



**Presentation to the Municipal Development Officers Conference**

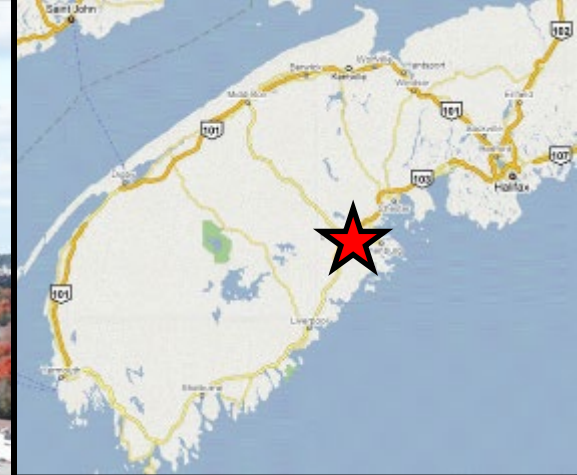
**Leon de Vreede | Senior Policy & Program Planner**

**May 11, 2022**

# Overview

*Energize Bridgewater: it's our mission to help lower energy costs for Bridgewater's homeowners, tenants, landlords, and businesses.*

- What is Energize Bridgewater?
- How will it be helpful for those who live in energy poverty or in housing vulnerability?
- How is Energize Bridgewater related to the Town of Bridgewater's efforts to facilitate the development of affordable housing?



