



A FLOURISHING NATURAL WORLD

We will not accept a future where our province is engulfed in flames, our children breathe polluted air, and floods and droughts continually disrupt our lives.

It's clear the climate is changing rapidly. These shifts already impact our economy, our ecosystems, and our health and wellbeing.

Fortunately, BC is well positioned to be a clean energy leader. With smart choices over the next four years, we can build a thriving clean energy economy, attract investment, and provide good jobs.

We can afford a safe and sustainable future for our children. We can afford a future where our iconic forests and wildlife are healthy and abundant; where our communities have energy-efficient buildings equipped with heat pumps and solar panels; where our watersheds are protected and secure.

We must dramatically and rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions to stabilize the climate. The BC Greens understand this task and have developed ambitious solutions that address the urgency of this moment.

By stopping the expansion of fossil fuel production in British Columbia, we will follow other jurisdictions towards a climate-safe future. We will redirect those funds towards developing a robust, internationally-acclaimed clean energy industry. Reaching these

goals will not only reduce carbon emissions but respect the cultural and environmental values of local communities. By directing a portion of carbon pricing revenue to local governments, we will help communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of climate change.

Safeguarding our climate and environment requires participation from all parts of the province.

By working collaboratively with local governments and First Nations, we can build resilience, mitigate risks, and create a strong clean energy economy that British Columbians can be proud of.

As we embark on this transition, inclusivity will be our guiding principle. We will support workers and communities, invite local input and foster shared decision-making. We will ensure that the benefits of resource management remain within our local communities.

With strong leadership, we can safeguard what makes British Columbia special—our clean air and water, our thriving forests, and our resilient communities—while ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

We can afford climate action. Together, we can forge a cleaner, safer future for all.

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).



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.



Biodiversity and Environmental Protection

By reversing biodiversity loss and protecting our natural systems, we can ensure a thriving, resilient BC into the future

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Our goal is clear: to halt and reverse biodiversity loss while building resilience for both ecosystems and communities. We have the roadmap, the tools and the vision to shape a better future—one where ecosystem health and biodiversity are central to every decision we make.

We know that a sustainable future begins with protecting and restoring the natural areas that make our province so ecologically diverse. We will create a sustainable economy that provides good, well-paid jobs without compromising the environment.

The role of government is crucial in this transformation. When elected, we will proactively engage communities to identify and safeguard environmental and social values to develop long-term solutions that allow us to flourish today without impacting the ability of future generations to do the same.

With bold leadership, BC can become a global leader in nature-based climate solutions, where healthy ecosystems not only support life but also naturally sequester carbon, helping us mitigate the impacts of climate change.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

BC is home to the most biodiversity in all of Canada. It's also home to more species at risk than any other province or territory.

Despite campaign promises from the NDP, our province still lacks stand-alone legislation to protect species at risk. We are in the midst of a biodiversity crisis and standing at a crossroads: either we take bold action to protect our ecosystems or we risk losing iconic species like caribou, spotted owls and orcas forever.

Decades of resource extraction have degraded the natural systems that both wildlife and communities depend on—with global climate change only worsening these threats. As BC faces more frequent

and intense wildfires and floods, it's clear we need a fundamental shift in how we manage our land, water and air—one that prioritizes resilience, values ecosystem services and invests in our communities for the long term.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

When elected, the BC Greens will:

Prioritize Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity

- Require measures to protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystem health where necessary.
- Improve decision-making for industrial projects by holding industry to higher standards.

Prioritize Protection

- Achieve 30% land and water protection by 2030, in consultation with First Nations.
- Work with Indigenous communities to establish Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), fully upholding those declared by First Nations.
- Strengthen and fund BC's park system, create new provincial parks, and expand camping and recreation opportunities.
- Establish urban tree canopy targets and improve legal protections for urban trees.

Protect Species-at-Risk

- Immediately enact Species at Risk legislation to safeguard vulnerable species.
- Allocate \$120 million to fish and wildlife programs over three years.

Nature-Based Solutions

- Invest \$50 million in a Youth Climate Corps to provide good-paying jobs for youth in restoring and protecting natural systems.
- Invest in a Watershed Security Fund to protect BC's

watersheds (see Watershed Security section).

- Invest in Indigenous-led conservation and Indigenous Guardians programs.
- Shift to long-term, stable funding for nature-based solutions.
- Support long-term employment and governance in line with community goals and priorities.

