

**Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy**

**2023/24
Annual Service Plan Report**

August 2024



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2023/24 Annual Service Plan Report compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the 2023/24 - 2025/26 Service Plan published in 2023. I am accountable for those results as reported.

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
August 6, 2024

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Letter from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2023/24 Annual Service Plan Report. Over the past year, the ministry has continued to reflect our commitment to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, advance climate resilience and protect B.C.'s natural environment.

This year, we established a new industrial carbon pricing system to provide industry with the incentives needed to lower pollution and create jobs. B.C.'s Output-Based Pricing System will see large industry pay for its emissions above a yearly set target. Operations below the emission limits will be eligible to earn credits, providing incentives to transition to a clean-energy future. To support projects that reduce emissions, eligible industries can also apply to the CleanBC Industry Fund, which is expected to reduce nearly nine million tonnes of carbon emissions over a 10 year period.

People and businesses will be able to rely on clean, affordable electricity thanks to this year's \$36 billion investment for community and regional infrastructure projects. As part of BC Hydro's updated 10-year capital plan, this investment represents a 50% increase over the previous capital plan, and includes a significant increase in electrification and emissions-reduction projects – from \$1 billion to nearly \$10 billion. Expanding B.C.'s electrical infrastructure will ensure we can continue to transition away from fossil fuels.

People and visitors continue to benefit from B.C.'s natural areas. Our investments in BC Parks strengthened park management, improved existing parks, and enabled plans for new ones.

The Tahltan Nation and the Province of British Columbia signed a historic consent-based decision-making agreement that acknowledges and respects Tahltan title, rights and jurisdiction. Under the agreement, any land-management decisions for the Red Chris mine require Tahltan consent. Collaboration with First Nations is essential to true reconciliation. This partnership creates a clear path forward to build prosperity for Tahltan Nation, guided by strong environmental standards.

These are just a few examples from the past year of how ministry staff are building a more prosperous, sustainable future for all people in British Columbia.



Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
August 6, 2024

Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report

This annual service plan report has been developed to meet the requirements of the [Budget Transparency and Accountability Act](#) (BTAA), which sets out the legislative framework for planning, reporting and accountability for Government organizations. Under the BTAA, the Minister is required to report on the actual results of the Ministry's performance related to the forecasted targets stated in the service plan for the reported year.

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by Government in 2020 and Minister George Heyman's 2022 [Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy [2023/24 - 2025/26 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

Purpose of the Ministry

The [Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy](#) ("ENV" or the "Ministry") is responsible for the protection, management and conservation of British Columbia's (B.C.) 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 First Nations, 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 or portions thereof 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, the Forest and Range Practices Act, the Wildlife Act, and the Environmental Assessment Act. A full list of provincial legislation can be found at [BC Laws](#).

Operating Environment

In 2023/24, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy completed the organizational transition following the restructuring of natural resource ministries initiated the previous year, including incorporating Recreation Sites and Trails BC into the ministry's newly organized Conservation and Recreation Division alongside BC Parks and the Conservation Officer Service. Reorganizations of the Ministry's Environmental Protection Division and the Climate Action Secretariat also took place, all to enhance the ministry's ability to respond to ongoing and evolving environmental concerns in carrying out the Minister's mandate.

The Climate Action Secretariat has been leading the development of industrial climate policies including the Oil and Gas Emissions Cap and the B.C. Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS), in alignment with evolving policies at the federal level. The implementation of the OBPS is an expansion of the administrative responsibilities of ENV while the Ministry of Finance will continue to administer B.C.'s Carbon Tax across other sectors.

The popularity of outdoor pursuits in B.C.'s parks and protected areas system has continued to increase, and BC Parks has responded with enhancements to its reservations system and facilities. In 2023, more than 366,000 camping reservations were made, a 15% increase from 2022. BC Parks also continued to repair infrastructure damaged by recent extreme weather events.

Lastly, the ministry continues to work with Indigenous Peoples to advance reconciliation. These efforts are focused on ministry program area responsibilities such as the stewardship of provincial parks and protected areas in partnership with First Nations, climate action (mitigation and adaptation), response to environmental emergencies (such as spills), and consultation on environmental protection measures.

