

# Climate Leader Reader

Supporting the B.C. Public Sector to Lead by Example



May 2020

## COVID-19 and BC Public Sector

This spring has brought a lot of change and uncertainty, as we learn to live in our new COVID-19 pandemic world. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our colleagues in the public sector, for your dedication, hard work, passion and resilience as you continue to serve the people of British Columbia. Your efforts are appreciated.

The pandemic has forced many of us to readjust our priorities and turn our focus more purposefully to the health and wellbeing of others. We recognize the significant impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having for both public-sector organizations and government operations.

On March 31, 2020, you received an email that informed you of the [directive](#) that was issued by my colleague, Neil Dobson, Executive Director, Clean BC Implementation, which requires that 2018 GHG emissions be used as a temporary estimate for the 2019 GHG emissions.

We hope that this directive will ease some of the pressure on your organizations while still allowing us all to complete our legislative requirements.

We at the Climate Action Secretariat will continue to explore ways to make reporting requirements for your organization as effective and efficient as possible to give you time to focus on urgent needs in your organization.

With gratitude,

Archie Riddell

Executive Director, Clean Government and Resilience Branch

Climate Action Secretariat

## Carbon Neutral Action Report Survey

The [CNAR Survey](#) was sent by email on March 10, 2020 to all PSOs except those who qualify as a Small Emitter (e.g. below 600 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e during the 2018 reporting year).

### Small Emitters

PSOs who qualified as Small Emitters received an email on April 23, 2020.

## 2019 CNG Reporting - Deadlines

### MAY 29, 2020

- Final, signed CNAR or Small Emitters forms are due.

### JUNE 30, 2020

- All offset invoice payments are due.
- Reports are posted and offsets retired (CAS).

### SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

- All 2019 data must be submitted.

### OCTOBER 15, 2020

- Self-Certification Checklist is due

## 2019 Guidance Documents

[CNAR Survey](#)

[CNAR Instructions & Template](#)

[Small Emitters Form](#)

[Self Certification Checklist template](#)

## Organization Contact Information

All current primary and secondary PSO contacts received an email on April 23, 2020 with a request for your updated organization contacts. Your responses will help to ensure that the people who need to receive our communications continue to do so. Please complete and return by May 15, 2020.

## Corporate Supply Arrangement for Energy Studies and Related Services available now for PSOs

A new Corporate Supply Arrangement (CSA) is now available for public-sector organizations in B.C. to plan and take action to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Recognizing that public sector procurement can have positive impacts on GHG reductions and cost savings to government, the Climate Action Secretariat and Procurement Services worked together to prepare this CSA for energy studies and related services.

This CSA enables users to access a streamlined procurement process for climate action-related products and services. Additionally, the suggested measures can be implemented to minimize impacts to the organization's operations, while enhancing other positive outcomes like climate resilience and occupant comfort.

There are three services available under the CSA for energy studies and related services:

### Strategic Energy Management Plan

A Strategic Energy Management Plan (SEMP) is a plan for continuous improvement in organizational energy performance using best practices.

### Energy Efficiency Feasibility Study

The primary purpose of an Energy Efficiency Feasibility Study (EEFS) is to help the client prioritize energy conservation measures for implementation. Suggestions in an EEFS help to support an organization in achieving the goals of its SEMP.

### Renewable Energy Study

A Renewable Energy Study (RES) examines renewable energy options for one or more sites.

## 2019 Amendments to the Climate Change Accountability Act

On November 21, 2019, government passed amendments to the *Climate Change Accountability Act*. These legislative changes usher in a new era of accountability for climate action in British Columbia.

The changes include new reporting requirements on actions to reduce carbon pollution, their cost and how they will achieve government's legislated emission-reduction targets. The annual reports will outline the latest emissions data and projections, as well as actions planned for future years and the effect they are expected to have.

The [2019 Climate Change Accountability Report](#) details progress in our first year toward meeting our 2030 emissions reductions target and CleanBC goals, highlights early signs of success, and identifies areas of work still ahead.

