

# Reflection on 2025 & Plans for 2026



The City of New Westminister’s Energy Save New West continues its legacy as a leader, standing as one of Canada’s longest-running and most comprehensive community programs for energy efficiency and carbon reduction. We are pleased to report on our significant 2025 achievements and announce new initiatives that will be critical in driving the program’s growth and efforts to achieve our climate goals in the year ahead.

We’re grateful for the community’s support of Energy Save New West. Building on a strong 2025, we’re excited to expand programs and support in 2026, including:

- **Solar PV & Battery Storage Rebate Program** will be available to local residents offering up to a \$10,000 rebate!
- **Homeowner Webinar Series on Heat Pump Retrofits** will be hosted by [Ecolighten Energy Solutions](#) in 2026 Q1 to share best practices and latest information to support a quality installation with heat pump retrofits.
- **New and Updated Technical Bulletins** to be published on Energy Step Code and Zero Carbon Step Code.

- **Industry Capacity Building activities** will continue:
  - Spring and Fall 2026 Builder & Designer Breakfast events to support green building capacity.
  - F280-12 Part 2 and ESC/ZCSC Training Sessions for City Staff
- **Empower Me program extension** to continue providing support to underserved communities.

Visit our [website](#) or subscribe to our [e-newsletter](#) for the latest program updates and offers.

Wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season!

## EXISTING HOMES

 **1322**  
Total participants in **Existing Homes** since the program launched in 2012.

 **1360+**  
**e-Newsletter** subscribers and 12 [monthly newsletters](#) issued.



**Climate Friendly Homes Tour** hosted by the City in partnership with Community Energy Association (CEA) and New Westminister Climate Action Hub (NWCAL) featured 9 homes that shared their climate friendly stories. The Sustainable Home Info Sessions, hosted by NWCAL, were a huge success, attracting **over 170 attendees!** The strong interest from visitors clearly demonstrated a high enthusiasm for sustainable home technologies.

 **60**

**Residents participated in the BC Home Energy Planner** pilot and program, and the City of New Westminister had **one of the highest participation rates** among the participating municipalities.

 **17**

**Multi-language workshops hosted by Empower Me** to support equity and inclusion for hard-to-reach communities in New Westminister. In 2025, approximately **180 participants** attended Empower Me’s energy-efficiency and electric vehicle (EV) workshops. Empower Me also participated in 3 New Westminister community events, providing local multicultural communities with Summer Heat Preparedness and energy efficiency information.

 **17**

**Residents participated in the BC Hydro Direct Installation** program receiving free portable air conditioning between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

 **15**

**Residents joined the Stride Pilot** to test new Properate technology, which uses a mobile phone-based AR solution to simplify the in-home energy evaluation process. The scans will now also include F280-compliant load calculation reports to help with better sizing of heating and cooling systems.

 **5**

**Municipal Heat Pump Top-Ups** issued (January to September) with **a total of 159 rebates granted.**

The City supported residents with **increased top-ups** for all-electric central heat pumps and electrical service upgrades. *The program is now closed.*



An Estimated **Energy Savings of**  
**393**  
GJs / YEAR



With a **GHG Emission Reduction of**  
**28**  
TONNES / YEAR



**Increased Awareness**  
Promoting program updates and latest incentives from BC Hydro, FortisBC, Province of BC’s [Clean BC Better Homes](#) and federal government’s Greener Homes Loan (*discontinued*) to homeowners looking to access rebates and financial support for home energy upgrades.

## HIGH PERFORMANCE NEW HOMES

 **81**

Total participants in **High Performance New Homes** program to date.

 **56**

**High performance new homes** completed to date.

 **435+**

**e-Newsletter** subscribers and 12 [monthly newsletters](#) issued.

 **65+**

**Attendees to Spring & Fall Builder & Designer Breakfast** events hosted by the City of New Westminister in 2025.

- **Spring 2025 Online Event:** Keynote - Electrical Load Strategies in New Construction and Renovations
- **Fall 2025 In-Person Event:** Keynote - Electrical Load Strategies in New Construction and Renovations (Part 2)

 **21%**

**Better energy performance achieved** new homes built in New West compared to code-built homes.



With an average **GHG Reduction of**  
**1.61**  
TONNES/YEAR



**61%**  
**Better Airtightness**  
(avg. 2.13 ACH @50 Pa) versus industry average



**Capacity Building and Training Session** for City Staff, hosted by [Ecolighten Energy Solutions](#) on Right Sizing Heating & Cooling Equipment with CSA F280-12.



**Embodied Carbon Pilot** was launched for Part 9 builders and designers focused on reducing embodied carbon emissions from building materials.

## MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

 **55**

Expressions of interest were received by ESNW and referred to the **Rental Apartment Retrofit Accelerator (RARA)** and **Strata Energy Advisor (SEA)** programs.



**New In-suite Heat Pump Rebate programs** ([regular](#) and [income eligible](#)) launched by CleanBC and BC Hydro for condos and rental buildings to support Multi-Unit Residential Building (MURB) residents with energy efficiency and climate resiliency.

**34** total buildings and property owners participated in the RARA and SEA programs this year!




**Increased Awareness**  
MURB programs, supported through BC’s [Retrofit Accelerator Program](#), were promoted by the City of New Westminister/Energy Save New West via mailout and online platforms.

## GENERAL PROGRAM



**BC Green Business Pilot** was launched, and **4 local businesses** participated this year with **2 already achieving Gold and Green Certification.**

 **704+MWh**

**Total renewable energy generated to date by the Urban Solar Garden** solar arrays located at the Queensborough Community Centre & City Public Works Yard.



**Smart Thermostat**  
[Mysa](#) campaign launched in November 2025 for residents with electric baseboards.

Since 2020, a total of **3,562 baseboard smart thermostats** and **50 in-floor units** have been sold, resulting in an **equivalent energy savings of**

**505,680**  
kWh / YEAR

based on the average per-device savings analyzed in [Mysa’s study](#).



**New Resources Available**  
New infosheets on various topics to support local residents with energy efficiency and climate resiliency are now available: [Cooling Infosheet](#) (multi-language versions coming soon!), and [Renters Guide to Energy Efficiency](#) (also available in [Traditional Chinese](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), and [Punjabi](#)).



**Increased Awareness**  
Promotion of City’s [Summer Heat Preparedness](#) information, programs, and incentives for air conditioning to local residents.



**Website Updates**  
Visit [energysavenewwest.ca](#) to explore new blog posts, [e-newsletter archives](#), and [resource section](#)!



**Climate Action and Step Codes**  
The City endorsed the Energy Step Code (ESC) 5/EL-2 Moderate Carbon or ESC 4/EL-4 Zero Carbon Ready for Part 9 Residential New Construction, and ESC 4/EL-1 or ESC 3/EL-4 for Part 3 Multi-Family Residential Buildings – taking a step closer to a carbon-free future.