



## What is the BC Energy Step Code?

The BC Energy Step Code is a performance standard designed to achieve steady, incremental progress towards meeting Clean BC's goal of 80 per cent improved energy efficiency in new construction by 2032.

## When does the BC Energy Step Code come into effect?

The BC Building Code requires all new builds to be **20 per cent more energy efficient** than base Code requirements by **December 2022**. This is Step 3 for Part 9 buildings and Step 2 for Part 3 buildings.

However, Part 3 and Part 9 buildings (including homes) must comply with Step 1 of the Code by **September 1, 2022**.



## Why do I need to meet Step 1 by September 1, 2022?

Step 1 is intended to help builders who are familiar with traditional prescriptive codes make a smooth transition to building to performance codes in time for the December 2022 deadline.

For more information, contact Development Services:

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## How do I achieve compliance with the BC Energy Step Code?

1. Work with an energy advisor from the design phase onwards to create an energy efficiency target model for the new build.
  - **Find a local energy advisor** - <https://betterhomesbc.ca/ea/>
2. The energy advisor provides a standardized “pre-built” report that is submitted during the building permit application phase.
  - **Compliance tools** - <https://energystepcode.ca/compliance-tools-part9>
3. Work with the energy advisor throughout the build process to update the energy efficiency target model with design changes when needed (e.g. window specification updates, insulation level changes, etc.).
4. OPTIONAL: Work with the energy advisor to conduct a mid-construction blower door test to find and repair air leaks before the seal-up state.
  - **Energy Step Code case study** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8176K5JX0E>
5. Conduct a final inspection and airtightness test with the energy advisor. The advisor then submits an “as-built” report following construction and before final inspection or occupancy to verify airtightness and energy performance.
  - **Compliance tools** - <https://energystepcode.ca/compliance-tools-part9>
6. An occupancy permit is then issued if minimum energy efficiency requirements are achieved (as verified by the energy advisor in the “as-built” report).