

Demand Energy Choice and Protect Energy Affordability and Dependability in the October 17, 2026 Municipal Elections Across B.C.

Do your British Columbia community's Mayor and Councillor candidates support or oppose energy choice and your right to affordable dependable energy through local regulations?

The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy (BC CADE) is urging its members and local residents, homeowners, and business owners to demand clear positions on energy choice from municipal candidates ahead of the upcoming municipal elections on October 17, 2026.

The Energy and Affordability Issue:

Unfortunately, over 30 BC local city, town and regional district councils have voted to adopt the provincial Zero Carbon Step Code years ahead of its planned 2030 implementation date – **which effectively bans the use of renewable natural gas, natural gas and potentially hydrogen in the future – from all new construction – residential housing and business buildings.**

That means all new construction in those municipalities must be all-electric for heat and hot water, stoves, fireplaces and barbecues – at a time when:

- Energy self-security is critical;
- When BC has a 100-year supply of natural gas and is developing more renewable natural gas;
- When BC Hydro has imported over \$2 billion in electricity from the United States and Alberta - 25% of BC's total usage;
- When BC Hydro rates have gone up and natural gas prices have gone down with the elimination of federal and provincial consumer carbon taxes; and
- When B.C. depends on natural gas heat during both extreme cold and heat periods.



The issue is about choice – your choice to decide what kind of energy best fits your own circumstances. BC CADE supports energy choice, including natural gas, and not being forced to only use electricity, especially when it is coming from the United States.

The Question for Candidates for Mayor and Council candidates:

BC CADE urges voters to directly ask local candidates for Mayor and Council:

Do you support protecting energy choice, affordability and dependability for families and businesses by pledging to not vote for banning natural gas through the early implementation of the Zero wCarbon Step Code – or to vote to repeal the Code where already adopted? Yes or No?

Option: Will you vote to keep natural gas as an affordable option in new homes and businesses in our community — Yes or No?

And in communities that have voted for early implementation of the Zero Carbon Step Code:

Will you vote to repeal the early implementation of the Zero Carbon Step Code?

Why it's Important

- **Your bills:** BC Hydro rates keep rising, while gas got cheaper once carbon taxes were removed.
- **Reliability:** B.C. relies on gas heat during extreme cold and heat.
- **Made in BC:** We have massive gas reserves in BC we can use for our benefit, yet BC Hydro is importing electricity from the United States.

- **Your energy choice:** Families and businesses should decide what energy works for them, not be forced into all-electric by City Hall.
- **End the energy patchwork:** Municipalities should not be energy regulators. It's time to have a common set of energy regulations that apply across the province.

To support the campaign or to learn more about the economic impacts of accelerated municipal building mandates, please visit bccade.ca.

About the BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy (BC CADE):

BC CADE is a broad-based coalition of small and large businesses, labour unions, and non-profit organizations dedicated to ensuring British Columbians retain access to affordable, dependable, and diverse energy options. For more information and a list of members, visit our website: bccade.ca.

Sponsored by the BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy. Contact us at:



Telephone: **1-236-865-6580** or



Email: info@bccade.ca.

Municipalities that have early-adopted the Zero Carbon Step Code

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Burnaby | • District of West Vancouver | • Penticton | • Vernon |
| • Capital Regional District | • Duncan | • Port Moody | • Victoria |
| • Cowichan Valley Regional District | • Esquimalt | • Qualicum Beach | • View Royal |
| • Central Saanich | • Maple Ridge | • Rossland | • Whistler |
| • City of North Vancouver | • Metchosin | • Richmond | • Tsleil-Waututh Nation |
| • Colwood | • Nanaimo | • Saanich | • UBC campus and neighbourhood |
| • Courtenay | • Nelson | • Squamish | • University Endowment Lands (UEL) |
| • District of North Vancouver | • City of New Westminster | • Township of Langley | |
| | • Oak Bay | • Vancouver* - see note below | |

*Note: Vancouver has its own Building By-Law similar to the Zero Carbon Step Code but Council voted in May 2026 to pause it and move to allow natural gas in new construction.