

**Ministry of  
Environment and  
Climate Change Strategy**

**2021/22 – 2023/24  
SERVICE PLAN**

**April 2021**



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## Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G. Heyman". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Honourable George Heyman  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
April 6, 2021

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## Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible for the protection, management and conservation of British Columbia's water, land, air and living resources. It administers the province's parks and protected areas; monitors and enforces compliance with environmental laws and regulations; manages discharges to the environment from human activities; and protects B.C.'s biodiversity, ecosystems, native species and natural habitats. It acquires, manages, and analyses data on water, land, air and living resources to provide a robust platform for natural resource decision making across the province. It mitigates and manages the risks and consequences from climate change, including developing plans to meet carbon pollution reduction targets; responds to the impacts of climate change; and oversees provincial environmental assessment through the [Environmental Assessment Office](#). The ministry delivers services directly through staff based in regional offices across the province, as well as through partnerships and agreements with Indigenous peoples, local governments, the federal government, and stakeholder groups.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy delivers its mandate through several key pieces of environmental legislation including the *Environmental Management Act*, the *Integrated Pest Management Act*, the *Park Act*, the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act*, the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*. Minister Heyman is also the Minister responsible for TransLink. A full list of ministry legislation can be found at [BC Laws](#).

## Strategic Direction

In 2021/22 British Columbians continue to face significant challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of British Columbia is continually evolving to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Government has identified five foundational principles that will inform each ministry's work and contribute to COVID recovery: putting people first, lasting and meaningful reconciliation, equity and anti-racism, a better future through fighting climate change and meeting our greenhouse gas reduction commitments, and a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

This 2021/22 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy will support the government's priorities including the foundational principles listed above and selected action items identified in the [November 2020 Minister's Mandate Letter](#).

## Performance Planning

### Goal 1: Effective protection and conservation of the environment

The ministry works to protect the environment by managing risks to B.C.’s water, land, and air. It does this by setting robust regulatory requirements, verifying compliance and taking enforcement action where required. It also monitors air and water quality, and promotes shared environmental stewardship. On the conservation side, the ministry works to assess, set priorities and determine actions for the conservation and recovery of species and ecosystems at risk, which includes promoting environmental mitigation and offsetting across the natural resource sector.

Recognizing that the relationship to land and resources underpins the spiritual, social, cultural, economic and political nature of Indigenous nations, the ministry seeks to engage and partner with Indigenous nations in advancing the protection, management and conservation of natural resources. The ministry also seeks opportunities to continually improve the systems that govern natural resource decision making and sustainable use of B.C.’s natural capital.

### Objective 1.1: Clean and safe water, land and air

#### Key Strategies

- Begin province-wide phase-out of single use plastics.
- Create a Watershed Security Strategy and begin the development and approval process of an associated Watershed Security Fund to protect clean water.
- Continue the development of a comprehensive provincial environmental emergency (spill response) framework, including new regulatory requirements.
- Finalize and implement changes to provincial rules for soil relocation.
- Reduce municipal solid waste through the Plastics Action Plan, mandatory regional solid waste management plans, promotion of organics recycling and initiatives for the prevention of food and plastic waste, and continuous improvement and expansion of mandatory extended producer responsibility programs.

Performance Measure(s)	2015/16 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.1a Per capita municipal solid waste disposal (kg per person)	497	500 <sup>1</sup>	480	460	440
1.1b Per cent of population covered by an organic waste disposal restriction	64.3%	75%	75%	80%	80%

Data source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled.

<sup>1</sup> 2020/21 per capita forecast informed by 2019 calendar year data.

#### Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Managing municipal solid waste minimizes environmental impacts by supporting sustainable land management practices, reducing plastic pollution, improved air and water quality and greenhouse gas reductions. Diverting organic waste from landfills contributes to reductions in

greenhouse gas emissions and enables processing of organic matter into beneficial products such as nutrient-rich compost.

## Discussion

Future targets for 2021/22 and beyond have been adjusted recognizing that a reduction to 350 kg solid waste disposal per person by 2020/21 will not be achieved. Reducing solid waste disposal to 350 kg per person remains the target.

## Objective 1.2: Healthy and diverse ecosystems, native species and habitats

### Key Strategies

- Continue to work with other ministries and partners to protect species at risk and protect and enhance B.C.'s biodiversity.
- Work with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations and neighbouring jurisdictions to develop and invest in new strategies aimed at better protecting our shared wildlife and habitat corridors, including the Together for Wildlife Strategy.
- Manage parks and protected areas for ecological representation; biodiversity; and landscape connectivity.
- Deliver human-wildlife conflict reduction education, outreach and programs such as Bear Smart Communities and WildSafeBC.

