

The BC Insulators: The Union as Climate Change Advocate

By: John Calvert and Corinne Tallon
Simon Fraser University

With the co-operation of the BC Insulators
(Lee Loftus, Ken Jakobsson and Lyndon Johnson)

November 2016

Adapting Work and Workplaces to Respond to Climate Change (ACW)

Introduction

- This research project documents the efforts of a Canadian building trades union to promote climate change initiatives in the British Columbia construction industry
- The research question was first to document its efforts and, second, to evaluate how successful they have been
- The union is the Heat, Frost, Insulation and Asbestos Workers, referred to as the **BC Insulators**
- The research is part of a larger 7 year, \$2.5 million research program funded by the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council entitled “Adapting Work and Workplaces to Respond to Climate Change: Canada in International Perspective” (Carla Lipsig-Mumme Principal Investigator)
- The project traces the evolution of this union’s climate advocacy, step by step, over the past 30 years

Why Was I interested in doing this research?

- Over the past few years I became increasingly aware of the remarkable climate advocacy activities of the BC Insulators union.
- The union was doing something unusual - indeed unique
- It was attempting to change the culture of the building industry by promoting low carbon, 'green' construction
- The union has challenged a complacent industry – an industry that failed to take climate change seriously
- It has funded a major, multi-year campaign to lower the energy consumption and GHG emissions of buildings
- It is an example of how a small trade union can become a significant advocate of climate change within its industry

Who Are the BC Insulators and What Do Their Members Do?

- The BC Insulators: a small building trades' union based in BC, Canada
- Its members install mechanical insulation (MI) on pipes and ductwork in heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC)
- Mechanical insulation prevents heat or cooling losses, minimizes condensation and facilitates temperature control in buildings
- Properly insulated HVAC systems reduce the adverse health impacts in buildings from mold, airborne chemicals and allergens
- MI can play a major role in reducing energy consumption, lowering GHG emissions and mitigating climate change

Examples of Mechanical Insulation

- The photos on the following pages illustrate some of the consequences of poorly installed Mechanical Insulation
- They also show how properly installed MI can protect HVAC systems in buildings

However, it is common to not see insulation (Photo 2) in mechanical rooms and on pipe and duct runs through buildings. Energy is often wasted by transfer into unheated areas that don't need any heat (e.g. mechanical rooms) or pipe chases.



It is common to see condensation on un-insulated sections of domestic water piping and fittings. The preceding photo (Photo 3) shows condensation on a backflow preventer. Generally fittings are made of brass or stainless steel and these are not affected by some condensation; however, there will be an increased heat transfer rate due to condensation. Where carbon steel piping or fittings are used, the affects of condensation may be more serious (Photo 4 and 5). Also, condensation can damage building elements such as drywall, ceiling tile and concrete below dripping pipes.



2.0 Design, Materials & Quality Guidelines

This section provides guidance on the elements necessary to maximize mechanical insulation performance, with a focus on material selection, quality, and durability. The focus of this section is on commercial and institutional buildings and systems. [Section 2.6 provides a high level overview of Industrial systems and refers to additional resources.](#)

2.1 Performance Specifications



Click here to get more information about performance specifications. [Read more →](#)

2.4 Building Envelope, Air Barrier and Fire Stopping



Click here to learn more about building envelope, air barrier, and fire stopping considerations.

2.2 Design Considerations & Objectives



To learn more about design considerations and objectives, click here. [Read more →](#)

2.5 Installation Review Guidelines and Checklist



To see installation review guidelines and checklist, click here. [Read more →](#)

2.3 Materials Selection



For more details about materials selection, click here. [Read more →](#)

2.6 Industrial Systems



For information specific to industrial systems, click here. [Read more →](#)



Savings from a properly engineered and installed mechanical insulation system are unparalleled.





PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH



Without proper moisture control mould and mildew can form in a short period of time.

air quality

Mechanical Insulation products contribute to a safe and healthy indoor environment and block the introduction, development and/or spread of indoor contaminants within the building.

The key to sustained avoidance of mould growth in building components is to prevent condensation from developing on surfaces and control dew point. Moisture provides nutrient availability to support fungal growth. Water therefore remains the controllable element in the prevention of mould growth. This control and prevention in the condensation process is simply stated: keep it dry.

