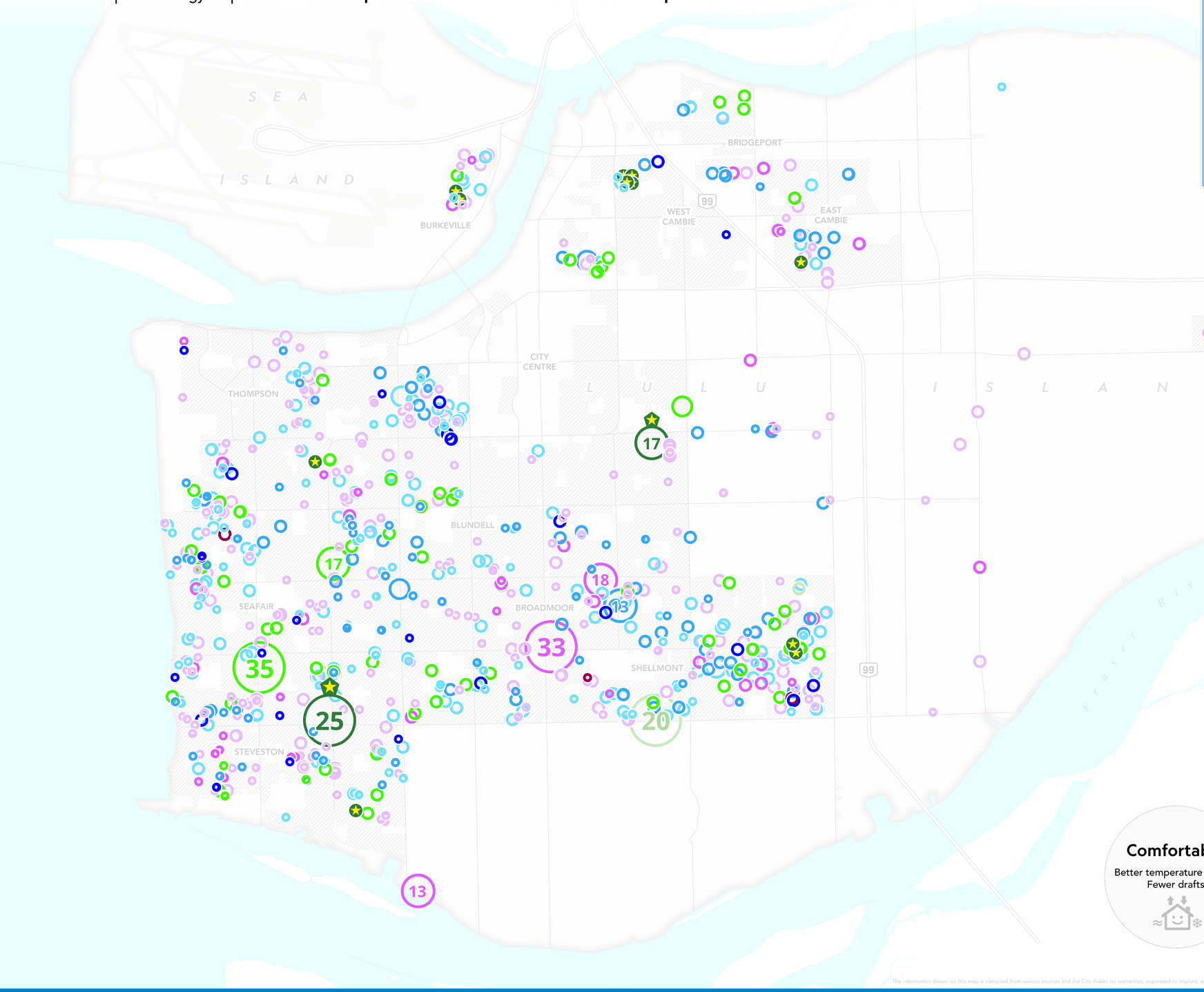
BUILDING BETTER with BC's STEP CODES

2018
Richmond is the **first city in BC** to adopt the Energy Step Code.

2019
Residents move into Richmond's **first Step Code homes**.

2023
Richmond also adopts the **new Zero Carbon Step Code**.

2025
More than 1,300 Step Code homes have now been built in Richmond.



Step Code Homes Built in Richmond (2019 – 2025)

Number of housing units

1 | 2 | 3 – 9 | 10 – 19 (# of units) | 20 – 49 (# of units)

Residential zone

Step Code performance

GHG Emissions: Average ← → Near zero

Energy Efficiency: Very good

EL-1/n.a. EL-2 EL-3/4

ZERO CARBON STEP

ENERGY STEP: 1 – 2, 3, 4 – 5

Note: Locations are approximate

What are BC's Step Codes?

BC's Step Codes **set specific performance targets for new buildings**, while giving builders freedom in how to meet these requirements.

ENERGY STEP CODE

Reduces energy use (heating, cooling, hot water, ventilation) and air leakage.

ZERO CARBON STEP CODE

Reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from heating and hot water.

Step Code homes built today are *more*:

Comfortable
Better temperature control
Fewer drafts

Healthy
Cleaner air
Better ventilation

Energy-efficient
50 – 60% less energy use
Lower utility bills

Climate-friendly
80 – 93% less GHG emissions

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Benefits of Step Code Homes for Richmond and BC

Total energy use and GHG pollution in Richmond will decline as more Step Code buildings are built.

After Richmond and other municipalities adopted the Energy Step Code, builders across BC started using high-performance techniques, enabling the Province to **improve BC Building Code (BCBC) minimum energy requirements** in 2023.

Ongoing Step Code implementation by municipalities will **enable another BCBC upgrade in 2027**.

Learn more at
richmond.ca/StepCode

Richmond