



The national push for low-income energy efficiency programming

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Agenda

Where we are

(Low-income program spending)



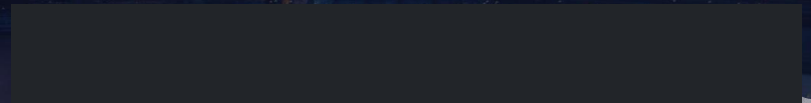
Where we need to go

(Principles for national/federal collaboration)



How to get there

(Organizing and engagement)





Where we are

Low-income program spending, 2018-2020



Low-income program spending

Efficiency Canada's Scorecard

- Our annual Scorecard report tracks provincial low-income program spending (incl. govt, utility, EE program administrators)
- Provinces benchmarked on low-income spending per household experiencing energy poverty (custom tabulation)
- Working on our 3rd edition (PY2020), released late Fall

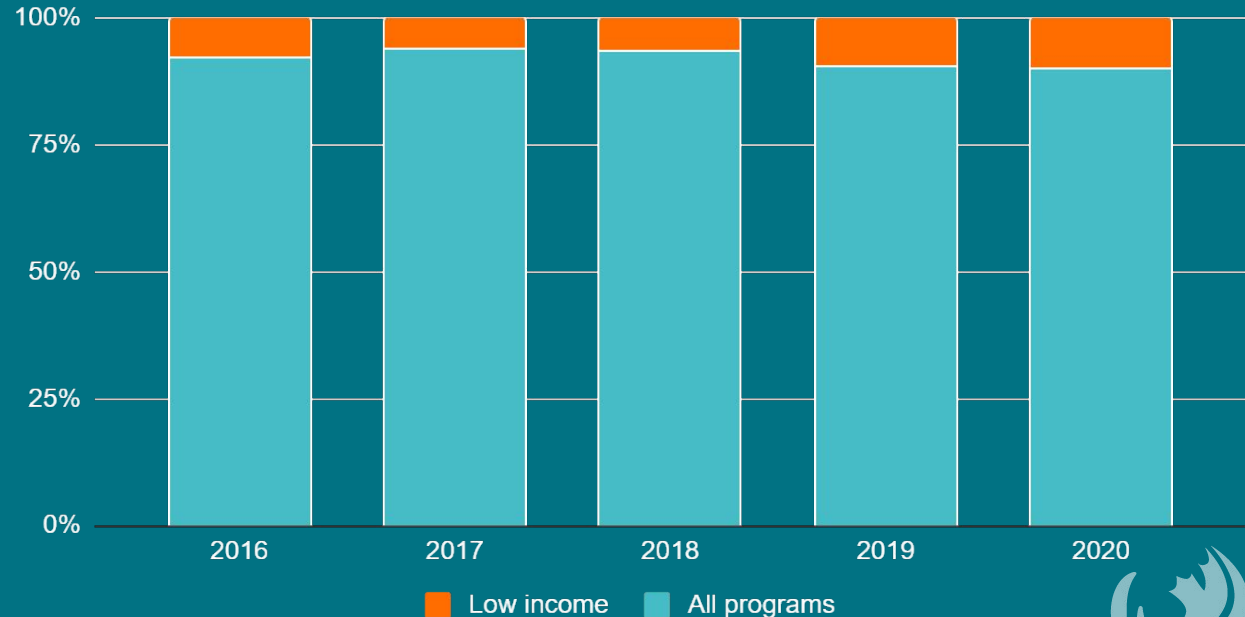


Low-income program spending

- Low-income program spending comprises a small share of overall program spending*
 - Averaging ~8.5% between 2016/2020
 - This share may be increasing in recent years
 - Low-income spending = ~\$100m in 2019

