



FAIRFIELD GONZALES
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
the place to connect

MAKE YOUR FAIRFIELD GONZALES HOME MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT, COMFORTABLE AND CLIMATE-FRIENDLY

Make a New Year's Revolution for 2021!

Introduction

The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association Climate Action Group is bringing you a series of Fact Sheets (like this one) in 2021 to help you understand:

- Why it is important to move away from using fossil fuel energy to heat and cool your home
- How to make changes that will decrease your use of fossil fuels (saving you money in the process and making your home more comfortable and a more valuable asset)
- How you can join with your neighbours to learn from each other and realize bigger savings as well as swifter action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

Think of Your House-as-a-System

Just like your body cannot be split into separate parts when you are considering your health, your home must be considered as a system of integrated and interactive components. Thinking of your house this way will allow you to create a comprehensive long-term home energy improvement plan. This House-as-a-System approach will provide guidance on the recommended order in which to complete energy retrofits using the most effective strategies. If you're a renter BC Hydro has energy efficiency tips for you, from draft-proofing to reducing hot water usage.

How to Get Started with Energy Retrofits

Not sure where to get started with your energy upgrade plan? Use the Step by Step Guide on the BetterHomesBC.ca website for information and resources on what to do next! Make sure to check out the CleanBC Rebate Search Tool to see what rebates and offers are currently available. You can also contact the free CleanBC Energy Coach Service (see 3 below) to help answer your questions at all stages of your renovation project.



Who to contact for support:

1. Register with Bring It Home 4 the Climate (BIH) Program to access exclusive offers, events, and a Free Virtual Home Energy Check-Up.
2. Any questions - contact a CleanBC Energy Coach at 1-844-881-9790 or ask@betterhomesbc.ca
3. Contact an Energy Advisor to book an EnerGuide Home Evaluation



Typical Fairfield Gonzales Housing Stock (photo courtesy of the BC Heritage Branch)

Where is our community at now?

According to the Victoria Climate Leadership Plan buildings are the largest single source of energy use, waste and emissions in Victoria. The main source of GHG emissions in our homes and buildings come from a combination of building inefficiency and the burning of fossil fuels for heat. Unfortunately, Fairfield Gonzales has the highest proportion of households still using oil for heat in the City of Victoria. Though many households are switching from oil to natural gas, thinking it is a more sustainable solution, doing so actually **locks in fossil fuel usage for 15-20 more years** (average lifespan of a gas system).

Upcoming Fact Sheets:

Retrofits - April/May

Heat Pumps/Solar - June/July

Stay tuned for future Fact Sheets on unbuilding and other topics!



A NEIGHBOUR'S HOME ENERGY MAKEOVER STORY

Introduction

Pam's house was built in 1933 and is relatively small at approximately 1025 square feet. It is already well-positioned from a climate perspective as it is heated with electricity, is in good repair, and has thermal pane windows. Despite this, Pam decided to find out how all this worked by embarking on a greening journey for her own home.

Day-to-Day Progress

December 6 - Pam registered for the Bring it Home 4 the Climate (BIH) program; once registered homeowners are eligible to participate in a variety of virtual learning opportunities (e.g. Heat Pump webinar) and to access exclusive offers.

December 8 - Pam received confirmation and approval for the Bring It Home 4 the Climate Program.

December 9 - Being registered meant that Pam was eligible for a **free** Virtual Home Energy Check-up and report and Pam also signed up for the heat pump webinar (we'll talk more about heat pumps in a future Fact Sheet). She completed the online survey and was contacted by an Energy Expert shortly thereafter.

December 15 - Pam discussed the virtual home energy checkup report with an Energy Coach and booked a whole home 'technical energy evaluation' at the same time.



Michel in front of the 'blower door' (click on photo to learn more about blower doors)

Energy Evaluation

December 29 - Informed by the preliminary findings of the virtual check-up, an Energy Advisor conducted a 2-hour technical assessment of the home's energy usage.

January 1, 2021 - the Energy Advisor, sent Pam his report with findings and detailed recommendations about how to make her home more comfortable and energy efficient for years to come!

Pam says "Although installing a heat pump was top of the list for my home, I have also wondered about solar panels - how effective are they in our cloudy climate? Who supplies them? How expensive are they?"

Stay tuned for next steps and tips for making the decisions that are right for your home and the planet!

Costs and Timeline

1. Complete a Pre-Upgrade EnerGuide Home Evaluation with a Program-Qualified Energy Advisor. Costs vary based on a variety of factors, speak to an Energy Advisor for a quote.
2. Apply for the \$200 CleanBC Pre-Upgrade EnerGuide Home Evaluation rebate after you've had your evaluation.

Are funds tight? Consider having a Free Virtual Home Energy Check-Up instead! Register with the Bring It Home 4 Climate Program and request your check-up today!

If at any time throughout this process you need assistance, call the CleanBC Energy Coach Service at 1-844-881-9790

Find this fact sheet online on the FGCA Climate Action Group page