

Energy efficiency for affordable housing providers: 6 easy steps to kickstart your energy efficiency project

Energy retrofits are renovations that help achieve high energy performance in a building. They can make housing more comfortable for residents, lower operating costs, and are a critical tool to reduce the housing sector's environmental footprint.

If your organization is considering an energy retrofit project, here are a few initial steps to help you get started.

Step 1

Identify a staff member to be the project lead. This individual will be the point person to keep the project moving. You should also identify a board member to be a project champion and to keep the board informed.

Step 2

Contact a [Regional Energy Coach \(REC\)](#) to conduct a free virtual walk-through energy assessment.

Step 3

Determine what areas are most important for the organization and building and where there is the greatest opportunity for energy efficiency. Speak with the management team, residents and the building operator to focus on relevant areas.

Step 4

Secure funding to support the initiation of your project. The Sustainable Affordable Housing (SAH) Planning and Study grants provide funding to support many of the activities in Steps 5 and 6. Read the [SAH application guide](#) and reach out to an FCM advisor through gminfo@fcm.ca or 1-877-417-0550 with any questions.

Step 5

Establish a baseline on current energy performance. Look at the building's current condition, the costs associated with energy and maintenance, and the effects on residents.

Step 6

Set energy and environmental performance goals by speaking to an energy expert. Energy experts are NRCan-licensed service organizations and energy advisors, and engineers or architects with professional designations such as Certified Energy Manager (CEM), Certified Measurement and Verification Professional (CMVP), or Certified Energy Auditor (CEA).

The Sustainable Affordable Housing initiative, delivered through the Green Municipal Fund, supports affordable housing providers to improve their energy efficiency. This is achieved through funding and capacity development support for energy efficient retrofits and new builds. [Visit our website](#) for more information.