

CONFRONT THE **CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

AN URGENT CALL TO THE BC GOVERNMENT


October 2022 Progress Report

Residents watch a nearby
wildfire in Coldstream BC,
on 9th July 2021.

Photo: Gavin Phillips

“Massive-scale climate action
is urgently needed.”

World Scientists’ Warning of a
Climate Emergency 2021



Flooding and landslides triggered by an atmospheric river in November 2021 were exacerbated by clearcut logging, wiping out highway infrastructure and costing billions to repair.

Photo: BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

CONFRONT THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

AN URGENT CALL TO THE BC GOVERNMENT

October 2022 Progress Report

In September 2021, a broad coalition of 200 organizational signatories published an open letter calling on the BC government to commit to ten urgent climate actions to confront the climate emergency.

One year later, the open letter has more than **450 signatories** representing over **two million British Columbians**.

This report card evaluates the BC government's progress on implementing these ten urgent climate actions.

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2022 PROGRESS REPORT FOR BC's CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

1



FAIL

Set binding climate pollution targets based on science and justice

2



FAIL

Invest in a thriving, regenerative, zero emissions economy

3



FAIL

Rapidly wind down all fossil fuel production and use

4



PROGRESS

End fossil fuel subsidies and make polluters pay

5



PROGRESS

Leave no one behind

6





FAIL

Protect and restore nature

2022 PROGRESS REPORT FOR BC's CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

7  **PROGRESS**
Invest in local, organic, regenerative agriculture and food systems

8  **PROGRESS**
Accelerate the transition to zero emission transportation

9  **FAIL**
Accelerate the transition to zero emission buildings

10  **FAIL**
Track and report progress on these actions every year

About the grades

- **FAIL:** No substantive policies or actions implemented to support this climate action, and the BC government is not on a path to succeed.
- **PROGRESS:** Policies or actions are in progress to support this climate action.
- **COMPLETE:** Success! Policies or actions have been implemented.
- **UNKNOWN:** Data currently unavailable or policies / actions pending.

T



Set binding climate targets based on science and justice

Reduce BC's greenhouse gas emissions by ~7.5% per year below 2007 levels. Set binding reduction targets of 15% by 2023; 30% by 2025; 60% by 2030, and 100% by 2040 (below 2007 levels). Review and update targets regularly as climate science evolves.



Youth demand climate action at the Global Climate Strike in Squamish, September 2019.

Photo: Tracey Saxby

2022 progress report for BC:



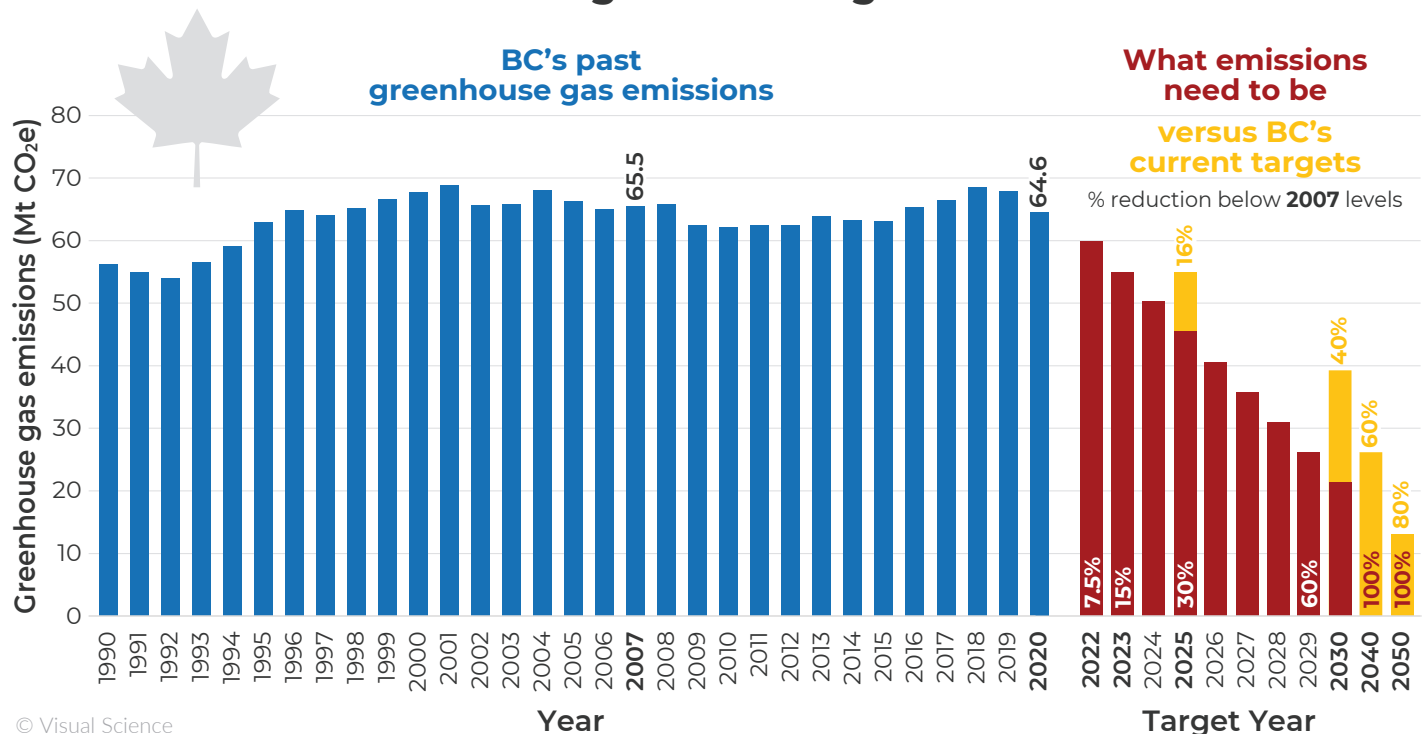
Current status

To limit temperature rise to 1.5° Celsius (C), British Columbia needs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by roughly 7.5% every year between now and 2030. However, BC has failed to meet its emission reduction targets for over a decade, and while emissions fell slightly in 2020 to 64.6 megatonnes of CO₂-equivalent, this was most likely due to the pandemic rather than to any long-term emission reductions.

