# Zero Carbon Step Code in Maple Ridge

**The Zero Carbon Step Code sets greenhouse gas emissions standards for new residential buildings (Part 9 and Part 3). It came into effect across the Province on March 10, 2025. It is a four-step model with the first step set by the Province as Emissions Level (EL) 1 – measure only.**

**The City of Maple Ridge is advancing Zero Carbon Step Code with EL- 3 (Strong) requirements coming into effect July 1, 2025, for all new Part 9 and Part 3 residential buildings. These new buildings will be required to meet EL-3 (Strong) level of the Code.**

## What are the BC Step Codes?

The Zero Carbon Step Code is a provincial BC Building Code standard introduced in the BC Building Code May 2023 update which sets greenhouse gas emissions targets for new buildings.

The Zero Carbon Step Code regulates the carbon emissions from operating buildings, related to the mechanical systems used for space heating, water heating and cooking equipment

The BC Energy Step Code regulates the energy consumption and efficiency of buildings through construction and design practices that prioritize the building envelope.

## Maple Ridge timelines for Zero Carbon Step Code




## Zero Carbon Step Code

The Zero Carbon Step Code - Emissions Level – 1 (Measure Only) came into effect across all of British Columbia for all new Part 9 and Part 3 buildings on March 10, 2025

The Zero Carbon Step Code - Emissions Level – 3 (Strong) will come into effect in Maple Ridge for new Part 9 and Part 3 residential buildings on July 1, 2025. This will require primary space and water heating and cooling systems to be zero carbon. Other backup systems do not have to be zero carbon.

Cooking systems may be gas and do not have to meet zero carbon requirements at EL-3 (Strong).

Maple Ridge will move to EL-4 (Zero) in September 2027 pending a report to Council on the implementation of Step Code EL-3.

At EL-4, new homes will not use fossil fuels for primarily water and space heating and cooling, or for cooking.

## The Energy Step Code

The Energy Step Code requires most new construction in BC to be 20% more energy efficient than the 2018 base building code requirements.

Step 2 is the minimum required for Part 3 buildings
Step 3 is the minimum required for Part 9 buildings.

The City of Maple Ridge is not advancing Energy Step Code beyond the current Provincial Building Code requirements. The next Energy Step Code requirement is expected to come in 2027.

We encourage you to use the Provincial Step Code compliance checklists and forms that help simplify the reporting and the permitting.

**Part 9 and Part 3 forms are available at EnergyStepCode.ca**

# Mandatory Space Cooling Requirements

## The March 2024 BC Building Code update has a mandatory requirement for space cooling.

**The Province has enacted the following requirement in the most recent Building Code to limit risks associated with overheating in new homes:**

**Implementation of EL-2 or EL-3 (Strong) requirements under the Zero Carbon Step Code meet this mandatory requirement for space cooling.**

**"At the outside summer design temperature, required cooling facilities shall be capable of maintaining an indoor air temperature of not more than 26C in at least one living space in each dwelling unit."**

## Pathways to Zero Carbon Compliance

### Part 9 Buildings

There are two pathways - Prescriptive or Performance approach. The prescriptive path requires builders to use less carbon and energy-intensive appliances. The performance path sets overall greenhouse gas emission targets for each Carbon Step.

For buildings like single-detached homes, row homes, or small apartment buildings, builders and developers may either follow a prescriptive or performance approach.

### Part 3 Buildings

Performance approach only.
When building large residential buildings, offices, retail buildings, and hotels and motels, the Zero Carbon Step Code requires builders to follow a performance path.

The performance path sets overall greenhouse gas emission targets for each Carbon Step.

## Implications for existing buildings

New Zero Carbon Step Code requirements apply to new building construction for Part 9 and Part 3 buildings.

Owners of existing homes can find information on energy retrofits and available incentive and rebates at MapleRidge.ca/EnergyRebates.

These rebates can help you make optional improvements to reduce your carbon footprint from water and space heating and cooling.

## Where do I learn more?

**Information regarding both the Zero Carbon and Energy Step Codes can be found at:**

**BC Step Code:**
EnergyStepCode.ca/All-Resources/

**Maple Ridge:**
Zero Carbon Step Code
MapleRidge.ca/ZCSC

**Energy Step Code**
MapleRidge.ca/ESC



**For more information contact the Maple Ridge Building Department:**

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