The Union Responds to Industry Failures

- The Union's pathway to climate change advocacy was a response to a series of crises in the BC construction industry
- The root cause of the crises was the BC industry's culture of 'low bid' competition which drove down quality standards, deskilled the construction workforce and allowed developers and contractors to build and market sub-standard buildings
- BC's industry has a 'free enterprise' culture that is deeply hostile to public regulation, opposed to unions, determined to keep labour costs down and reluctant to support training construction workforce

Steps on the Pathway to Climate Activism: Leaky Condos and Winter Olympics Debacles

- The union's climate activism was a response to industry crises triggered by a low bid, poor quality, unregulated free enterprise culture
- **1990s BC's 'leaky condo' crisis** cost building owners over \$2 billion and resulted in 2 Barratt Commissions 1998 and 2000
- The Commission supported union's concerns, but subsequent governments ignored its reform package
- **The 2010 Winter Olympics** in BC included Canada's first large scale 'green' LEED Platinum housing project to house the athletes
- Shoddy construction practices were widespread in the project

Steps on the Union's Pathway to Climate Activism

- Both government and developers ignored union concerns about the Olympic Village
- So it went public to expose the shoddy work, starting a 5 year campaign to force the industry to raise MI standards
- It commissioned engineering consultants HB Lanarc to research the impact of MI on energy use and GHG emissions
- The study found major problems including: poor installation standards, widespread use of unqualified workers, failure to inspect work and a general lack of interest in the excessive energy consumption associated with poor quality construction practices
- It also confirmed that the enormous potential to reduce energy consumption in buildings by installing MI properly



PIPES NEED JACKETS TOO

Improving Performance of BC
Buildings through Mechanical
Insulation Practice and
Standards - A White Paper



PREPARED FOR
**International Association of Heat and
Frost Insulators and Allied Workers
(IAHFIAW) – Local 118**

HB LANARC

PREPARED BY
**HB Lanarc Consultants Ltd
December, 2010**



PIPES NEED JACKETS TOO



- **Creating a greener world.** There is no better way to save energy, reduce greenhouse gases and leave a light carbon footprint in your building developments than by using **mechanical insulation.**

It's **clean, efficient and safe.** Low upfront costs deliver large and ongoing savings in money and energy.

Changing Government Policies

- The union believed government should exercise leadership in raising standards of MI – something it was clearly failing to do
- It argued that government climate change commitments would fail without tougher industry regulation

Governments could:

- Raise building code requirements for MI
 - Require higher standards in the buildings they purchased
 - Require contractors to employ trained insulators
 - Strengthen inspection systems
- The union lobbied 181 local governments for specific policy changes and provided technical advice on appropriate standards

ENERGY CONSERVATION SPECIALISTS

INCREASE BUILDING EFFICIENCY WITH MECHANICAL INSULATION

BENEFITS

[A NEW STANDARD](#)

WHITE PAPER

MI SPEC

BC INSULATORS

BLOG

You are here: [Home](#) / [A New Standard](#)

A New Standard

BC's mechanical insulators are campaigning to develop improved standards and best practices.

And we're providing information, and supporting education and training in government and industry.

Building owners, developers, architects, engineers, politicians and senior staff at all levels of government, and members of the public, should be part of the discussion.

Here's what needs to be done.

At the senior government level:

- Update national and provincial building codes and city building bylaws to include specific and up-to-date requirements on mechanical insulation
- Require that work be inspected by registered professionals.

At the local government level:

- Create or update development permit checklists in planning and building approval departments
- Take steps to meet standards in municipal buildings and retrofits
- Require builders to hire qualified mechanical insulators
- Build staff capacity through education and training



Buildings are now mandated to reduce their carbon footprint.

Comprehensive building codes are the key to improving standards for mechanical insulation.



Dept.
Manager

Director

City
Manager

The Corporation of **THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER**
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

REPORT

To: Mayor Darrell R. Mussatto and Members of Council
From: Emilie Adin, Deputy Director, Community Development
SUBJECT: MECHANICAL INSULATION AND PASSIVE DESIGN BEST PRACTICES
Date: August 27, 2012 File No: 3760-10-01

The following is a suggested recommendation only. Please refer to Council Minutes for adopted resolution.

RECOMMENDATION:

PURSUANT to the Report of Emilie Adin, Deputy Director, Community Development, dated August 27, 2012, entitled "Mechanical Insulation and Passive Design Best Practices";

THAT staff continue their current practice of encouraging mechanical insulation best practices for all construction projects in the City;

AND THAT mechanical insulation specifications and best practices be included in the City's tendering and procurement process;

AND THAT the City's Sustainable Development Guidelines be updated with explicit encouragement of mechanical insulation and passive design best practices;

AND THAT staff be directed to create a Passive Design Toolkit as a resource for the development industry as part of the Community Development Department 2013-2014 Work Program, provided that outside funding be secured;

AND THAT the City continue to consider partnership opportunities as they arise in relation to testing new energy efficiency standards and emerging construction practices.

