



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sustainable Energy

ASSOCIATION

2024-25



**A BRIEF HISTORY OF
THE BC SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY ASSOCIATION**

**COOL IT!
BCSEA'S CLIMATE
LEADERSHIP
TRAINING PROGRAM**

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BRITISH COLUMBIA
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Published by
DEL Communications Inc.
Suite 300, 6 Roslyn Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L 0G5
www.delcommunications.com

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S.G. Bennett Marketing Services

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PRINTED IN CANADA
08/2024



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BC SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION

By Tom Hackney, BCSEA Policy Advisor and former board member

The BC Sustainable Energy Association or BCSEA (“bee-see-ess-ee-ay” please, not “bee-see-see” or “bee-see-see-ah”) was formed in 2004, when eco-futurist Guy Dauncey decided that an advocacy group was needed to champion a sustainable energy transition in B.C.

Guy and a few activists (including me)

had become alarmed about global warming and climate change and concluded that B.C. and the rest of the world must radically reduce their use of fossil fuels and switch to low-carbon sources of energy.

This seemed bold and novel at the time. While global warming was well proven to competent scientists, it was far from clear to society

generally. The news media mostly ignored climate change or treated it as a strange novelty. The radical changes called for by the need to decarbonize society seemed huge and unprecedented, while the practical effects of climate change seemed remote. It was hard to focus popular attention and political will on climate change. And of course,



climate deniers worked hard to sow confusion.

Accordingly, BCSEA's initial mandate was to address public awareness and motivate people to act. The early years were spent building BCSEA's membership and chapters, along with increasing its voice. BCSEA quickly formed chapters in Vancouver, Victoria, and the Okanagan. Northern B.C. was more challenging, but at various times, BCSEA has had chapters in Fort St. John, Kamloops, and Prince George. Guy's speaking and media skills – and his powerful positive vision – were crucial to building our membership and media presence.

BCSEA has hosted webinars since its early days. They have been very successful, attracting expert presenters from around the world and attendees from all over B.C., including staff at the B.C. Ministry of Energy and Mines. The webinars have covered all kinds of topics in sustainable energy. For example, FortisBC gas utility recently sparked a lively discussion when it presented its version of how B.C.'s utilities should decarbonize while retaining a gas utility; and Dr. Andrew Weaver, former leader of the B.C. Green

Party, recently presented on the latest climate science, and how to interpret it without panic or despair.

From 2008 to 2011, BCSEA ran the SolarBC project, administering grants to homeowners who installed solar hot water panels on their roofs. This was a test of concept initiative, funded by the provincial government. BCSEA successfully supported dozens of B.C. homeowners to install solar hot water systems. Unfortunately, the project did not confirm solar hot water as a good general strategy for homeowners or for provincial energy policy. Subsequent technological developments have made solar photovoltaic generation a much more effective energy solution for homeowners.

BCSEA has had big success in policy advocacy, using an approach of constructive engagement with government.

In 2005, BCSEA set out to put sustainable energy and climate action on B.C.'s political agenda. At that time, the province's climate change plans had minimal substance and no enforceable targets. As the 2005 provincial election approached,

BCSEA swung into action. We analyzed and graded the platforms of the Liberals, NDP, and Greens and published the results. And we published Sustainable Energy Policies for British Columbia, calling on the government to implement effective climate and energy policies. These included:

- A broad-based escalating carbon tax (an unrealistic ask, we were authoritatively told),
- Binding GHG emissions reduction targets,
- A ban on the development of fossil fuel fired electricity generation, and
- A declining cap on the production of fossil fuels in B.C.

While BCSEA doesn't claim credit for all that followed, BCSEA helped to create political space for the government to act. In the years after the 2005 election, the government enacted:

- A broad-based escalating tax on carbon (yes!),
- Legislated GHG emissions reduction targets,
- The effective banning of the

development of fossil fuel fired electricity generation,

- The 2008 Climate Action Plan, with quantified emissions reduction targets and GHG reduction measures to get three-quarters of the way to the 2020 target,
- And more.

BCSEA didn't get all it asked for (no cap on fossil fuel production), but the advances in government climate policy after the 2005 election clearly shifted B.C. toward a sustainable energy transition.

