

Climate Change in BC – the Imperative

Eleven of the last 12 years (1995–2006) rank among the 12 warmest years in the instrumental record of surface temperature since 1850. The temperature increase is widespread over the globe, and is greater at higher northern latitudes. Land regions have warmed faster than the oceans. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activity are contributing to the increase in global temperature, and may lead to substantial changes in weather patterns. These changes will affect ecosystems, the global food supply and ultimately, human health.



CLOSE TO HOME

In BC, temperature change is affecting our forest and range ecosystems and the communities that rely on them. Climate change is increasing the impact of insect and disease outbreaks, and may increase the spread of invasive weed species. Warmer temperature may also affect the frequency and severity of forest fires, floods and drought.

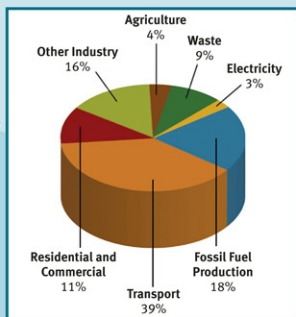
WESTERN CLIMATE INITIATIVE

BC is collaborating in the Western Climate Initiative with eight other jurisdictions to collectively reduce emissions by 15% below 2005 levels by 2020. Their **Climate Registry** will play an important role in establishing an accurate reporting mechanism and accounting infrastructure on which to base a cap-and-trade program for emissions. Consideration is being given to the role of forests in any related program to offset emissions that do not fall under the capped sectors.



REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The Government of BC is taking decisive action to confront global warming.



Source: Ministry of Environment (based on 2004 data)

GHG emissions in BC will be reduced by 33% of 2007 levels by 2020, and 80% by 2050. These targets are now law.

Some examples of BC activities include:

- BC government operations will be carbon neutral by 2010.
- Each tonne of GHG emissions from government travel will be offset through investments in the Pacific Carbon Trust. The trust will be used to fund valid offset projects with a high degree of environmental integrity in BC.

All sectors of our society and economy will have a role to play in substantially reducing BC's GHG emissions and adapting successfully to climate change impacts.



Climate Change and Forest Carbon
Strategic Unit



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