Bridgewater, NS  
Population 8600

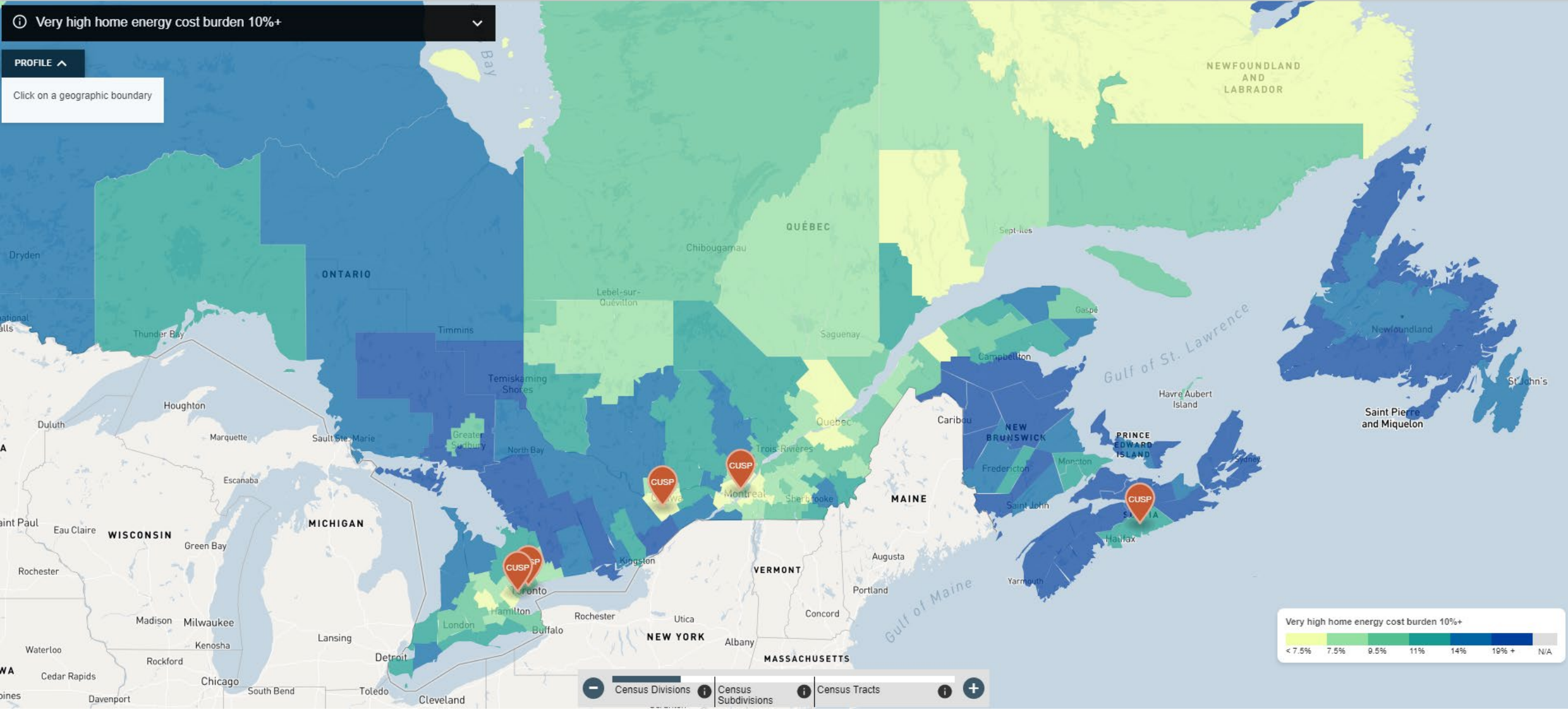
# ENERGY POVERTY

The inability afford enough energy to **heat and power one's home** and/or **fuel for transportation**

