



# 2019 PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CARBON NEUTRAL ACTION REPORT

Prepared by the  
Ministry of Environment and  
Climate Change Strategy  
Victoria, B.C.  
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This Carbon Neutral Action Report (CNAR) fulfills the Provincial government's reporting requirements under section 7 of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* for the 2019 calendar year where "Provincial government" represents a consolidation of provincial ministries and independent offices. This report provides an overview of the following information for Provincial government:

- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions<sup>1</sup> from its buildings, vehicles, office paper, and business travel;
- Offsets<sup>2</sup> retired in relation to those emissions to achieve carbon neutrality;
- Highlights of actions taken in 2019 to minimize emissions; and
- Highlights of plans to minimize future emissions.

The Clean Government team of the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) works with the Ministry of Citizens' Services (CITZ) and other ministry representatives to collect and enter energy and other consumption data into government's emissions reporting tool. The emissions data are then made available to all ministries for the information and analysis.

CITZ is responsible for providing a range of services that support the management of Provincial government buildings, vehicles, information technology and procurement. The actions and plans pertaining to buildings and fleet in this report are, therefore, largely provided by CITZ and supplemented by input from other ministries. Actions and plans related to paper consumption, business travel, and other sustainability initiatives are provided by individual ministries.

2019 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year of carbon neutral government in British Columbia. This milestone is a significant one and was achieved as a result of significant effort by Provincial government employees. British Columbians can be proud of their leadership globally in advancing climate action through the carbon neutral government program.

## 2. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Executive Director of Clean BC Implementation issued the following Directive on March 31, 2020:

*Under my authority as the Director for the purposes of the Act, and under the authority delegated to me in Section 6 of the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, I hereby direct that all ministries and Public Sector Organizations covered by the Carbon Neutral Government requirement shall use their 2018 GHG emissions as a temporary estimate for their actual 2019 GHG emissions, for the purposes of the 2019 Carbon Neutral Action Reports and 2019 Carbon Neutral Government reporting required under the Climate Change Accountability Act.*

Therefore, this report presents emissions data from 2018 as a placeholder for meeting the 2019 legislated reporting requirements, consistent with the directive. An adjustment will be made in the 2020 reporting cycle to address the difference between the placeholder emissions and the actual 2019

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ministries and public sector organizations were directed on March 31, 2020 to use their emissions data from 2018 as a placeholder for meeting 2019 legislated reporting requirements.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid



emissions. All other (qualitative) components of this report, such as actions taken and planned to reduce emissions across Provincial government, are reflective of the 2019 calendar year.

**Table 1. Total Provincial Government Emissions and Offsets for 2019**  
(2010 baseline year shown for comparison purposes)

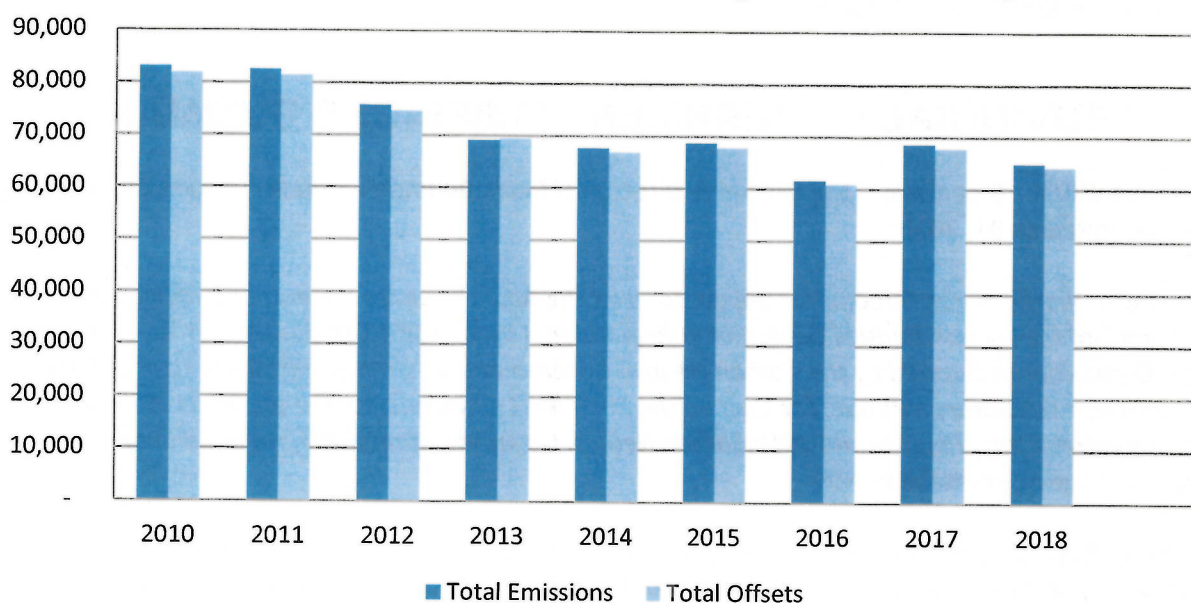
	2010	2019 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Total Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	82,988	64,868
<b>Total Offsets (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)<sup>b</sup></b>	81,750	64,188

