Introduction to Zero Carbon Step Code







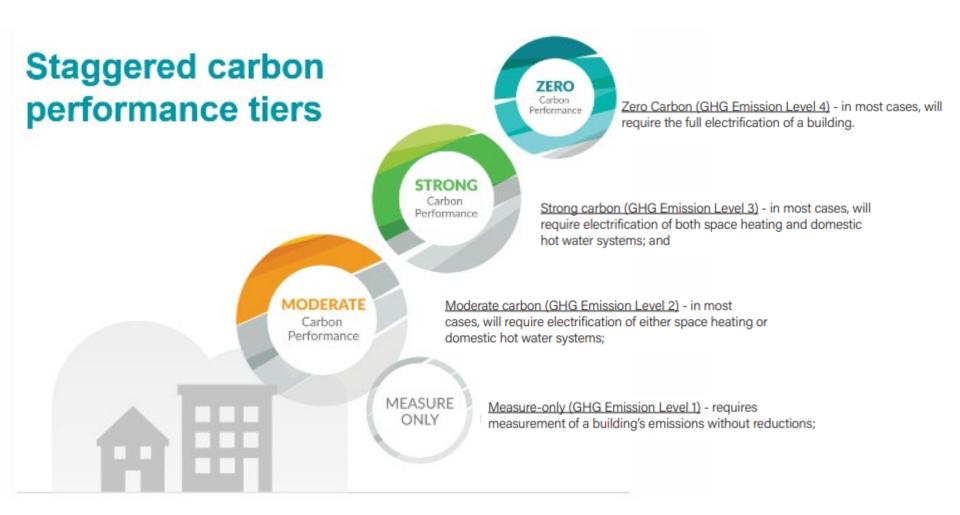
The Carbon Code has four levels of increasing strictness and focuses on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from building operations, namely space heating, water heating and indoor cooking. In 2030, the BC Building Code will require all new buildings to be Zero Carbon.



The Energy Step Code is focused on the energy efficiency of buildings by three basic principles:

- How much air leaks through the building envelope (air tightness);
- The amount of annual heating energy needed to maintain a stable interior temperature;
- The efficiency of mechanical equipment.







Comox Valley Regional District 2022-2023 Permit Review

- 17 of 241 new dwelling units are using gas as their primary heat source.
- 108 had a permit for natural gas or propane through Technical Safety BC
- Various gas appliances such as fireplaces, hot water on demand systems, or cooking facilities (indoor and/or outdoor).





Benefits of a Phased Approach

- Balances the need for immediate climate action with the practical considerations of the local building industry
- Time for builders and developers who are less experienced with high performance buildings to gain necessary skills and capacity.
- Allow staff to support community education about the Zero Carbon Step Code and respond to potential concerns
- Staff will prepare a communication plan, including education sessions in conjunction with other updates to the Comox Valley Regional District's building bylaw and a "Question and Answer" page on our website.
- Work with neighbouring municipalities to collaborate on opportunities that will be mutually beneficial



Recommendation from the Acting Chief Administrative Officer:

THAT staff be directed to report back with a proposal to adopt the Zero Carbon Step Code with phased implementation.



