
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2009ENV0014-000174
July 30, 2009

Ministry of Environment

GOVERNMENT SETS 2007 GHG EMISSION BASELINE

VICTORIA – Environment Minister Barry Penner and Minister of State for Climate Action John Yap today released the British Columbia Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2007 as part of the government's report to the public on GHG emissions levels.

“The low-carbon economy is the economy of the future,” said Penner. “Our Climate Action Plan provides a clear sightline for how to meet our targets for emissions reduction so we can stimulate innovation, investment and jobs in British Columbia's new economy.”

In 2007, the total GHG emissions in British Columbia were 67.3 megatonnes. This figure sets an emission baseline at these 2007 levels for measuring progress towards reducing the province's carbon footprint. Under the Greenhouse Gas Reductions Target Act, the provincial government has made a legally binding commitment to reduce GHG emissions by at least 33 per cent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050 below this 2007 level.

“The starting point for managing greenhouse gas emissions is to make sure we can measure them accurately and consistently,” said Yap. “This inventory means we have a tangible baseline for measuring our progress to a cleaner, greener British Columbia.”

The report groups emissions into six sectors: energy, industrial processes, solvent and other product use, agriculture, land-use, land-use change and forestry, and waste. Emissions will be tracked from this baseline to establish trends across these sectors throughout the province.

The reporting standards used in the provincial inventory are set out in protocols established by the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change. These protocols are used by Environment Canada to develop the National Inventory Report, which British Columbia then uses as the basis to develop the Provincial GHG Inventory.

To view the Provincial GHG Inventory Report, visit
www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/climate/ghg-inventory/index.htm

-30-

Contact: Matt Gordon
Ministry of Environment
250 387-9973

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.