COUNCIL REPORT

TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2011 June 15

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING **FILE:** 1400 20
Reference: UBCM Resolutions

SUBJECT: MECHANICAL INSULATION RESOLUTION

PURPOSE: To propose a resolution regarding changes to the BC Building Code as related to improvements in mechanical insulation practices and standards for submission to the 2011 Convention of the Union of BC Municipalities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council approve the resolution contained in Section 3.0 of this report, for submission to the 2011 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention.
2. **THAT** staff be authorized to forward a copy of this report to the UBCM, located at Suite 60, 10551 Shellbridge Way, Richmond, BC V6X 2W9.
3. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to *Mr. Lee Loftus, Business Manager* and *Mr. Lyndon Johnson, Quality Control Advisory*, of the *International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Union Local 118*, both at 233 East 11th Ave., Vancouver, BC V5T 2C4.



International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Union Local 118

Lee Loftus
Business Manager
Ken Jakobsson
President



June 21, 2011

Via Facsimile 250-561-0183

The Clerk's Department
City of Prince George
1100 Patricia Boulevard
Prince George BC V2L 3V9

Attention: Honorable Mayor and Council

We represent the Heat and Frost BC Insulators and are requesting to appear as a delegation before Council on **August 8th, 2011 at 7pm.** Our presentation will be on the importance of mechanical insulation, inspections, and the change needed in the building code on mechanical insulation application.

Our presenter will be:

Mr. Lee Loftus
Tel: 604-877-0909
Fax: 604-877-0926

Our presentation will include; handouts and Power Point presentation.

We look forward to speaking with Council and your response to our request.

Yours truly,

Lyndon Johnson

- **B46 MECHANICAL INSULATION New Westminster PASSED**
- [Home](#) › [Green News](#) › B46 MECHANICAL INSULATION New Westminster PASSED
- September 27, 2012 / [Green News](#)
- B46 MECHANICAL INSULATION New Westminster PASSED
- Thanks for all your support
- WHEREAS the proper application of mechanical insulation including the material used, thickness, and installation techniques, has been shown to improve the energy efficiency, reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, and provide other benefits for both new and retrofitted building;
- AND WHEREAS given possible code changes in the near future, it is a timely opportunity to advocate to the provincial government to consider including additional information and requirements regarding mechanical insulation in any code updates:
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that any future updates or amendments to the BC Building Code include specific, up-to-date requirements on mechanical insulation, including the reproduction of any specifications, such as thickness tables, that may be referenced from other sources, and also include reference to mechanical insulation best practice standards.
- ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Endorse

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2011, STARTING AT 5:30 PM

In the Franz Wilhelmsen Theatre at Maurice Young Millennium Place
4335 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4

Mechanical Insulation A presentation by Lee Loftus, Business Manager for the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Union Local 118 regarding the importance of mechanical insulation, inspections, and changes for the building code on mechanical insulation application.

BC INSULATORS AT FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES MEETING

[Home](#) > [Expo/Conference](#) > [BC Insulators at Federation of Canadian Municipalities meeting](#)

 *July 25, 2015* /  *Expo/Conference, Green News, Membership Info*

The **BC Insulators** attended the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities** annual convention and trade show in Edmonton in June, making new contacts and renewing connections with Mayors, Councillors and others there.

Among those the BC Insulators met with were: Darrell Mussatto, Mayor of North Vancouver City – a strong supporter of mechanical insulation and Vancouver Councillors Heather Deal, Raymond Louie, and Adrienne Carr, who are interested in hearing further about our ideas on how to receive value for money spent. We also had lengthy conversations with the Mayors of Kitimat, Fort St. John, Edmonton and Gatineau, Quebec and also met councillors from Campbell River, Saanich, Sooke and Victoria.

Neil Menard, a former union official and now the Mayor of Merritt, invited us to tour the new biomass energy project under construction in that community.

Overall, event like FCM are critical to connecting to municipal leaders with our message on the importance of mechanical insulation in saving energy and reducing green house gases.

Union Funds a Technical Manual on MI Best Practices for the BC Construction Industry

- There was confusion over standards and best practices that contractors should follow in installing MI
- Neither governments, nor industry had provided the technical specifications
- In 2012, the union again commissioned HB Lanarc to prepare a detailed technical manual to fill this gap
- The manual provides extensive guidance about insulating materials and detailed instructions on installing MI properly
- It also links properly installed MI to climate change goals
- The union has posted this manual free of charge on its web site as a service to the industry

MECHANICAL INSULATION

Guide & Specification for BC



View the MI Guide and Specification in 2 formats:

1. Download the guide as a PDF. Click the arrow in the top right-hand corner.
2. Browse the guide using this website. **The numbered headings below correspond to the PDF guide.**

ENERGY CONSERVATION SPECIALISTS

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[BENEFITS](#)[A NEW STANDARD](#)[WHITE PAPER](#)[MI SPEC](#)[BC INSULATORS](#)[BLOG](#)

You are here: [Home](#) / [MI SPEC](#)

MI SPEC

The objective of the MI Spec for BC is to support the implementation of mechanical insulation best practices on heating and cooling systems in BC, by providing a resource to a wide range of stakeholders — from building and facility owners to mechanical insulation installers — helping to work towards the ultimate goal of having every section of pipe and duct in the Province of BC insulated correctly.

