

ENERGY



Using energy more efficiently

WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

Our lifestyles and increasing population put a significant demand on energy needs. We have the technology and means to make significant reductions in energy use through energy efficient technologies, better use of our energy resources and applying renewable energy resources such as wind and sun power, ground source heat, biomass power production and micro-hydro.

WHY IS THIS ACTION IMPORTANT?

Our relatively low energy costs, compared to many other countries, means we tend to use less efficient products and technologies, so we waste energy. Over time, our supply of hydro-electricity, fossil fuels and other conventional sources of energy will not be able to keep up with our demands. This will eventually lead to shortages, high energy costs, or energy supply instability. This will have ripple effects through all aspects of our society, including heating our homes, buying food, transportation, and the products we buy. By working now on a combination of efforts, we can extend our current supply of energy and smooth the transition to other energy technologies and sources. Managing our demands on electricity and fuels along with employing alternative energy technology and sources can also reduce or eliminate greenhouse emissions, and often have fewer local environmental impacts.

MEETING MYPG GOALS...

- Helping Prince George be a leader in **green energy**.
- **Reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change.**
- **Encouraging sustainable business** by being a model for northern cities in green and local business, and bioenergy.

HOW CAN THE CITY IMPLEMENT THIS ACTION?

At the City we have four focus areas for policy to facilitate the move towards improved energy efficiency:

1. Working with partners to develop a suite of information, tools and approaches that encourage all sectors to play a role, that motivates people to action, and that helps people know the easiest and most effective path for action. A key aspect of this strategy is to work towards influencing both the supply side (those that build homes and other buildings) and the demand side (the market looking for homes and buildings).
2. Developing specific approaches that facilitate energy efficiency retrofits for existing buildings. This has the potential to be one of the most significant focus areas because of the large stock of existing buildings relative to new buildings being built in a relatively slow growing community.



OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

September 2010 – Priority Directions

CITY IMPLEMENTATION CONT'D...

3. Working with partners to develop strategies and incentives to encourage new buildings to be built that have high energy efficiency and use renewable energy technologies. While this may not have as significant impact on the overall community energy use, it begins to set a long-term path for a high standard and market expectation for energy efficient buildings.
4. The fourth focus area is to address energy efficiency and renewable energy in the City's own buildings and facilities. The City is committed to energy efficiency to save money over the long term, to play a leadership role in managing energy demands and this also contributes to reducing the City's carbon footprint. The City is committed to be carbon neutral in its operations by 2012.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT ME?

If you are a builder, architect or developer, we encourage you to become leaders in promoting energy efficiency housing and other buildings. Through incentives and education programs the City will be working to motivate the market to create higher demands for energy efficiency and renewable energy. As such, over time it is expected that market demands will evolve, and developers and builders will need to be ready to respond to these new market expectations. This trend could be further accelerated by rising energy costs and reduced costs for emerging energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

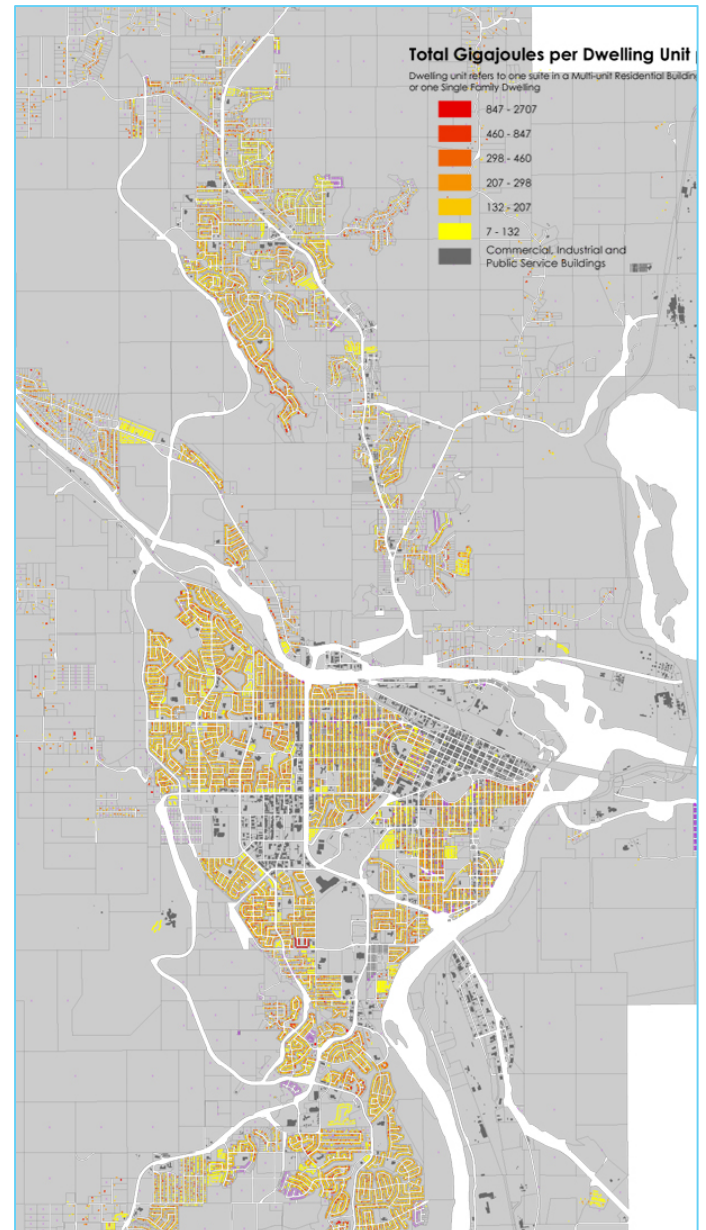
If you are a resident or business owner, you may benefit in a number of ways. First, information on energy trends and energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies will help you make informed decisions, whether you are replacing a furnace, undertaking renovations, or building a new home or business establishment. Secondly, access to incentive programs and financial tools may assist with addressing upfront capital costs for energy efficiency upgrades. This can mean a reduced pay-back period for your investment while also benefiting from your annual lower energy costs.

Share your thoughts and ideas.

Well developed policy directions will help Prince George meet its goals for a healthy future for all citizens.

- Would you add anything to this policy direction?
- Would you change or remove anything?

Contact us at mypg@city.pg.bc.ca



Prince George Residential Energy Characterization (NRCan)

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