While working constructively with the government, BCSEA was still able to say "no" to one of the government's bad ideas. In 2000, the provincial government ordered BC



Hydro to build a second natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island and use it to supply several gas-fired power plants. The plan was for BC Hydro to meet additional province-wide load by building gas-fired power plants. By locating the new generator on Vancouver Island, BC Hydro would avoid having to replace some aging

sub-sea electrical cables that supplied power from the big hydro plants on the mainland. BCSEA worked to oppose this misguided plan. In doing so, BCSEA got engaged in what became one of its major activities: intervening as a public interest advocate in B.C. Utilities Commission proceedings.

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In 2004, the B.C. Utilities Commission ordered a hearing into the power purchase agreement between BC Hydro and the owners of a proposed gas-fired plant at Duke Point, near Nanaimo. This was meant to be the second of several gas-fired plants on Vancouver Island (the first, at Campbell River, was built in 2002.) BCSEA intervened, arguing that the power supply agreement should be rejected because it did not adequately address the potential liability from the greenhouse gas emissions from the power plant. The BCUC approved the agreement, but BCSEA continued the fight in court. Eventually BC Hydro and the government gave up, withdrew the project and cancelled the gas-fired electricity strategy.

After this initial experience at the B.C. Utilities Commission, BCSEA realized the BCUC is a key decision-maker on energy issues, and that participating in BCUC reviews of the plans of B.C.'s energy utilities is a great way to push for a sustainable energy transition. And so, BCSEA's BCUC intervention team got its start. Since then, BCSEA has intervened in over 300 BCUC reviews of the plans of B.C.'s energy utilities. BCSEA's intervention team, Bill Andrews (legal counsel) and I (consultant), advocate for various aspects of sustainable energy, such as increasing energy efficiency and conservation, and reducing GHG emissions (see BCSEA: 20 Years of Intervening at the B.C. Utilities Commission on page 22).

Education has always been an important part of BCSEA's mandate. The Climate Change Showdown middle school program was started by the Kamloops Chapter in 2005

and quickly grew to reach schools and students across the province. Recognizing its value, B.C.'s municipalities have consistently supported the program, and BCSEA has had strong support from the educators who have delivered it. Recently rebranded as Cool It! The program is in greater demand than ever, and a high school component has recently been added. (see BCSEA's Cool It! article on page 12).

From 2016 to 2019, BCSEA staged Energy Connections, a networking conference for businesses, practitioners, and policy makers. The conferences addressed both technical and policy issues across the whole range of sustainable energy: renewable generation, efficiency, transportation, buildings, industry, and information technology; and we were able to attract many local leaders in the field as presenters and participants.

BCSEA's chapters have actively engaged the public and advocated for change. Some of the many chapter activities and initiatives include:

- Women in Sustainable Energy (WiSE), a regular event of the Vancouver Chapter, which brings sustainable energy businesses together with women interested in careers in the field, (see the WiSE ad on page 24),
- Changing Gears Fair, showcasing all forms of sustainable transportation,
- Kamloops Chapter's Energy Fair, showcasing sustainable energy,
- Candidates' debates on energy and climate, held in Greater Victoria and

Vancouver during the 2015 federal general election, and

- Victoria Chapter's 100% Renewable Energy by 2050 campaign, including a research paper and a town hall meeting event in 2016 to support the District of Saanich to adopt a target for Saanich (the whole community) to meet 100% of its energy needs with renewables by 2050.

Today, after twenty years, BCSEA is no longer called on to explain that climate change is happening or that energy can be generated from the wind and the sun. We are no longer a lonely voice, but one of many addressing the many aspects of the need to change. Governments at all levels now have significant climate action plans and targets. B.C.'s energy utilities are planning for energy transition, and the media now treats climate change as a serious reality.

But BCSEA is still needed. The energy transition is not happening as quickly as it needs to. The public and politicians need encouragement to believe the transition is realistic, worthwhile, and affordable; and they still need to be persuaded to give it the same urgency as the more immediate and tangible demands of their daily lives.

And so Cool It! continues, as popular as ever. The BCUC interventions continue, now refocused to the optimal execution of the utilities' decarbonization plans. And our webinars and other activities continue, no longer explaining the need for energy transition, but rather explaining all the great things that are being done to make it happen. 

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The BCSEA Board of Directors is an all-volunteer working board, and its members work hard to fulfill the mission of our organization. We thank all board members, past and present, for their dedication to the BC Sustainable Energy Association and our vision of a sustainable energy future in the province.



