

New Carbon Neutral Government Mailbox

The Carbon Neutral Government (CNG) program now has its own unique mailbox for all CNG related correspondence. Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca will replace Carbon.NeutralApps@gov.bc.ca for all SMARTTool related inquiries along with any CNG communication that was previously sent to ClimateActionSecretariat@gov.bc.ca (e.g., your final Carbon Neutral Action Reports, policy questions).

Upcoming Carbon Neutral Government Webinar – 2017 CNG Reporting Year

WHAT: CNG Program Overview and Updates – 2017 Reporting Year

WHEN: Wednesday January 31, 1:00-2:00pm

HOW: Webinar — [REGISTER HERE](#)

Topics will include:

- CNG Introductions
- 2017 Reporting Year Timeline
- 2017 Emission Factor updates
- Verifications Update
- SMARTTool Replacement Project Update
- General Info and References
- Q & As

If you are unable to attend the webinar, it will be recorded and posted to our [website](#).

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this webinar or the Carbon Neutral Government program.

Important Information for 2017 Reporting Year

All public sector organizations will receive an email in the coming weeks containing important information regarding Carbon Neutral Government requirements. The email will include:

- Carbon Neutral Action Report instructions & template
- Self certification checklist template
- A link to the CNAR survey form online
- A link to the 2017 guidance documents

Please ensure that we have up-to-date contact information for your organization so that this important information is not missed.

Public Sector Climate Leadership Symposium

The Climate Action Secretariat would like to thank all those who participated in the annual Public Sector Climate Action Leadership Symposium, and contributed to another successful event. The presentations are posted online on our website. To view them, please click [here](#).

BC Adapts Video Series: Rainwater Management

Community leaders on the B.C. coast are taking action to adapt community planning, land use and infrastructure to the challenges of climate change. Global sea level rise has already begun, and will continue for the foreseeable future. Sea level rise and changing precipitation and storm patterns will lead to increased risks of flooding on coasts. Learn more about planning for rising sea levels and adapting existing buildings through the [BC Adapts video series](#).

2017 CNG REPORTING YEAR DEADLINES

APR 30, 2018: All 2017 data loaded into SMARTTool

MAY 15, 2018: Self-certification checklist submitted to

MAY 31, 2018: 1. Carbon Neutral Action Report & survey form submitted
2. Final offset payment due

Upcoming Event! Nicola Symposium: Collaboration in a Sensitive Watershed

February 1-2, 2018 | Merritt, BC

The Nicola Basin Collaborative will be hosting the first annual Nicola Symposium, "Collaboration in a Sensitive Watershed" at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. The Nicola watershed has an arid climate that is drought prone, has sensitive fisheries and declining fish

populations. The watershed also faces effects due to climate change.

The purpose of the symposium is to showcase the work that is being done in the Nicola watershed, build awareness regarding the issues that affect the Nicola, and to excite academic energy to help address them. To register, please click [here!](#)

Public Sector Climate Leadership Steering Committee

Did you know your organization is represented by a steering committee focussing on climate action?

The Public Sector Climate Leadership Steering Committee provides strategic advice and collaborates with the Climate Action Secretariat on public sector climate action opportunities, policies and initiatives, and fosters communication between the

Secretariat, participating ministries and their client organizations.

Members include executive and senior level decision-makers representing the Ministries of Health, Advanced Education and Skills Training, Education, Finance, Citizens' Services, and the Crown Agencies Resource Office. The Climate Action Secretariat chairs the committee.

Climate Project Reports for Southwest BC

Several regional districts in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island have released climate projections reports for their geographical areas:

- [Climate Projections for the Cowichan Valley Regional District](#)
- [Climate Projections for the Capital Region](#)
- [Climate Projections for Metro Vancouver](#)
 - [Summary of 2050s Climate Projections for Whistler Area](#)
 - [City of Vancouver Climate Impacts Summary](#)

SMARTTool

Replacement Project — Pilot Phase

After completing the Pilot Phase of the SMARTTool Replacement Project, the CNG team is focusing on incorporating feedback and continuing the configuration process. The team is working on features additional to those tested in the pilot phase. Some of these features are versions of those available in SMARTTool and some of them are completely new. Stay tuned for more as the configuration process continues and the CNG team gets closer to having the implementation ready for further testing and onboarding.

SMARTTool Data Loading

For the 2017 CNG reporting year, please continue to load consumption/activity data into SMARTTool as usual.

EDX will also function as normal until all 2017 data has been received (typically by February or March, 2018). Therefore, please review and address your EDX error messages to ensure your utility data is up to date and ready to be transitioned to the new tool.

Note, the next data exchanges are on February 9th for BC Hydro and February 10th Fortis Natural Gas.

Low Carbon Materials and LEED® v4

The Climate Action Secretariat is pleased to share new resources created specifically for B.C.'s public sector organizations (PSO) about low carbon building material credits available in LEED® v4. The resources provide guidance for earning such credits towards the PSO LEED Gold or equivalent certification requirement.