Performance Measure(s)	20XX/XX Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
Placeholder, see Discussion					

### Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Not applicable at the time of drafting, see Discussion.

## Discussion

The ministry has decided to remove the previous performance measure regarding BC Parks conservation assessments, and over the next fiscal year will develop a new measure related to biodiversity.

Over the past three years, BC Parks' conservation assessment pilot has provided valuable learning for the organization, but assessments have taken considerably more time and resources to complete than initially expected. BC Parks will continue to conduct these assessments selectively, but has elected not to produce them at a rate consistent with a ministry performance measure.

## Objective 1.3: Sustainable use of British Columbia’s natural capital

### Key Strategies

- Ensure owners of large industrial projects are bonded moving forward so that they – not B.C. taxpayers – pay the full costs of environmental cleanup if their projects are abandoned.
- Guide work to create new campgrounds, trails, and protected areas; propose new funding to improve infrastructure; and ensure provincial parks remain affordable for British Columbians.
- Lead work with the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations to reflect Indigenous peoples’ history and cultures in provincial parks and wilderness areas.
- Support the Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations to develop a new provincial coastal marine strategy – in partnership with First Nations and federal and local governments– to better protect coastal habitat while growing coastal economies.
- Continually improve regulatory oversight with an ongoing emphasis on inspections of higher risk sites, including mines and commercial/industrial sites.

Performance Measure(s)	2014/15 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.3 Number of inspections conducted under the <i>Environmental Management Act</i> and <i>Integrated Pest Management Act</i> <sup>1</sup>	711	1100	1150	1200	1250

Data source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled.

<sup>1</sup> Inspections (in office reviews and on-site examinations) conducted under the Act and associated regulations.

### Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Ministry staff conduct inspections under the *Environmental Management Act* and the *Integrated Pest Management Act* to determine compliance with regulatory requirements. Compliance inspections are integral to the ministry’s responsibility for environmental regulatory oversight. The ministry continues to focus on high risk sites and activities, but also strives to ensure that all regulated parties are inspected on a routine basis.

### Discussion

Targets have been adjusted downward for this performance measure as a result of inspections taking longer to perform, primarily because inspectors are spending more time educating regulated parties on environmental requirements. Inspectors are also spending more time preparing enforcement packages where escalated action has been deemed necessary to ensure compliance.



**Goal 2: A sustainable, resilient low-carbon economy**

The ministry works to reduce carbon pollution while developing and implementing measures that will create clean and diverse economic growth. It also helps British Columbians prepare for a changing climate.

**Objective 2.1: Implement a climate action strategy that provides a pathway for B.C. to prosper economically while significantly reducing our carbon pollution**

**Key Strategies**

- Work closely with other ministries and the Climate Solutions Council to implement actions under CleanBC to meet the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets legislated under the *Climate Change Accountability Act* by:
  - Developing a roadmap to achieve the remaining emissions reductions required to meet the 2030 target.
  - Publishing annual accountability reports as required under the *Climate Change Accountability Act*.
  - Establishing a new net zero GHG emissions target for 2050.
- Support the Ministry of Finance to implement annual increases to the carbon tax until it reaches \$50 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022, and plan for carbon pricing mechanisms that meet federal requirements post-2022.
- Explore enhancing CleanBC’s Program for Industry, including making additional funding available to support mines, pulp mills, oil and gas processing plants, and other industrial facilities in their efforts to reduce GHG emissions and move to cleaner operations.
- Accelerate the move toward a net-zero emission bus fleet powered by electrification, hydrogen fuel cell technologies, and other zero-emissions technologies, including supporting TransLink's "aggressive" level plan.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
2.1 CleanBC <sup>1</sup> implementation	Release CleanBC	Undertake analysis that will inform a roadmap to meet the 2030 target.	Create a roadmap to meet the 2030 target.	Continue implementing initiatives to meet the 2025, sectoral and 2030 targets.	Undertake analysis to inform roadmap to 2040 and 2050 targets.

Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled.

<sup>1</sup>CleanBC is the province’s plan to reduce carbon pollution and use clean energy to create new opportunities across the province to power and strengthen B.C.’s economy.

**Linking Performance Measure to Objective**

Implementation of CleanBC will position the province to prosper economically while meeting its carbon pollution reduction goals.