Rationale

- **UNKNOWN:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 7.5% below 2007 levels in 2022.
- **FAIL:** No short-term 2023 target.
- **FAIL:** BC's legislated greenhouse gas reduction targets of 16% below 2007 levels by 2025, 40% by 2030, 60% by 2040, and 80% by 2050 are inadequate, and not aligned with science or justice. Targets are not binding.
- **FAIL:** No plan to achieve the 2025 target, which makes the major gaps and shortcomings in the plan to achieve the 2030 target unacceptable. No plan to achieve the legislated 2040 and 2050 greenhouse gas reduction targets.
- **PROGRESS:** CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 commits to net-zero by 2050; target yet to be legislated.

Trends in BC's greenhouse gas emissions



Left panel: Trends in BC's greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 to 2020 in million tonnes of CO₂-equivalent (blue). Right panel: Comparison of what BC's greenhouse gas emissions targets need to be (red) versus BC's current targets (yellow). Data source: Provincial Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990–2020.

2

\$ Invest in a thriving, regenerative, zero emissions economy

Invest 2% of BC's GDP (\$6 billion dollars per year) to advance the zero emissions economy and create tens of thousands of good jobs. Spend what it takes to immediately reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create new economic institutions to get the job done. Ensure that the economic component of Aboriginal Title is recognized through the sharing of benefits and revenues that result.



Investing in new economic institutions and skills training for workers is essential to get the job done.

Photo: Province of British Columbia

2022 progress report for BC:



Current status

Former World Bank chief economist, Nicholas Stern, has recommended governments to spend two per cent of GDP on climate-mitigation efforts. For BC, this translates to about \$6 billion per year.

However, Budget 2022 invested only \$1.2 billion dedicated to reduce emissions through CleanBC, which is one-fifth of what is recommended.

The primary “flagship” institution created to purportedly advance low-carbon technology—the Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy—is a joint initiative with Shell Canada, and its research agenda, with a focus on carbon capture and storage and a hydrogen strategy, appears tailored to this fossil fuel corporation.

Rationale

- **FAIL:** Did not invest 2% of BC’s GDP to advance the zero emissions economy.
- **FAIL:** No new economic institutions created to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **FAIL:** Minimal recognition of the economic component of Aboriginal Title, with no demonstrable results yet.
- **PROGRESS:** Commitment to develop a Circular Economy Strategy.

“The transition to a zero-emissions and climate-resilient world provides the greatest economic, business, and commercial opportunity of our time.”

Nicholas Stern

Professor of Economics at the
London School of Economics

3



Rapidly wind down all fossil fuel production and use

Immediately stop all new fossil fuel infrastructure including fracking, oil and gas pipelines, liquefied natural gas (LNG), and fossil fuel-derived hydrogen. Rapidly phase out and decommission all existing fossil fuel production and exports.



Citizens stand in opposition to Woodfibre LNG, proposed in Átl'ka7tsem / Howe Sound.

Photo: Jimmy Martinello

2022 progress report for BC:



Current status

British Columbia is currently committed to the expansion of fracking for liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports to support projects like LNG Canada and Woodfibre LNG. Once these two LNG facilities are built and operational, it will be impossible for BC to achieve its greenhouse gas reduction targets.

The CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 commits to several false climate solutions, such as blue hydrogen; renewable gas; carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS), and carbon offsets, all of which prop up and greenwash fossil fuel extraction.

Rationale

- **FAIL:** No intention to stop new fossil fuel infrastructure.
- **FAIL:** No plan to rapidly phase out and decommission existing fossil fuel production, use, and exports.
- **FAIL:** No plan to phase out fossil fuel utilities.
- **FAIL:** Focus on false solutions that will continue fossil fuel extraction and use, including: blue hydrogen; renewable gas; carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS); carbon offsets; and LNG as a marine fuel.
- **FAIL:** Inadequate plan to cut carbon pollution from the oil and gas sector.
- **PROGRESS:** Commitment to measure and eliminate methane emissions by at least 75% by 2030 to match Federal regulations, and near zero by 2035.
- **PROGRESS:** New greenhouse gas emissions cap for natural gas utilities by 2030.

“If governments are serious about the climate crisis, there can be no new investments in oil, gas, and coal, from now—from this year.”

Fatih Birol
Executive Director of the
International Energy Agency

4



End fossil fuel subsidies and make polluters pay

End all fossil fuel subsidies and financial incentives by 2022. Ensure that those industries that profit from fossil fuel pollution pay their fair share of the resulting climate damage.



A new well pad is readied for fracking north of Farmington, BC.

Photo: Garth Lenz

2022 progress report for BC:



Current status

In May 2022, British Columbia canceled the province's largest fossil fuel subsidy, a giveaway to the fracking industry that cost the government \$1.2 billion in 2021 alone. Despite this progress, BC still has some of the largest provincial fossil fuel subsidies in Canada, second only to Alberta.

Fossil fuel companies are making record profits, yet the BC government is still using public money to incentivise new fracking wells by allowing companies to deduct the cost of drilling wells from the royalties they pay, and by giving LNG terminals tax breaks on PST, corporate taxes, and the carbon tax, and subsidizing electricity.

Rationale

- **PROGRESS:** BC ended the Deep Well Royalty Credit program in 2022.
- **FAIL:** BC has not eliminated all fossil fuel subsidies and incentives as defined by the World Trade Organization.
- **FAIL:** New fossil fuel subsidies and incentives to expand fracking were created through BC's Royalty Review.
- **FAIL:** Oil and gas companies are not paying their fair share for the climate harms caused by burning fossil fuels.
- **UNKNOWN:** Commitment to revise industrial carbon pricing in 2023.

“We need to end fossil fuel subsidies, put a price on carbon, and shift taxation from people to pollution.”

António Guterres
Secretary General of the
United Nations

5



Leave no one behind

Ensure a just transition for fossil fuel workers, resource-dependent communities, and Indigenous and remote communities impacted by fossil fuel production. It will be critical to collaborate in true partnership with Indigenous peoples in climate action. Prepare our communities for the impacts of the climate crisis to minimize human suffering and infrastructure damage. Support those most vulnerable to climate change impacts.



Extreme temperatures from the 2021 heat dome event killed 619 people, most of them seniors

2022 progress report for BC:



Current status

In 2021, a heat dome killed more than 619 people, most of them seniors. Tens of thousands of British Columbians were evacuated from their homes due to wildfires, floods, and landslides, and many are still rebuilding.