<sup>a</sup>As per the Directive issued March 31, 2020, this table presents the Provincial government's 2018 emissions and offsets as a placeholder to achieve the legislated reporting requirements for the 2019 year.

<sup>b</sup>Emissions from biogenic sources (e.g., combustion of renewable fuels) totaling 681 tCO<sub>2</sub> are offset exempt.

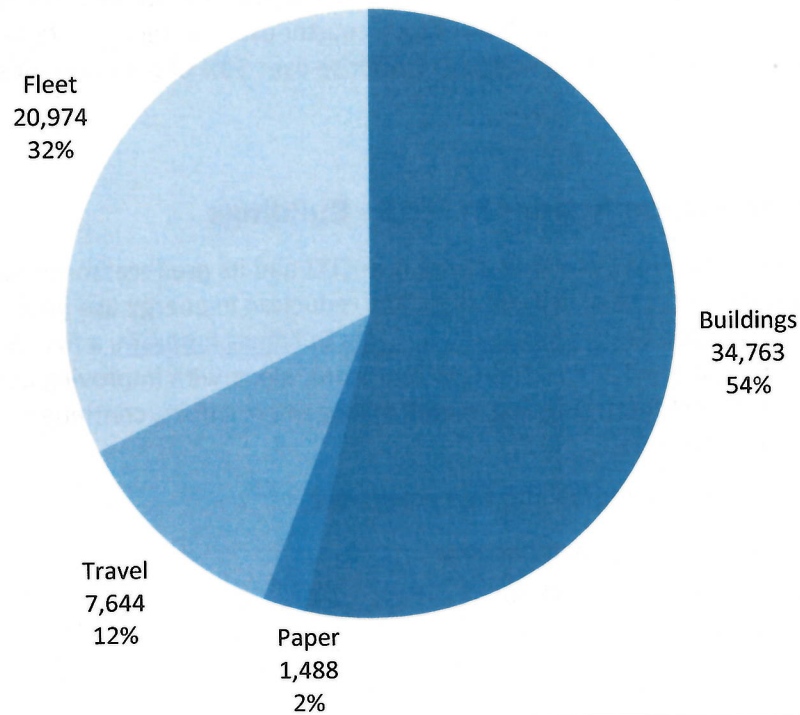
Provincial government's emissions have overall trended downwards since the baseline year of 2010 (Figure 1). Buildings have historically been the largest source of emissions, with approximately half of all emissions, followed by vehicles, business travel and office paper (Figure 2). Detailed analyses are not presented for the 2019 reporting year, since this report uses the 2018 emissions as a placeholder for 2019. Actual 2019 emissions are currently being determined and will inform the analyses that will be reported on in the 2020 Provincial government CNAR.