Commonly measured as spending **more than 10%** of household after-tax income on energy

**2 out of 5**

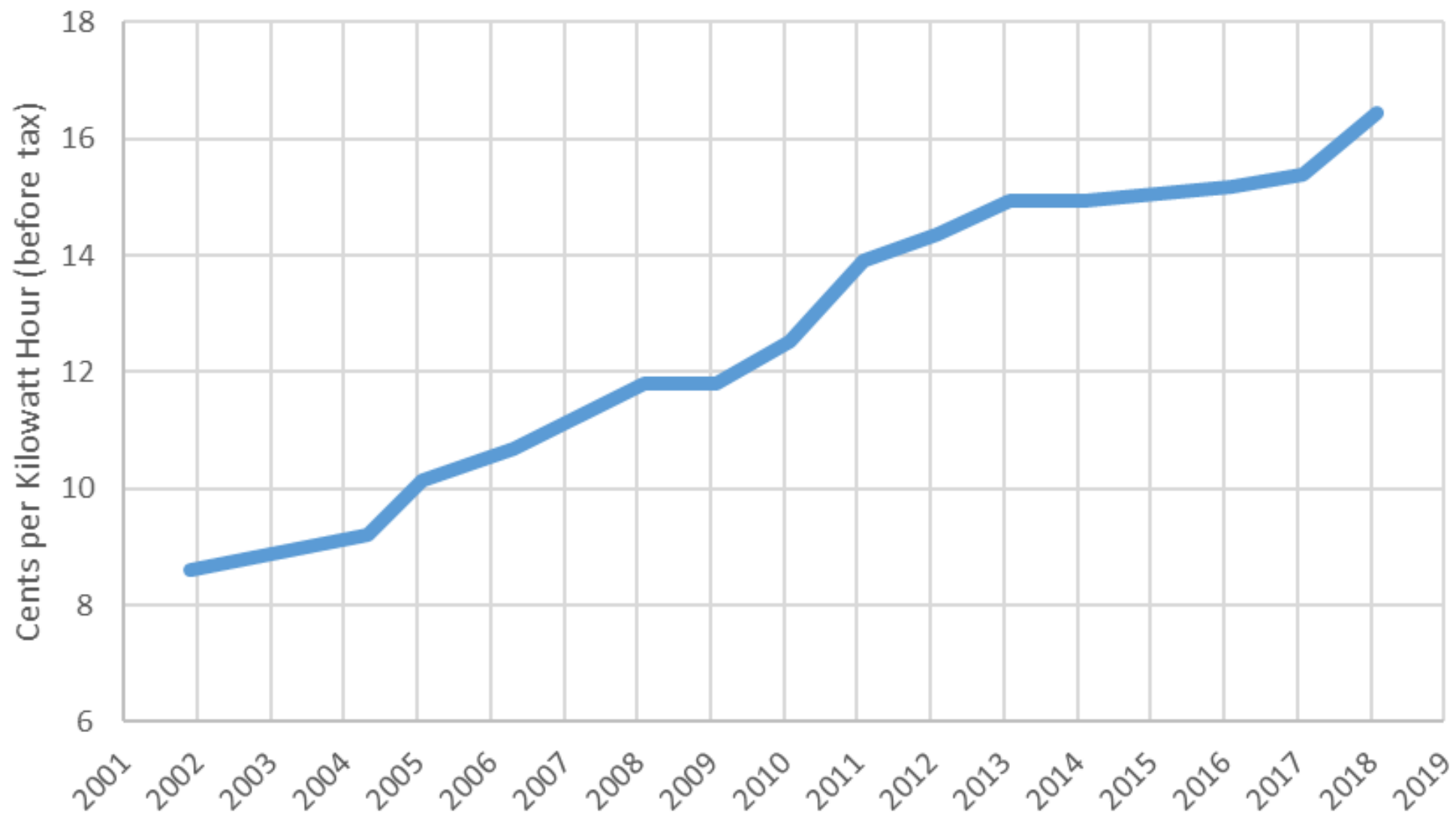
38.5% of Bridgewater families struggle to afford enough energy