The climate emergency is deepening existing inequalities for the most vulnerable in our communities. To minimize human suffering, we must prioritize climate action in ways that promote equity, anti-racism, and social justice; support those that have been directly affected; and implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

Rationale

- **PROGRESS:** Investment of \$134 million to the CleanBC Communities Fund to fund climate action infrastructure projects for Indigenous Communities and Local Governments.
- **FAIL:** No plan to support fossil fuel workers, resource-dependent communities, or Indigenous and remote communities through a managed wind-down.
- **FAIL:** BC has an action plan to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, but its application is incoherent and inconsistent, especially when in conflict with resource extraction interests.
- **FAIL:** No comprehensive plan to support vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change.

“Climate action is public health action. Let’s boldly act together and act now.”

Dr Theresa Tam
Chief Public Health Officer of Canada



6 Protect and restore nature

Protect 30% of terrestrial and marine ecosystems by 2030; support and invest in Indigenous-led conservation initiatives; restore natural ecosystems to enhance ecosystem functions and services, preserve biodiversity, increase carbon sequestration, and improve human and ecosystem resilience to climate impacts. Impose an immediate moratorium on the industrial logging of all old growth forests which are critical carbon sinks.



Protesters gather at Fairy Creek near Port Renfrew BC, in opposition to old-growth logging, June 2021.

Photo: Joel Bourgoin

2022 progress report for BC:



Current status

The Federal government has pledged to protect 30% of terrestrial and marine ecosystems by 2030. In BC, only 15.5% of terrestrial and 3.2% of marine and coastal areas are currently protected in 2022. BC claims an additional 4.1% of land is protected under other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), but these OECMs do not meet international or Canadian quality standards.

Old-growth forests are integral to support biodiversity and ecosystem health, and hold incalculable cultural value for Indigenous people. Yet BC continues to approve deforestation at an alarming rate and has failed to implement deferrals that could protect old growth forests and enable First Nations to implement a paradigm shift in forest management. A recent investigation revealed that old growth and primary forests are being cut to produce pellets that are burned to generate electricity in the UK, producing more greenhouse gas emissions than coal.

Rationale

- **FAIL:** No plan to protect 30% of terrestrial ecosystems by 2030 and has made limited progress to conserve terrestrial ecosystems in recent years.
- **PROGRESS:** Support for Marine Planning Partnership with First Nations and the Federal government.
- **PROGRESS:** Inconsistent support and investment in Indigenous-led conservation initiatives.
- **FAIL:** Limited restoration of natural ecosystems.
- **FAIL:** Continued logging of old-growth forests and failure to implement deferrals.
- **FAIL:** Inadequate wildfire preparation and response, which is a significant source of emissions.
- **FAIL:** Inadequate plan to cut carbon pollution caused by deforestation.

“Chainsaws continue to roar and threatened old-growth forests across BC remain without protection.”

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
President of the
Union of BC Indian Chiefs

7



Invest in local, organic, regenerative agriculture and food systems

Incentivize carbon storage in soil, restore biodiversity, and ensure food sovereignty and food security across the province. Increase consumption of plant-based foods, and reduce food waste. Support Indigenous communities that wish to maintain traditional food systems and enhance their food security.



BC's food supply is at risk due to the impacts of climate change.

Photo: Jon Reaves

2022 progress report for BC:



Current status

Climate change is already impacting food security in British Columbia, for example: heatwaves and severe flooding damaged crops in 2021; warmer stream temperatures and droughts have affected salmon spawning in 2022; and increasing ocean acidification is impacting coastal fisheries.

Rationale

- **PROGRESS:** Commitment to enhance agricultural carbon sequestration, and improve soil health and biodiversity.
- **PROGRESS:** Commitment to encourage regenerative agricultural practices.
- **PROGRESS:** Currently developing a food security policy framework to mitigate climate impacts on food security.
- **PROGRESS:** Commitment to support Indigenous communities in upholding Indigenous food sovereignty in the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.
- **FAIL:** No plan to increase consumption of plant-based foods.
- **FAIL:** No plan to reduce food waste.
- **FAIL:** Construction of Site C dam will impact over 31,500 hectares of high-value agricultural land.

“The public interest is better served [by] agriculture and other uses for this valley, rather than a hundred years of power production... Power has other alternatives; agriculture doesn’t.”