## Discussion

The performance measure targets reflect that a staged approach to implementation is necessary in a 12-year plan. The targets align the ministry’s service plan with the implementation plan for CleanBC and the new mandate commitments. Under the *Climate Change Accountability Act*, detailed annual reports are tabled to the legislature that outline the latest emissions data and projections, as well as actions and expenditures planned for future years and their expected effect.

The previous wording in the performance measure regarding the required reductions to achieve 2030 targets, which referenced a 25% gap, has been changed this year. Based on current assumptions and forecasts, there is actually a gap of 28-44% to achieve the 2030 targets. The ministry is still committed to achieving the 2030 targets, and this year will create a roadmap to meet them.

## Objective 2.2: Effective management of the risks and consequences associated with a changing climate

### Key Strategies

- Complete and coordinate implementation of a provincial Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS) that will support a thriving and healthy province that is resilient to a changing climate.
- Explore options to enhance climate risk assessment methodology, including respectfully including Indigenous knowledge and values, applying an equity lens, and adapting the approach for different contexts.
- Scope programs and explore pilots to build community and government adaptation capacity and resilience, including partnerships with Indigenous peoples.
- Develop a climate risk reporting program for the public sector that meets the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act*.

Performance Measure	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
2.2 Provincial Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS) <sup>1</sup> developed and implemented	CPAS 2021/22 developed	CPAS 2021/22 is fully implemented	CPAS 2022/2025 is developed and 25% implemented	50% of the CPAS 2022/2025 implemented

Data source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled.

<sup>1</sup>The CPAS 2021/22 lays out actions the ministry will take in 2021/2022, while the CPAS 2022/2025 includes longer-term actions.

### Linking Performance Measure to Objective

This performance measure tracks progress in establishing a government-wide approach to identifying and managing climate risks to British Columbia.

## Discussion

This performance measure addresses a commitment in CleanBC to develop and implement a provincial climate adaptation strategy in collaboration with Indigenous peoples. The commitment to develop and implement the strategy was also identified as a priority in the Minister's 2020 mandate letter. Climate adaptation is an iterative and long-term process so this strategy will outline the first steps that will be needed to move towards a more climate resilient future. The CPAS 2021/22 lays out actions we will take in 2021/2022, while the CPAS 2022/2025 includes longer-term actions. Breaking actions into two phases provides the ministry an opportunity for further engagement on the long-term actions proposed. The Climate Action Secretariat will monitor the effectiveness of actions taken as part of the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy and report on progress in the annual Climate Change Accountability Report.

### **Goal 3: Thorough, timely, transparent and impartial environmental assessments**

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) has implemented a revitalized environmental assessment process that ensures the legal rights of Indigenous nations<sup>1</sup> are respected and the public's expectation of a thorough, timely, transparent and impartial process are met. This includes collaborating with Indigenous nations in relation to reviewable projects, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The *Environmental Assessment Act* (2018) (the Act) offers clear pathways to sustainable project approvals and promotes sustainability by protecting the environment and fostering a sound economy and the well-being of British Columbians and their communities. B.C. has also signed a cooperation agreement with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, supporting jurisdictions working together to achieve "one project; one assessment" and ensuring that projects requiring both federal and provincial assessments are conducted as efficiently as possible.

### **Objective 3.1: Implement the revitalized environmental assessment process**

#### **Key Strategies**

- Develop the schedule for the remaining regulations, policies and guidance materials for the Act to be fully functional.
- Continue to support EAO staff, proponents, practitioners, government reviewers, Indigenous nations, local government and the public with learning and development to effectively participate in reviews under the Act.
- Continue to coordinate across governments to ensure the EAO's practices and ongoing project work reflect effective implementation of the cooperation agreement with the Government of Canada and any other relevant agreements.
- Negotiate government-to-government strategic agreements with Indigenous peoples and other federal agencies to support efficient environmental assessment processes, and continue to explore the establishment of a committee between Canada, British Columbia

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<sup>1</sup> The use of 'Indigenous nations' is the term used in the *Environmental Assessment Act* (2018) and refers to the Aboriginal peoples of Canada as referred to in section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.

and Indigenous leaders to support successful implementation of the new federal and provincial acts.

Performance Measure	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
3.1 <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> phased implementation	Develop regulations and/or policies that enhance functionality of the Act	Develop regulations and/or policies that enhance functionality of the Act	Develop regulations and/or policies that complete functionality of the Act	Complete an evaluation of whether the Act is achieving the intended purposes
		Develop a plan and begin to implement the schedule for the remaining regulations and/or policies that complete functionality of the Act	Identify a framework to evaluate whether implementation of the Act is achieving the intended purposes	

Data source: Environmental Assessment Office, manually compiled.

