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Deep Building Retrofits: Funding & Financing Guide for Atlantic Canada

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This is the second version of this guide, and we value your feedback so we can continue to improve it. Please take this short survey or email drai@hci3.ca with comments.

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Disclaimer: There are hundreds of funding and financing programs. We have focussed on those that have some connection to deep building retrofits. We recognize funding programs are continually opening and closing, and we aim to be current as of the date of publishing this guide. We have listed programs that are still active, although the application window may be currently closed; however, groups can plan for future funding rounds.

Introduction

This funding and financing resource guide has been developed by the Halifax Climate Investment, Innovation and Impact Fund (HCi3) as a support to building owners, managers, consultants and other professionals seeking to advance deep building retrofits. HCi3 is a partner on the Atlantic Canada Deep Retrofit Accelerator led by the ReCover Initiative that seeks to accelerate the pace of deep retrofits in our region. This guide is primarily intended for private, non-profit, municipal, and provincially owned commercial, institutional and multi-unit residential buildings, as well as any building stock owned by Indigenous communities in Atlantic Canada.

What are Deep Building Retrofits?

The term "deep building retrofit" commonly applies to projects where buildings undergo significant upgrades to address deferred maintenance, functionality, comfort, energy efficiency and pollution reduction (e.g. reduction in greenhouse gases (GHG) and criteria air contaminants). Deep retrofit strategies are implemented in phased approaches timed with facilities renewal and/or as a major project. Core strategies used to achieve deep building retrofits often include:

- Building envelope upgrades: wall, roof, and floor insulation; new windows and doors;
- Lighting and electrical systems changes: efficient lighting and controls, daylighting optimization, peak and back up storage and management, and external shading;
- Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) enhancements: Mechanical ventilation heat recovery (MVHR); new efficient ventilation system; new heating/cooling supply and distribution including possible connection to district energy, building energy and automation management (BEM), new heat supply (radiators, floor systems); air and ground source heat pumps; and
- Renewable energy systems and additions (e.g., solar photovoltaic).

Key questions to reflect on as you read this document:

1. Do we have a funding and financing approach (Table 1)?
2. Have we explored all funding and financing sources for our project (Figure 1 & Table 2)?
3. Can we use organizational budgets differently to finance projects (Figure 2)?
4. Are we aware of current grant, loan, rebate, and subsidy programs (Tables 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)?
5. Is there merit, the interest or ability in creating a separate structure like a special purpose vehicle (SPV), green bond, or development corporation?
6. Have we tapped into existing resources, networks, and services?

1. What is our project funding and financing strategy?

Before you begin to identify funding and financing sources, it can be helpful to think through a strategy. A strategy may have elements to consider such as matching mutual objectives, leveraging and stacking funds, timing, and partnerships (Table 1).

Table 1. Funding and Financing Strategy Considerations

Project Objectives	<p>Often funders will not have enough funding for all applications. If projects can be used as a template for others, provide new ideas for solving a problem or addresses other social and environmental challenges, then the project may have broader appeal. Linking your program objectives to the core mandate of the fund is essential. Some questions to consider: What is unique about the project? Is the project innovative? How does it meet the grant fund or financing program objectives? Is it scalable to serve as a template for others? Does it address other societal, environmental, and safety objectives? What type of community services will the building provide? Should our project objectives be updated to reflect these considerations? Do we have leadership approval to apply for grants? Do we have solid cost estimates?</p>
Stacking and Leveraging	<p>The financial business case for a deep retrofit may include stacking and leveraging various types of cash, debt, and/or equity. What type and amount of funds is our organization putting towards the project (consult Figure 2), e.g., facilities renewal and utility savings?</p> <p>How can we leverage our funds with external grants and financing (Tables 3-7)? Most grants will require in-kind and cash contributions.</p> <p>How can we stack more than one grant together?</p> <p>Can we take on debt? If so, for how long at what interest rate?</p> <p>In general, there may be a percentage limit of how much federal grant or provincial government funding you can stack, though you may be able to stack a higher percentage with a mix of federal, provincial and owner contribution.</p>

Timing	<p>Grant programs may operate for the long or short term. Some may be available for many years and some for a couple of years. Most grant funds require a competitive application. There is often a window of time to apply. Preparing ahead with a funding strategy allows for deeper engagement with funders and time to prepare funding application information.</p> <p>Do we have program contact information, and have we made connections with program representatives prior to applying? Have we signed up to program communications offerings if available (e.g., newsletter)?</p>
Partnerships	<p>Partnerships with other public and private sector organizations can provide co-benefits such as financing and meeting additional community goals, though they can add new administrative, risk and governance considerations.</p>

2. What types of funding and financing sources are there?

Embarking on a deep building retrofit can open new funding and financing sources beyond standard facilities capital, renewal, and operating budgets. In many cases, core contributions from facilities funding are leveraged to unlock new funding or strategies to meet multiple building objectives (Figure 1 and Table 2).