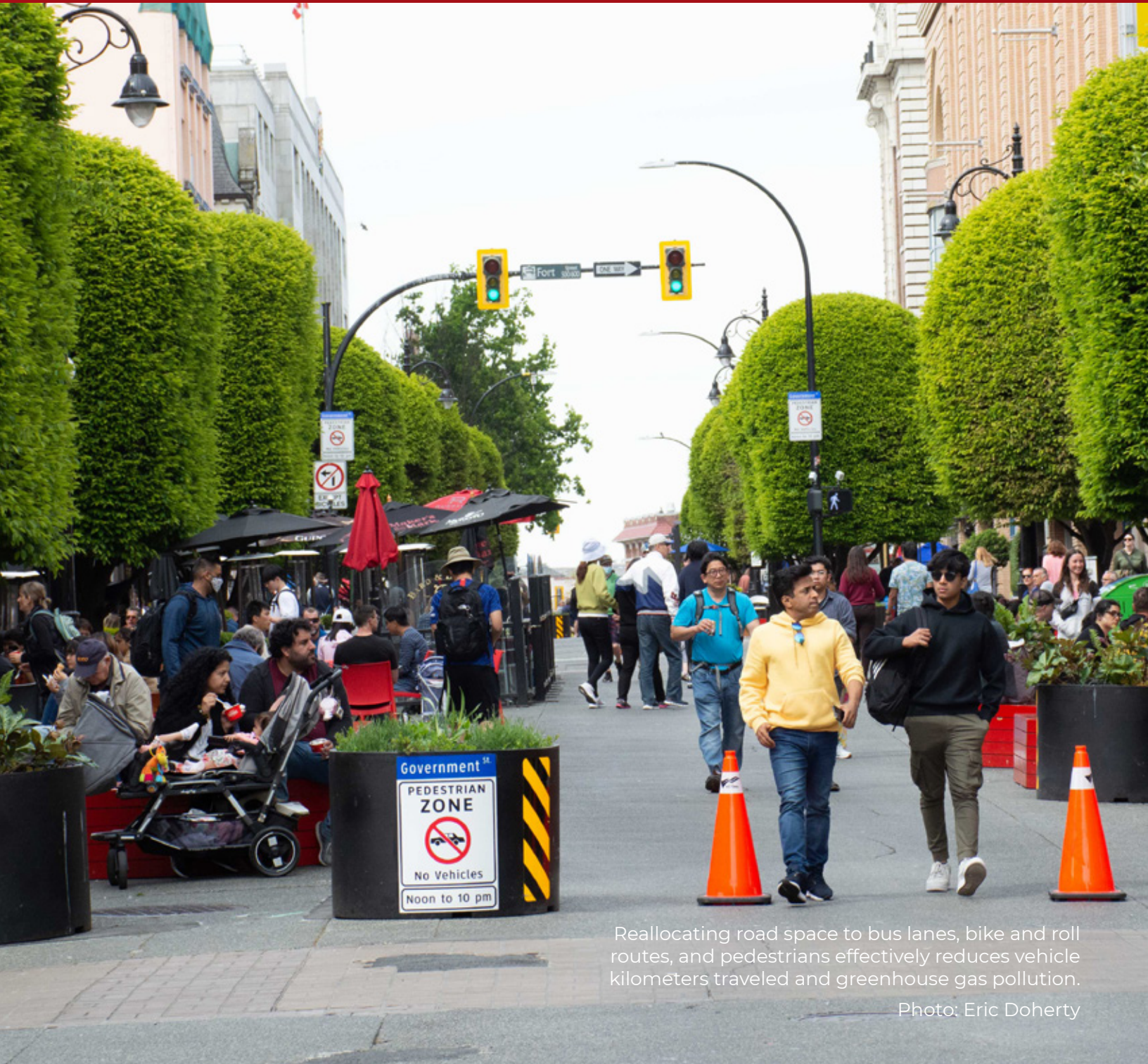
Evelyn Wolterson
Senior Soil Scientist

8



Accelerate the transition to zero emission transportation

Invest in affordable, accessible, and convenient public transit within and between all communities. Reallocate infrastructure funds from highway expansion to transit and active transportation (cycling, rolling, and walking). Mandate zero emissions for all new light vehicles by 2027, and all medium and heavy duty vehicles by 2030.



Reallocating road space to bus lanes, bike and roll routes, and pedestrians effectively reduces vehicle kilometers traveled and greenhouse gas pollution.

Photo: Eric Doherty

2022 progress report for BC:



Current status

Transportation was responsible for 42% of BC's total greenhouse gas emissions in 2020, with the majority of those emissions from personal vehicles and trucks.

BC set an ambitious and precedent-setting vehicle kilometers traveled (VKT) reduction target in October 2021, but has made no visible progress towards creating a plan to meet this target. Continued spending on highway expansion is clearly incompatible with this exemplary target.

Rationale

- **PROGRESS:** CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 committed to reduce distances traveled in light-duty vehicles by 25% by 2030, compared to 2020. This is an important, and very ambitious target, which sets the standard for other provinces to follow.
- **PROGRESS:** Joint Federal-Provincial investments for improvements and expansion of public transit.
- **PROGRESS:** Get On Board program provides free transit for kids 12 and younger.
- **FAIL:** No commitment to reallocate infrastructure funds from highway expansion to transit and active transportation.
- **PROGRESS:** Accelerated goal of zero emissions for all new vehicles from 2040 to 2035, but this still falls far short of what is needed.

“Transformative changes in the transport sector... are needed to meet climate targets.”

IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, 2022

9

Accelerate the transition to zero emission buildings

Ban new natural gas connections to all new and existing buildings by end of 2022. Create a Crown Corporation to mobilize the workforce to retrofit all existing buildings and eliminate fossil fuel heating by 2035, and to build new affordable zero emissions buildings.



Insulating our homes can improve energy efficiency and save money.

2022 progress report for BC:



Current status

Buildings contributed 11.3% to BC's total greenhouse gas emissions in 2020, primarily from space and water heating using fossil fuels.

While the City of Vancouver requires all new and replacement heating and hot water systems to be zero emissions by 2025, the province has yet to match this goal.

In the meantime, FortisBC continues to aggressively increase its customer base, with 12,000 new customers in 2021. FortisBC is also promoting the false solution of "renewable natural gas" and offering rebates for new gas appliances.

Rationale

- **FAIL:** No commitment to end natural gas heating in new buildings until 2030.
- **FAIL:** No Crown Corporation created to mobilize the workforce to retrofit existing buildings, or to mass produce and install heat pumps or renewable energy.
- **FAIL:** No plan to eliminate fossil fuel heating by 2035.
- **FAIL:** No plan to build new affordable zero emissions buildings.
- **PROGRESS:** Commitment to 100% efficient space and water heating by 2030, but hybrid electric heat pump gas systems and high-efficiency gas heat pumps are still allowed.
- **PROGRESS:** Commitment to zero-carbon new construction by 2030.

“All transformative climate action should focus on social justice for all by prioritizing basic human needs and reducing inequality.”

World Scientists'
Warning of a Climate Emergency, 2021

10



Track and report progress on these actions every year

Embed all of these actions in legislation to ensure accountability, transparency, and inclusion. Establish rolling 5-year carbon budgets that decline over time towards zero emissions by 2040 or sooner.



2022 progress report for BC:



Current status

Sierra Club has taken the BC government to court as the Minister of Environment's 2021 Climate Change Accountability Report fails to comply with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act.

The BC government has failed to provide the information needed for the general public to hold the government accountable and track progress on its greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Rationale

- **FAIL:** BC has not embedded a majority of the climate actions from this open letter in legislation.
- **FAIL:** BC is not providing the transparency and accountability that it promised. The Minister's annual Climate Change Accountability Report does not comply with its own climate legislation because it fails to explain how BC's climate plans will achieve its 2025, 2040, 2050 targets and the 2030 oil and gas sector target, leaving the public unable to hold BC accountable for its progress (or lack of progress) to these targets.
- **FAIL:** BC has not established rolling 5-year carbon budgets.

“We have zero years before climate and ecological breakdown, because it’s already here. We have zero years left to procrastinate. The longer we wait to act, the worse the floods, fires, droughts, famines, and heatwaves will get.”

