families, individuals with special needs, Aboriginal households as well as those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. BC Housing also provides cash assistance to more than 25,000 households to make their rent more affordable in the private market.

In the three years since the introduction of our first *livegreen* Housing Sustainability Plan, we have accomplished many goals in our commitment to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and achieve carbon neutrality. The plan calls for BC Housing to work with our partners to use less energy and implement sustainability initiatives, promote energy savings and foster a culture of conservation.

### **WE'VE HAD SOME SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Energy retrofits being conducted on more than 5,600 of our directly managed units have resulted in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent compared against our 2005 baseline, exceeding our already ambitious target of 15 per cent.
- The GHG emissions that we were not able to reduce in 2010 have been balanced out by the purchase of carbon offsets from the Pacific Carbon Trust. We are the first housing agency in North America to achieve carbon neutral status.
- More than 40 LEED buildings either completed or under construction are registered with the Canadian Green Building Council;
- We've adopted innovative modular construction methods that use 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.

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BC Housing develops, manages, and administers a wide range of subsidized housing options across the province. Approximately 95,000 households in about 200 communities across the province benefit from our social housing programs and initiatives.

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## 2011/12 *livegreen* Housing Sustainability Plan *(continued)*

BC Housing's corporate vision is 'housing solutions for healthier futures.' The more we learn about the consequences for the global environment with increasing air and water pollution; loss of green spaces, agricultural land and biodiversity; and climate change, the more we recognize the need for action.

BC Housing's *livegreen*: Housing Sustainability Plan provides the link between individual and community health, housing and future sustainability and builds upon the plan's original priorities within three strategy areas calling for:

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

Through our Homeowner Protection Office Branch, we also encourage sustainability in the residential construction sector.

We will continue to build new social housing to sustainable building standards and to meet the provincial government's requirement to be a carbon-neutral organization. Our long-term targets include a 50 per cent reduction of GHG emissions for our owned and leased buildings relative to the 2005 baseline.

Never has the time for the housing sector to adopt sustainable practices been more critical. There is growing awareness that climate change is a significant challenge for society and the economy as well as for the environment. BC housing is committed to meeting this challenge and providing a leadership role within the housing sector.

For more information, please visit [www.bchousing.org/Initiatives/Sustainability](http://www.bchousing.org/Initiatives/Sustainability)

*livegreen* – BC Housing's pledge to you!