

Reaching Our Target

Independent economic modelling estimates that the climate action initiatives announced since 2007 will take us approximately 73 per cent of the way to our 2020 33 per cent greenhouse gas reduction target.

The Climate Action Team will make recommendations at the end of July, 2008, for how to fill the remaining gap needed to reach our target. The Team will also recommend interim 2012 and 2016 targets, which must be set by law by the end of 2008.

The government has recently passed a number of significant pieces of climate-action legislation that define the British Columbia approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the new low-carbon realities of the future. This legislation includes:

- **The Greenhouse Gas Reductions Targets Act, to set GHG reduction targets for the Province.**
- **The Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Cap and Trade) Act, to enable the implementation of a cap and trade system in conjunction with regional partners.**
- **The Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Vehicle Emissions Standards) Act, to enable the adoption of vehicle emissions standards that will increase automobile fuel efficiency.**
- **The Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Emissions Standards) Statutes Amendment Act, to regulate landfill gas.**
- **The 2008 Utilities Commission Amendment Act, to encourage more low-carbon energy generation projects.**
- **The Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements) Act, to encourage the development of renewable forms of energy and decrease the carbon content of fuels.**
- **The Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act, 2008, to encourage the development of more sustainable, healthy communities.**
- **The Carbon Tax Act, to encourage low-carbon economic development while reinvesting every penny of carbon tax revenue into targeted tax cuts for individuals and businesses.**



Stimulating Low-Carbon Economic Development

British Columbia's decisive action on climate change provides us with a huge competitive productivity advantage as we move to the new, low-carbon economy of the future. B.C. is harnessing market forces to help make cleaner choices more attractive and provide new incentives for developing clean energy and technologies with:

- **Tax cuts, funded by a revenue-neutral carbon tax on fossil fuels, phased in over five years.**
- **A study commissioned by the BC government to identify the scope of new economic development opportunities associated with a new low carbon economy for British Columbia.**
- **A new Pacific Carbon Trust and partnerships with other jurisdictions to support B.C.'s participation in the fast-growing field of carbon trading.**

Creating Green Communities

Smart planning, with compact communities, energy-efficient buildings and more clean transportation alternatives, is the way of the future. This plan supports greener B.C. communities with:

- **A new Green Building Code with some of the highest energy efficiency standards in Canada.**
- **A \$14-billion Provincial Transit Plan to build infrastructure and double ridership across B.C. by 2020.**
- **Support for all communities to have anti-idling policies in place by 2012 to reduce GHG emissions and local air pollution.**

Championing Innovation

With the worldwide market for clean energy technologies valued at an estimated \$1 trillion by 2030, this Climate Action Plan positions B.C. to support new innovation with:

- **A \$25 million Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund, designed to help make B.C. a leader in global alternative energy technologies.**
- **A \$25 million Bioenergy Network to encourage research and development in areas such as wood-waste cogeneration, biofuel production and wood pellet production.**
- **A \$94.5 million endowment to create the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions that brings together universities, government and the private sector to facilitate cutting-edge solutions.**

Building on the Value of our Forests

Forestry has been the backbone of our economy for generations. Now, as we move to address climate change, we have a whole new range of opportunities to leverage our forests with initiatives such as:

- **A new net-zero deforestation policy to help ensure B.C. can realize the full value of our forests' carbon storage potential and manage the forests for future generations.**
- **Forests for Tomorrow, a \$161 million 4-year investment in reforestation program aimed at improving the future timber supply and addressing risks to other forest values.**
- **Trees for Tomorrow, a program that will see millions of trees planted in backyards, schoolyards, hospital grounds, civic parks, campuses, parking lots and other public spaces around B.C. to foster the many benefits of urban forests.**
- **A new B.C. Bioenergy Strategy that will convert wood waste and trees that have been killed by the mountain pine beetle into clean, renewable energy, create new opportunities for rural communities, spur new investment and innovation, and help B.C. become energy self-sufficient.**
- **The goal of maximizing the enormous potential and capacity of our forests beyond timber-use, for energy production as well as carbon storage.**



LiveSmart BC

A new initiative called LiveSmart BC was launched in early 2008 to provide new incentives to reward smart choices that save energy, water, fuel, time and money. These programs will also help to contain urban sprawl and reward development that creates affordable housing, new green spaces and more people-friendly neighbourhoods. As part of this initiative:

- **All British Columbians will be able to choose their own ways to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, increase efficiency, and save money related to transportation, home energy use, and other aspects of daily life.**

- **Some examples of the savings that are possible by making LiveSmart choices are:**
 - **up to \$1630 cash back for a gas furnace**
 - **up to \$560 cash back for a gas water heater**
 - **up to \$910 cash back for increasing attic insulation**
 - **provincial sales tax exemptions on energy efficient products**
 - **up to \$6000 to purchase a fuel efficient car – including up to \$2000 in provincial incentives, \$2000 in federal Eco-Auto Rebate (until December 31, 2008) and up to \$2250 in Scrap-It program incentives.**

(See page 60 for details on the many other LiveSmart BC related incentives currently available.)

