

Climate Leader Reader

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

September 2020



10-Year Milestone: Carbon Neutral Government

Congratulations to British Columbia's (B.C.) public sector organizations (PSOs) on achieving 10 years of carbon neutrality! In 2010, B.C. was the only jurisdiction in North America to implement a bold commitment to have a carbon neutral public sector. Since that first year, PSOs have made great strides in reducing, measuring and reporting carbon emissions.

There are many ways to mark this significant milestone – and the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) will release materials in the near future to support a 10-year carbon neutral celebration within your organization. While we won't be holding a Public Sector Climate Leadership Symposium this year due to COVID-19, we look forward to a time when we'll have a chance to celebrate together. Until then, CAS thanks each and every person who has been involved with the program, for their dedication, passion and determination.

CleanBC Go Electric School Bus Program

Electric school buses will soon be coming to transport B.C. students to school. To support action on climate change and reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions, the Province is providing select school districts with funding for buses and charging infrastructure to pilot the CleanBC Go Electric School Bus Program.

With funding from the Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources, the Program is leveraging the partnership between the Ministry of Education and the Association of School Transportation Services of BC's School Bus Acquisition Program. Thirteen school districts will be participating in the program this year with 18 electric school buses having been ordered. Seventeen of these buses leveraged funds from the Go Electric School Bus Program. Funding is also available for school districts to assess their facilities and fleets to plan for the transition to an all-electric fleet. School districts interested in the assessments should contact GoElectric@astsbcc.org for more information.

Resources to Green Your Fleet

In 2018, Government signed onto the Express Lane of the [West Coast Electric Fleets pledge](#) and committed to have at least 10 per cent of its light duty vehicle purchases be zero emission each year starting in 2020. Since then, a dedicated team has been working towards this goal.

Are you looking to green your fleet? Check out these great resources that could help you in your journey.

- [Plug In BC](#): Incentives, fleet assessment tools, and informative articles.
- Atlas Public Policy developed a [Fleet Procurement Analysis Tool](#).
- Natural Resources Canada: [Best practices guide](#) to greening government fleets.
- [BC Hydro](#) and [Fortis BC](#): Charging station rebates and advisory services.

Reminder: 2019 Carbon Neutral Government (CNG) Deadlines

September 30, 2020: All 2019 building, fleet and paper data must be submitted into the Clean Government Reporting Tool (CGRT).

October 15, 2020: Self-Certification Checklist ([template](#)) must be completed and sent to the carbon.neutral@gov.bc.ca mailbox.

Annual CNARs and CNAR Surveys - Now Online

Thank you for all of your hard work completing your Carbon Neutral Action Reports (CNAR), Small Emitter forms and CNAR Surveys! You can now find your organization's CNAR online [here](#).

Additionally, a copy of your CNAR survey will be sent to you for your records.

Clean Government Reporting Tool

The 2019 Carbon Neutral Government reporting year will be completed using the new Clean Government Reporting Tool (CGRT).

If you have concerns that your organization will not be able to meet the September 30, 2020 deadline, please send us an email (Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca) as soon as possible.

Any request for an extension to the September 30 deadline must be sent in writing to Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca.

Please be advised that SMARTTool is now 'read only', EDX has been disabled, and both systems will be decommissioned on September 30, 2020.

Building Capacity for Climate Adaptation in B.C.

The Climate Action Secretariat co-funds, with Natural Resources Canada, 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 are offered through this multi-university initiative,

- Natural Assets Management, RRU (Sept 21 - Oct 18)
- Climate Change Adaptation Fundamentals, RRU (Oct 5 - Nov 1) - details below
- Ecosystems for the Future, University of Victoria (Oct 14 - 21)
- Quantifying the Economic Impact of Climate Change, RRU (Nov 2 - 30)
- Project Management for a Changing Climate, RRU (Nov 2 - 30)
- Climate modelling & forest adaptation, UBC Forestry (dates coming soon)
- Food and Water Security, UBC Okanagan (dates coming soon)

Climate Change Adaptation Fundamentals - ONLINE

Facilitator: [Stewart Cohen](#)

Professionals working in British Columbia are increasingly aware of the need for adaptation strategies but may be unsure where to start. This four-module, instructor-led online course will provide learners from a range of disciplinary and professional backgrounds with an overview of the current state of knowledge on climate science and a grounding in the core concepts supporting climate change adaptation. Participants will gain an understanding of regional climate trends, risks, and their implications for human and natural systems, the role of adaptation in risk reduction, and an understanding of how science-based information and tools can be used in strategic adaptation planning.

Dates: October 5, 2020 to November 1, 2020

Cost: \$325.00 + GST

Case Study: Cataline Elementary School - Creative Collaboration for Heating Solutions

The heating system at Cataline Elementary in Williams Lake was built in 1972 and by 2013, it was showing its age. With a cracked heat exchanger, it was costly to operate and maintain. It was also not energy efficient, with high GHG emissions.

Partnering with a neighbouring institution made possible a complete mechanical upgrade and the addition of a 400kw biomass (pellet) boiler to Cataline Elementary. This has resulted in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions, costs savings and reduced offset purchase requirements not only for the school itself, but for Thompson Rivers University campus next door.

[Cataline Elementary School: Creative Collaboration for Heating Solutions](#)

Read more about this and other case studies [here](#)

Climate Risk and Resilience Community of Practice

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. If you are interested in joining, please send an email to: climaterisk@gov.bc.ca

Organization Contact Information

Avoid any delays in receiving critical information from us. Keep us updated on any staffing or contact changes by emailing Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca

Helpful Links

Adaptation Learning Network:

- [Registration Information](#)
- Sign up for the Monthly [Newsletter](#)

ONLINE Course - Climate Change Adaptation Fundamentals - [Registration](#)

Natural Resources Canada's [BRACE program](#)

Case Studies - Online

Learn more about what other public sector organizations have been doing to reduce their emissions and adapt to a changing climate. There are [16 case studies](#) posted online under the following categories:

- Energy Systems, Efficiency and Innovative Buildings
- Adaptation
- Low Carbon Building Materials

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.