**Figure 1. Change in Provincial Government GHG emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)**

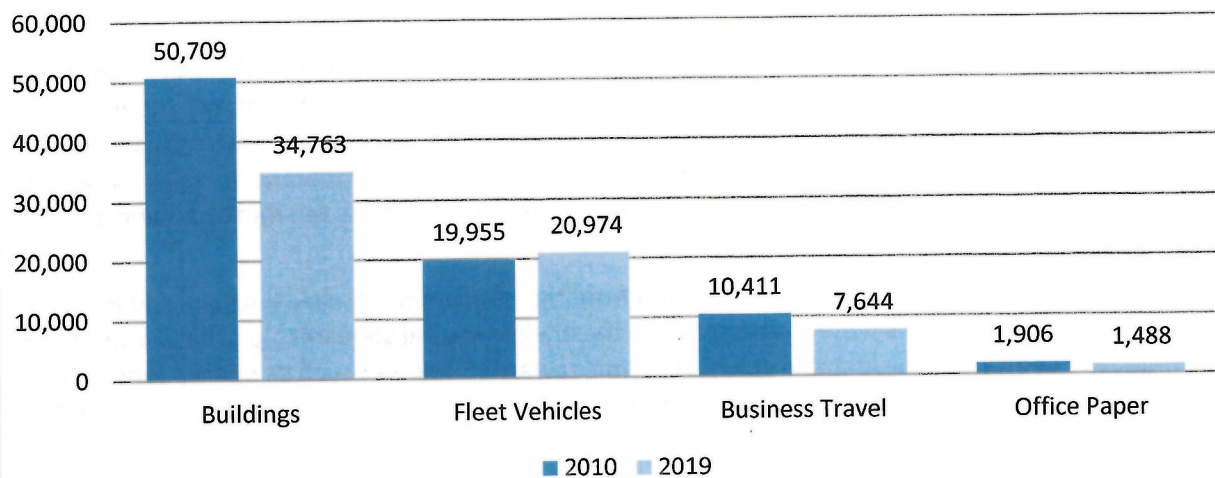




**Figure 2. 2019 Provincial Government GHG Emissions by Source (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)**  
Total Emissions: 64,868 tCO<sub>2</sub>e



**Figure 3. Change in Provincial Government GHG Emissions by Source (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) 2010 and 2019**



### 3. BUILDING EMISSIONS

CITZ manages a portfolio of over 1500 owned, leased and managed facilities across the province. These buildings cover a variety of archetypes such as offices, courthouses, correctional facilities, warehouses, and labs, among others. Emissions from buildings comprise over 50% of government's total reported emissions.

#### 3.1 Emission Reduction Actions in 2019 - Buildings

Energy management efforts have been long-standing in CITZ and its predecessor organizations for over 40 years. These efforts have resulted in more than 60% reduction in energy use intensity since 1970. In 2019, CITZ publicly announced the [CleanBC Governments Buildings Program](#), a five-year plan to reduce building energy consumption and associated GHG emissions, along with improving occupant comfort and life-cycle return on investment. Ongoing energy management efforts continue to effectively reduce building-related carbon emissions.

Efforts to reduce building emissions fall into four categories:

- Behavioural change-management actions
- Operations and maintenance actions
- Programming actions
- Infrastructure actions

These actions are described in the sections below.

##### 3.1.1 Behavioural Change-Management Actions

Several behaviour-change campaigns to encourage the BC Government's public service staff to reduce energy use were delivered in 2019. Following are some of the key initiatives that were undertaken in 2019.

###### **SAIL Award**

In 2019, CITZ continued to deliver the Sustainability Action Innovation and Leadership (SAIL) Award, first launched on Earth Day 2016. The SAIL Award recognizes employees who take the time to show leadership in advancing sustainability in core government operations. Each of the winning individuals and teams contribute measurably to the sustainability of core government operations. Since its launch, the SAIL Award has recognized 14 sustainability leaders and/or teams across ten ministries and agencies within core government.

In 2019, the recipients included staff from CITZ and from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. These inspirational employees were instrumental in the environmental stewardship of their workplaces. Each employee dedicated considerable volunteer hours towards initiatives such as energy consumption reductions, staff waste reduction, the purchase of fleet electric vehicles (EV) and EV charging stations and installing solar electricity to support the EVs.



