



Alberta Advocate

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Carbon Tax Arriving Soon

Alberta's carbon tax will come into force on January 1, 2017. This will mean increased costs for Albertans and Alberta businesses. Some key messages you can share include:

We cannot support the imposition of a carbon tax broadly – it will negatively impact everyday Albertans and also the economy generally. If the tax must go ahead, there are several areas where the funds gathered should be spent for maximum effectiveness

- Consumer education and awareness programs including a comprehensive yet easy to use website.
- Detailed energy billing that helps foster energy literacy.
- Incentives for voluntary home energy assessments and labeling.
- Incentives or tax rebates for targeted energy efficiency retrofits.
- No or low-interest loans on renewable energy sources.
- Financial incentives for pilot projects related to renewable energy, efficiently designed communities and community energy systems.

Energy Efficiency

The provincial government's focus on home energy efficiency was demonstrated by a pair of announcements before MLAs returned to the Legislature. CHBA – Alberta joined Municipal Affairs Minister Danielle Larivee at a news conference to discuss the recent introduction of new codes in Alberta, with an emphasis on energy efficiency. The government also announced new programs to encourage residential energy efficiency upgrades. The programs will be funded by the carbon tax, which over the next five years is projected to raise \$645 million for efficiency programs and small-scale renewable energy. CHBA – Alberta's Climate Leadership committee is planning local presentations to help members stay on top of opportunities and challenges in this rapidly evolving area.

Municipal Government Act (MGA) - Update

The Modernized Municipal Government Act has passed third reading in the legislature. The province's news release can be found [here](#), however the MGA review is far from over:

- We are expecting an updated and detailed draft of City Charter policy proposals shortly.
- MGA Regulations are being drafted and will be made available for comment and a consultation process will begin in early 2017.
- The Fiscal Framework proposals for the Charters will be available in early 2017.
- Feedback has been requested by the end of January on the 'Continuing the Conversation' document relating to the MGA, which could lead to additional amendments in the spring. We've asked that these possible amendments be pushed back due to time constraints.
- It is intended that everything be wrapped up by the fall of 2017.

There are still many areas where we need members actively reaching out to decision-makers and those in your communities to share our key messages relating to the legislation and the process, including:

- Policy changes have real life consequences – when changes to the MGA and Charters increase the already rising cost of housing, affordability will be impacted (buyers pay for levies, fees and other costs not developers), projects may not go ahead, and jobs could be lost at a difficult time for many Albertans.
- A positive of the changes to the MGA remains the inclusion of enhanced accountability measures such as the expanded role of the ombudsman. We support this change, but it must be followed up on.
- There is simply too much work left to do before the fall of 2017 if the MGA and City Charters are to be developed in a way that serves Albertans positively. Compromises must be made – there is no harm in continuing discussions on some items beyond fall 2017.