



# 2018 PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CARBON NEUTRAL ACTION REPORT

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Ministry of Environment and  
Climate Change Strategy  
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report fulfills the Provincial government's reporting requirements under section 7 of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* (formerly named the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*) for the 2018 calendar year where "Provincial government" represents a consolidation of provincial ministries and independent offices. Readers will find an overview of the Provincial government's:

- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from its buildings, vehicles, office paper, and business travel;
- Offsets purchased in relation to those emissions to achieve carbon neutrality;
- Highlights of actions taken in 2018 to minimize emissions; and
- Highlights of plans to minimize future emissions.

Individual ministries enter emissions data into government's GHG inventory software, SMARTTool. The data is compiled by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and made available to all ministries for analysis.

The Ministry of Citizens' Services (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, fleet in this report is largely provided by CITZ and supplemented by details from other ministries. Paper consumption and business travel actions and plans are provided by individual ministries.

## 2. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT EMISSIONS SUMMARY

**Table 1. GHG Emissions Summary for Provincial Government (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) 2010, 2017 & 2018 (Calendar Years)**

	2010	2017	2017 Restated <sup>1</sup>	2018
<b>Total Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	82,988	64,161	68,497	64,868
<b>Total Offsets (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)<sup>2</sup></b>	81,750	63,388	67,723	64,188

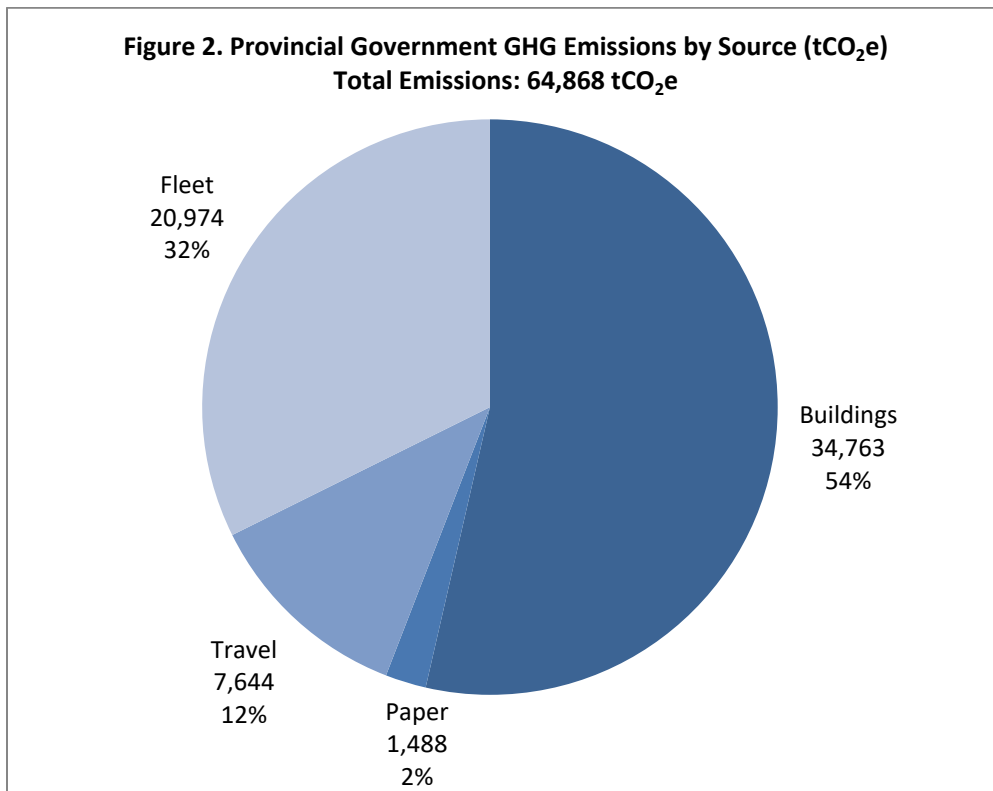
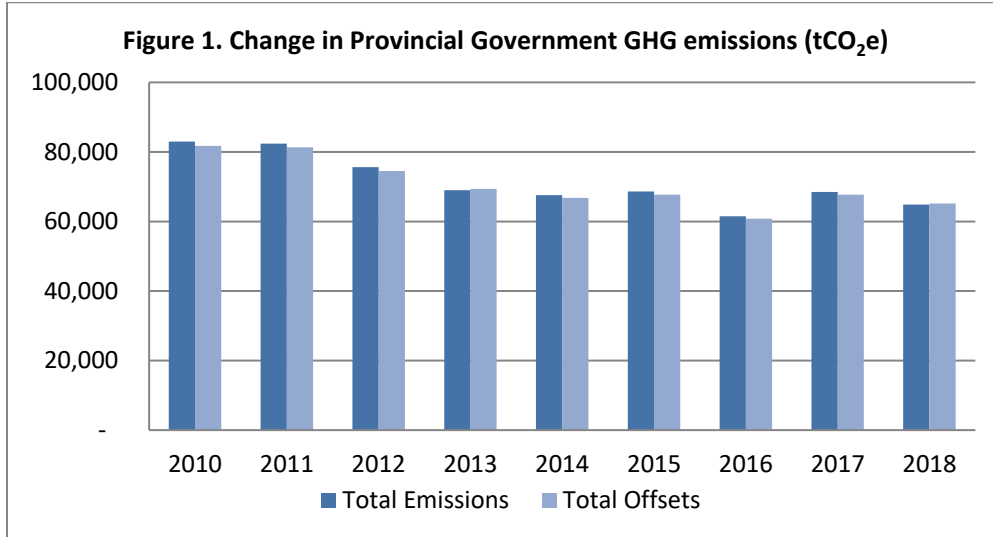
<sup>1</sup>The BC gov't building inventory was re-calculated for the 2017 year to better reflect the estimated emissions. As a result, the total 2017 reported emissions increased.

