



Bay Area  
Climate Change  
Council

Bay Area Climate Change Council

**Bayareaclimate.ca**

[info@bayareaclimate.ca](mailto:info@bayareaclimate.ca)

COW, Nov 4, 2024

F-36-34 J.Elders correspondence

November 1, 2024

Dear Members of Council,

**RE: Budget 2025 - Funding for Better Homes Burlington**

On behalf of the Bay Area Climate Change Council ("BACCC"), a multi-sector collective of organizations dedicated to catalyzing climate action in the Hamilton-Burlington region, I am writing to express our strong support for the Better Homes Burlington Loan Program Expansion. We were thrilled to see funding allocated to the Program Expansion in the September 19th draft 2025 budget, and we are concerned to see that the funding has been excluded from the October 25th proposed budget.

Buildings are a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Burlington, with residential buildings alone accounting for over a quarter of the city's emissions. We know that close to 98% of buildings constructed prior to 2017 must undergo energy retrofits to achieve the necessary reductions in energy consumption and fossil fuel use to achieve our net zero goals as a community - the city must play a central role in tackling this immense challenge.

Burlington's Climate Action Plan includes an ambitious target to retrofit nearly 52,000 homes and install over 60,000 heat pumps by 2030. Better Homes Burlington is an essential tool in achieving these goals, providing measurable emissions reductions with each loan, building local knowledge about energy efficiency, and supporting growth in the local retrofit market.

Consistency is key to the success of the program. Better Homes Burlington must be a stable, long-term program to drive the necessary market changes to advance retrofits beyond the program itself. Burlington's peer municipalities have rolled out similar programs (e.g. the Better Homes Hamilton program), and together we can grow the regional market for the home energy retrofits necessary to achieve our climate commitments.

The Better Homes Burlington program is a key part of our community's climate action efforts, and we urge Council to consider the significant benefits of continued funding. We hope to see this item added back into the City's final 2025 budget.

We thank the Council for its consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions.

Sincerely,

**Jesse Elders**

**Manager, Bay Area Climate Change Council**

[jesse.elders@bayareaclimate.ca](mailto:jesse.elders@bayareaclimate.ca)



Bay Area  
Climate Change Council

[baccc.ca](http://baccc.ca) | [info@bayareaclimate.ca](mailto:info@bayareaclimate.ca)