Peter Kalmus

Climate scientist, NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab

An aerial photograph of a river in a forested valley. The water flow is significantly reduced, leaving large, light-colored gravel bars that divide the river into several small, isolated pools of water. The surrounding landscape is covered in dense evergreen trees, and mountains are visible in the background under a clear blue sky.

“No river. No water. No salmon.”
Tsleil-waututh Nation Sacred Trust

Severe drought has reduced water flow in rivers across BC, stranding spawning salmon.

Photo: Jason Kazuta

BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan

First Nations have relationships to the lands within their territories that are legally and culturally distinct from settler communities, and their priorities for decisive climate action to preserve those relationships have not been adequately incorporated into provincial climate planning.

In recognition of those shortfalls, Indigenous leadership in BC mandated the development of a climate strategy rooted in the actual priorities of First Nations and the full expression of Indigenous rights.

Unlike Crown governments, First Nations leadership in BC have recognized that the climate crisis constitutes an emergency that requires an urgent, ambitious, and lasting shift of the colonial status quo. The resource extraction activities that are most responsible for causing climate change and exacerbating its impacts are often carried out in violation of Indigenous rights.

The **BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan** presents a bold vision for climate action articulated by First Nations leadership and communities from across the province. The strategy focuses on ensuring that First Nations' inherent title, rights and treaty rights are recognized and affirmed as foundational for meaningful climate action.

“We need a genuine, progressive movement that truly understands and fully acknowledges that we are in the midst of a climate crisis. It’s having devastating effects on our communities, on our people, and communities are burning to the ground. How many more communities have to be incinerated before governments will begin to move beyond good intentions and rhetoric?”

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
President of the
Union of BC Indian Chiefs



Old-growth logging in the
Caycuse watershed in the
Ditidaht territory, June 2021.

Photo: TJ Watt

“Our peoples’ experiences over the past year have shown that this province is deeply unprepared for the realities of the climate crisis and yet the Crown continues on with business as usual with fossil fuels and deforestation.

Government’s unwillingness to make real change to the unsustainable extractive economy despite the violations of Indigenous rights and the undeniable risks to the climate is irresponsible and wilfully ignorant of what communities are facing on the ground today, let alone what will come if emissions continue to increase.”

Kukpi7 Judy Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer of the
Union of BC Indian Chiefs

CONFRONT THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY
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One year... of devastating climate impacts in BC

Since this open letter was first published in September 2021, BC has experienced:

- Two atmospheric rivers in November 2021.
- Severe flooding that inundated entire communities, washed away homes, and drowned over 600,000 farm animals.
- Landslides that destroyed homes, roads, railways, and bridges, leaving 18,000 people stranded and five people dead.
- Billions of dollars in infrastructure damage, with an estimated cost of \$9 billion to recover from the November floods and landslides alone.
- Severe drought that the province says will lead to socioeconomic and ecosystem impacts. The Sunshine Coast has declared a state of emergency due to low water levels.
- Tens of thousands of stranded salmon that failed to spawn due to extremely low water flow in rivers and streams.
- 1,577 wildfires sparked across British Columbia in 2022.
- Vancouver had the worst air quality in the world due to wildfire smoke, which poses major health risks for vulnerable people.
- The inquiry into the June 2021 heat dome reported that 619 people died from extreme temperatures, most of them seniors.
- The town of Lytton is still rebuilding after record-breaking temperatures of 49.6°C sparked a wildfire that burned most of the town and killed two people.
- Climate impacts in Indigenous communities have been exacerbated by the jurisdictional gaps in the provision of emergency services to First Nations, as well as the legacy of colonization.


An urgent need for climate leadership

We reiterate the urgent calls for climate action outlined in this open letter, and call on Premier Designate David Eby to demonstrate the leadership that is required to confront the climate emergency.

We acknowledge with hope Premier Designate Eby's stated priorities (see quote) to end fossil fuel subsidies and stop expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure.

This is an opportunity to implement rapid systemic change, and we commit to actively working with the Province to transform our communities.

Now is the time to act.



“We cannot continue to subsidize fossil fuels and expect clean energy to manifest somehow. We cannot continue to expand fossil fuel infrastructure and hit our climate goals. Our legislated climate targets are of significant importance; targets I want our province to hit.”

David Eby
Premier Designate of British Columbia

Firefighters respond to a wildfire near Kamloops in July 2021.



Repairs underway on the Malahat, after a major rain event washed out Highway 1 on Vancouver Island.

BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

450

agriculture, arts, business, community, education, environment, faith, food producers, health, housing, Indigenous, labour, local government, outdoor recreation, research, seniors, tourism, and youth organizations, representing over

2,100,000

British Columbians
call on the BC government to:

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“Climate change is a health emergency.”

Dr Melissa Lem,
President-elect, Canadian Association
of Physicians for the Environment



Traffic control directs traffic after flooding
on Highway 14, Vancouver Island in
November 2021.

BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

CONFRONT THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

AN URGENT CALL TO THE BC GOVERNMENT

Updated October 2022

Dear Premier Eby and the Government of BC,

We write on behalf of more than 450 diverse agriculture, arts, business, community, education, environment, faith, food producers, health, housing, Indigenous, labour, local government, outdoor recreation, research, seniors, tourism, and youth organizations who collectively represent well over two million British Columbians.

We call on the BC government to recognize the urgency and alarm that people all over the province are feeling as the climate crisis directly impacts our communities and our health: deadly heat waves, wildfires, drought, floods, crop failure, fisheries collapse, and costly evacuations and infrastructure damage. These climate-related impacts are unprecedented and intensifying. Indigenous peoples stand to be disproportionately impacted by climate events despite successfully taking care of the land since time immemorial.

The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a 'code red' for humanity. The International Energy Agency has called on world governments to immediately stop investments in and approvals of new oil and gas projects.

The provincial government's CleanBC climate action plan is insufficient to limit warming to 1.5°C and will not keep British Columbians safe from the worst impacts of climate change.

We therefore urge the BC government to develop and implement a transformative climate emergency plan that recognizes the interconnected climate, ecological, and social crises; embeds equity, anti-racism, and social justice at its core; and upholds Indigenous Title and Rights, and Treaty Rights.

