

Twelve Climate Actions for BC to Match the IPCC's Recommended Goals

1. **Province-Wide Public Engagement** with active social media, two-minute video-clips, a website, a travelling roadshow and a movie to show briefly the nature of the crisis and then get people excited about the solutions, sharing stories from around the world where the solutions are already in play, and how new jobs are created by the transition. We need to reverse the fear that the impact of the solutions will be worse than the impact of the crisis.
2. **100% Renewable Energy by 2040** for all purposes, with 45% by 2030. Various jurisdictions have embraced a 100% target, including Vancouver, Victoria and Saanich.¹ We don't need to know in detail how to get there. NASA did not know how to get to the moon when Kennedy made his commitment in 1961. They just had the determination to do it. To help finance this, we need to remove all subsidies on fossil fuels, direct and indirect, wherever they are found, and apply the income to renewables.
3. Set a Strong Target for **95% GHG Reduction by 2040**. To minimize the risk of climate disaster we ideally need to reach 100% tomorrow. That's not achievable, but 2040 is. As the transition gathers steam, and as people gain confidence that its possible, and awareness about the climate reality sinks in, we could advance the goal to 2035.
4. **Annual Government Carbon Budgeting**, legally mandated to hold the government accountable to its goals, with an Auditor-General of Carbon as an independent Officer of the Legislature. Britain has been successful with this approach, reducing their emissions to the level they were in 1890.² If the relevant ministers meet their annual targets they should receive a bonus, to be given to the charity or non-profit of their choice. For a summary of government carbon budgeting, I recommend Marc Lee's paper at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.³
5. **Stand Firm Against the Pipeline**, which will enable tar-sands corporations to pump yet more carbon into Earth's distressingly overheated atmosphere, while endangering our west coast ocean. We should also NOT continue with the planned LNG facility, because of its massive carbon and methane emissions.
6. A government mandate that **50% of New Cars and Light Trucks are EVs by 2025** and 100% by 2030, following Norway's example, not by 2040 as the Intentions Paper proposes.⁴ To support the goal, there should be tax-breaks for dealers and sales-people who meet the target, financed by a new fee on gas-guzzling cars. By 2025, a new electric vehicle with a range of 400km will cost the same as a gasoline vehicle.⁵ We need continued financial support for new electric vehicles and for their charging infrastructure.
7. **Massive Support for Urban Cycling**, aiming to achieve levels similar to those in Holland (27% of all trips)⁶ and Copenhagen (41% of all trips to work and study).⁷ This will also reduce healthcare costs and make people happier. Where there are hills, e-bikes eliminate gravity.
8. **A Huge Expansion of Transit**, which means electric transit. China has 400,000 electric buses on the road.⁸ Together, transit, cycling, car-sharing and closer commutes⁹ could end the increasingly long traffic congestion delays that are so frustrating, and make our cities instead happy, healthy, delightful and green. A new electric bus costs more to buy but less to run, and pays for itself over the 12-year life of a bus. Revenues from the carbon tax should be used to finance solutions like these, and not returned to the taxpayer.
9. **All New Buildings to be Zero Carbon by 2024**, learning from the example of Brussels, Belgium. In 2011 they announced that every new building in the city must meet the Passive House standard by 2015. Since then, every new building, large or small, public or private, has been super-efficient and carbon neutral. They needed just four years for carpenters to train in the new approach. This would speed up the current commitment for all new buildings to be net-zero ready by 2030. To achieve this, the government should accelerate the implementation timeline for the existing Step Code.
10. **No Oil-Heated Buildings after 2025** and no gas-heated buildings after 2030, accompanied by a world-class program to support building retrofits, from single family homes and condos to commercial buildings. The finance for the investment should be tied to utility bills, so that the savings pay for the retrofit over a period of time.

11. **Protect the Carbon in BC's Forests.** In 2017 wildfires in BC released between 150 and 200 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, more than twice the volume created by human activity. We need to protect all of the remaining ancient old growth forests, which store so much carbon, and to plan a transition of all logging in the province from clearcutting to sustainable ecoforestry methods for First Nations involvement. To help, the government should provide tax breaks to industry to invest in mills that use small logs, like the recently announced San Group in Port Alberni, and massively increase tree-planting to well beyond replacement. We also need to begin a planned transition to 100% organic farming and holistic grazing, since these methods have been proven to store more carbon in the soil.
12. **A Climate Test for all New Industrial Projects,** targeting Zero Carbon by 2040, with yearly targets for reduction and sectoral councils involving business, labour and government to plan the annual reductions, as proposed by Marc Lee, Senior Economist with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. The carbon tax should continue to increase, as planned, and some of the revenues should be used to help industry reduce its emissions, with incentives.

Transportation (39%), buildings (10%) and industry (40%) account for 89% of BC's emissions.¹⁰

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¹ 100% Renewable Energy: www.go100percent.org/cms/

Most of the world's countries could run on 100% renewable energy by 2050, says study. World Economic Forum, Sept 17, 2017. www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/09/countries-100-renewable-energy-by-2050/

Renewable Cities: www.renewablecities.ca

² *Analysis: UK carbon emissions in 2017 fell to levels last seen in 1890.* Carbon Brief, March 7, 2018. www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-uk-carbon-emissions-in-2017-fell-to-levels-last-seen-in-1890

³ *Submission to BC Government and Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council.* Marc Lee, CCPA, August 2018 <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/391/2018/08/Canadian-Centre-for-Policy-Alternatives.pdf>

⁴ *These countries want to ditch gas and diesel cars.* CNN Money, July 26, 2017. <https://money.cnn.com/2017/07/26/autos/countries-that-are-banning-gas-cars-for-electric/index.html>

⁵ *Nissan sees 2025 as turning point for electric cars.* Financial Times, Feb 18, 2018. www.ft.com/content/7bbd9a9a-1326-11e8-940e-08320fc2a277

⁶ *Dutch Cycling Figures.* Bicycle Dutch, January 2018. <https://bicycledutch.wordpress.com/2018/01/02/dutch-cycling-figures/>

⁷ *Copenhagen City of Cyclists – facts and figures 2017.* Cycling Embassy of Denmark, July 4, 2017. www.cycling-embassy.dk/2017/07/04/copenhagen-city-cyclists-facts-figures-2017/

⁸ *How China Took Charge of the Electric Bus Revolution.* CityLab, May 8, 2018. www.citylab.com/transportation/2018/05/how-china-charged-into-the-electric-bus-revolution/559571/

Electric Buses Are Hurting the Oil Industry. Bloomberg, April 23, 2018 www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-04-23/electric-buses-are-hurting-the-oil-industry

⁹ Closer Commutes: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/391/2018/08/Closer-Commutes.pdf>

¹⁰ BC GHGs, 2015: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change/data/provincial-inventory>