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results

The following goals, objectives and performance measures have been restated from the 2023/24 – 2025/26 service plan. For forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2024/25 – 2026/27, please see the latest service plan on the [BC Budget website](#).

Goal 1: Effective protection and conservation of the environment

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible for the effective protection, management, and conservation of B.C.'s water, land, air, and living resources. The ministry engages and partners with First Nations in advancing this goal.

The Ministry also seeks opportunities to continually improve the systems that govern natural resource decision-making and the sustainable stewardship of these resources.

Objective 1.1: Strong environmental regulation, compliance, and enforcement for a clean, safe, and resilient environment.

The Ministry strives to protect the environment by managing risks to British Columbia's water, land, and air. It does this by setting robust regulatory requirements, verifying compliance, 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 First Nations.

Key results

- The Site Remediation Program's service improvement initiatives, which included a new web app, streamlined the regulatory process, and reduced costs, timelines and application backlogs for applicants.
- Completed the implementation of the five-year federal-provincial Organics Infrastructure Program.
- The Clean Coast, Clean Waters initiative funded First Nations, local communities, and businesses to remove nearly 2,100 tonnes of debris, including 215 derelict vessels, and clean more than 6,400 kilometers of shoreline by the end of 2023, achieving a 65% recycling rate and creating/maintaining nearly 2,400 jobs.
- Three key pieces of legislation were amended to require decommissioning and closure plans for high-risk industrial projects, enhance hazardous waste collection in rural areas, and expand recycling to include (as of 2025) new products like mattresses and batteries.
- More than \$8 million (M) was invested in 14 innovative projects through the CleanBC Plastics Action Fund to reduce plastic waste and increase the use of post-consumer

recycled plastic. Additionally, the province committed another \$25M for a third round of funding.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

In November 2023, amendments to the Environmental Management Act (EMA) were enacted to provide the statutory basis for implementing the Public Interest Bonding Strategy to ensure that the owners of industrial operations, not the public, pay for the cleanup of facilities when they cease operations.

The Ministry continued its efforts to reduce solid waste in the province with initiatives related to single-use plastics, plastics recycling, and organics processing. On July 14, 2023, the province introduced the Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation (SUPWPR) as part of the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan. This regulation established a comprehensive framework to phase out single-use plastics and items, aiming to curb waste and pollution both today and in the future.

The CleanBC Plastics Action Fund, originally announced in 2020, allocated over \$40M over five years to support innovative plastic waste reduction projects. In fall 2023, the third phase of the fund was launched, offering over \$20M for projects across four funding categories: post-consumer recycled plastics processing and manufacturing, circular economy innovations, Indigenous-led plastic waste reduction projects, and regional plastics innovation for smaller start-up projects outside the lower mainland.

The Ministry also approved the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Biosolids Beneficial Use Strategy Definitive Plan Update, and facilitated the Minister's approval of four Solid Waste Management Plans, two of which allowed for the lateral expansion of landfills at Hartland in the CRD and Squamish.

By the end of the 2023/24 fiscal year, \$46M in grant funding was allocated from the province under the Organics Infrastructure Program and the CleanBC Organics Infrastructure and Collections Program. In total, 32 organic processing facilities and collection projects were nearly completed, with the remaining projects expected by 2025, including 10 funded First Nations projects. Combined, these projects will divert 1,058,600 tonnes of organic waste from landfills and reduce 1,416,600 tonnes of GHGs by 2030.

Another major focus for the Ministry was water cleanup and treatment. The Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative Fund represented the largest coastal clean-up effort in B.C.'s history, with the province providing over \$49M in total support. The \$25M announced in 2023 was for projects in 2023 and 2024. The final application window, which closed in April 2024, distributed the remaining funds.

Over 16,000 metric tonnes of debris were removed from 445 sites along affected rivers and tributaries, with significant community and First Nations engagement, creating over 1,000 jobs and managing contracts worth over \$100M to protect public health and safety.

The ministry continued to advance water treatment in the Elk Valley, including the issuance of a major permit amendment to authorize the fourth and largest water treatment facility in the

area. The 30,000 cubic metres per day Fording River North Saturated Rockfill, authorized on May 18, 2023, completed its commissioning period, and became fully operational. This development brought the total treatment capacity in the valley to 77,500 cubic metres per day.