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

Total Provincial government emissions decreased in 2018 by 5% from 2017 and by 22% from the 2010 baseline (Figure 1, next page). The distribution of emissions between sources is similar to that of previous years with buildings the largest source of emissions with just over half of all emissions followed by vehicles, business travel and office paper (Figure 2, next page).

The 2017 total emissions were restated this year. CITZ revisited methodology for estimating core-government building emissions this year to more accurately reflect building energy consumption. These improvements are retroactive to 2017 and resulted in an increase of over 4,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. The change better reflects estimated emissions from BC government buildings,

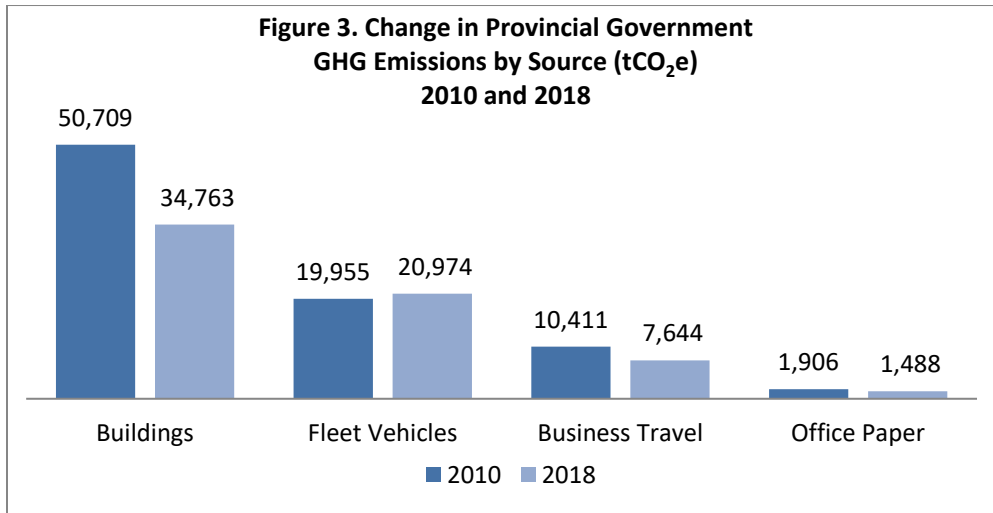
Since 2010, the number of staff in the public sector has remained stable at about 30,000 employees<sup>1,2</sup>. The average annual emission per employee has dropped from 2.77 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person in 2010 to 2.09 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person, almost a 25% reduction.



