

July 2, 2024

Dear honourable members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

As you review the Design Principles and Development Plan for Building Emissions Performance Standards (BEPS) for the City of Toronto, we want to convey our enthusiastic support for this program and the direction it is taking.

Building Emissions Performance Standards are an essential component of decreasing the city's emissions but will also lead to other benefits such as lower energy bills and safer homes.

Burning "natural" gas is an antiquated way to heat the air and water in buildings. We now have more advanced and efficient technologies, namely electric heat pumps.

By retrofitting buildings to use heat pumps for heating, we will not only significantly decrease the city's emissions but we will help solve other problems. Heat pumps are 300% more efficient than gas furnaces and therefore lead to lower monthly energy bills for residents and business owners.

Heat pumps double as cooling devices, ensuring that residents have proper (and affordable) cooling in dangerously hot summer temperatures.

Heat pumps can also accommodate air filters which are becoming more important as wildfire smoke reaches Toronto residents.

Not having gas-burning systems and appliances in the home also eliminates dangerous indoor pollutants.

Of course, as planned, the BEPS need to be designed in a way that avoids negative impacts on low-income residents and includes measures that prevent renovictions and increased rents.

Responsible BEPS have already been adopted in many jurisdictions in North America, including in Vancouver.

Transitioning to non-emitting buildings is becoming the norm. It will require time and effort but in the end, all Toronto residents will be better off.

Bellingham, U.S.

Traditional Lummi and
Nooksack Lands
1329 N State St #302
Bellingham, WA 98225

San Francisco, U.S.

Traditional Chochenyo and Karkin
Ohlone Lands
548 Market Street Suite 74196
San Francisco, CA 94104-5401

Vancouver, CA

The Unceded Territories of the
Səlilwətaʔ, xʷməθkʷəy̍əm, and
Skwxwú7mesh Nations
5307 Victoria Drive, Suite 347
Vancouver, BC V5P 3V6

We appreciate the direction this committee is providing, as well as the hard work of staff members, to develop mandatory and considerate Building Emissions Performance Standards for Toronto.

Sincerely,
Lana Goldberg
Climate Campaigner, SAFE Cities
Stand.earth