The Environmental Monitoring Network expanded its hydroclimatological monitoring efforts across the province. This expansion will provide enhanced understanding of water supply, wildfire severity, extreme precipitation, landslides, and flood risks, supporting the implementation of the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.

As of February 29, 2024, the Ministry completed 732 inspections under EMA and the Integrated Pest Management Act. These inspections resulted in the issuance of 206 Notices of Compliance, 217 Advisories, 269 Warnings, 39 Administrative Penalty Referrals, and one Investigation Referral. The Branch issued 62 final Administrative Penalties, with Final Determinations of Administrative Penalties amounting to over \$1M. Additionally, the Branch responded to 952 complaints, achieving a 94% response rate within seven days.

To improve waste discharge authorizations, the ministry developed an Internal Guidance Document to assist Environmental Protection Officers and EMA Statutory Decision Makers to ensure consistent documentation of the impacts on Indigenous rights from cumulative effects related to environmental quality in authorization decisions for waste discharges.

Objective 1.2: Support the sustainability of British Columbia's environment and provide high-quality user experience through sound management of the protected areas system, recreation sites and trail networks.

The B.C. protected areas system includes representative and special natural places that are set aside for world-class conservation, outdoor recreation, education, and scientific study. B.C.'s protected areas system consists of over 14 million hectares, or 14% of the provincial land base. Many of these areas are important for the conservation of the province's environment and biodiversity.

Key results

- In 2023/24 BC Parks delivered 89 new campsites, 19.4 kilometers of new trail, 4 kilometres of renewed trail and 137 new parking stalls. These projects were completed as part of the over \$21M Recreation Expansion Project (approximately \$3.7M was spent in 2023/24). These projects are in addition to over \$24M spent on base capital projects in 2023/24.
- Expanded the Seasonal Maintenance Crew program for Recreation Sites and Trails, hiring 13 crews that built 16 kilometres of new trail, installed over 450 infrastructure elements, and maintained over 250 kilometres of existing trails. Additionally, the ministry invested \$1.5M in critical rail trail maintenance, reopening 12 sites and completing major projects, including a bridge replacement and landslide reconstruction.

- Updated the Ecological Reserve regulation to enable compliance and enforcement measures.
- Added 204 hectares to two protected areas (Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Protected Area, east of Prince George and Lac du Bois Grasslands Protected Area, near Kamloops) to safeguard old-growth forests and grasslands, preserving vital ecosystems for future generations.
- Contributed \$10M each to the BC Parks Foundation and the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. to enhance long-term natural protection and recreational opportunities.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

In 2023/24, the implementation of the [Commitment to Inclusion](#) plan focused on making provincial parks more welcoming and accessible. Key initiatives included ensuring front-country campgrounds and day-use areas have inclusive features, building new campgrounds to a universal design standard, and making as many campsites as possible accessible to all. The plan also called for shifting to gender-neutral, universal facilities, sharing diverse cultural connections through storytelling, and supporting adaptive recreation equipment programs. Significant investments were made in park infrastructure, with nearly \$24M allocated in 2023/24 for maintenance, which included accessibility focused capital projects.

In 2023/2024, the Conservation Office Service (COS) began implementing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lake Babine Nation to strengthen their partnerships and communication, marking a step towards a collaborative approach to wildlife harvesting compliance and enforcement. Additionally, in the Skeena region, the COS worked on the Nass Wildlife Management Area Enhanced Enforcement project with the Nisga'a Lisims Government and Gitanyow Nation, focusing on monitoring the Nass Moose recovery area, supported by funding from the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship.

Performance measures and related discussion

| Performance Measure | 2015/16 Baseline | 2022/23 Actual | 2023/24 Target | 2023/24 Actual |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1.1 Per capita municipal solid waste disposal (kg per person) ^{1,4} | 497 | 479 ² | 460 | 480 ³ |

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

¹ Kilogram (Kg) per person data is based on the calendar year, so 2022/23 target is based on calendar year 2022, 2023/24 target is based on calendar year 2023, etc.

² In the 2022/2023 Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Annual Service Plan Report, 500 kg was reported as a forecast, and has been updated to 479 kg from the actual data reported.

³ Figures for 2023/24 are estimated; actual result will be confirmed in November 2024 and published in the 2024/25 Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Annual Service Plan Report.