### Building Sustainability

The SHIFT Speaker Series is a webinar series designed and developed by CITZ for to support their staff in bridging the gap between the environmental objectives and daily work. In the videos, staff hear directly from different organizations and jurisdictions about their experiences.

### Energy Wise

CITZ also continues to participate in [BC Hydro's Energy Wise Network](#), a program that provides small seed funding and consulting resources to support workplace behaviour change campaigns. The funding was used for 2019's Stay Cool campaign during which BC Public Service employees signed the Stay Cool pledge to reduce their energy use and their waste, and to help government meet its climate targets.

### 3.1.2 Operations and Maintenance Actions

Since November 2014, a centralized team of technical experts in automated building controls has been reviewing building operations and implementing re-commissioning measures. Re-commissioning ensures that building equipment and systems are operating optimally to meet current occupant needs; it also provides a rigorous investigation in identifying problems and issues. It focusses on ascertaining "low cost/no cost" operational improvements given the building's current usage to obtain comfort and energy savings. The team calibrates building systems and works with field staff to bring the building systems to their optimal performance.

Additionally, 19 building re-commissioning studies were initiated in 2019. These studies include energy efficiency measures that will be implemented in the coming years to optimize building operations and materialize operational savings. The results from past re-commissioning studies were implemented in 2019 in five buildings. Furthermore, direct digital control (DDC) upgrades took place at several facilities, where obsolete control systems were replaced by modern building automation systems available in the industry.

Finally, CITZ outsources the maintenance and operation of government's building portfolio and delivery projects. Continual improvement in energy performance is built into facility management service contracts. Service providers have maintained a strong focus on energy management and have been successful at demonstrating established performance outcomes. Each year, CITZ develops the Energy Management and Conservation Strategy with key strategic actions to improve energy efficiency. In 2019, the focus was to:

- Enhance knowledge of building operators;
- Advance heating ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) best practices within operations teams;
- Conduct Level I energy audits in at-least five leased buildings; and
- Have quarterly energy meetings with facility management service providers to reveal continual improvement opportunities.

### 3.1.3 Programming Actions

#### Leading Workplace Strategies

Leading Workplace Strategies (LWS) is a cross-government initiative led by CITZ. LWS refers to government's coordinated corporate approach to support and promote mobile and flexible work styles by integrating technology, culture and space in innovative ways. It includes mobility-based options such as free-address (shared) work spaces, collaboration spaces, and telework as part of the suite of options.



The LWS initiative has enabled thousands of employees to work in more flexible and collaborative ways, taking advantage of mobile technology. LWS is now seen as the default approach for workspaces to support mobility and flexibility as per "Where Ideas Work: A Corporate Plan for the BC Public Service, 2016."

Ten LWS projects were completed in 2019:

- Two projects with the Ministry of Children and Family Development – Surrey and Courtenay;
- Four projects with the Ministry Social Development and Poverty Reduction – Surrey, Burnaby, Richmond and Prince George;
- One project with the Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources in Victoria;
- One project with the Attorney General in Vancouver;
- One project with CITZ in Victoria; and
- One multi-ministry project in Victoria.

Carbon impact assessment was included in the LWS decision-making process for options that consider space changes or net new leases. These projects achieve specific density targets that ensure CITZ is maximizing the portfolio use while not taking on additional space assets that would contribute increased carbon emissions. The positive or negative effect is considered in conjunction with financial considerations as well as service delivery and impacts to staff (triple bottom line approach).

LWS offers government staff the ability to work anywhere. In extreme weather events and cases of emergency, employees were able to continue delivering critical government services from home - while reducing community emissions by avoiding their daily commutes.

### 3.1.4 Infrastructure Actions

#### Prioritization

To prioritize projects for its capital investment program, CITZ consistently screens proposals through clearly defined and weighted criteria. This screening approach was implemented to reduce subjectivity, increase transparency and produce a process that is scalable to many projects across a diverse portfolio of owned assets. The criteria give priority to building infrastructure investments that meet a range of government objectives (e.g. health and life safety, client programming, building integrity along with the energy conservation and GHG emissions reduction).

