

North Cowichan Energy Step Code program Q and A

1. When will the BC Energy Step Code be mandatory in North Cowichan?

Step 2 of the step code will be required for all new residential part 9 buildings start May 1, 2021

2. When does the North Cowichan Step Code rebate program start?

The North Cowichan Step Code rebates applications will be accepted for all part 9 residential buildings starting October 1, 2020.

3. Are there any energy advisors in the Cowichan Valley?

At this time there are no companies offering energy advisor services in North Cowichan.

4. Where is the best place to find more information about the Energy Step Code?

Visit www.energystepcode.ca for general information about the Step Code. For more information North Cowichan's new Step Code Incentive program visit www.northcowichan.ca/stepcode.

5. Does the step code apply to renovations or building conversions?

The BC Energy Step Code only applies to new buildings as described in the BC Building Code and for The North Cowichan Step Code Program, only to new residential part 9 buildings.

6. Does North Cowichan's Incentive Program apply to renovations or building conversions?

No, it does not. North Cowichan has partnered with the Province and enrolled in the Clean BC Better Homes Program to offer incentives for residents who want to increase the energy efficiency in their homes. You can learn more here: www.northcowichan.ca/betterhomes.

7. Why did North Cowichan not choose to apply the Step Code to commercial Buildings?

Research shows that most new commercial buildings are already being designed for higher efficiency. AS such, the opportunity to affect GHG reductions through increasing energy efficiency lies within North Cowichan focusing on residential homes.

8. How much does it cost to contract an energy advisor?

Due to varying building design complexities, and the number of steps in the Step Code to choose from, there are too many variables to state a specific cost. Contacting an energy advisor and describing what you are trying to achieve and what style/type and size building will provide the best cost estimate.

9. When will the BC Building Code require a mandatory step of the step code?

The Province announced that the 2022 BC Building Code will have a step 3 requirement for residential and a step 2 for commercial buildings.

10. Can I choose to apply for a step code rebate after my building permit is issued?

Yes, you can apply for a rebate if your energy advisor can add the necessary changes to the building and you can provide the necessary supporting documentation required by the North Cowichan Energy Step Code Policy. More information on the program and applying for an incentive can be found here: www.northcowichan.ca/stepcode.

11. Will the North Cowichan Building Department still be conducting inspections?

Yes, the Building Department will conduct all regular inspections, they will also be collecting a mid-construction report prior to approving the insulation inspection.