



HOME PERFORMANCE STAKEHOLDER COUNCIL (HPSC) MAY 7TH WEBINAR CONTRACTOR AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT ON COVID19 FINANCIAL STIMULUS OPTIONS

This document is presented as a draft list of options for the HPSC May 7th webinar. The primary intent of this webinar is to access contractor and stakeholder feedback on the financial stimulus options that could be implemented to kick start the short term (2020-2021) economic recovery of the industry. This information is being collected by the HPSC to share with other organizations advocating for the home energy improvement industry and to inform recommendations that will be made to the provincial and federal government. The HPSC acknowledges that recommendations made may not be pursued by either levels of government. Contractors and stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide input and other ideas during the webinar, through a survey, by email, or by connecting by phone with a Home Performance Stakeholder Council representative. Feedback can also be provided to info@homeperformance.ca.

CONSUMER AND INDUSTRY SAFETY

1. **COVID19 Safety Residential Contractor Guidelines and Consumer Confidence Building**
 - a. Develop Residential Contractor Guidelines for Safely Retrofitting Homes
 - b. Consumer Awareness Campaign on 'Safely Retrofitting Your Home'

CONTRACTOR TRAINING

Enhance December 2019 Liberal Minister [Mandate Letter Commitment](#) to “invest in skills training to ensure that there are enough qualified workers to support energy audits, retrofits and net zero home construction.”

2. **Training Stimulus Options**
 - a. Provincial: Immediate term support for contractor training and skills development
 - b. Federal: Invest \$500 million for workforce development and training to grow qualified workforce
 - c. Investment in online training tools and technologies to help transition industry capacity building from traditional in-person delivery models and scale-up green workforce

REBATES, FINANCING & TAX CREDITS

Enhance December 2019 Liberal Minister [Mandate Letter Commitment](#) to “operationalize a plan to help Canadians make their homes more energy efficient and climate resilient.” Original commitment was to invest in: a) free energy audits to homeowners and landlords, b) up to \$40,000 in interest-free lending for retrofits that will save Canadians money on their energy use, c) a cash incentive for borrowers to maximize their energy savings.

3. **Maintain and Expand CleanBC Rebate Offers:**
 - a. Increase value of existing rebate amounts for all rebates
 - b. Increase value of existing rebates – Tier 2 windows
 - c. Enhance structure and increase value of rebates amounts for deep home energy retrofits



4. Introduce new CleanBC rebates/Incentives for Contractors

- a. Upstream incentives with contractors and equipment manufacturers to help facilitate point-of-sale rebates and streamline processes for consumers
- b. A “Buy Canadian” approach with higher rebates for Canadian manufactured products

5. Introduce New CleanBC Rebates/Incentives for Homeowners

- a. Woodstove replacement rebates
- b. Electric fireplace rebates
- c. Electric home bundled rebates (insulation or windows upgrade and switch to electric)
- d. Air sealing rebates
- e. DIY air sealing rebates
- f. DIY insulation rebates
- g. Measures to improve indoor air quality (HRV and high efficiency bathroom fan rebates)
- h. Deep home energy retrofit rebates

6. Home Retrofit Programs – for Social Housing & Low and Medium Income Homes

- a. Higher value rebates for low-medium income homes (up to 80% of cost)
- b. Deep retrofit programs for social and affordable housing
- c. Market-rental retrofit program

7. Integrate Energy Audits into Programs

- a. Subsidize the EnerGuide Rating System energy evaluation
- b. Introduce an EnerGuide Rating System light energy evaluation (ERS system, less cost)
- c. Introduce new online or other simplified energy audits

8. Introduce Financing Program Options

- a. Introduce federal retrofit loans of \$40,000 or more. Provide additional rebates, ranging from 20% of costs for basic measures up to 40% of total costs for deep retrofits
- b. Enable local governments to use Property Accessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing with low or zero interest. PACE financing provides ties financing to property and is paid back through property tax
- c. Support provincially designed and implemented financing offers

9. Introduce Mortgage Supports Options

- a. Relax existing mortgage test rules for high efficiency/low carbon homes
- b. Allow homeowners to use up to \$25K of their RRSP to put toward deep emissions retrofits without any immediate tax penalty. Allow the homeowner to repay the amount taken out of the RRSP over 15 years
- c. Introduce Home Buyer Grants for low carbon homes (existing or new)



10. Federal Residential Home Energy Retrofit Tax Credits

- a. Tax credit for all home energy improvements
- b. Higher tax credit for low carbon heating systems and deep home energy retrofits
- c. Tax credits or deductions for residential landlords investing in capital projects to improve the energy efficiency of rental homes.

OTHER PROGRAM APPROACHES

11. Consumer Engagement: Well planned, sustained, consumer home energy retrofit education and marketing campaigns. To build consumer demand for home energy retrofits.

12. Mass Scale Regional Retrofit Programs and Services: Scaling up demand through large-scale neighborhood/city level promotion campaigns, aggregation of projects and lead generation, retrofit logistics support, registered contractors and consumer choice, and consumer retrofit supports.

13. Mass Scale Long Term National Investments: \$20 billion investment in a 10-year-phased-in program for deeply retrofitting 60% of homes. To include integration of just-transition skill training, capital loans for manufacturers, consumer and contractor rebates, a range of financing and mortgage options, support systems for stakeholders, large scale promotion campaigns, aggregation of projects and lead generation, retrofit logistics support, registered contractors and consumer choice, consumer retrofit supports and a publically available online platform for tracking and reporting on retrofit activity by areas, cost, retrofit type and industry capacity.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

14. Federal funds to support R&D budgets for equipment and materials manufacturers to address shortage of investments in new innovative product lines (e.g. high performance windows)

15. Support demonstration or pilot projects with innovative technologies to help fast-track commercialization/certification of innovative technologies