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Neil Andrews
Director

THE BCSEA TEAM



Fergus Kinnaird

Cool It! Program Director

and Elementary School Program Manager

Fergus has a background in environmental economics, climate change campaigning, and community organizing. Originally from Melbourne, Australia – Fergus moved to Vancouver in 2020 to get closer to snowy mountains and B.C.'s beautiful wilderness while continuing a career in environmental advocacy.

Before moving to Canada, Fergus worked as an environmental economist and campaigner at the Australian Conservation Foundation, Australia's national environmental organization. In 2018, Fergus co-founded a not-for-profit community organization called Shift Australia that builds the skills, confidence, and capacity of young Australians to engage in democratic and civic processes. Fergus is passionate about helping others find their voice and gain the confidence to get active on issues that matter to them.



Cyndi Jarvis

Manager Provincial Administration

Cyndi, originally from Calgary settled in British Columbia several years ago. She has many years of experience working in the non-profit sector, both in Administrative and Human Resource positions. Cyndi joined the BCSEA in 2018 as Manager, Provincial Administration and enjoys working closely with her Board Members, colleagues, volunteers, and members as they work to achieve a 100 per cent sustainably powered B.C. 🌍

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20
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BCSEA's Climate Leadership Training Program



BCSEA has delivered climate change and environmental education programs in British Columbia for over 15 years. Over that time, we have delivered over 3,500 educational workshops and worked with more than 80,000 students. We estimate the collective actions of participating students and their families have avoided up to 15,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

BCSEA's current flagship student education program is the Cool It! Climate Leadership Training Program. The core mandate of Cool It! is to develop and empower young sustainability champions by

growing their environmental literacy and action-taking skills. We do this by encouraging students to learn more about climate change science, environmental justice, youth-led sustainability action, and local climate solutions, while at the same time, empowering them to explore ways they can turn that knowledge into action.

The need for climate change education is as important now as it has ever been. We are increasingly confronted with the daunting impacts of climate change and the massive task still at hand to implement effective solutions.

Communicating these issues to young people in an honest, yet empowering, way is both uniquely challenging and highly rewarding.

This generation of B.C. students are some of the first to experience the consistent impacts of climate change on their lives. Here in B.C., those impacts commonly manifest as longer, harsher heatwaves, more intense wildfire seasons, and more frequent extreme weather events. Helping students navigate these events and process the fear and anxiety they can induce is another critical role we play as educators and as peers.

Misinformation surrounding climate change also remains a significant challenge for students learning about this issue. False or misleading information can confuse students, distort their understanding of climate science, and undermine the urgency of taking action. For instance, inaccurate claims that downplay the human influence on climate change can lead students to question the scientific consensus established by experts worldwide or misunderstand the relative effectiveness of different

The need for climate change education is as important now as it has ever been. We are increasingly confronted with the daunting impacts of climate change and the massive task still at hand to implement effective solutions. Communicating these issues to young people in an honest, yet empowering, way is both uniquely challenging and highly rewarding.

actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Communicating scientifically accurate information in a way that is clear and easy to interpret can be a difficult task – even for experienced educators and facilitators. However, it is a vital step to build a solid fact-based foundation for students as they continue to interact with the issue.

By nurturing a sense of environmental stewardship from an early age, we can cultivate a generation that values and prioritizes

sustainability, paving the way for a more resilient and adaptive society in the face of climate uncertainty. In essence, climate change education for students is not just about imparting knowledge; it is about empowering the next generation to lead the charge towards a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

Over recent years, Cool It! has gone from strength to strength. Each year we are partnering with more municipalities, working with more

schools, teachers, and students, and growing our team of educators. We hope to continue to build on this success in future years, with a focus on regional expansion into interior and northern B.C. communities.

To find out more about Cool It! If you know a municipality that would be interested in partnering with us, or a school or teacher who might be interested in participating in our program you can contact us at cool-it@bcsea.org. 



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BCSEA METRO VANCOUVER CHAPTER



The Vancouver chapter of BCSEA is keenly involved in public engagement and advocating for a more sustainable energy landscape for the province. One of the key visions within the Vancouver chapter is to engage with the public and present educational tools and awareness of how the energy industry impacts their daily lives, and vice versa. This year the BCSEA and Vancouver chapter have engaged in events which include:

- Chilliwack Rotary Climate Fair held April 13 to 14, 2024
- WiSE (Women in Sustainable Energy) - October 3, 2024 - Watch for upcoming information!
- Everything Electric - September 6 to 8, 2024 - BCSEA will be there!
- Energy Connections - September 17, 2024 - More information coming soon!



