

BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council Meeting

Monday December 8th, 2025





In July 2025, Community Energy Association (CEA) provided 3 submissions for the CleanBC Review based on engagement from our local government staff peer networks, NorthCAN, and a submission on behalf of CEA

TOP 5 PRIORITIES WE HEARD FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- 1**
 Establish a clear long-term provincial energy plan and strategy
- 2**
 Maintain strong, ambitious climate policies
- 3**
 Provide long term funding and capacity support for local governments
- 4**
 Ensure CleanBC priorities are equitable and regionally relevant
- 5**
 Investing in workforce development

RESULTS FROM THE CLEAN BC REVIEW

PROGRESS

- 
 Priorities include accelerating the transition to 100% clean electricity by 2030 through expanded production, electrification, and integrated planning, while advancing energy efficiency, infrastructure development, and renewable fuels
- 
 Local governments recognized as key partners and should be supported through extended Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) funding, clearer CleanBC priorities, improved emissions data (CEEI), and greater data sharing from utilities
- 
 Recognize regional differences with recommendations for flexibility that reflect differences in climate and context
- 
 Clean BC policies and programs are driving job creation

REDUCTIONS

- 
 Requirements have been softened, with the highest step of the Energy Step Code now voluntary and timelines delayed. Similarly, transportation policies have been pushed back (including the ZEV Act), while new requirements introduce EV readiness for new and significantly upgraded buildings
- 
 Longer adoption timelines and limited investment and support hinder leadership in northern and rural communities
- 
 A key gap remains in investment and planning to attract, retain, and train the workforce needed for clean construction and transportation

CONCERNS

Clean BC Momentum: The program is working and delivering results. What is needed is renewal and continued investment, not scaling back

Affordability pressures: Rising costs remain the primary concern, highlighting the need for solutions that balance climate action with cost impacts for communities

Clearer Communication: Benefits need to be communicated in more tangible, relatable ways so they are easily understood and supported across the community

 [Read CEA's Analysis of the Clean BC Report here](#)

SETTING THE STAGE FOR EMCR & RESILIENCE PEER NETWORK OVERVIEW



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA DISASTER AND CLIMATE RISK AND RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT

- Dives into 6 different hazards and how it impacts us in different climate change scenarios
- Provides a province-wide understanding of risks and establishes baseline information to guide future planning and action
- Informed by multiple inputs: Combines existing data, expert judgment, partner input, and scenario analysis
- Diverse knowledge sources: Integrates a wide range of perspectives and knowledge systems

CLIMATE READY BC

A centralized hub of disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation tools, designed for practitioners, providing access to key information on hazards, data, planning tools, funding, and resources, all in one place



PROVINCES NEXT STEPS

Next steps include enhancing the platform to support ministry-led risk assessments, better address regional-scale needs, and provide clear guidance and tools for completing risk assessment requirements


NEEDS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF - FROM RSPN

- **Clear guidance:** Define expectations for EDMA and HRVA and clarify how DCRRA and ClimateReady BC can (and cannot) inform local risk assessments
- **Coordination & roles:** Improve alignment between climate and emergency management teams, with clearer roles, processes, and decision-making
- **Support & capacity:** Enable meaningful, coordinated Indigenous engagement and provide sustained funding and implementation support



RESOURCES

 [Check out Climate Ready BC here](#)

 [Check out the Resilience Peer Network and additional resources here](#)

Minister Dialogue

with Hon. Kelly Greene, Minister of
Emergency Management and
Climate Readiness

Overview

The dialogue focused on the notion that building climate resilience requires both strategic alignment and on the ground action across the province. Key themes from this dialogue focused on the need to strengthen natural infrastructure through both nature-based solutions and the built environment, ensuring risk assessments are reflected and addressed in emergency management plans, and address the growing challenge of simultaneous hazard event management. Alignment with the Sendai Framework, particularly on preparedness, risk reduction, and recovery, was recommended as a guiding structure for emergency management strategy. DPA's and potential building code updates for wildfire and flooding risk were also raised, though some changes remain under consideration. Underlying this is that hazards do not respect boundaries as evidenced by recent events, and collaboration between communities is essential to resilience

Questions and Concerns

The session opened up broader questions about climate readiness and water security. Below are the key themes that emerged from the discussion:

Key themes

Protecting Drinking Water

Concerns were raised around managed forests and the lack of influence over watersheds and drinking water. Participants called for updated forestry regulations, stronger cooperation with land managers and mechanisms to compensate and incentivize protection of drinking water sources



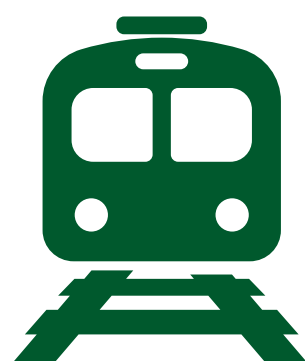
Nature Based Solutions at Scale

With wells going dry, questions emerged around how nature based solutions could be applied beyond the project level. Funding from the Ministry currently targets specific localized hazards. Scaling up to address broader water security needs for a region or ecosystem remains a gap



