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### **For Immediate Release**

### **Three Cheers for Heat Pumps!**

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Heat pumps have been a hot topic in politics over the last several months. While not all reviews have been positive, there's no denying that heat pumps are incredibly important for climate action, and they can help save you money!

Heating for buildings is the third largest source of emissions in Canada after the oil and gas and transportation sectors, accounting for 13% of Canada's carbon pollution in 2021- about 87 mega tonnes. The federal government has vowed to reduce emissions from buildings by 37% by 2030 to achieve net zero by 2050.

A lot of people in Canada still use oil, gas or propane to heat their homes. Reducing climate pollution from Canada's building sector will require a big switch from fossil fuels to clean electricity. Heat pumps are the best way to do this as they can run off clean electricity and they are efficient as well.

Not only are heat pumps integral to meeting our climate targets in Canada, they could also help you save money. A report by the Canadian Climate Institute called "Heat Pumps Pay Off: Unlocking Lower Cost Heating and Cooling" shows heat pumps are cheaper than gas and air conditioning in most cases in Canada. Heat pumps came out on top because they are 2-5X more efficient than gas furnaces, and can both heat and cool in a single appliance.

What's the cheapest option for home heating depends on the size, type, age and efficiency of your home, as well as where you live and which provincial rebates you qualify for and the climate that you live in. The report looks at the cost of different heating options in Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax and accounts for the upfront cost of the appliance over its lifetime as well.

You can calculate what is the cheapest home heating option for you at [heatpumpcalculator.ca](http://heatpumpcalculator.ca). If you don't live in any of those cities you can choose one that is most similar in terms of climate/provincial rebates, or average the cost of all cities.

A common concern regarding heat pumps is their ability to function properly in extremely cold temperatures. Many people who have a heat pump have a backup heating system, whether it is gas, baseboard heaters or a wood stove. Having a backup heating system is a perfectly normal thing to do when having a heat pump.

There is also at least one study that disputes the efficiency of heat pumps in cold temperatures. According to a study from Oxford University heat pumps are 2-3X more efficient than fossil fuel heating systems in temperatures below 0°C, and can even be more efficient in temperatures approaching -30°C.

If you would like to access rebates for heat pumps there is up to \$5000 available from the Canada Greener Homes Grant (to be replaced in the future), \$6000 from Clean BC/BC Hydro and \$1500 from Wildsight Golden's Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program. There is also up to \$40,000 in interest-free loans available from the Greener Home Loans Program and up to \$10,000 from the Oil to Heat Pump Affordability Program.

Submitted by the Air Quality Committee Wildsight Golden