Figure 1. Funding and Financing Sources



Table 2. Funding and Financing Sources including deep retrofit examples

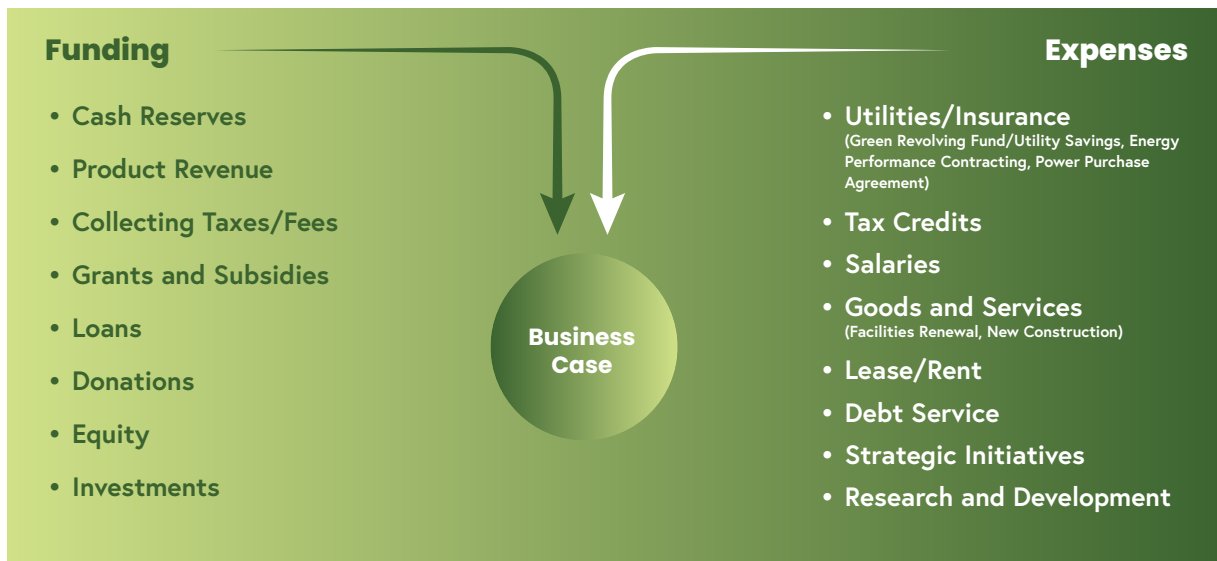
SOURCE	DESCRIPTION
1. Financial Reserves	Accumulation of non-allocated funds. Provides security to manage unknown risks and take advantage of a strategic opportunity. A deep building retrofit project may unlock additional grant funding that creates a positive business case with a one-time infusion from financial reserves or a strategic initiative fund.
2. User Fees, Fines, and Fares	Organizations charge fees, fines and fares for products, programs, and services. A percentage of fees, fines, and fares can be used to fund climate and energy projects. A common example is a percentage of parking fees is used to fund transportation demand management programs and infrastructure such as building bike racks or electric vehicle chargers. A cap-and-trade type program can be used by governments to collect fines and reallocate them to programming.
3. Tax Revenue	Money collected from government is used for public spending. Common taxes include income, property, sales, and corporate. Some municipal governments are adding a climate levy on property taxes to raise funding for climate actions, including deep building retrofits. Governments have used performance regulations as well as other policy levers to raise funding.
4. Liquidating Assets	Selling off items such as property, investments, and products to generate cash or pay debt. Some organizations sell assets to help fund major renovations of core buildings.
5. Grants and Contributions	Grants provide non-repayable financial assistance. Grants can be project specific or core funding (set amount annually for an agreed upon period.) Grants are provided by governments, foundations, non-profits, and businesses. Contributions can include time, staff support, or money for a specific expense or product. There are specific grants and contribution programs for deep building retrofit projects (Tables 3,4,5,7) including provision of staff (e.g., embedded energy manager or Climate Help Desk services) and financial assistance for core technology deployment and studies. There also may be grants specific to upgrading the functionality of a particular building type (Table 6). For example, if the building is a museum, there may be energy and climate grants plus specific grants for upgrading museum buildings spaces, systems, and accessibility.