One of the resources is a PSO Guide that provides:

- an introduction to low carbon materials, including wood, wood products and Portland-limestone cement (PLC)
- an overview of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®v4)
- an overview of how low carbon materials earn credits under LEED® v4
- 6 Case Studies

The PSO Guide, along with a Comprehensive Guide for building sector professionals, individual case studies and additional resources, are now available for download on the [Climate Action Secretariat](#) website.

New Climate Advisory Council

B.C.'s new Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council was announced on October 23, 2017. The advisory council will provide strategic advice to government as BC implements climate action to reduce carbon pollution and optimize opportunities for sustainable economic development and job creation. It includes 22 members from First Nations, environmental organizations, industry, academia, labour organizations, local government and provincial staff. They meet on a quarterly basis, at a minimum.

All information about the advisory council, including the news release, terms of reference and members' bios can be found here:

- News release: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2017ENV0057-001797>
- Webpage: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change/planning-and-action/advisory-council>
- Terms of Reference: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/climate-change/advisory-council/cscg_tor_2017.pdf

Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines

NEW! - [The Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guideline Amendment](#) incorporates sea level rise into the determination of building setbacks and flood construction levels in coastal areas. The amendment has been finalized

and is available in the link below. The effective date for the guidelines is January 1, 2018. [Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines Amendment \(Effective January 1, 2018\)](#)

New Webinar: Building Climate Resilience at Island Health

Wednesday, Feb. 21
11:00am to 12:00pm

Increasingly, climate change risks and hazards are impacting the public health sector, and they will have a significant impact on health facilities, both on its safety during extreme events and during daily operations.

In this webinar, hear from Island Health about how they are tackling these risks through their climate change adaptation efforts. Their initiatives include the first ever Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (PIEVC) assessment of a hospital in Canada for Nanaimo Regional General Hospital, a climate projection mapping project, a review of health sector specific adaptation tools, an extreme weather events impact surveys, and ongoing planning for the next stages of their adaptation work.

Register [here!](#)

Vancouver Convention Centre – World’s First Double LEED® Platinum Certified Convention Centre (USGBC recognizes BC Carbon Offsets)

In 2017, the BC Pavilion Corporation (PavCo) earned Platinum certification for its Vancouver Convention Centre’s West building under LEED® v4 for Building Operations and Maintenance (O+M). That’s a first for Canada. And that’s in addition to the Platinum certification it achieved under LEED® for New Construction in 2010, which makes the Convention Centre the world’s first double LEED® Platinum certified convention centre!

Consisting of two uniquely designed buildings totaling 466,500 sq. ft., the Convention Centre is British Columbia’s flagship convention centre, hosting more than 550 events and welcoming hundreds of thousands of attendees each year, while generating significant economic activity for the province. To meet the certification requirements for the rigorous LEED® v4, the Convention Centre team introduced new sustainability initiatives and enhanced existing programs including:

- maintaining and improving energy performance through an ongoing program of building system and energy use analysis, and implementation of upgrades;
- updating and creating new buildings operations and maintenance policies governing maintenance, renovations, procurement, site management and indoor water use reduction;
- increasing the capacity of its onsite blackwater treatment plant by 30 per cent;
- enhancing its already extensive organization-wide recycling program to increase the waste diversion rate from 50 to 75 per cent; and
- developing a Post-Event Sustainability Report for interested clients, which carefully monitors and measures several sustainability-related indicators.

Another first associated with PavCo’s most recent LEED certification was the US Green Building Council’s recognition of BC’s public sector carbon offsets. With the launch of LEED® v4, came the introduction of a new credit called “Green Power and Carbon Offsets”.

The new LEED® v4 credit provides:

- up to 2 points under the New Construction version; and
 - up to 4 points under the O+M version
- for the purchase of carbon offsets that meet the Green-e Standard. The Climate Action Secretariat worked with PavCo to demonstrate that BC’s carbon offsets satisfy the Standard enabling PavCo to earn the full 4 points available under LEED® v4 O+M. If your public sector organization has a project seeking LEED® v4 certification, contact us at Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca and we can provide additional details on how to earn these points.

Climate Change Adaptation on CBC

CBC Radio continues to dive into climate change adaptation with their recent *Ideas* episode, [Go with the flow: Using nature to help fight climate change.](#)

“Our climate is changing and because of it, our oceans and rivers are rising. In the past, we used large, manmade infrastructure to keep the water at bay. But maybe instead of trying to fight off nature, we should start working with it. A recent movement among philosophers and landscape architects thinks that the time of large, expensive infrastructure is over. Ecology is the new engineering, and this new approach of “building with nature” is being embraced around the world. Contributor Anik See explores projects across The Netherlands, in northern Spain, and in New Orleans.”