⁴ PM 1.1a targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 were revised in the 2023/24 service plan as 480 and 470, respectively. For forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2024/25 – 2026/27, please see the latest service plan on the BC Budget website.

The per capita municipal solid waste disposal rate is an estimate of how many kilograms (kg) of solid waste one person sends to a landfill or other disposal site in a given calendar year. The data for this performance measure is made available from the regional districts one year after

the annual publication of this Annual Service Plan Report (ASPR). Figures for the current ASPR year (in this case, calendar year 2023) are estimated; actual results will be confirmed in November of the following year (2024) and then published in the subsequent ASPR. The higher than target estimate for 2023 takes into account active real estate markets leading to continued increases in building construction, demolition and renovation waste.

For calendar year 2022, the overall provincial disposal rate was 479 kg/person, a decrease of 27 kg/person from the previous year (2021), but above the target disposal rate of 460 kg/person. In 2022, some regional districts reported decreased waste generation due to initiation of organics diversion and recycling programs in some of their municipalities, and others saw a decrease as flooding related clean-up was significantly less in 2022 compared to 2021. B.C. continues to focus on waste prevention and a circular economy to enable future progress towards lower disposal rates. New provincial initiatives are being introduced and implemented to decrease waste disposal rates including organics diversion infrastructure, the [CleanBC Plastics Action Plan](#) with the new Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation, approval of updated extended producer responsibility (EPR) program plans, and the expansion of EPR programs through the EPR five-year action plan.

Goal 2: A sustainable, clean economy

The ministry works to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, support clean and diverse economic development, and assist British Columbians to prepare for a changing climate.

Objective 2.1: Implement the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 to provide a pathway for B.C. to prosper economically while significantly reducing our greenhouse gas pollution to meet our legislated emissions reduction targets.

The [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#) (Roadmap) is a government-wide strategy that includes initiatives across different areas of the economy to reduce greenhouse gas pollution in a cost-effective way. Timely implementation of actions described in the Roadmap are expected to meet our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets while supporting affordability and business competitiveness.

Key results

- Held province-wide engagement and consultation sessions with Indigenous partners on greenhouse gas reduction policies including the B.C. Output Based Pricing System (OBPS), Net Zero New Industry, and Oil and Gas Emissions Cap.
- Led and facilitated engagement for partner ministries with the [Climate Solutions Council](#) on key CleanBC policies and programs leading to four advisory letters to the Minister and an Annual Report.
- Partnered with BC Hydro to launch the Industrial Electrification Program to streamline funding approvals for industrial electrification projects that require a new or upgraded connection to the BC Hydro Integrated Grid.

- In partnership with the federal government, continued to invest in province-wide infrastructure projects through the CleanBC Communities Fund to generate and manage renewable and clean energy, and increase building efficiency and access to clean transportation.
- Released [2021 energy and emissions data for every community in B.C.](#) for buildings, solid waste, and transportation (which was a new addition) to support evidence-based decision-making on climate investments.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

In the 2023/24 year, the ministry continued to make progress on the implementation of the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and collaborated with other ministries to fulfill the goals of the CleanBC plan more broadly. The fourth annual [Climate Change Accountability Report](#) (2023 CCAR), released in fall 2023, summarizes the province's progress towards emissions reduction targets and managing climate change risks including intended actions, expenditures, and results.

Significant work occurred in 2023/24 to develop an updated carbon pricing system for large industry that aligns with new federal regulations and gives companies an incentive to lower pollution while creating good, clean jobs for British Columbians. Initial regulations for the B.C. OBPS were in place as of February 2024. The OBPS sees large industry pay for its emissions above a set target, and ensures companies have flexibility, support, and incentives to reduce emissions and transition to clean energy.

To advance commitments in the [Roadmap to 2030](#), the ministry completed necessary policy work to support the development of a net-zero GHG emissions target, including consultation with Indigenous Peoples and province-wide engagement. Additionally, as per the objectives of the Net-Zero New Industry policy, B.C. continued to develop a robust, proportionate policy to provide industry with certainty on expectations for new industrial development.