6. Subsidies and Rebates	<p>A subsidy is a payment or avoided payment made to influence production or prices. Examples include tax credits, subsidized loans, or a guaranteed price. A rebate is a financial incentive in the form of a refund or discount such as a flat fee discount per product. Deep retrofit product rebates are provided by government and non-profits. The federal government launched the Clean Economy Investment Tax Credit for businesses to support clean technology like renewable energy for buildings. Subsidized loan products are also available for building retrofit projects facilitated through the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) and related partners. Feed-in Tariff and Community Economic Development Investment Fund (CEDIF) programs have been used by government to support the development of community-based renewable electricity projects.</p>
7. Donations	<p>A donation is a gift from an individual, corporation or foundation. A gift can be cash, services, eligible securities, or goods. Registered municipalities, non-profits, universities and colleges, and businesses can all receive donations. Building-specific donations can focus on green features such as renewable energy systems.</p>
8. Loans/Bonds	<p>A loan is money borrowed from a lender with the agreement to pay back the amount, usually plus interest, within a specific period. Occasionally, there are government programs that support a 0% interest loan. There are a wide variety of loans, including bank and government loans, lines of credit, and mortgages. A bond is an investment vehicle that represents a loan to a borrower by an investor. Traditional loans are used for building retrofits along with specialized products including Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, and preferential loans provided through groups like CIB and SOFIAC. Some governments (including municipalities), companies, and universities have created their own green bonds to finance climate infrastructure projects.</p>
9. Vendor Financing	<p>A company provides financing to a customer to purchase their products. Energy service companies (ESCOs) provide financing for a deep energy building retrofit project that the owner can pay back over a set period using utility savings. A company may lease building related equipment like a heat pump to be paid back over a set time.</p>
10. Equity	<p>A company can raise money selling shares in their company. Some public companies can raise funding for deep retrofit projects through this mechanism. Venture capital funds provide equity financing for projects reducing emissions.</p>

How can we use funding and financing sources strategically?

An organization can use both sides of the budget sheet to efficiently integrate internal assets, create new structures, and use different management approaches (Figure 2). For example, instead of owning an asset, it could be rented or leased. Solar companies have financed solar installations for buildings where the owner rents the roof space or rents to own the system. Utility budgets can supplement facilities renewal, operating and capital budgets and can be used to pay down external and internal loans through mechanisms like green revolving funds, power purchase agreements, or energy performance contracts. Existing staff and new staff can be deployed to new roles in the organization focusing on sustainability, green building, energy performance contracting, and commissioning.

Figure 2. Using Both Sides of the Budget Sheet for a Deep Building Retrofit Business Case



Who provides funding and financing?

Understanding which government department or agencies (federal/provincial), foundations and private organizations support broad climate, energy and sustainability actions, including building retrofits is an important first step. Building function (e.g., a museum or farmers' market) may open additional sector specific funding. Other government grants and private loans may be available for broad improvements (e.g., accessible entrances and washrooms) (Tables 3, 4, 5, 6, 7).

Eligible programs are opening and closing all the time. Invariably, any list of programs such as this comes with a cautionary note that it may not be completely up-to-date given ongoing changes. In the tables below, we aim to provide the main funding page for the organization followed by a grant name. If the grant is closed, the reader can navigate back to the main page and review programs. Not all building owners are eligible for all grants, donor programs, loans, rebates, or tax incentives. A good tip is to connect with program contacts as they and other fund navigators can help answer questions about applicability and eligibility.

Federal Government

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC), and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) are the core federal bodies focused on climate action and building retrofits. Other departments and agencies may have sector specific programs or identify building energy retrofits as a method to achieve other departmental goals, such as economic development or housing. These may include, but are not limited to, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB), Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC), Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) (Tables 3, 5).

Provincial Government

The four Atlantic Provinces have several departments and agencies including natural resources and energy, environment and climate change, and housing and infrastructure similar to the federal government and in some cases, government-led efficiency organizations (Table 4). Sector specific building funding is found through economic development agencies and sector focussed departments (e.g., building upgrades for farms through agriculture) (Table 4).