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One of the main responsibilities of the Metro Vancouver Chapter is amplifying the current events of our changing energy landscape, and ensuring a transparent transfer of information to the public in regards to what energy decisions are being made around the city and province.

There is consistently a high level of enthusiasm and participants that want to engage within our chapter. This brings optimism for B.C.'s energy landscape, and a positive outlook for the growth of sustainable energy in the future. In the coming year, the Vancouver chapter hopes to host smaller-scale public forums, about ways to save money on household energy bills, and similar topics that benefit the public. The Vancouver chapter is composed of dedicated and industrious members, who are making a difference and enjoying the opportunity to work with and represent the BCSEA in its 20th year, and who look forward to many more to come.

Find more information about our Vancouver Chapter at bcsea.org/vancouver-chapter. If you are interested in volunteering on our Steering Committee or at events, contact us at vancouver@bcsea.org. 



BCSEA OKANAGAN CHAPTER

The Okanagan Chapter of the BC Sustainable Energy Association is dedicated to bringing sustainable energy to the people. The Okanagan region has grown substantially in the past few decades, in ways that challenge the idea of sustainability, yet is a perfect model for new transitioning communities.

The BCSEA Okanagan Chapter has signed on to a mandate to eliminate fossil fuel use by 2030. To achieve this locally, we are pursuing advocacy, education, policy change, and examples for the community to move forward in a healthier manner.

Okanagan Chapter Events and News

May 11 Deep Energy Retrofit (DER) Project

Presented by member Ted Spearin, P. Eng.(Retired),
CSBA Co-Chair, BCSEA Okanagan Chapter

Topics discussed:

- Electrification • Incentive Programs
- Home Energy Audits: Process & Costs; Results & EnerGuide Rating; Recommendations
- Electrical Service Upgrades
- Solar Photovoltaic Rooftops
- Electric Vehicle Chargers
- Air Sealing • Insulation
- Cold-climate Air Source Heat Pumps
- Hot Water Heaters • Project Costs

To learn more, visit at bcsea.org.

May 27 CARE Community Climate Expo, Vernon

The BCSEA Okanagan Chapter hosted a booth at the CARE Community Climate Expo on May 27 in Vernon. Hosted by the Fresh Outlook Foundation, the Community Climate Expo was a great event to showcase the climate-friendly project ideas of passionate SD22 high school students in the North Okanagan city of Vernon.

The Climate Action Ripple Effect (CARE) is an effort to mobilize 400+ students to create more than 100 climate action projects, assisted by 15 teachers and 60+ community mentors. Over 80 exhibitors were on hand to showcase products, services, initiatives and projects from government, NGOs, local artists, and businesses.

HomeZero Collective, Vernon

Eleven local homeowners are on their way to reducing carbon emissions by 85 to 100 per cent after being retrofitted with clean energy systems. HomeZero secured additional funding from the Green Municipal Fund and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to subsidize making pilot homes more energy efficient. This is a neighbourhood pilot program, believed to be the first of its kind in Canada. Each would receive funding and support to make the switch to geothermal or air source heat pumps, hybrid electric hot water tanks, solar panels and electric vehicle charging outlets.

Find more information about our Okanagan Chapter at bcsea.org/okanagan-chapter. If you are interested in volunteering on our Steering Committee or at events, contact us at okanagan@bcsea.org. 



BCSEA VICTORIA CHAPTER

The Victoria chapter may be the oldest BCSEA chapter. It began in late 2004 shortly after the formation of BCSEA and has been continuously active since then.

Over the years, the Victoria chapter has sponsored many initiatives in the Greater Victoria area and collaborated with many local governments and other organizations seeking to quicken the pace of climate action in our area. These include:

- Organized the Changing Gears fair to highlight non-fossil fuel-based transportation including EVs, biking, and active transportation. The fair

had many vendors, EV demonstration drives, and a series of talks by local experts in various transportation fields.

- Candidate debates in Victoria area ridings for the 2015 federal general election (with 500 attendees), and candidate debates for the 2017 B.C. general election.
- Formed an organization called Victorians for Transportation Choice with several other NGOs. The purpose of the organization was to create and administer an online questionnaire for municipal election candidates in the 2018 and 2022 municipal elections

about local sustainable transportation issues. Answers provided by the candidates were posted on a website created for this purpose.

- Organized many informational meetings, speaker series, and pub nights over the years, with speakers on a variety of topics from solar energy to climate-friendly investing.
- Organized a successful campaign to persuade the District of Saanich to commit to achieving “100% Renewable Energy by 2050”.