Strengthen Environmental Oversight

- Create an integrated and independent compliance and enforcement regime for the Ministry of Energy and Mines.
- Increase bonding rates for industry to account for worst-case scenarios and raise fines to deter reckless behaviour.
- Address industry's disproportionate access to government in decision-making processes.
- Lower thresholds for mandatory environmental assessments and close loopholes that allow projects to avoid assessments.
- Increase oversight and independence of the BC Conservation Officer Service and other Natural Resource Compliance Officers.

Reform the Mining Sector

- Modernize BC's mining and mineral staking regimes to respect Indigenous rights and reduce risks to our watersheds and communities.
- Modernize the Mineral Tenure Act to ensure it reflects current environmental, social and Indigenous rights concerns.
- Establish an industry-levied fund to mitigate the costs of mining pollution and disasters, including the rehabilitation of abandoned mines.
- Enhance oversight of the mining industry through a robust inspection and audit process.
- Designate certain areas, including salmon rivers, as off-limits to mining.
- Engage in a conversation about the future of critical minerals in BC. Prioritize transition minerals in mining. Ensure that benefits flow to communities and First Nations, not just shareholders.

Invest In Our Coasts

- Transition all open net-pen salmon farms in BC to land-based aquaculture systems.
- Restore and protect salmon habitat to ensure the survival of key species.
- Regulate the shipbreaking industry to protect coastal habitats from harmful practices.



Forests

To safeguard British Columbia's forests through holistic, sustainable management that ensures ecosystem health, biodiversity, and community prosperity.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Protecting British Columbia's old-growth and primary forests is not just important—it is crucial to securing a resilient future for our environment, economy and communities. To do this, we need a new approach. We must manage our forests holistically, recognizing the full range of values they provide. This starts with enacting legislation that makes the conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity the top priority. Logging practices must also evolve to reflect this new approach, with a sustainable timber supply just one of the many benefits.

Through bold action, we can be a leader in forest management, establishing an industry that prioritizes long-term sustainability. We will actively support communities by ensuring small producers have access to sustainable wood, incentivizing value-added wood products, and encouraging non-traditional uses of wood fibre. Revenue-sharing with First Nations, municipalities and regional districts will ensure that the benefits of these practices are shared equitably.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

British Columbia's forests are some of the most unique and diverse in the world, but a century of extractive logging practices and increasingly destructive wildfires have degraded these ecosystems with little regard for nature or culture. The result has been landslides, droughts, impacts on fish populations and the loss of both cultural values and biodiversity. These pressures are only intensifying as climate change and biodiversity loss accelerate, threatening the critical services and economic resources our forests provide.

For decades, Indigenous communities, scientists and environmental advocates have called for a fundamental change in how we manage our forests. While the BC NDP government has promised new legislation and protections, old-growth logging continues and communities—both Indigenous and non-Indigenous—are left facing mill closures and job losses.

The time for comprehensive protection is now. We must prioritize the health of our forests and the wellbeing of the communities that depend on them by embracing sustainable practices that protect ecosystems and create long-term prosperity.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

When elected, the BC Greens will:

Prioritize Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity

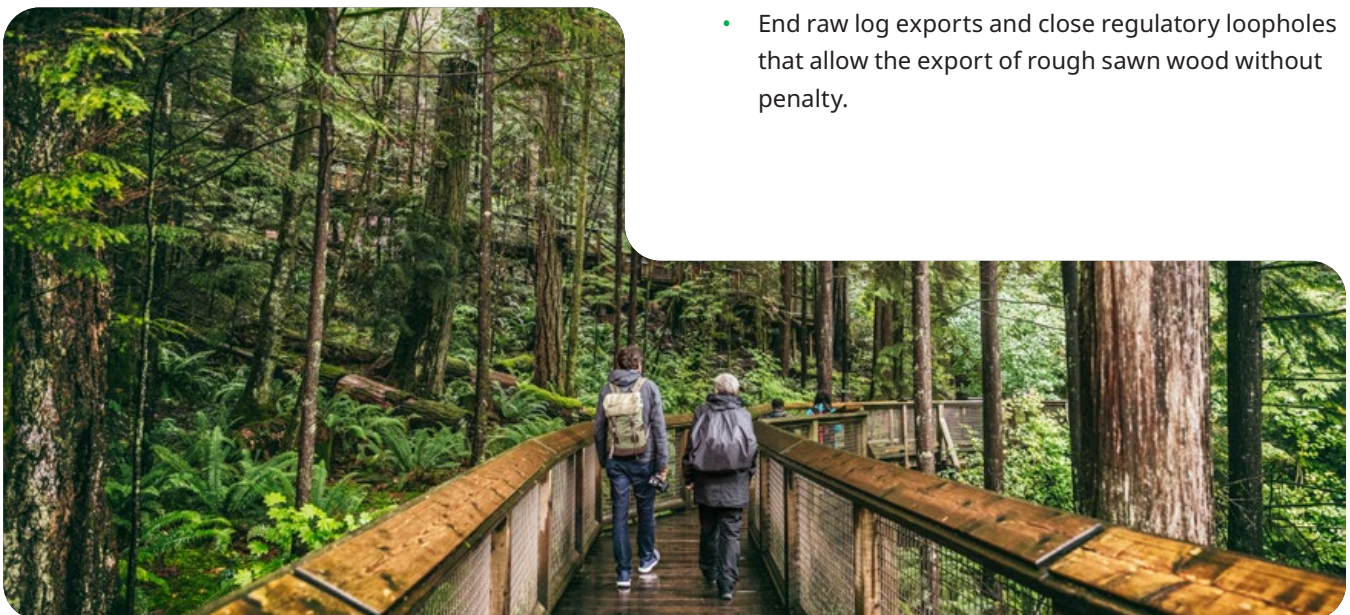
- Immediately establish conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of BC's forests as an overarching priority, with timber supply being one benefit (for more information, see our Environment plank)
- Establish a Chief Ecologist as a counterpart to the Chief Forester to ensure multiple values are adequately incorporated into timber supply analysis and other decision-making
- Zone BC's forests into three broad categories:
 1. Primary forests
 2. Restoration in secondary forests
 3. Second-growth forests managed for timber production
- Reduce the Annual Allowable Cut to ecologically and economically sustainable levels.
- Scale up, fund, and prioritize Forest Landscape Plans and Modernized Land Use Planning processes.
- Stop clearcut industrial logging and adopt logging practices that emulate natural disturbance regimes, such as selective logging, commercial thinning, and longer stand rotations.
- Ban the use of glyphosate and other chemical herbicides.
- Improve silviculture practices.
- Amend the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* to ensure basic ecological and cultural protections on private land.

Protect Old Growth/Primary Forests

- Implement all 14 recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review in partnership with First Nations.
- Defer harvesting in the most at-risk old growth forests, as outlined by the Old Growth Technical Advisory Panel.
- Fully fund the protection of old forests and compensate First Nations for any lost revenues due to deferrals.
- Implement effective targets for old and mature forest retention, and improve riparian protection province-wide, as an interim strategy before Forest Landscape Planning is finalized.
- Direct Ministry of Forests staff to improve transparency in government announcements, reporting, and monitoring. Make information about forests and logging accessible and current—including updated maps and data.
- Strictly prohibit pellet mills from converting trees logged in primary or old growth forests into wood pellets. Define ‘waste’ for pellet mills to ensure ecosystem health is protected.
- Dedicate funds for private land acquisition to protect old growth forests on private lands.

Generate More Jobs and Revenue

- Expand the community forest program by increasing the number and size of community forests to promote wildfire protection, rural development, and Indigenous and non-Indigenous relationships. Remove the requirement for community forests to maintain the Annual Allowable Cut.
- Ensure maximization of value-added production from available timber supply, prioritizing small value-added producers. Aim to allocate 30%-50% of current available volume for value-added production as a short-term goal.
- Investigate opportunities to diversify milling and secondary manufacturing to better utilize existing timber resources.
- Review the tenure and appraisal system to encourage best practices and partial cutting in forestry.
- Begin a process of tenure reform to redistribute tenures from large corporations. Increase the proportion of tenures held by First Nations and community forests.
- Ensure resource revenue benefits flow directly to local communities by sharing more revenues with First Nations, municipalities, and regional districts.
- Fund training and upskilling programs to support workers finding new job opportunities.
- End raw log exports and close regulatory loopholes that allow the export of rough sawn wood without penalty.