Source: [www.energypoverty.ca](http://www.energypoverty.ca)



## Price of Electricity for Homeowners in Nova Scotia





# Causes of Energy Poverty:

- Old, inefficient housing stock
- High-energy bills and rent, low incomes
- Lack of quality, suitable, affordable housing
- Systemic discrimination accessing housing

# Who Experiences Energy Poverty?\*

## **Renters**

Nearly 53% of renters had trouble affording home energy costs in the last five years compared to 33% of homeowners

## **Low-income households**

75% of respondents with an income of \$10,000 or less had difficulty affording their home energy costs

## **Marginalized community members**

Seniors, minorities, and young single parents are especially at-risk

*\*Data from energy poverty research conducted in Bridgewater (2018, 2019)*

*See short documentary: [Living in Energy Poverty](#)*

# Impacts of Energy Poverty\*

## **Social**

Individuals are more isolated, unable to leave their home, or engage in social relationships

## **Economic**

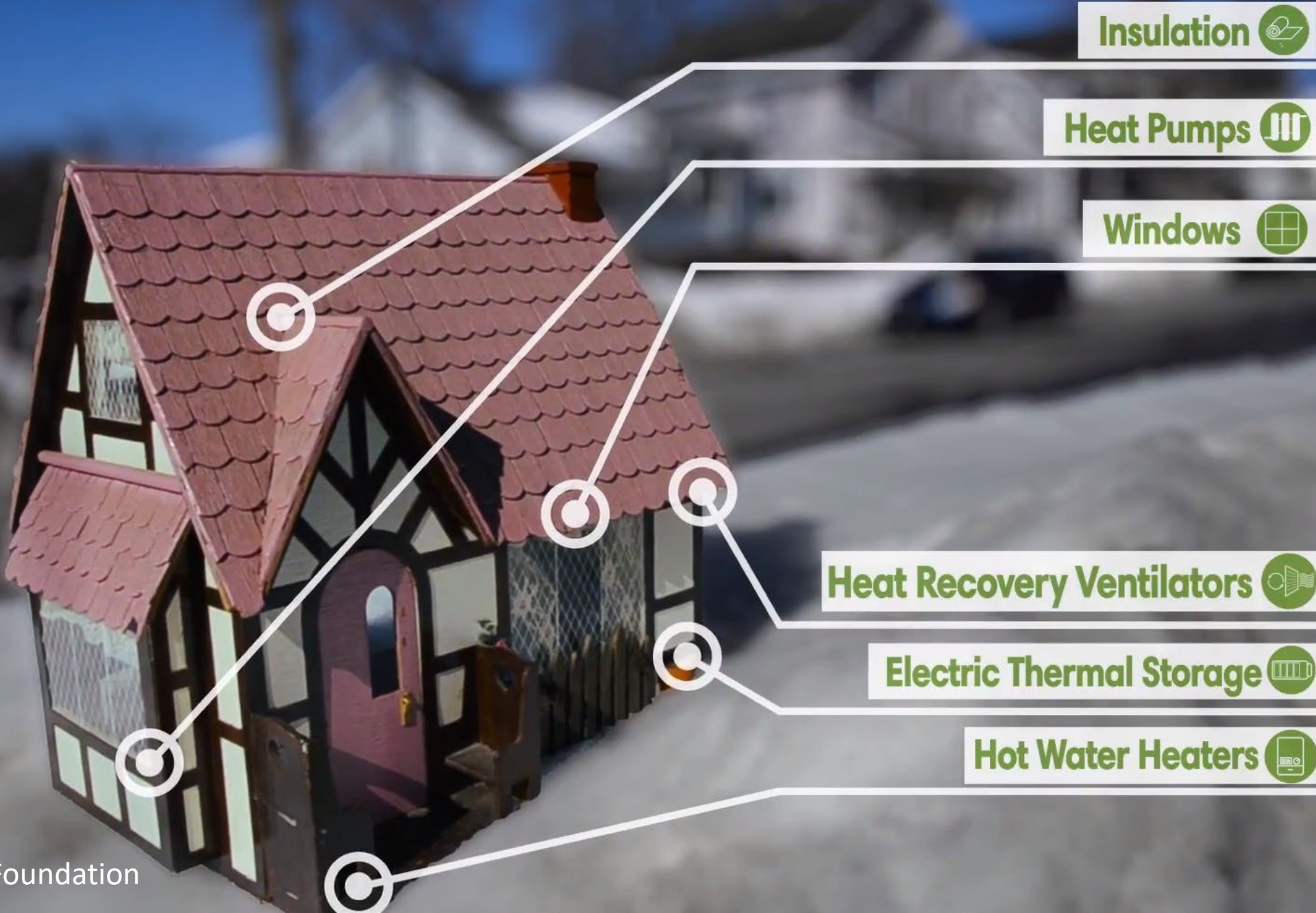
High energy and housing costs forces individuals into trade-off decisions for basic necessities.