Much of our work focuses on live events, and the pandemic was a difficult time for our chapter, but we did organize several virtual informational meetings during that time. We are also trying to adapt to a changing local scene around climate action in which many local governments are already working to hasten GHG reductions and in which there are many other local groups dedicated to various forms of climate advocacy that have formed in the last few years. We are looking for new ideas and directions for our chapter and would be excited to hear from you!

Find more information about our Victoria Chapter at bcsea.org/victoria-chapter. If you are interested in volunteering on our Steering Committee or at events, contact us at victoria@bcsea.org. 



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BCSEA PRINCE GEORGE CHAPTER



Our involved members in the Prince George Chapter of the BCSEA advocate for the sustainable development of natural resources in all of British Columbia while observing all known “good practices” in preserving our environment. We believe in the responsible management of our natural resources to effectively create jobs for current and future generations through world-class environmental stewardship, manufacturing technologies, and education.

Our goal is to ensure we have strong local and provincial legislation for the protection and sovereignty of B.C.’s natural resources/value-added sector to develop a diverse industrial hub in the resource industry.

We advocate for growth in projects that optimize reductions in carbon and hydrocarbon use.

Additionally, we understand the divide between Southern and Northern B.C. in ideology concerning “net zero” type initiatives and strive to help educate as to the needs, requirements, and challenges of the north.

Find more information about our Prince George Chapter at bcsea.org/prince-george-chapter. If you are interested in volunteering on our Steering Committee or at events, contact us at princegeorge@bcsea.org. 

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EMPOWERING B.C.: ACET LEADS THE CHARGE IN COMMUNITY ENERGY TRANSFORMATION

The Accelerating Community Energy Transformation (ACET) initiative, spearheaded by the University of Victoria, is a groundbreaking program designed to drive sustainable energy solutions across British Columbia. This initiative aims to catalyze the adoption of clean energy technologies and foster resilient, low-carbon communities. By focusing on collaborative approaches, ACET addresses the pressing need for sustainable energy systems that can mitigate climate change impacts and promote environmental stewardship.

The Essence of ACET

ACET's core mission is to accelerate the transition to sustainable energy within communities. This involves a comprehensive strategy that includes research, community engagement, and the implementation of innovative energy solutions. The program emphasizes the importance of local involvement and the integration of community-specific needs and resources. Through partnerships with municipalities, Indigenous

communities, and various stakeholders, ACET seeks to create tailored energy strategies that reflect the unique characteristics of each community.

One of the pivotal aspects of ACET is its focus on renewable energy technologies. The initiative supports the development and deployment of solar, wind, and bioenergy systems, along with energy efficiency measures. By doing so, ACET not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions but also enhances energy security and creates economic opportunities within communities. The initiative's approach is holistic, considering social, economic, and environmental dimensions to ensure a just and equitable energy transition.

The Role of the B.C. Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA)

As a key stakeholder, the B.C. Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA) plays a crucial role in supporting ACET's objectives. The BCSEA is dedicated to promoting

The poster is for an event titled "Energy Connections 2024!" held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at Steamworks Brewpub from 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. It features two speakers: Curran Crawford, ACET Lead - UVIC (Accelerating Community Energy Transformation), and Brian Douglas, BCSEA Board Director. The poster includes logos for "Energy Connections 2024" and "Sustainable Energy 20 YEARS". A QR code is located at the bottom center. The background shows a scenic view of a forest and mountains.

Energy Connections 2024!
Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at
Steamworks Brewpub
3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

We invite you to an exclusive event where
innovation, networking, and knowledge come
together to pave the way for a greener future!

Curran Crawford
ACET Lead - UVIC
(Accelerating Community
Energy Transformation)
Presentation: ACET and Its
Impact on BC's Sustainable
Energy Transformation

Brian Douglas
BCSEA Board Director
Presentation: The State of Solar
Electricity in BC

Live presentations from Curran Crawford,
Brian Douglas and guests.
bcsea.org/energy-connections-2024/

the sustainable use of energy in British Columbia, advocating for policies and practices that lead to a low-carbon future. By collaborating with ACET, BCSEA contributes its expertise in policy advocacy, public education, and community engagement.

BCSEA's involvement in ACET enhances the initiative's impact by leveraging its extensive network and resources. The association actively participates in policy dialogues, providing insights and recommendations that inform ACET's strategic directions. BCSEA's public education efforts help raise awareness about the benefits of sustainable energy and encourage community participation in ACET projects. This partnership ensures that ACET's initiatives are well-supported and widely recognized across the province.