Non-Profit and Foundations

Non-profit organizations (including charitable organizations and cooperatives) raise funding from individuals, government, foundations, and other revenue generating activities. Some national, regional, and provincial non-profits provide services such as staff support, technical services, resources and, in some cases, funding for building energy retrofits (Table 6).

Foundations are non-profit or charitable trusts that provide grants and, in some cases, subsidized loans for charitable purposes. Canadian-based and international foundations have funded in the region. Foundations may have open application calls or prefer to select partners they would like to work with. [Philanthropic Foundations of Canada](#) lists major foundations in Canada. Some foundations have created the [Environment Funders of Canada](#) and the [Clean Economy Fund](#) to support work in this area.

Private Sector

Private sector funding for deep building retrofits comes largely in the form of debt and equity financing, though some private sector organizations provide rebate and discount programs. Some private sector groups, such as banks, also have defined giving programs supporting charitable work. The focus of these charitable contributions is often broad and may not have direct links to building retrofits, though some projects may qualify, and often require a focused conversation with a program representative.

Factors including the sector that the building owner belongs to, their credit rating, the project risks, and an organization's size will determine their access to private funding. Building owners are looking for the most favourable interest rate and suitable term lengths. Private lenders are looking for credit-worthy owners with low-risk projects. Private debt financing instruments include:

- Traditional loans (banks): Products include business term loans, equipment loans, lines of credit, and mortgages. Rates are dependent on the project and client. Banks are adding specific product offerings and resources for environment and climate action including deep retrofits and have charitable programs that may or may not match with project objectives (Table 7).
- Point-of-sale loans, lease-to-own, or rental equipment options are provided by suppliers/installers sometimes in conjunction with financing groups. Product suppliers work through distributors or on their own to sell directly to the owner, the owner's team or through an installer.
- Utility on-bill financing and rebates are provided by utility companies to their customers as an easy way for customers to access upgrades like heat pumps, electric thermal storage units, and solar panels, to be paid on their utility bill.
- Energy Performance Contracts (EPC): EPCs have been around for several years. Organizations like the federal government have created a standing offer with [energy service companies \(ESCOs\)](#) to provide energy performance contracts. With EPC contracting, the ESCO can cover the costs for upfront studies that can be rolled into the project costs if the project goes ahead. If not, the owner will pay for the studies at that time. The ESCO also offers private financing (which they receive from private investors) so the owner does not have to use their capital, and they can pay it back with energy savings and other budget sources. Some owners do not take the ESCOs private financing because they can secure financing at a lower rate. Organizations like [SOFIAC](#) use an energy savings performance contracting model where building owners can pay back project costs, with no upfront capital, through utility savings and facilities renewal budgets.
- Energy-as-a-Service (EaaS): Can often be a subscription-based monthly service fee for devices and equipment or management of energy (e.g., manipulating building automation control sequencing). The owner does not pay for the product but may pay subscription fees. Groups like [Efficiency Capital](#) are promoting some of their services as energy-as-a-service. This model is also being used for solar panel installations in some countries. These organizations generally have a minimum project size that varies by company.

Table 3. Federal government funders

Funder	Funder Description	Main Funding Page	Key Program for Building Retrofits	Eligibility	Type of Support
Multiple Federal Departments - Listing	Green building funding page and multi-agency clean growth hub provides staff advice and funding recommendations.	Green Buildings Funding Page Clean Growth Hub	Listings of multiple programs.	Private, public, and non-profit	Grant and loan
Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)	NRCan has a core mandate to advance climate adaptation and mitigation strategies through advances in building infrastructure.	NRCan's main climate page highlights adaptation and mitigation funding and resources. NRCan also provides funding to non-profits and provincial governments.	Building Energy Efficiency: Resources, Code Updates, Retrofit Hub Funding opportunities page highlights open and closed programs including Energy Innovation Program , Industry Facility Program , and Greener Neighbourhoods .	Private, public, and non-profit	Grant, resources
Housing, Infrastructure, Communities Canada (HICC)	Invests in public infrastructure to build resilient communities across Canada. Provides money to provinces/territories to fund municipal infrastructure through the Canada Community-Building Fund.	Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada - Funding programs	Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program targets community buildings.	Indigenous, provincial and municipal governments, Indigenous non-profit, specific public sector bodies	Grant and loan
Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC)	Offers flexible funding and financing support for residential and commercial housing.	Affordable Housing – Retrofit Funding CMHC funding, mortgage and securitization programs.	Canada Greener Affordable Housing (CGAH) provides pre-retrofit and retrofit funding for multi-unit residential buildings.	CGAH: Public and non-profit multi-unit residential buildings. Private, public, and non-profit.	Subsidized loan/grant Insurance incentives

