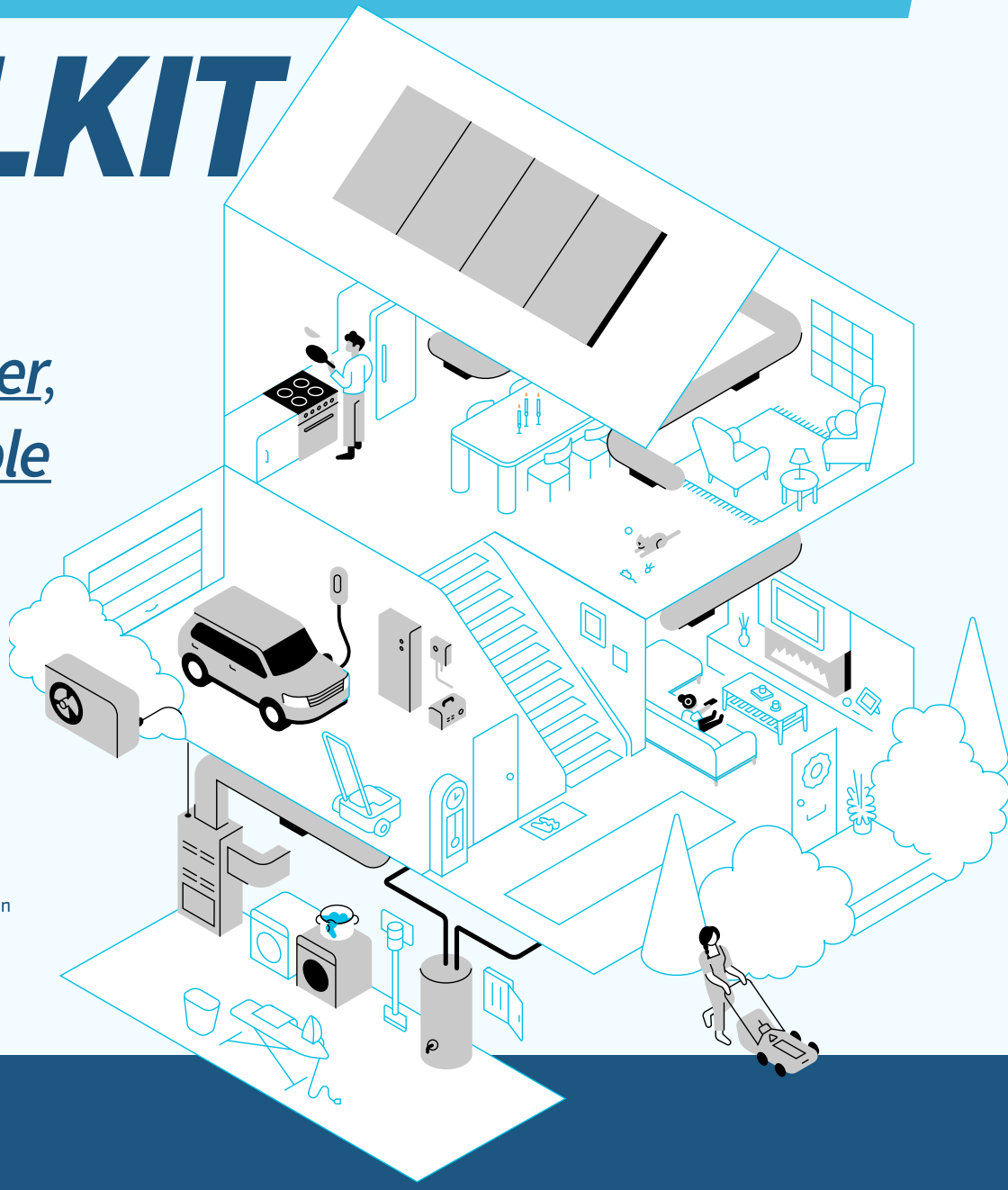
CANADA'S HOME ELECTRIFICATION TOOLKIT

Your guide to a ***cleaner, smarter, more affordable*** home



Building Decarbonization Alliance
pour la décarbonation des bâtiments

WAYS COMMUNITY GROUPS CAN HELP

Ways Community Groups Can Help

BULK PURCHASE AGREEMENTS

One way to reduce the cost of electric appliances is to organize a community bulk purchase. For more complex equipment like heat pumps, groups can put out a request for proposal for installers to bid for the installation of multiple units in many homes. When enough people sign up, discounts of up to 20% can be achieved.[1] his also sends a signal to retailers and installers that these products are in demand, helping to build technology awareness, installer capacity and greater product availability.

The Harbord Village Residents Association negotiated a bulk buy discount for induction stoves at Best Buy. For more information, see harbordvillage.com/projects/netzero-carbon-project/induction-stove-bulk-buy

COMMUNITY SOLAR

Community solar projects, also known as solar farms and solar gardens, are large solar installations where community members can purchase some of the solar panels (ownership model) or purchase a fraction of the electricity generated by the installation (subscription model). Members then receive credits on their electricity bills for their share of the electricity generated by the system.

