

IMPACT REPORT

From Inception to Action | 2022–2024

zeic

ZERO EMISSIONS
INNOVATION CENTRE

MORE SOLUTIONS, LESS CARBON.



Acknowledgement of Land and Peoples

ZEIC is situated and works on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of many Indigenous Nations, including the ḡíçəy (Katzie), ḡʷɑ:ḡłəḡ (Kwantlen), kʷíkʷəłəm (Kwikwetlem), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), qiqéyt (Qayqayt), Semi'a:mu (Semiahmoo), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō (Stó:lō), scəw̓ aθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen), and səliwətał (Tseil-Waututh).

Indigenous Peoples in the area known today as Metro Vancouver region, British Columbia, and beyond have stewarded and cared for lands, water, and biodiversity since time immemorial. Indigenous worldviews and perspectives, though nuanced and distinct across Nations, offer insight and inspiration on how we can together enable resilient communities for now and generations to come.

ZEIC is committed to reconciliation and strives to build meaningful, respectful, and reciprocal relationships with Indigenous Peoples and organizations, honouring Indigenous knowledge systems, revering the land, and pursuing climate actions that align with Indigenous values and priorities.

We offer acknowledgement, gratitude, and commitment to ongoing learning, respect, collaboration—and through our work and relationships, we will do our part to care for Mother Earth.

Contents

Message From Leadership	01
Our Story — From Inception to Action	03
About	05
Governance	08
Zero Emissions Building Exchange	09
Building to Electrification Coalition	13
Carbon Leadership Forum BC	19
NearZero	23
BC Retrofit Accelerator	25
Economic Development & Market Transformation	29
Women4Climate	35
Grants & Impact Investing	39
2024 Financials	43
Collaborators & Co-Funders	44



zeic.ca

Message from Leadership

The Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC) was launched in 2021 to usher in a new era of climate action and innovation in the Metro Vancouver region and across British Columbia, becoming the newest regional centre to join the Low Carbon Cities Canada (LC3) network.

We are thrilled to present our first-ever impact report to profile our work, demonstrate on-the-ground momentum, and showcase the stories of the forerunners enabling the transition to a clean economy.

The Metro Vancouver region—including its diverse local communities, the Province of British Columbia, and First Nations—have made enormous strides forward, by adopting continent-leading climate policies, leveraging B.C.’s renewable energy advantage, and launching prosperous low-carbon enterprises. The momentum in the region and province is clear. Over 30 communities province-wide have adopted the Zero Carbon Step Code. Heat pumps are outselling gas furnaces throughout the province. Zero-emissions vehicles make up nearly one-third of new vehicle sales in Metro Vancouver. Our region is home to 185,000 green jobs.

While these outcomes represent progress, it’s not enough. As much as we’ve taken leaps forward, there is much more work to be done. With our climate targets in place, we need to greatly accelerate the implementation of climate solutions across all sectors.

These are serious challenges that require solutions that go beyond emissions reductions: the cost of living, economic insecurity, and inequitable access to life’s essentials—as well as uneven access to climate solutions. While these serious challenges threaten to distract, we must strive for climate action that supports affordable, prosperous, and equitable communities.

ZEIC is part of the solution, enabling an ecosystem of actors through capacity building, collaborations, and funding. We work directly on the ground, supporting implementation of practical solutions, informing and supporting policy, investing in leaders, and furthering equity through climate action.

Whether it’s training thousands of builders in cost-effective, future-forward practices or enabling Indigenous youth to explore skilled trades—we’re there. Whether it’s bringing energy professionals together from around the world to advance thermal energy networks—we’re creating that space. Whether it’s uplifting leaders who’ve made breakthroughs in cutting embodied carbon emissions—we’re spreading that knowledge and practice. Whether it’s helping building owners to add cooling to protect well-being—we support them start to finish.

As a trusted collaborator of governments, industry, civil society, and others, ZEIC is at the centre of something special. On behalf of our organization, we invite you to learn about our impact—and to join us in enabling resilient, prosperous communities for current and future generations.



Peter Robinson
Board Chair



Melina Scholefield
Executive Director

Message from Indigenous Leaders on ZEIC’s Board of Directors

The time to take action on climate change is now.

Indigenous leaders, organizations, and communities have a key role to play in meeting emissions reductions targets.

As Indigenous leaders, we often reflect on community values and teachings and what it means for how we work together on complex challenges such as inequality, unaffordability, health and wellness barriers, climate change, and enabling reconciliation. The deep, historical, and ongoing kinship that First Nations hold with these lands has shaped shared stewardship.

From our perspectives, this mutual interest includes climate action that strengthens connections to the land, protects Mother Earth, and supports community well-being, culture, knowledge-sharing, and sustainable

development for current and future Indigenous and non-Indigenous generations.

Indigenous values, resourcefulness, ways of knowing, and ingenuity are key parts of how we will be able to address the climate crisis. Furthermore, climate action is one of many paths towards reconciliation, and investing in relationships and capacity-building for community-driven climate solutions and innovations is a meaningful way of supporting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

We all need clean air and water, healthy lands that connect and sustain us, and strong and vibrant communities. We are proud to be a part of an organization that brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders, to work together on climate action for positive impacts.



Brett Sparrow
Indigenous Strategies & Relationship Manager, Hungerford Properties, and Member, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Nation)



Curtis Thomas
President & Business Development, Warrior Plumbing, and Councillor & Member, səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

Our Story — From Inception to Action



“

As someone who manages a team working full time on green buildings, the ZEIC family has been helpful in many ways, but the most important might be providing concrete examples of what is possible and how it is achieved. I like to refer project team members and owners to case studies whenever they say something is too hard or can't be done.”

—Jason Packer, Recollective Consulting

Vision

Together, we enable a new era of climate action and innovation for an inclusive, prosperous and healthy zero carbon future in our region by 2050.

Impact at a Glance

Since Inception			
140+ events hosted, convening partners to strengthen communities and practice towards climate action	112 grants awarded to fund scalable, equitable low-carbon solutions	100+ resources published to empower leaders to implement innovations	12,270 engaged followers through newsletters & social media

About

The Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC) is an independent non-profit and charitable organization with a mission to accelerate and scale urban decarbonization across Metro Vancouver and British Columbia. ZEIC was established in 2021 and launched programming in 2022, turning bold climate goals into tangible impact and action. Equity and reconciliation are central to ZEIC’s approach to engagement and impact.

