

# Working Together for a Climate Ready BC

**We've all seen signs that the climate is changing, and as it does, it has the potential to affect many aspects of our lives. As part of CleanBC, the Province is developing a climate preparedness and adaptation strategy to help ensure we're ready for the changes to come.**

As COVID-19 continues to impact our communities, we're all focused on keeping people safe and providing support to those in need. This pandemic has demonstrated the importance of early action to limit harm, and the need for a resilient, equitable approach to preparing for the future. B.C.'s climate adaptation planning continues that focus, helping to ensure we're prepared for, and protected from, the risks posed by climate change.

CleanBC is working to reduce provincial greenhouse gas emissions and put B.C. on a path to a cleaner, better future. B.C.'s climate preparedness and adaptation strategy will expand this focus to address the unavoidable impacts of climate change – like record-breaking wildfires and heat waves, changing ecosystems, longer growing seasons, extended droughts and more frequent flooding.

By planning and taking action now, we can help ensure that people have the support they need to be ready for changing conditions. Integrating effective responses into how we do business, build our communities and protect our environment will help keep us safe while reducing the costs of climate change in the long-run.

Potential actions that are being considered for the climate preparedness and adaptation strategy are organized around seven themes:



The strategy will be fiscally responsible and take a phased approach to implementation. It will build on adaptation work already underway by the Province including:

- **Working with agricultural producers to develop adaptation strategies and explore innovative technologies and practices to make the industry more resilient**
- **Designing our highways to cope with future climate and extreme weather conditions**

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- **Selecting tree species to keep our forests healthy and productive in a changing climate**
- **Applying B.C.'s Drought Response Plan to guide work of provincial agencies**
- **Incorporating sea-level rise into coastal flood protection and development decisions**
- **Creating practical information and tools to support adaptation planning by local governments and professionals.**

As a first step to better understand climate-related risks, B.C. completed a [Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment](#) that examined 15 climate risks and their potential consequences at the provincial level. It found that by 2050, B.C. will face significant risks from wildfire, extreme heat, flooding and sea-level rise, drought and water scarcity and ocean acidification. This assessment, along with other scientific evidence and engagement, will help inform the strategy so that our level of preparedness is right for the level of risk.

Learn more about what B.C. is currently doing to prepare for climate impacts: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change/adaptation>

The Province recognizes the leadership and resilience of Indigenous peoples and is working to develop an approach to climate adaptation that respects commitments in the [B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) and deepens partnerships to prepare for a changing climate. The Province is working closely with the Indigenous Climate Adaptation Technical Working Group and the B.C. First Nations Leadership Council Technical Working Group on Climate Change, in addition to engaging directly with Indigenous communities and organizations.

In fall 2019, the Province heard from thousands of people across B.C. during the Climate Ready BC public engagement. Top concerns expressed were wildfire and smoke, water availability, changes to ecosystems and more extreme weather events. People let us know that climate issues were impacting their physical and mental health, damaging their property and interfering with their ability to hunt, recreate and cultivate food. We also discussed initial thoughts and ideas with Indigenous leadership, communities and organizations, local governments, professional associations, non-profit organizations, industry and others.

Now we're moving forward with key partners, including Indigenous governments and communities, local governments and practitioners to explore potential actions. Your feedback is important to help us evaluate which actions will be most effective and implementable.

The climate preparedness and adaptation strategy is expected to be released later in 2020.

You can share your thoughts by participating in two ways:

- **Filling out a [questionnaire](#) and**
- **Attending an upcoming engagement workshop to discuss your ideas in more depth.**

For more information, contact: [ClimateReadyBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ClimateReadyBC@gov.bc.ca)

Thank you for taking the time to help get B.C. climate ready.