

**Ministry of  
Environment and  
Climate Change Strategy**

**2022/23 – 2024/25  
SERVICE PLAN**

**February 2022**



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## Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2022/23 – 2024/25 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.

Honourable George Heyman  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Minister  
responsible for TransLink  
February 4, 2022

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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 and recreation sites and trails; 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 in parks and protected areas. It acquires, manages, and analyzes environmental and climate data to provide a robust platform for 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*. A full list of provincial legislation can be found at [BC Laws](#). Minister Heyman is also the Minister responsible for [TransLink](#).

## Strategic Direction

In 2022/2023, the Government of British Columbia will continue its whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on protecting the health, social and economic well-being of British Columbians. Building on our economic, environmental, and social strengths while looking to seize opportunities to improve outcomes for all British Columbians will be an important aspect of each ministry's work as we respond to COVID-19 and recover from devastating floods and wildfires. The policies, programs and projects developed over the course of this service plan period will align with the five foundational principles established by Government in 2020: putting people first; working toward lasting and meaningful reconciliation; supporting equity and anti-racism; ensuring a better future through fighting climate change and meeting our greenhouse gas reduction targets; and supporting a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

This 2022/23 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, and evaluating environmental quality through air and water monitoring and assessment. It also promotes shared environmental stewardship and collaborative partnerships with Indigenous peoples.

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

- Implement the CleanBC [Plastics Action Plan](#) including province-wide phase-out of single-use plastics.
- Reduce municipal solid waste through regional solid waste management plans, promotion of organics recycling and food and plastic waste prevention initiatives, and continuous improvement and expansion of extended producer responsibility programs.
- Continue development of a comprehensive provincial environmental emergency (spill response) framework, including new regulatory requirements, and deliver the annual Environmental Emergency Program Report to the Legislature.

Performance Measures	2015/16 Baseline	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.1a Per capita municipal solid waste disposal (kg per person)	497	480	460	440	420
1.1b Per cent of population covered by an organic waste disposal restriction	64.3%	75%	80%	80%	80%
		2021/22 Baseline	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.1c Actions <sup>1</sup> implemented to support the phase out of single-use plastics					
Provincial actions		0	5	6	10
Local government actions		23	30	35	40

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

<sup>1</sup>An action is defined as a single policy/regulation/bylaw addressing a single item or plastic type. For example, a ban on single-use plastic checkout bags and a ban on polystyrene foam take-out containers counts as two actions. A strategy to phase out single-use plastics consists of several necessary actions.

## **Linking Performance Measure to Objective**

Managing municipal solid waste minimizes environmental impacts by supporting sustainable land management practices, reducing plastic pollution, improving air and water quality and reducing greenhouse gas. 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.

Phasing out single-use plastics will reduce waste, greenhouse gas emissions, and litter in communities, while encouraging greater use of sustainable reusable alternatives.

Actions from all levels of government that encourage waste prevention and support the phase-out of single-use plastics and the development of a circular economy contribute to attaining our long-term target of 350 kg solid waste disposal per person.

## **Objective 1.2: Support healthy and diverse protected areas, native species and habitats**

### **Key Strategies**

- Continue to work with other ministries and partners to protect species at risk and to protect B.C.'s biodiversity and old growth.
- Work with other ministries and neighbouring jurisdictions to support 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 and outreach, which includes working with municipalities and partner agencies to help administer programs such as [Bear Smart](#) and [WildSafeBC](#).
- Support other ministries to deliver a new provincial coastal marine strategy and to develop a wild salmon strategy.

### **Discussion**

With the changes to its operations brought forth by the creation of the Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has revised this objective and will be exploring a new performance measure that better reflects the work of this Ministry. As such, no performance measure has been included for this objective.

## **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 camping opportunities, recreation sites, trails, and protected areas. Propose new funding to improve infrastructure, and ensure provincial parks and recreation sites remain accessible and affordable for British Columbians.
- Lead work with the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship to co-develop and implement recommendations to better reflect Indigenous peoples’ history and cultures in provincial parks and protected areas as a component of BC Parks’ broader efforts towards reconciliation.
- Finalize and implement changes to provincial rules for relocation of soil from commercial/industrial sites in order to provide greater ministry oversight and transparency of relocation and reuse of soil in the province.

