

State of Climate Policy in B.C.

B.C. has a significant opportunity to build out the clean economy, to grow clean jobs, and to be a global leader on climate action.

In B.C., we emit 64.5 million tonnes (Mt) of carbon pollution each year. B.C. has legislated requirements to reduce carbon emissions to 39 million tonnes by 2030 (40% of 2007 levels) and 13 million tonnes by 2050 (80% of 2007 levels) (Figure 1).

While B.C. is fortunate to have large hydroelectricity capacity, we still rely heavily on fossil fuels to meet the majority of our energy needs (e.g. gasoline and diesel for transportation, natural gas for heating homes and buildings).

CleanBC: a climate, energy, and economic strategy

In December 2018, the province introduced a new climate plan, CleanBC, that builds on a decade of climate action experience in B.C. CleanBC aims to achieve emissions reductions across all sectors, transition from fossil fuels to more clean energy, create clean jobs, and grow the economy. The policies and programs described in CleanBC are expected to achieve 75% of B.C.'s 2030 emissions reduction target (equivalent to 18.9 million tonnes of reductions). Many of the policies in CleanBC

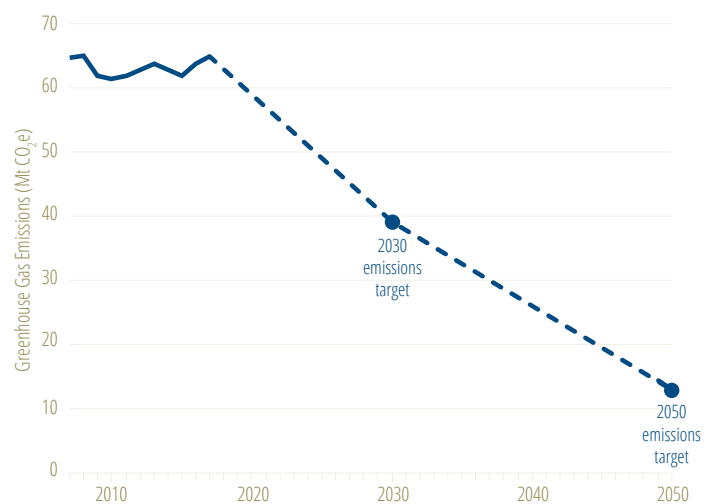


Figure 1. Emissions reductions required under CleanBC

Data source: Government of B.C., Provincial Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, 2017. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change/data/provincial-inventory>

are among the most ambitious in Canada/North America. Additional reduction measures are required to address the remaining 25% gap in order to meet the province's full climate commitment.

History of B.C. Climate Policy

2008

- Climate Action Plan released
- Carbon tax introduced
- 2020 and 2050 climate targets established

2012

- Carbon tax frozen at \$30/tonne

2015

- Climate Leadership Team established

2016

- Climate Leadership Plan released

2018

- Carbon tax increase reinstated
- Climate targets revised (2020 repealed, 2030 and 2040 introduced, 2050 remained)
- Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council established
- CleanBC released

CleanBC Actions by Sector		Carbon reductions (Mt)
Transportation	Increase sale of zero-emission vehicles Reduce carbon intensity of fuels used by 20%*	6
Buildings and communities	Increase efficiency of existing buildings through retrofits Require new buildings to be built to increasing efficiency standards Increase use of renewable gas to 15%* Reduce and reuse forestry, agricultural and residential waste	2.7
Industry	Incentivize emissions reductions through carbon tax program* Support innovation using carbon tax revenue paid by industry Increase use of renewable gas to 15%* Electrify natural gas production in Northeast BC*	8.4
Cross-sector	Increase carbon tax across the economy to \$50 by 2021*	1.8
TOTAL		18.9

* Indicates high-impact policies

Note: This is not an exhaustive list of policies and actions found in CleanBC

Key next steps

B.C. is well positioned to get back on track towards our climate goals and demonstrate leadership as other provinces across the country stall on climate action. To be successful, these actions are key to moving forward:

1. Implement CleanBC

The launch of CleanBC needs to be reinforced with commitment to invest in and implement the policies and programs described, including development and implementation of an adaptation strategy. The 25% gap to meet our climate commitments needs to be closed. Potential areas for action include addressing emissions from freight, agriculture, and natural gas production.

2. Strengthen climate accountability legislation

Accountability mechanisms such as interim check points, an independent advisory body, and public reporting on progress are crucial to ensure credibility and durability of climate action.

3. Develop a Clean Energy Plan for B.C.

Achieving B.C.'s emission reduction targets will require a change in how we source and use energy. A detailed plan, describing the path towards meeting the province's low carbon energy needs, is needed to complement CleanBC.



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Clean Energy Plan backgrounder:

<https://www.pembina.org/pub/bc-clean-energy-plan>

Climate accountability letter:

<https://www.pembina.org/pub/bc-climate-transparency>

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