To implement the rapid systemic change that is required, we call on the provincial government to demonstrate the leadership necessary to confront the climate emergency, and immediately undertake the following 10 actions:



CONFRONT THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

1 Set binding climate targets based on science and justice
Reduce BC's greenhouse gas emissions by ~7.5% per year below 2007 levels. Set binding reduction targets of 15% by 2023; 30% by 2025; 60% by 2030, and 100% by 2040 (below 2007 levels). Review and update targets regularly as climate science evolves.

2 Invest in a thriving, regenerative, zero emissions economy
Invest 2% of BC's GDP (\$6 billion dollars per year) to advance the zero emissions economy and create tens of thousands of good jobs. Spend what it takes to immediately reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create new economic institutions to get the job done. Ensure that the economic component of Aboriginal Title is recognized through the sharing of benefits and revenues that result.

3 Rapidly wind down all fossil fuel production and use
Immediately stop all new fossil fuel infrastructure including fracking, oil and gas pipelines, liquefied natural gas (LNG), and fossil fuel-derived hydrogen. Rapidly phase out and decommission all existing fossil fuel production and exports.

4 End fossil fuel subsidies and make polluters pay
End all fossil fuel subsidies and financial incentives by 2022. Ensure that those industries that profit from fossil fuel pollution pay their fair share of the resulting climate damage.

5 Leave no-one behind
Ensure a just transition for fossil fuel workers, resource-dependent communities, and Indigenous and remote communities impacted by fossil fuel production. It will be critical to collaborate in true partnership with Indigenous peoples in climate action. Prepare our communities for the impacts of the climate crisis to minimize human suffering and infrastructure damage. Support those most vulnerable to climate change impact.



Photo: Gavin Phillips @ItsGavP

6 Protect and restore nature
Protect 30% of terrestrial and marine ecosystems by 2030; support and invest in Indigenous-led conservation initiatives; restore natural ecosystems to enhance ecosystem functions and services, preserve biodiversity, increase carbon sequestration, and improve human and ecosystem resilience to climate impacts. Impose an immediate moratorium on the industrial logging of all old growth forests which are critical carbon sinks.

7 Invest in local, organic, regenerative agriculture and food systems
Incentivize carbon storage in soil, restore biodiversity, and ensure food sovereignty and food security across the province. Increase consumption of plant-based foods, and reduce food waste. Support Indigenous communities that wish to maintain traditional food systems and enhance their food security.

8 Accelerate the transition to zero emission transportation
Invest in affordable, accessible, and convenient public transit within and between all communities. Reallocate infrastructure funds from highway expansion to transit and active transportation (cycling, rolling, and walking). Mandate zero emissions for all new light vehicles by 2027, and all medium and heavy duty vehicles by 2030.

9 Accelerate the transition to zero emission buildings
Ban new natural gas connections to all new and existing buildings by end of 2022. Create a Crown Corporation to mobilize the workforce to retrofit all existing buildings and eliminate fossil fuel heating by 2035, and to build new affordable zero emissions buildings.

10 Track and report progress on these actions every year
Embed all of these actions in legislation to ensure accountability, transparency, and inclusion. Establish rolling 5-year carbon budgets that decline over time towards zero emissions by 2040 or sooner.

A VISION FOR OUR FUTURE

The climate emergency offers an unprecedented opportunity to generate new, vibrant economic and social wealth as we transform where our energy comes from and how it is used. It offers an opportunity to achieve energy security, ensure food security, develop more sustainable local economies and jobs, transform our buildings, redesign transportation, reduce pollution, improve human health and wellbeing, and enhance our quality of life. The transition from fossil fuels to a zero emissions economy has clear benefits for people and natural ecosystems, and is an opportunity to create a more prosperous, just, and equitable society.

Every person, every business, every industry, and every government has a role to play as we coordinate individual and collective actions to create a thriving, resilient, and regenerative society that respects its interdependence with healthy ecosystems and a safe climate.

British Columbia is positioned to become a visionary world leader and demonstrate that innovative and rapid change is possible as we transition to a zero emissions economy.

We urge you to seize these opportunities, and demonstrate to British Columbians that our government is indeed a true climate leader by implementing the 10 climate emergency actions set out in this letter.

We must act now.

Global temperature trends
from 1851 to 2021.

Image: Ed Hawkins

SIGNATORIES

Agriculture / Food production

Amara Farm
BC Association of Farmers' Markets
B.C.'s Wild Heritage Native Plants
Compassion CSA Peace Circle
Delish General Store + Jar Bar Refillery
Discovery Organics
Flying Hands Farm / Granny M's
Foodscape ent.
Fresh Roots Urban Farm Society
Full Circle Farm
Mayne Island Brewing Company
Meatme.ca
Perennial Pleasures Landscape Design
Persephone Brewing Company
Rain or Shine Ice Cream
Rising Knead Bakery
Ritchie's Bakery
Salish Soils Inc.
Salt Spring Coffee
Singing Bowl Granola
Smartbite Snacks Inc.
Snowy Mountain Farm
Solecito Foods
Solstedt Organics
Sustainable Produce Urban Delivery (SPUD)
Vancouver Farmers Markets
Vida Farm
Vitality Farm
Zimt Chocolates

Arts / Culture

Brackendale Art Gallery
Canadian Media Producers Association (BC Branch)
Claymates Ceramics Studio Inc.
Coalition of Museums for Climate Justice
Creatively United for the Planet Society
Engagement Unlimited
Hummingbird Music Studio
Indian Summer Arts Society
Joseph Cross Art Studio
Massy Arts Society
meNom

Newworld Theatre
Poets Corner Reading Series Society
Poonie Art Creative
South Cariboo Arts and Culture Society
Spring Magazine
The Climate Aid Arts Brigade
The Dance Centre
The New Corporation (Documentary)
Women in Film and Television Vancouver

Business

1st Knowledge Bank Ltd
753 Yates Retail Space
Active Impact Investments
Amanda's Bookkeeping Services
Anomalous Exploration
Audiopile Records
Bakau Consulting
Barnacle Strategies Consulting
BCOSSA
Blackfish Paddles Ltd
Bydand Wealth Management
Calmura Natural Walls Inc.
Canfiber Inc
Caroline Miede Counselling
Climb On Equipment Ltd
Coastal Frameworks
Cool.World
Cordilleran Geoscience
Crowned Vitta LLC
Curio Research Ltd.
Cutts Consulting Ltd
Discover Counselling
Drinkfill Beverages LTD
Duro Construction Ltd
Earnest Ice Cream
Ecollaborate Now Consulting
Electric Edge Systems Group Inc.
Epic Project Management Inc.
Free Flow Plumbing Inc.
General Delivery Data Corporation
GNAR Inc - Sustainable Home Design
Goldilocks Goods