## **Health**

*Physical health* from cold, unsafe living environments.

*Mental health* from increased stress, depression, and anxiety from high energy bills

*\*Data from energy poverty research conducted in Bridgewater (2018, 2019)  
See short documentary: [Living in Energy Poverty](#)*



**Insulation** 

**Heat Pumps** 

**Windows** 

**Heat Recovery Ventilators** 

**Electric Thermal Storage** 

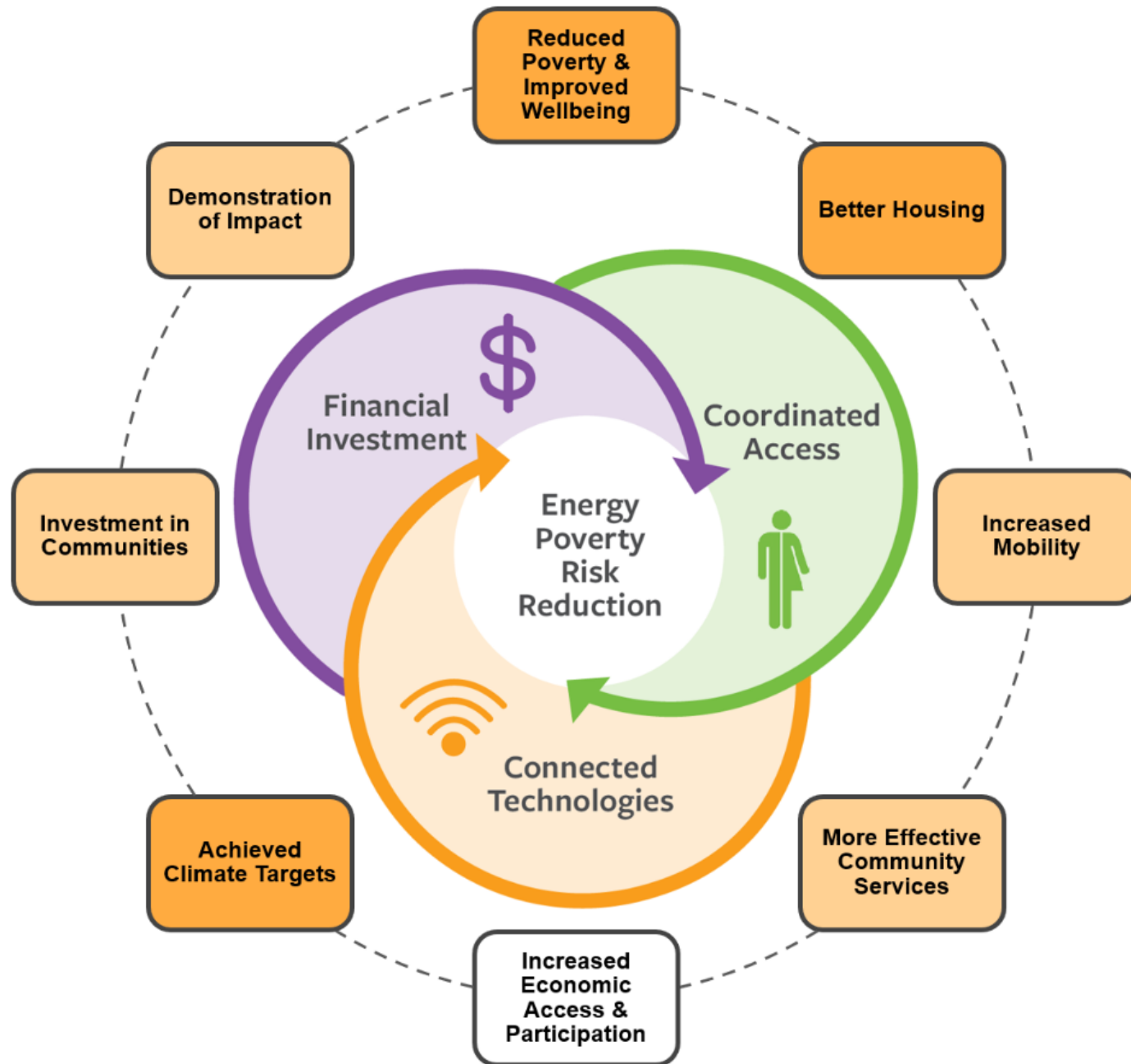
**Hot Water Heaters** 



## Bridgewater's Smart Cities Challenge Goal:

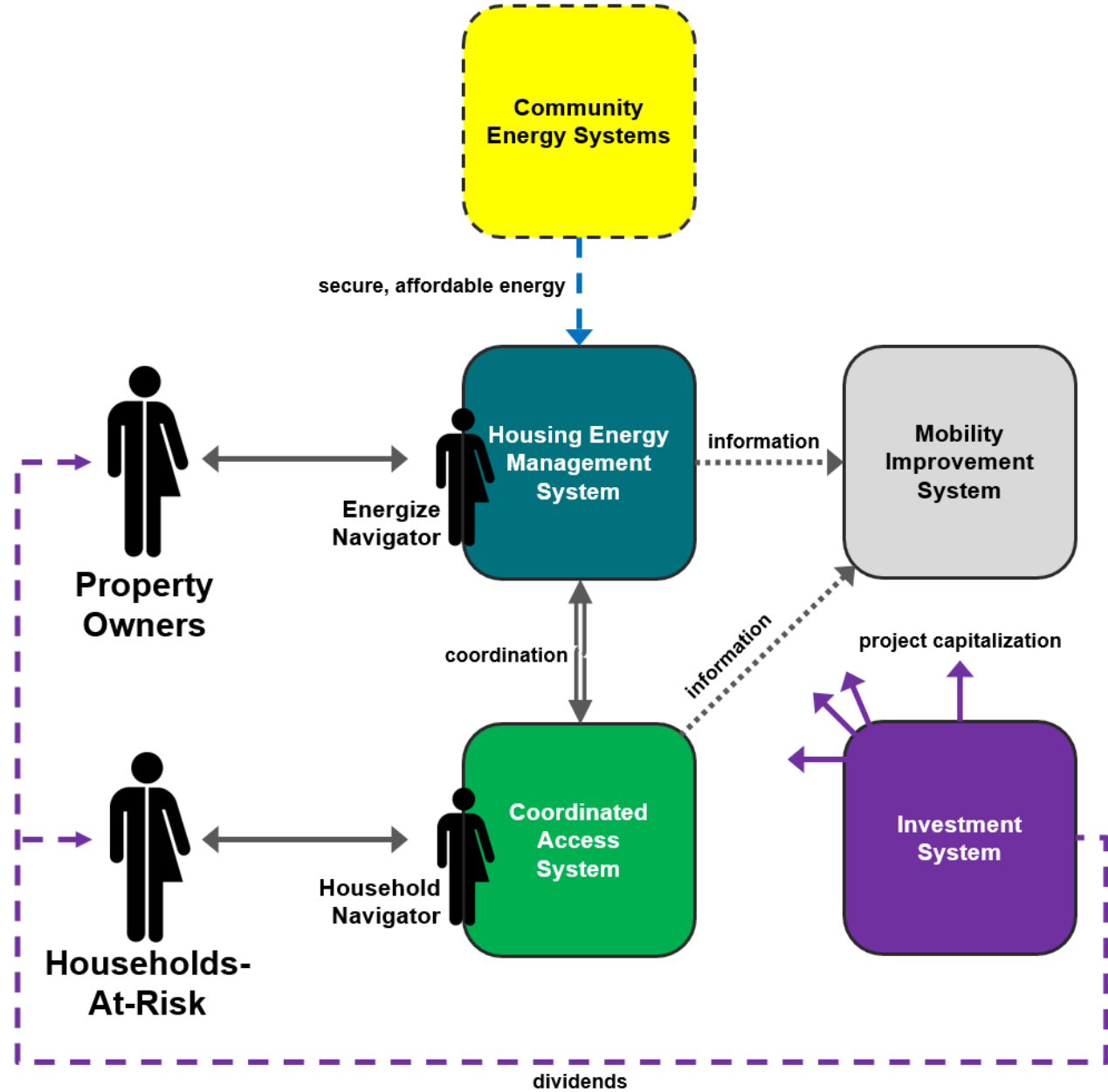
*Our community will lift its residents out of energy poverty, starting by reducing the energy poverty rate by 20% by 2026*





