

REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS IN THE BUILDINGS SECTOR: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

The buildings sector accounts for **4%** of Saskatchewan's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It is important because it touches every Saskatchewan resident.

To its credit, the Saskatchewan government is adopting the energy efficiency standards for houses and small buildings contained in the 2015 National Building Code. However, these standards do not achieve sufficient GHG emissions reductions.

1. Saskatchewan needs a higher energy efficiency code. The Saskatchewan Home Builders Association has promoted 'Energy Star' home construction for over a decade. It would thus be logical to **make 'Energy Star' the new building code requirement for house construction in Saskatchewan.** Energy Star homes are more air-sealed than a typical new home, and walls and ceilings are well insulated.

2. Energy Star should just be the first step in code improvements. **The Saskatchewan government should upgrade the energy efficiency provisions in the Saskatchewan Building Code every 5 years, with the goal of implementing a code requirement of 'net zero energy homes' by 2030.** Net zero energy homes have such high levels of energy efficiency that they do not require a furnace.

3. Revise training programs at SaskPolytechnic to **ensure students graduating as journeymen electricians and carpenters are fully qualified to build net zero energy homes.**

4. Facilitate and invest in **net zero energy home demonstration projects** in Saskatchewan's major urban centres.

If GHG emissions in the building sector are to decline, retrofits of existing buildings need to be prioritized. Needed policy changes include:

5. Establish a financial incentive program to assist homeowners in making **energy efficiency upgrades** to their homes.

6. Work to accelerate energy efficiency improvements in **existing public buildings.**



Source: "Prairie Resilience" is Not Enough, Peter Prebble, Margret Asmuss, Ann Coxworth and Bob Halliday, Saskatchewan Environmental Society, December 2018.

Read the **Saskatchewan Environmental Society's** other recommendations for the Government of Saskatchewan at:
www.environmentalsociety.ca