In 2019, CITZ initiated projects aimed at increasing energy conservation that were valued at approximately \$8 million. These projects included HVAC upgrades, lighting projects, re-commissioning studies, DDC upgrades, envelope upgrades and net zero ready building retrofits. The 2018 ASHRAE<sup>3</sup> Level II energy audit studies resulted in lighting upgrades at over ten buildings, and mechanical upgrades at five of the most energy intensive buildings in the CITZ portfolio. Overall, more than 20,000 GJ of estimated energy savings and 700 tCO<sub>2</sub>e reduction in associated GHG emissions is expected over the coming years<sup>4</sup>.

Potential Clean Energy Opportunities at Provincial Government Buildings:

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<sup>3</sup> The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) is an American professional association seeking to advance heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration systems design and construction. <https://www.ashrae.org>. Referenced May 2020.

<sup>4</sup> This energy and GHG savings are estimations from various sources such as consultants, service providers and vendors.

1. **Solar Photovoltaic (PV):** In 2019, CITZ undertook a solar PV feasibility study for a Provincial government office building in Nelson, due to its relatively high solar potential in the province. The project is currently underway and will result in a business case for potential roof-mounted solar PV system at the building.
2. **Low Carbon Electrification:** CITZ undertook a strategic clean energy portfolio-wide study to assess the viability of various clean energy technologies, such as wind turbines, renewable energy battery storage and heat pumps. The results of this study will guide future investments. Notably, the study found that wind and battery storage technologies are not currently feasible for the existing building portfolio.

#### **Device Power Management**

CITZ oversees the distribution and maintenance of computers and laptops used for government operations and takes a variety of actions to reduce energy consumption. Between November 2018 and December 2019, 8,000 desktops were replaced with more efficient laptops, resulting in a significant decrease in power usage. The average power consumption of a laptop is roughly one third that of a desktop. This change saved approximately \$116,000 and reduced power demand by close to 1 million kWh per year.

### **3.2 2019 Highlights from other Ministries – Buildings**

In 2019, ministries reduced their building emissions through several behavioural and strategic planning changes:

- The Real Property Division at CITZ is committed to effective and efficient implementation of the division's Environmental Stewardship Policy. A few initiatives are:
  - Establishing short-term targets and management practices for water consumption, wastewater discharge, and hazardous waste management.
  - Applying a rigorous Triple Bottom Line Cost Benefit Analysis to property disposals and acquisitions; evidence of the analysis must be provided before any properties can be added and/or sold.
- The Ministries of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and of Children and Family Development worked with the building manager at Capital Park to reduce unnecessary waste of toilet paper by adjusting the building custodial procedures so that partially used toilet paper rolls remain available for use in washrooms (instead of being composted at the end of the day).
- The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction continued to collaborate with partners across government to reduce its physical footprint by consolidating space.
- The Ministry of Agriculture continues to implement emission reduction measures at the Abbotsford Agricultural Centre as a result of the 2016 energy audit; recommendations included shutting down the HVAC systems on Sundays, practicing water conservation through drought-resistant landscaping, and reducing the number of personal fans and heaters in the building.
- The Ministry of Health removed organic liners/bags from over 40 organics bins in the washrooms at Ministry headquarters. 99% of the collection in these bins is paper towel,



suggesting that liners were not necessary. The change resulted in savings of approximately 10,120 bags in one year.