Goodwin Creative Ltd
The Green Bed Store Inc.
Guy LaFayette
Harmonic Arts
Harvey McKinnon Associates
Hemp Save The World
Hollyhock
iD2 Communications Inc.
Innovate Geothermal Ltd.
Integrated Construction Management
Interdependent Investments
Iron Dog Books
Jarr
Kestrel Books
KWENCH
Lush Cosmetics North America
Massy Books Inc.
Mobius Books Ltd.
Modo Yoga East Vancouver
My Healing Journal
Nada
Netcetera...
New/Mode
NÜLA Salon & Apothecary
OMC Inc.
Organized Chaos Professional Coaching
Patagonia
Perk Eco Inc.
Redhouse Design
Redroof Enterprizes
ReFocus Consulting
Renewal Funds
Renewal Partners
Rethink2gether
Ryan Leiderman Counselling
Sea To Sky Cable Cam Inc.
Singular Software Inc.
Smith and Robin Inc.
Socially Responsible Investing Cowichan
Southwood Holdings Ltd.
Spark Strategies
Squamish ReBuild Society

Summit Filters Inc.
Sweet Serenity Yoga and Wellness
Tegan McMartin Photography
That Cleantech Copywriter
The Bean Buggy
The Jumping Slug Community Cyclery
The Soap Dispensary
The Wildlife Thrift Store
To Be Heard Counselling
TREE WORLD Plant Care Products, Inc.
Urszula.co
Trelawny Consulting Group Ltd.
Vedalia Biological Inc.
Velometro Mobility Inc.
Viridian Energy Coop
Visual Science
White Label Insights
Yogacara
Zillion Design

Community group

Abundant Transit BC
Alliance4Democracy (Sunshine Coast)
BC Hydro Ratepayers Association
Council of Canadians (Campbell River Chapter)
Council of Canadians (Comox Valley Chapter)
Council of Canadians (Nelson Chapter)
Council of Canadians (Powell River Chapter)
Council of Canadians (Terrace Chapter)
Council of Canadians (Victoria Chapter)
Courage Coalition
Food Stash Foundation
Foundation for Global Community
Friends of Tilbury Working Group
Global Peace Alliance BC Society
Greater Victoria Acting Together
House on a Hill
Kaslo Community Action Team
Language Partners BC
Mission-Matsqui-Fraser Canyon Green Party Association
Nelson at its Best
Ocean Park Beautification Committee
One Cowichan Education Society

Pender Earth
Philosophers Anonymous
Reed Road Forest Working Group
South Asian Network for Secularism and Democracy (SANSAD)
The Thorn Magazine
Vancouver Food Runners Society
Vancouver Humane Society
Whistler Lakes Conservation Association
Women Transforming Cities

Environment / Climate action

350.org
350 Vancouver
Against Port Expansion in the Fraser Estuary
Alberni Climate Action
Alberni Valley Transition Town Society
Armstrong/Spallumcheen Climate Action
Association of Denman Island Marine Stewards
Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment
Babies for Climate Action (New Westminster)
Babies for Climate Action (Vancouver)
BC Climate Alliance
BC Climate Hubs
BC Nature
BC Sea Wolves
Below2C
Better Transit Alliance of Greater Victoria
Bowen Island Conservancy
British Columbia Cycling Coalition
Burnaby Climate Hub
Burnaby Residents Against Kinder Morgan Expansion (BROKE)
Canadian Freshwater Alliance
Chase Environmental Action Group
Chemainus Climate Solutions
Citizen's Climate Lobby (Okanagan Chapter)
Citizens' Environment Network in Colwood
Citizen's Oil & Gas Council
Citizens' Climate Lobby (East Kootenay Chapter)
Citizens' Climate Lobby (Nelson-West Kootenay Chapter)
Clayoquot Action
Climate Action Now!
Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver
Climate Crisis Langley Action Partners
Climate Emergency Institute
Climate Emergency Unit
Climate Justice Victoria
Communities Protecting our Coast
Concerned Citizens Bowen
Council of Canadians - Pacific Region
Cowichan Carbon Busters
Cowichan Climate Hub
Cowichan Valley Naturalists
Cranbrook Climate Hub
Creatively United for the Planet
Creston Climate Action Society
David Suzuki Foundation
Deep Sea Defenders
Denman Island Climate Action Network
Denman Islanders for Climate Action & Social Justice
Dogwood
East Kootenay Climate Hub
Elders for Ancient Trees
Esquimalt Climate Organizers
Extinction Rebellion Nanaimo
Extinction Rebellion Vancouver
First Things First Okanagan
For Our Kids (North Shore)
For Our Kids (Sunshine Coast)
For Our Kids (Vancouver)
Force of Nature (North Shore Community Action Team)
Force of Nature (Tri-Cities Community Action Group)
Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty - BC
Fraser Valley Climate Action
Gambier Island Conservancy
Georgia Strait Alliance
GOAL12 Sustainable Consumption and Production Society
Greater Victoria Climate Hub
Green Teams of Canada
Green Technology Education Centre
HUB Cycling
Kaslo Climate Action Team
Last Stand West Kootenay
Lawyers For Climate Justice
Leadnow
Living Forest Institute Society

Living Oceans Society
Maple Ridge Climate Hub
Mount Work Coalition
My Sea to Sky
Nanaimo Climate Action Hub
Nature Chilliwack
NetOworld
North Okanagan Naturalists' Club
Oak Bay Climate Force
Okanagan Climate Hub
OneEarth
Pacific Wild Alliance
Parents 4 Climate
Pender Ocean Defenders
Pipe Up Network
Planetary Resilience Council of BC
Protect Our Winters Canada
qathet Climate Alliance
Quadra Island Climate Action Network
Regenerative Bowen Island
Roots on the Roof
Saanich Eco Advocates
Salish Sea Renewable Energy Cooperative
Salt Spring Island Conservancy
Salt Spring Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society
Save Our Forests Team Comox Valley
Sea Smart
Shuswap Climate Action
Sierra Club BC
Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition
Slocan Waterfront Society
Smithers Climate Action
Social Environmental Alliance
Society Promoting Environmental Conservation
South Island Climate Action Network
Squamish Climate Action Network (Squamish CAN)
Squamish Environment Society
Squamish Food Policy Council (SFPC)
Squamish Streamkeepers Society
Stand.earth
Sunshine Coast Climate Action Network
Sunshine Coast Conservation Association
Sunshine Coast Streamkeepers Society
Sustainability Action Group for the Environment

