



British Columbia - Washington State



Joint Action Plan on Carbon Neutral Government

Whereas, the Province of British Columbia and Washington State are resolved to see decisive and immediate action taken to address greenhouse gas emissions that are impacting the climate and the environment of Pacific coastal jurisdictions, and the world;

Whereas, the Province of British Columbia and Washington State have previously agreed to take action on climate change under a Memorandum of Understanding signed on June 8, 2007;

Whereas, both jurisdictions aim to promote the development and use of low-carbon technologies;

Whereas, the Province of British Columbia and Washington State are committed to leading by example by advancing efficient and low-carbon government operations;

Whereas, the Province of British Columbia has a legislated requirement for carbon neutral government operations in 2010 and beyond and is realizing operational improvements and energy cost savings;

Whereas, Washington State has passed legislation in 2009, mandating that all state agencies establish their 2005 baseline emissions and reduce them by 15% by 2020, 36% by 2035 and at least 57.5% by 2050;

Whereas, Washington State's Governor, Christine Gregoire, set a goal to have the state government be carbon neutral by 2020, with the Washington State Department of Ecology starting this effort and sharing lessons learned with other state agencies;

Therefore, the Province of British Columbia and the Washington State Department of Ecology resolve to implement the following Action Plan:

Carbon Neutral Government Operations

- The Province of British Columbia will work collaboratively with the Washington State Department of Ecology and provide support to advance the state's carbon neutral government initiatives.
 - Specifically, the Province of British Columbia will provide information to the Washington State Department of Ecology on policies and initiatives and will share and demonstrate greenhouse gas measurement tools used to achieve carbon neutrality.

- The Washington State Department of Ecology will report back at the next joint Cabinet meeting regarding the progress made towards carbon neutral government operations.

Limitations

The undersigned signatories agree that this Action Plan shall have no legal effect or impose a legally binding obligation on either the Province of British Columbia or Washington State. Neither the Province of British Columbia nor Washington State shall be responsible for the actions of third parties who may participate in the activities outlined in this Action Plan.

AGREED as to form and content and signed and dated in two (2) duplicate originals in Olympia, Washington this 2nd day of February 2011.

The Honorable John Yap
Minister of State for Climate Action
Province of British Columbia

Ted Sturdevant
Director
Washington State Department of Ecology