- The Ministry of Education and the Environmental Assessment Office continued to purchase bulk dish soap for the office in refillable containers.
- The Office of the Auditor General continued to provide plants to staff at their desks, to improve the building and staff health.
- The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction completed space densification in four Vancouver Island offices, resulting in a reduction to the physical footprint of the ministry and saving commuting time and emissions for some staff.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education completed their annual ministry challenge called “Peak to Peak” which combined the health benefits of being active at work with the environmental impact of encouraging staff to take the stairs in lieu of the elevator.
- Ministries encouraged employees to turn off lights and shut blinds with signs and participate in behavioural campaigns, such as Earth Hour, Bike to Work Week, Hibernation Challenge and Stay Cool Challenge.
- Numerous ministries installed water bottle refilling stations in offices as a waste diversion strategy. At a CITZ office, the counter on the refilling station showed that over 71 plastic bottles daily had been diverted from the consumer waste stream within 140 days of installation.
- Throughout 2019, ministries continued to focus on waste reduction through education campaigns, such as reusable mug campaigns and giveaways, lunch and learns, newsletters, internal website posts and information booths. Ministries also improved recycling stations with clearer signage and collected recyclable materials, including paper, metals, hard plastics, and returnable bottles and cans as well as organics for composting. Some offices also collected soft and flexible plastic and Styrofoam.
- Ministries continued to support flexible work arrangements and embrace technology, allowing staff to work from home and reduce office space and emissions from commuting.

### **3.3 Success Stories**

The **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources** encouraged electricity conservation through educational materials and signage in common areas. A dynamic Energy Dashboard comparing daily energy consumption breakdowns is displayed in the fourth-floor lobby. Staff also conserved power by keeping boardroom and breakroom lights off except when in use, as per reminders posted near all switches in each breakroom.

An employee at the **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure** that won the SAIL award for their waste reduction efforts in 2018, continued to advance sustainability in their building in 2019. They volunteered considerable time to run a recycling program and collected and composted organic waste from their building, which they used in the building’s planters.





*With permission by Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. June 2020*

The **Ministry of Children and Family Development** office in Williams Lake is scheduled in 2020 to move into a new, renovated office space that was originally a Sears store. The building will be a net zero energy ready building. A study in 2019 ascertained the potential pathway to achieving 80% energy reductions and generating renewable energy for the remaining 20%.



*Source: Net Zero Ready Energy Report, submitted to RPD in November 2019*

The **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy** conducted two successful campaigns.

1. **Love Food Hate Waste:** The campaign, offered staff the opportunity to learn quick tips and tricks to get the most out of their food and to reduce avoidable food waste at work and at home. Activities included information booths, lunchtime activities, a food waste diary challenge, regular waste audits, and implementing kitchen sharing boxes building-wide for staff to share food. The campaign was well received, with staff reporting that they were now more aware of the importance of food waste prevention and had learned useful tips to reduce food waste.

2. **Lug-a-Mug Challenge:** After learning that 17% of waste is comprised of single use cups, staff in the Nanaimo office took a 4-week challenge to ditch their single-use beverage containers and commit to using a reusable mug.

### **3.4 Future Emission Reduction Plans - Buildings**

Long-term energy consumption and GHG emissions reduction targets are driven by both a vision to achieve net zero energy consumption at provincial buildings beyond 2050, and the CleanBC target to achieve 50% emission reduction below 2010 baseline by 2030 in public sector buildings. In order to achieve the target with a steady progression, CITZ established an internal goal to reduce emissions from government buildings by an average annual rate of reduction of 4% leading up to 2030.

The [CleanBC Government Buildings Program](#) focuses on investing in core government buildings for energy efficiency improvements and emission reduction outcomes through more than 100 specific milestones and activities.

The milestones will be achieved over time through activities in the areas of: (1) behavioural change, (2) optimized operations, (3) client programming, and (4) infrastructure investments.

Additionally, CITZ applies a rigorous triple bottom line decision-making criterion to assess whether to buy, sell or lease properties. CITZ uses a Multi-Criteria Analysis tool to rank aspects of environmental effects of each building, providing the opportunity to develop and upgrade critical building systems, for example HVAC or electrical, and thereby reduce emissions.

Additional actions planned at individual ministries are:

- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will kick off their Green Team again in 2020 to help the province reach its CleanBC targets, reduce public sector costs, and promote healthy government buildings. The green team will focus its efforts on energy efficiency, waste reduction and zero-emission transportation.
- Ministries will continue to encourage staff to follow sustainability best practices, including recycling, composting, water conservation, avoiding single use items, and considering whether items need to be printed. The use of mobile work options and virtual meetings will continue to be emphasized and encouraged. Training and support will continue to be made available to staff to ensure they are proficient and comfortable using these platforms.