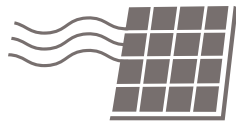
Sectors We Support:



Buildings

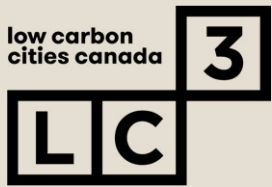


Transportation



Urban Renewable Energy

As part of the Low Carbon Cities Canada (LC3) network, ZEIC was seeded with a \$21.7 million endowment from the Government of Canada and in partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.



In collaboration with governments, Indigenous communities, industry, and others, ZEIC drives systemic change through networks, collaboration, research, education, and facilitating innovation in both policy and practice. Uniquely designed and positioned to enable the implementation of climate policy, ZEIC’s work aligns

with and helps deliver on-the-ground outcomes related to policies, such as the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, Metro Vancouver’s Climate 2030 Roadmap, and the City of Vancouver’s Climate Emergency Action Plan, among other community and First Nations plans.

Our Roadmap to Impact



How do we collectively move from ideas to implementation at scale? The path to direct greenhouse gas emissions reductions requires a critical mass of people, industries, policymakers, investors, and others with the knowledge, capacity, and willingness to act. To scale emerging climate solutions into the mainstream, we must build knowledge around and confidence in the policies, technologies, and practices. In this regard,

reaching our targets requires not just technological, policy, and economic change—but a social transformation. ZEIC is both an enabler and a catalyst. We invest in action-takers and create the conditions to share ideas, knowledge, and practices that enable emission reductions and more resilient communities.

We deploy the following tools to support our mission:



Programs & Collaborations

Programs and collaborations advance targeted, timely, and practical solutions.



Grants

Grants seed or help scale innovative projects led by others.



Impact Investing

Impact investments align financial resources as an amplifier to our goal.

Our Strategic Directions:

As an organization responsive to current and changing contexts in the region and province’s climate action ecosystem, we are committed to being a learning organization. We strive to reflect our reconciliation priorities across our work and relationships, championing equity, collaborating with and, elevating the efforts of others, aggregating and leveraging funding for strong and sustained impact, and enabling systems and social innovation.

Specifically, our strategic directions include:

- Reducing carbon dependency while contributing to health, well-being, and long-term affordability.
- Serving as the leading hub for urban decarbonization in Metro Vancouver and beyond.
- Investing in leaders to bolster and sustain bold climate actions.
- Stimulating market transformation and mobilize capital to enable implementation at scale.

A Foundation for Inclusive Climate Leadership

In our first year of operations, ZEIC set out to explore how we could support and embolden climate action leadership in local and regional governments and within Indigenous communities and organizations. This foundational research and engagement work focused on relationship-building, identifying barriers and opportunities for enacting climate policy and solutions, and understanding climate action through an Indigenous lens.

The project convened First Nations, Urban Indigenous, and Métis participants—including Elders and youth as well as municipal and regional government leaders. The dialogue underscored the importance of peer networks for mobilizing action and impact, knowledge-sharing, supporting Indigenous-led priorities, and embedding reconciliation in climate action. These learnings serve as the foundation for how ZEIC pursues its climate action mission.

Actions that Emerged from the Foundational Research and Engagement:

- Develop capacity building within ZEIC in support of equity, reconciliation and decolonization.
- Build relationships with and between Indigenous Leaders, communities, and organizations.
- Enable social innovation program design and practices.
- Explore opportunities for targeted peer-to-peer support, learning, capacity building, and collaboration (in our technical programs).

Building on the findings and calls to action from the climate leadership research project, ZEIC invested in several conference delegations to support relationship building and knowledge exchange to enhance local climate leadership capacity.

Social Innovation Is Core:

Stemming from the calls for action to support climate leaders, ZEIC pursued an initiative to support our team and broader network of collaborators in deepening their skills, practices, and capacity in social innovation, systemic design, and equity-centered, decolonizing practices. From 2023–2025, Dr. Lindsay Cole, a Postdoctoral Fellow at Emily Carr University of Art and Design, served as ZEIC’s Social Innovation Researcher in Residence, leading a community of practice and three action research projects aimed at expanding ZEIC’s “toolkit” for advancing community decarbonization.



Governance

ZEIC’s Board of Directors consists of 12 members bringing together diverse perspectives and expertise, from elected officials, Indigenous leaders, local governments, non-profits, finance, and others from diverse sectors pursuing climate action. Their collective vision and leadership drive the organization’s strategic directions, striving for a bold and sustainable future for climate action and impact.

Current Board of Directors:

- **Peter Robinson** — ZEIC Board Chair
- **Chih-Ting Lo** — ZEIC Board Vice-Chair, and Founder and Principal, EELO Solutions
- **Jackie Cook** — Senior Director, Stewardship, Morningstar Sustainability
- **Kira Gerwing** — Chief Real Estate Investment Officer, Sacha Investments Ltd.
- **Chris Gilmore** — Government of B.C. non-voting member; Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Electricity Utility Regulation Division, Ministry of Energy and Climate Strategy
- **Gail Hochachka** — Research Manager, Accelerating Community Energy Transformation and the Cities and Communities Pillar, MeridaLabs, Mechanical Engineering, University of British Columbia
- **Sarah Kirby-Yung** — Councillor, City of Vancouver
- **Jen McCutcheon** — Director, Electoral Area A, Metro Vancouver

- **Brett Sparrow** — Indigenous Strategies and Relationship Manager, Hungerford Properties, and Community Member, Musqueam Indian Band
- **Curtis Thomas** — President, Warrior Plumbing, Co-founder, Kwasen Enterprises, and Community Member and Councillor, Tsleil-Waututh Nation
- **Elaine Wong** — President, Pine Street Ventures

Past Board Members:

- **Andrew Broderick** — Managing Director, New Market Funds
- **Adriane Carr** — Former Councillor, City of Vancouver
- **Colin Doylend** — Executive Director, Rapid Housing Foundation
- **Brenda Knights** — CEO, BC Indigenous Housing Society
- **Karen Tam Wu** — Director, Climate and Nature Program, The Houssian Foundation



ZEBx is building a community of practice for building decarbonization. No individual or company can do this important work on their own.”

—Morgan McDonald, Director, Corporate Sustainability, Ledcor

Since 2018, the [Zero Emissions Building Exchange \(ZEBx\)](#) has been B.C.'s leading hub for driving the shift to low and zero-carbon buildings—and Canada's first centre of excellence dedicated exclusively to decarbonizing the building sector.

