Applying the B.C. Energy Step Code

START
Sample Municipality

Existing Efficiency Bylaws

Transitioning to the Step Code?

- Yes → Intent form is submitted to the Step Code Council
- No → Existing bylaws have no force. **Only BC Building Code applies.**

To an equivalent Step?

- Yes → No enforcement delay
- No → **Industry consultation needed**

What kind of changes?

- New location or process (i.e. rezoning) → Minimum three-month delay from notification
- New or expanded requirements to a Lower Step (1-3) → Minimum six-month delay from notification
- New or expanded requirements for a Higher Step (4-5) → Minimum twelve-month delay from notification

No Existing Efficiency Bylaws

Joining the Step Code?

- Yes → **Industry consultation needed**
- No → No changes. **Only BC Building Code applies.**

What level?

- Lower Steps (1-3) → Minimum six-month delay from notification
- Higher Steps (4-5) → Minimum twelve-month delay from notification

In-stream Applications
Existing applicants should be permitted to build to the energy standards in place at the time of application, providing they meet the permit guidelines outlined in the *Local Government Best Practices Guide (p. 35)*

Start with Lower Steps
Local governments are encouraged in the *Best Practices Guide (p.37)* to start in the Lower Steps (1-3), which can be met with conventional materials.