Wildfires

To safeguard our communities from wildfires, we prioritize prevention, build climate resilience and empower our communities

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

In order to limit the harmful impacts of wildfires, improve wildfire management, and help our communities adapt to living with fire, we need bold and immediate action. Protecting British Columbia's diverse landscapes and communities requires solutions that are tailored to the unique risks and priorities of each region. A one-size-fits-all approach will not suffice.

Restoring the health of our forests and enhancing wildfire preparedness within our communities are essential steps toward building resilience. The BC Greens are committed to working with communities and First Nations to implement strategies that reflect their specific needs, ensuring that provincial programs empower locally-driven solutions.

We recognize that the hidden costs of wildfires—to ecosystems, human health, watersheds and the economy—far outweigh direct firefighting expenses. As such, we will invest in prevention, mitigation, restoration and climate adaptation treatments. By embracing this comprehensive strategy, we can secure a safer, more resilient future for British Columbia and its people.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

British Columbia is in the midst of a growing wildfire crisis. Decades of fire suppression, combined with the escalating impacts of climate change, have led to larger and more intense wildfires across the province. The 2023 wildfire season in BC was the most devastating on record, burning millions of hectares, displacing thousands of people, destroying homes, and exposing countless residents to dangerously unhealthy air.

As climate change accelerates, wildfires are expected to become even more frequent and severe. Polarized responses won't protect our communities. We need to engage and educate communities to build trust and understanding of wildfire risks.

The BC Greens are committed to fostering collaboration among federal, provincial, Indigenous, and local governments, as well as private organizations,

to increase wildfire resilience. Only through strong partnerships and coordinated efforts can we safeguard British Columbia from the growing wildfire threat.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

When elected, the BC Greens will:

Protect communities

- Dedicate \$100 million in annual funding for preventative and harm-reduction measures, including fuel management treatments to mitigate wildfire risks.
- Improve communication about wildfires through engagement, better live updates, more trusted information and more detailed coverage.
- Fully implement all recommendations from the Abbott Chapman report to improve firefighting strategies and community safety.
- Build on FireSmart and wildland urban interface management programs to foster neighborhood resilience against wildfires.
- Provide funding and technical assistance to private landowners to improve outreach and wildfire preparedness.

Support Firefighters

- Hire additional seasonal and year-round firefighters to ensure adequate staffing.
- Invest \$50 million annually in community safety and firefighting responses.
- Implement strategies to fix recruitment and retention issues within the firefighting community.
- Enhance agency capacity and resources for local firefighting teams to improve response effectiveness. Incorporate local knowledge into first responders' training.
- Ensure access to mental health support for survivors of wildfires and firefighters.

Manage Forests for Resilience

- Increase the scale of fuel treatments, such as forest thinning and fuel removal, to reduce fire hazards.
- Expand the use of prescribed and cultural burning while supporting Indigenous fire stewardship practices.
- Mandate that industry adopt better practices, including fuel thinning and removal, to enhance forest resilience.
- Shift forest management focus to include ecosystem health, biodiversity, climate resilience, and community resilience, rather than solely timber production.
- Expand community forests to enhance local management and stewardship.
- Provide \$50 million for a Youth Climate Corps to engage in year-round mitigation work and forest management.

Community Engagement and Collaboration

- Proactively engage communities to build trust, educate, and empower local decisions regarding wildfire management.
- Invest in initiatives that support communities and build social cohesion to enhance resilience.
- Develop and implement place-based solutions tailored to local needs and conditions.
- Establish a new cooperative and collaborative approach to wildfire management that includes all levels of government—Indigenous, local, and federal.
- Engage industry, civil society, local experts, non-government organizations, and citizens to leverage diverse resources and knowledge for adapting to landscape and wildfire challenges.



Disaster Prevention and Management

Reduce the risk of disasters and increase community resiliency in BC

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

We face a stark choice: continue with ineffective disaster relief or embrace a preventative, people-centered approach that builds resilience and reduces future costs. Our strategy is grounded in the principles of the United Nations' Sendai Framework, addressing all phases of disaster management—prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. We are committed to investing in nature-based solutions and climate resilience to better prepare communities for extreme climate events and support their recovery from disasters.

