



This issue of Building Edmonton was sent on January 10, 2023

## Register for the January Building Blocks Session

Join us for the January session of the City's monthly Building Blocks information and discussion series:

Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Time: 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: Online webinar via Google Meet

[Register for free today!](#)

In the January session, join Justin Phill as he shares answers to Energy Code questions received from industry in 2022. Do you need a vestibule when following the performance path? What is continuity of insulation for a home? Join to learn the answers to these and many more!

Building Blocks is a series put on by the City's Safety Codes, Permits and Inspections team to create a forum for learning, questions and discussions on high-performance buildings, code changes, industry best practices and more.

Questions? Contact Justin Phill at [justin.phill@edmonton.ca](mailto:justin.phill@edmonton.ca)

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## District Planning: Read the What We Heard Report!

Thanks to everyone who shared feedback on the draft district plans and District General Policy in 2022. Check out the [What We Heard Report](#) summarizing the online and in-person engagements and feedback, which will help refine the draft documents in 2023. Be sure to tune in (or register to speak!) at [Urban Planning Committee](#) on January 17 (items 7.2 and 7.3) to hear the latest project updates.

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## Red Tape Reduction and Service Improvements

### Planning and Development Fees 2023-2026

Planning and Development fees for 2023-2026, which include land development and subdivision applications as well as development, building and trade permits, are now live for the new year! The proposed fee schedule has been simplified with the consolidation of 105 fee items, saving applicants and the City time spent on applications. The revised schedule can be viewed on the City of Edmonton's [fee listing website](#).

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## Safety Codes & Permit Updates

### Professional Work Product Authentication for Sole Proprietors

To assist the City of Edmonton in verifying full authentication and validation of professional work products without delays, we ask that a sole proprietor clearly indicate that status by placing the words "Sole Proprietor" in the vicinity of the authentication stamp in lieu of the permit to practice validation. This will allow for quick identification of sole proprietors and avoid unnecessary delays and questions due to the absence of permit to practice information. [Read more](#).

### Construction Site Safety

As we welcome winter and the accessibility challenges that come with it, we would like to take this opportunity to refresh the requirements for safe access and guardrails on construction sites. Sites require a safe method of entry, with handrails or ramps meeting OH&S standards. Throughout the site we require handrails on stairs over five risers, handrails or walls on both sides of stairs and all openings to be properly blocked with a guardrail. [Review the example guide](#).

### Building near Overhead Power Lines

The City of Edmonton and EPCOR Power have been working together to provide guidance on developments adjacent to overhead powerlines. While this guidance is being finalized, please be reminded that the Alberta Electrical Utility Code (the Code) requires workers to meet or exceed minimum clearance requirements when both working and developing within the proximity of a powerline. It is up to applicants to ensure that they are meeting the requirements of the Code. EPCOR's [brochure](#) provides more details on the Code, which can be referenced when making an application on a lot that is adjacent to an overhead powerline.

Please review the clearance requirements and reach out to EPCOR should you have any further questions. The City of Edmonton and EPCOR will continue to refine educational material and

the application process to help ensure development adjacent to overhead powerlines complies with the Code requirements. For more information on overhead line clearance, contact EPCOR at [ces@epcor.com](mailto:ces@epcor.com).

### **Construction Site Addressing**

The City of Edmonton requires that all job addresses be posted clearly for both safety and accuracy as this ensures quick emergency response times and efficient inspections. In the residential sector while the site is in the footing stage, a sandwich-board style sign is acceptable with the caveat that as soon as you have a wall built you will attach a sign for the duration of the project. In the commercial sector this may be more of a challenge prior to windows being installed, but we will accept any method that clearly marks the address and eliminates confusion while aligning with the safety requirements. [Read the guidelines.](#)

### **EPOCR Interconnection Process Change for 2023**

As part of a 2023 process improvement by EPCOR and The Inspections Group, please ensure that your interconnection agreement is in place prior to connection into the utility grid. In the coming weeks inspectors will be asking for a copy of the fully executed interconnection agreement to allow for final connection. The process will have a soft start, and will begin pass/fails when an interconnection agreement is not present during inspection effective Monday, March 6, 2023.

This process change is to help prevent any solar installers from accidentally connecting to the grid and causing any potential harm to the public and/or damages to utility infrastructure. This change also helps align processes for interconnection. There will be ongoing communication from the City, The Inspections Group and EPCOR in the coming months about this change. If there are any questions or concerns, contact EPCOR at [distgen@epcor.com](mailto:distgen@epcor.com) or [pramos@epcor.com](mailto:pramos@epcor.com).

### **Hydronic Heating Tagging Requirements**

Ushering in the new year, we want to highlight the tremendous achievements and successes of the building industry in 2022. Along with the increased volume of projects, we saw an increase in hydronic heating system installations. We want to take this opportunity to reiterate the installation code for hydronic heating standard edition referenced in the NBC 2019AE and to identify an increasingly common area of oversight in installation practice. [Read more.](#)

### **Career Opportunities!**

Have you signed up to the job alert list to receive notifications about career opportunities at the City of Edmonton? The Safety Codes section hires plans examiners, field inspectors,

administration staff and project specialists to engage with the needs of our growing industry. To stay current log into the [City's job page](#) and create your job profile to receive real-time job alerts within your industry.

**Check the [Alberta Municipal Affairs website](#) for updates to codes and standards and [sign-up to be notified](#) when new Standata or other information is posted.**

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## Building Edmonton Newsletter Past Issues

Looking for information from a previous Building Edmonton Newsletter? Read our back issues on the [Industry Communications](#) page.