The ministry supported implementation of the Environmental, Social and Governance Framework on Capital CleanBC Objectives for construction of new or replacement public sector buildings. All major capital projects seeking Treasury Board approval must demonstrate efforts to be resilient to climate risks, be designed to meet a green building and GHG emissions standard, and be ready to deploy electric vehicle charging equipment.

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

Climate change is already causing significant impacts to British Columbia's environment, communities, and economy. Adapting to a changing climate and managing climate risks effectively is key to maintaining a robust economy, healthy ecosystems, and safe communities.

Key results

- Invested \$88M in 2023/24 for climate change adaptation under the [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#) (CPAS). The CPAS is supported by \$513M of total

investment over the 2021/22 to 2024/25 period. Completed the first progress evaluation for the CPAS.

- Launched an Indigenous climate-resilience capacity-building pilot program focused on climate-resilience staffing; training and education delivery; and peer-to-peer network building.
- The Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) concluded its second year in 2023 by providing over \$24M to all 189 local governments and eight Modern Treaty Nations in B.C. to support climate action.
- Expanded [ClimateReadyBC](#) with new data and tools, including extreme cold and winter storms, extreme heat, and water scarcity and drought.
- Initiated a provincial scale Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) in partnership with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and First Nations partners. Completed the risk assessment methodology to inform the development of provincial and regional DCRRA.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

This year, the ministry completed a progress evaluation for the first year of the CPAS implementation. The evaluation revealed the implementation was on track. Additionally, ministries began identifying and addressing further adaptation needs beyond the original provisions of the 2022 CPAS.

In 2023, approximately \$24M was distributed to 1,967 participating communities through the LGCAP for various projects, including clean transportation initiatives and climate impact mitigation. Responding to feedback from local governments on the need for increased and more predictable funding, an additional \$71M was distributed in March 2024, covering three years of funding.

The provincial-scale DCRRA was initiated in partnership with EMCRC and is underway. This comprehensive assessment is expected to be completed in 2024/25, followed by regional disaster and climate risk assessments scheduled for completion in 2026.

Scoping for the DCRRA Plan also commenced. This plan, developed in collaboration with EMCRC, will be informed by the provincial risk assessment, aiming to enhance disaster and climate risk reduction across the province.

The ministry supported implementation of the Climate Resilience Framework and Standards document by presenting it to capital planners across the public sector, directing the planning and design of new public buildings to ensure climate resilience. For the 2023 CCAR, the ministry increased adaptation information.

The Indigenous Climate Adaptation Working Group (ICAWG) was established to ensure Indigenous Peoples' meaningful involvement in climate preparedness and adaptation planning, advancing a sustainable, clean economy and reconciliation efforts. The creation of ICAWG fostered partnerships with First Nations, supporting capacity building and collaboration. In February 2024, the Indigenous Climate Resilience Forum, hosted with EMCRC

and Sanala Planning, facilitated the exchange of climate action ideas among 349 participants. Furthermore, the Indigenous Climate Resilience Capacity Building Pilot Project was extended to March 2025 with an additional \$250,000 in funding to support Indigenous communities in climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

Performance measures and related discussion

| Performance Measure | 2021/22 Baseline ¹ | 2022/23 Actual ¹ | 2023/24 Forecast | 2023/24 Actual ² |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2.1 B.C.'s annual GHG emissions as compared to 2007 levels (goal of 40% below 2007 levels by 2030) ³ | 2020 emissions are 4% below 2007 levels | 2021 emissions are 3% below 2007 levels | 2022 emissions are 7% below 2007 levels | - |
| 2.2 Carbon intensity of B.C.'s economy (gross tonnes of CO ₂ e per million dollars GDP, chained 2012\$) | 224 tonnes CO ₂ e per \$M GDP (2020) | 211 tonnes CO ₂ e per \$M GDP (2021) | 216 tonnes CO ₂ e per \$M GDP (2022) | - |

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.

¹ Values used in the 2021/22 baseline emissions and 2022/23 actual emissions have been updated with 2021 emissions data. The 2023-2024 Annual Service Plan used 2020 emissions data, which was the most recent available at the time. Emissions values and carbon intensity values differ between the Annual Service Plan and the Annual Service Plan Report due to inventory back casting and methodological updates.

² B.C.'s 2024 Provincial Inventory is expected to be released in fall 2024, and actual emissions for 2022 will be reported in next year's Annual Service Plan report.

