

# Energy Use Matters

Improving home energy efficiency and using renewable and low-carbon energy sources for space and water heating are among the most effective actions we can take for the climate.

## Climate Concerns

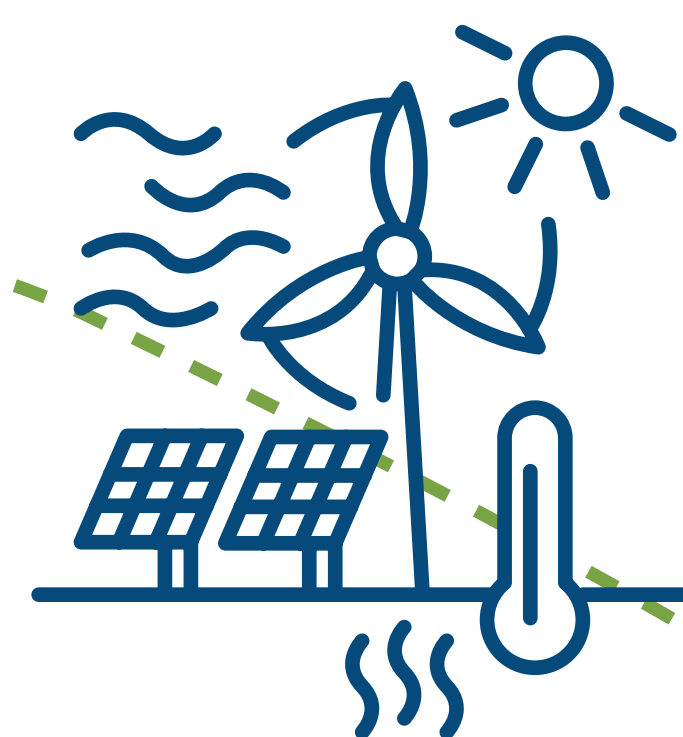
- In Kamloops, 29% of our community's greenhouse gas emissions come from energy use in buildings.
- The primary contributor is from using natural gas—a fossil fuel—for space and water heating.

## What the City Is Doing

- The City supports energy efficiency and the use of clean energy in new and existing municipal buildings and offers programs to help residents reduce energy use.
- Taking advantage of over 2,000 annual hours of sunshine, the West Highlands Community Centre has 96 solar panels, which produce ~28,000 kWh of energy per year.

## Reasons for Hope

- Renewable energy sources, such as sunlight or wind, are constantly replenishing.
- Hydroelectricity is a low-carbon energy source, as is renewable natural gas, which is made by converting waste (e.g. food scraps, farm waste, wood waste) into a biogas.
- The BC Energy Step Code requires that all new buildings meet higher energy efficiency standards.



Heat Pump and Energy Efficient Windows



© Andrew Macaulay



© Jared Putnam

## WHAT CAN I DO?



### Practice Everyday Energy-Saving Actions

- In winter, turn down the heat and use a programmable thermostat. In summer, reduce air conditioning needs by closing blinds on south facing windows.
- Reduce hot water use—take shorter showers, install a low-flow shower head, and insulate hot water pipes.
- Save up full loads before you run laundry machines (with cold water) and dishwashers (turn off the heat dry function).

### Renovate Smart and Use Clean Energy

- Reduce air leakage while improving comfort by upgrading insulation or windows and sealing drafts.
- Replace an end-of-life natural gas furnace or water heater with an electric option, such as a heat pump (which also provides air conditioning).
- Consider installing solar panels or, if you have a pool, use a solar pool heater and a solar thermal blanket.

