

2024

BC LIQUOR DISTRIBUTION BRANCH
**PSO CLIMATE CHANGE
ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT**



**LIQUOR
DISTRIBUTION
BRANCH**

MULTIPLY THE GOOD

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About the Organization

The BC Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) is one of two branches of the Government of British Columbia responsible for oversight of the province's beverage alcohol and non-medical cannabis sectors. The other branch, the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB), works in close coordination with the LDB to promote responsible consumption through aligned policies and programs.

The LDB operates within a mixed public-private retail and public wholesale model for the distribution of beverage alcohol and cannabis across the province. Key responsibilities of the LDB include:

- Managing the distribution of liquor products through two distribution centres located in Delta and Kamloops, and the distribution of cannabis products through a dedicated facility in Richmond;
- Maintaining online ordering systems for wholesale customers in both the beverage alcohol and cannabis sectors;
- Operating 198 BCLIQUOR (BCL) stores and 39 BC Cannabis Stores (BCCS) throughout British Columbia;
- Managing an e-commerce retail platform under the BCCS brand; and,
- Employing approximately 5,550 full-time and part-time staff.

In addition to its operational mandate, the LDB supports the Province’s broader objectives of enhancing quality of life, improving public services, and advancing environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Revenue generated by the LDB contributes to funding essential public services such as health care, education, and community initiatives.

Multiply the Good

Multiply the Good is the new corporate impact platform of the LDB. It creates a shared vision for how our people, our customers, and our industry partners can work together to enhance the good we do for the people living in British Columbia and for the planet more broadly.

Multiply the Good focuses on four key pillars: People, Communities, the Environment, and Partners, which serves as a unifying framework for existing campaigns and an evaluation framework for new initiatives in the future. Through Multiply the Good, the LDB aims to:

- Improve employee engagement and culture by aligning with employees' desires to be part of an organization that does good and gives back, while fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive work culture.
- Support the communities it serves and highlight LDB’s environmental initiatives
- Create customer affinity and loyalty by reflecting values that align with customers' expectations to build stronger relationships.
- Partner and collaborate with our industry stakeholders and suppliers to further amplify our social impact initiatives and highlight the excellent work they are doing.



Multiply the Good was formally launched in BCLIQUOR stores and BC Cannabis Stores in early 2025.



Part 1. Legislative Reporting Requirements

Declaration Statement

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1 to December 31, 2024, summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2024 to minimize our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2025 and beyond.

Introduction

The BC Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) remains committed to supporting the B.C. government's CleanBC 2030 targets by actively reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across its operations. The Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR) presents an overview of the LDB's emissions performance, key sources, and reduction strategies, and highlights continued progress toward a more sustainable future. The LDB's efforts to reduce emissions and improve our environmental sustainability practices are a core component of the *Environment* pillar of Multiply the Good, the LDB's corporate impact platform launched in 2025.

The LDB also publishes a formal Green Strategy/Policy Statement, outlining its commitment to environmental sustainability. The most recent Green Strategy/Policy Statement is featured in the [2025-26 LDB Service Plan](#). Key environmental strategies are as follows:

- Reduce the overall waste generated by the LDB across all lines of business.
- Support the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 by delivering programs and solutions that reduce the LDB's carbon footprint.
- Continue to replace the LDB's gas and hybrid fleet vehicles with light-duty, zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs), subject to operational feasibility.

1A. Emissions Reductions: Actions & Plans

In 2024, the LDB reported total emissions of 5,304 tonnes of CO₂e, representing a 33.9 per cent increase from 2023. This increase is attributed to the first-time inclusion of fugitive emissions from refrigerants, which contributed 1,760 tonnes of CO₂e. Excluding refrigerants, emissions from buildings, fleet, and office paper declined by 417 tonnes—a 10.5 per cent reduction from the previous year.

