

2017 GREENHOUSE CARBON TAX RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM

The British Columbia Government established the Greenhouse Carbon Tax Program (GCTRGP) to assist commercial BC greenhouse vegetable, floriculture, wholesale and forest seedling nursery operators.

The 2017 program provides eligible British Columbia commercial greenhouse growers with a grant equal to 80% of the carbon tax paid on their purchases of natural gas and propane consumed for heating and producing CO₂ for their production greenhouses. Fuel burnt for other purposes such as heating residential, office or non-eligible production area, vehicles, forklifts or to produce electricity in a CHP engine is ineligible for the GCTRGP.

The relief grant will be based on fuel use in 2016 (as an approximation of 2017 fuel use). The program permits applicants who do not have complete fuel use data for 2016 to submit an estimate of their fuel use. Estimates of fuel use will be accepted only for new start-ups or operations that expanded their eligible production area in 2016 or 2017.

Key Dates

January 27, 2017	2017 Program launch. Application form, requirements, program and mandatory online survey available on Ministry of Agriculture website
March 20, 2017	Deadline for greenhouse operators to submit applications to Ministry of Agriculture
March 20, 2017	Deadline to submit the mandatory online survey
May 30, 2017	Target date to issue the grant (direct deposit or cheque)

Calculation of Carbon Tax Relief Grants

- a) The 2017 grant will be calculated by multiplying the
 - i. eligible 2016 natural gas [Giga Joules (GJ)] and propane [Litres (L)] usage (verified by fuel distributor annual summary or invoices) for heating commercial greenhouse space and for carbon dioxide for crop fertilization and crop production;
 - ii. 2017 carbon tax rates [148.98 cents per GJ (5.70 ¢/m³) for natural gas and 4.62 cents per litre for propane], as set out in [Schedule 1 of the Carbon Tax Act](#).
 - iii. 80%

$$\text{Relief grant} = (\text{2016 eligible fuel use}) * (\text{2017 tax rate}) * (80\%)$$

- b) If the 2016 grant was based on an estimated fuel use, the Ministry will compare the estimated usage to the actual usage and adjust the 2017 grant as appropriate.
- c) For new (start up and purchased) operations and operations which expanded in 2016 or 2017, the eligible fuel will be estimated by the applicant based on any fuel use from 2016 and/or 2017,

sector averages and other information.

- d) Fuel estimates (including amounts for non-eligible purposes and for new operations/expansions) will be reviewed by Ministry staff and may be adjusted to ensure that they are consistent with reasonable assumptions, sector averages, and other relevant information. The accuracy of 2017 fuel estimates will be compared and verified in 2018; grant amounts will be adjusted for any variances between the estimated and actual fuel usage.
- e) Not all fuel used by a cogeneration system or combined heat and power (CHP) engine is eligible for a relief grant. Operators that have incorporated CHP engines for greenhouse heating and/or carbon dioxide production for crop fertilization **must** calculate the amount of non-eligible fuel consumed. Non-eligible fuel is offset by the total amount of electricity produced in the applicable calendar year. It is calculated by determining the equivalency of natural gas consumed to the active electrical power generated from the engine(s) for the same time period. The electrical energy produced is to be retrieved from the diagnostic and monitoring equipment attached to the cogeneration unit. Records must be kept to allow electrical energy produced over a requested time period to be retrieved.

The amount of non-eligible fuel for a cogeneration system is calculated as follows:

Non-eligible fuel (in GJ) = total electrical production in a calendar year (in MWh) ÷ 0.2778

Applicant Requirements

To qualify to receive a 2017 GCTRG, a person **MUST** meet ALL of the following at the time of the application submission:

- Be an eligible British Columbia commercial greenhouse operator;
- Complete the 3 parts of the fillable application form;
- Submit a (1 or 2 page) annual summary (contact the natural gas and/or propane provider) or copies of monthly invoices of fuel usage; the summary and monthly invoices must have the fuel provider's logo or other documentation to verify origin of data AGRI will not accept the spreadsheet downloaded from Fortis;
- Scan application, the recorded diagnostic and monitoring CHP engine system electrical output readings for January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016; the fuel summary/invoices; and submit this documentation by email to the Ministry at CTreliefgrant@gov.bc.ca for review and approval by March 19, 2017. Applicants can also complete and submit a direct deposit application by mail to the Ministry of Agriculture to allow relief grant monies to be deposited electronically.
- Complete and submit the mandatory online survey by March 19, 2017.

NOTE: if the survey is not completed and submitted by March 19, 2017, the Ministry will deem an application as incomplete and will not issue a grant.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to become familiar with the application process to ensure that all submitted documentation meets all stated requirements.

Note: Applications or supporting material such as the survey, fuel invoices, annual summaries of fuel usage, and applicable electrical power generation readings from CHP engines received after the March 19, 2017 deadline will be deemed “ineligible” for the 2017 GCTRGP grant.

Application Checklist

A complete application consists of:

- three parts of the application form
- fuel summary or invoices from fuel supplier
- online survey

Ministry of Agriculture Information and Application form:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/topic.page?id=F3B79B6864D049DE9C784B5D0843EB48>.

General Inquiries and Relief Grant Application Form submission: CTreliefgrant@gov.bc.ca

Key Contacts

Ministry of Agriculture

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