This Guide will help stakeholders to:

- Make timely and effective decisions about mechanical insulation needs in new buildings and what upgrades may be required to improve mechanical insulation in existing buildings,
- Understand the importance and business case for mechanical insulation, and
- Understand the key elements required to achieve successful implementation of mechanical insulation in projects.

This guide is intended to complement, rather than duplicate, existing standards, codes and guides. It is aimed at a broader audience than most existing detailed standards, which includes:



The objective of the MI Spec for BC is to support the implementation of mechanical insulation best practices on heating and cooling systems in BC

Our ultimate goal is to have every section of pipe and duct in the province of BC insulated correctly.

Mechanical Insulation Guide and Specifications for British Columbia



DRAFT

August 7, 2012

Polyethylene Pipe Insulation



Description

Polyethylene insulation is a low density, polymer-based and easy-to-apply tubing product that is available in a wide variety of sizes in semi-slit and self-sealing designs. This material is low cost, generally best for indoor and domestic applications such as domestic water piping. It is not suitable for hot water heating piping because of the upper temperature limits. This material typically comes pre-formed with self-sealing lap joints. It is easy to install, and is often able to bend around fittings. Polyethylene should always be jacketed outdoors with a PVC or metal jacket to avoid shortening of the service life.

Linking Higher MI Standards With Mitigating Climate Change

- The union established new web sites designed to provide educational material and guidelines to government, industry and the wider public
- The message is very focused on the climate change objectives that better MI can achieve.
- The web sites provide illustrations and examples of best practices and successful projects

MECHANICAL INSULATION
TO INCREASE BUILDING
EFFICIENCY



Saving money,
energy and
the planet.





MECHANICAL INSULATION

delivering sustainability



Quality craftsmanship ensures energy savings into the future.

Reducing our carbon footprint, lowering greenhouse gas emissions and using less energy are at the core of the mechanical insulation trade and have been from the beginning.

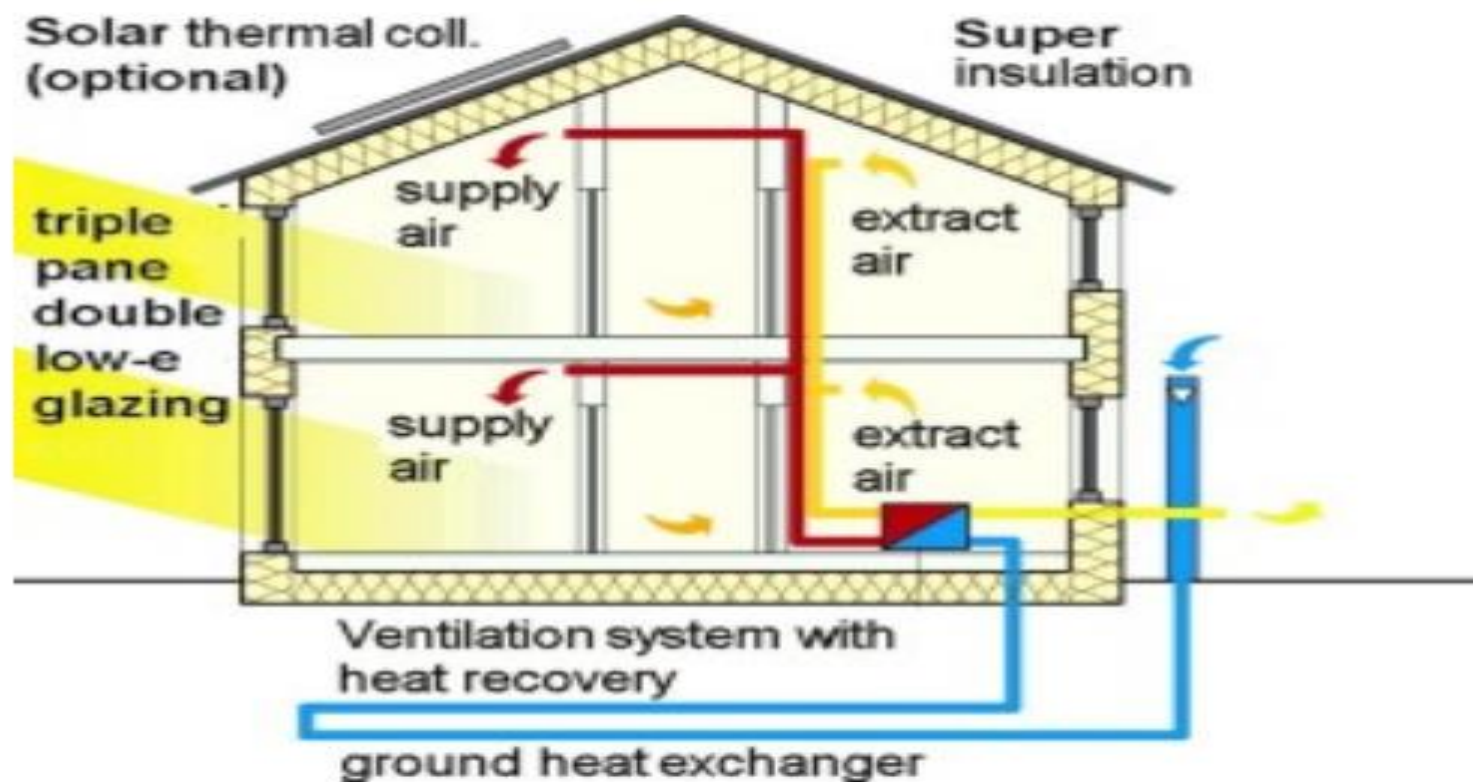
Properly installed mechanical insulation can cut energy usage and significantly reduce carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Mechanical insulators have the training, expertise and commitment to meet the exacting standards now being set by various government, public, and private agencies.

