

## CAPACITY SCAN COVER NOTE

In early 2017, BC Housing conducted multiple research interviews with local government representatives (planners and building inspectors) and industry practitioners (energy advisors and local builders) to better understand their previous experiences in higher energy performance construction and potential challenges in implementing the BC Energy Step Code. The *Capacity Scan for the BC Energy Step Code in Select BC Communities* (Capacity Scan) provides a summary of some of the key issues identified by interviewees, and outlines important factors for success.

In response to this research, the Province in collaboration with the Energy Step Code Council (ESCC):

- Developed the *Best Practices Guide for Local Governments*, which provides guidance on how to implement the BC Energy Step Code and includes many of the lessons and best practices identified in the Capacity Scan.
- Recommended as a best practice that local governments notify the ESCC of their intent to consult and reference the BC Energy Step Code as well as once the plan is approved and ready. This information will be made publicly available.
- Committed to ongoing monitoring of BC Energy Step Code implementation to help identify issues as they arise, including an annual Local Government survey on future plans to reference the BC Energy Step Code.
- Developed a provincial policy guide that outlined minimum timelines for implementing new requirements under the BC Energy Step Code, to ensure that local government staff (planning department and Building Officials) and industry have sufficient time to prepare.
- Supported stronger coordination and development of education tools and opportunities for industry (builders, trades, architects, energy advisors, designers, engineers, etc.) and local government (planners and building officials), which will continue to evolve and progress over time.
- Funded an extensive costing analysis of the BC Energy Step Code to help inform implementation and guide industry participants on how to best achieve BC Energy Step Code requirements in their climate zone.
- Worked closely with key industry and professional associations to provide relevant and tailored information on the BC Energy Step Code for different stakeholder groups.
- Committed to ongoing monitoring of BC Energy Step Code implementation to help identify issues as they arise, including an annual Local Government survey.