

## Three Steps to Cost-Effective Apartment and Condo Heat Protection

Step 1: Plan ahead to keep cool, (do-it-yourself, \$0).

- 1.1) Help vulnerable neighbours, family, and friends prepare and arrange to check on them during heat events.
- 1.2) Sign up for heat alerts on your phone, for example WeatherCan.
- 1.3) Learn how to best use windows and doors to naturally ventilate your unit, particularly at night.
- 1.4) Choose energy efficient lights and appliances that produce less “waste” heat.
- 1.5) Arrange to work or sleep in a cooler place like a shared cooling space.

Step 2: Complete simple upgrades, (do-it-yourself, for under \$250).

- 2.1) Green your balcony or deck with potted, hanging and climbing plants. In places at risk of wildfire, the use of green infrastructure must be considered alongside FireSmart Guidance.
- 2.2) Place tall plants with large leaves near light-facing windows.
- 2.3) Improve unit insulation and air tightness, for example installing or replacing 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 3: Complete more complex upgrades, (with building managers, for over \$250).

- 3.1) Install temperature and humidity monitors or controls.
- 3.2) Paint unit walls with white paint or light colours.
- 3.3) Shade windows with outdoor shutters and awnings.
- 3.4) Install windows and doors with low Solar Heat Gain Coefficients, that let less heat in.
- 3.5) Install and maintain a heat pump or air conditioning unit.

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