

Blind-Eyed on Climate Change: Conservatives Plan to Kill Energy Saving Program

Written by

Sunday, 14 May 2006 15:01 - Last Updated Sunday, 14 May 2006 15:01

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BCSEA - Naomi Devine - The BCSEA Victoria Chapter Steering Committee supports the Energuide program, which was one of the exhibitors in our booth at the Victoria Spring Home and Garden Show. There was great interest in the program from visitors to our booth. With climate change clearly underway, and energy demand increasing, this program is a very effective 'Made in Canada' program to mitigate both urgent problems. It is based on measurements of energy use and assists homeowners with actual reductions.

www.bcsea.org

Dear BCSEA Victoria Members,

Although there has been no official announcement yet from Ottawa, the EnerGuide for Houses program has been effectively killed by the new Conservative government.

We would like you call and write emails to Gary Lunn telling him what you think of this decision, especially if you have personal experience with the program:

Email: lunng@parl.gc.ca

Phone: Victoria: 250.656.2320 Ottawa: 613.996.1119 (3 hours ahead of us in BC)

Feel free to contact your MP as well.

There are two components to the shutdown.

1. Energuide for Houses is for anyone and has been in operation for a couple of years, and was about to be expanded to cover rental housing. Because tenants of many rental properties pay for their own heat, but the landlord owns the building, there is low incentive to spend capital costs to upgrade efficiency.

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Although the contracts continue, the agencies running this program were told yesterday that they may not do any more initial home inspections after midnight tonight (Friday).

You may hear from the media that the contracts continue, but they are only for follow-ups on houses that have already started the program. With no new intake, the program will just wind down.

2. Energuide for Low Income Housing was a new program that all parties agreed to last November, but has not been implemented. It has been killed before it started.

Read Mr Lunn's reasons for killing the programs in Hansard at http://www.parl.gc.ca/39/1/parlbus/chambus/house/debates/019_2006-05-09/ques019-E.htm#SOB-1524148

The BCSEA Victoria Chapter Steering Committee supports the Energuide program, which was one of the exhibitors in our booth at the Victoria Spring Home and Garden Show. There was great interest in the program from visitors to our booth.

With climate change clearly underway, and energy demand increasing, this program is a very effective 'Made in Canada' program to mitigate both urgent problems. It is based on measurements of energy use and assists homeowners with actual reductions.

City Green in Victoria has built the local delivery of the program through training, publicity, and demonstrating results. It takes time to hire and train people and this investment is lost when a program is shut down on short notice. We believe that to kill this program is short-sighted and wasteful.

The Minister responsible for these changes lives in our area. Please let him know your opinions.

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This explanation for the program is from the Victoria City Green website at www.citygreen.ca/energuide

The EnerGuide for Houses service is developed and subsidized by Natural Resources Canada. By using energy more efficiently, Canadians can significantly reduce home operating costs while increasing home comfort.

EnerGuide for Houses program trains Certified Energy Advisors who use diagnostic testing and software to assess the energy performance of private homes across Canada. These evaluations are linked with grants for homeowners available from the Government of Canada.

This program is aimed at reducing the amount of energy that Canadians use in their homes and limiting the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we produce, one important step towards addressing energy-related environmental problems.

We're helping you save money, save energy, and save the planet!

Energy-saving programs lose funding
Last Updated Fri, 05 May 2006 22:37:27 EDT
CBC News

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Department of Finance officials are confirming that a whole new list of environmental programs are losing their funding as a result of this week's federal budget.

Among the best known is the Energuide program, in which Canadians who have their homes renovated to save energy can qualify for a federal grant of several thousand dollars.

About 300,000 people have used the program since its start in the late 1990s.

A home retrofitted under the program cuts its energy use by an average of 30 per cent.

But Energuide has had its budget slashed by \$227 million over the next five years. Groups that run the program say it will be a shadow of its former self and a lot fewer people will be able to take advantage of it

There's also a similar Energuide program for low-income households. Its entire budget of more than \$550 million is cut, meaning that program is now gone.

Four other environmental programs have lost most, or all, of their funding. They include everything from money to develop new kinds of renewable energy, to a program to help people switch to more efficient furnaces.

The cuts add up to just under \$1 billion over the next five years.

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The federal departments that run the programs have refused to comment. They simply say the government is developing its own environmental plan, which will be announced later this year.

source: <https://www.cbc.ca/story/canada/national/2006/05/05/energuide05052006.html>

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BC Sustainable Energy Association
www.bcsea.org
www.bcsea.org/victoria

Seeking Sustainable Solutions for all of BC's Energy Needs