Impact at a Glance

Since 2022

106,673

website visits and

21,250

resource downloads

83%

of ZEBx's community say the program helps them

reduce emissions in practical ways

4,500+

professionals trained

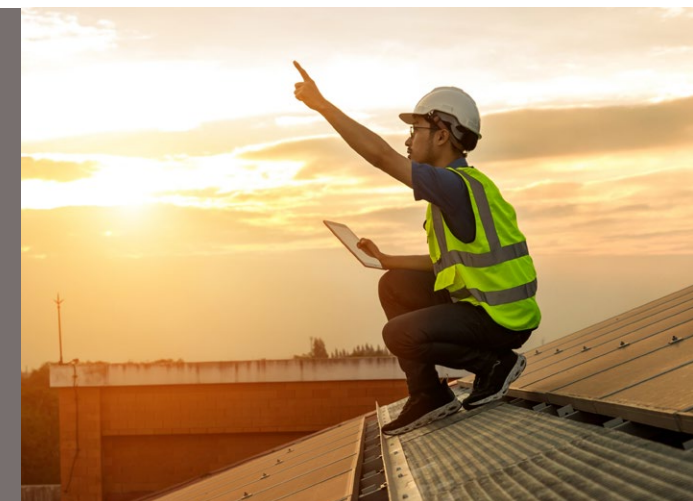
through monthly knowledge exchange sessions

As a convenor, coordinator and capacity builder, ZEBx is immersed in the building industry and engaged with governments, helping to activate and bridge the right people—industry leaders, policymakers, educational institutions, and innovators—to share knowledge, spark collaboration, align efforts, and scale solutions.

ZEBx is on the ground in a rapidly evolving building sector, taking a credible, pragmatic approach to inform some of Canada's most progressive building policies. By aligning industry and policy efforts, we're driving the adoption of healthier, more energy-efficient, and low-emission homes and workplaces.

“ZEBx provides a way for us to connect the bleeding edge of climate technology and policy within the fast-paced changing building environment.”

— Dr. Theo Christiaanse, Manager, OPEN Technologies



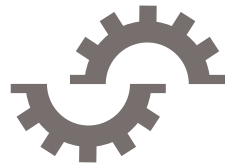
Elevating Confidence Among Leaders in the Community

ZEBx empowers professionals with the skills, confidence, and real-world insights to turn ambitious zero-emissions targets into action. The program provides resources like case studies, webinars, and a steering committee, helping leaders to be at the forefront of driving change, and sharing expertise and practical learnings within their sectors.

ZEBx Community

The ZEBx community includes a diverse collection of industry practitioners from various backgrounds, including 6,000 professionals that stay connected through the ZEBx newsletter and LinkedIn.

Top Three Industries Represented



Engineering, Design
& Architecture



Builders, Contractors
& Developers



Government



Building Capacity & Knowledge

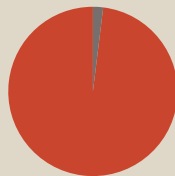
As needs evolve, so does ZEBx, ensuring practitioners have the latest tools and insights to drive building decarbonization.



16,000
ZEBx YouTube views
1,200 hours watched

45

original published
resources (case studies,
podcasts, videos)



98.5%
of participants would
recommend the resources
they accessed to others

ZEBx Decarb Lunch Webinar Series

ZEBx hosts regular "Decarb Lunch" webinars —which have become a vital platform for industry, government, and business to exchange knowledge and tackle pressing challenges related to the decarbonization of the building sector. Continually adapting to emerging trends and demand needs from both industry and government, we ensure timely, relevant, and pragmatic discussions.

87%

of Decarb Lunch attendees
say these webinars influence
how they work



Green Building Calendar

Launched in 2022 with initial support from BC Hydro and the Canada Green Building Council, the [BC Green Building Calendar](#) is the province's first and only centralized hub for industry events and training. It has become a go-to resource for the building industry in advancing low-carbon practices.

444 events, training, and courses
promoted since inception

67 organizations featured

2K page views per month

Technology Demos

We undertake "Tech Demos," which are made possible through a joint effort with British Columbia Institute of Technology's High Performance Building Lab. Some examples include demonstrating cold-climate heat pumps or high-efficiency heat recovery systems.

9 Tech Demos

380 attendees



Building Networks & Collaboration Across Sectors

By actively participating in various advisory councils, working groups, and industry collaborations, ZEBx staff representatives ensure a holistic zero-emissions perspective is embedded in key building sector discussions. This growing focus on strategic engagement allows us to leverage cross-sector expertise, insights and broader momentum toward making low-carbon buildings mainstream.



B2E

Building to
Electrification
Coalition

Delivering Leadership in B.C.'s Building Electrification Future



The B2E community has helped us to better communicate the importance of electrification and position it as the key climate solution for buildings. We are at a critical juncture when it comes to meeting our climate targets, and being a part of B2E will help get us there faster.”

—John Ho, Community & Energy Specialist, Energy & Climate Action, City of Victoria



The [Building to Electrification Coalition \(B2E\)](#), launched in 2021, is Canada’s first building electrification coalition, working to break down barriers, unlock opportunities, and accelerate the electrification of buildings in B.C.

Impact at a Glance

Since 2022

B2E has 215 member organizations, including builders, local governments, architecture firms, suppliers, renewable energy companies, and more

1,370 professionals staying connected through the B2E newsletter and LinkedIn

53,505 website visits

As an action-driven convenor, coordinator, and knowledge hub, B2E brings together diverse members to tackle electrification challenges through:

- **Driving electrification strategy** via a leadership council and action-oriented working groups
- **Sharing knowledge and best practices** across industries
- **Gathering network intelligence** to identify and address barriers

By uniting diverse leaders to address barriers, share insights, and coordinate action across policy, industry, and community, B2E drives meaningful change and market transformation to low-carbon, electrified buildings in right here in B.C.



Breaking Barriers to Heat Pump Adoption

What’s stopping more people from accessing and choosing heat pumps for heating and cooling solutions? That’s the question being tackled by the B2E Heat Pump Working Group (HPWG), which is made up of private and public sector members. This dedicated group aims

to bring actions within British Columbia’s Heat Pump Technology Attraction Strategy to life, working to overcome barriers that hinder accessibility and availability of high-performance heat pump products in the B.C. market.

Serving up Interest on Induction Cooking

B2E served up the [Induction Eats](#) campaign, an initiative to showcase the superior cooking experience of induction stovetops to consumers, builders, designers, and architects—shifting mindsets away from gas stoves and their associated air pollution and personal health impacts.

Through a dynamic live demo featuring professional chefs, industry experts, and a developer, attendees experienced firsthand that induction is precise, efficient, and an exceptional cooking experience. With key partners like BC Hydro and Midland Appliance, the event offered an interactive showcase, grand prize giveaway, and a custom cookbook to inspire change.