## **4. FLEET EMISSIONS**

Detailed analyses are not presented for the 2019 reporting year, since this report uses the 2018 emissions as a placeholder for 2019. Actual 2019 emissions are currently being determined and will inform the analyses that will be reported on in next year's Provincial government CNAR. Previous analysis showed that between 2010 and 2018, government fleet emissions increased by 5%. However, with zero emission vehicles (ZEV)<sup>5</sup> now more readily available on the market there are viable pathways to reverse the trend.

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<sup>5</sup> According to the West Coast Electric Fleets, zero emission vehicles include battery electric vehicles, plug-in hybrids and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. <http://www.westcoastelectricfleets.com/fleet-pledge/>. Accessed June 2020.



## **4.1 Emissions Reduction Actions in 2019 - Fleet**

In 2018, the Provincial government signed onto the Express Lane Tier of the West Coast Electric Fleets Pledge, committing that, starting in 2020, at least 10% of government light-duty vehicle purchases will be ZEV.

Government uses a shared services model for fleet vehicle procurement and administration. In preparation for meeting the pledge, the central branch has worked closely with vehicle manufacturers in 2019 to secure battery electric and plug-in EVs for purchase by government ministries. Their efforts resulted in the purchase of 13 ZEVs. Additionally, government purchased 11 hybrid vehicles in 2019, bringing the total non-plug-in hybrids in the fleet to 114.

Light-duty vehicles represent under 10% of the total Provincial government fleet. Medium duty trucks (such as large pick-up trucks) and heavy-duty vehicles make up the remaining fleet vehicles. Although these larger vehicle types do not have cost effective zero-emission alternatives on the market today, the Provincial government is closely monitoring developments in the market.

Ministries representing over 90% of government fleet emissions are participating in a working group to expand the number of ZEVs in the government fleet to meet or exceed the pledge target. Learnings from the working group efforts will be shared with other public sector organizations who are looking to green their fleets.

The CITZ Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment (EVCE) Program supports the transition to ZEVs at public sector facilities by increasing availability of charging stations for government fleet vehicles at government buildings. CITZ works with ministry clients to identify and implement at least 20 new EVCE spaces at government facilities per year under the CleanBC Government Buildings Program for fleet purposes.

Additionally, CITZ allocates resources who monitor and analyze the appropriate use and demand of EVCE and who provide oversight on the delivery of EVCE into the future.

## **4.2 2019 Highlights from other Ministries – Fleet**

- BC Mail Plus added the first fully electric delivery vehicle to the fleet.
- BC Parks received six EVs and installed four EV charging stations across the Province.
- The University Endowment Lands and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing added electric bicycles to the EV fleet, added three additional charging stations, encouraged the adoption of EV charging stations in new developments and championed sustainability education for staff. In addition, the University Endowment Lands have seen a 13% reduction in their public works electrical bill as a result of two projects - photovoltaic system installed to charge their EV fleet and lighting upgrades.
- Ministries have replaced some of their fleet vehicles with more efficient models including new hybrid vehicles.



### 4.3 Future Emission Reduction Plans – Fleet

Government ministries will continue to collaborate to purchase more ZEVs and meet the 10% ZEV purchase pledge. To support this work, CITZ will continue work under the EVCE Program, prioritizing installations according to current demand and opportunities. Growth is informed by the availability of EVs to service government operations and gaps in the overall provincial EVCE infrastructure that may compromise the future uptake in ZEV (both fleet and personal). Demand is established through continual monitoring of EVCE use and consultation with ministries.

Several ministries and entities also plan to green their fleets:

- University Endowment Lands will
  - Complete the conversion to LED street lights;
  - Initiate design of a photovoltaic power supply to charge larger vehicles and supply power for the emergency water supply; and
  - Purchase two all-electric garbage trucks.
- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Fleet is working closely with the cross-government working group and ministry program areas to identify opportunities to replace ICE vehicles where a ZEV option exists. Over the next five years, the ministry will transition more of its fleet to ZEVs.
- All Ministries plan for continued fleet emission reductions by replacing fleet vehicles with electric, plug-in hybrid electric, hybrid and, where necessary, more fuel-efficient fossil fuel vehicles options and installing EV charging stations at their buildings.