Indigenous communities are often on the front lines of floods, landslides and wildfires—and they must be integral partners and leaders in emergency management. We will ensure Indigenous involvement from the outset, engaging First Nations at every stage of planning, decision-making and implementation. We will also strengthen relationships across all levels of government, which is essential for building climate resilience and mitigating disaster risks and impacts.

Our province is already feeling the impacts of climate change—and costs are escalating. We will take decisive action now to protect our communities, safeguard our environment and ensure a sustainable future. The time for meaningful climate action is now. Together, we can build a safer, more resilient British Columbia for everyone.

PROBLEM DEFINITION:

British Columbia is on the front lines of the climate crisis. Across the province, communities are grappling with unprecedented wildfires, droughts, floods, and heat domes. These extreme weather events are not just environmental issues—they are urgent crises that threaten our health, livelihoods, infrastructure and economy.

The reality is clear: extreme weather will become more frequent and severe as the climate crisis worsens. We cannot afford to delay. Immediate action is essential

to prepare our communities, enhance resilience, and secure our collective future. Investing in climate resilience and adaptation is not just a necessity—it is a moral obligation.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

When elected, the BC Greens will:

Adopt the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

- Ensure there are enough paid, trained professionals available to manage disasters from mitigation to recovery.
- Establish and maintain strong relationships between First Nations, local governments and emergency management agencies, including BC Wildfire Service.

Mitigation

- Shift from reactive disaster response to proactive resilience building and climate action, including habitat restoration and biodiversity protection.
- Utilize nature-based solutions to protect and conserve ecosystems while augmenting natural assets with green infrastructure.
- Implement measures to reduce risks at the local level, linking to Wildfire and Watershed Security planks for further details.
- Invest in initiatives like a Youth Climate Corps and Watershed Security Fund to bolster community resilience and environmental protection.

Preparedness

- Ensure local authorities and First Nations have the capacity, resources, and authority to prepare and respond effectively to emergencies.
- Provide ongoing funding and resources for First Nations and local governments to conduct comprehensive hazard risk and vulnerability assessments.

- Foster community engagement and participation before disasters occur to strengthen preparedness.
- Utilize local expertise to enhance disaster preparedness and response efforts.

Response

- Ensure timely and accurate information is communicated to the public during emergencies.
- Ensure reception centers are accessible and supports are available for all evacuees. Ensure economic, cultural, and practical needs are met for evacuees.
- Identify and address gaps in the emergency support system. Develop a plan to assist individuals facing long-term displacement due to disasters.
- Prioritize responses to extreme weather events that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and Indigenous Peoples.

Recovery

- Emphasize the “build back better” approach to recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts.
- Rebuild buildings and infrastructure to withstand potential disasters and climate change impacts. Prohibit construction in disaster prone areas.
- Integrate mental health support and address long-term displacement issues.

Securing Funding

- Negotiate with the federal government to create a dedicated funding stream for community resilience projects, including neighbourhood-level emergency preparedness and resilience-building programs.
- Connect carbon tax revenue directly to community climate action initiatives, including diking system improvements and wildfire prevention measures.



Watershed Security

Thanks to strong co-governance, communities, fish, and ecosystems across BC are ensured a resilient and sustainable water future

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Water will be the defining issue of the coming decades, shaping our future in ways we cannot afford to overlook. Water is more than just a resource—it is the foundation of our health, the backbone of our local economies, and a lifeline for our communities, forests, fish, and wildlife.

Recognizing the vital role water plays, we are committed to prioritizing the health and security of our watersheds. This means fostering collaborative governance models that allow for equitable access, thoughtful management and shared decision-making. By doing so, we can ensure that communities across the province have both the voice and the tools necessary to protect this invaluable resource.

Water is, at its core, a shared responsibility. Effective stewardship cannot happen in isolation. It requires the direct involvement of First Nations and local communities, whose deep connections to the land and water must guide our collective efforts. Only through an inclusive and sustainable approach can we secure the future of our water resources for future generations.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

British Columbia is facing increasingly severe climate challenges—droughts, landslides, flooding, and water quality issues—putting immense strain on our water management systems. Farmers, in particular, are struggling with water shortages that threaten food security and their livelihoods.

Without intervention, our way of life, economy, and food supply are at serious risk. The situation is worsened by past mismanagement, such as logging in vital watersheds and inadequate regulation of large water users, compounded by the province's continued expansion of water-intensive fracking.