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFIT FINANCING

Home > Green News > Residential Energy Efficiency Retrofit Financing

📅 October 21, 2015 / 📁 Green News, Local 118 In The News, Membership Info, News



The **Columbia Institute's** Centre for Civic Governance has published an interesting report on how energy efficiency retrofits can save money while dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions – GHGs. The BC Insulators are supporters of the Columbia Institute.

Promoting a High-Skill, Climate Literate Workforce

- The union runs the 4 year training and apprenticeship program for all qualified MI trades workers in BC
- It developed the curriculum which is included in Canada's national Red Seal certification program for the building trades workers
- It delivers this program through BC's largest public training institution, the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT)
- It has added a climate change module to the curriculum to educate apprentices on the role of MI in mitigating climate change - emphasizing how important their role is to achieving society's climate objectives – promoting 'climate literacy'



Third Year Apprentices

📅 October 16, 2012 / 📁 Campaigns, Retiree



Piping, Plumbing, Gas

PPGS 1210 - Introduction to Mechanical Insulation

Mechanical Insulation Inspectors Course is now available at BCIT.

The establishment of a quality assurance certification (QAC) program in BC's mechanical insulation industry has received increased attention over the last several years. This has been fuelled by three primary issues: 1) contractors minimizing or in some cases totally eliminating insulation where it is required; 2) the use of non-certified materials; and 3) improper installation practices. This course introduces students to the BC Insulation Contractors Association (BCICA) quality assurance certification (QAC) program. Topics include an introduction to the QAC program; insulation materials; construction safety; technical specifications; blueprint and detail drawings; and, an introduction to the inspection and certification process. (1.5 Credits)

trained and certified



Insulating 45 linear feet of 8-in. high-pressure steam line equates to about \$13,600 per year in energy savings, equivalent to removing 13 cars per year from the highways. Assuming the facility exists for 20 more years, the total energy savings from that one workday would be \$272,000.

Insulation work is physical and requires well-trained and highly skilled technicians. BC Insulator apprentices attend a four-year program at the BC Institute of Technology.

The training for Red Seal certified journeyman insulators includes at least 6,000 hours of on-the-job training and 720 hours of theory and classroom time at BCIT to pass all 4 levels.

Applicants to the training program at BCIT must be proficient with math and science. Apprentices acquire a thorough understanding of mechanical drawing and building standards.

Apprentice insulators spend many months working on models and test pieces of every shape and kind. They learn the properties and uses of all insulating materials used in the trade. Every joint and junction must be drawn before it is made and insulators must be able to read plans and understand detailed and specific drawings when necessary.

Changing the Culture of the Industry

- The union's campaign has also targeted developers, architects, engineers and contractors
- It has pushed its employers to highlight the role of MI in climate change
- It has established a profile for MI at a wide range of regional, national and even international building industry conferences
- It has worked with academics to encourage them to carry out more research on MI
- These efforts are part of an overall strategy to change the culture of the BC building industry so that it will adopt low carbon construction methods

WHY INSULATE?

[Home](#) > [Why Insulate?](#)



Mechanical insulation 101



A GREENER WORLD

aiming for higher standards



Mechanical insulation saves up to 500 times the energy and 750 times the emissions required for its production.



