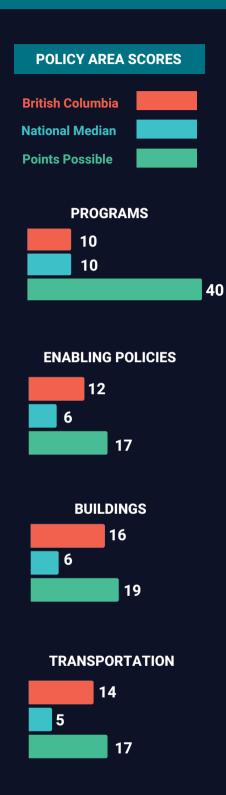
## **BRITISH COLUMBIA**



**INDUSTRY** 

## A WINNING POLICY MODEL

British Columbia remains Canada's energy efficiency leader. The clear pathway toward net-zero energy-ready new buildings through the BC Energy Step Code is a Canadian best practice, and the province leads in electric vehicle registrations.

British Columbia has the top rank in Efficiency Canada's second scorecard, earning 58 points out of 100

The delay and cost overruns of the Site C hydroelectric project demonstrate the value of

recognizing energy savings as a lower cost and lower risk alternative to new supply. Luckily, recent changes to the Utilities Commission Act require BC Hydro to file a long-term Integrated Resource Plan that must explain why any new infrastructure or energy purchases are not replaced by energy savings.

The British Columbia policy model focused on long-term "market transformation" enables the province to make future progress in areas such as building energy labeling, financing, and low-carbon heating.

## **STRENGTHS**

Building code compliance and support: BC Hydro and Fortis BC place the greatest emphasis on <u>supporting energy efficient codes and standards</u> in their program portfolios, and the BC Energy Step Code led to best practices in <u>building code compliance</u>.

**Efficient and low-carbon heating:** British Columbia is one of the few provinces to report significant <u>fossil fuel savings from heating electrification</u>, and Vancouver's building by-law established carbon pollution caps and zero emissions space and water heating requirements for new residential buildings.

## AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Financing: British Columbia has yet to enable local governments to finance efficiency upgrades through the property tax system (called <u>Property Assessed Clean Energy</u> - PACE), like Alberta, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Saskatchewan. The PACE Roadmap and Pilot Program announced in the BC Economic Recovery Plan should result in legislative changes.

Building Energy Ratings: The province can leverage the energy modelling and workforce capabilities developed through the BC Energy Step Code to implement a mandatory building energy rating program. Energy ratings will inform consumers and show the true value of properties.