<sup>1</sup> There were 30,000 employees in 2010. <https://gww.gov.bc.ca/sites/default/files/hrplan/pdf/2010plan.pdf>. Accessed May 31 2019

<sup>2</sup> There were 31,000 employees in 2019. <https://gww.gov.bc.ca/our-organization>. Accessed May 31 2019.

**2018 Building emissions** were more than 30% lower than 2010 (Figure 3), and 6% lower compared to 2017. Despite an increasing demand for energy due to colder winters and hotter summers, energy consumption has dropped since 2010. Energy use from burning fossil fuel, such as natural gas, and biogenic fuel, such as wood waste, fell by 30%. Electricity use declined by 6%.



**2018 Vehicle emissions** were higher compared to 2010 (5%) and lower compared to 2017 (14%) levels. The Ministries of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and Environment and Climate Change Strategy account for almost 60% of the Provincial government’s fleet emissions and both ministries were involved in the busy wildfire season of 2018. The demand for fleet fuels in support of wildfire suppression, enforcement and investigation contributed to the increase in fleet emissions.

**2018 Business Travel emissions** were significantly higher (39%) over 2017, due to the resumption of travel activities following the interregnum period, during which travel was restricted.

**2018 Office Paper emissions** dropped slightly in 2017 and by 22% compared to 2010 levels. 100% recycled content paper represented only 6% of total consumption in the Provincial government, while over 85% was virgin paper.

### 3. BUILDING EMISSIONS

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

#### 3.1 Emission Reduction Actions in 2018 - 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. Energy management efforts from 2010 to 2018 have been effective in reducing building-related carbon

emissions. In government owned buildings where CITZ is directly responsible for the utilities, those buildings have seen a reduction in emissions of 38%.

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 behavior-change campaigns to encourage the BC Government's public service staff to reduce energy use were delivered in 2018. Following are some of the key initiatives that were undertaken in 2018.

#### **SAIL Award**

In 2018, 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 Award has recognized ten sustainability leaders and/or teams across nine ministries and agencies within core government.

In 2018, the recipients were from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and from the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations. They were nominated for their waste and energy conservation efforts, their time developing a communal garden for all to enjoy, and their initiative to make climate change adaptation and mitigation central to their colleagues' work.

#### **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.

#### **Sustainability Associates**

The BC Sustainability Associates program is a one-year pilot project, developed by CITZ, that started in January 2018 and concluded early 2019. The pilot is testing an approach to support and enable building occupants to set baselines, develop energy and waste conservation targets, and meet those targets. The pilot program uses Community Based Social Marketing and Behavioural Insights tools to guide teams in influencing meaningful changes in energy and waste reduction. CITZ is supporting five pilot teams, and most participants saw a 1 to 5% reduction in energy use and 5 to 25% drop in landfill waste. CITZ will adjust the program from the lessons learned that will be collected after the conclusion of the pilot.

## Energy Wise

CITZ also continues to participate in [BC Hydro's Energy Wise Network](#), a program that provides a small seed funding and consulting time to support workplace behaviour change campaigns. The funding was used for the Sustainability Associates pilot that ran various campaigns, initiatives and events for waste and energy conservation (see above for more details).

### 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, and it is expected their efforts have resulted in annual energy savings of approximately 7,500 GJ at 22 buildings in 2018 alone.

Approximately 16 building re-commissioning projects were completed in 2018 after having learned from the successful efforts of 23 previous projects, where low cost/no cost measures were implemented to optimize building operations, and significant potential energy efficiency infrastructure investment opportunities were identified.