- Core outcomes
- Supporting outcomes
- Supporting outcomes  
*(measured if capacity permits)*

*The Energy Poverty Reduction Program is made up of interrelated systems*





***The Energy  
Poverty  
Reduction  
Program is  
made up of  
interrelated  
systems***

## Coordinated Access System

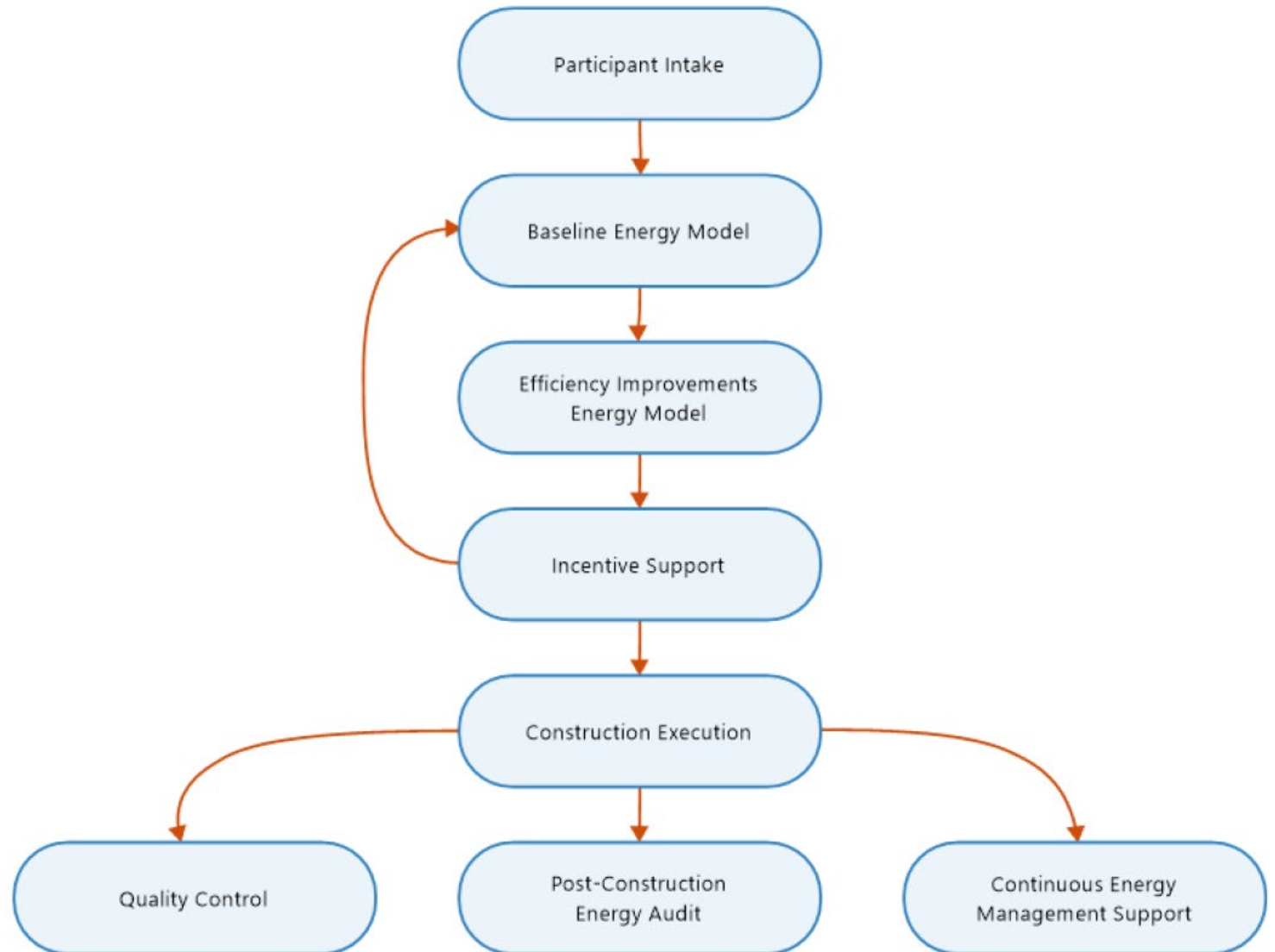
Centralized intake, assessment, referral, and prioritization of residents in need of housing and energy poverty services, with a special focus on marginalized communities, and households-at-risk.

