

HELP CITIES LEAD



CLIMATE CAUCUS

Dear Mayor and Council,

We are writing to request your support for the recently launched [Help Cities Lead Campaign](#). Help Cities Lead is an education and awareness campaign to accelerate building decarbonization through collaboration between the Province of British Columbia and local governments. The campaign is led by Climate Caucus and supported by local governments and environmental NGOs.

We are asking that Council:

- endorse the Help Cities Lead Campaign campaign; and
- commit to sending a letter of support to the Hon. Josie Osbourne, Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ECCS), the Hon. Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance, the Hon. Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLCI) and Hon. David Eby, Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Housing

Allowing for local government leadership is critical to developing innovative policies and programs to achieve deep emissions reductions from the building sector throughout the province. However, tools currently available to local governments to pursue these critical reduction targets are largely limited to information campaigns and incentives and are insufficient to achieve broad and deep energy and GHG reductions at scale.

The Help Cities Lead campaign identifies a suite of measures that will enable local governments to take effective action on reducing GHG emissions from new and existing buildings. Five regulatory measures have been identified where additional authority would be instrumental for municipalities in accelerating climate action:

- Regulating GHG emissions for new buildings
- Home energy labelling
- Property assessed clean energy (PACE) enabling legislation as outlined in the accompanying [letter from PACE BC](#).
- Regulating GHG emissions for existing buildings
- Building energy benchmarking and reporting

Direction to implement the first three of these measures - enabling local governments to regulate GHG emissions for new buildings, home energy labelling, and PACE financing - were included in the ministerial mandate letters issued in November 2020. Help Cities Lead encourages the province to move as quickly as possible and in close consultation with local governments to develop and implement these measures.

Help Cities Lead would also like the province to enable local governments to choose, when ready, to opt into the remaining two measures not addressed by the mandate letters - namely, regulating GHG emissions for existing buildings and Building energy benchmarking and reporting.

All five of these initiatives will complement what the provincial government and utilities are already doing in these areas. Additional information about each of the initiatives can be found at <https://www.helpcitieslead.ca/>

It is our hope that you will put forward a motion to Council which endorses this campaign and commits to sending letters of support to Ministers Osbourne, Heyman, Robinson, Eby, and Ralston.

Sincerely,

Will Cole-Hamilton
Councillor, City of Courtenay
Director, Climate Caucus
Steering Committee, Help Cities Lead