In partnership with BC Hydro, CITZ also participates in the [Continuous Optimization Program](#). Under this program, two projects were initiated in 2018 that could potentially save over 2,230 GJ of energy annually. A similar project at the Port Coquitlam courthouse achieved total energy savings of over 330 GJ resulting in GHG savings of 12 tCO<sub>2</sub>e each year.

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, key strategic actions are identified for the Energy Management and Conservation Strategy (EMCS). In 2018, the focus was to:

- Enhance knowledge of building operators;
- Advance heating ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) best practices within operations teams; and
- Conduct Level I energy audits in at-least five leased buildings.

### 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."

Leading workplace projects have now been completed for 11 different ministries or organizations across the province:

- Over 47,500 m<sup>2</sup> of office space has been upgraded while reducing the portfolio by over 32,000 m<sup>2</sup>.
- Over \$10.3 million in building occupancy costs are now saved annually with a total of over \$36.5 million in savings at the end of 2018.
- More than 539 tonnes of GHG emissions will be reduced each year based on lease terminations alone, with over 1,977 tonnes of GHG emissions reduced to date. This is the equivalent of having 421 fewer cars on the road.
- 3,702 employees are working in a leading workplace, of which 43% of employees are working in a mobile workstyle using IT, wireless and remote access services.
- 30 more leading workplace projects are currently underway throughout BC.

Two LWS projects were completed during 2018:

- The Ministries of Children and Family Development and of Environment and Climate Change Strategy consolidated several offices into one at Capital Park in Victoria.
- The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction vacated six offices to move into new, co-located LWS workspaces and completed the first employment and income assistance LWS office.

Carbon impact assessment has been included in 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 avoiding 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).

### **Technology**

As part of CITZ's provision of information technology infrastructure services, 97% of all servers have been consolidated into two data centres. During 2018, 38 Regional Network Centres were closed. Additionally, CITZ is rolling out virtual private networks to all employees in the government, allowing remote access to everyone. Moreover, wireless networks are being installed at more than 800 government buildings across the province. The division is also adopting the use of cloud servers and energy efficient network devices for the government. These measures use energy efficient devices that help reduce energy consumption and, thus, decrease the associated GHG emissions.

### **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. Actively managing the power



used by government devices saves more than 1900 mega-watt hours each year. This translates into more than \$200,000 in utility cost savings. Additionally, all new laptops are EPEAT gold-certified<sup>3</sup>, Energy Star 6.1 certified<sup>4</sup> and Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) compliant<sup>5</sup>.

### **3.1.4 Infrastructure Actions**

#### **Prioritization**

Priority is given to building infrastructure investments that meet a range of government imperatives (e.g. health and life safety, client programming, building integrity along with the energy conservation and GHG emissions reduction). This investment strategy defines and weighs criteria to evaluate capital projects and to apply those criteria consistently, thereby creating a defensible capital investment program. The investment program was implemented to reduce subjectivity and increase transparency and produce a process that is scalable to many projects across a diverse portfolio of owned assets.

#### **Energy Audits**

In 2018, CITZ implemented 21 energy audits at some of the most energy intensive buildings of the portfolio. These audits partly informed some of the investments done in 2018, and it will also inform investment decisions in the coming years. In 2018, approximately 25 building retrofit projects, valued at more than \$4.5 million, were initiated and included HVAC upgrades, lighting projects, recommissioning and smart building projects. Due to the energy conservation and GHG reduction efforts related to the 2018 investment alone, more than 40,000 GJ of estimated energy savings and 1,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e reduction in associated GHG emissions is expected each year.