B2E in Action: Shaping Trends & Industry Standards

B2E played a key role in driving market transformation for high-efficiency heat pump technology.

Through strategic connections facilitated by the B2E network and working groups, members provided critical insights to manufacturers about market readiness, opportunities, and positioning. This engagement helped inform the heat pump product pricing, launch timeline, and positioning within the market.

B2E ensures codes and standards reflect real-world challenges by consolidating key information and sourcing informed feedback from members during engagement periods. When national and provincial technical standards are developed, members not only collaborate to highlight key points and clarification areas for others to reference, but they also provide input.



Building Capacity & Knowledge

Knowledge and capacity building is vital to the work that B2E sets out to achieve. B2E partners with ZEBx to host webinars, provide education, and elevate the voices of leaders.

“B2E is a vital connection to keep up-to-date with information, unfolding events, and accomplishments. It’s a fun, inspiring, and grounded network that’s very well facilitated. The events are very accessible and provide great opportunities for connecting and exchanging.”

— B2E Member



Since 2022, B2E has **hosted a total of 57** convenings (meetings, all-member calls, webinars and in-person events), and **published 16 resources**, including 10 case studies.

Users give B2E resources
a satisfaction score of
3.2/4

B2E Innovation Fund

Created to drive collective action based on real-world needs, the B2E Innovation Fund helps B2E members advance public and private sector climate solutions aligned with the B.C. Building Electrification Roadmap.

By the end of 2024, **the Innovation Fund awarded 16 grants to high-impact projects** addressing current and emerging government and industry needs. These projects support forward-thinking leaders, help move emerging technologies and practices into the mainstream and leverage diverse funding sources to accelerate solutions and systems change.



B2E Grants

- Accelerating Cost-Effective Electrification — Window Saddle Heat Pumps
- Advancing Decarbonization and Safe Indoor Temperatures in Rental Buildings
- Building Decarbonization Alliance Forum
- Climate Friendly Homes Tour
- Commercial Building Electrification Guide
- Demystifying Electrical Capacity and Service Sizing: Training and Pilot
- Domestic Hot Water Fuel Switching Pilot
- Heat Pump Installer Training Pathways
- HVAC Design Packages for B.C. Standardized Housing
- Induction Eats: Induction Cooking Campaign
- Multi-Unit Residential Building In-Suite Electrification Retrofits Without Panel Upgrades
- Multi-Unit Residential Building Electrification Ready Plan Framework
- Large (Part 3) Electric Buildings Database + Case Studies
- Retrofit! Community Festival
- State of Electrification Presentation
- Worker-Owned HVAC Co-operative Business Models

\$303K
of grant funding awarded
helped to unlock an additional
\$659K
for the projects
(2022–2024)

Grants Highlight: Commercial Building Electrification [Guide](#)

Published in fall 2024 after two years of industry consultation and technical development, this comprehensive first-of-a-kind advanced guide is helping engineering consultants, building owners, and managers navigate electrification retrofits step by step.

With **1,000+ views and increasing interest**, the guide has the potential as a national resource for scaling commercial building decarbonization.

“The new B2E Commercial Building Electrification Guide is an incredibly thorough and thoughtfully crafted resource... It draws on deep industry expertise to offer practical insights at every step of the electrification journey.”

— Ashley St Clair, Senior Green Building Planner, City of Vancouver



Carbon
Leadership
Forum
British
Columbia

B.C.'s Centre for Excellence in Low-Carbon Building



CLF BC has helped to build industry capacity. Initially just with educating people about what embodied carbon is, but also going beyond just the introductory embodied carbon 101 type of sessions. It's been really phenomenal to see the whole industry come together. I love it!"

—Anthony Pak, Principal, Building LCA Consultant, Priopta; Founder of CLF BC

Carbon Leadership Forum BC (CLF BC) started in 2019 as CLF Vancouver—a grassroots, volunteer-led initiative focused on accelerating the reduction of embodied carbon in buildings. The initiative joined ZEIC in 2022 as CLF BC with dedicated staff support and has since grown into a dynamic network of over 800+ followers across the province.

Impact at a Glance

Since 2022

2,500 professionals
from various industries
staying connected
through the
CLF newsletter
and LinkedIn

**27,280 website visits
& 3,062 resources page visits**

As North America's first embodied emissions hub, CLF BC is a leader with valuable influence across the continent and is now where architects, sustainability consultants, engineers, contractors, developers, and policy makers look to learn and connect on leading-edge practices to reduce embodied carbon in the construction sector.

By 2050, embodied carbon will represent 46% of B.C.'s annual building sector emissions associated with extraction, manufacturing, transport and disposal—rivaling operational emissions at 54%.

— Embodied Carbon Modelling Study (2022), A. Pak, created for the B.C. Government

Building a Strong Community of Practice

One of CLF BC's greatest strengths is convening builders, designers, local governments, developers, and other building sector experts who drive decarbonization in a community of practice. Through peer networking, members collaborate to share knowledge, improve professional practices and processes, bridge data gaps, and develop industry tools to reduce embodied carbon.



Embodied Carbon Exchange

Hosted by CLF volunteers, the Exchange brings building professionals together to share challenges and practical solutions and build a sense of community in a welcoming, low-barrier space for people at all career levels—online and in person.

Embodied Emissions Peer Network

Delivered in collaboration with the Community Energy Association, this network offers local government staff a quarterly space to workshop policies, share ideas, and learn from expert speakers.

In its first year (2022), the network attracted **87 local and regional government staff**, and **168 independent participants**.

BC Embodied Carbon Awards

Launched in 2022, the BC Embodied Carbon Awards is the first of its kind in North America, celebrating pioneers who put embodied carbon at the heart of their work. By recognizing excellence in whole-life carbon reduction, these awards spotlight bold ideas in multiple project categories, and the people behind them.

“Winning the Embodied Carbon Awards in 2024 has meant a lot to our small team. We won with the Phoenix House, which is the first zero-carbon certified house in Canada from the Living Building Institute, and we’ve tried really hard to integrate some of the best low-carbon practices that we can do today.”

— Elisabeth Baudinaud, Principal, Carbon Wise



Small (Part 9) Buildings Winner: Phoenix House



Building Capacity & Knowledge

CLF BC is committed to staying at the forefront of knowledge in the embodied carbon sector, offering continuous learning opportunities for the latest developments, and cultivating leadership.