### Linking Performance Measure to Objective

The passage of regulations and development of policies linked to environmental assessment revitalization is a key action in order to implement the new environmental assessment process.

### Discussion

The performance measure and targets were based on the previous service plan and reflect new information in respect of the phased work and timelines necessary to implement the Act. The “Phase” headings have been removed from the targets as development and implementation of policies and regulations have needed to be flexible in order to adapt to current circumstances and requirements. The target for completing regulations and policies has been extended into 2023, as the timing of some of these are tied to external factors that the EAO may have less control over, such as engagement and consultation commitments with Indigenous nations and organizations; and some may require additional resourcing to complete.

The review of the Act must be initiated by late 2024. Some initial planning may commence in 2021 but the formal framework for the review will be developed in 2022/23.

## Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2020/21 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2021/22 Estimates <sup>2</sup>	2022/23 Plan	2023/24 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Environmental Protection	12,935	13,343	13,343	13,343
Environmental Sustainability	20,355	20,543	20,543	20,543
BC Parks	40,682	48,922	50,966	52,490
Conservation Officer Service	19,014	19,254	19,254	19,254
Climate Action	12,883	14,702	13,011	13,011
Clean BC Program for Industry	55,365	98,141	142,128	190,555
Information, Innovation and Technology	6,770	7,070	7,070	7,070
Executive and Support Services	26,898	28,130	28,404	28,452
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>194,902</b>	<b>250,105</b>	<b>294,719</b>	<b>344,718</b>
Park Enhancement Fund	9,000	9,800	9,800	9,800
Sustainable Environment Fund	26,032	26,135	26,135	26,135
<b>Total</b>	<b>229,934</b>	<b>286,040</b>	<b>330,654</b>	<b>380,653</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
Executive and Support Services	24,521	34,744	36,165	35,165
Park Enhancement Fund	400	400	400	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,921</b>	<b>35,144</b>	<b>36,565</b>	<b>35,565</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>				
Climate Action Greenhouse Gas Emissions offsets				
Disbursements	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Receipts	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Net Cash Requirement (Source)</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2020/21 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2021/22 Estimates.

<sup>2</sup> Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

**Financial Summary: The Environmental Assessment Office**

<b>Core Business Area</b>	<b>2020/21 Restated Estimates<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2021/22 Estimates</b>	<b>2022/23 Plan</b>	<b>2023/24 Plan</b>
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
<b>Environmental Assessment Office</b>	14,712	15,322	15,322	15,322
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,712</b>	<b>15,322</b>	<b>15,322</b>	<b>15,322</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2020/21 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2021/22 Estimates.

## **Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals**

As of April 1, 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible and accountable for the following:

### [Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council](#)

The Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council (the Council) was created in October 2017. The Council provides strategic advice to government on climate action and clean economic growth. It includes members from First Nations, environmental organizations, industry, academia, youth, labour and local government. The Council supports a steady and committed approach to climate action that drives down emissions, increases economic opportunities and improves community resilience.

### [TransLink](#)

TransLink, officially recognized as the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority, delivers a wide range of services and programs to meet the transportation needs of 2.5 million people in Metro Vancouver. These include bus, SeaBus, SkyTrain, Canada Line, West Coast Express, and HandyDART services. TransLink also funds a dedicated Transit Police force, operates and maintains five of the region's bridges, and, in conjunction with local governments, shares responsibility for the Major Road Network, as well as walking and cycling infrastructure. Minister Heyman is the Minister responsible for TransLink.

### [Mackenzie River Basin Board](#)

The Mackenzie River Basin Board was created in 1997 by the Transboundary Waters Master Agreement between the Government of Canada, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories. The Mackenzie River Basin Board was established to implement the Agreement. The board has 13 members, three representing the federal government and ten representing the provinces and territories. One member from each of the provinces and territories represents an Indigenous perspective.

According to the Agreement, the Board's key responsibilities are to:

- Provide a forum for communication, coordination, information exchange, notification and consultation among all six jurisdictions and the public,
- Recommend uniform objectives or guidelines for the quality and quantity of the water resources,
- Encourage consistent monitoring programs,
- Monitor the progress of implementing the bilateral water management agreements between neighbouring jurisdictions,
- Submit a report on the state of the aquatic ecosystem every five years to the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers, and
- Carry out studies and investigations, as required.