

Three Steps to Cost-Effective Home Heat Protection.

Step One: Plan ahead to keep cool, (do-it-yourself, \$0).

1.1) Help vulnerable neighbours, family, friends prepare and arrange to check on them during heat events.

1.2) sign-up for heat alerts on your phone (e.g. WeatherCan).

1.3) Learn how to best use windows and doors to naturally ventilate your home, particularly at night.

1.4) Choose energy efficient lights and appliances that produce less 'waste' heat.

1.5) Temporarily arrange to work or sleep in cooler rooms (e.g. basements).

Step Two: Complete simple upgrades, (do-it-yourself, for under \$250).

2.1) Plant and maintain shade trees, especially along south, east and west facing walls. Seek local advice on appropriate native species, and, in places at risk of wildfires, consider FireSmart guidance.

2.2) Grow plants climbing up your walls and on decks and balconies. Seek local advice on appropriate native species, and, in places at risk of wildfires, consider FireSmart guidance.

2.3) Improve home insulation and air tightness (e.g. draft strips).

2.4) Install blinds, heat-resistant curtains, or films on windows.

2.5) Use portable or ceiling fans that increase air circulation.

Step Three: Complete more complex upgrades, (work with a contractor, for over \$250).

3.1) Convert paved areas to vegetation which absorbs less heat and more water. Seek local advice on appropriate native species, and, in places at risk of wildfires, consider FireSmart guidance.

3.2) Install a green, vegetated, or reflective roof. If choosing a vegetated roof seek local advice on appropriate native species, and, in places at risk of wildfires, consider FireSmart guidance.

3.3) Shade windows with outdoor shutters and awnings.

3.4) Install windows and doors that have a low Solar Heat Gain Coefficient, let less heat in.

3.5) Install and maintain a heat pump or air conditioning unit.

For more information and resources visit www.intactcentre.ca