



Government of BC Budget 2022

Items and Potential Implications for Local Governments

February 23, 2022

Budget Item	Amount	Local Government Relevance
Local Governments		
Local Government Climate Action Program	\$76 million over 3 years	Approximately 3 times the size of the CARIP grant. Previous government statements indicate that this will be 'flexible and dependable' (stackable and not competitive) with small local governments likely benefiting the most from increases. ACTION: Select priorities from your community's Community Energy and Emissions Plan . To make this go further in small communities, consider regional collaboration on capacity, priorities and implementation.
Clean Transportation		
Go Electric Program	\$76 million	Program to provide continued rebates for electric-vehicle charging systems, fund hydrogen refueling infrastructure ACTION: Consider specific sectors and segments that are underserved in your community to provide further top-ups. Explore regional collaborations such as Charge North in Northern BC)
Low Carbon Fuel Credits	\$249 million	Program to shift light-duty zero emission vehicle rebates to BC Hydro, funded by the LCFS credits BC Hydro gets from providing clean energy for vehicles through charging stations. For communities, this means continued light duty EV rebates to support transportation decarbonisation.
PST exemption for used zero-emission vehicles	Unknown	This supports increasing equity in access to electric vehicles through further reducing the cost of used EV's.
Active transportation infrastructure grants	\$30 million	ACTION: Consider active transportation infrastructure that can be used to displace trips taken in vehicles. One example is the CEA game-changer project in Powell River .
Heavy-Duty Vehicle Efficiency Program	\$5 million over two years	ACTION: Consider emerging options for local government heavy duty vehicles such as hydrogen combustion to accelerate technology access locally
Clean Buildings		
Clean Buildings Tax Credit	Unknown	Program to encourage major retrofits for multi unit residential and commercial buildings to meet CleanBC standards, effective April 1, 2022 and expiring April 1, 2025. This will improve the financial case for retrofits of Multi-Unit Residential Buildings, which are a challenging group of buildings to retrofit due to both technology and governance. ACTION: Local governments can consider options to further accelerate MURB retrofits including learning from the experiences of Metro's Strata Energy Advisor program.

PST adjustments to heating equipment	\$24 million	PST exemption on heat pumps, paired with an increase to the PST on fossil fuel heating equipment to 12%, effective April 1, 2022. Improves the financial case for electrification .
CleanBC Roadmap commitment funding	\$9 million	Expand the Low Carbon Fuel Standard and develop a new emissions cap on natural gas utilities.
CleanBC Better Homes, Better Buildings program	\$43 million	Continue energy efficiency incentives and market supports that include \$16 million over three years to provide new top-up incentives, such as heat pump incentives for rural and northern homeowners. Additionally, \$3 million is provided over three years to develop the highest efficiency standards for space and water heating, and a new home energy rating system to enable home buyers to identify the energy efficiency of homes (home energy labelling and heating appliance standards are commitments from the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030).
Other Mitigation		
Forestry initiatives	\$22 million	Programs to improve the ability of forests to sequester carbon, and to expand the Indigenous Forest Bioeconomy Program. ACTION: Forest-based sequestration could be part of some communities meeting their 2030 targets. CEA suggests starting to explore these options well before 2030.
Circular Economy Strategy	\$13 million	New circular economy plan. This is usually viewed as recycling. CEA is working with leading communities on embodied emissions in buildings and infrastructure and to close the loop on waste .
Adaptation		
Emergency Management BC	\$400 million	Important for communities currently recovering from climate-related disasters including fires and floods. Also important for communities that will have to recover from these in the future.
Contingencies for disaster recovery costs	\$1.1 billion	
The BC Wildfire Service	\$145 million	BC Wildfire Service will shift from a reactive to a proactive approach by moving to a year-round workforce that will deliver all pillars of emergency management: Prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.
Support community climate-change preparedness and emergency management	\$210 million	Including through the FireSmart program, the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, Indigenous-led emergency management priorities, and to support communities and First Nations to build more resilient dikes, floodplain mapping and other risk-reduction activities ACTION: Consider FireSmart treatments and local wood waste energy options .
Implementation of a new Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy	\$83 million	Expanding climate monitoring networks, working with local and Indigenous governments to lead climate resilience initiatives, developing an extreme heat response framework, expanding the River Forecast Centre and provincial floodplain mapping program, building data collection and expertise to pinpoint where and how to mitigate climate risks, and investing in climate-ready transportation networks. ACTION: Adaptation plan, risk plans, low carbon resilience plans that include both adaptation and mitigation. CEA has worked with SFU ACT on many of these plans.