

# 2023 GREENHOUSE CARBON TAX RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM

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The British Columbia Government established the Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant Program (GCTRGP) to assist commercial BC greenhouse vegetable, floriculture, wholesale and forest seedling nursery operators.

The 2023 program provides eligible British Columbia commercial greenhouse growers with a grant for the January to March 2023 production year. The 2023 program grant will be up to 80% of the carbon tax paid by eligible growers on their purchase of natural gas and propane consumed for heating and producing CO<sub>2</sub> for eligible production greenhouses. Fuel burnt for other purposes such as heating residential, office or non-eligible production area, vehicles, forklifts or to produce electricity in a CHP engine is ineligible for the GCTRGP.

For April to December 2023, and future years the GCTRGP is replaced with the [Partial exemption from carbon tax for greenhouse growers](#).

Please note, should the value of eligible applications to the 2023 intake exceed available funding, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food may adjust reimbursement levels to ensure all eligible applications are processed equitably.

The relief grant will be based on fuel use from January to March 2023.

## Key Dates

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|---------------|--|
| April 3, 2023 | ➤ 2023 Program launch: Application form on Ministry of Agriculture and Food website            |
| May 31, 2023  | ➤ Deadline for greenhouse operators to submit applications to Ministry of Agriculture and Food |

## Calculation of Carbon Tax Relief Grants

- a) The 2023 grant will be calculated by multiplying the
  - i. eligible 2023 natural gas [Giga Joules (GJ)] and propane [Litres (L)] usage (verified by fuel distributor annual summary or invoices ) for heating commercial greenhouse space and for carbon dioxide for crop fertilization and crop production;
    - a. for January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023 carbon tax rates [255.88 cents per GJ (9.79 ¢/m<sup>3</sup>) for natural gas and 7.74 cents per litre for propane], as set out in [Schedule 1 of the Carbon Tax Act](#).
  - ii. Reimbursed at a rate of up to 80%

b) Fuel estimates (amounts for non-eligible purposes) will be reviewed by Ministry staff and may be adjusted to ensure that they are consistent with reasonable assumptions, sector averages, and other relevant information.

c) Not all fuel used by a cogeneration system or combined heat and power (CHP) engine is eligible for a relief grant. Operators that have incorporated CHP engines for greenhouse heating and/or carbon dioxide production for crop fertilization **must** calculate the amount of non-eligible fuel consumed. Non-eligible fuel is offset by the total amount of electricity produced in the applicable calendar year. It is calculated by determining the equivalency of natural gas consumed to the active electrical power generated from the engine(s) for the same time period. The electrical energy produced is to be retrieved from the diagnostic and monitoring equipment attached to the cogeneration unit. Records must be kept to allow electrical energy produced over a requested time period to be retrieved.

The amount of non-eligible fuel for a cogeneration system is calculated as follows:

Non-eligible fuel (in GJ) = total electrical production in a calendar year (in MWh) ÷ 0.2778

## Applicant Requirements

To qualify to receive a 2023 GCTRG, a person **MUST** meet ALL of the following at the time of the application submission:

- Be an eligible British Columbia commercial greenhouse operator;
- Operate a BC commercial greenhouse from January to March in the 2023 production year;
- Complete the 3 parts of the fillable application form;
- Submit a (1 or 2 page) annual summary (contact the natural gas and/or propane provider) or copies of monthly invoices of fuel usage; the summary and monthly invoices must have the fuel provider's logo or other documentation to verify origin of data **the Ministry will not accept the spreadsheet downloaded from FortisBC or other supplier;**
- Scan application, the recorded diagnostic and monitoring CHP engine system electrical output readings for January 1, 2023 and March 31, 2023; the fuel summary/invoices; and submit this documentation by email to the Ministry at [CTreliefgrant@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CTreliefgrant@gov.bc.ca) for review and approval by May 31, 2023. Applicants can also complete and submit a direct deposit application by mail to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to allow relief grant monies to be deposited electronically.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to become familiar with the application process to ensure that all submitted documentation meets all stated requirements.

**Applications or supporting material such as the fuel invoices, annual summaries of fuel usage and**

**applicable electrical power generation readings from CHP engines received after the May 31, 2023 deadline will be deemed ineligible for the 2023 GCTRGP grant. Additionally, applications or supporting material that are incomplete or incorrectly submitted will not be reviewed or considered.**

To qualify to receive a 2023 GCTRG, a person **MUST** address any clarifying questions posed by the Ministry within the time frame specified with respect to the eligibility of production, the ownership and operation of the greenhouse or other issues related to the application.

**NOTE: if the clarifying questions are not adequately answered, the Ministry will deem an application as incomplete and will not issue a grant.**

## **Application Checklist**

A complete application consists of:

- three parts of the application form
- fuel summary or invoices from fuel supplier

**Ministry of Agriculture and Food** Information and Application form:  
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/topic.page?id=F3B79B6864D049DE9C784B5D0843EB48>.

General Inquiries and Relief Grant Application Form submission: [CTreliefgrant@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CTreliefgrant@gov.bc.ca)

## **Key Contacts**

### **Ministry of Agriculture and Food**

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(236) 766-7086

### **BC Greenhouse Growers' Association (BCGGA)**

Linda Delli Santi, Executive Director. [linda@bcgreenhouse.ca](mailto:linda@bcgreenhouse.ca) (604) 531-5262

### **United Flower Growers Co-operative Association**

Bob Pringle, Chief Executive Officer. [bpringle@ufgca.com](mailto:bpringle@ufgca.com) (604) 430-2211

### **BC Landscape Nursery Association**

Hedy Dyck, Chief Operating Officer. [hdyck@bclna.com](mailto:hdyck@bclna.com) (604) 575-3505

### **Forest Nursery Association of BC (FNABC)**

Dave Trotter, Secretary. [fnabc@fnabc.com](mailto:fnabc@fnabc.com) (604) 936-5264