## **3.2 2018 Highlights from other Ministries – Building**

In 2018, ministries reduced their building emissions through several behavioural and strategic planning changes:

- The Ministries of Jobs, Trade and Technology and Municipal Affairs and House consolidated offices at 800 Johnson Street in Victoria.
- Ministries encouraged employees to turn off lights and shut blinds with signs and behavioural campaigns, such as Earth Hour, Hibernation Challenge and Stay Cool Challenge;
- Ministries hosted annual challenges to promote the health benefits of being active at work and the environmental impact of taking the stairs in lieu of the elevator (Ministries of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, and Health).
- The Ministry of Agriculture's Abbotsford Agricultural Centre continues to implement its energy audit recommendations by to shut down the HVAC systems on Sundays, apply water

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<sup>3</sup> EPEAT is a global ecolabel for the information technology sector. Gold certification demonstrates the device addresses the full product lifecycle, from design and production to energy use and recycling. <https://www.epeat.net/>

<sup>4</sup> ENERGY STAR Canada is a voluntary partnership between the Government of Canada and organizations in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors to promote energy efficiency. Typically, a certified product is in the top 15 to 30 percent of its class for energy performance. <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/products/energystar/12519>

<sup>5</sup> The original RoHS, also known as Directive 2002/95/EC, originated in the European Union in 2002 and restricts the use of six hazardous materials found in electrical and electronic products. <https://www.rohsguide.com/>

conservation measures with the landscaping surrounding the building, and remove personal fans and heaters.

- The Ministry of Health stopped used garbage bag liners in bathrooms to reduce the use of plastic bags.
- The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction implemented the Service Delivery Optimization program which allowed more than 250 trained local offices' Employment and Assistance Workers to answer incoming calls from their locations anywhere in the province.
- The Ministry of Education purchases bulk, 100% biodegradable dish soap and dishwasher tablets that are both provided in refillable containers.
- The Ministry of Education also improved the labelling of compost and recycle bins to increase the volume of waste that can be diverted from the landfill.

### **3.3 Success Stories**

#### **Biomass based District Energy System in Prince George**

The Prince George Law Courts was connected in 2018 to the downtown Prince George District Energy System (DES). This biomass based collaborative DES supports local industry, builds resilient communities, and fosters sustainable development of the province. The primary fuel for the system is residual heat from an existing biomass heating system serving the local wood industry's needs. Since the DES system utilizes heat from wood waste that would normally go to the landfill, it also improves waste management and reduces GHG emissions in the community. The estimated GHG emissions avoided by implementing DES at the Law courts is potentially equivalent to 2,180 tCO<sub>2</sub>e over the lifetime of the project.

#### **Geo-thermal Energy use in Okanagan and Maple Ridge**

Partial heating and cooling at the Okanagan Correctional Center are served by a district geo-thermal field. The geo-thermal system at this site can provide approximately 700kW of energy from the ground field located within the park. Another example of utilizing ground-source clean energy is the Alouette Correctional Centre for Women (ACCW). The new building at ACCW comprises of a geo-thermal based heating and cooling system, with a natural-gas backup system. There are four heat-pump units at this site, each using the ground-source energy.

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

To achieve the provincial reduction target of 80% by 2050 relative to 2007, CITZ has established incremental reduction targets of: 3% per year until 2030; 4% per year till 2040 and 5% per year up to 2050.

These objectives will be accomplished over time through activities in the aforementioned areas of: (1) behavioural change, (2) optimized operations, (3) client programming, and (4) infrastructure investments. Activities undertaken will reflect available resources, technological and administrative advancements, and priorities. As well, activities are required, and will continue to be required, of facility management service providers under contractual obligations.

In 2018, CITZ released a five-year plan, the Energy Smart Strategy, to further advance triple bottom line interests of the government. The Energy Smart Strategy was developed with broad internal and external consultation to invest in energy efficient and smarter buildings in the BC government, while enhancing the experience of building occupants, and reducing operating costs. This strategy sets a direction toward a long-term vision of net-zero energy and, importantly, positions CITZ to align with provincially regulated public-sector leadership carbon reduction targets, to reduce GHG emissions from buildings by 50% by 2030 compared to 2010 levels.

Additionally, CITZ applies a rigorous triple bottom-line decision-making criterion to assess whether to buy, sell or lease properties. A Multi-Criteria Analysis tool ranks aspects of environmental effects, including:

- Impact on GHG emissions;
- Resources extracted from environment over time;
- Materials put into environment over time; and
- Overall impacts on defined environmental aspects.

The tool can also indicate when owning a building provides the opportunity to develop and upgrade critical building systems, for example HVAC or electrical, and thereby reduce emissions.