Performance Measures	2014/15 Baseline	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.3a Number of inspections conducted under the <i>Environmental Management Act</i> and <i>Integrated Pest Management Act</i> <sup>1</sup>	711	1,150	1,200	1,250	1,250
1.3b Number of completed contaminated sites services applications	256 <sup>2</sup>	350	350	350	350

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 *Environmental Management Act* and *Integrated Pest Management Act* and associated regulations.

<sup>2</sup>Although the performance measure for 1.3b is new this year, baseline data from 2014/15 is included for consistency with performance measure 1.3a.

### 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.

The streamlined review of contaminated sites services applications and, where appropriate, timely issuance of approvals, supports sustainable redevelopment of contaminated sites and provides community benefits through economic growth and environmental clean-up.



**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:
  - Implementing the [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#) to achieve the 2030 GHG target and put the province on the path towards a net zero target by 2050; and
  - Publishing annual accountability reports as required under the *Climate Change Accountability Act*.
- Work with the Ministry of Finance to continue annual increases to the carbon tax until it reaches \$50 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022, and to plan for carbon pricing mechanisms that meet or exceed federal requirements post 2022.
- Redesign CleanBC’s [Program for Industry](#) to align with new federal carbon pricing rules while continuing to promote a competitive business environment and significant GHG reductions.
- Implement a new Local Government Climate Action Program to support climate and resiliency goals.
- Establish requirements for new large industrial facilities to work with government to demonstrate how they fit within B.C.’s 2030 and 2040 legislated targets and submit plans to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Establish policies that will reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by 75% by 2030 (as compared to 2014) and ensure oil and gas emissions are reduced in line with sectoral targets.

Performance Measures	2020/21 Baseline	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
2.1a B.C.’s annual GHG emissions as compared to 2007 levels (goal of 40% below 2007 levels by 2030)	2019 emissions are 2% above 2007 levels	2020 emissions are 1% below 2007 levels	2021 emissions are 4% below 2007 levels	2022 emissions are 7% below 2007 levels	2023 emissions are 10% below 2007 levels
2.1b Carbon intensity of B.C.’s economy (net tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e per million dollars of GDP)	253 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per \$M GDP (2019)	239 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per \$M GDP (2020)	227 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per \$M GDP (2021)	214 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per \$M GDP (2022)	202 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per \$M GDP (2023)

Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, based on emissions data from the [National Inventory Report](#) and GDP data from the [B.C. Government](#).

## Linking Performance Measure to Objective

British Columbia has set ambitious but necessary targets in law to reduce GHG emissions to 40% below 2007 levels by 2030, 60% by 2040 and 80% by 2050. In December 2018, the ministry launched the CleanBC plan with a series of actions to reduce emissions and transition to a low-carbon economy. In October 2021, the [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#) was released, which builds on the previous plan with significant new and expanded actions that will accelerate emissions reductions to reach climate and clean economy goals.

This performance measure includes two inter-related metrics to ensure that GHG reductions are occurring and that the carbon intensity of B.C.'s economy is decreasing. These metrics are: 1) the most recent year's progress towards B.C.'s 2030 GHG target; 2) B.C.'s net GHG emissions per million dollars of gross domestic product (GDP)<sup>1</sup>. These metrics demonstrate that achieving a low carbon economy requires both low emissions and a robust economy.

## Discussion

B.C.'s GHG emissions reporting is based on the [National Inventory Report](#) from Environment and Climate Change Canada. Due to the necessary 16-24 month period to collect, verify and review the data from the federal government, the targets for this performance measure look at data from approximately two years behind the current year. The latest GHG data for British Columbia is for 2019, published in the [2021 Climate Change Accountability Report](#).

Implementation of CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 policies has not yet begun but planning and consultation have started. The current emissions forecast projects that the emissions curve will begin to bend downwards starting in 2020, attributed in part to CleanBC actions as well as emissions reductions from the COVID-19 economic downturn. More substantial reductions are expected as the full suite of policies take effect in the years ahead. GHG intensity is expected to decline significantly as we reduce emissions towards our targets.

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

### Key Strategies

- Complete and coordinate implementation of the 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 integrating Indigenous knowledge and values, applying an equity lens, and adapting the approach for different contexts.
- Build community and government adaptation capacity and resilience, including partnerships with Indigenous peoples.

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<sup>1</sup>GHGs per \$ of GDP is commonly tracked by other provinces and is used as a point of comparison. To be consistent with other provinces that do not include deforestation/afforestation emissions within their inventories, B.C.'s emissions per \$ of GDP also do not include these emission sources.

