



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN



BC Energy Step Code

Revised: March 2023

What is the BC Energy Step Code?

The BC Energy Step Code was introduced by the province of British Columbia in April 2017 and was developed in collaboration with stakeholders as part of the Province's efforts to improve the energy efficiency and environmental sustainability of buildings to meet the province's climate action goals – providing a pathway to reach a net-zero energy ready target by 2032.

The Energy Step Code was introduced as a voluntary standard establishing a series of energy efficiency performance targets, or "steps", for new construction and major renovations in the province. These steps represent increasing levels of performance related to building energy efficiency. Its introduction was also intended to provide a more flexible and performance-based approach to building code compliance, allowing the market, new materials and methods and the ingenuity of builders and designers, to drive, innovate and achieve higher levels of energy efficiency and sustainability in their projects. To demonstrate compliance with the Energy Step Code, a building must meet or exceed the performance requirements set out in each step. These requirements address building envelope, airtightness, and mechanical equipment and systems.

Changes effective May 1, 2023

On February 8th the Province informed local governments that it has amended the *Building Act* and *BC Building Code* to implement Step 3 of the performance-based BC Energy Step Code, requiring most new construction in BC to be 20% more energy efficient than 2018 Building Code. This will not affect current building permits or in-progress applications but will affect any building permit applications made on or after May 1st, 2023 across the province.

To prepare the local building industry for the anticipated change, the Regional District North Okanagan adopted Step 1 of the BC Energy Step Code on January 3rd, 2022. This was a voluntary adoption at the time to ease the transition to Step 3 (20%) of the BC Energy Step Code. Since Step 1 has been adopted, there is no change to the process involved with building a new dwelling and new homes will continue to require the involvement of a Certified Energy Advisor.

This increase in Energy Step Code requirements will see a move of small residential homes (Part 9) to Step 3 and more complex buildings (Part 3) required to meet Step 2. The future changes to the efficiency of new buildings is expected to be the implementation of Step 4 (40%) in 2027 and Step 5 (80%) in 2032.

For more information please contact the Building Department:

Phone – 250-550-3700
Email – building@rdno.ca

BC Step Code Timeline

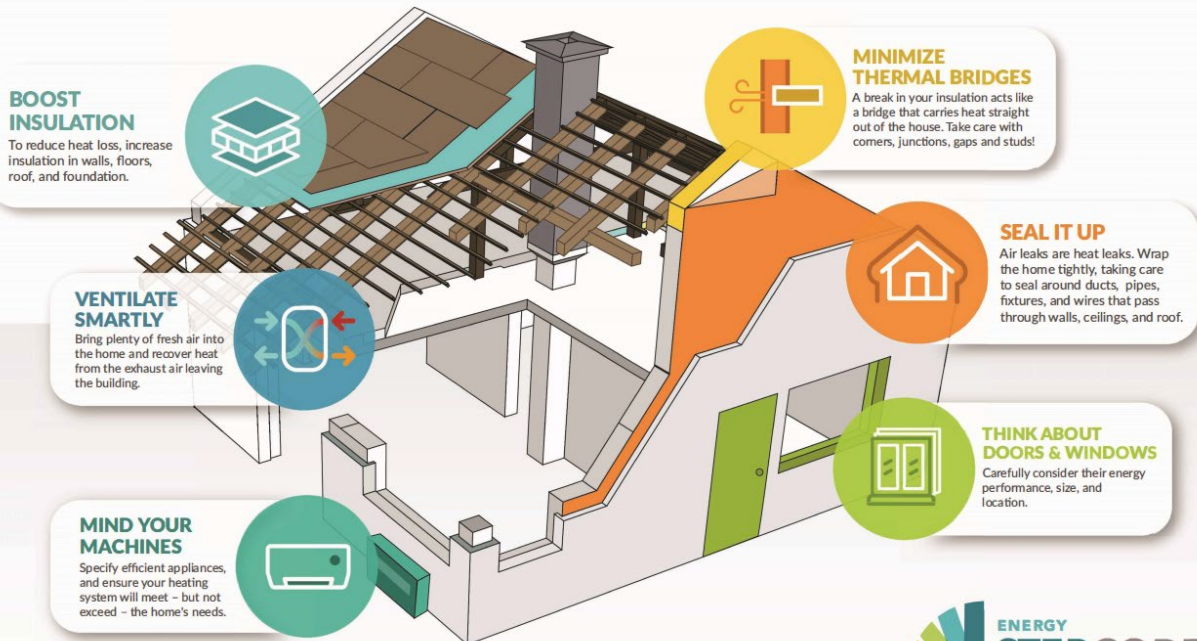
PATHWAY TO 2032: PART 9 (HOMES)



Examples of the Energy-Efficient Home

INSIDE THE STEP 3 HOME

Six strategies to boost energy-efficiency performance



For more information please contact the Building Department:

Phone – 250-550-3700
Email – building@rdno.ca