

Climate Leader Reader

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

January 2019



2018 Highlights and Congratulations

Congratulations to B.C.'s public sector for another successful year! Here is a quick overview of successes from 2018 that set us up for an exciting year in 2019.

May: The Government passed amendments to the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target Act (GGRTA)* which changed the title of the *Act*, set new emissions reduction targets and created a legislative foundation for managing the risks resulting from a changing climate.

June: B.C.'s public sector achieved carbon neutrality for our eighth consecutive year! While emissions were up on a year-over-year basis, after weather-normalizing the data, 2017 emissions were 5.4% lower than in 2016.

September: the B.C. public sector was the recipient of a [UN Momentum for Change Award](#), recognizing global efforts that are moving the world toward a low-carbon future. [This video](#) highlights the winners of the Climate Neutral Now category.

November: Government brought into force the amendments to the new *Climate Change Accountability Act* (formally GGRTA). In addition to new targets, the Province is also required to report publicly on how it is preparing for climate change. These changes highlight the expansion beyond mitigation efforts to include the need to prepare for a changing climate.



December: the B.C. government released [CleanBC](#), a plan highlighting four pathways to a cleaner future: cleaner transportation, improving where we live and work, reducing waste and turning it into a resource, and cleaner industry. Each pathway includes actions that help us to use energy more efficiently and prevent waste, while ensuring the energy we do use is the cleanest possible.

Public sector organizations have been and will continue to lead the way. CleanBC includes new commitments for further action to reach

our targets and to prepare for the unavoidable effects of climate change (see next page for details).

Thank you to all of B.C.'s health authorities, school districts, crown corporations, universities, colleges, ministries and independent offices for making 2018 a successful year for B.C.'s Carbon Neutral Government.

Congratulations to Orest Maslany, Director, Carbon Neutral Government, on his retirement in December!

2018 Reporting in SMARTTool

While we continue to work on a transition to a new GHG Reporting Tool, SMARTTool will be utilized for the 2018 reporting year.

The timeline and updated guidance/templates for the 2018 reporting year are available [here](#).

Please continue to load your consumption data early and often! We will also be scheduling a refresher webinar in the new year (separate invite by email coming soon).

See the SMARTTool Training and Support page, [here](#), for recordings of previous refresher webinars and training.

Carbon Tax Rebate Calculation

For School Districts

The Carbon Tax increased from \$30 to \$35/tonne starting April 1, 2018 (to be followed by annual \$5 increases until \$50/tonne is reached April 1, 2021).

Due to the timing of the increase (mid-reporting year), you must differentiate fuel purchases made between Jan-Mar 2018 and April-Dec 2018 when entering your consumption data into SMARTTool (e.g., fleet fuel, heating oil, propane, etc.).

This will ensure your carbon tax rebate is calculated correctly. Note, offset payment requirement remains \$25/tonne.

CleanBC: What does it mean for PSOs?

The actions outlined in [CleanBC](#) put our province three-quarters of the way to reaching our 2030 emissions reductions target. Over the next 18-24 months, Government will build on the foundation provided by CleanBC with additional pathways to achieve the remaining 25%.

PSOs have been and will continue to lead the way in many important areas. CleanBC includes the following new public sector commitments:

Vehicles:

- an emissions reduction target of 40% from 2010 levels by 2030 Government Reporting Entity (GRE) wide and development of a plan to further reduce emissions from the public-sector vehicle fleet;
- a commitment to making 10% of light-duty provincial fleet vehicle purchases zero-emission vehicles starting in 2020, where an available model is suitable for operational needs;

Buildings:

- an emissions reduction target of 50% from 2010 levels by 2030 (GRE wide);
- development of a plan to make our existing stock of public buildings cleaner, smarter and more energy efficient; and

Managing Climate Risk:

- to collaborate and engage on a provincial climate risk and resilience strategy being developed for 2020.

We have begun, and will continue, to consult with PSOs on policy options to support these new targets and projects. More information on future engagement opportunities coming soon.

Changes to the 2018 CNAR Survey

How ready is your organization to report on managing climate-related risks?

To gather your feedback, we have included new questions on preparing for climate change in this year's Carbon Neutral Action Report (CNAR) Survey. The questions are based on recent legislative amendments to the *Climate Change Accountability Act* that require provincial reporting on progress towards managing climate-related risks.

Starting in 2020, the province will publicly report every two years on climate-related risks, as well as plans, actions, and progress to reducing these risks.

Given the public sector's important role in provincial service delivery and asset management, PSOs may be asked to provide information for future provincial climate risk and resilience progress reports.

The CNAR questions will help us understand current capacity to provide this information; identify opportunities to increase capacity; and receive targeted feedback from the public sector on the type of information being gathered.

In addition to responding to the CNAR, if you would like to participate in the ongoing process for managing climate-related risks, contact Julia Berry, A/ Senior Policy Analyst, Climate Risk Management, at climaterisk@gov.bc.ca.

Symposium 2019

The 2019 Public Sector Climate Leadership Symposium will be held Feb 28 - March 1 in Vancouver.

[Registration open now!](#)

Resources: Past Webinars and Presentations

The following video recordings of Fraser Basin Council webinars, as well as the presentations from the webinar, are available at [ReTooling for Climate Change](#).

Applying the Climate Lens Resilience Assessment in a BC Context

Dec 4, 2018

Three Important Factors for Adapting to Climate Change: Location, Location, Location

October 24, 2018

Making the Links 2018: Symposium on Collaborative Action (climate change, community health & resilience), Kelowna Nov 5-6, 2018

Workshop and Plenary presentations have been posted [here](#). You can also [sign up](#) to be part of the BC Climate Health Network (formerly the Climate Change Health Policy Group).

Contacts

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

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