Funder	Funder Description	Main Funding Page	Key Program for Building Retrofits	Eligibility	Type of Support
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	ECCC has several educational (e.g. Net Zero Challenge) and funding programs supporting environmental stewardship, pollution reduction and climate change mitigation.	ECCC funding programs	Low Carbon Economy Fund (LCEF) – Different streams including Indigenous Leadership Fund (ILF) and Low Carbon Economy Challenge Fund- LCECF (rounds currently closed). LCEF also provides funding to third party non-profits and industry groups for capacity building efforts.	Private, public, and non-profit	Grant
Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB)	Impact investors providing preferential infrastructure loans.	CIB focuses on five sectors: green infrastructure, clean power, public transit, trade and transportation and broadband infrastructure.	Buildings Retrofit Initiative focuses on the decarbonization of existing buildings.	Private, public, and non-profit	Subsidized loan
Jobs Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)	Support jobs, training, and social development in Canada.	Main funding page for incentives for staff and social development initiatives.	Canada Summer Jobs Program funding for summer placements for youth. ESDC supports Eco Canada which offers several employment subsidy programs and new programs such as the Youth Climate Corps.	Private, public, and non-profit	Grant, staff subsidies
Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)	Provides advice, resources, loans, access to venture capital and other services for businesses.	Offers resources through the main Sustainability page .	Offers loan through the Certified Green Building Loan	Business	Loan, advice, access to equity

Funder	Funder Description	Main Funding Page	Key Program for Building Retrofits	Eligibility	Type of Support
Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)	Programs, services, initiatives for Indigenous and northern communities and organizations.	Listing of Main Funding Programs	Capital Facilities and Maintenance Program First Nations Infrastructure Fund Health Facilities Program	Indigenous and northern communities	Grant
Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)	Administers tax, benefits, and related programs	Business Tax Credits	Clean Economy Investment Tax Credits Atlantic Investment Tax Credit Accelerated Investment Incentive	Business Certain sectors such as food production and processing Business	Tax credit
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)	Improve conditions for investment, innovation performance, and global trade	Business Benefit Finder provides information on funding, loans, and subsidies. Need to enter in specific organizational information.	Organizes results by grants and funding, loans and capital investment, tax credits, wage subsidies and interns, expert advice, partnering and collaboration, researchers, and facilities.	Business, higher education, non-profits advancing science, innovation, and economic goals. Not all results are building specific.	Grant, loans, tax credits, wage subsidies, advice

Funder	Funder Description	Main Funding Page	Key Program for Building Retrofits	Eligibility	Type of Support
Treasury Board of Canada	Initiatives to reduce GHG emissions and supports the broader scope of greening actions for federal operations	Greening Government Fund	Supports variety of projects including innovative deep retrofit projects.	Federal government departments	Grant

Table 4: Provincial funders that fund building retrofits within municipalities

Funder	Funder Description	Main Funding Page	Key Program for Building Retrofits	Eligibility	Type of Support
Province of Nova Scotia: Department of Energy	Low Carbon Communities supports community-led initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases in Nova Scotia.	Low Carbon Communities	Funding categories include clean buildings; initiatives towards retrofitting can be accepted provided the project demonstrates benefits to communities in Nova Scotia.	Municipalities, First Nations bands and organizations, registered non-profits, post-secondary institutions and businesses	Grant
Province of Nova Scotia: Department of Environment and Climate Change (administered by the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities)	Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund is a provincial grant program to support local action on climate change to help achieve emission reduction targets and climate adaptation.	Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund	Buildings is one of the focus areas under the mitigation stream and projects for retrofitting may qualify. The application round is open once a year.	Municipalities, First Nations bands and organizations, registered non-profits, post-secondary institutions	Grant
Province of Newfoundland and Labrador: Transportation and Infrastructure	Supports local governments through provincial and federal cost shared funding programs.	Funding Programs Funding from federal/provincial infrastructure	Municipal Capital Works and Multi-Year Capital Works .	Municipalities, provincial governments, local service districts, and Inuit Community Governments	Grant
Province of NL: Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (in partnership with Newfoundland Power)	Provides energy efficiency programs and advice.	Take Charge - Main Funding Page	Commercial and business rebates, programs and advice.	Private, public, and non-profit	Grant, loans including on-bill financing

