

Better Buildings Partnership

Toronto, Ontario

Estimated Benefits to Date (2005)

- 179,000 tons CO₂ reduced per year
- \$13.6 million (\$16 million Cdn) annual operating cost reduction
- \$116 million (\$137 million Cdn) economic impact
- 4,125 person years job creation
- 435 buildings, 41 million ft² retrofitted

In January 1990, the City of Toronto made an official commitment to reduce the city's net CO₂ emissions by 20 percent relative to 1988 levels by the year 2005. Launched in 1996, the Better Buildings Partnership (BBP) program was developed to play a major role toward that end, and emissions reductions achieved through the BBP to date represent over four percent of the City's 20 percent target.

The BBP is an innovative public-private sector partnership program promoting and implementing energy-efficient retrofits of commercial, institutional and multi-residential buildings. The BBP offers comprehensive energy efficiency retrofits and building renewal initiatives for all buildings in the City of Toronto in both the public and private sectors. Comprehensive building improvements normally consist of a mix of short and long-term payback measures where significant energy and water technologies are bundled together with other building renewal measures to allow for project flexibility.

The BBP is implemented through a number of targeted programs:

- Residential Energy Awareness Program
- Large Office Building Program
- Small/Medium Commercial Buildings Program
- Multi-Residential Non-Profit Buildings Program
- In-House Energy Efficiency Program
- BBP Loan Recourse Fund

To date, the BBP has created a positive economic impact of \$116 million (\$137 million Cdn) and resulted in annual savings of 179,000 tons CO₂. Once fully implemented, the BBP is anticipated to yield a total economic impact of \$2.5 billion (\$3 billion Cdn) and prevent close to 3.3 million tons of CO₂ emissions annually from entering the environment. Through its programs and customized financing packages, the BBP provides a number of environmental (e.g., reduced peak electricity use and air pollution emissions, improved indoor air quality and building occupant comfort), economic (e.g., job creation, increased attractiveness of buildings to potential tenants, technology development), and social (e.g., urban revitalization) benefits to the greater Toronto community.

The Better Buildings Partnership is sponsored by the City of Toronto Atmospheric Fund, City of Toronto Energy Efficiency Office, Ameresco Canada, Direct Energy, Enbridge Gas Distribution, Inc., Ontario Hydro Energy, the Toronto Hydro Electric System, and Toronto Hydro Energy Services. The City of Toronto established the objectives and goals behind the BBP in partnership with these sponsors and through consultation with a broad range of stakeholders including: ICLEI, financial institutions, building owners and managers, the environmental community, trade unions, community groups, equipment manufacturers, and the construction energy/water efficiency service delivery industries. For more information, please call (416) 392-1500.

