

Climate Leader Reader

Supporting B.C.'s Public Sector in Leading by Example

December 2021



2021 Recap for Public Sector Organizations

It has been an eventful year at the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS).

The province introduced its draft [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#) (CPAS), released the [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#) and participated at the UN's international climate conference, COP26, in Glasgow. Each of these milestones included strong commitments by our province for government leadership and adaptation. The extreme weather that B.C. has witnessed this past year clearly underscores the increasing urgency of our work to help meet these commitments.

I am pleased to welcome Cameron Lewis who joined CAS on November 22nd as the new Executive Director, Resilience and Clean Government. Cameron started his career with the BC Public Service in 1998 and has worked in a variety of ministries, most recently Emergency Management BC, where he has seen the devastating impacts that climate change is already having on individuals, communities, and ecosystems.

Cameron has a breadth of experience managing complex, high-profile cross-government files including responding to the government-commissioned, independent Chapman/Abbott report on the unprecedented 2017 wildfire and flood seasons in British Columbia. His cross-government and Indigenous engagement experience and expertise will be instrumental as we move forward with new public sector climate requirements and implementing the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Hewitt

Assistant Deputy Minister

Climate Action Secretariat

2021 CNG Reporting Deadlines:

April 30, 2022 :

- Final day for CGRT Data Entry
- Self-Certification Checklist due

May 31, 2022 :

- Final signed PSO Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR) and Survey due
- Carbon Offset Invoices sent to PSOs by CAS (on or before May 31, 2022)

June 30, 2022 :

- All offset payments due

CleanBC Public Sector 2030 Emission Reduction Targets (2010 baseline):

- Reduce emissions from Public Sector buildings by 50%
- Reduce emissions from Public Sector fleet vehicles by 40%

Pledges:

- Have 10%+ of core government light duty vehicle acquisitions be zero emission vehicles beginning in 2020
- Convert the entire public sector fleets in the following categories to ZEVs:
 - Light duty vehicles by 2035
 - Medium and heavy duty vehicles by 2040

Organization Contact Details: submit by January 30th

All current primary and secondary PSO contacts received an email early December with a request for your updated organization contacts. Your responses will help to ensure that the people who need to receive our communications continue to do so. Please complete and return by **January 30th.** **1**

Introducing the new “Methodology for Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Emissions: B.C. Public Sector Organizations”

Since 2010, the Carbon Neutral Government (CNG) program – legislated under the *Climate Change Accountability Act* (CCAA) – has required all public sector organizations (PSO) to quantify, report, and offset their annual emissions in order to achieve carbon neutrality each year. This program helps meet B.C.’s goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% below 2007 levels by 2030.

To assist PSOs in their calculations, the Climate Action Secretariat has provided the *B.C. Best Practices Methodology for Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Emissions* guidebook to provide information on how to quantify their emissions either under legislation or voluntarily. After marking 10 years of this program, we are in the process of upgrading the existing document and will rename it to accurately represent its main purpose: *Methodology for Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Emissions: B.C. Public Sector Organizations*.

What’s new?

In preparation for the 2021 reporting year, the methodology document underwent a thorough review and update. The major changes include:

- updated emission factors, their respective up-to-date references and where to find them;
- a simplified document structure categorized by emission sources to make information easier to locate; and
- easy-to-follow equations and sample calculations to assist PSOs in accurate emission quantification.

Although the document is focused on PSO reporting, other institutions and communities are still welcome to refer to the methodology document for voluntary quantifying and reporting purposes.

What are the impacts?

Emission factors from 2021 will be uploaded in the Clean Government Reporting Tool (CGRT) to reflect updated values. Changes to carbon offset liabilities requirements will reflect updates to 2020 emissions only. This means that, depending on whether changes in emission factors increase or decrease a PSO’s emissions inventory, PSOs will either be credited for additional offsets retired or be required to retire additional offsets. These prior year adjustments will be incorporated as part of the 2021 CNG reporting cycle. We expect any credits or debits to be approximately 1% of total PSO inventories.

Future Updates

In March 2022, we will be updating electricity emission factors in CGRT. By Fall 2022, PSOs will be provided the option to view historical emission factors and examine changes in their inventories when the updated emission factors are applied to their existing data.

The updated document will be available for the 2021 reporting year on the Carbon Neutral Government [webpage](#) in Winter 2022.

2020 Carbon Neutral Government Year-in-Review:

The 2020 Carbon Neutral Government Year-in-Review is now available online [here](#). This report provides a summary of public sector emissions from the 2020 reporting year and highlights some of the great work being done by provincial PSOs. Key facts include:

- In 2020, B.C.’s 131 PSOs generated 716,745 tonnes of GHG emissions from their operations.
- This represents a reduction of 48,003 tonnes compared to 2019.
- Over the past eleven years, public sector emissions have decreased by 98,788 tonnes or 12% compared to the baseline year of 2010.

Draft Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy

In June 2021, CAS released the draft [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#) (CPAS). The draft strategy included a first phase of actions for 2021-2022, and proposed actions for 2022-25 to strengthen our capacity to anticipate and respond to climate-related events and adapt to changing conditions.

PSOs were invited to attend a series of three engagement sessions:

- Overview of the CPAS (June 30)
- Consultation on draft Policy Proposal for Climate Resilient Public Sector Buildings (July 8)
- Consultation on draft Policy Proposal for Public Sector Organization Climate Risk Reporting (July 13).

Thank you to all the organizations that attended and contributed to these consultation sessions. A summary report of the public sector engagement results is available. Please email climaterisk@gov.bc.ca for more information.