Funder	Funder Description	Main Funding Page	Key Program for Building Retrofits	Eligibility	Type of Support
Prince Edward Island: Environment, Energy and Climate Action	Focuses on the environment, air quality, land and water resources and working towards net-zero by 2040	Main Funding and Resource Program Net Zero Navigator	Community Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programs	Municipalities, Indigenous communities, and community groups	Grant
Prince Edward Island: Housing, Land and Communities	Addresses the challenges of housing and permitting (land use planning) in PEI	Main Program page	Affordable Housing Development Program provides funding to add/modify new affordable units	Non-profit corporations, entrepreneurs, development corp., housing coops, or municipalities	Grant
Province of New Brunswick: Environment and Local Government	Provides services and programs for decarbonization and climate resilience.	Financial Support - Local Government	Provides infrastructure and climate funding through programs like the Small Communities Fund and the Environmental Trust Fund through the climate change lens.	Municipalities, non-profits, First Nations	Grant
Province of New Brunswick: NB Power	Provides energy efficiency programs and advice.	Save Energy NB Main Funding Page	Commercial and business rebates, programs and advice.	Private, public, and non-profit	Grant, rebates

Table 5. Potential sector or function-specific building funding

BUILDINGS	GOVERNMENT
SECTOR	
Recreation, Community Heritage/Culture/Museums	<p>Federal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legacy Fund Canada Cultural Spaces Fund <p>Provincial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NS Community Recreation Capital Grant NS Recreation Facility Fund NS Community Facility Improvement Program NS Planning Assistance Program NB Built Heritage Program PEI Rural Growth Initiative
Agriculture/Fisheries	<p>Federal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Climate Solutions and Agri Innovate Programs are not building specific, though there may be some infrastructure linkages. <p>Provincial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NS Fisheries and Aquaculture Energy and Innovation Fund
FUNCTION	
Accessibility	<p>Federal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling Accessibility Fund (currently closed) <p>Provincial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NS Community ACCESS-Ability Fund NB Inclusive Community Grant Program NL Accessibility Grant

Table 6: Non-Profit funders that fund building retrofits within municipalities

Funder	Funder Description	Main Funding Page	Key Program for Building Retrofits	Eligibility	Type of Support
Non-Profit National: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)	FCM offers grants and loans for existing municipal and community building and affordable housing. The programs can be stacked with other funding streams.	Funding opportunities Green Municipal Fund or listing under Our Work . Supported by the federal government.	There are several program applications all year round. Examples include: Sustainable Municipal Buildings Community Buildings Retrofit Sustainable Affordable Housing	Municipalities and in some cases non-profit housing associations. Municipalities with Indigenous, public, non-profit and private partners for some programs. Book a meeting with an outreach officer to discuss. gminfo@fcm.ca	Grant, loans, staff support
Non-Profit National: QUEST	QUEST Canada aims to support communities in Canada on their pathway to net-zero in accordance with implementing Community Energy and Emission Plans.	Main Programs and Resources Page	Financial tools and options available to municipalities for energy initiatives. Launch of new Atlantic Net Zero Communities Program with funding from ACOA.	Communities in Canada on a pathway to net-zero. Consulting services to business/utilities.	Studies, assessment, staff and consulting services
Non-Profit National: Canadian Urban Institute	CUI is a national charity driving place-based solutions to make communities better places to live	Connects and supports communities to a roster of experts to support low carbon resilience into infrastructure	Climate Ready Infrastructure Service for community capacity building supported by the federal government.	Municipalities and Indigenous communities	Free resources, expert advice, and consulting services

Funder	Funder Description	Main Funding Page	Key Program for Building Retrofits	Eligibility	Type of Support
Non-Profit National: BOMA Canada	BOMA Canada is a non-profit industry association representing the commercial real estate building sector.	BOMA offers education, training, and other supports for building retrofits.	BOMA Enspire is part of NRCan's Deep Retrofit Accelerator Initiative, which provides training, advice and funding.	Public and private commercial building operators.	Support for studies and re-commissioning, training and benchmarking support services
Non-Profit Regional: ReCover	ReCover is invested in pioneering scalable deep retrofits solutions in Atlantic Canada.	Main Page	Building Transformation Program offering free building assessments, subsidized technical assessments, staff support through project implementation. Funding from NRCan's Deep Retrofit Accelerator Initiative.	Building owners in Atlantic Canada including provincial, Indigenous and municipal government, private and public MURB owners, and non-profits.	Studies, assessment, staff and consulting services
Non-Profit Regional: Clean Foundation	Clean Foundation offers a variety of climate and environmental programs.	Main Energy Page	Supports for municipalities and non-profits through Regional Energy Coaches . Supports including climate staff for NS municipalities through the Community Climate Capacity Program. Offering youth internship programs to public and private sector.	Residences, municipalities for more directed programs and private, public and non-profit education and workforce programs.	Staff support, resources, youth interns

