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Expanding P9 HVAC Permitting Practices

Building Officials Peer Network

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Project Partners

HOME PERFORMANCE
STAKEHOLDER COUNCIL

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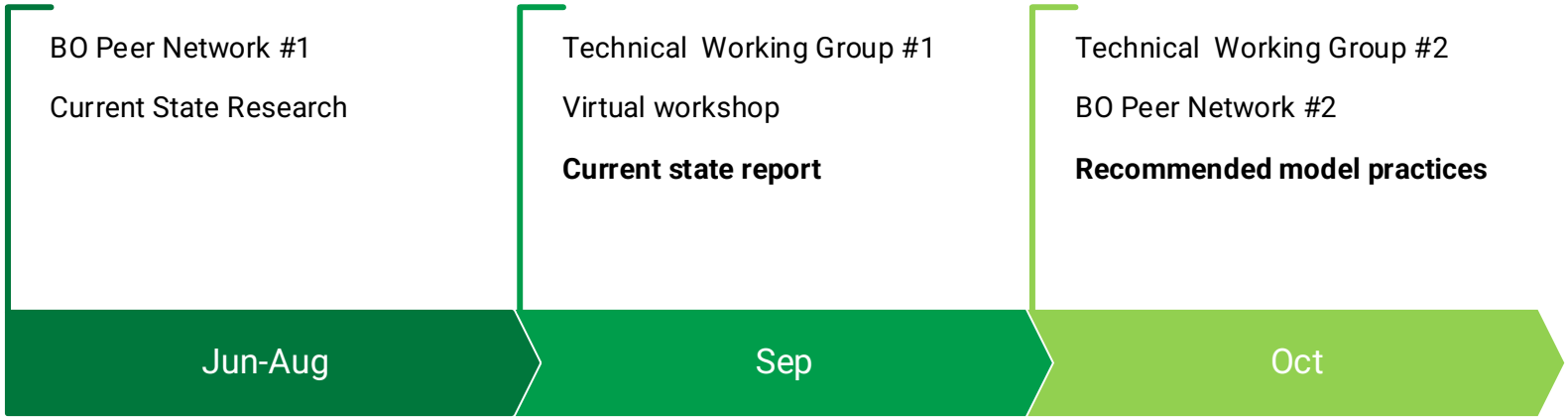
Project Objective

Develop detailed and research informed **recommendations for the types of workable, decision-ready outputs** that AHJs could choose to adopt to improve their consistency, clarity, and confidence in HVAC permitting and verification for new and existing Part 9 buildings.

Proposed Project Timeline



Related HVAC Permitting Projects

- BC Government's Building Permit Hub
- BOABC's HVAC education (in development)
- BC Hydro's standardized and streamlined heat pump permitting practices

New Construction - Current Practices

- HVAC inspected as part of Building Permit
  - Exception is City of Vancouver and its Mechanical Permit

- F280-12 heat gain and heat loss calculation
  - Some AHJs collect these
  - Very few review them

Retrofit - Current Practices
Heat Pump / Dual-Fuel

- Most municipalities
  - Electrical permit and maybe a gas permit for dual-fuel system
- Mechanical Permits
  - A few AHJs also require a mechanical permit is pulled
  - Requirements vary considerably
  - F280-12 heat gain and heat loss often requested

Reasons Given for Permitting Heat Pump / Dual-fuel Retrofits

- **Safety**
  - Tripping/falling hazard,
  - Structural
  - Envelope penetration
  - Adequate heating/cooling
  - Water drainage
- **System performance**
- **Zoning & bylaw compliance**
  - Setbacks
  - Noise
- **Development permit areas**
  - Form & character

“Right to Cool”

- New construction
  - Section 9.33.3.1 – Indoor design temperature not more than 26^{O}C
- Existing buildings
  - City of New Westminster has adopted a bylaw
  - City of Victoria is exploring
  - City of Vancouver is advocating
  - More municipalities are likely to follow soon

The HVAC Permitting Challenge

More permitting = Increased safety, better performance, increased bylaw compliance, improved consumer protection

BUT more permitting may also mean…
More time = More resources = More $

The challenge:
How can we improve heat pump permitting & minimize additional time, resources & money?

Underlying Question

What information, tools and supports does your municipality need to expand its HVAC permitting practices for new and existing buildings?

Next Steps

- Complete regional scan of existing practices
- Form a Technical Work Group
  - Looking for participants from the interior and north
- Organize September workshop