B.C. Progress on Climate Action

B.C. recently released the [2021 Climate Change Accountability Report](#) (CCAR), the second of its kind tabled in the legislature as mandated by law.

In 2019, B.C.'s emissions increased slightly from the previous year. After applying validated carbon offsets, this results in a net increase of 2% above 2007 levels. Modelling estimates that emissions will decline once the CleanBC policies take hold.

The report outlines the Province's progress on climate action from 2020 to 2021. You'll find these highlights on public sector leadership:

- Twenty-two school districts ordered 52 electric school buses
- Core government implemented numerous energy retrofits and EV charging stations. 34% of applicable provincial government light-duty vehicle purchases were zero emission vehicles, exceeding the 10% ZEV purchase target in CleanBC
- BC Housing and health authorities have new design and assessment tools to help prepare for climate impacts.

Government Leadership in the Roadmap to 2030

Since 2010, B.C. has achieved carbon neutral operations across the provincial public sector, including health authorities, school districts, universities and colleges, Crown corporations and government ministries. The [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#) expands and speeds up actions to reduce carbon pollution while identifying new opportunities so that we can meet our emissions reduction targets for 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2050.

As part of the Roadmap, we're building on our progress with the following new measures:

- Factoring climate considerations into government decision making, ensuring a focus on climate resilient, zero- or low carbon projects
- Making zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) the default option for public sector fleets, with ZEVs accounting for 100% light-duty vehicle acquisitions by 2027
- Requiring all new public sector buildings to align with our climate goals beginning with performance standards (2023) and moving to zero-carbon new buildings (2027)
- Developing a Low Carbon Building Materials Strategy by 2023 that includes a holistic approach to decarbonizing buildings, initially emphasizing public sector buildings, supporting the development and implementation of embodied carbon targets for public sector buildings by 2030
- Developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy by 2024 to transform our existing public sector buildings portfolio to a low carbon and resiliency standard
- Implementing a public awareness and education campaign; this will include a dedicated strategy for connecting with youth and involving them in climate action

Climate Risk and Resilience Community of Practice

The Climate Risk and Resilience Community of Practice will continue to meet throughout 2022. If you are interested in joining, please send an email to climaterisk@gov.bc.ca.

Public Sector Fleet Community of Practice

Send an email to Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca to join the Public Sector Fleet Community of Practice and support information sharing on ZEV projects, charging infrastructure, incentives and more across the public sector. Meetings are held quarterly and our next meeting is coming up on **Wednesday, January 19th**.

EVfriendly Program

To support the mandate of all new light duty vehicles in B.C. being zero-emission by 2035, the [EVfriendly](#) online training and certification program will help businesses invest in the tools and training necessary to ensure vehicles are serviced and cared for by trained and qualified industry professionals. The program covers the complete electric vehicle lifecycle.

Consider applying if your organization is involved in the following stages:

- point of sale
- towing and recovery
- service and repair
- end-of-life-processes

Help your organization to be ready for transition to ZEVs by registering for this training and certification. [Apply](#) today!

Success Story:

Dogwood Auditorium at Royal Roads University



On October 8, 2021, Royal Roads University officially opened the Dogwood Auditorium on its campus.

The auditorium is the culmination of a 2.5-year capital project involving more than 250 stakeholders. The project involved upgrading and repurposing the former pool building, a federally recognized heritage building first constructed in 1956, and transforming it into an energy-efficient multi-purpose academic and presentation space that seats 500.

Innovative sustainability features are key aspects of the Dogwood Auditorium. The auditorium's design honours principles of the BC Energy Step Code and the adjacent open-loop geo-exchange system is anticipated to result in significant GHG emission reductions for the campus.

The project received the 2021 Project Management Institute – Vancouver Island (PMI-VI) Project of the Year Award, which recognizes superior performance of project management practices and organizational results. For more information, including a video tour and gallery of images, see [here](#).

Building Capacity for Climate Adaptation in B.C.

CAS co-funds, with Natural Resources Canada BRACE Program, an initiative to build climate adaptation skills and capacity amongst working professionals in B.C. The Adaptation Learning Network is led by the Resilience by Design Research Lab at Royal Roads University (RRU). The Adaptation Learning Network has developed a suite of continuing studies courses which informs skills and career pathways for professionals working in this field.

Next semester's courses include:

- Intro to Climate Policy for Adaptation Professionals, RRU (Jan 24 - Feb 20)
- Climate Change Adaptation Fundamentals, RRU (Feb 28 - Mar 27)
- Natural Asset Management, RRU (Apr 4 - May 1)
- Ecosystems of the Future, UVIC (Apr 25 - May 6)
- Climate Change Perspectives for Project Management, RRU (May 2 - 29)

More information about the Adaptation Learning Network is available [here](#). Keep up to date with this initiative by signing up for the monthly Adaptation Learning Network [newsletter](#).

Clean Fleets & Low Carbon Building Materials Resource Webpage

We are excited to announce the addition of helpful materials to our [resource webpage](#) for reducing emission from fleet vehicles!

This webpage is dedicated to supporting B.C.'s public sector organizations to take action in cutting emissions from operations and strengthen their position as climate leaders. Some great features include:

- Electric vehicle (EV) resources including guides, incentives and rebates
- Corporate supply arrangements for EV charging stations
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) credit opportunities
- Case studies and success stories of low carbon building material use

Take some time to check out the webpage and feel invited to send feedback and/or suggestions for additional resources and content to Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca•

Contacts

For reporting or GHG mitigation questions, please contact us at Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca.

For questions about preparing for a changing climate and managing climate-related risks, please contact climaterisk@gov.bc.ca.