Implications for Sustainability in B.C.

The impact of ACET on sustainability in B.C. is profound. By fostering the adoption of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency measures, the ACET initiative can significantly reduce the province's carbon footprint. This, in turn, will contribute to B.C.'s climate action goals and supports global efforts to combat climate change. ACET's community-centric approach helps empower various regions to take ownership of their energy futures, fostering resilience and self-sufficiency.

The economic benefits of ACET are equally significant. The initiative's goal is to help stimulate local economies by creating jobs in the renewable energy sector and supporting the growth of green businesses. By reducing energy costs and increasing energy independence, ACET can help enhance the economic stability of communities. The initiative also encourages innovation and the development of new technologies, positioning B.C. as a leader in the global clean energy market.

The Accelerating Community Energy Transformation initiative represents a bold step towards a sustainable future for British Columbia. Through collaborative efforts and innovative energy solutions, ACET addresses the urgent need for climate action and community resilience. As B.C. continues to lead in the transition to a low-carbon economy, ACET stands as a model for community-driven energy transformation, paving the way for a sustainable and prosperous future.

To learn more about ongoing projects, participate in community workshops, and access resources to implement sustainable energy practices in their own homes and communities, visit uvic.ca/research-innovation/research-at-uvic/climate-environmental-change-and-sustainability/community-energy-transition. 



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BCSEA CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE EVERYTHING ELECTRIC CANADA SHOW

EVERYTHING ELECTRIC CANADA

BCSEA is excited to be participating in the world's No. 1 Clean Energy & Electric Vehicle show, Everything Electric CANADA, which is returning to Vancouver for its second year from September 6 - 8. We will have a booth showcasing our work supporting sustainable energy policy, innovation, and education in British Columbia. You can also explore hundreds of exhibitors covering cutting-edge technologies, sustainable living, and zero-carbon innovations along with dozens of live sessions and the opportunity to test

drive electric vehicles of all shapes and sizes.

In addition, we'll be celebrating our 20th anniversary! You can celebrate with us on Sunday, September 8 from noon to 3:00PM at our Meet and Greet, where you can learn more about BCSEA and our work and connect with others in the sustainable energy industry while enjoying finger food, beverages, and an anniversary cake.

Everything Electric CANADA first launched in 2023 as Fully Charged

LIVE Canada in Vancouver by British-based, global YouTube sensation, the Fully Charged SHOW. It is built around regular visitor attractions – such as the Giga & Mega Theatres, Home Energy Advice Team, Test Drive Program, Micro Mobility Zone and more – as well as more than 100 exhibits. The successful format has been hosted in several cities across the world, but the Vancouver event was the largest to date with over 17,000 people attending over three days. This year's event is targeting between 20,000 and 25,000



Brian Douglas,
BCSEA Board Director
joins

Ajay Kumar, BC Hydro
and

Larry Stock, Chief Executive Officer,
Nu-NRG Group
on
September 6th
from
1:45 pm - 2:15 pm
at
Vancouver Convention Centre
Stage: GIGA

Session details:
Why are Wind, Solar & Storage
likely to be the big needle movers?



BRITISH COLUMBIA
Sustainable Energy | 20
ASSOCIATION YEARS

Everything Electric Canada
September 6th to 8th, 2024
Look for BCSEA at booth #514!

BCSEA Celebrates its 20th Anniversary!
Sunday, September 8th
12 noon to 3 p.m.
Join us for refreshments
and learn more about **BCSEA** and our
achievements over the last twenty years!
Room #101-102

For more information please go to www.bcsea.org/events

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eligible to receive a
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tickets! Contact us
at info@bcsea.org



The successful format has been hosted in several cities across the world, but the Vancouver event was the largest to date with over 17,000 people attending over three days.

attendees and will be taking over the entire Vancouver Convention Centre.

Everything Electric CANADA will demonstrate the latest in electrification from home energy to electric vehicles, and it will be an innovative experience for anyone looking for ways to manage their energy footprint and check out some of the latest clean energy technologies, concepts, and ideas. There will be more than 50 educational and entertaining sessions, 15 car makers attending to create Canada's biggest ever battery electric vehicle test drive program, and the opportunity to get a first look at several highly anticipated electric cars, including the Polestar P3 and BMW i5.