³ Legislated CleanBC GHG targets are based on the calendar year, not the fiscal year as represented in this table.

The interrelated metrics used to report on Objective 2.1 are intended to demonstrate progress achieved towards a low-carbon economy.

2.1) B.C.'s GHG emissions inventory is largely based on the federal National Inventory Report. The data are released annually but with a delay of 16-24 months for the federal government's data collection, verification, and review processes. Actual emissions for 2022 (2023-2024 reporting year) will be released in the forthcoming 2024 Provincial Inventory, which has not yet been released at the time of the 2023-24 Annual Service Plan Report's publication.

B.C.'s latest emissions data reported gross GHG emissions in 2021 were 62.0 Mt CO₂e. This reflects a 1% increase from 2020 levels following a continued return to pre-COVID-19 levels of economic activity, but a 3% decline from 2007 levels. As more policies and programs described in the Roadmap are implemented and begin to yield results, they will continue to lower GHG emission reductions.

2.2) The carbon intensity of B.C.'s economy has declined since the 2020 baseline, with the most recent data from 2021 showing a 13 tonne reduction in carbon intensity per million dollars GDP. The forthcoming 2024 Provincial Inventory report will provide actual carbon intensity for 2022.

Annual GHG and carbon intensity forecasts use gross rather than net projections. Gross emissions do not include emissions offsets, and so represent total GHG's being emitted within B.C. in each reporting year.

Performance measure and related discussion

| Performance Measure | 2022/23 Actual | 2023/24 Target | 2023/24 Actual |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2.3 Provincial CPAS developed and implemented | CPAS (2022/23 to 2024/25) published and implementation initiated | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CPAS first progress evaluation completed 2. Initiate a joint provincial scale DCRRA in partnership with the Ministry of EMCR and co-developed with First Nations partners | <p>First CPAS progress evaluation completed</p> <p>DCRRA initiated in partnership with EMCR and First Nations partners</p> |

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

The ministry successfully completed its first program evaluation of CPAS activities for fiscal year 2022/23, revealing that both implementation and expenditures for the year were in alignment with the projections outlined in the CPAS 2022 document. This comprehensive evaluation, which incorporated feedback from all ministries involved in the CPAS implementation, confirmed the program's adherence to its planned objectives and budget.

In 2023/24, ENV and EMCR, in collaboration with First Nations, launched the DCRRA. This initiative, which includes contributions and expertise from various ministries and stakeholders, marks a significant partnership among ENV, EMCR and First Nations. The results of the DCRRA project are anticipated to be released in 2024/25.

Goal 3: Thorough, timely, transparent and impartial environmental assessment

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) has implemented a revitalized environmental assessment process that ensures the rights of First Nations are respected and that the public's expectation of a thorough, timely, transparent, and impartial process are met. This includes collaborating with First Nations in relation to reviewable projects, consistent with the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#). The [Environmental Assessment Act](#) (the Act) offers clear pathways to sustainable project approvals. This promotes sustainability by protecting the environment, fostering a resilient economy, aligning with government climate targets, and supporting 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.

The revitalized [Environmental Assessment Act](#) (the Act) came into force on December 15, 2019. The renewed environmental assessment process supports reconciliation by ensuring the rights of First Nations are respected and the public's expectation of a thorough, timely, transparent, and impartial process are met. As such, the process and outcomes achieved promote sustainability in B.C. by protecting the environment, meeting government climate targets, fostering a resilient economy, and supporting the well-being of British Columbians and their communities.

Key results

- Signed an agreement with Kitselas First Nation to establish a government-to-government framework for co-ordinating governance and decision-making processes during an environmental assessment.
- Developed a dispute resolution regulation using a consult and cooperate process with First Nations, that was approved by Cabinet in July 2024.
- Joined the S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance Strategic Engagement Agreement to improve environmental assessment collaboration with First Nations and support reconciliation by recognizing and utilizing preferred Indigenous governance and technical infrastructure.
- Began the implementation of a framework for evaluating whether the Environmental Assessment Act 2018 is achieving the Act's purposes including initial consultations with First Nations and other key stakeholders.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

To support the continued implementation of the Environmental Assessment Act (2018), the ministry established regulation, policy, and guidance priorities for the fiscal year. The completion of the Public Engagement Policy marked a significant step towards enhancing public participation in environmental assessment processes. This policy clarifies the ministry's approach to soliciting, documenting, and utilizing public input, ensuring transparency and consistency across all environmental assessments. Additionally, the ministry developed comprehensive guidance for Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) holders on creating management plans that meet certificate requirements, thereby aiding in regulatory compliance and promoting environmental stewardship.