BC's mechanical insulators are leading a campaign to raise awareness among other mechanical contractors, building owners, developers, architects, engineers, politicians and senior staff at all levels of government and the public. The message is about the importance of the work that mechanical installations do and the value of properly applied insulation.

- We **went public** with the problems associated with incorrectly installed and eliminated insulation on high-profile construction projects in BC.
- We've **investigated** currently accepted practices related to mechanical insulation on publicly funded construction sites around the province and documented glaring problems. We've taken this information, including photographs, to property managers, developers, general contractors and city officials so that problems can be rectified before they're hidden behind drywall and wall coverings.

 July 6, 2012 /  Local 118 In The News

JOURNAL OF greenbuilding



College Publishing

read a new article on mechanical insulation....

MECHANICAL INSULATION CASE STUDY— TIMELY OPPORTUNITY FOR RETROFITS AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

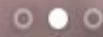
“This article is posted by permission of the **Journal of Green Building**

The purpose of the Journal of Green Building is to present the very best of practical applications (Part I) together with the very best of peer-reviewed research (Part II) in green building design and construction. The research section of the Journal of Green Building publishes peer-reviewed articles in the fields of architecture, engineering, construction, construction management, building science, facilities management, landscape architecture, interior design, and all disciplines related to the built environment. The Journal of Green Building is unique in pairing a research section together with an applied industry section. The result is an eminently useful publication for researchers, teachers, students, and industry professionals. The Journal of Green Building is published quarterly.

BC Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators Local 118

[MEMBERS](#) ▾ [APPRENTICES](#) ▾ [JOIN](#) [FOR EMPLOYERS](#) ▾ [WHY INSULATE?](#) [NEWS & EVENTS](#) ▾ [ABOUT](#) ▾



WHY INSULATE? It's the best way to save money and energy in building design

[MORE](#)

Educating the Building Industry

- The union has developed a conference package on the climate change impact of better MI
- It has paid for booths at numerous industry conferences where it provides technical material to architects, engineers, developers and contractors
- It created the 1% solution campaign - investment of 1% in additional capital expenditure on MI would result in long term energy savings multiple times the initial cost of the investment

BC Insulators

Energy Conservation
Specialists



GreenJobsGreatJobs

www.greenjobsgreatjobs.ca

Proud of the work we do.



BC Insulators

ENERGY CONSERVATION SPECIALISTS

- Stringent Specifications
- Exacting Standards
- Quality Craftsmanship

www.greenjobsgreatjobs.ca



BC Insulators at Canadian Green Building Conference



**BUILDING
LASTING CHANGE**

CaGBC National Conference and Expo

June 2-4, 2015 • Vancouver BC

SUCCESS IN PORTLAND LIVING FUTURES PORTLAND 2012

Home › Campaigns › Success in Portland Living Futures Portland 2012

📅 May 7, 2012 / 📁 Campaigns, Local 118 In The News

When the BC Insulators presented Mechanical Insulation solutions at this years Living Futures, it was well received by those in attendance. Standing along side the BC Insulators was Steve Clayman of TIAC, Thermal Insulation Association of Canada, and Local 36 Business Manager Stan C. Danielson, and Business Agent Alan Davis. Local 36 have been involved in a similar campaign designed to improve Mechanical Insulation in the State of Oregon.