Funder	Funder Description	Main Funding Page	Key Program for Building Retrofits	Eligibility	Type of Support
Non-Profit NS: Halifax Climate Investment, Innovation and Impact (HCi3) Fund	Hci3 supports innovative projects that advance a low-carbon transition through grants and investments in Halifax and Nova Scotia.	Hci3 Fund	Support grants , loans and impact investments.	Non-profits, community organizations, municipal bodies (Halifax), First Nations and companies	Grant, loans, investments
Non-Profit NS: Efficiency NS	Efficiency NS aims to transform and help conserve the use of energy by Nova Scotians.	Main Funding Page	Several rebate programs, services, upgrades and products for residences, organizations and businesses from multiple sectors. Dedicated and roving Energy Managers for all sectors.	Private, public, non-profit, affordable housing	Rebates, technical support, grant

Table 7: Financial Sector Programs and Resources

Name	Loan Programs, Charitable Giving, Resources
Bank of Montreal (BMO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMO Buildings Retrofit Program for BMO customers - contact James.Burrow@bmo.com for details. • BMO Gives (charitable giving) • Podcast: Opportunities to Accelerate Building Decarbonization
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations and Community Funding (charitable giving) • Podcast Series: Sustainability Agenda
ScotiaBank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScotiaBank Building Retrofit Initiative - contact Dana.Krechowicz@scotiabank.com for details • Scotia Rise (charitable giving)
Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBC Community Investment Funds (charitable giving) including the RBC Foundation Community Infrastructure Fund • Article: Building decarbonization expected to continue without carbon tax; Buildings webpage
Toronto Dominion Bank (TD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TD Friends of the Environment Fund (charitable giving)
Local Credit Unions	<p>Check your local credit union. Some have energy efficiency financing and charitable giving programs.</p>

Resources and Networks

HCI3 Primers: HCI3 has developed two primers on [Making the Business Case](#) and [Alternative Financing Strategies](#). Each primer provides a summary of the topic and a curated list of existing resources.

Fund and Program Navigators: Private and public programs will have staff dedicated to promoting offerings. Connecting with staff provides up-to-date information. Some government entities have specific fund navigator roles including the:

- Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Fund Navigator, fundnavigator@nsfm.ca, 902-223-1220. Specific grant funding page dedicated to [Retrofits and New Builds](#) for municipalities that has a list of programs found in this guide and may have new ones depending on the frequency of updates.
- The Nova Scotia Climate Funding Navigator provides guidance to connect project proponents seeking funding to federal, provincial, and non-governmental funding programs, ClimateFundingNavigator@novascotia.ca.
- Clean Nova Scotia, Community Resilience Specialist, kdegrace@cleanfoundation.ca, 1-782-414-381, Supports and provides guidance for communities as they access the Climate Toolkit for Housing and Infrastructure. The Community Resilience Specialist works with municipalities, townships, or First Nations communities to build internal capacity to incorporate climate resilience into local infrastructure planning processes.

Networks, Conferences, Training, and Resources

There are free and paid professional development opportunities and resources offered through a variety of organizations from non-profits, government, associations, private sector, and continuing education. For deep building retrofits, here is a selection of organizations that offer training, resources, networking opportunities and conferences.

- [Atlantic Canada Solar Summit](#)
- [BOMA Canada](#)
- [BuildGreen Atlantic](#)
- [Building to Zero Exchange \(BTZx\)](#)
- [Canadian Climate Institute](#)
- [Canada Green Building Council \(CAGBC\)](#)
- [CIET](#)
- [Decarbonization Alliance/ Transition Accelerator](#)
- [Design and Construction Institute of Nova Scotia](#)
- [Efficiency Canada](#)
- [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#)
- Local chapters of ASHRAE and BOMA
- [Low Carbon Cities Canada](#)
- [Retrofit Canada](#)