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## **Ecology Action Centre Response to Home Energy Efficiency Announcement** *”Efficiency delayed is efficiency denied”*

HALFAX - The Ecology Action Centre says the government’s proposed housing standards are a large improvement for the province, but they fall short of cutting-edge. Nova Scotia currently has had no mandatory housing standards. The proposal outlined today would move the province towards some of the toughest standards in the country, but the Centre says much more could be achieved and needs to be achieved to confront climate change.

“The proposal would bring Nova Scotia from no housing standards towards some of the best in Canada” said EAC Energy Coordinator, Brendan Haley. “However, efficiency delayed is efficiency denied, the question is how many opportunities will be lost between now and 2011. We could move to the EnerGuide 80 standard much sooner and improve upon that standard by 2011.”

The Ecology Action Centre notes that the EnerGuide 80 standard is based upon techniques that were developed a quarter of a century ago through the R2000 program. The Centre suggests that there is little reason the province could not move towards EnerGuide 80 standards within a year, instead of waiting until 2011. That would allow for the completion of projects currently in the planning phase for all but the massive scale developers who work on larger timeframes, but also have the capacity to change plans to meet more efficient standards.

“The standards proposed are certainly better than what we have now, but they are not innovative or high-tech. In confronting the climate crisis, we can’t afford to delay or fall-short of the best practices available. Nova Scotia should be setting its sights higher to become a leader in ecological building practices” said Brendan Haley.

The Centre envisions houses based upon a standard that encompasses full environmental health, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). New buildings should take into account water savings, the use of local materials, and orientation for solar energy. They emphasize that much can be achieved when designing new buildings that aren’t possible with existing buildings.

The Ecology Action Centre also welcomed the proposal to label the efficiency of new buildings. They would also like to also see mandatory labelling for buildings that enter the housing market.

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