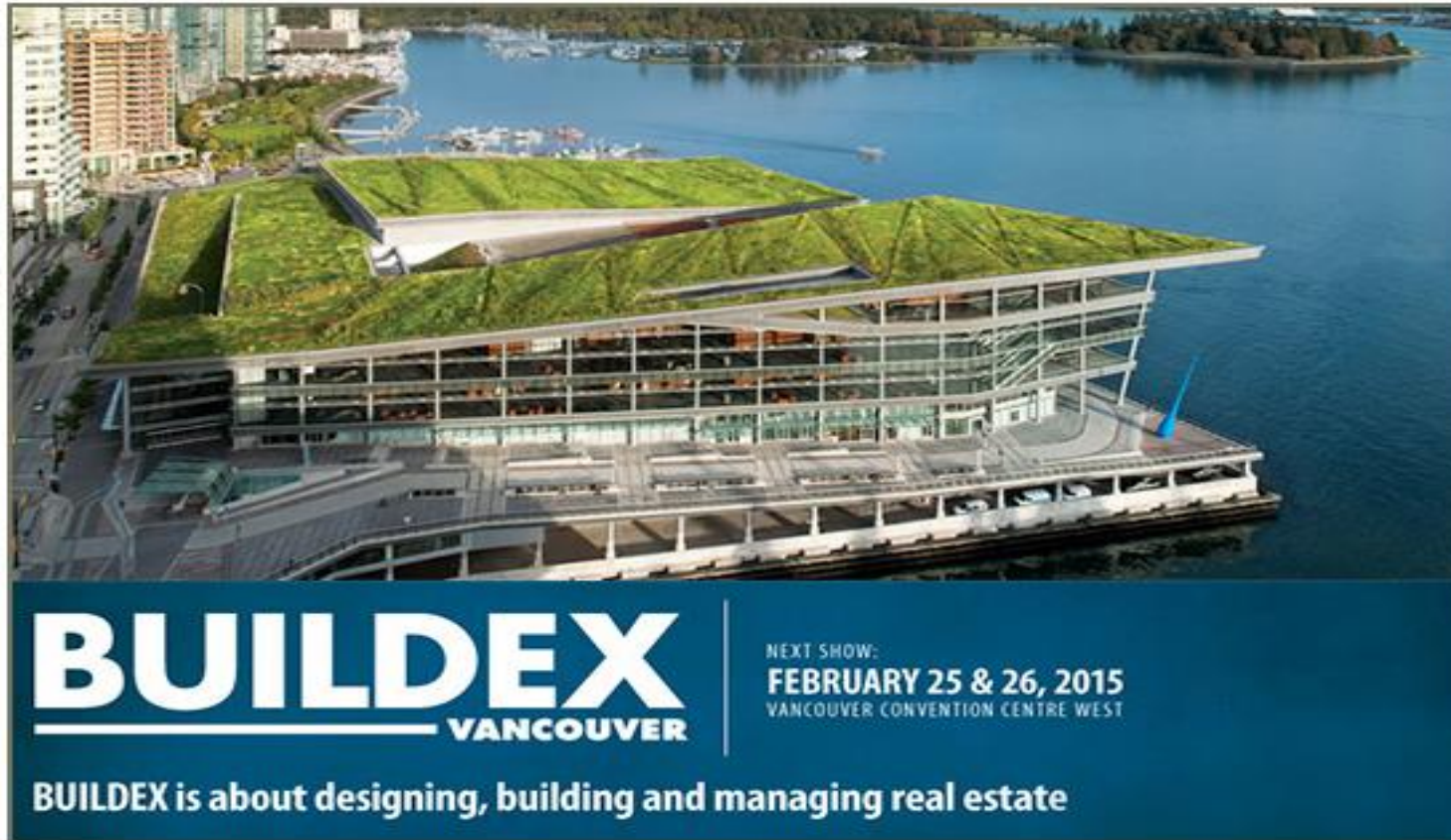
Our industry is small in comparison to many others and yet our impact on the dollar for dollar is in the upper percentile. it is time for mechanical insulation—our Industry—to have an active seat at the table.



BC INSULATORS UNION PROMOTES MECHANICAL INSULATION AT BUILDEX VANCOUVER 2015

Home > Expo/Conference > BC Insulators Union promotes mechanical insulation at BUILDEX Vancouver 2015

 January 23, 2015 /  Expo/Conference, Green News, Local 118 In The News, Members events, Membership Info, News



The **BC Insulators** will have a booth to promote mechanical insulation at the annual **BUILDEX Vancouver 2015** – Western Canada’s largest conference and tradeshow for construction, renovation and related work.

BC INSULATORS GREEN TEAM CONNECTS AT QUEST CONFERENCE

Home > Expo/Conference > BC Insulators Green Team connects at QUEST conference

 December 12, 2014 /  Expo/Conference, Green News, Membership Info



The **BC Insulators** trade show Green Team was on hand for the Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow – **QUEST** – conference and trade show at the Bayshore Hotel in Vancouver from December 1-3..

The event had a series of informative speakers and presenters on District Energy systems and their part in the urban landscape moving forward.

The Vancouver area already has a number of District Energy systems including Central Heat, South East False Creek, the River District, SFU Univercity district, Richmond Olympic Oval area, UBC, proposed Cambie corridor system, and BCIT. These systems are either gas fired, sewage heat recovery or Biomass fuelled.

BC INSULATORS GREEN CAMPAIGN MEETS SUCCESS

Home > Green News > BC Insulators Green campaign meets success

📅 August 15, 2014 / 📁 Green News, Membership Info, News



The **BC Insulators** Green campaign to promote Mechanical Insulation continues to roll with two notable successes generated from our Trade Show booth at the **Canadian Green Building Council** conference in Toronto and at **SustainaBuild** conference right here in Vancouver.

BC INSULATORS CONNECT WITH INDUSTRY AT BUILDEX TRADE SHOW

Home > News > BC Insulators connect with industry at BUILDEX Trade Show

📅 March 16, 2015 / 📁 News



BC Insulators union member Mark Guay staffs the booth at Buildex Trade Show in Vancouver

Our 5th annual visit to the huge **Buildex Trade Show** in Vancouver from Feb 25-26 was a big success!

