

# Climate Change

## A fossil fuel-free future for BC

### HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

The science is clear—if we want to secure a climate-safe future, we must put an immediate stop to new fossil fuel development. Across this province, British Columbians are deeply concerned about the impacts of climate change, and they have every reason to be.

BC has the potential to be a climate leader, but under the NDP government, every climate target has been missed, and emissions keep rising.

We promise a new direction—one grounded in the realities of our climate crisis. We will oversee a managed decline of gas production in this province, recognizing that continuing to expand fossil fuel projects is fundamentally incompatible with achieving our climate targets. Under our leadership, no new liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects will be approved—and fracked gas production will be phased out entirely.

Good climate policies can be powerful tools for improving affordability, creating well-paying jobs and saving businesses and taxpayers money. This shift is not only necessary to ensure BC meets its greenhouse gas reduction goals, but it is also essential to safeguarding our environment, our health and our economy.

### PROBLEM DEFINITION

The World Health Organization has declared climate change the greatest existential threat to global health—and here in British Columbia, we are already living with its devastating consequences: severe wildfires, prolonged droughts, catastrophic flooding and escalating health issues.

The cost of inaction is staggering. In 2021 alone, extreme weather events in BC resulted in losses of up to \$17 billion. The heat dome, which devastated our natural environment, tragically led to the loss of 619 lives.

Despite the clear link between burning fossil fuels and catastrophic climate events, while in power the BC NDP has overseen a 44% increase in fracked gas production and an expansion of the LNG industry. Fracking poses a serious risk to human health, impacts freshwater and the environment, and is a major source of methane, which traps 84 times more heat than carbon dioxide.

If built, the six proposed LNG projects would account for 40% of BC's 2030 emissions target and require the electricity of over eight Site C dams, reducing the electricity available for British Columbians and clean industries.

Experts have been clear: in the coming years, as we decarbonize and move to renewable energy, the world will no longer need BC LNG.

Further investing in fossil fuels projects is not the future we want for British Columbia. Our comprehensive climate plan will help put our province back on track—providing tangible solutions that reflect the urgency of the climate crisis. It's time to prioritize the health of people and communities over fossil fuel profits.

### POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

When elected, the BC Greens will:

#### Commit to a Fossil-Free Future

- Stop permitting new fracking wells.
- Set a date to phase out gas production in the province.
- Prohibit any new LNG projects.
- Stop permitting new pipelines. Direct the BC Environmental Assessment Office to allow the 2014 environmental certificate for the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission pipeline to expire.

### Set Ambitious Climate Pollution Targets

- Develop a new Climate Action Plan, ensuring emission reduction targets are supported by measurable actions.
- Convene leading scientists and clean energy experts to identify innovative approaches for enhancing BC's emissions reductions.
- Review and update climate pollution targets regularly as climate science evolves to ensure effective action.
- Fully implement the oil and gas emissions cap as a backstop to upcoming federal regulations to meet or exceed BC's oil and gas emissions targets.

### Make Polluters Pay

- Introduce a windfall profits tax on oil and gas companies.
- Increase the industrial carbon tax and redirect revenue from industrial carbon pricing to fund climate action in communities.
- Eliminate loopholes that allow large industries to pollute and cause climate damage.

### End Fossil Fuel Subsidies

- End all subsidies and public financing for fossil fuel infrastructure, including capital cost recovery and discounted electricity rates for LNG facilities.
- Reallocate subsidies and public financing from fossil fuels towards renewable energy development and production.

### Reduce Methane Emissions

- Accelerate BC's target of near-zero methane emissions from the oil and gas sector.
- Eliminate venting and flaring, and compressor emissions.
- Commit to reviewing the province's methane regulations by the end of 2027 to align with global best practices.

### Prohibit fossil fuel advertising

- Ban oil and gas advertisements in the province

### Ban Gas in New Buildings

- Enforce a province-wide ban on gas hookups in all new buildings to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Provide rebates for electric heat pumps to support the transition to clean, energy-efficient heating and cooling solutions.
- Ensure Fortis' business plan is coherent with the goal of electrifying BC and helping homes and businesses transition off fossil fuels.

### Carbon Offsets

- Ensure carbon offsets are not used to expand fossil fuel infrastructure.
- Create a carbon offset policy for the province based on the principles of the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi).