In addition, the legislative changes give government the ability to set more detailed targets and other environmental standards for public sector buildings and vehicle fleets to help reduce emissions, manage climate risks, and improve environmental performance.

## Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy

Phase one of public engagement for the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy closed January 10, 2020. Thank you to everyone who provided input through the [EngageBC: Preparing Together](#) website. The input received through the online process and at the Annual Public Sector Climate Leadership symposium will inform the next round of targeted engagement in the coming months. Stay tuned for future engagement opportunities.

## Climate Risk and Resilience Community of Practice

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. If you are interested in joining, please send an email to: [climaterisk@gov.bc.ca](mailto:climaterisk@gov.bc.ca)

## Transitioning to the Clean Government Reporting Tool (CGRT)

The 2019 reporting year will be completed using the new Clean Government Reporting Tool (CGRT). To date, 80 per cent of CGRT client organizations have used the system. If your organization has not yet started the transition process or attended the training sessions, please send us an email ([Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca)) as soon as possible to get started.

SMARTTool is now 'read only', EDX has been disabled and both will be decommissioned later this year.

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Onboarding to CGRT came in two waves:

**WAVE 1:** 87 Organizations - These organizations previously used SMARTTool/ Electronic Data Exchange (EDX)

**WAVE 2:** 114 Organizations

## Feedback: 8th Annual Public Sector Climate Leadership Symposium

On November 26-27, 2019, the Climate Action Secretariat joined with Langara College to co-host another successful Public Sector Climate Leadership (PSCL) symposium. CAS would like to extend it's appreciation to the attendees (150+), and the presenters for sharing your time and knowledge with your peers.

### Presentations included:

- Changes to the Climate Change Accountability Act.
- The Provincial Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.
- PSO initiatives to assess and manage climate risks.
- GHG emission reductions in fleet vehicles.
- A climate preparedness visioning exercise.

Presentations from the symposium have been posted [here](#).

### What We Heard from PSOs:

- PSOs are concerned about resilience, adaptation, and building for future climate states. Adaptation and mitigation need to be addressed together.
- Policies should be flexible to accommodate a range of operational needs.
- Clean fleet plans are critical and should include strategic direction, funding and fleet assessment.
- PSOs need help in getting started, in particular with:
  - Business cases
  - Total cost of ownership
  - Fleet audits and assessments
- PSOs are generally supportive of LEED certification, but also want options regarding third-party building certifications.
- Clear and explicit targets, requirements, and standards are needed for reducing emissions and energy consumption and making B.C. a world leader in public-sector green-building practices.
- Comfort, beauty, and occupant wellbeing should be kept in mind when creating building regulations.
- Existing buildings produce the bulk of emissions in the public portfolio and are more challenging to address compared to new construction.



### Feedback on the Symposium:

In December, a request for feedback was sent out to all the attendees. Some of the feedback we received was:

- Amazing tour of the facility, and the opportunity to be hosted by another public-sector organization.
- Further integration on mitigation and adaptation needed.
- More information on funding opportunities for EV and building programs.
- More networking and interaction throughout the event and across sectors.
- Presenters were knowledgeable and engaging.

## Opportunity to Co-Host the 2020 PSCL Symposium

CAS is in the early stages of planning for the 9th Annual Public Sector Climate Leadership Symposium. We recognize that plans may need to be flexible due to COVID-19.

If you are interested in co-hosting this year, please send an email to: [Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca)

Location: Lower Mainland, close to transit.

Venue: A hall or large banquet room that accommodate 150+ people; plus break-out rooms

Catering and audio/visual capabilities

Selection will be through a limited competitive procurement process.

## Helpful Links

[Corporate Supply Arrangements](#) - More information, including the professional services to support you in reducing your GHG emissions

The [Fraser Basin Council](#), with support from the Climate Action Secretariat, provides news, resources, and webinars on climate adaptation and risk management through its [reTooling for Climate Change](#) newsletter and on LinkedIn.

## Contacts

For reporting or GHG mitigation questions, please contact us at [Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca).

For questions about preparing for a changing climate and managing climate-related risks, please contact [climaterisk@gov.bc.ca](mailto:climaterisk@gov.bc.ca).