Climate Leader Reader

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

December 2020

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver Coastal Health, Fraser Health and UBC Collaborate to Map Health Impacts of Climate Change

Working with researchers from the University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and Fraser Health Authority (FHA) developed a climate vulnerability index, a series of maps that spatially represent community vulnerability to four important climate-related hazards: higher summer temperatures, wildfire smoke events, ground level ozone pollution, and coastal and river flooding. These hazards can lead to negative physical health outcomes, including injury, illness, and death, as well as mental health impacts like stress, anxiety and trauma.

The vulnerability maps can be used to:

- Raise awareness of the climate hazards that communities are facing and advance conversations about climate change and health.
- Mobilize multi-sectoral efforts to improve community health outcomes.
- Help pinpoint some of the physiological and social determinants of health that play key roles in climate vulnerability.
- Help identify the neighbourhoods or communities that may need more resources or support to help cope with current and future climate-related stresses and shocks.

Climate change is already impacting the lives of British Columbians and the frequency and severity of climate-related hazards are expected to climb in the coming decades. These risks disproportionately affect certain populations, including children, seniors, and people with low incomes.

VCH and FHA are sharing the index with municipalities, regional districts, First Nations, public sector and community organizations and other partners to work together to build more resilient communities. The project's findings are available to the public and can be viewed through an interactive, user-friendly website that walks visitors through each of the climate-related risks for their communities.

Craig Brown, Vancouver Coastal Health, and Jessica Yu, School of Population and Public Health at UBC, presented to the Climate Risk and Resilience Community of Practice on October 14, 2020. A recording of their presentation can be viewed here.

For more information or to access any of the resources, and to hear about plans to update the maps, please contact: Craig Brown, Project Lead, Climate Change and Health Adaptation Planning craig. brown@vch.ca

Carbon Neutral

10-Year Carbon Neutral Milestone

Congratulations for achieving a carbon neutral government for the tenth year in a row!

To mark this milestone, we are pleased to provide you with some tools to help communicate this achievement with your external partners. You can find these tools online here.

- A carbon neutral logo for you to place on your website or in your newsletters.
- Success stories demonstrating climate action at work in B.C.'s public sector.

2019 Carbon Neutral Government (CNG) Reporting

Reporting for 2019 is now complete. Thank you for all of your tireless efforts this past year. The Clean Government Reporting Tool is now open for you to load your 2020 data.

Climate Risk and Resilience Community of Practice (CoP)

Join us for our next CoP on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 11am. Kari Tyler from the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium will be presenting on recently developed future adapted weather files for energy modelling.

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.

Building Capacity for Climate Adaptation in B.C.

The Climate Action Secretariat co-funds, with Natural Resources Canada BRACE Program, a three-year initiative to build climate adaptation skills and capacity amongst working professionals in B.C. The Adaptation Learning Network is led by the Resilience by Design Research Lab at Royal Roads University (RRU).

The Adaptation Learning Network is developing a suite of 11 continuing studies courses plus an adaptation competency framework, which informs skills and career pathways for professionals working in this field.

This fall, several online courses were offered through this multi-university initiative, including:

- Natural Assets Management (RRU)
- Climate Change Adaptation Fundamentals (RRU)
- Ecosystems for the Future (University of Victoria)
- Quantifying the Economic Impact of Climate Change (RRU)
- Project Management for a Changing Climate (RRU)

Next semester courses include:

- Climate modelling & forest adaptation, UBC Forestry (January 11, 2021)
- Food and Water Security, UBC Okanagan (March 1, 2021)
- Wildfire Risk Mitigation, University of Northern BC (January 13, 2021)
- Intro to Climate Policy for Climate Adaptation Professionals, Vancouver Island University (March 1, 2021)

Find registration information here.

To learn more about this initiative, watch the September Climate Risk and Resilience Community of Practice. Keep up-to-date with this initiative by signing up for updates through the monthly Adaptation Learning Network newsletter.

Case Study: Ridge Meadows Hospital: Collaboration the Key to a Multi-phase Project

Ridge Meadows Hospital is a health care facility that serves Maple Ridge, B.C. and surrounding areas.

What began as the installation of a new condensing boiler and the upgrade of controls on the ventilation system evolved into a multi-phase and collective approach to improving energy efficiency at Ridge Meadows Hospital (part of Fraser Health Authority). The project has resulted in significant energy reductions and operational cost savings, with a 25% reduction in annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 2015 levels.

Ridge-Meadows Hospital: Collaboration the Key to a Multi-phase Project

Read more about this and other case studies here

Greening Your Fleet

In our September 2020 newsletter, we told you that Government had pledged to have 10 percent of light-duty fleet vehicle purchases be zero-emission. If your organization is interested in making a similar commitment, take a look at West Coast Electric Fleets, an initiative of the Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC), a joint initiative of California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia to accelerate a vibrant, low-carbon economy on the West Coast. Pledges are registered on their website.

Looking for an EV for your fleet, but not sure what it's like driving one? Check out this Ride and Drive video hosted by West Coast Electric Fleets initiative member cleanenergy.org.

Charger Basics

There are three types of charger: Level 1, 2 and 3. Level 1 plugs into a regular home outlet. Level 2 are most common at workplaces and within the community. Level 3 is better known as Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) or simply "fast charging". People use these charging stations en route to their destination. Learn more about different types of chargers at PlugIn BC.

CleanBC Go Electric Public Charger Program

If you are planning to install charging for public or employee use, the Province has two rebates.

The CleanBC Go Electric Public Charger Program is a new Provincial rebate for public charging stations. All organizations are eligible for the program, except core government. The Program aims to fill current gaps in the public network in B.C. such as indigenous communities, rural and northern areas, and city centers experiencing long queues. Rebates are available for Direct Current Fast Chargers (DCFCs) and for Level 2 chargers.

The CleanBC Go Electric EV Charger Rebate supports installation of Level 2 chargers and is administered by BC Hydro and Fortis BC.