FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sustainable Buildings Canada's Better Condos Boot Camp Named a 2026 Clean50 Top Project

Toronto, ON, October 22, 2025 -- Sustainable Buildings Canada (SBC) is proud to announce that its Better Condos Boot Camp initiative has been recognized as a **2026** Clean50 Top Project, celebrating leadership and innovation in advancing Canada's clean economy.

Led by Bettina Hoar, SBC Project Director and Chair, the Better Condos Boot Camp was developed to empower condominium boards, property managers, and residents to take meaningful action toward deep energy retrofits and decarbonization. The program brought together leading SBC collaborators, industry experts, and public and private-sector partners to demystify the retrofit process and motivate condo communities to lead by example.

"Many condominium owners and boards may not realize that decisions they're making today will determine their ability to prepare for upcoming climate and regulatory changes," said Bettina Hoar. "Getting to net zero or even beyond is already feasible, but failing to plan for it now could leave condominiums facing higher costs, reduced property values, and potential insurability challenges in the years ahead. The Better Condos Boot Camp addresses a key barrier to timely action: the knowledge and attitudes of the multiple decision-makers in a condo, while also highlighting the need for modernized condo law to make it easier for buildings to act."

The Better Condos Boot Camp was made possible through the generous support of Save on Energy (IESO), BDP Quadrangle, and the City of Toronto. SBC also appreciates the many collaborators and presenters who shared their knowledge and expertise throughout the program. A full list of contributors can be found on the SBC website: https://sbcanada.org/better-condos-boot-camp/

"Recognition from Clean50 is a testament to the power of collaboration," said Brynn Nheiley, Executive Director of Sustainable Buildings Canada. "Much of our success depends on partnerships between industry, government, and communities and this award is an example what's possible when we all work together to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future."

Addressing the Regulatory Barriers to Retrofit Decision-Making

SBC worked with researcher Yazan Zamel, whose paper *Legal and Policy Barriers and Enablers to Deep Energy Retrofits in Ontario Condominiums* underscores the importance of programs like the Better Condos Boot Camp. The study found that outdated voting thresholds, restrictive reserve fund rules, and legal ambiguities under Ontario's Condominium Act continue to hinder retrofit progress. These regulatory barriers, often requiring two-thirds approval from all owners, make it difficult for even well-intentioned boards to move forward on energy-efficient upgrades

By combining research insights with hands-on training and real-world examples, the Better Condos Boot Camp has become a model for how collective learning can help condominium communities bridge the gap between policy and practice. The initiative empowered participants to identify practical strategies such as enhanced reserve fund studies, engineering reclassification of upgrades, and more inclusive owner engagement that can unlock stalled projects and accelerate decarbonization efforts across the multi-residential sector.

The Better Condos Boot Camp is one of only 40 projects recognized nationwide by Clean50 for 2026, reflecting the program's measurable impact on energy performance, emissions reduction, and sector leadership.

About Sustainable Buildings Canada

For more than 20 years Sustainable Buildings Canada (SBC) has been a leader in advancing sustainability, enabling designers, developers, builders, and operators to achieve high-performance outcomes. Our efforts result in healthy spaces, reduced energy and water use, clean and renewable energy integration, and positive behavioural outcomes.

About Delta Management Group / Canada's Clean50:

Leading sustainability and clean tech search firm Delta Management Group in 2011 founded and remains the steward of the Canada's Clean50 awards. The awards were created to annually identify, recognize and connect 50 sustainability leaders, 20 Emerging Leaders, 5 Lifetime Achievement honourees, and up to 40 Top Projects, selected from every sector of Canadian endeavor. The firm also annually convenes the Clean50 Summit, in order to facilitate understanding, collaboration and innovation in the fight to keep human caused climate impacts below 1.5 degrees.

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