ONTARIO INSULATORS KICKING OFF THEIR CAMPAIGN

Home > Green News > Ontario Insulators kicking off their campaign

 January 30, 2013 /  Green News

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW



WINDSOR ESSEX 2013

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2013
CAESARS WINDSOR, WINDSOR ESSEX, ON

The Ontario Insulators will be to promote the benefits of mechanical insulation to hundreds of cities and communities across Canada and are leading the charge towards local sustainability and the shift to a green economy.

<http://www.insulators95.com/>

Be part of this exciting forum for municipal sustainability champions. Attend the 2013 Sustainable Communities Conference (SCC) and Trade Show hosted by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Working With BC's Environmental Movement

- The union sees environmental activists as its allies
- It has built bridges with the environmental movement in BC
- This has been done by co-sponsoring conferences, making presentations and supporting various initiatives of the environmental movement
- It has also supported a number of labour-environment coalitions, both in BC and nationally and supported ACW extensively

LEE LOFTUS & CHER HANUSIAK: SAVE ENERGY, MONEY & THE PLANET – WITH MECHANICAL INSULATION

Home > Campaigns > Lee Loftus & Cher Hanusiak: Save energy, money & the planet – with mechanical insulation

📅 April 8, 2014 / 📁 Campaigns, Green News, Local 118 In The News, Membership Info



Published in The Province newspaper, Sunday April 6, 2014

“Waste not, want not.” — *Benjamin Franklin, 1706-1790*

With Earth Day coming up on April 22, we will hear about “greener” energy efficient buildings and alternative power sources like solar panels. But the simplest and most economical way of saving money and the planet isn’t new — it’s old.

The best way to save energy follows what Benjamin Franklin said — don’t waste it — and the way to do that is through mechanical insulation of pipes and other mechanical systems.

GREEN JOBS BC EVENT – CHILLIWACK – TUESDAY MAY 13 FROM 7 – 9:15 P.M.

Home > Expo/Conference > Green Jobs BC event – Chilliwack – Tuesday May 13 from 7 – 9:15 p.m.

 April 25, 2014 /  Expo/Conference, Green News



Join leaders of some of BC's foremost unions and environmental groups to hear about how to create green jobs and build a cleaner, stronger economy in BC at a special event in Chilliwack from 7 to 9:15 p.m.

This **Green Jobs BC** free event takes place at the Sto:lo Resource Centre, Building 10, 7201 Vedder Road in Chilliwack.

GREENJOBS BC

BUILDING A GREEN ECONOMY

The GreenJobs BC Conference will take place September 21st and 22nd, 2012, at the Coast Plaza Hotel in Vancouver.

The conference will bring together 200-300 British Columbians from across the Labour and Environmental movements, as well business, First Nations, community, government, and other sectors interested in building a strong green economy. Through a combination of panel discussions, educational seminars, and plenary speakers, participants will deepen their understanding of the issues, and be part of mapping out a green jobs plan for the province.

More information on the GreenJobs BC Conference will be posted here as it is ready. In the meantime, save the date and help spread the word.

For more information: [GreenJobs BC Conference](#)

GREEN JOBS BC EVENT – CHILLIWACK – TUESDAY MAY 13 FROM 7 – 9:15 P.M.

Join leaders of some of BC's foremost unions and environmental groups to hear about how to create green jobs and build a cleaner, stronger economy in BC at a special event in Chilliwack from 7 to 9:15 p.m. This Green Jobs BC free event takes place at the Sto:lo Resource Centre, Building 10, 7201 Vedder [...]



April 25, 2014



Expo/Conference, Green News



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GREEN JOBS BC EVENT – GIBSONS – SATURDAY APRIL 26 FROM 2 – 4:30 P.M.

Join leaders of some of BC's foremost unions and environmental groups to hear about how to create green jobs and build a cleaner, stronger economy in BC at a special event in Gibsons from 2 to 4:30 p.m. This Green Jobs BC free event co-sponsored by the Sunshine Coast Labour Council takes [...]



April 25, 2014



Green News, Membership Info



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Conclusion: The Union As Climate Advocate

- The BC Insulators' union has only 350 members and 100 apprentices
- Since 2010 it has spent just under \$1 million dollars on its campaign to raise standards of MI
- The campaign has reached government, industry and the broader public through a wide range of specific, carefully planned initiatives
- In the process, the union has succeeded in becoming recognized as a key advocate of climate change mitigation in the province of BC and to a lesser, but significant degree, nationally, as well
- It is a unique and valuable illustration of what a small, but dedicated union can do to promote climate change initiatives in its own industry