
NEWS RELEASE

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Aug. 6, 2008

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Environment

PROVINCE RECEIVES CLIMATE ACTION TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

VICTORIA – British Columbia’s Climate Action Team has presented its recommendations for strategies and interim emissions targets for 2012 and 2016 to assist the Province achieve its emission reduction target of 33 per cent by 2020, Premier Gordon Campbell announced today.

“The Climate Action Team has developed economically viable interim targets and recommended comprehensive strategies that will bridge the gap to our 2020 goal,” said Premier Campbell. “I want to thank the members of the team for their invaluable expertise and their commitment to helping us set a plan that will reduce emissions in British Columbia and create a sustainable future for our children and grandchildren.”

Independent modelling by M.K. Jaccard and Associates Inc. was used to estimate the emission reductions of some of the recommended policy options put forward by the Climate Action Team. Based on the same conservative assumptions used in the Climate Action Plan, the modelling suggests these policies could reduce emissions by a further eight million tonnes by 2020.

In addition, the Climate Action Team has recommended the following interim targets for 2012 and 2016:

- By 2012, the growth in emissions must be reversed and emissions must begin to decline significantly, to between five and seven per cent below 2007 levels.
- By 2016, the decline in emissions needs to accelerate. Emissions should fall to between 15 and 18 per cent below 2007 levels.

“We believe that British Columbia has a tremendous opportunity to lead and succeed in the new low-carbon economy and environment of the future,” said Cheryl Slusarchuk, chair of the Climate Action Team and president of the Premier’s Technology Council. “The team’s recommendations build on the strong actions government has already taken to address the challenge of climate change while developing clean technology and innovation in our province,”

The Climate Action Plan, released in June, outlines initiatives that will take British Columbia approximately 73 per cent of the way to the 2020 target. The Climate Action Team has put forward additional strategies in areas such as emissions pricing, transportation, buildings, agriculture, forestry, and energy, to fill the remaining gap.

“As we committed when the Climate Action Team was announced last year, our next step is to seek comments from the public on the recommendations put forward by the team,” said Environment Minister Barry Penner. “I look forward hearing what British Columbians have to say, which will help us shape the final interim targets by the end of this year.”

The team's report is available online for public comment for at least 60 days until Monday, Oct. 6, 2008. As required by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act, the interim targets for 2012 and 2016 will be set into law, through regulation, by the end of this year.

To view the Climate Action Team report and for more information about the Climate Action Plan, please visit: www.LiveSmartBC.ca

2 backgrounder(s) attached.

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BACKGROUND

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CLIMATE ACTION TEAM REPORT

MANDATE

British Columbia's Climate Action Team was established in November 2007 to help the government reduce provincial greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent by 2020. The team's mandate is threefold:

- To offer expert advice to the Cabinet Committee on Climate Action on the most credible, aggressive and economically viable targets possible for 2012 and 2016.
- To identify further actions in the short and medium term to reduce emissions and meet the 2020 target.
- To provide advice on the provincial government's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2010.

SUMMARY OF REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Pricing Emissions

1. Government should review progress related to B.C.'s emissions targets, the impact of existing policy measures, actions by other jurisdictions to price emissions, and key economic factors like the cost of oil. Based on this data and recognizing the impact of emissions pricing as a core policy for emissions reduction, the government should:
 - 1.1. After 2012, if required to achieve the emissions targets, increase the British Columbia carbon tax in a manner that aligns with the policies of other jurisdictions and key economic factors.
 - 1.2. By 2012, either expand the carbon tax to cover all greenhouse gas emissions – including those from industrial processes – or include these additional emissions as part of a cap and trade system. Again, this should be done in light of progress toward B.C.'s reduction target, policies of other jurisdictions, and key economic factors.
2. Revenues from the carbon tax should continue to be offset by equivalent reductions in personal, corporate and small business tax rates. Support for low-income families should be continued.

Public Engagement and Outreach

3. In collaboration with public and private partners, develop a comprehensive, multidimensional public engagement and outreach campaign that will: 1) educate British Columbians about the importance of climate change and the policies that are necessary to address this issue, 2) help British Columbians reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in the most efficient way possible, and 3) make British Columbians aware of the incentives and savings available when they take action to address climate change.

Transportation

4. To further reduce emissions from all fossil fuel-based forms of transportation, increase the low-carbon fuel standard from 10 per cent to 15 per cent by 2020.
5. Introduce program and policy measures to improve the efficiency of heavy-duty vehicles, including niche-market regulation.

6. Remove barriers to improve the efficiency of port operations and explore such options as shifting traffic to off-peak hours, reducing the number of one-way truck movements, and optimizing the use of Prince Rupert and Vancouver Ports.
7. Enhance the role of rail in moving freight in B.C.
8. Work with the other partners in the Western Climate Initiative to include emissions from air travel in the new cap and trade system currently under development. Mandatory carbon-credit payments at points of air travel to offset emissions associated with air travel could be considered should the proposed cap and trade system not be in place by January 2012.

