



# Newsletter

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*Phase 2 Now in Progress*

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## How Spearhead Saves and Shines

**Kootenay-based global architectural and design company operates on the cutting edge of energy conservation and power load reduction. And you can too.**

Having spent over 20 years designing and building projects around the world, Nelson's Spearhead has brought the power of award-winning architectural permanence and beauty to clients in places as illustrious as Dubai, Hawaii and New York City.

With 65 employees and over 100 contracts underway today, the local business relies on Nelson Hydro to keep its trio of multi-million dollar CNC machines churning and a highly skilled staff of designers, fabricators and planners on task, and on time.

"It's a big deal when everything stops," says Spearhead partner and Project Manager Ben Hall. And Nelson Hydro's reliability has become better and better, thanks to their on-going maintenance and investment."

Spearhead requires nearly 23,000 kWh of power a month to operate its two locations. (That's about the same amount needed to power 23 homes for a month.) So the business is committed to energy conservation wherever possible, Hall says.

In addition to expanding their operation to include a state-of-the-art street front store on Baker Street earlier this year, the legendary Kootenay company has taken numerous steps out at the its sprawling 12-Mile headquarters and production facility to shift its energy demand load, reduce consumption and ensure Spearhead continually increases energy sustainability. That's something everyday households and small business owners can do too.

Spearhead has chosen to operate outside Nelson Hydro's hours of peak demand, between 4:00 and 8:00 o'clock at night. Their older buildings have all been retrofitted with energy efficient and modern LED lighting and optimized insulation. They've also converted the 12-Mile facility's wood boiler to natural gas, with further upgrades to a clean bio-mass burning unit that will lower gas consumption even more.

Spearhead's biggest energy conservation effort to date? It came in 2019/20 with the addition of a 13,000 square foot expansion for its new Technowood CNC building. Hall explains that architects took peak sunshine hours and directions into consideration before finalizing blueprints, letting Mother Nature carry some of the energy load. "We over-invested in walls of windows and three skylights the size of shipping containers," the second-generation Spearhead partner adds, "and that greatly reduced our lighting power demands." Hall, who's dad Ted founded the business, hints that here are more expansion plans in the works that will include alternate energy sources. Now, that's what you call some bright ideas.

While you mightn't need the same Nelson Hydro power as the global award winners out at Spearhead, you can build a more energy efficient home or business too (and better bill!).

## E-NEWSLETTERS

Want to receive these newsletters in your email inbox in the future? We're transitioning to e-newsletters. Scan the QR code or visit [nelson.ca/hydronewsletter](https://nelson.ca/hydronewsletter) to sign up.



# What's Happening

## MILL STREET SUBSTATION UPGRADE

### Phase 1 Complete and In-Service

We're excited to share that Phase 1 of the Mill Street Substation project is now complete and fully operational. This milestone brings half of the station's designed capacity online.

### Phase 2 Now Underway

We've officially begun Phase 2, the final phase of the Mill Street Substation project. This stage will bring the station to its full design capacity, further enhancing our infrastructure. Here's what to expect:

- **Civil Works and Foundations** (In progress until Mid-October): Excavators, dump trucks, concrete trucks, and other heavy machinery will be on site regularly. Please note that this will be the noisiest part of the project.
- **Transformer Delivery** (Mid-October): On the day of delivery, there will be some parking restrictions along Latimer and Mill Streets. We'll send out more details to nearby residents as the date approaches.
- **Outdoor Equipment Assembly** (Mid-October to Mid-November): Crews will be assembling the outdoor equipment needed to bring the substation to full capacity.
- **Commissioning** (Mid-November to Mid-January): The final commissioning phase will ensure the substation is fully operational and ready to meet the community's energy needs.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to complete this vital project.



## Regional Energy Efficiency Program

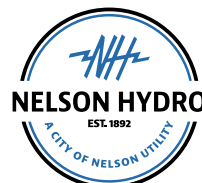
All RDCK and City of Nelson residents are eligible to register for the Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP—formerly EcoSave\*) to access energy upgrade support to lower their energy bill. Once you register, we'll help you:

- Schedule a home visit with an Energy Advisor
- Find local contractors
- Access rebates (Nelson Hydro customers qualify for FortisBC rebates)
- Receive low-interest financing

Learn more at: [nelson.ca/222/Energy-Retrofit-Program](https://nelson.ca/222/Energy-Retrofit-Program)

## PEAK POWER DEMAND

Did you know peak power draw for Nelson Hydro customers is between 5 - 7pm? Reducing our electrical consumption between peak hours will ultimately save all customers money by reducing the peak demand fees charged by FortisBC, our wholesale power supplier. Learn more at: [nelson.ca/1008/Peak-Demand](https://nelson.ca/1008/Peak-Demand)



## PAY BILLS ONLINE

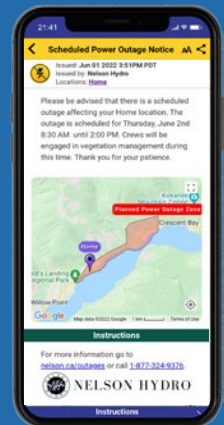
You can now pay your hydro bills online through the online account portal.

[nelson.ca/hydrobill](https://nelson.ca/hydrobill)

## VOYENT ALERT!

Sign up for the Voyent Alert! notification service for alerts on important information to our customers such as power outages.

For email, sms or phone registration get started here: [nelson.ca/em\\_info](https://nelson.ca/em_info)



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