In 2024

Convened
7 webinars
1,000 attendees

The City
of Vancouver
Embodied Carbon
Regulations
[webinar](#) drew
421 attendees

Since 2022

Published
22 videos
from online
events

Developed
10
case studies
and guides

Hosted
25 events



Guiding Sustainable Choices with
the Low Carbon Material Sourcing Guide

The [Low Carbon Material Sourcing Guide](#) was developed to support designers and contractors in achieving their carbon reduction goals by providing a list of low-carbon building materials that are readily available within B.C., with direct links to suppliers of these materials. **There have been 2,000 web page visits to this guide since its launch in 2023.**



Research & Incentive Programs for B.C. Residents

The [NearZero](#) program is a series of applied research streams that harness data and learnings from on-the-ground building projects pioneering low-carbon energy solutions.

NearZero was adopted by ZEIC in 2022 to continue transforming the building industry's role in achieving municipal, regional, and provincial emissions-reduction targets. Through NearZero, ZEIC pursues research and disseminates critical information on construction costs, material impacts, energy savings, and operational performance—empowering decision-makers to shape smarter policies and accelerate widespread adoption.

NearZero program streams:

NearZero1
Operational
Emissions

NearZero2
Embodied
Emissions

NearZero3
Domestic
Hot Water

NearZero4
Utility Data

Spotlight on NearZero2

The NearZero2 research program went beyond research and incentives—investing in pioneer builders pushing the limits of low-carbon homes and inviting industry newcomers to gain skills and put them into practice building low-carbon homes. Recognizing builders needed

more than financial support, the program offered cohort training to foster peer relationships and an on-call expert to guide them through challenges. To promote inclusion, it was first made accessible to equity-deserving groups before opening to the public.

“NearZero2 was instrumental in helping us educate our clients about the importance of selecting high-quality materials and the environmental impact of their choices. The financial incentives offered through the program were a significant benefit, as they allowed our clients to make more sustainable choices without incurring additional costs—they even saved money in some cases.”

— Chris Hill, CPA, CMA, Master Residential Builder, *b collective*

To further support builders facing similar needs and challenges, NearZero2 launched a community of practice that fosters insights-sharing and collaboration to accelerate low-carbon home construction; the growing membership reflects its value.



BC Retrofit ACCELERATOR

Kickstarting Climate & Energy Upgrades in Hundreds of Larger Buildings



The BC Retrofit Accelerator supports important work to renovate buildings and create cleaner, healthier, safer spaces. We're already seeing leaders across Metro Vancouver take action to retrofit buildings—providing economic benefits while reducing climate pollution and protecting residents.”

—Mike Hurley, Chair, Metro Vancouver Board of Directors

Launched September 2024, the [BC Retrofit Accelerator \(BCRA\)](#) is a three-year program aimed at kickstarting climate and energy upgrades across hundreds of the commercial and residential buildings in urban areas across British Columbia.

Impact at a Glance

In 2024

5 delivery partners
across four streams
(commercial, market
and non-market rental,
and strata condos)

Aiming to produce
**500 large-building
decarbonization plans**, with a goal of
137 low-carbon retrofit projects

Teaming up with 15 public, private, and non-profit collaborators, BCRA helps to remove barriers to retrofits for efficient, low-carbon buildings. The program provides hands-on guidance, connecting strata councils, building owners, and managers with resources and support on retrofit planning, and implementation and financing options.

Collaborative Effort Toward Retrofit Solutions

Seeded with funding from ZEIC and Metro Vancouver Regional District, and supported by National Resources Canada and Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation, four flagship programs provided by five service delivery partners are reaching building owners often overlooked by traditional incentives.

Each program supports owners in developing a long-term roadmap to zero emissions while guiding them through upgrades, rebates, financing, and tailored retrofit advice across diverse building types.

Since program
launch in fall 2024,
277
**buildings enrolled across
all four programs, representing
many thousands of homes
and businesses.**

Program and Service Delivery Partners:



Aboriginal Housing
Management Association
Over 25 years of Indigenous
housing expertise.

LANDLORDBC

Leveraging Funding for Greater Impact

BCRA goes beyond providing support for building owners—it actively aggregates and leverages funding to drive critical work that advances retrofit solutions. This includes **co-funding a National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada research position** at the University of Victoria’s Energy in Cities Group and contributing **funding to the Consortium for Power Efficient Design**.

Committees & Working Groups Leading Retrofit Solutions

The BC Retrofit Accelerator Advisory Committee aligns key stakeholders, including BC Hydro, the province, local governments, industry, and research partners, to coordinate, raise policy awareness and collaborate on a retrofit agenda in B.C.



Building Capacity & Knowledge

Through strategic collaborations and engagement in key industry events and various networks, the accelerator plays a central role in driving education, awareness, and sector-wide collaboration to empower building owners to act on retrofits.



“This service is really needed—the Strata Energy Advisor looks at buildings holistically. Single-family homes get lots of support, but condos need to be part of the solution too.”
—Wayne, Strata Council President

Strata Energy Advisor

✓ Better buildings start here

The [Strata Energy Advisor \(SEA\)](#), a free service, is aiming to support 268 condo buildings and more than 10,000 homeowners across B.C. in creating decarbonization plans to achieve a deep energy retrofit over time. ZEIC is collaborating with the Condominium Homeowners’ Association of BC to deliver the Strata Energy Advisor.

The SEA program has been involved with offering a range of learning opportunities—such as webinars, conferences, and Ask-An-Advisor sessions—that have collectively **reached more than 450 participants** to date.

By the numbers:

Three-year targets:

Decarbonization plans created:

268 condo buildings

Deep energy retrofit projects implemented:

40 condo buildings

Status (as of December 2024):
24 buildings registered within first three months of program implementation

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
& MARKET
TRANSFORMATION

Advancing
B.C. Businesses
& Workers Toward
a Clean Economy



Working with ZEIC’s economic development team on big-picture issues like financial sector coordination around climate risks has been and continues to be a pleasure. Their strategic approach and deep network mean that we’ve been able to find previously undiscovered synergies and are exploring more ways we can entrench positive impact in the B.C. ecosystem.”

—Don Iveson, Executive Advisor, Climate Investing and Community Resilience, The Cooperators

Launched in April 2024, the [Economic Development and Transformation \(EDMT\)](#) program is ZEIC’s fully cross-sector team, working within our core industries —buildings, energy, and transportation—and beyond, to drive market transformation, foster systems innovation, and position urban decarbonization as an economic opportunity.

Impact at a Glance

In 2024			
Delivered 19 economic development training and awareness presentations to 1,100+ business, labour, and government leaders	Led or participated in 40+ industry and capacity-building events	Served on 10 industry and regulatory advisory committees	Led or supported 10+ research projects as experts, sponsors or partners

The EDMT program supports the energy transition by:

- **Running capacity-building programs** to empower businesses and workers.
- **Supporting economic decision-makers** in leveraging climate action benefits.
- **Convening industry and government leaders** to collaborate on shared action.
- **Running cutting-edge research** on economic risks and opportunities related to climate change.