Notable emissions reductions in 2024 included:

- **Stationary Energy Use (Buildings):** Emissions decreased by 322 tonnes of CO₂e, or 9.8 per cent, primarily due to reductions in natural gas and electricity consumption across warehouses, retail stores, and Head Office locations.
- **Mobile Energy Use (Fleet):** Emissions decreased by 20 tonnes of CO₂e or 3.9 per cent, driven by the introduction of ethanol-blended (E10) fuels across all business lines, and maintenance-related downtime at the Delta Distribution Centre.
- **Office Paper Use:** Emissions decreased by 75 tonnes of CO₂e, or 46.5 per cent, with a shift towards paper with higher recycled content.

A. Stationary Sources (Building)

The LDB's building footprint includes its Head Office location, 198 BCLIQUOR Stores, 39 BC Cannabis stores, the Delta Distribution Centre, Richmond Distribution Centre, Kamloops Distribution Centre, and the dry goods distribution centre in Burnaby. The LDB's energy sources include hydroelectricity from BC Hydro and natural gas from FortisBC depending on location (urban/rural), type of building (warehouse/retail outlet etc.) and operational needs (e.g., back-up power requirements).

Actions Taken to Reduce Emissions in 2024

In line with its commitment to sustainability, the LDB regularly assesses ways to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) at its worksites and implements measures to lower emissions.

In 2024, building emissions decreased by 322 tonnes of CO₂e, or 9.8 per cent, primarily due to reductions in natural gas and electricity consumption across warehouses, retail stores, and Head Office locations. This decline can be attributed largely to 2024 weather patterns leading to lower heating and cooling demands. The installation of energy-efficient LED lighting in several BCLIQUOR locations also contributed to decreased emissions.

Examples of actions undertaken by the LDB to reduce building emissions include:

- **Improving energy efficiency of lighting:** The LDB continued its efforts to improve energy efficiency by focusing on BCLIQUOR retail locations in 2024. Building emissions decreased due to energy-efficient upgrades, such as replacing inefficient lights (e.g., fluorescent, halogen, incandescent) with light-emitting diode (LED) installations during planned renovations at 16 BCLIQUOR locations, which reduce electricity consumption.

Plans to Reduce Emissions

The LDB will continue to focus on primary sources of greenhouse gas emissions and look for opportunities to reduce them before purchasing carbon offsets. Actions planned to further reduction emissions from stationary sources in 2025 and beyond include:

- **Continued improvement in energy efficiency of lighting:** In 2025, the LDB plans to install LED lighting at the liquor distribution centre in Kamloops and will continue its efforts to improve energy efficiency across business lines.
- **Improving energy efficiency in construction materials:** The LDB will continue to review the specifications book for building contractors to identify additional opportunities to increase energy efficiency in retrofits and renovations.
- **Improving heating and cooling systems:** In landlord-managed retail stores (both liquor and cannabis), the LDB will collaborate with landlords to discuss the installation of high-efficiency heating and cooling systems during renovations or building upgrades, whenever possible.

B. Mobile Sources

The LDB's fleet is comprised of a combination of light-duty vehicles, light-duty trucks, and heavy-duty trucks. The LDB's light-duty vehicle fleet includes zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) and hybrid vehicles.

Actions Taken to Reduce Emissions in 2024

In an effort to reduce emissions from mobile sources, the LDB continued to expand its zero-emission light duty vehicle fleet, introduced lower-carbon fuel and maintained its electric charging infrastructure, thereby reducing its dependency on fossil fuels.

In 2024, total fleet emissions measured in tonnes of CO₂e decreased by 20 tonnes or 3.9 per cent compared to 2023 driven by the introduction of ethanol-blended (E10) fuel and maintenance-related downtime of heavy-duty trucks. However, these decreases were offset partially by fleet expansion and increased travel demand.

