

Powering the Clean Energy Future

BC has a vibrant clean energy economy that reduces emissions, creates jobs, and drives sustainable economic growth

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Climate action isn't about restrictions or compromise—it's about saying yes to the benefits of electrifying our economy. British Columbia faces a choice: keep investing in outdated fossil fuels or embrace a clean energy future that drives job creation, climate action and economic growth.

Major investments are needed to expand BC's electricity capacity. To do so, we will invest in renewable energy like wind, solar, and geothermal. We will improve energy storage and enhance energy efficiency. We will ensure a significant portion of our electricity is generated through Indigenous and community-led projects.

We must invest in a clean, renewable energy future now. Renewable energy not only protects our environment and health but also strengthens our economy—and is essential for decarbonizing BC's economy.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Climate change is already impacting BC. Year after year, we see more intense, more destructive wildfires, heat waves, flooding and droughts. Record low snowpack levels threaten our ability to generate hydropower, underscoring the urgent need to diversify our electricity system—not only to meet climate goals, but to also remain competitive in the global clean energy economy.

BC is spending money in the wrong places. The NDP has continued to prioritize energy for industry, while British Columbians face supply concerns. After years of controversy, the \$16 billion Site C dam—the most expensive publicly funded project in BC's history—will soon provide electricity, yet much of it is already allocated to the LNG industry.

A cleaner future does not require new large hydro or nuclear projects. With smart planning, we can expand renewable energy while protecting our natural environment and our communities.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

When elected, the BC Greens will:

Establish long-term procurement targets

- Establish a renewable procurement timetable for renewable energy projects with defined annual procurement targets and parameters.
- Develop a jobs plan that aligns regional economic development and workforce readiness with climate and energy plans.
- Invest in research and development of geothermal energy production. Investigate a technology transfer from oil and gas drilling to geothermal energy production.
- Invest \$20 million annually for education and training programs to address the skills shortage in the renewable energy sector and to retrain oil and gas workers. Invest in a BC Clean Energy Institute in Northwest BC to drive innovation and training.

Invest in Community-Scale Renewable Projects

- Invest \$20 million annually in small-scale distributed solar projects, with a goal of having solar account for 15% of electricity generation by 2035. Ensure these projects are economically viable and accessible to low- and moderate-income households.
- Expand the Community Net Metering program to allow British Columbians to own a share of community-scale solar energy production, receiving credits on their electricity bills for the energy produced.
- Expand funding for the Community Energy Diesel Reduction program to help Indigenous communities transition off diesel and connect to clean power and storage solutions

Ensure First Nations equity ownership and streamline regulatory processes

- Mandate a minimum of 50% equity ownership for First Nations in large renewable energy projects.
- Prioritize renewable energy projects under the First Nations Equity Financing Framework, ensuring these projects are not competing with oil and gas industry projects for resources.
- Simplify and expedite the permitting process by appointing a single regulatory authority within the Ministry of Energy.
- Invest in expanding energy storage capacity and improving electricity distribution to support a more efficient and resilient renewable energy grid.

Prioritize Power for British Columbia, Not LNG

- We will stop public funds from being used for BC Hydro infrastructure that supports LNG projects. Existing LNG projects will be required to cover their own electricity generation and transmission costs, prioritizing BC's energy resources for residential use and sustainable industries.

Accelerate Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies

- Rapidly increase the availability of heat pumps, focusing on low-income households to ensure equitable access to these energy-saving technologies.
- Enhance energy efficiency in new buildings by promoting passive solar design, higher insulation levels, heat pumps, and smart thermostats to reduce energy use.
- Invest in deep energy retrofits of existing buildings, making them more energy-efficient and reducing long-term energy costs.
- Revise regulations to mandate the use of low-global-warming-potential (GWP) and PFAs-free refrigerants, promoting safer and more sustainable cooling practices.

Increase Transparency at BC Hydro

- Implement a real-time public dashboard at BC Hydro, showing data on electricity production, usage, imports, and exports for British Columbia.

Electrify Transportation

- Advance the electrification of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles (MHDVs) and expand electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure.
- Set sales targets for MHDVs and introduce fleet purchase requirements to accelerate the shift towards electric vehicles in the province.
- Adjust rebates for zero-emission MHDVs to ensure funding goes to small fleets.
- Expand the EV charging infrastructure across BC to support the growing number of electric vehicles and facilitate their use in rural and urban areas.
- Support the conversion of gasoline and diesel vehicles to electric vehicles by extending financial incentives to EV retrofits, ensuring that older vehicles can also contribute to emissions reductions.