Buildings

9. Update B.C.'s Green Building Code at least every three years to ensure the B.C. code is a leader among North American energy codes.
10. Work with local governments on a strategy to ensure a high level of compliance with energy codes through proper building code enforcement in all areas of the province.
11. Introduce new regulations under B.C.'s Energy Efficiency Act to adopt leading North American and international standards. B.C. should also consider portfolio standard approaches to improve the energy performance of appliances and equipment.
12. Require that, by 2016, all new publicly-funded buildings in the province have net-zero GHG emissions and that by 2020 all new houses and buildings in the province have net-zero GHG emissions.
13. By no later than 2012, require all houses and buildings to have a current energy efficiency rating or label when they are sold or transferred.
14. Introduce an aggressive energy efficiency and renewable energy program for houses and buildings, combining incentive and regulatory approaches and co-ordinated across governments and utilities.

Energy

15. Build generation and transmission capacity for clean and renewable electricity and create a surplus.
16. Create a conservation culture to ensure energy efficiency.
17. Introduce policies and regulations to promote electrification in new oil and gas developments.
18. Accelerate carbon capture and storage deployment.

Industry

19. Create a cap and trade system that will place a hard cap on large industrial emitters (e.g., through partnerships such as the Western Climate Initiative) or expand the carbon tax to apply to all greenhouse gas emissions, including those from industrial processes by 2012. Ensure the method chosen is consistent with the province's 33 per cent reduction target.

Communities

20. Ensure that rural and remote communities have continued access to energy efficiency and clean energy programs and incentives, and access to training to support local green jobs.
21. Create a regulatory regime that encourages compact, smart community development.
22. Double the transportation mode share of cycling and walking by 2020.
23. Take steps to ensure that federal and provincial infrastructure funding for communities is directly tied to demonstrated progress towards achieving complete, compact and energy-efficient communities.

Agriculture

24. Identify and remove regulatory and institutional barriers to clean energy development in the agricultural industry.
25. Work with industry to identify and implement mitigation and adaptation solutions tailored to British Columbia's environment and agricultural markets.

Waste

26. By 2020, B.C. ends its growing dependency on disposing municipal solid waste in landfills both here and the United States, through a strategy that is based on requiring that the pollution prevention hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, residuals management) be considered in waste-management planning and requiring the management of waste as close to the source as possible.

Forest Sector

27. Include forests, land use, the forest-product sector, bioenergy and other renewable wood-derived bio-products in the government's climate action strategy. This should be done with the involvement of stakeholders in a full assessment of mitigation options in terms of greenhouse gas benefits, biodiversity values and other co-benefits.

Carbon-Neutral Government

28. Amend the Province's Core Policy and Procedures Manual to emphasize that, when determining the lowest price by a qualified bidder, the government take into account the full lifecycle cost of the goods or services being procured.
29. Remove capital funding restrictions limiting the ability of the public-sector to fund strategic energy retrofits that will achieve significant energy conservation, GHG reductions and operating cost savings.

Interim Targets

30. By 2012, the growth in emissions must be reversed and emissions must begin to decline significantly, to between five and seven per cent below 2007 levels.
31. By 2016, the decline in emissions needs to accelerate. In order to ensure that B.C.'s 2020 target can be reached, emissions should fall to between 15 and 18 per cent below 2007 levels by 2016.

NEXT STEPS

The report is posted to LiveSmartBC.ca for public comment for the next 60 days (until Monday, Oct. 6, 2008).

In October, government will publish a summary of the public comments received.

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act requires that the Minister of Environment set interim targets for 2012 and 2016 by Dec. 31, 2008.

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CLIMATE ACTION TEAM MEMBERS

The Climate Action Team was appointed in November 2007. The team has 21 members and one special advisor and is chaired by Cheryl Slusarchuk.

Members include:

- Cheryl Slusarchuk, Climate Action Team chair and president of the Premier's Technology Council (Vancouver)
- Shawn Atleo, BC Regional Chief for Assembly of First Nations (West Vancouver)
- Donna Barnett, mayor, District of 100 Mile House
- Lyn Brown, vice-president, Catalyst Paper (Richmond)
- Jeff Burghardt, president, Prince Rupert Grain Ltd. (Prince Rupert)
- Teresa Coady, architect, Bunting Coady Architects (Vancouver)
- Naomi Devine, Common Energy, (Victoria)
- Randy McLeod, president, BP CanadaEnergy Co. (Calgary)
- Dr. John Robinson, Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, UBC (Vancouver)
- Peter Robinson, CEO, David Suzuki Foundation (Vancouver)
- Ian Tostenson, president, BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association (Vancouver)
- Mossadiq Umedaly, chair, BC Hydro, chairman, Xantrex Technology Inc. (Vancouver)
- Joe Van Belleghem, partner, Three Point Properties (Victoria)
- John Walker, president/CEO, FortisBC (Kelowna)
- Dr. Andrew Weaver, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences UVic (Victoria)

Ex-Officio Members include:

- Dr. Ken Denman, Canadian Center for Climate Modelling and Analysis, UVic (Victoria)
- Dr. Greg Flato, Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis, UVic (Victoria)
- Dr. John Fyfe, Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis, UVic (Victoria)
- Dr. Werner Kurz, Pacific Forestry Center (Victoria)
- Dr. Terry Prowse, Department of Geography, UVic (Victoria)
- Dr. Frederick Wrona, Department of Geography, UVic (Victoria)

Special Advisor:

- Dr. Mark Jaccard, School of Resource & Environmental Management, SFU (Vancouver)

For team member bios, please visit: <http://www.climateactionsecretariat.gov.bc.ca/cat/members.html> /.

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