Examples of actions undertaken by the LDB included:

- **Increasing the number of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs):** The LDB added two ZEVs to its fleet, bringing the percentage of ZEVs in the light-duty vehicle fleet to 28.6 per cent in 2024 (eight out of 28 light-duty vehicles), indicating an intentional shift towards zero-emissions transportation.
- **Maintaining electric vehicle charging infrastructure:**
 - The LDB provides six electric vehicle (EV) chargers for Head Office employees to charge their personal vehicles, for a nominal fee, while parking at Head Office. In 2024, 21.8 MWh of energy was dispensed from these charging stations, which equates to 22,804 kg of greenhouse gas emissions saved from entering the environment.
 - The LDB also maintains six charging stations for its fleet vehicles. In 2024, 12.5 MWh of energy was dispensed from these charging stations, which equates to approximately 13,100 kg of greenhouse gas emissions saved from entering the environment.



Electric vehicle (EV) charging station at the LDB Head Office.

- **Introducing low-carbon fuel alternatives:** Gasoline E10 was introduced in 2024 across multiple business lines (total consumption: 6,404 litres), which equates to 1,504 kg CO₂e in savings of greenhouse gas emissions.

Plans to Reduce Emissions

The LDB will continue to work to further reduce emissions from mobile sources. Actions planned in 2025 and beyond include:

- **Developing a Clean Fleet Plan:** Plans are in place to establish a Clean Fleet Plan, which will include a review of fleet composition and growth, a review of fuel usage policies, and assessment of future electric charging infrastructure needs.
- **Continuing to assess procurement of ZEVs and hybrid vehicles in light-duty vehicle fleet:** The LDB remains committed to reducing emissions from its light duty fleet and will assess opportunities to purchase ZEVs and hybrid vehicles where feasible. Some factors that will be taken into consideration include the impact of tariffs on the automotive sector, budget, operational needs and ensuring compliance with Clean BC regulations.
- **Exploring the incorporation of ZEVs into the heavy duty and medium duty categories:** The LDB will re-evaluate its plans to incorporate ZEVs and hydrogen heavy-duty fleet freight vehicles into operations in line with the updated requirements of The Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions.

C. Paper Consumption

At the LDB, paper is used extensively across all lines of business. This includes printing documents for internal operations and using printed materials for stakeholder-facing operations such as shipping/delivery documentation, receipt paper, magazines, brochures, flyers, and pamphlets. Additionally, the LDB offers paper bags to customers for a fee at its BCLIQUOR and BCCS locations. Special releases, such as wine festivals, spirit releases, and Bordeaux releases, also require corrugated cardboard and boxboard for packaging. Other paper products used include gift card envelopes and backer cards.

Actions Taken to Reduce Emissions in 2024

The LDB is committed to building on its legacy of environmental sustainability and paper reduction goals.

In 2024, emissions measured in CO₂e from paper used by the LDB decreased by 75 tonnes or 46.5 per cent compared to 2023. The main drivers for this change were a significant reduction in office paper usage across business lines and an increase in purchasing environmentally friendly paper.

Examples of actions undertaken by the LDB included:

- **Reducing paper usage across lines of business:** The LDB reduced paper usage by decreasing printed magazines and using existing paper bag inventory.
- **Purchasing environmentally friendly paper:** The LDB has significantly expanded its use of forest-free sugarcane paper, post-consumer recycled (PCR) paper, and paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Plans to Reduce Emissions

The LDB will continue its efforts to further reduce paper waste and improve the organization's environmental performance.

- **Continuing to purchase environmentally friendly paper:** Where feasible, the LDB will continue to look for opportunities to replace virgin-paper (paper made entirely from new wood pulp) with more environmentally friendly alternatives such as sugar cane-based paper, certified paper, and PCR paper, reducing emissions associated with paper usage.
- **Reductions in paper usage:** The LDB will continue to explore reduction opportunities in paper usage across its lines of business.
- **Employee education:** The LDB plans to share educational materials with employees across all departments and work locations to promote reduction in paper usage and encourage the continued purchase of environmentally friendly paper.

D. Fugitive Emissions: Refrigerants Usage

2024 marks the first year that the LDB is reporting its refrigerant use as part of its annual GHG emissions report. In 2024, across all lines of business, LDB consumed 475 kgs of refrigerants, which translates to GHG emissions of 1,760 tonnes of CO₂e.