## 5. PROCUREMENT EMISSIONS: OFFICE PAPER

Detailed analyses are not presented for the 2019 reporting year, since this report uses the 2018 emissions as a placeholder for 2019. Actual 2019 emissions are currently being determined and will inform the analyses that will be reported on in next year's Provincial government CNAR.

### 5.1 Emissions Reduction Actions in 2019 – Office Paper

All ministries employ Managed Print Services (MPS) to reduce its consumption of office paper and associated emissions, through:

- Using of printers and multifunction devices with MPS devices. MPS equipment is not only more energy efficient, it also makes use of use “on-demand printing” through a print fob which helps reduce the paper consumption associated with “orphaned print jobs”;
- Enabling double-sided printing as the default on all printing devices; and
- Expanding the use of electronic and digital means of communication and records storage.

Individual ministries reduce paper consumption through a variety of additional actions:

- The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction continued to transition to paperless client and internal processes and procedures, including the acceptance of electronic signatures for contracts and client agreements.

- At the Office of the Chief Information Officer, print volumes continue to fall for the 3rd year in a row, equating to a 9.8% annual reduction since 2016.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training continued to purchase 100% recycled paper exclusively.

## **5.2 Success Story – Office Paper**

Staff at the **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources** use the *Information Management Act's* Digitizing Government Information Standard as a guideline to avoid printing whenever possible and to create digital records throughout their entire lifecycle. When possible, the Ministry opted for digital conference binders in lieu of physical binders and used for most ministry-wide communications to limit the number of posters being printed.

The **Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training** continued to make progress in moving the Student Aid BC (SABC) processes online, thereby reducing incoming paper by approximately 90% or over 75,000 documents per year. This resulted in a faster processing experience for students in addition to reducing emissions from paper consumption.

## **6. BUSINESS TRAVEL EMISSIONS**

Detailed analyses are not presented for the 2019 reporting year, since this report uses the 2018 emissions as a placeholder for 2019. Actual 2019 emissions are currently being determined and will inform the analyses that will be reported on in next year's Provincial government CNAR.

### **6.1 Emissions Reduction Actions in 2019 and Future Plans – Business Travel**

Government offers employees access to audio conferencing that have amounted to approximately 30 million minutes in 2019. Use of the Province's Telepresence Service is estimated to have reduced carbon savings by 15,697 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2019. This is captured as a reduction in taxi, ferry and airplane usage, and final numbers will be reported in next year's CNAR.

All ministries took a variety of actions to reduce their business travel emissions, including:

- Travel policies where decisions to travel are based on a clear business case using the most efficient modes of transportation;
- Access to transit passes and promotion of active transportation for travel to and from local meetings;
- Encouragement of car-pooling when in-person meetings were necessary; and
- Tele- and video-conferencing technology for online/virtual meetings where in-person meetings are not necessary.

All ministries plan to continue the above actions to minimize emissions from business travel.

## 7. Retirement of Offsets

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, the Provincial government directs the director under the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act* to retire 64,188 tCO<sub>2</sub>e to net the provincial emissions to zero for the 2019 carbon neutral government reporting year. This number is a placeholder based on 2018 emissions as per the Directive and will be adjusted in the 2020 CNG reporting cycle to reflect actual 2019 emissions.

## 8. SUMMARY

This report fulfills the Provincial government's reporting requirements under section 7 of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* for the 2019 calendar year. Consistent with the directive issued March 31, 2020 related to COVID-19 impacts, this report presents the 2018 emissions as a placeholder for meeting the 2019 legislated reporting requirements. Actual 2019 emissions are currently being determined and will inform the analyses that will be reported on in next year's Provincial government CNAR. As demonstrated in this CNAR for the Provincial government, staff across all ministries work to achieve carbon neutral government with passion and dedication.

Executive sign-off:



Signature

Kevin Jardine

Name (please print)



Date

Deputy Minister,  
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Title