

# EnviroCentre's Retrofit Accelerator

Supporting social housing deep energy retrofits  
across Eastern Ontario

# Agenda

- EnviroCentre's Work
- Roundtable around some key questions
- Take Aways



# EnviroCentre Basics

- Environmental Not-for-profit
- Mission is to reduce emissions; we do a chunk of that work by reducing energy use
- Based in Ottawa, work across Eastern Ontario
- **25 years experience** in home energy efficiency and community outreach
- Supported over **30K energy retrofits**, 20K in social housing
- Energy experts: we deliver home energy assessments, conservation programs for IESO and Enbridge gas
- We have a strong focus on and experience with affordable housing and reducing energy poverty



# The Retrofit Accelerator: Why

- To reach climate targets, we need all homes to be net-zero by 2050
- Social Housing is a great place to start...consistent home/building models, upgrades required, lots of benefits for building owners and residents from energy efficiency
- There is funding available for social housing retrofits
- Energy retrofits are hard to plan and finance, and many housing providers have very limited time/resources to do so

That's where we come in.

We bring our expertise and time to retrofit planning to make these projects happen



# How

- EC has received funding from the federal government, over 3.25 years, to support getting this work off the ground, free-of-charge to participating building owners
- We have been working on an initial mass retrofit project, in Ottawa, for the last year
- We are expanding our services to Eastern Ontario



# Targets

Over the next three years, we aim to have:

- Deep retrofits completed for 1050 units, planned for 3300
- 4-6 housing providers supported with full accelerator service
- Retrofit Accelerator team capacity to support 1500 unit retrofits/year



# We support housing providers to...

- Build a practical deep retrofit plan\*
- Find the financial resources required to complete the retrofit
- Engage tenants and stakeholders in the project
- Deliver the work
- Monitor outcomes
- Plan future projects

\* **Deep Retrofit** = 50% energy savings + 80% GHG savings



# We're also building the market

Targets:

- 22,500 units engaged in volume deal(s)
- Eastern Ontario deep energy retrofit roadmap developed, customized for housing providers and integrated into a national plan



# And developing tools

- Three retrofit archetypes: townhouses, stacked townhouses, and flats/duplexes
- A Stepped Recommendation tool for small MURBs
- A Total Cost of Building Ownership education module
- Database of Ontario social housing building stock developed
- Database of Retrofit Materials Suppliers & Contractors



# A current project

The Gloucester Housing Deep Retrofit

- 110 units (townhouses and stacked townhouses)
- 83% GHG reduction, 41% energy savings
- Replacing end-of-life gas heating systems with cold-climate air source heat pumps and water heaters, with backup natural gas
- Improving ventilation
- Adding air conditioning
- Leveraging grants, incentives, conservation program measures, so the project is extremely low-cost to Gloucester
- Tenants pay utility bills, and will see increasing savings over time



# Benefits



Improved building  
stock



Lower energy/water  
costs



Simplified access to  
financing, grants,  
programs



Expert project planning  
and quality assurance



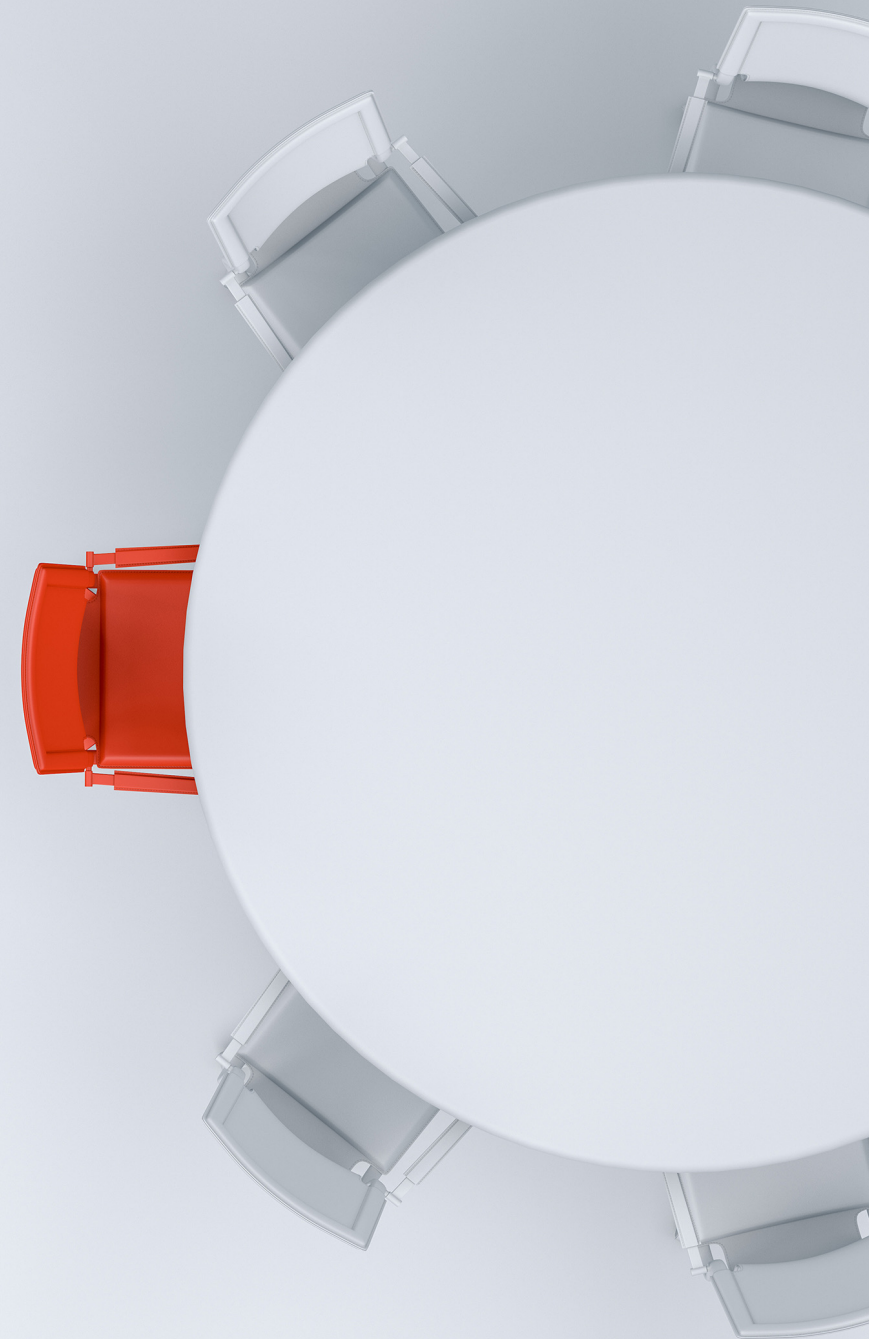
Happy, engaged  
tenants



# Roundtable

## **What is success?** ***What are the required ingredients to accelerate mass, deep retrofits in social housing?***

- What are the top three obstacles to completion of social housing deep retrofits, in your region?
- Are there policy/legislative changes required to support and/or streamline these retrofits? What are they?
- Should social housing be a priority for deep retrofits? Why?
- What are the required ingredients to engage a social housing provider in a deep retrofit planning process, and see it through to completion?



**Closing/Things  
we learned in  
our groups**



**Call to action**



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