Multi-Hazard Events & Train Derailments

Train derailments along waterways pose compounding risks to water supply, fisheries, and hatcheries. Discussion highlighted the provincial command structure for these events, and the need for clearer coordination between local and provincial governments when impacts cross jurisdictional boundaries



Minister Dialogue

with Hon. Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Overview

Water and climate change sit at the heart of what communities across the province are navigating. The session underscored that sustainability and economic resilience is inseparable and conservation of our lands and waters must be a core lens and not an afterthought. Work is currently underway across three interconnected fronts: a BC Flood Strategy roadmap running to 2035 focused on updated floodplain mapping; nature-based infrastructure guidelines; and land use guidance. Drought and water scarcity responses addressing conditions in areas that have never faced drought before, with an eye toward long-term food system resilience, and a coastal marine strategy tackling shoreline protection, habitat health monitoring, and pollution prevention against the compounding threats of erosion, storm surges, and sea level rise, are all areas of concern for communities. Progress on all fronts requires commitment and collaboration across all levels of government

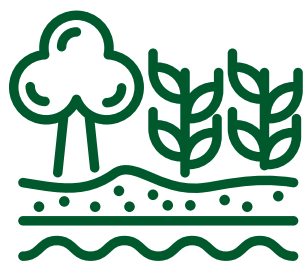
Questions and Concerns

This session sparked conversation about the structural and systemic barriers standing in the way of progress on watershed health and conservation. Below are the key themes that emerged from the discussion:

Key themes

Forestry Practices & Watershed Protection

Concerns about the impact of forestry practices on flood risk and watershed health resurfaced, alongside calls for stronger multi-jurisdictional collaboration. Land use plans developed with communities, defining what is valued, including watersheds and forest landscape plans, were highlighted as a key mechanism for the Ministry to step in and act



Conservation

A broader question emerged: what are local governments not doing to move conservation forward? The discussion pointed to the need for a fundamental shift in how we value our land. Prioritizing the climate crisis and recognizing that our economic future depends on healthy ecosystems, not just resource extraction is essential. Working groups, transition plans, and tools like watershed security monetization were raised as ways to elevate conservation without losing momentum

Funding & Permitting

With funding becoming less available, streamlining permitting was identified as a critical cost-reduction lever. Proposed amendments to the Water Sustainability Act were noted as a promising step, potentially allowing projects to proceed without requiring new permit applications each time



Local Success Story



A standout example of what is possible when collaboration comes first, this multi-partner restoration project between the Nootka Sound Watershed Society, Ecofish Research, Trinity Consultants Canada, Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation, and the Pacific Salmon Foundation on Vancouver Island is supporting the restoration of Chinook Salmon habitat



Check out the full video of the project from the Pacific Salmon Foundation [here](#)

MODERNIZING INDUSTRIAL WATER RATES IN BC

The BC Watershed Security Coalition is leading a campaign on increasing BC industrial water rates. The goal is to use the increased revenue to invest in protecting water sources, safeguarding communities, and securing long term prosperity



Declining watershed health is intensifying droughts, floods, and wildfires, putting communities, ecosystems, and industries at risk. At the same time, we are facing rising demand with strained infrastructure which continues to increase recovery costs

80%

Decrease in provincial funding for watershed security projects since 2022.

\$400 MILLION

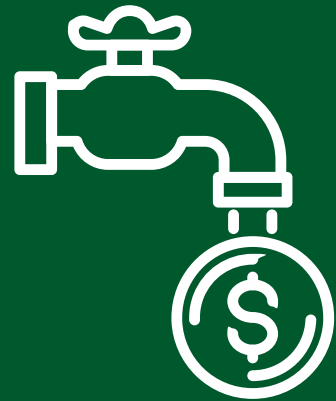
of hydro power water revenue is generated each year. Currently none of this revenue is provided for the protection of our watersheds. The solution would be to have the province reallocate the revenue with:

20% (40 MILLION)

reinvested back into watersheds annually for the critical work necessary to aid watersheds in crisis

BC has the lowest industrial water rates in Canada

- The solution is to increase water rates to match other provinces
- The proposal has widespread support, with no extra cost to farmers, residents, or small businesses
- Changes would reflect approx 0.2% of operating costs for large industrial users



The path forward

Modernize industrial water rates and review them every three years to generate new revenue, while reinvesting at least 20% of annual hydropower water revenues into watershed protection

This approach also calls for dedicating new water-based revenue to watershed security, including allocating \$75 million annually to the BC Watershed Security Fund and investing \$10 million per year in a province-wide network of local watershed boards

Curious to learn more?



Read the complete report [here](#)

Thank you for reading this resource, this information was brought to you by the following funders



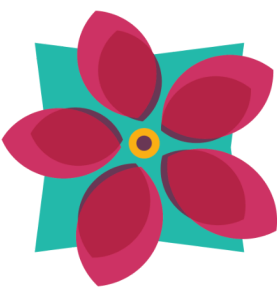
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