Sustainable Energy Co-op of Gabriola
Sustainable Environment Network Society
Transition Kamloops
Transition Salt Spring
Transition Sooke
Victoria Climate Action Team
Victoria Climate Hub
View Royal Climate Coalition
Watershed Watch Salmon Society
The WaterWealth Project
West Coast Climate Action Network (WE-CAN)
West Coast Environmental Law Association
West Kootenay Climate Hub
West Kootenay EcoSociety
Wilderness Committee
Wildsight
Wildsight Invermere
Women's Food and Water Initiative
Yellow Point Ecological Society
Zero Waste BC

Faith

Ahavat Olam Synagogue
Anglican Church of St. John the Divine, Victoria
Anglican Diocese of British Columbia
Anglican Diocese of New Westminster
Broad View United Church
Canadian Memorial United Church
Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice
Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Central Okanagan United Church
Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship
Duncan United Church
Fairfield United Church
First Unitarian Church of Victoria
Holy Cross Parish
Holy Cross Anglican Church
Jubilee United Church
KAIROS (BC-Yukon Region)
KAIROS (Salmon Arm)
Living Interfaith Sanctuary
Mennonite Church BC Indigenous Relations Task Group
Nanaimo Green Faith Circle

Naramata Community Church
North Shore Unitarian Church Environmental Action Team
Oasis United Church Green Up
Our Lady of Guadalupe Tonantzin Community
Salal & Cedar Watershed Discipleship Community
Salt Spring Island Unitarian Fellowship
South Fraser Unitarians
Spirit Dance Centre for Spiritual Ecology
Squamish United Church
St. Anselm's Anglican Church
St. Catherine's Anglican Church
St. Mary's Anglican United Shared Ministry
St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Parish
Sylvan United Church
The Tikkun Olam Co-ordinating Committee of Or Shalom Synagogue
United Church Earth Stewards
Valhalla Parish
Vancouver Unitarians
Wild Church Kamloops
Wild Church Kelowna
Yasodhara Ashram Society

Government

Climate Caucus
North Okanagan-Shuswap Federal Green Party Electoral District Association

Health / Social services

BC Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment
BC Family Doctors
BC Psychiatric Association
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
Canadian Health Association for Sustainability & Equity (CHASE)
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C.
Doctors and Nurses for Planetary Health (Kootenay Boundary)
Doctors for Planetary Health (West Coast)
Inner Light Healing Arts
Mental Health and Climate Change Alliance
Nurses and Doctors for Planetary Health (Victoria BC)
Public Health Association of BC
UBC Planetary Healthcare Lab

Housing

BC Non-Profit Housing Association
Co-operative Housing Federation of BC
Pacific Park Place Housing Cooperative
Rivers End Housing Cooperative

Indigenous

British Columbia Assembly of First Nations
First Nations Summit
Gidimt'en Checkpoint
RAVEN (Respecting Aboriginal Values & Environmental Needs)
Union of BC Indian Chiefs

Labour

BC Union Workers' Union
British Columbia Teachers' Federation
Douglas College Faculty Association
Federation of Post-Secondary Educators
Greater Victoria Teachers' Association
Kwantlen Faculty Association
New Westminster Teachers' Union
North Island College Faculty Association
Public Service Alliance of Canada (BC Region)
Teaching Support Staff Union
Thompson Rivers University Faculty Association (TRUFA)
Vancouver Artists Labour Union Cooperative
Vancouver Community College Faculty Association
Worker Solidarity Network

Outdoor recreation / Tourism

Anchors Aweigh Marine Services
Coastal Current Adventures
Cycle City Tours and Rentals
Deerhorn Creek Outfitters
Forged Axe Throwing
Grandmanor Guest House
Out Here Ski & Board Club
Rebels Soccer Club
The Escape Route
TRAILS BC - Trails Society of British Columbia
Tutu's B&B
UNBC Outdoors Club

Research / Education

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, BC Office
GreenHeart Education
Master Recycler Vancouver
Mir Centre for Peace, Selkirk College
Parent Advisory Council of University Highlands Elementary School
Populous Map
Programs in Earthliteracies
Shuswap/Secwépemc Environmental Educators Provincial Specialist Association (SHEEPSA)
South Park Family School
Story Institute
Synergia Institute
Teachers for Future Canada
Thompson Rivers Open Learning Faculty Association
Tree of Life Nature Playschool
University of Victoria Renewable Energy Club
Victoria Transport Policy Institute

Seniors

Canadian Senior Cohousing Society
Elders Council for Parks in BC
Pacific Park Place Housing Cooperative
Squamish Seniors Society
Suzuki Elders

Youth

BC Greens Youth Council
BC Young New Democrats
Climate Recentered
Douglas Students' Union
Fridays For Future Vancouver
Human and Nature Youth Club
Justice for Girls
Merritt Youth and Family Resources Society
My Sea to Sky Youth Council
Quest Student Environmental Committee
Reel Youth
SFU350
Shuswap Air Cadets 222 parent committee
Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group (SFPIRG)
Students for Mining Justice
Sustainabiliteens
Take a Stand: Youth for Conservation

Total of 450 signatories

Updated on 26th October 2022

CONFRONT THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY
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Spawning salmon stranded
in pools in eaver Creek BC,
in October 2022.

Photo: Jason Kazuta

Jason Kazuta

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ABOUT

The urgent call to Confront the Climate Emergency was developed and issued by a broad network of 200 organizational signatories across British Columbia in September 2021.

The report card to evaluate the BC government's progress on implementing these ten urgent climate actions was released in October 2022, with more than 450 organizational signatories.

To become a signatory to this open letter, or for more information, visit:

<https://bcclimateemergency.ca/>

Report card synthesis and design by Visual Science.

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More than a billion marine animals died on BC's coast in the record heatwave in June 2021.

Photo: Shane Cross

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