By engaging across sectors and silos, EDMT is shaping how governments, trade associations, and city councils see the path to a low-carbon future. Through strategic gatherings, it introduces bold narratives and opens doors to networks driving urban decarbonization and economic development.

In 2024

Hosted
26
strategic convenings
and
2
leadership groups
to shape B.C.'s energy, economic,
and sustainable finance strategies.

Facilitated
14
business-to-business
and investment connections
across government, industry,
and community networks.

Shifting the conversation means shifting for inclusion. In 2024, EDMT prioritized gender and racial diversity across all events—achieving gender parity among speakers at nearly every event, and at least one-third representation from Indigenous communities or racial equity-serving organizations.

Shaping Policy for Sustainable Growth

EDMT's efforts have shifted the policy landscape, sparking meaningful conversations between policymakers and business leaders. Through engagement in provincial electricity policy and the B.C. Energy and Resource Table, we are shaping discussions on energy and the economy in B.C.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFSITE HOUSING ACCELERATOR

ZEIC is incubating the Local Government Offsite Housing Accelerator (Offsite Accelerator), an initiative dedicated to advancing economic and climate solutions in B.C. Led by an external consulting team and the BC Indigenous Housing Society, this collaborative effort is catalyzed by foundational support from ZEIC and the Real Estate Foundation of BC.

By offering project management, communications, and engagement support, ZEIC is helping to accelerate the adoption of offsite prefabrication, wood and mass timber construction—an innovative, sustainable solution for housing supply challenges.

Offsite wood construction can bridge urban and rural economies, create local jobs, and accelerate new near zero housing with streamlined production, permitting, and construction. It cuts embodied carbon by minimizing waste and offering low-carbon alternatives to concrete, while also addressing labour shortages and boosting housing affordability—all of which pose as barriers to timely and affordable housing development.

The Offsite Accelerator brings together government and industry leaders to drive offsite housing, focusing on key policy and practice shifts, like strategic land use and practical tools for municipalities to overcome barriers in the development approval process. The initiative is delivering engagement, capacity building and knowledge sharing to help drive market transformation.

Impact at a Glance

In 2024

Hosted
6 webinars
and in-person dialogues, with
770+ participants
from diverse sectors



Building a Workforce for the Clean Economy

The [Sustainable Workforce Coalition \(SWC\)](#) is B.C.'s only regional initiative focused on a just transition for workers into net-zero economy careers.

Originating as part of the Vancouver Economic Commission, the SWC migrated to the Zero Emissions Innovation Centre in 2024. The Coalition's mission is to break down barriers, forge synergies, and expand education and job opportunities, with a strong focus on equity-deserving workers.

"The Sustainable Workforce Coalition brings together all relevant sectors to work together for solutions. So often we work in silos, not accessing the benefit of broader information, different perspectives and new connections. The Coalition's ability to drive change to a 'just workforce transition' flows from its nature as a truly broad-based group of change-makers."

— Stephen von Sychowski, Co-Chair, Sustainable Workforce Coalition; President, Vancouver and District Labour Council

Impact at a Glance

In 2024

**Included
40+
partners**

from local government, industry, Indigenous partners, business, and others.

**Delivered
5
capacity-building
sessions**

for 315 attendees.

**Hosted
6
active leadership
and/or working
groups**

1 Steering Committee, 1 Secretariat, and 3 sub-committees.

Reaching Workers Where They Are

In 2024, SWC partnered with non-profit, Iron & Earth to strengthen its outreach to workers affected by the energy transition in Surrey, B.C.—the fastest growing, and most worker-dense, part of the region. By directly engaging diverse community members, the Coalition addressed needs and concerns around sustainable jobs, retraining, and the shifting energy landscape.



Creating Pathways for Young Workers

SWC connected Student Energy and British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) to start collaborating on a microcredential program aimed at providing equitable career development opportunities for youth, particularly those from underrepresented communities. This included: providing clean economy benchmarks to youth and partnering with BCIT to develop course content and align with industry needs.



SWC operates with inclusivity at its core, prioritizing Indigenous and equity-deserving voices in every aspect of its work. This includes three enshrined seats for Indigenous partners and active collaboration with the City of Vancouver Indigenous Relations Team to integrate Indigenous leadership perspectives into SWC's initiatives.

Strengthening Global Learning Collaboration

In November 2024, the Building Decarbonization Coalition led 16 New York labour and community leaders on an immersive tour of Vancouver's advanced thermal energy networks (TENs). Organized in joint effort with the SWC, the Canadian Building Decarbonization Alliance, and Reshape Strategies, the three-day visit showcased

how these networks can create good jobs, cut emissions, and transform energy systems at scale.

This exchange underscored the power of cross-border collaboration in advancing equitable, low-carbon energy solutions that benefit both workers and communities.



WOMEN4CLIMATE

Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders



“I have so appreciated how the W4C program has introduced me to some of the brightest young minds in the industry. These relationships continue to inspire me, provoke my own thinking, and allow me to share lessons from my own career.”

—Robyn Wark, Manager, Market Transformation, BC Hydro & three-time W4C Mentor

The [Women4Climate \(W4C\)](#) program empowers climate action leadership. Achieving climate targets and enabling a resilient society requires inclusivity across sectors and leadership that represents the diversity of the population. The W4C program creates space for seasoned and emerging climate leaders to inspire each other—and innovation—in our region.

Impact at a Glance

Since 2022		
80+ participants engaged	60+ organizations involved	20+ networking and learning events delivered

Celebrating New Beginnings, Future Leaders

Initially a collaborative effort between City of Vancouver, C40 Cities, and ZEBx, W4C became a fully integrated ZEIC program in 2024, with an extended focus on the Metro Vancouver region.

“The Women4Climate program hosted by ZEIC is an exceptional opportunity to better support women and non-binary individuals leading the way to a low-carbon, socially inclusive future. We are humbled and excited to play a part in hosting the leadership training component.”

—Tamara Connell, CEO, Academy for Sustainable Innovation





In November 2024, ZEIC released the call for applications, marking the occasion with a vibrant event focused on **'Women Leading the Way to a Clean Economy'** that brought together **75 women** across career stages, and included industry leaders, academics, and elected officials.



Key Components for Impact

Throughout the 10-month long cohort-based program, participants pursue a climate action-focused project, expand their circle of connections, and grow and develop as leaders. The program welcomes applicants with intersecting identities, including BIPOC and 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Since 2022, 45% of mentees identified as BIPOC with BIPOC participation expected to continue and grow in future years.

