



PRESS RELEASE

ECOTRUST CANADA LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO ENSURE ENERGY ACCESS FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS DURING AND AFTER COVID-19 CRISIS

APRIL 29 2020, Vancouver, BC –At Ecotrust Canada we believe that energy security is a right. All British Columbians have a right to access essential energy services without hardship — no one should be forced to choose between paying their utility bills and feeding their family. We applaud the steps that the BC Government and utilities have taken so far to provide short-term relief for energy bills during the peak of the COVID-19 crisis. Yet without stronger protective measures, thousands more families could be forced to make difficult decisions in the months and years to come.

Today we are launching a new public campaign — [Energy security for British Columbians during and after the COVID-19 crisis](#)

We are calling on the Province of British Columbia to:

- 1) **Provide emergency bill relief to all who need it** by improving crisis programs, eliminating late payment charges, and extending utility disconnection bans.
- 2) **Create new sustained protections**, including a basic energy rebate to provide direct bill relief for all low-income households.
- 3) **Accelerate BC's recovery and create thousands of jobs** by committing to an ambitious housing renewal strategy that will ensure every home and building in BC meets rigorous climate and health standards.

Graham Anderson, Director of Community Energy at Ecotrust Canada: *“As the COVID-19 crisis is teaching us, the impact of being unprepared in a rapidly changing world can be far worse than the cost of taking proactive and bold action. These measures will ensure that all British Columbians can continue to meet their basic energy needs during and beyond this crisis.”*

About Ecotrust Canada

Ecotrust Canada is an enterprising charity that works with rural, remote, and Indigenous communities toward building an economy that provides for a healthy and resilient natural environment; sustainable and abundant energy, food, and housing; prosperous and meaningful livelihoods; and vibrant and inclusive cultures. We call this approach [building an economy that provides for life](#). Our on-the-ground work and systems approach is entrepreneurial, partnership-based, and relentlessly practical. ecotrust.ca

For more information:

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