Furthermore, efforts continued optimizing the EAO Project Information Centre to ensure accessibility of past and current project data. A new online public engagement platform was also prepared to support a comprehensive and informed environmental assessment process.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation treaty negotiation teams, the ministry completed tri-partite EA chapter negotiations with Canada and First Nations at three closing Treaty Tables (K'ómoks, Kitselas, and Kitsumkalum, Te'mexw Treaty Association) and continued to advance negotiations at five other active Treaty Tables.

Performance measure and related discussion

| Performance Measure | 2022/23 Actual | 2023/24 Target | 2023/24 Actual |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.1 Environmental Assessment Act phased implementation | 1. Developed regulations and/or policies that enhance functionality of the Act 2. Identified a framework to evaluate whether implementation of the Act is achieving the intended purposes | 1. Finalize regulations and/or policies that enhance functionality of the Act 2. Finalize framework to evaluate whether implementation of the Act is achieving the intended purposes | 1. Finalized regulations and/or policies that enhance functionality of the Act 2. Finalized framework to evaluate whether implementation of the Act is achieving the intended purposes |

Data source: Environmental Assessment Office, manually compiled.

This target was met. At the beginning of the fiscal year, the EAO determines a set of policy priorities for development to ensure that the Act is effectively implemented— progress against this set of policy priorities sets EAO’s annual performance measure. The following are examples of some of the key policy priorities that were completed: The Public Engagement Policy to establish a consistent approach to public engagement and reporting and the Dispute Resolution Regulation to enhance functionality and support Section 5 of the Act. The framework for the forthcoming legislative review of the Act was completed. The review must be initiated by the Minister by December 16, 2024.

Financial Report

Financial Summary

| | Estimated (\$000) | Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000) | Total Estimated (\$000) | Actual (\$000) | Variance (\$000) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Operating Expenses | | | | | |
| Environmental Protection | 24,977 | 43,795 | 68,772 | 72,861 | 4,088 |
| BC Parks, Rec Sites and Trails | 69,601 | 6,479 | 76,080 | 75,054 | (1,026) |
| Conservation Officer Services | 25,997 | 226 | 26,223 | 23,712 | (2,511) |
| Climate Action | 42,942 | 78,515 | 121,457 | 120,451 | (1,006) |
| CleanBC | 6,463 | 387,069 | 393,532 | 392,741 | (791) |
| Executive and Support Services | 29,702 | 534 | 30,236 | 31,481 | 1,245 |
| Park Enhancement Fund | 12,920 | 3,259 | 16,179 | 16,179 | 0 |
| Sustainable Enhancement Fund | 26,135 | 665 | 26,800 | 26,800 | 0 |
| Neucel (Env Management Act) | | 8,050 | 8,050 | 8,050 | 0 |
| Sub-total | 238,737 | 528,592 | 767,329 | 767,329 | 0 |
| Environmental Assessment Office | 16,392 | 801 | 17,193 | 17,193 | 0 |
| Sub-total | 16,392 | 801 | 17,193 | 17,193 | 0 |
| Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ² | 0,000 | 0,000 | 0,000 | (85) | (85) |
| Total | 255,129 | 529,393 | 784,522 | 784,437 | (85) |
| Ministry Capital Expenditures | | | | | |
| Executive and Support Services | 46,975 | | 46,975 | 35,471 | (11,504) |
| Park Enhancement Fund | 400 | | 400 | 110 | (290) |
| Total | 47,375 | 0 | 47,375 | 35,582 | (11,794) |
| Other Financing Transactions | | | | | |
| Climate Action: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Offsets (Purchase) | | | | | |
| Receipts | | | 0 | | 0 |
| Disbursements | 10,000 | | 10,000 | 7,492 | (2,508) |
| Net Cash Requirements (Source) | 10,000 | | 10,000 | 7,492 | (2,508) |

¹ "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies. Amounts in this column are not related to the "estimated amount" under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

² The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of \$0.85M is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

³ Public Accounts disbursements of \$8.319M includes \$0.827M in BC Parks licence plates inventory disbursements

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of March 31, 2024, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

Climate Solutions Council

The Climate Solutions 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.