The program consists of three key components:

- Mentorship support from established local leaders
- Practical leadership development training to elevate and embolden leadership skills
- Networking opportunities for career and learning acceleration



"As an Indigenous person, my cultural teachings say we are all connected to the lands, water, air, animals and each other. My people believe it is important not to take more than you need, to walk softly on the earth, to take care of one another, and give back. I am grateful to be part of an important initiative that empowers women to use their knowledge and voices to inspire more leaders in this field."

— *Women4Climate Mentee*



GRANTS & IMPACT INVESTING

Empowering Change for Lasting, Low-Carbon Impact

With strong expertise in urban climate solutions, we seek opportunities to fund and co-fund high-impact projects through grants and impact investing initiatives. As an endowed charity, ZEIC is proud to be a member of the Environment Funders Canada and the Philanthropic Foundations of Canada, including their Investment Roundtable.

What We Fund:


We support projects that focus on key sectors in urban areas in BC—and that generate capacity for action.




Sectoral Focus
Low carbon buildings
Low carbon transportation
Urban renewable energy solutions
Equity and Indigenous-led climate action



Geographic Focus
Metro Vancouver region and other urban areas in British Columbia



Mobilizing Capital
Initiatives catalyze new investments, “crowd in” other funding and resources, and leverage additional funds.



Capacity Building
Initiatives unlock human capital, building capacity in people, networks & organizations. Initiatives support champions, early adopters, and leaders or activate those less engaged in decarbonization solutions.

Grants

ZEIC [grants](#) drive low-carbon solutions and strive to foster co-benefits, such as healthier communities and economic development. We fund scalable initiatives by supporting projects that enable systems change, policy shifts, behavioural change, market solutions, cross-sector collaboration, and expanded technical and social understandings.

Impact at a Glance

Since 2022		
Funded 112 grants	Dispersed \$2.1 million to eligible recipients	Leveraged \$1.5 million in co-funding for grant projects

Note: “Grants” are defined to include grants, gifts, contribution agreements, and intermediary arrangements.

Leveraging Co-Funding for Maximum Impact

Fueled by both endowment proceeds and aligned contributions from other funders, ZEIC’s grant program aims to accelerate outcomes, foster collaboration, mobilize co-funding, and scale climate action across the region.

Equity & Indigenous Leadership Climate Action Grants

Supported by a multi-year investment from ZEIC and the McConnell Foundation, this grant stream, aligned with ZEIC’s mission and strategic priorities, reflects equity and Indigenous leadership priorities which are essential pillars of true and robust climate action. In these first years, the stream has focused on building relationships and diverse investments in capacity building to reflect the aspirations and interests of local First Nations, Indigenous-serving organizations, and youth.



Grant **Highlights**

Building Retrofit Decarbonization Microcredential

Developed by British Columbia Institute of Technology's Zero Energy/Emissions Buildings Learning Centre, this four-course microcredential equips building owners, managers, and professionals with the tools to integrate decarbonization and climate risk into portfolio strategy.

Unlike traditional retrofit training, it focuses on strategic planning, building a business case, financial readiness, and risk mitigation. Designed for those who own, manage, finance, or govern various larger buildings, the program is tailored for working professionals.

“For years, educators have focused on the engineering challenges of decarbonizing buildings—producing brilliant technical solutions but often engaging key decision-makers too late in the process. At BCIT, we’re excited to shift that narrative by bringing together a teaching team of experts in finance, insurance, business, and engineering.”

—Alex Hebert Manager, ZEBL

The Kílila Program: Indigenous Youth Building Careers in Sustainable Construction

The Kílila program offers immersive building training for Indigenous youth (ages 18–30) and encourages participation of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQ+ individuals in skilled trades education and practice. A free program striving to reduce systemic barriers to education and training in a booming industry, it blends Western and Indigenous knowledge to inspire the next generation through hands-on learning.

A collaboration between the Cheakamus Foundation for Environmental Learning, Aboriginal Housing Management Association, and the BCIT School of Construction & the Environment, Kílila connects participants with industry professionals and career guidance. In October 2024, participants worked on a deep energy retrofit of cabin #10 at the Cheakamus Centre, gaining deep practical and technical experience.

“I would rather build with intention and put my love into something that will benefit the land and our community members.”

—Indigenous leader, Red Seal carpenter, BCIT faculty & advocate for women in trades



Cycling and Older Buildings Retrofit Program

Cycling offers affordable transportation for employment and social participation, improves health, and strengthens community connections—but not everyone has equal access. In Metro Vancouver, residents of older buildings often lack secure bike parking, a barrier that disproportionately impacts racialized and lower-income communities.

To enhance access to the many co-benefits of cycling, ZEIC supports HUB Cycling's Cycling and Older Buildings Retrofit Program. The initiative helps landlords, strata, and building managers in Vancouver improve secure bike and e-bike storage by offering support with design options, permitting, and financial subsidies. With five full retrofits underway—aiming to **benefit 500 homes**—the program is creating a blueprint for scaling equitable access to cycling infrastructure across the region.

“Public bike routes are improving quickly, and new buildings must have excellent bike parking facilities. But the low quantity and quality of bike parking in our region's many older residential buildings are a complete barrier to cycling for so many people.”

—Timothy Welsh, Director of Program Development, HUB Cycling

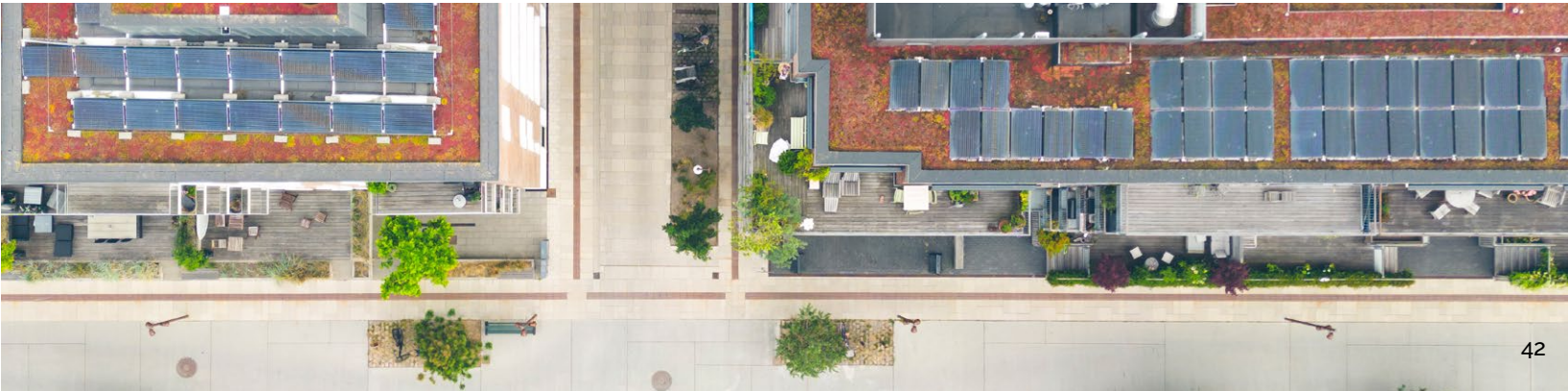
Copenhagen Study Tour: Net Zero Innovation

Copenhagen aims to become one of the world's first net-zero cities by 2025—a bold goal powered by a culture of innovation and strong public-private collaboration.

