

British Columbia

On May 8, 2007, British Columbia joined the North American **Climate Registry**
http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2007OTP0060-000590.htm

On April 24, 2007, Premier Gordon Campbell announced that British Columbia will become the first jurisdiction outside of the United States to join the **Western Regional Climate Action Initiative**, a joint effort to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change established in February 2007 by the governors of Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington. Under the agreement, the five states and B.C. will jointly set a regional emissions target by August 2007, and by August 2008 will establish a market-based system – such as a cap-and-trade program covering multiple economic sectors – to aid in meeting the target. The participants will also set up an emissions registry and tracking system.

[Press Release](#)

On February 13, Premier Gordon Campbell announced an ambitious plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Premier Campbell said the Province will build on its reputation for environmental stewardship by establishing targets, actions, and processes aimed at reducing B.C.'s greenhouse gases by at least 33 per cent below current levels by 2020. That target will place emissions 10 per cent under 1990 levels. The Premier's plan includes:

- Interim targets will be set for 2012 and 2016 through a Climate Action Team that will determine the most credible, aggressive, and economically viable targets.
- A longer-term emissions reduction target will be set for 2050.
- The Climate Action Team will also be asked to identify practicable options and actions for making the government of B.C. carbon neutral by 2010.
- All electricity produced in B.C. will be required to have net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2016.
- Greenhouse gas emissions from the oil and gas industry will be reduced to 2000 levels by 2016, including a zero-flaring requirement at producing wells and production facilities.
- A new \$25-million Innovative Clean Energy Fund will be established to encourage the commercialization of alternative energy solutions such as bioenergy, geothermal energy, tidal, run-of-the river, solar, and wind power.
- Tailpipe emission standards for all new vehicles sold in B.C. will be phased in between 2009 and 2016, reducing carbon dioxide emissions from autos by 30 per cent.
- A low-carbon fuel standard will be established that will reduce carbon intensity of all passenger vehicles by at least 10 per cent by 2020.
- The energy plan will require that 90 per cent of B.C.'s electricity come from clean, renewable sources.
- Effective immediately, B.C. will become the first jurisdiction in North America, if not the world, to require 100 per cent carbon sequestration for any coal-fired electricity project.
- The \$2,000 sales tax exemption on new hybrid vehicles will be extended.
- Beginning this month, all new cars leased or purchased by the Province will be hybrids.
- A new unified B.C. Green Building Code will be developed with industry and communities.
- Legislation will be developed to phase in requirements for methane capture at landfills, the source of about nine per cent of B.C.'s greenhouse gas emissions.
- New incentives to retrofit existing homes and buildings to make them energy efficient.
- New measures will help homeowners undertake "energy audits" to identify possible energy savings.

- Real-time, in-home smart metering will help homeowners measure and reduce energy consumption.
<http://energyplan.gov.bc.ca/>

Ministry of Environment Climate change web page:
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/air/climate/index.html>

In 2004, British Columbia issued [Weather, Climate and the Future: B.C.'s Plan](#), which listed 40 actions the province would take to reduce greenhouse gases and specific emissions-related targets for agriculture, buildings, government operations and other sectors. For example, BC set a goal of 50 per cent clean-energy for new electricity demand, new rate structures and regulatory changes.

Information on progress in meeting the 40 actions, which are divided into five categories, can be found at:

- [Sustainable Energy Production and Efficient Use](#)
- [Efficient Infrastructure: Transportation, Buildings and Communities](#)
- [Sustainable Forest and Carbon Sink Management](#)
- [Government Leadership and Outreach](#)
- [Water Management](#)

In 2006, [B.C. Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Progress Report 2001-2004](#) was published. This is the latest Government of B.C. progress report submitted to the Canadian Standard Association's (CSA's) voluntary Greenhouse Gas Registries. It sets out government commitments and actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from government operations.

BC has held several workshops on climate change impacts and adaptation measures.
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/air/climate/index.html#3>

In 2002, BC established the [BC Climate Exchange](#).

The B.C. Climate Exchange connects the many organizations in B.C. involved in education and outreach on climate change and related issues such as energy efficiency, green buildings, transportation, and sustainable industry. The website includes resources, tools and information for: teachers; businesses and industries; local government, community and First Nations groups; and the general public.