- Develop a climate risk reporting program that meets the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act*.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
2.2 Provincial CPAS <sup>1</sup> developed and implemented	CPAS Phase 1 is more than 75% implemented <sup>2</sup>	CPAS Phase 2 (2022/23 to 2024/25) published and implementation initiated	CPAS Phase 2 first progress evaluation completed	Development of an updated climate risk assessment for B.C. initiated.  CPAS phase 2 second progress evaluation completed.  Development of next climate adaptation strategy for government’s approval.

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

<sup>1</sup> The CPAS Phase 1 strategy lays out actions the ministry will take in 2021/2022, while the CPAS Phase 2 strategy includes longer-term actions.

<sup>2</sup> Emergency events of 2021/22 delayed implementation of some CPAS Phase 1 elements.

### 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. As climate adaptation is an iterative and long-term process, this strategy outlines the first steps needed to move towards a more climate resilient future. The CPAS Phase 1 lays out actions the ministry will take in the current year, while the draft CPAS Phase 2 (2022-2025) includes longer-term actions. Breaking actions into phases provides the ministry opportunities for further engagement on long-term actions and the ability to incorporate learnings from earlier phases. The Climate Action Secretariat will monitor the effectiveness of actions taken as part of the [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#) once it is finalized and released in 2022, 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>2</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**

- Continue to develop the remaining regulations, policies and guidance materials for the Act to be fully supported.
- Continue to support EAO staff, proponents, practitioners, government reviewers, Indigenous nations, local government and the public with learning and development to effectively participate in regulatory activities 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 that result in effective protection and mitigation conditions and continue to explore the establishment of a committee between Canada, British Columbia and Indigenous leaders to support successful implementation of the new federal and provincial acts.

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<sup>2</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*.

Performance Measure	2020/21 Forecast	2022/23 Targets	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
3.1 <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> phased implementation	Develop regulations and/or policies that enhance functionality of the Act	1. Develop regulations and/or policies that enhance functionality of the Act 2. Identify a framework to evaluate whether implementation of the Act is achieving the intended purposes	Conduct an evaluation of whether the Act is achieving the intended purposes	Complete the evaluation and develop performance measures to assess performance of the Act

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 are based on the previous service plan and reflect new information regarding the necessary phased work for implementing the Act. The “Phase” headings have been removed from the targets as the timelines for policy and regulation development and implementation have adapted to accommodate current circumstances and requirements. The target for completing regulations and policies has been extended, as some items are tied to external factors that the EAO has 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 will be initiated by late 2024. The review framework will be developed in 2022/23. Based on the findings of the review, further policy and legislative updates may be undertaken in 2024/2025.

## Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2021/22 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2022/23 Estimates <sup>2</sup>	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
<b>Environmental Protection</b>	17,520	19,837	21,546	21,465
<b>BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails</b>	56,887	58,931	60,455	60,455
<b>Conservation Officer Service</b>	19,254	19,254	19,254	19,254
<b>Climate Action</b>	14,702	42,513	42,171	41,669
<b>Clean BC Program for Industry</b>	98,141	142,919	191,357	326,991
<b>Executive and Support Services</b>	27,794	28,890	29,239	29,341
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>234,298</b>	<b>312,344</b>	<b>364,022</b>	<b>499,175</b>
<b>Park Enhancement Fund</b>	9,800	9,800	9,800	9,800
<b>Sustainable Environment Fund</b>	26,135	30,435	26,135	26,135
<b>Total</b>	<b>270,233</b>	<b>352,579</b>	<b>399,957</b>	<b>535,110</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
<b>Executive and Support Services</b>	36,265	42,514	37,953	22,191
<b>Park Enhancement Fund</b>	400	400	400	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,665</b>	<b>42,914</b>	<b>38,353</b>	<b>22,591</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>				
<b>Climate Action Greenhouse Gas Emissions offsets</b>				
<b>Disbursements</b>	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>Net Cash (Requirements)</b>	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)</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 2021/22 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2022/23 Estimates.

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

## Resource Summary: The Environmental Assessment Office

<b>Core Business Area</b>	<b>2021/22 Restated Estimates<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2022/23 Estimates</b>	<b>2023/24 Plan</b>	<b>2024/25 Plan</b>
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
<b>Environmental Assessment Office</b>	15,322	15,367	15,367	15,367
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,322</b>	<b>15,367</b>	<b>15,367</b>	<b>15,367</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 February 4, 2022, 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.