

There are some great success stories out there and the ECO wants to hear about them – energy conservation initiatives that help conserve electricity, natural gas, propane, oil or transportation fuels.

Please visit the ECO website at www.eco.on.ca to contribute to the discussion and share your thoughts on barriers and initiatives to energy conservation.

These could be community projects, pilot projects, in-house programs and practices, innovative technologies, education or awareness activities, or any other initiatives that help conserve or make more efficient use of energy. The ECO is particularly interested in projects that have worked at a small scale and could be scaled up, or initiatives that have worked well in other places that Ontario might want to consider.

7.1 Notable Initiatives

Highlighted below are several innovative initiatives identified by the ECO that provide notable examples of the energy conservation possibilities:

Developing Individual Agents of Change - Community Champion Program (Social Housing Services Corporation)

For conservation programs to succeed, one must not only look to operational or technical solutions. It is equally, if not more important, to change individual attitudes and behaviours. The Community Champion Program educates and enables social housing residents to become agents of change in their own communities. With the support of the housing provider, Community Champions receive training and support on how to promote, communicate, plan and implement conservation programs. Resources (such as presentations, posters, communication tools and an online forum) help participants promote conservation basics to fellow social housing residents and other communities.

Results: Since the program was developed in 2007, 80 social housing organizations and 21 Community Champions have received training on energy conservation.

Breaking Down Financial Barriers to Energy-Efficient High-Rises – TowerWise Green Condo Loan Program (Toronto Atmospheric Fund)

Toronto has more high-rise buildings than any North American city aside from New York. Many more are built each year. Yet the average high-rise is less energy efficient per square foot than a detached home.

One barrier inhibiting the construction of energy efficient high-rise condominiums is the “split incentive” problem – building to high energy efficiency standards increases capital costs for the builder, but the operating savings of these investments are recouped by the condo owner. The TowerWise Green Condo Loan program is an innovative new business model whereby bank loans are advanced to the builder to cover the incremental costs associated with energy efficiency investments, and the loans are paid back over time by condo corporations from subsequent operating savings.

Results: Toronto Atmospheric Fund has partnered with Tridel to leverage more than \$5 million in bank loans to fund energy efficiency investment in new buildings, leading to a 30 to 35 per cent energy savings in several major new condo developments.