

# The MLA's primer for partnering with local governments on CLIMATE ACTION

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Local governments across BC are acknowledging the critical decade of climate action we've entered and ramping up their ambition and actions.

Local governments have an impact on over half of GHG emissions in BC - at least 150 communities have Community Energy Plans and/or Climate Action Plans representing 77% of BC's population.

The Province plays a vital role in supporting local action through enabling policies, funding and partnerships.

In turn, community-scale action supports Provincial CleanBC targets and objectives.

## Local Government Climate Action 2020



- » Since early 2019, over 30 BC communities, representing over 60% of BC's population, have declared a climate emergency and most of those are aligning with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) targets of 45% reduction from 2010 levels by 2030 and 100% reduction by 2050.
- » Many communities that have not declared a climate emergency are still ramping up action, adjusting targets, and refreshing their plans.
- » UBCM recently released its [recommendations](#) for how BC local governments can move towards a low-carbon future, including signature initiatives and supporting actions related to buildings, transportation, land use, solid waste, resilience, social mobilization, and governance.
- » [Help Cities Lead](#) is a new initiative that identifies 5 potential policy tools the Province can enable to help local governments reduce emissions from new and existing buildings.

## Local Government Leadership Highlights



Local governments collaborating with each other, the Province, utilities, and others have a history of developing effective climate action policies and programs.

Some examples include:

- » EV-ready building requirements
- » Regional approaches to the Energy Step Code and increasing efforts for a low-carbon approach
- » Retrofit campaigns and incentive top-ups
- » Collaborations to deploy regional EV charging networks (eg. Accelerate Kootenays and Charge North)



The BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council (BCMCLC) is composed of leading mayors and councilors from across BC representing communities – big and small, north and south, east and west – who are committed to climate action. Learn more: [www.bcmclc.ca](http://www.bcmclc.ca)

BCMCLC and CEA often coordinate with [Climate Caucus](#), a Canada-wide network of elected leaders working collectively to advance climate action in communities.



BCMCLC is facilitated by [Community Energy Association \(CEA\)](#), the trusted independent advisor to local governments on climate and energy.

Some of CEA's recent resources include:

- » The [Climate Leaders Playbook](#) featuring the Big Moves for deep emissions reductions
- » A [Climate Action Planner](#) online tool that enables any BC community to take a first look at their energy and emissions inventory and model the impacts of implementing the Big Moves

# Our Climate Action Pathway:

## Working together to create low carbon, liveable communities

Local governments need the Province to help with:

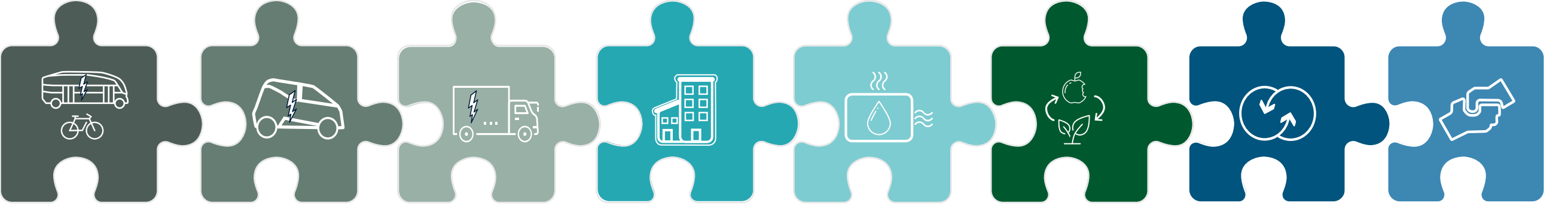
- Providing funding and financing tools
- Creating and updating regulations and legislation
- Supporting industry training, coordination and capacity
- Enabling new local government powers to advance climate action priorities



Local governments are doing a lot

- Supporting all ages and abilities (AAA) active transportation by building safe routes and enabling end-of-trip amenities
- Supporting transit ridership, car & bike sharing
- Providing public charging at municipal facilities
- Adopting EV-ready building requirements
- Investigating opportunities for fleet transition
- Adopting the Energy Step Code, some with a two-step low-carbon approach
- Delivering industry training
- Collaborating within regions and aligning requirements
- Topping up provincial and utility incentives, providing information, coordinating local and regional marketing campaigns
- Collecting and processing organics
- Investing in integrated resource recovery projects
- Many smaller communities lack organics collection infrastructure
- Conducting risk assessments and adapting to climate impacts
- Many communities need increased support
- Embedding climate action into budgeting and decision-making
- Reporting regularly on climate action progress

BIG MOVE



The Province can support in these ways

- Shift Beyond the Car**
  - Significantly increase investment in active transportation infrastructure
  - Fund transit improvements and decarbonization
  - Partner to enable more compact land use & transit-oriented density
  - Continue and expand e-bike incentives & reduce barriers to participation
  - Continue to work with innovative shared-mobility providers
- Electrify Passenger Transportation**
  - Increase public and workplace charging
  - Invest in regional & cross-regional fast-charging networks
- Decarbonize Commercial Vehicles**
  - Increase fuel efficiency standards for medium and heavy-duty vehicles
  - Provide funding for fleet conversion pilots
- Step Up New Buildings**
  - Implement carbon metrics in the building code for optional adoption by local governments
  - Support climate, jobs and affordable housing with the construction of sustainable wood-frame affordable housing units across the province
- Retrofit Existing Buildings**
  - Directly fund deep energy retrofits and fuel switching of affordable housing units
  - Support low-carbon retrofits through enabling legislation to allow local governments to require energy labelling and benchmarking
  - Enable Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing
  - Clarify the direction on decarbonizing existing buildings. Local governments are now making decisions that could lock into specific pathways – renewable natural gas or electrification
- Close the Loop on Waste**
  - Invest in organics processing facilities and resource recovery, including regional infrastructure and new programs to increase diversion
- Adaptation – Build Resilient Communities**
  - Provide funding and guidance for conducting risk assessments and incorporating adaption projects into long-term capital plans. The Province can advance both mitigation and adaption with a low-carbon resilience lens on various funding opportunities and programs
- Enable Climate Action through Governance**
  - Provide more access to data by enhancing the Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) and providing this to communities consistently every two years. Part of this is obtaining quality vehicle registration and usage data from ICBC
  - Revamp the Climate Action Charter to support accelerated local climate action
  - Provide more resources and tools to help local governments with decision making