Provincial energy efficiency program spending

Low-income share of total



* 2020 data is preliminary

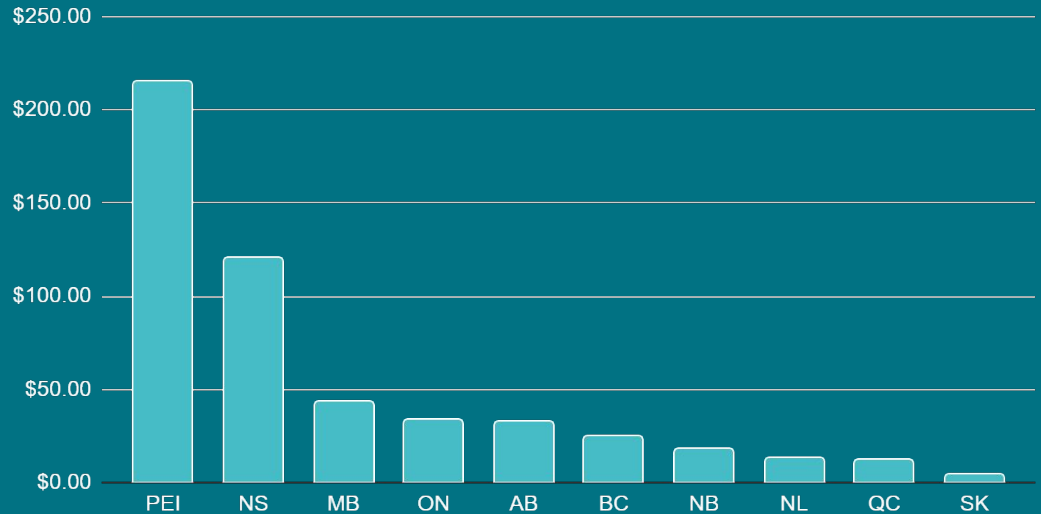


Low-income program spending

- Significant variance in spending per household in energy poverty
 - Median low-income spending = ~\$28 / household
 - Median all program spending *per capita* = ~\$31*
- Future research: proportion of residential spending that is low-income & depth of measures

2020 Scorecard Ranking

Low-income program spending per household experiencing energy poverty



* All program spending including commercial, industrial programs



Where we need to go

Organizing for a federal low income energy efficiency effort



Need for federal funding

Complement provincial programs with energy poverty reduction objectives

- Despite limitations of data, seems clear more is needed to support low-income population transition to low-carbon future
- Recent federal support for commercial / residential retrofitting and related initiatives (>\$10.5b) approximately doubles annual efficiency program spending
- Support for low-income / energy poor households largely absent in recent federal announcements





Principles for effective low-income programs

- Turn-key, no-cost service
- Community partnerships
- Multi-fuel, deep retrofits
- Convenient eligibility
- Inclusive workforce development



Federal / provincial opportunities

Everyone benefits from effective federal/provincial collaboration

- Almost all provinces provide some level of support for low-income energy efficiency that can be leveraged by additional federal support
- Important to ensure competing initiatives don't create confusion, crowd-out provincial efforts
- Complementary federal funding should focus on reducing energy poverty, achieving deeper energy savings across all fuels



How to get there

Principles for national/federal collaboration





Bring advocates together



Link efficiency and affordability



Keep the pressure on



Bring advocates together

- 125 attendees to our virtual rally
- Encouraging conversations across the country
- Connecting organizations working on environmental issues, housing, climate justice, etc.

03.04.2021  A RALLY FOR
ENERGY JUSTICE
USING ENERGY EFFICIENCY TO FIGHT
ENERGY POVERTY IN CANADA





Link efficiency and affordability

- 250+ individual letters to MPs
- Meetings with MPs to explain the policy gap
- Articles in the media

ECONOMY | ENVIRONMENT

Low-income households should be a priority for federal energy efficiency funding

Low-income Canadians should be insulated from carbon price increases, yet so far they have been left out of federal funding for energy efficiency.

by Brendan Haley
February 23, 2021



Keep the pressure on

- ➔ Budget 2021 proposes to provide \$4.4 billion on a cash basis (\$778.7 million on an accrual basis over five years, starting in 2021-22, with \$414.1 million in future years) to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to help homeowners complete deep home retrofits through interest-free loans worth up to \$40,000. Loans would be available to homeowners and landlords who undertake retrofits identified through an authorized EnerGuide energy assessment. In combination with available grants announced in the Fall Economic Statement, this would help eligible participants make deeper, more costly retrofits that have the biggest impact in reducing a home's environmental footprint and energy bills. This program will also include a dedicated stream of funding to support low-income homeowners and rental properties serving low-income renters including cooperatives and not-for-profit owned housing.

Lessons learned

1. Start early
2. Engage a wider audience - educate policy makers, develop new connections
3. Explain why - why we need the program, why the principles matter

Questions?

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