The first step in developing community solar is to find a group of like-minded people interested in investing in the project. There are a lot of decisions to be made and stakeholders to engage. The project can be expected to take several years to complete, but the results may well justify the effort—most notably access to clean electricity and meaningful relationships with others in the community.

There are many guides available to help groups establish community solar projects. For example, the Pembina Institute has developed an Alberta community solar guide that includes a general project development process: www.pembina.org/reports/alberta-community-solar-guide.pdf

HOME TOURS AND CASE STUDIES

Home tours and case studies introduce a human touch on electrification activities. They can be an opportunity to get unbiased information and advice from people who have firsthand experience of the electrification options. Home tours and case studies are ideally organized and published by community groups that have strong links to the community and effective communications channels.

- rpsc.energy.gov/proven-practices/proven-practices-host-home-events-jump-start-outreach
- climatefriendlyhomestour.ca/

[1] Dunsky Energy + Climate Advisors (2023). **Scaling Heat Pump Retrofits through Aggregation and Bulk Procurement**. Retrieved from https://taf.ca/custom/uploads/2023/04/TAF-HP-Aggregation-Final-Report_Final.pdf

EQUIPMENT LOANER PROGRAMS

Portable induction cookers are ideal for lending out for loaner programs, allowing individuals to test them out before making a purchase. The kit should include a fact sheet and a magnet to help borrowers identify which of their pots will be compatible. Many borrowers will be impressed with the improved cooking experience as well as the ease of cleaning and better indoor air quality when using induction cookers. In California, an induction cooktop lending program reported that 72% of borrowers expressed interest in switching to induction cooking.[1]

Several libraries offer thermal cameras on loan to help residents identify places with air leaks and inadequate insulation (see examples are Ottawa and Nelson).

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Many public groups have organized events and workshops that promote home electrification. Some examples include:

- "Electrify Everything" workshops where homeowners and experts share their knowledge and experience;
- "Women EV Nights" where women support other women in learning about EVs;
- "Heat Pump Parties" where homeowners invite community members to admire and celebrate the electrification of space heating;
- "Introduction to Induction" events where homeowners share their experiences with the technology and chefs demonstrate their use.

ELECTRIFICATION SUPPORT GROUPS

The Pocket Change Project is a community group in Toronto that supports each other in reducing their individual and collective carbon footprints. A retrofit coach is available in the community to help homeowners to plan their electrification roadmap. The group holds regular events to share information, have conversations, and celebrate successes. It is a great demonstration of the power of people and their communities.

Other communities have taken a simpler approach by setting up Facebook groups to share information and support each other in installing heat pumps or other electric appliances.[2]

GAMIFYING ELECTRIFICATION

Canadian Geographic's "Live Net Zero" challenge selects households from across the country every year to participate in a carbon reduction competition. There are six challenges to the competition, including home improvements, building envelopes, heating and cooling systems, and energy efficiency. That is a great way to add some excitement to electrification.

Electric and smart home appliances are another opportunity to gamify energy savings and emissions reductions. Smart appliances can be programmed to operate during times when energy prices are low or when electricity is generated primarily from renewables. Is your community ready to challenge each other to reduce energy and emissions with smart appliances?

What Can Your Community Do?

[1] Pacific Gas and Electric Company. (2023). **Induction cooktop lending program**. Retrieved from https://www.etcc-ca.com/reports/induction-cooktop-lending-program

[2] An example is the Heat pumps for homes Canada facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/6678699425562406

This section is part of the Canada's Home Electrification Toolkit. The Toolkit provides clear, concise, and up-to-date information on space heating, cooking, fireplaces, home batteries and backup options, and other household equipment. It also includes tips for renters, strategies for avoiding potentially costly electrical panel upgrades, and case studies from satisfied homeowners.

ADDITIONAL SECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD BELOW:

Symbols and terms in this publication:

Upfront or operating cost (no incentives applied)

Symbol	Description
$	Up to $99
$$	$100-$999
$$$	$1,000-$9,999
$$$$	$10,000 and above

Implementation

Term	Description
Easy	Can be implemented by yourself if no electrical upgrade is required
Medium	Can be implemented by someone with DIY skills
Difficult	Generally requires a qualified electrician or other contractor

Emissions reduction potential (onsite emissions reductions using Canadian averages)

Term	Description
Low	1-9 kg CO2 per year
Medium	10-99 kg CO2 per year
High	100-999 kg CO2 per year
Very high	> 1,000 kg CO2 per year

When comparing electric to gas equipment on upfront costs, operating costs and emissions

Symbol	Description
=	Values differ by 10% or less
▽	Electric version is 10-50% lower
▼	Electric version is more than 50% lower
△	Electric version is 10-100% higher
▲	Electric version is more than 100% higher

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Version 1.2, released June 2025

Visit buildingdecarbonization.ca/canadas-home-electrification-toolkit for digital downloads, updates, and other information about home electrification.

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