We hope you will join us! 🌍



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BCSEA: 20 YEARS OF INTERVENING AT THE BC UTILITIES COMMISSION

By Bill Andrews and Tom Hackney



BCSEA's BCUC intervention team: lawyer Bill Andrews and policy analyst Tom Hackney.

BCSEA is celebrating its 20th year intervening in B.C. Utilities Commission proceedings (BCUC). BCSEA has completed some 300 interventions (wow, the time flies!) in BCUC proceedings over the years. BCSEA applies evidence-based policy advocacy to issues within the BCUC's jurisdiction. The group's overarching objectives are energy conservation and efficiency, reduced BC GHG emissions, and clean electricity generation. BCSEA also supports low-income customers, and First Nations' rights and title.

BCSEA's intervention team is made of lawyer Bill Andrews, policy consultant Tom Hackney, and various subject-matter experts as needed for particular proceedings. The intervention team reports to BCSEA's board of directors. Financial wherewithal for BCSEA's interventions comes from BCUC costs awards that direct a public utility to pay money to an intervener based on criteria and the BCUC's perception of the group's contribution to the proceeding.

BCSEA was formed back in 2004, when ecofuturist Guy Dauncey realized an advocacy group was needed to



BCSEA Board Call - 2024

Are you looking for a unique leadership opportunity? Have you been yearning to put your talent into strategic thinking, financial forecasting, organization behavior, project management or policy advocacy in the service of a great cause?

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For more information go to www.bcsea.org/job board



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champion a sustainable energy transition in B.C. BCSEA's work at the BCUC began at about the same time, as part of a citizen advocacy campaign that stopped a proposed natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island intended to fuel future gas-fired electrical generation. BCSEA quickly came to realize that the BCUC is a key decision-maker on energy issues in B.C. and that participating in BCUC reviews of the various filings of B.C.'s energy utilities is a great way to advocate for a sustainable energy transition.

The BCUC was an 'insiders club' when BCSEA began intervening in BCUC proceedings. Customers of public utilities were understood to want nothing more than the lowest possible rates for safe reliable service. BCSEA worked for many years to establish that ratepayers who

want the energy they receive to come from sustainable sources have a legitimate voice in the BCUC's decision making.

Conservation and efficiency have always been, and remain, at the centre of BCSEA's focus at the BCUC. B.C.'s energy utilities are allowed to, and in some ways required to, deliver "demand-side management" (DSM) programs. DSM programs are funded by the utility, and paid for by customers through rates. DSM programs encourage customers to consume less energy – such as electricity or natural gas – from the utility. BCSEA pushes the BCUC to require utilities to scale up DSM spending to achieve "all cost-effective" conservation and efficiency measures. While "all cost-effective" DSM





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bcsea.org/wise-2024/





BC Hydro Squamish.

has not yet been achieved, the amount of DSM spending and energy savings has increased dramatically over BCSEA's 20 years of intervening in BCUC proceedings. For example, B.C.'s largest natural gas distribution utility had no DSM spending when BCSEA began intervening in BCUC proceedings, and BCSEA recently supported BCUC approval of the utility spending more than \$150-million per year on DSM for 2024 to 2027. And, the B.C. government now recognizes DSM as a key part of its strategy to meet B.C.'s legislated GHG reduction targets.

Ever since it began intervening in BCUC proceedings, BCSEA has worked to reduce GHG emissions caused by B.C.'s regulated energy utilities. For the electricity utilities, this means generating or purchasing electricity only from clean generation facilities. For natural gas delivered by B.C.'s regulated utilities, the GHG-reduction challenges are more complex. Maximizing energy savings from DSM is essential, of course. In addition, BCSEA has supported BCUC approval of biomethane as a cleaner substitute for fossil natural gas delivered by the gas utilities. And, BCSEA strongly supports BCUC approval of BC Hydro's low-carbon electrification initiatives. Still, while substantial reductions in the amount of fossil natural gas used in B.C. are feasible over the next, say, ten years, BCSEA, and many others within and outside of B.C., continue to grapple with how to get from substantial reductions to complete elimination of GHG emissions from gas utility customers in the next decades. Neither "green hydrogen" nor "complete electrification" is a complete solution.