Developed following from the recommendations of Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy.

Service delivery contract in place with South Shore Open Doors Association (SSODA) – 2022 to 2026

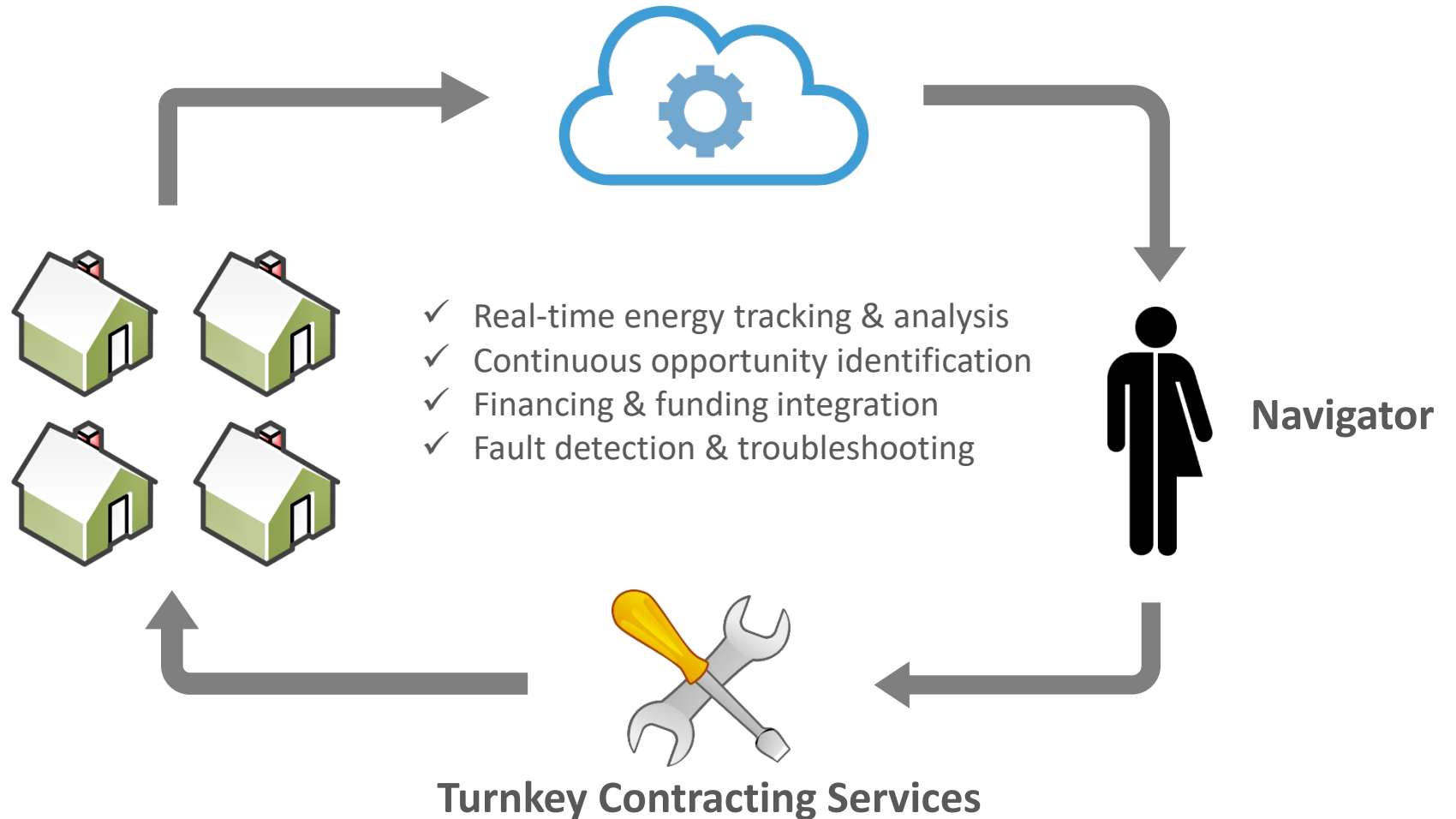
# Housing Energy Management System

*The Energy Poverty Reduction Program is made up of interrelated systems*



# Energy Management Information System

*The Energy Poverty Reduction Program is made up of interrelated systems*



*The Energy  
Poverty  
Reduction  
Program is  
made up of  
interrelated  
systems*

# Investment System

## **Stacks funding and financing options**

- PACE program
- Efficiency Nova Scotia
- Canada Greener Homes Grant
- Local energy investment fund: CEDIF

## **Calculates cost savings**

- Targets cost reduction of 50%, taking financing into account.

19/20

20/21

21/22

22/23

23/24

24/25

25/26

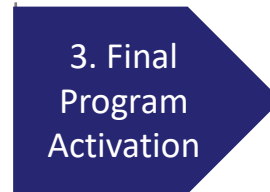
Long Term

1. Prototype Program Setup

2. Prototype Program Testing & Refinement

3. Final  
Program  
Activation

4. Program  
Maturity



# Upcoming Affordable Housing Initiatives

- ✓ Land Use Bylaw amendments to enable more secondary units
- ✓ Defining Affordable Housing
- ✓ Inclusionary Zoning

**Plan Review process: 2022-2024**

# Definition of Affordable Housing



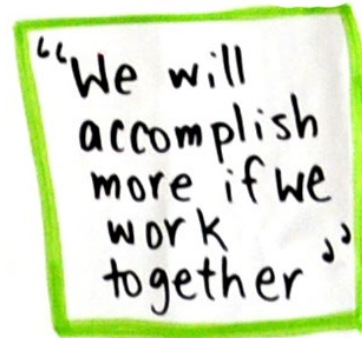
Looking to engage and discuss

# Key Benefits

- Improved navigation & support for poverty relief and housing services
- Accessible, comprehensive technical and financial support for housing energy efficiency improvements
- Increased energy security, reduced GHG emissions
- Improved collaboration among social services stakeholders, and with housing providers & developers
- Data-driven decision-making, informed client consent
- Improved community dialogue and awareness of housing equity



# Thank you!



## Energize Bridgewater

An initiative of the Town of Bridgewater  
60 Pleasant St, Bridgewater, NS, B4V 3X9

[www.EnergizeBridgewater.ca](http://www.EnergizeBridgewater.ca)

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