In partnership with the Danish Trade Council, the Vancouver Economic Commission, and others, ZEIC and Vancity co-funded an initiative to connect local climate leaders with global best practices. A delegation of Metro Vancouver policymakers, innovators, non-profits, educators, and businesses travelled to Copenhagen,

learning firsthand how the city is advancing high-performance buildings, district energy, low-carbon policy, regulation, and how they're addressing embodied emissions and developing circular economies. Ideas sparked on this study tour have grown into full-scale programs such as Near Zero and BCRA.

Ideas sparked on this study tour have grown into full-scale programs such as Near Zero and the BC Retrofit Accelerator.



Enabling Capacity Building & Knowledge Sharing

Exposure to new ideas alongside colleagues and across sectors is central to systems change and climate action, as is enabling equity-deserving communities to lead and engage. ZEIC invested in several capacity-building delegations to foster relationships, knowledge exchange, and action planning. Delegates representing youth, BIPOC sustainability leaders, BC Indigenous Housing Society, Aboriginal Housing & Management Association, Non-Profit Housing Association, several First Nations in the Metro Vancouver area, and the Métis Nation of British Columbia, and participated in numerous events in 2024:

- The Starfish Canada's Youth Environmental Changemakers Summit
- First Nations Housing & Infrastructure West Conference
- The National Building Decarbonization Forum: Pathways to Electrification
- Assembly of First Nations 3rd Climate Gathering: Catalyzing First Nations Climate and Conservation Leadership for Transformative Change
- Canada Home Energy Justice Conference
- The BIPOC Sustainability Collective's Building Bridges Sustainable Workforce Event

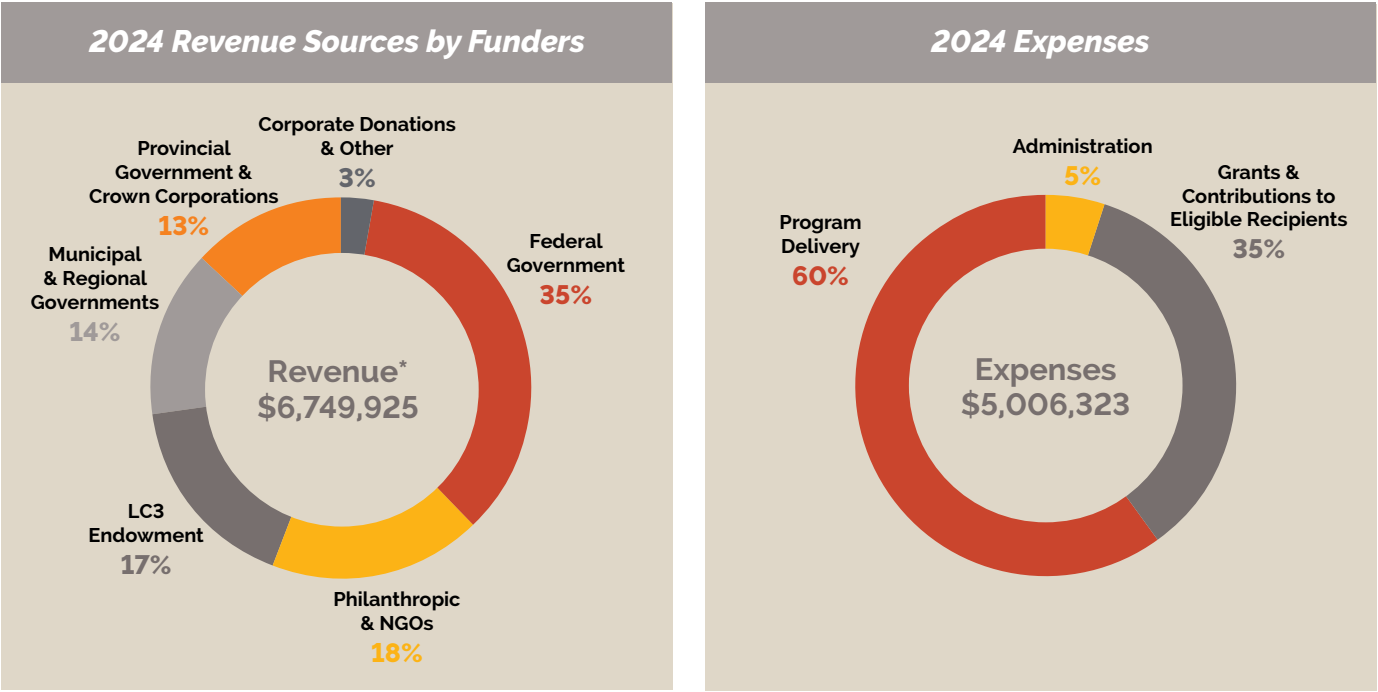
Impact Investing

ZEIC's impact investment portfolio will support catalytic ventures and investments that advance the transition to a low-carbon economy. This emerging area of work aims to generate lasting environmental and social impact alongside financial returns, allowing ZEIC to apply that profit back into the pursuit of our mandate.

2024 Financials

ZEIC is a nonprofit organization and a registered charity. We partner with funders and communities, stewarding an endowment to deliver programs and grants that protect the environment and support a resilient, net-zero future. Most of our revenue is restricted and recognized upon receipt. The figures below reflect fiscal year 2024 (January–December).

Annual audited financial statements can be found at zeic.ca/reports.



**Note: ZEIC recognizes revenues when they are received. 2024 revenues may be applied to expenses in prior, current, or future fiscal years.*

Collaborators & Co-Funders

ZEIC works with a diversity of collaborators and co-funders to accelerate and scale urban decarbonization across Metro Vancouver and British Columbia.