To safeguard our water security, we must empower local communities to take the lead and invest in natural infrastructure, such as protecting aquifers and restoring wetlands. These actions will not only improve flood protection and maintain clean water supplies but also create sustainable jobs and long-lasting solutions.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Create Watershed Boards

- Create and support watershed boards in every community. These boards will be granted authority over decisions that affect watershed security and will serve as collaborative platforms where First Nations and local stakeholders - farmers, industry representatives, commercial users, and environmental stewards - can collaboratively manage and conserve their local water sources.
- We will commit \$100 million to fund the establishment and ongoing support of watershed boards across the province, ensuring their sustainability and effectiveness.

Streamline the *Water Sustainability Act*

- Set clear environmental and critical flow thresholds to safeguard water ecosystems and ensure sustainable water use across the province.
- Safeguard drinking water sources by implementing stronger protections and monitoring to prevent contamination and overuse.
- Require industries to accurately report their water use and provide state-of-the-watershed reporting, improving transparency and resource management.
- Grant an amnesty to farmers and long-standing water users who missed previous deadlines, allowing them to apply for water licenses before new users.
- Update the “first-in-time, first-in-right” principle to reflect modern realities, ensuring allocations are adaptable and durable.
- Empower local watershed boards to have a role in critical water-use decisions.
- Improve the Ministry of Environment’s ability to administer penalties, enhancing compliance with water use regulations and protecting water resources.

Invest in Watershed Security

- Leverage federal funding to create a \$1 billion endowment for the BC Watershed Security Fund. The fund will support community planning, decision-making functions, and natural defenses against floods, fires, droughts, and contamination.
- Provide \$75 million annually to the BC Watershed Security Fund to ensure sustainable, long-term investment in watershed management.
- Mandate that municipalities install water meters to track water usage, ensuring accountability and promoting conservation.
- Fund and implement the BC Flood Strategy by 2027 to protect floodplain communities and agricultural land from climate-related flooding risks.
- Invest in building more water storage reservoirs and bolster wetlands to enhance water retention and resilience against drought.

Reform Water Use

- Protect the province's water resources to ensure long-term water security.
- Increase water rental rates to reflect the true ecological costs of water extraction in BC.
- Commit to an ongoing, comprehensive review of water rental rates to ensure they remain fair and reflective of ecological values.
- Suspend all non-essential industrial water uses, including fracking and water bottling, during periods of severe drought to prioritize essential water needs.
- Mandate the treatment and increased reuse of fracking wastewater to minimize the use of fresh water in fracking operations.
- Implement stricter standards for disposal wells and require baseline and ongoing testing of water systems affected by oil and gas operations.
- Transfer water licensing and permitting authority back to the Water Stewardship Branch, ending preferential treatment for oil and gas companies and ensuring stricter oversight.



Clean Air

Every British Columbian can breathe clean, healthy air—both indoors and out—all year round

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

The Province has a responsibility to protect public health by taking air pollution seriously and addressing the rising dangers posed by wildfire smoke.

When elected, we will take decisive action to safeguard the health of our communities, with a focus on caring for the most vulnerable. Wildfire smoke is not just a short-term nuisance—its long-term effects on health are becoming increasingly apparent. To confront this challenge, we need long-term planning and meaningful investments in clean air infrastructure across the province.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Wildfire smoke has become an unavoidable and troublesome reality of BC summers, with communities across the province regularly facing smoky skies and air quality alerts. Climate change, coupled with historically poor forestry practices, has created conditions for larger and more intense wildfires. These fires produce smoke that can travel thousands of kilometers, impacting both nearby and distant communities alike.

Air pollution is now the greatest environmental threat to human health, and wildfire smoke plays a significant role. In Canada, it is linked to thousands of premature deaths each year, and in BC air pollution costs the healthcare system at least \$14 billion annually.

There is no safe level of exposure to wildfire smoke. Even at low concentrations, it poses serious health risks. As climate change continues to accelerate, our exposure to this harmful pollution will only intensify, making it clear that urgent action is needed to protect public health.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Invest in Clean Air Centres and HEPA filters.

