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BC Hotel Association Partners with FortisBC and GreenStep, Introducing Sustainability Initiatives to Help Industry Recover from COVID-19

FortisBC program includes dedicated Energy Analyst to identify energy conservation opportunities and cost-cutting projects

VANCOUVER, BC (June 10, 2020): The [BC Hotel Association](#) (BCHA) has partnered with [FortisBC](#) and [GreenStep](#) to offer two complementary sustainability programs aimed at helping hotels make steps toward improving efficiency and reducing their carbon footprint, while decreasing operating costs to assist with economic recovery from COVID-19.

“COVID-19 has been detrimental to our industry”, said Ingrid Jarrett, President and CEO of BC Hotel Association. “With over 400 hotels closed across the province, many are on the brink of insolvency so introducing cost-saving programs, at this time, is greatly impactful to hoteliers struggling to stay afloat. We are incredibly grateful to both FortisBC and GreenStep for collaborating with us and funding this important work.”

All BCHA members now have access to a dedicated resource to help them identify savings in their properties – FortisBC has funded an Energy Analyst role which has been filled by Dylan Tomlin, a 15-year veteran of the utility industry. Tomlin will help implement a new BCHA initiative called [GoGreen](#). Through this initiative, all BCHA members are eligible to receive an in-depth energy analysis of their operations to identify large energy conservation and cost-cutting projects.

“Hotels are notoriously high energy consumers, with the bills to prove it”, said Tomlin. “Many also have aging equipment and old technology, and while most hotel managers want to save energy, they are so busy ensuring guest satisfaction that focusing on energy efficiency never hits top of the priority list. These programs afford the opportunity to change that. Based on the projects we have done in the past, properties have seen an average total savings of approximately five per cent per year on energy bills. Savings like this not only have a significant economic impact for hoteliers, they are a step toward more ecologically conscious operations.”

This service complements other energy or sustainability assessments that hotels may have received, providing a much more in-depth analysis of energy consumption and costs. Primary goals of the programs include identifying tens of thousands of dollars of annual cost savings and utility rebates, and providing hoteliers with the tools needed to become sustainability leaders, improving their environmental impact.

To amplify these conservation efforts, the [GreenStep EcoFund](#) program helps hotels outline a budget to invest in the energy efficiency opportunities identified by the Energy Analyst, and to generate a revenue stream for the BCHA to invest in research and advocacy.

“As an organization that strives to create sustainability strategies for small and medium enterprises, we were delighted to collaborate with the BCHA to set hotels across the province up for success”, said Angela Nagy, CEO

of GreenStep. "There is an immense opportunity to help businesses, like hotels, operate more efficiently, and in times of crisis, we are given a moment to step back and assess the way we typically operate. We hope to offer the tools needed to assist in those moments.

To learn more about the BC Hotel Association or to inquire about becoming a member contact Terry Duzenberry at membership@bcha.com. To reserve a spot with the FortisBC energy analyst, and participate the BCHA GoGreen program, [click here](#).

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About the BC Hotel Association:

The British Columbia Hotel Association is a non-profit organization that works on behalf of hoteliers at federal, provincial, and community levels, and champions issues such as taxation, tourism, marketing, corporate relations, labour, and consumer services. The BCHA has over 600 hotel members and 120 associate members, representing an industry made up of over 80,000 rooms and more than 60,000 employees. For more information, visit www.bcha.com.

About FortisBC:

FortisBC Energy Inc. is a regulated utility focused on providing safe and reliable energy, including natural gas, propane and thermal energy solutions. FortisBC Energy Inc. employs more than 1,800 British Columbians and serves approximately 1,008,400 customers in 135 B.C. communities. FortisBC Energy Inc. owns and operates approximately 49,000 kilometres of natural gas transmission and distribution pipelines. FortisBC Energy Inc. is a subsidiary of Fortis Inc., a leader in the North American regulated electric and gas utility industry. FortisBC uses the FortisBC name and logo under license from Fortis Inc. For further information visit www.fortisinc.com.

About GreenStep:

GreenStep was founded in 2008 to help small to medium sized enterprises reduce their environmental impacts and create a sustainability strategy for the future. To date, the organization has helped over 1600 businesses and organizations within several sectors, including private, public, non-profit and academic institutions; in a variety of industries such as tourism and hospitality, retail, professional services and manufacturing; and with organizations of all sizes, from those with less than 5 employees to those with more than 2,000. For more information, visit www.greenstep.ca.

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