### Explore Energy-Efficient Housing Options

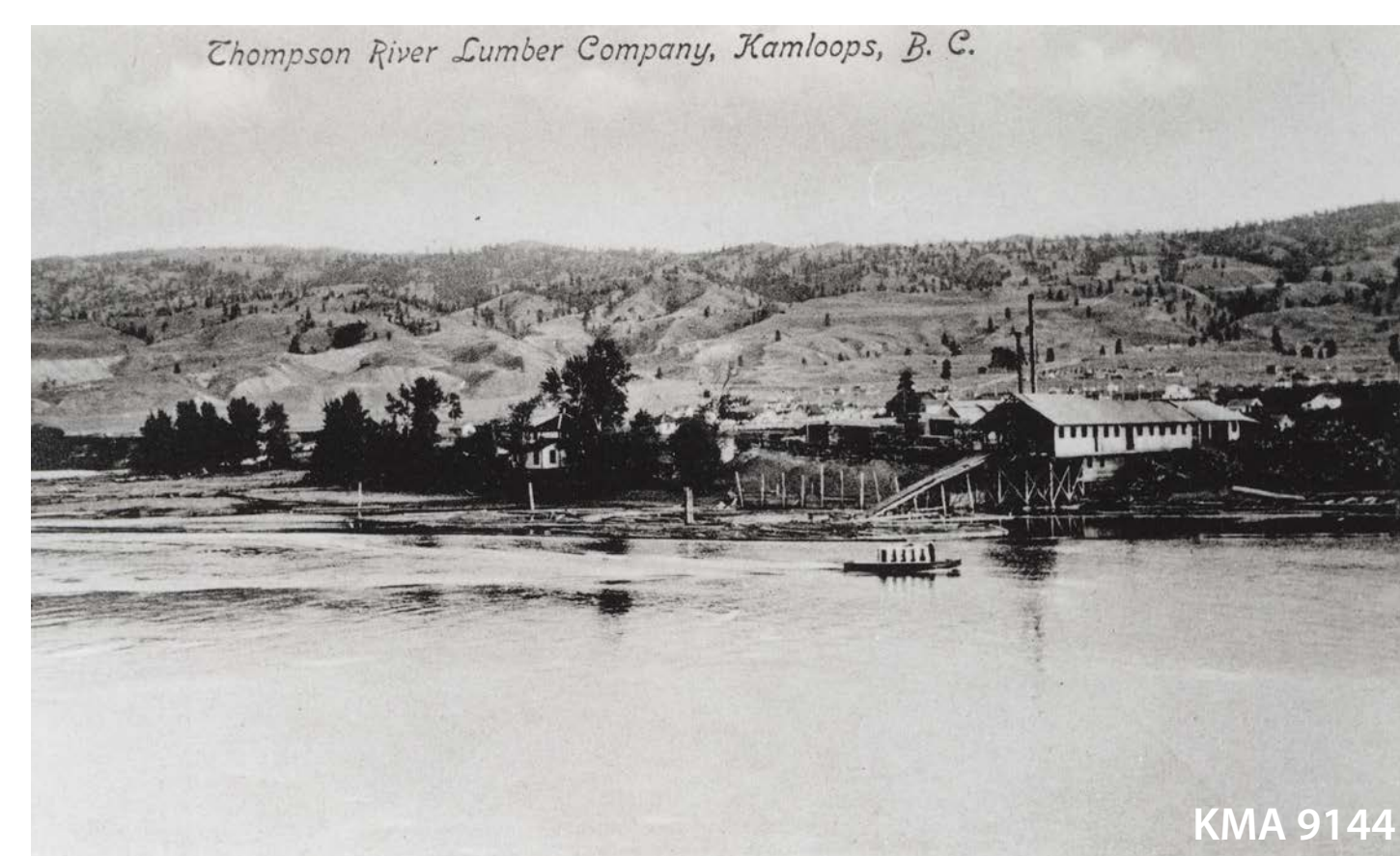
- If planning a move, consider the energy demands of potential homes, which are often determined by housing type, age, and size.
- Sharing walls means sharing heat—row houses, apartments, and condos are inherently more thermally efficient than stand-alone homes.
- Explore whether a legal residential suite or carriage house is permitted in your area to reduce the per capita energy use of your lot.

## SNAPSHOTS OF THE PAST

© Kamloops Museum and Archives



KMA 2055



Thompson River Lumber Company, Kamloops, B. C.

KMA 9144



KMA 1194

Due to growing demands and changing technologies, energy sources and uses constantly evolve. Photos (L-R): KMA 2055: In the days before electric refrigeration and when winters were more consistently cold, ice was harvested to help preserve food. KMA 9144: Lumber companies supplied wood as an important source of energy for providing heat and powering steamships. KMA 1194: Wood heated a ranch home near Heffley Creek.



## MAKING THE CONNECTION

The largest uses of home energy are for generating heat and hot water. Are yours powered by fossil fuels (e.g. natural gas), wood, electricity, or renewable energy?



**CLIMATE CONNECTIONS TRAIL**



Canada's Tournament Capital