

REPORT SUMMARY

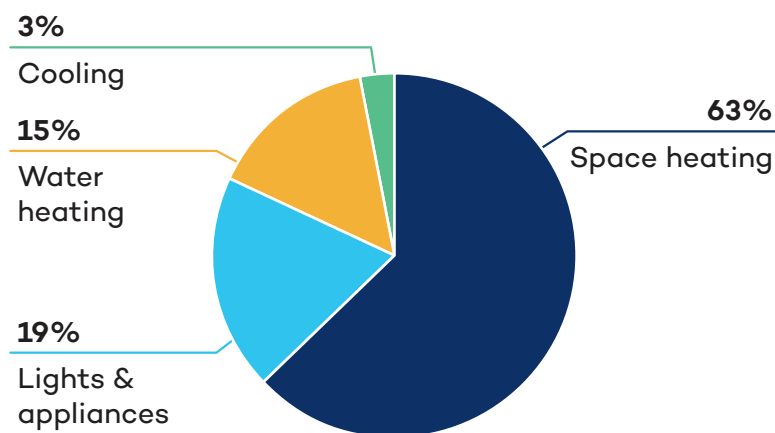
Manitoba Builds Green: Opportunities for transformative residential retrofits

Read report:



In Manitoba, **building sector emissions account for about 17% of provincial (and 44% of Winnipeg's) total emissions.** Eliminating emissions from buildings will require a balance between increasing energy efficiency through extensive deep energy retrofits (DERs) and expanding renewable energy generation.

Canadian data on residential energy use



Decarbonizing the building sector by 2050 presents major opportunities to



Create

good jobs & address inequalities in the workforce



Reduce

greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas heating



Improve

housing conditions (e.g., warmth/cooling, air quality)



Develop

homegrown green industries

While retrofits are more cost-effective than electrification alone, the **costs of residential deep retrofits** are nonetheless significant and highly variable. In Manitoba, we estimate that an investment of CAD 1.2 billion annually will be required over the next 25 years to retrofit 8,000 homes per year.

To tackle this challenge & take advantage of the opportunity, governments must lead with financing, policy, and green procurement. Though DERs have high upfront costs, they offer substantial long-term benefits, **with estimates indicating that public investments can yield a return of up to \$2.30 to \$7.00 on every dollar spent.**

WHAT IS A DEEP ENERGY RETROFIT? Renovation to the building envelope, including insulation and air sealing, and often adding mechanical upgrades like heat pumps or solar panels to reduce energy usage by more than 50% while lowering heating and cooling costs.

Recommendations for kickstarting a DER industry in Manitoba



Policy and procurement—implement energy audits and mandatory energy labelling; leverage publicly owned buildings; restart the Manitoba Green Buildings Policy; upgrade building codes



Financing—capitalize a Manitoba Green Bank; enable property-assessed clean energy (PACE) programs; target incentives for low-income households and renters



Workforce development—expand training, upskilling and apprenticeships; engage unions, trades institutes, social enterprises, and Indigenous communities



Stakeholders and institutions—build a “one-stop-shop” for consumers; engage Efficiency MB and MB Hydro; develop buy in and track progress

A publicly funded retrofit program must be designed to address social inequities in employment, income, and housing. DER programs can train and employ underrepresented groups in the building industry. They can benefit renters, low-income homeowners, and residents of social housing by lowering bills, adding value, and improving housing quality.

With a strategic, publicly led, and well-funded DER program, Manitoba could become a leader in net-zero innovation in the buildings sector and serve as an example for other jurisdictions in Canada and internationally.