Ministries continue to move towards LWS to reduce the physical office space requirements, including:

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development is planning to consolidate 5 buildings into 1 LWS location in Surrey, BC and is implementing the LWS model in the Williams Lake office; and
- The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction will convert their office in Prince George to LWS and move the Richmond office to an LWS site.

Individual ministries plan a range of additional actions:

- The Ministry of Education will encourage best practices for sustainable meetings (e.g. not purchasing single-use plastic), and energy conservation by turning off screens and lighting.
- The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations will move headquarters in Victoria to Capital Park, a new LEED Platinum and highly energy efficient building.
- The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, in conjunction with the landlord, implemented building improvements and operational changes that have reduced the overall carbon footprint at 800 Johnson Street in Victoria.
- The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction recycled aging appliances and replaced them with energy efficient units.

## **4. FLEET EMISSIONS**

After buildings, fleet emissions make up the next largest portion of the Provincial emissions portfolio at 32%. Although the Provincial government fleet is comprised of a broad range of

vehicle types, over 90% of fleet vehicles are classified as light duty<sup>6</sup> and heavy duty<sup>7</sup> trucks and 80% of the fuel used is gasoline.

Despite a 14% drop in emissions between 2017 and 2018, emissions from fleet has been slowing escalating since 2010. With some zero emission vehicles (ZEV)<sup>8</sup> now more readily available on the market, significant efforts to reverse the upwards trend are now underway.

#### 4.1 Emissions Reduction Actions in 2018 - Fleet

In 2018, the Provincial government signed onto the [Express Lane Tier of the West Coast Electric Fleets Pledge](#), committing to procure at least 10% zero-emission vehicles for all new purchases.

The CITZ Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment (EVCE) Program supports the transition to ZEVs at public sector facilities by installing more charging stations for government fleet vehicles, public sector employees and visitors to government buildings. In 2018, the EVCE program installed 25 EVCE.

#### 4.2 Ministries' Fleet Vehicle Highlights

- All ministries have replaced some of their fleet vehicles with more efficient models including new hybrid or electric vehicles.
- BC Parks installed 18 electric vehicle charging stations across the Province with an additional 8 charging stations purchased, but not yet installed. Four electric vehicles are currently on order.
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure installed a charging station and purchased an electric vehicle.

#### 4.3 Success Story

##### Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The manager of Endowment Lands in Vancouver was recognized for their efforts to promote and advance sustainability. They oversaw the purchase of electric fleet vehicles and encouraged adoption of electric vehicle charging stations in new developments, installed solar electricity to support EVs, and championed sustainability education for staff, including LEED and Passive House principles. To recognize their efforts, the manager was a 2019 recipient of the Sustainability: Action, Innovation and Leadership (SAIL) Award for leadership in advancing sustainability.

#### 4.4 Future Emission Reduction Plans – Fleet

CITZ will continue work under the EVCE program, prioritizing installations according to current demand and opportunities. Growth is informed by the availability of electric vehicles to service government operations, the interest of government employees in using ECVE at government sites if installed, and

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<sup>6</sup> SUVs, minivans, full-sized vans and pickup trucks.

<sup>7</sup> Road vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVW) over 3900 kgs (8600 lbs).

<sup>8</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 2019.

gaps in the overall provincial EVCE infrastructure that may compromise the future uptake in ZEV (both fleet and personal). Demand is established through continual auditing of EVCE use, consultation with ministries and ongoing conversations EVCE champions. CITZ aims to identify and implement at least 10 new EVCE stations at government facilities per year under the CITZ Energy Smart Strategy.

CITZ will continue to liaise with other government agencies to support the broader public sector interest in ZEVs and to establish a robust provincial network of EVCE.

Several ministries also plan to green their fleets:

- University Endowment Lands will continue transitioning to cleaner energy:
  - Increase conversion to LED street lights; and
  - Initiate design of a photovoltaic power supply to charge larger vehicles and supply power for the emergency water supply.
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development is planning to order 12 electric vehicles in 2019 and to increase the number of electric vehicles by 20% by the year 2021.
- All Ministries plan for continued fleet emission reductions by replacing fleet vehicles with electric, hybrid and more fuel-efficient options.
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will install two charging stations at their buildings.

