

Media Backgrounder and Fact Sheet

Ministry of Environment
Government of British Columbia

COOL B.C. – B.C. LEADS FIGHT AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING

British Columbia's climate action plan and initiatives for a greener future are leading the way in North America – and right across the globe! The B.C. Government legislated aggressive targets for greenhouse gas reductions and introduced North America's first tax on carbon emissions in order to sustain and improve upon today's quality of life for generations to come.

- The B.C. Government is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent below 2007 levels by 2020 and 80 per cent by 2050, and entrenched these targets in law.
- B.C. is working towards establishing a North American first – a carbon tax (in place), plus a cap and trade system.
- B.C.'s Climate Action Plan is the province's roadmap to a new, prosperous, green economy. The Plan outlines strategies and initiatives to take B.C. approximately 73 per cent towards meeting the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 33 per cent by 2020.
- As co-chair of the Western Climate Initiative, B.C. is a leader in the development of an international cap and trade system currently being designed with four Canadian and seven U.S. partners.
- It is estimated that the worldwide market for clean energy technologies will be valued at \$1-trillion by 2030. B.C.'s Climate Action Plan positions B.C. to support and capitalize on emerging opportunities for green power and technology.
- B.C. is a world leader in hydrogen fuel cell technology. 20 hydrogen fuel cell buses will be in operation as part of the BC Transit fleet in Whistler during the 2010 Winter Games. It will be the world's largest hydrogen fuel cell bus fleet operating in a single location, and the fleet will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1,800 tonnes per year in B.C. (*See separate fact sheet on B.C.'s hydrogen bus fleet.*)
- Whistler (Host Mountain Resort for the 2010 Winter Games) will be the first community in Canada to be carbon neutral. That means all government operations in Whistler will have a net zero impact on GHG emissions. This commitment puts Whistler two years ahead of schedule for the other 176 B.C. communities that are signed on to the province's Climate Action Charter, committing them to carbon neutral operations by 2012.
- As part of a \$14-billion Provincial Transit Plan, the Canada Line recently opened, providing rapid light rail service to Metro Vancouver's busiest north-south corridor, linking downtown Vancouver to Richmond and Vancouver International Airport (YVR).
- B.C. has developed strict new vehicle emission standards, which aim to reduce emissions from cars by 30 per cent, and save the average driver almost \$500 a year by 2016.
- Recently, B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell signed the 2009 Governors' Climate Summit Declaration on behalf of B.C., committing to work co-operatively with all levels of government around the world to combat climate change.

CONTACTS

Jonathan Rhone

President & CEO

Nexterra Energy Corp.

Email jrhone@nexterra.ca

Tel 604-637-2502

Cell 604-220-5186

Nexterra (Vancouver based company) develops, manufactures and delivers advanced gasification systems that enable customers to self-generate clean, low cost heat and power at industrial and institutional facilities using waste fuels. In an era of higher energy prices, this means dramatically lower costs, higher operating margins and less reliance on fossil fuels and grid-purchased electricity.

Lyn Brown

Vice-President, Corporate Relations and Social Responsibility

Catalyst Paper Corporation

E-mail contactus@catalystpaper.com

Tel 604-247-4713

Cell 604-247-4012

Catalyst (headquartered in Richmond, BC) is the leading paper producer in western North America, the largest producer of mechanical printing papers in western North America, and the only producer of lightweight coated paper in western North America. It's one of the largest producers of directory paper in the world.

Dr. Andrew Weaver

School of Earth and Ocean Sciences

University of Victoria

E-mail: wlewis@uvic.ca

Tel 250-472-4006

Cell 250-888-7591

Dr. Weaver's research focuses on the large-scale ocean circulation and the role of the oceans in climate, with a special emphasis upon three-dimensional numerical modelling. Recent themes include the stability and variability of the global thermohaline circulation, and feedbacks within the coupled air-sea-ice climate system, along with possible implications for both past and future climates.

WEB RESOURCES

The Climate Action Plan is B.C.'s roadmap to a new, prosperous, green economy for the province. It outlines strategies and initiatives to take B.C. approximately 73 per cent towards meeting the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent by 2020.

<http://www.livesmartbc.ca/government/plan.html>

Under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act, all public sector organizations are required to report out annually, beginning in June 2009, on their plans and actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

http://www.livesmartbc.ca/government/neutral_action_reports.html

The Pacific Carbon Trust is a provincial Crown corporation set up by the British Columbia government to acquire credible greenhouse gas (GHG) offsets on its behalf and meet government's target of a carbon-neutral public sector by 2010. Offsets represent emission reductions or removals through projects such as renewable energy generation, energy efficiency initiatives or tree planting. <http://www.pacificcarbontrust.ca/>

MEDIA COVERAGE

Campbell, Schwarzenegger to chat climate change - Globe and Mail - September 23, 2009

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/campbell-schwarzenegger-to-chat-climate-change/article1299130/>

BC Commits to Work Globally to Fight Climate Change – Tech Talk Blog – October 05, 2009

<http://www.vitp.ca/techpark-blog/post/2009/10/BC-Commits-to-Work-Globally-to-Fight-Climate-Change.aspx>

B.C. Leads In Energy And Climate Change Policy -- M2 Presswire, September 11, 2008

<http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-184761570.html>

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For assistance or more information:

David Currie

Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Environment

250-953-3834

David.Currie@gov.bc.ca