- Monitor and regulate air quality in both indoor and outdoor environments, particularly in places frequented by vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant people, those with pre-existing health conditions, and the elderly.
- Invest in clean air centres in every community to provide safe environments during air quality emergencies, ensuring they have appropriate and safe levels of air filtration and air conditioning. Ensure clean air centres are equipped to meet the needs of the community, providing water, food, beds, access to Wi-Fi and other essential services.
- Make clean air accessible to people in their homes by providing funding to purchase portable air cleaners with HEPA filters.
- Mandate that existing infrastructure for vulnerable populations- including, assisted care facilities, childcare centres, and schools - are retrofitted with air filters.
- Require new buildings to have safe levels of air filtration and cooling and standardize this across the province.
- Ensure employers and operators adhere to regulations in order to ensure safe air quality standards are met.

Farming and food security

Address immediate food security needs while creating a vibrant, sustainable food system that values farmers and strengthens community resilience.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Ensuring all British Columbians have access to nourishing food is essential to the health and wellbeing of our communities, and it is a key priority for our party. We are committed to working with farmers and other stakeholders to transform our food and farming systems so that we are producing healthy, nutritious food at fair prices for consumers, while also ensuring fair wages for growers.

Over 50% of our food comes from California, a region suffering from drought and wildfires. BC's reliance on food imports leaves us vulnerable if exporting jurisdictions decide they need to keep their food at home. Farmers are on the front lines of climate change, and the provincial government must step up to support the resilience of our food systems in the face of these challenges.

We urgently need to invest in food security, protect our farmland, and support our farmers. When elected, our focus will be on building a food system that strengthens local and regional economies rather than serving corporate interests. By protecting agricultural land, expanding local food production, and investing in processing infrastructure, we can fortify our regional food networks and reduce reliance on distant sources.

This approach will create a more resilient, self-sufficient, and sustainable food system for all British Columbians.

PROBLEM DEFINITION:

Food insecurity is a pressing issue affecting communities across the province. We can see this in the rising use of food banks by families. Climate change impacts like flooding and droughts threaten our food security now, and are only expected to worsen in both severity and frequency in the coming years.

For too long, provincial agriculture policies have benefited large corporations and prioritized exports at the expense of local food systems and the economic wellbeing of family farmers. These policies have undermined the foundation of our food security, making it clear that we need to shift our focus toward strengthening local food networks and supporting those who produce our food.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Protect Farmland

- Expand the area of land under food production by providing \$90 million in funding for a publicly owned agricultural land bank - available for lease by new farmers.
- Make food production and food security part of the Agricultural Land Commission's (ALC) mandate to protect and prioritize agricultural use.
- Restrict and regulate foreign ownership of Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land to ensure that farmland remains in local hands and supports food security.
- Investigate how to mitigate the impacts of oil and gas operations on agricultural land in the northeast region of the province.

Promote Regenerative Farming Practices

- Incentivize regenerative farming practices that build healthier soils, improve water management (e.g., rainwater harvesting systems), reduce energy use and sequester carbon.
- Streamline the approval processes for water storage dugouts on farms to improve drought resilience and water availability.
- Commit the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to work with farmers to ensure the protection of food crops during drought periods.

Support Farmers

- Improve access to credit and capital for new farmers to make it easier to start and sustain farming operations.
- Identify options to make farming a more attractive and sustainable endeavor, including exploring a Basic Income Guarantee for farmers to secure income and encourage the next generation of farmers.

Local Food Systems

- Invest \$9 million to bolster local food systems.
- Rebuild our local food processing, storage and distribution systems.
- Support small-scale, cooperatively-owned infrastructure and businesses, including grocery retailers.
- Develop policies to facilitate public institutional procurement of local food, ensuring schools, hospitals and other institutions prioritize locally produced food.
- Invest in farmers markets, community-supported agriculture, and non-profit food hubs.
- Increase support for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program.

Address the Root Causes of Food Insecurity

- Create a universal school food program that provides:
 - **Equal Access:** Ensuring every child in British Columbia has access to healthy meals, regardless of their family's financial situation.
 - **Nutritional Standards:** Meals will meet nutritional guidelines to support children's health and development.
 - **School and Community Collaboration:** Work with schools, organizations, and local farmers to promote sustainable practices and educate children on healthy eating habits.

Indigenous Food Sovereignty

- Support the development of systems to address food insecurity in First Nations communities that honour Indigenous knowledge, values, harvesting areas and practices.
- Support Indigenous communities' access to and use of traditional foods.
- Invest in Indigenous food sovereignty programs that promote community-led initiatives and sustainable food systems.

