

## 2017 ENERGY STEP CODE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND KEY FINDINGS

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### 2017 CRD Energy Step Code Program activities included:

1. *Capital Region Building Industry Survey (August 15 – September 15, 2017)*
  - To initially gauge local awareness and preparedness on behalf of local governments.
2. *CRD Housing Action Team Presentation (October 30, 2017)*
  - To update local housing stakeholders on Step Code and local engagement opportunities.
3. *Building Inspectors Working Session (November 6, 2017)*
  - To understanding Step Code changes and compliance considerations.
4. *Local Government Elected Official and Senior Staff Energy Efficiency Building Tour (November 10, 2017)*
  - To provide overview of step code, understand building implications and tour local high energy efficient buildings.
5. *Local Government Staff Workshop (November 30, 2017)*
  - To understand Step Code changes and discuss local government programs, policies and opportunities for consistency amongst municipalities.
6. *Realtor Workshop: “Selling Energy Efficiency” (December 8, 2017)*
  - To provide information on new and retrofit energy efficiency opportunities and tools and tour local high energy efficient buildings.
7. *Building Industry Workshop #1 (November 1, 2017) and follow-up survey (until November 27, 2017)*
  - Co-hosted by Urban Development Institute – Capital Region, Canadian Home Builders Association – Vancouver Island, City of Victoria, District of Saanich, District of North Saanich, CRD CAP. Educate on Step Code and collect feedback on barriers and opportunities for local programs and policies.
8. *Energy Literacy Communications Tools (ongoing)*
  - Locally focused backgrounders on energy efficiency technologies, costing, energy modelling and other considerations for the general public and industry.
9. *Local Government Peer Networks (ongoing)*
  - Participate in Vancouver Island and province-wide Energy Step Code peer networks.
10. *Local Government Support & Reporting (ongoing)*
  - To share information, best practices, and outcomes collected via the CRD Energy Step Code Program and provincial networks.

**Summary of Key Findings – BC Energy Step Code  
Fall 2017 Capital Region Building Industry Engagement**

In regards to the CRD Survey, 81% of respondents indicated that they work or have worked in more than one municipality and that there is a strong desire for regional consistency on Step Code policies and processes.

Key opportunities identified through the survey and workshop were operational cost savings, greenhouse gas and energy reductions, and consumer benefits. Respondents indicated there is a need for training, education and awareness-raising amongst the building industry and general public, and that mechanisms need to be in place to ensure quality control and minimize risk and liability. There was a desire from participants to see incentives that support adoption, and to have builder and trades training available. There was a range of suggestions on what Step is achievable or should be adopted in the short term.

The complete building industry engagement summary is provided in Appendix B.

**Summary of Key Findings – CRD BC Energy Step Code  
Local Government and Realtor Workshop Series**

The workshop series identified that capital region local governments have a high level of interest in learning about the BC Energy Step Code, and that ongoing engagement is needed to prepare for implementation. Given the new approach and stronger reliance on third party energy advisors, local governments will need to ensure streamlined processes, market availability and clear responsibilities.

There is a high level of interest in regional collaboration and coordination in implementing programs and policies, using model language and consistent compliance reporting, where possible. The CRD CAP and CRD Climate Action IMWG will continue to support this work.

Realtors also acknowledged an interest in learning about building energy opportunities, in relation to both new builds and retrofits. They are a useful resource to support public communication of local government programs and policies and the benefits of energy efficient homes.

A detailed description of local government and realtor workshop agendas and outcomes is provided in Appendix C.