

Retrofit Actions by Carbon Grids

A part of the [Retrofit Councillor Handbook Section](#)



Stay tuned for the up-to-date
version of this resource!

This document is undergoing fact checks and updates...
you will be able to access the new version in September 2025.

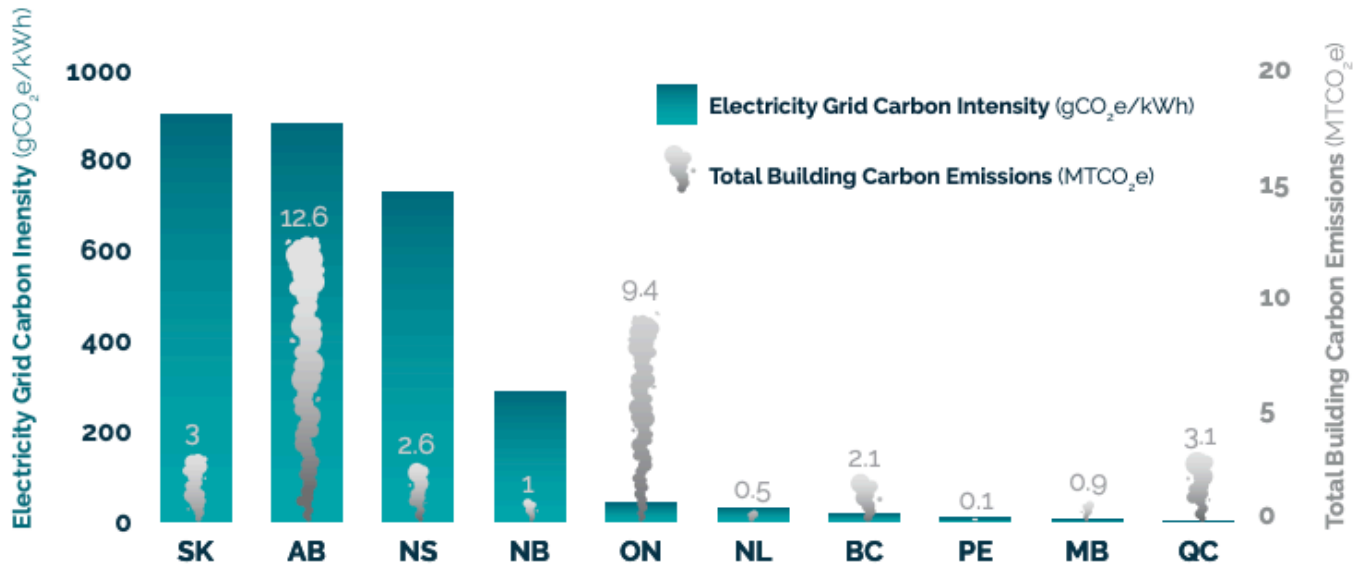
Context

Canada's National Energy Board forecasts that 14% of the nation's carbon emissions will decrease if population growth remains steady ([CaGBC, 2017](#)). Grid carbon intensity is essential when thinking about retrofit actions because it can determine which building features produce significant GHG emissions. Therefore, it determines which retrofit measures are worth focusing on.

Reducing buildings GHG emissions by asset class

While carbon grids relate directly to higher emissions from individual buildings, sector emissions are also impacted by building efficiency, the forms of energy used, and the total building floor area in a given region.

See [The Canada Green Building Council's Roadmap for Retrofits in Canada](#) to identify which building asset classes are recommended to be reduced in your province/territory and thus in your municipality.



Source: 2014 emission intensities from Canada's National Inventory Report 2017, 2016 emissions from WSP National Carbon roadmap model.

For example, Ontario contributes among the greatest emissions from buildings in Canada despite its relatively clean grid, as a result of the province's large total building floor area and the reliance on natural gas for heating and hot water (Source: [CaGBC, 2017](#)).

Carbon Grid Groups

Select below your carbon grid group to discover which retrofit measures will best impact your community and some examples of bylaws, motions and reports that municipalities have undertaken.

Low-carbon grids

- British Columbia
- Ontario
- Newfoundland
- Manitoba
- Quebec
- Yukon

Moderate-carbon grids

- New Brunswick
- Prince Edward Island
- Northwest Territories

High-carbon grids

- Alberta
- Nunavut
- Saskatchewan
- Nova Scotia