## **5. PROCUREMENT EMISSIONS: OFFICE PAPER**

Although emissions from office paper consumption dropped by 4% in 2018 from 2017, it continues to represent about 2% of the Provincial government emissions. Although some ministries purchase only 100% recycled paper, the majority do not, since 86% of purchases were of virgin paper.

### **5.1 Emissions Reduction Actions in 2018 – Office Paper**

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

- Replacement of printers and multifunction devices with MPS devices. MPS equipment is not only more energy efficiency, it also makes use of use “on-demand printing” through a print job 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 uses e-signatures on contracts and other documents to reduced paper and print supplies and travel time.
- The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, when possible, opts for digital conference binders in lieu of physical binders, and paperless batch filing their correspondence.
- The Ministry of Health uses online fillable forms that can be submitted and signed electronically.

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development digitized 300 physical vehicle files and will digitize about 300 Group Home physical files in 2019. The ministry will identify more opportunities for electronic file management in the future.

## 5.2 Success Story – Office Paper

**The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training** remains committed to continuous improvements to the StudentAidBC (SABC) program. Introduced in 2016, the online student financial assistance application for all full-time students continues to result in improved services to clients while reducing their carbon footprint. In 2018, only two of the 82,206 student financial assistance applications were received in a paper form.

In 2018, SABC staff also took steps to minimize the use of paper for internal processes and external correspondence. In February 2018, SABC introduced the ability for clients to upload documents on their online SABC Student Dashboards. Prior to this improvement, approximately 75% of incoming SABC documents were received by paper mail/courier. SABC is pleased to report that now less than half of all documents are submitted via paper mail/courier, a reduction in over 22,000 paper documents in 2018.

In May 2018, SABC continued to build on their success and introduced digital document file management. This replaced the practice of printing emailed documents for physical filing with digitally filing for all incoming documentation. This has prevented over 10,000 paper files from being created and thousands of documents from being printed.

SABC staff continue to be committed to promoting the use of document upload and supporting additional changes to further reduce the submission of paper documents, setting the stage for ongoing success in 2019.

## 6. BUSINESS TRAVEL EMISSIONS

After falling in 2017, the Provincial government's GHG emissions from business travel increased by over 2,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2018 compared to 2017. The interregnum period prior to the 2017 election limited the need for travel, whereas 2018 saw several advisory committees formed and many province-wide public engagement activities.

### 6.1 Emissions Reduction Actions in 2018 and Future Plans – Business Travel

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 for travel to and from local meetings; 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.

## 6.2 Success Story – Business Travel

The **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy** headquarters staff in Victoria worked with the landlord, Jawl Properties, to bring Nextbike to the building. The business-to-business bike sharing program offers staff a free, low-carbon alternative for in-town business travel. Staff are able to borrow a bike free of charge from their respective stations for up to three hours.

## 7. SUMMARY

Over the past year, the Provincial government has implemented many measures to reduce carbon emissions from fleet vehicles, buildings, business travel and office paper consumption. Although the reduction from 2017 was modest at 5%, staff can be proud of the 22% drop in emissions since 2010. A range of measures from closing blinds to new technology has demonstrated that a combination of small and large actions can make an impact.

Despite the success, there are still many opportunities. Zero emission vehicles are becoming commonplace on BC's roads and will be seen with more frequency in government fleets. The increasing portion of transportation emissions in the Provincial government emissions profile highlights an opportunity to apply some creativity to this challenge.

Office paper consumption held steady at 2% of the emissions profile and over 85% of all purchases were of virgin paper. Although this emission source represents a small portion of the overall emissions, it presents an opportunity for the Provincial government to have a greater impact.

Staff across all ministries work to implement the small and large measures with passion and dedication. This Carbon Neutral Action Report for the Provincial government highlighted this commitment seen across the province.