Significant efforts were made to measure and estimate fugitive emissions from refrigerants usage across business lines. The LDB contracts service technicians to conduct quarterly inspections to ensure that refrigerant leaks are identified and corrective actions are taken immediately. The LDB will continue to improve its emissions inventory by implementing improved data collection procedures. Starting in 2025, service technicians are required to record the amount (in kgs) of leaked refrigerants during every site visit. Once more data is obtained, the LDB will explore potential opportunities for reducing refrigerant emissions.

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

BC Liquor Distribution Branch 2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2024	
Total Bio CO ₂ e	31
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	5,335
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	5,304
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	0
Grand Total Offsets for the 2024 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2024 Reporting Year (tCO ₂ e)	5,304
Offset Investment (\$)	\$132,600

Retirement of Offsets

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, the LDB is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2024 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The LDB hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (the Ministry) ensuring that these offsets are retired on the LDB’s behalf, the LDB will pay within 30 days the associated invoice, to be issued by the Ministry in an amount equal to \$25 per tonne of offsets retired on its behalf plus GST.



Part 2. Public Sector Climate Leadership

2A. Climate Risk Management

In recent years, the LDB has been impacted by disruptions caused by extreme events such as wildfires, heatwaves, deep freezes, and floods. With the increasing frequency and intensity of these challenges in the province, the LDB continually updates contingency plans to protect its operations against major disruptions.

In 2024, the LDB also focused efforts on fulfilling the provincial government’s commitment to provide temporary, targeted support to B.C. wineries impacted by the catastrophic freeze event in January 2024 that destroyed most of the grape crop across the Okanagan wine region. This included making temporary policy amendments that allowed impacted wineries to produce 2024 vintage replacement wines using inputs from non-B.C. sources while maintaining their current classification and related benefits.

The LDB continues to implement several measures aimed at mitigating the impacts of unexpected events on its service, customers, and suppliers. For example, to mitigate order

delivery disruptions, the LDB has set up contracts with secondary freight carriers in addition to its primary fleet. The secondary carriers are deployed in addition to the primary fleet when regions are inaccessible to the primary fleet due to weather conditions or road closures.

Furthermore, to maintain service levels during disruptions, the LDB collaborates with affected customers to reschedule or delay deliveries and activates emergency operations to reroute shipments away from closed roadways due to wildfires or other climate-related threats.

2B. Other Sustainability Initiatives

Waste Reduction

Waste diversion is a key metric in the LDB’s environmental sustainability efforts, reflecting the percentage of material diverted from landfills through recycling and composting. Depending on the worksite, materials collected and diverted from landfill include organics, cardboard, mixed paper, mixed containers, soft plastics, shrink wrap, Styrofoam, e-waste, batteries, toner cartridges, scrap metal, and wood waste. Additionally, BCLIQUOR stores accept empty beverage containers for recycling through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program. The LDB tracks waste diversion rates monthly, to support ongoing efforts to improve waste management and sustainability across the organization.



Waste diversion at LDB worksites highlighting the recycling of cardboard, empty beverage containers, and plastics.

As part of the LDB's waste reduction strategy, the following outcomes were achieved in 2024:

- The Waste Diversion Rate across all lines of business in 2024 was 86.2 per cent, with three LDB distribution centres achieving a waste diversion rate higher than 90 per cent.
- The LDB recycled 1,829 metric tonnes of cardboard, 266 metric tonnes of wood, and 104 metric tonnes of plastic shrink wrap from all lines of business.
- Over 32 million empty beverage containers were collected and recycled through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program in partnership with environmental stewardship organizations.
- Starting December 2024 (and continuing until February 2025), a Mixed Paper Recycling stream was implemented in 10 BCLIQUOR stores. Due to the success of this program, the LDB plans to expand the mixed paper recycling initiative using a phased approach to 52 additional BCLIQUOR stores in 2025 with LDB-managed waste and recycling services.

