

As Canada's largest community-based credit union, Vancity uses the tools of finance to expand economic opportunity, improve the wellbeing of our members, and make our communities better for everyone. The climate emergency is an urgent threat to our members and communities, and Vancity is committed to doing all we can to build a clean and fair world – including reaching net-zero carbon emissions in our lending portfolio by 2040.

The City's actions to reduce emissions from hot water and space heating and cooling systems will play a key role in supporting our members to reduce their emissions, and in Vancity's journey to achieving our climate commitments. Vancity strongly supports the City of Vancouver's climate emergency goals, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the City's 'Climate Emergency: Home Heating and Cooling' proposals.

Like the City, Vancity is focused on electrification of hot water and space heating and cooling systems. We particularly appreciate the attention the City has given to residents' concerns, including costs, finding contractors, navigating process complexities, and equity considerations. Vancity works to improve economic fairness in everything we do, including in our efforts to help our members transition away from greenhouse gas-intensive energy sources, and we are encouraged by the steps that the City is taking, such as working with BC Hydro on revising their rate structure to not penalize houses that have made the switch to heat pumps. There is more work to be done to make sure homeowners are fully supported in this transition, and Vancity is committed to using the tools of finance and partnerships to do our part.

Recently announced changes from the Province to [remove PST on heat pumps and increase PST on gas heating appliances](#), combined with the [CleanBC Income Qualified Program](#) and/or the various rebates available for electric water and space heating and cooling equipment, are helping shift the affordability balance towards electric systems. At the same time, the climate emergency demands rapid action, and it is critical that the transition to decarbonized hot water and space heating and cooling systems is backstopped by government action.

Vancity also strongly supports implementing 'time of replacement' regulations for hot water and space heating and cooling systems, and we encourage the City to prioritize electrification of these systems without delay.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input on the City's proposals. We know that this work is not easy, and that residents have valid questions about what these changes mean for them. It will be critical to continue centring equity and affordability in this work, while recognizing that inaction has even greater costs and is not an option in the climate emergency.

We welcome any questions and look forward to continuing work with the City on our shared priorities.

About Vancity

Vancity is a values-based financial co-operative serving the needs of its more than 560,000 member-owners and their communities, with offices and 54 branches located in Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, Victoria, Squamish and Alert Bay, within the territories of the Coast Salish and Kwakwaka'wakw people. With \$33 billion in assets plus assets under administration, Vancity is Canada's largest community credit union. Vancity uses its assets to help improve the financial well-being of its members while at the same time helping to develop healthy communities that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.