



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

1791 Tullie Circle NE • Atlanta, GA 30329-2305 • Tel: 404.636.8400 • Fax: 404.321.5478 • www.ashrae.org

Darryl K. Boyce, P.Eng, FASHRAE
2019-20 President

Special Advisor, Vice President
(Finance and Administration)
Carleton University
29 Horizon Cres.
Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0
Canada
Phone: 343.549.0585
darryl.boyce@carleton.ca

February 13, 2020

The Honourable Bill Morneau
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Morneau:

Thank you for crafting a 2020 budget for Canada that includes in its priorities fighting climate change. I am President of ASHRAE, a technical society founded in 1894 with more than 57,000 members worldwide, including about 5,000 members in Canada. ASHRAE focuses on improving building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability, including mitigating and adapting to climate change.

As you and your staff work to further develop the 2020 budget, I want to echo several of the themes made in the attached letter from Efficiency Canada. Energy efficiency is one of the key means of tackling climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the building sector. As such, it is critical that funding be provided to support the retrofitting of existing buildings, to improve energy performance of new buildings, and strengthen the building design, operation, and maintenance workforce. Improved energy performance will also strengthen the resilience of Canada's built environment. ASHRAE supports several policies to advance these goals:

- Building energy audits, especially those that lead to actionable opportunities to improve energy performance. For example, ASHRAE Standard 211 can be used to ensure consistent practices for conducting and reporting commercial building energy audits.
- Optimization of building operational performance, including training and certification for facility operations, maintenance, and management.
- Skills education and training across a wide variety of building technology professions, especially since the workforce pipeline for this sector is on a decline.

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- Research funding for cutting edge technologies to improve energy performance, including net zero energy buildings.
- Strong building codes and standards, including ASHRAE Energy Conservation Standards 90.1, 90.2, and 90.4; the International Green Construction Code (IgCC); and the ASHRAE Energy Efficiency Standard for Existing Buildings, Standard 100.

Thank you for your consideration of providing funding in the 2020 Budget for Canada to support these policy goals. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact *GovAffairs@ashrae.org*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darryl Boyce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Darryl Boyce, P. Eng., FASHRAE
ASHRAE President, SY2019-20

Enclosure

The Honourable Bill Morneau
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Re: Scaling up energy efficiency in Budget 2020

Dear Minister Morneau,

We are writing to you today to encourage you to support energy efficiency measures in Budget 2020.

Across this country, more than 436,000 people – almost 1 in 50 Canadian workers¹ – are helping to make buildings more affordable, healthy, and comfortable in their communities. By cutting the pollution that comes from energy waste, energy efficiency makes taking action on climate change real for all Canadians.

The energy efficiency sector is ready to increase its efforts and support the government’s mandate to achieve a net-zero emissions future by 2050.

To successfully achieve this goal, we must recognize that the energy we save is one of the largest resources in the country. This includes retrofitting buildings, which can be part of a multi-year megaproject that can both unite all regions of Canada and create desirable careers for Canadians in sustainable energy. It is estimated that 30 job-years of employment will be created for every \$1 M invested in energy efficiency.² The Expert Panel on Sustainable Finance noted that upgrading our buildings presents a \$250-\$300 billion investment opportunity.³

There is an urgent need for this year’s federal budget to provide robust and concrete support for the government’s plan “to help Canadians make their homes more energy efficient and climate resilient.”⁴ This includes:

- Free energy audits to homeowners and landlords, up to \$40,000 in interest-free lending for retrofits that will save Canadians money on their energy use, a cash incentive for borrowers to maximize their energy savings, and creating a Net Zero Homes Grant of up to \$5,000 for newly built homes that are certified net zero-emissions”
- Making “Energy Star certification mandatory for all new home appliances starting in 2022”

¹ ECO Canada, “Energy Efficiency Employment in Canada” 2019.

² Dunsy Energy Consulting “The Economic Impact of Improved Energy Efficiency in Canada” 2018.

³ Expert Panel on Sustainable Finance – Interim Report, pp. 18-19.

⁴ Minister of Natural Resources Mandate Letter

- Launching “a national competition to create four long-term funds to help attract private capital that can be used for deep retrofits of large buildings such as office towers.”
- Investing “in skills training to ensure that there are enough qualified workers to support energy audits, retrofits and net zero home construction.”⁵
- And working with municipalities to reduce emissions “from residential, commercial and multi-unit buildings”⁶

Launching a national energy retrofit agenda in this budget will send the desired signal to the diverse network of 51,000 energy efficiency solutions providers⁷ (e.g. utilities, municipalities, contractors, technology companies) that it is time to scale up our efforts. A demonstrated commitment to supporting energy efficiency will also provide a much-needed confidence boost, spurring a long-term investment in job creation and local economic development. It will also ensure that federal programs complement and accelerate efforts at provincial and municipal levels.

As companies and organizations that make up the 436,000 people who work in energy efficiency across the economy, we are ready to start delivering a prosperous net-zero emissions future for Canada. **The time is now!**

Sincerely,

Efficiency Canada

Cc:

Minister of Natural Resources, Seamus O'Regan
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Ahmed Hussen
Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Catherine McKenna
Leader of the Official Opposition, Andrew Scheer
Leader of the Bloc Québécois, Yves-François Blanchet
Leader of the New Democratic Party, Jagmeet Singh
Parliamentary Leader of the Green Party, Elizabeth May

⁵ Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Mandate Letter

⁶ Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Mandate Letter

⁷ ECO Canada, “Energy Efficiency Employment in Canada” 2019.