Appendix B: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in Minister George Heyman’s 2022 Mandate Letter.

| 2022 Mandate Letter Priority | Status as of March 31, 2024 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Lead our government’s implementation of the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, on time and on target, including legislating an additional target to reach net-zero province-wide by 2050 while continuing to take action to meet B.C.’s 2030, 2040 and 2050 legislated reduction targets.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress • Several Roadmap commitments have been completed and many others are in progress including legislating a net-zero target for 2050. |
| <p>Support the Minister of Finance (FIN) to chart a path that aligns with the federal carbon price, including measures to support families, small businesses, and industry in B.C. to make the transition to a clean economy while ensuring no one gets left behind.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete • Budget 2023 included an announcement to meet the federal carbon price path and increase the carbon tax rate by \$15/tonne annually, starting on April 1, 2023, until it reaches \$170/tonne in 2030. The province also transitioned to a new industrial carbon pricing model for large emitters, the OBPS, starting on April 1, 2024. • Budget 2024 ensures that revenue from the increase to the carbon tax to \$80/tonne of CO₂ equivalent effective April 1, 2024, is more than fully allocated to the climate action tax credit to support affordability. |
| <p>Work with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) to develop policies and regulations that meet B.C.’s 2030 sectoral and methane targets for the oil and gas sector while ensuring alignment with the federal cap on oil and gas emissions.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress • Announcement in March 2024 that B.C. will develop a backstop to the federal oil and gas emissions cap to ensure the sectoral target is met while reducing regulatory overlap. • Complete • ENV, EMLI and B.C. Energy Regulator have developed regulatory policy to meet the 2030 oil and gas methane target. Final regulatory approval is expected in September 2024. |

| 2022 Mandate Letter Priority | Status as of March 31, 2024 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Ensure new industries fit within the CleanBC Plan, and that they deliver on the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 commitment that requires new large industrial facilities to submit plans demonstrating how they align with B.C.'s legislated and sectoral targets and how they will achieve net zero emissions by 2050.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress • To advance commitments in the Roadmap to 2030, ENV continued to lead the development of a net-zero GHG emissions target, including consultation with First Nations and province-wide engagement. Additionally, as per the objectives of the Net-Zero New Industry policy, ENV continued to develop a robust, proportionate policy to provide industry certainty on expectations for new industrial development. |
| <p>Complete the Plastics Action Plan and set a target date to phase out single-use plastics.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress • On July 14, 2023 The Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation was announced. The initial prohibitions came into force in December 2023 with the remainder coming into force in July 2024. |
| <p>Deliver the first phase of B.C.'s new bonding policy toward ensuring owners of large industrial projects are bonded moving forward so that they – not British Columbians – pay the full costs of environmental cleanup if their projects are abandoned.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete • With the passing of Bill 29 – Environmental Management Amendment Act, amended legislation to ensure responsible persons of high-risk industrial projects are responsible for completing decommissioning and closure plans, provide security, engage with Indigenous Peoples, and government has mechanisms to recover taxpayer funds spent on cleanup from accountable persons. • The Ministry is now focusing on policy development for new regulations which will bring Bill 29 amendments into force. |
| <p>Continue to implement the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy to help communities, businesses, key public services and infrastructure be prepared for and resilient to our changing climate.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress • Ministries have now completed implementation of year 2 of 3 years covered under the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy. |

| 2022 Mandate Letter Priority | Status as of March 31, 2024 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Work with the Minister of Energy Mines and Climate Readiness (EMCR) to develop a provincial hazard risk vulnerability assessment that builds on B.C.'s Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment and integrates climate and disaster risk. This will support the development of a subsequent province-wide integrated disaster and climate risk reduction plan that assesses risk priorities, and systematically coordinates and implements cross-government interventions consistent with those priorities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress • ENV, EMCR and First Nations partners have initiated the DCRRA. |