

Background

- Canada's housing co-ops have enormous potential to show community leadership through environmental good practice
- They face obstacles and challenges along the way
- They have significant advantages that will help them get there
- There are many things co-ops can do on sustainability
- There is a strong business case for change
- Canadian co-ops are already showing leadership on sustainability





Obstacles and challenges

- modest construction standards have brought low energy efficiency
- lack of access to capital for energy retrofits
- o ther urgent priorities for capital spending
- shifting government program environment
- o inertia





Significant advantages

Canadian Housing Co-ops:

- think beyond their own needs to those of the broader community
- are organized communities that can act together
- are inspired to act on sustainability and climate change
- o seem to have all seen An Inconvenient Truth!
- have an enlightened self-interest in the issue





What can housing co-ops do?

- o reuse, reduce, recycle
- embrace energy efficiency
- o retrofit energy systems, building components
- use green energy sources
- manage water usage
- use organic supplies and practices
- source locally
- O purchase carbon credits



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The business case: sustainability as enlightened self-interest

Co-op reap business benefits from action on sustainability:

- they lower their operating costs over time
- their housing becomes more affordable for their members
- o they are more competitive in the housing market



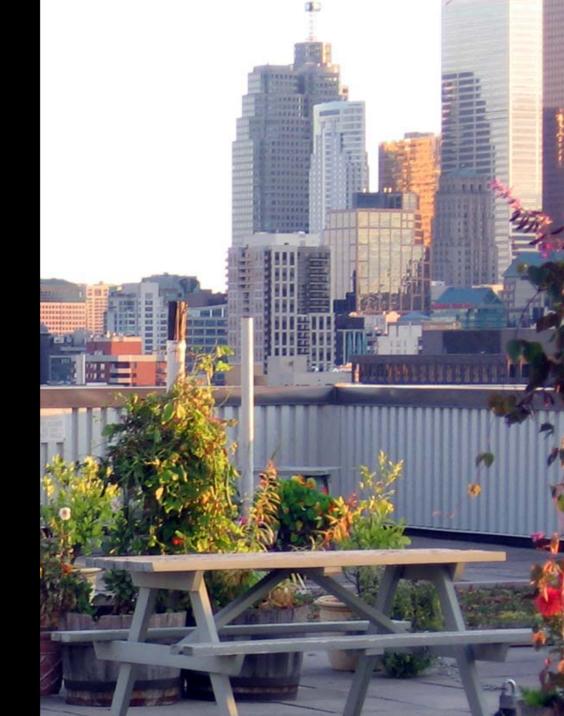


Canadian co-ops showing leadership on sustainability

Kitsun Housing Co-op, in Vancouver's Kitsilano neighbourhood, uses a Trombe wall and large double-glazed windows to absorb solar heat.



Toronto's Hugh Garner
Housing Co-op plans to
include a stormwater
reservoir and solar
collection system as part of
its green roof project.



Sundance Housing Co-op members were composting and recycling long before the City of Edmonton had programs in place.



