

Taking Action to Fight Climate Change



David Crombie Panel Recommendation

The Ontario Building Code is another important climate change factor. When the energy efficiency requirements in the 2012 Building Code come into effect in January 2017, houses constructed after that point will consume only 50% of the energy they would have used in 2005. However, the Building Code primarily deals with new construction, which comprises only 1 % of the overall building stock on an annual basis. Therefore, it will be essential to improve the efficiency of existing buildings.

Why Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions?

The Paris Climate Agreement and Ontario's Climate Change Strategy require transformational changes if we are going to limit global warming to under 2°C in the coming decades.

The residential construction industry has a critical role to play as a partner to government to address climate change through improving the energy performance of Ontario's 4.8 million existing homes.

The new initiatives outlined below are required to modernize existing residential buildings, which account for 10.9% of Ontario's carbon emissions.

1. Mandatory Home Energy Rating & Disclosure

OHBA supports Section 7.1 of Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan, 2014 (Mandatory Home Energy Rating and Disclosure) and intends to mandate energy labeling of existing homes at the time of sale.

- Consumer disclosure through greater accountability and transparency
- Professional advice regarding potential energy-efficient upgrades
- Market transformation as buyers make informed choices based on energy performance of housing
- Reducing energy use, hydro bills, and lowering GHG emissions
- New homes constructed under the 2017 OBC consume only 50% of the energy they would have used in 2005

2. Energy Efficient Home Reno Tax Credit

OHBA supports the Green Ontario Fund rebates for homeowners. The rebates provide significant incentives for new insulation and new heat pump installation, and replacement for old windows. This is a positive program and the rebate can be expanded to other renovations that reduce a home's energy footprint.

This measure will encourage consumers to use legitimate contractors and create a paper trail to deter underground activity while stimulating economic activity. This initiative could be funded by reducing tax revenue leakage that is lost to the underground economy.

3. Market Transformation

Mandatory Home Energy Rating and Disclosure, in combination with an Energy Efficient Home Renovation Tax Credit are directly related initiatives that would effectively target Ontario's millions of existing and aging homes for market transformation.