The LDB is preparing for upcoming federal regulations that will require commercial facilities in Canada to report their plastic waste production starting in 2025 and plastic waste generation starting in September 2026. The LDB has already implemented processes to record plastic waste generated, specifically plastic shrink wrap, at its warehouses. Additionally, the LDB is actively collecting data on its plastic waste production to comply with these regulations which could potentially unearth additional opportunities for waste diversion.

Environmentally Sustainable Procurement

The Province of British Columbia's Guidelines for Environmentally Responsible Procurement states, "where feasible and cost effective, the Government of British Columbia will acquire products and services that are environmentally responsible."

Environmentally responsible products are those that reduce waste, improve energy efficiency, limit toxic by-products, contain recycled content, or are reusable.

Environmentally responsible services are those that employ environmental responsibility in their delivery. In line with this commitment and its own policies, the LDB considers environmental responsibility as part of its purchasing decisions.

Examples of sustainability-related procurement initiatives implemented by the LDB in 2024, included:

- Replacing virgin-paper with sugar cane-based paper, certified paper, and PCR paper, where feasible.
- Installing new high-efficiency LED lighting for retrofits and renovations.
- Purchasing two zero-emission light duty fleet vehicles, for a total of eight out of 28 light duty vehicles.

Employee Environmental Sustainability Education, Awareness, and Engagement

The Social Impact and Environmental Sustainability Team designs and implements LDB’s social impact and environmental programs and initiatives. Additionally, the team develops employee-led environmental engagement initiatives and educational programs. Event highlights from the past year include Earth Month, Waste Reduction Week, an urban beehive initiative called “*LDBeez*,” and Go-by-Bike Week.

Earth Month

In recognition of Earth Month in April, employees reflected on their environmental footprints, particularly their food choices. Leading up to Earth Day on April 22, 2024, LDB employees participated in a virtual “Foodprints for the Future” word scramble puzzle, with a chance to win one of six zero-waste cookbooks, promoting sustainable cooking practices.

Waste Reduction Week

Employees across the LDB celebrated Waste Reduction Week from October 21 to 27, 2024. This annual campaign encourages employees to consider waste reduction opportunities both at work and at home. Across all LDB worksites, 177 employees participated in the virtual “End Plastic Pollution” word puzzle during Waste Reduction Week.

LDBeez: Honey Harvest, Lip Balm and Candle Making Workshop

Since 2019, the LDB has maintained beehives on its fifth-floor patio at its Head Office, offering employees a unique chance to engage with urban beekeeping. Each year, employees observe the annual honey harvest and sample honey from the last three harvests, experiencing how environmental factors influence honey’s flavor profile.

In August 2024, LDBeez’ sixth annual honey harvest produced approximately 180 pounds of honey, which was donated to the Greater Vancouver Food Bank in Burnaby. Beekeepers guided employees through the tasting, highlighting subtle variations in flavor and texture between years. In November 2024, the LDB hosted two hands-on workshops on candle-

making and lip-balm making from beeswax. These sessions allowed employees to create their own candles and lip balms while learning about the crucial role bees play in ecosystems. Participants learned about beeswax production and the environmental benefits of urban beekeeping. With high interest and positive feedback, these workshops remain a popular engagement activity.



Participants mixing, pouring, and creating the perfect lip balm at the lip-balm making workshop in November 2024.

Promoting Active Transportation

The LDB promoted active transportation by hosting a Celebration Station during Go-by-Bike Week in June 2024. Employees shared insights on efficient routes, commuting strategies, and bike maintenance tips, enhancing a culture of active transportation within the organization. During Go-by-Bike Week 2024, LDB employees traveled a combined total of 144 km, collectively saving 31 kg of greenhouse gases from entering the environment.

Executive Sign Off



2025-05-21

Signature

Date

R. Blain Lawson

General Manager & Chief Executive Officer

Name (printed)

Title



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