Meanwhile, BCSEA is tackling a number of important topics at the BCUC that were miniscule at most when

BCSEA started out. Electric utilities are now providing public EV charging networks to kickstart the uptake of electric vehicles in the province. EVs and other electrification measures are driving (excuse the pun) electric utilities' load forecasts and acquisition of more power. Net metering (typically, customer rooftop solar generation to reduce electricity purchases from the utility and to deliver surplus electricity to the utility) is on the cusp of becoming mainstream after having been the domain of sustainable energy pioneers for some years. Widespread net metering in B.C. has considerable regulatory implications for both participating and non-participating customers. Thermal energy systems (typically providing space and water heating through pipes from a central energy facility) are expanding in number and size in B.C. but with significant regulatory supervision by the BCUC. BCSEA is pressing the BCUC to adopt a light-handed regulatory approach to encourage thermal energy systems as low-carbon alternatives to traditional fossil fuel heating.

For information about BCSEA's ongoing activities at the BCUC, visit the Policy Corner on BCSEA's website at bcsea.org/policy-corner/. 



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Prince George-Mackenzie

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HARBOUR AIR BOLSTERS SUSTAINABLE AVIATION GOALS WITH MAGNIX LOI



Harbour Air, North America's largest seaplane airline, announced the signing of a Letter of Intent (LOI) with magniX, a global leader in electric aviation propulsion, to purchase 50 magni650 electric engines. This agreement marks a significant step towards Harbour Air's ambitious goal of electrifying its fleet, and its commitment to sustainable aviation.

magniX will support the Transport Canada validation of its magni650 type certificate and assist in the certification work required for Harbour Air to obtain Canadian and American STCs (Supplemental Type Certificates) for installing the magni650 on the DHC-2 Beaver, with an option to extend their support to other aircraft platforms.

"We are excited to accelerate the adoption of electric aviation technology and further our journey towards a sustainable future", says Bert van der Stege, CEO of Harbour Air. "The agreement with magniX underscores our commitment to revolutionize commercial aviation with electric propulsion and to pave the way for cleaner, quieter, and more efficient air travel."

A key element to the Harbour Air electrification vision is to develop a sustainable aviation hub on the west coast, providing electrification conversions and services to third parties. This agreement helps solidify this vision by ensuring the supply of electric engines for our fleet as well as our customers.

"Electrifying Harbour Air's fleet and future customers

with magniX's engines sets us on a course to define the future of regional flight," says Riona Armesmith, Chief Technology Officer of magniX. "The many flights that the eBeaver has now completed with magniX's technology are a signal that the electric age of aviation is here and bringing it to the marketplace is growing rapidly closer."

Since announcing their partnership in early 2019, Harbour Air and magniX have been at the forefront of electric aviation. The successful maiden flight of the world's first fully electric commercial aircraft in Richmond, BC, on December 10, 2019, marked a historic achievement in sustainable aviation. Harbour Air has since operated 78 successful test flights with its prototype.

"Harbour Air's commitment to electrifying its fleet aligns with our province's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable transportation options," says Rob Fleming, B.C.'s Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. "This initiative, including providing electrification services to other companies, showcases British Columbia's leadership in supporting innovative solutions that contribute to a cleaner environment and a greener economy."

Harbour Air's ambitious timeline targets the commercial certification of their first electric aircraft by 2026. Following certification, the company plans to convert additional aircraft within its fleet and offer third-party conversions to promote widespread adoption of electric aviation. 

CELEBRATING BILL C-59 AND THE CLEANTECH ITC

Canada becomes a more competitive place to invest in renewable energy and energy storage

In June, the BCSEA celebrated the passage of Bill C-59, implementing the long-awaited Clean Technology Investment Tax Credit (Cleantech ITC).

The Clean Technology ITC will help drive momentum for the renewable energy and energy storage industries in Canada, and it will make Canada a more competitive place to invest.

Entitled An Act to implement certain provisions of the fall economic statement tabled in Parliament on November 21, 2023, and certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 28, 2023, Bill C-59 makes the Cleantech ITC available to companies looking to invest in Canada's wind energy, solar energy, and energy storage industries. It allows companies investing in renewable energy and energy storage projects to recoup between 20 and 30 per cent of their capital costs as a refundable tax credit.

Other notable groups in the sustainable energy space, such as CanREA, participated in advocacy efforts when advising on a Canadian response to the Inflation Reduction Act in the U.S. emphasizing the importance of including Indigenous communities and companies in the Cleantech ITC, as well as the Clean Electricity ITC.

With this Bill, the government has put Canada on track to meet its climate targets and stay economically competitive in a rapidly digitizing economy. It will also give investors increased confidence that Canada will remain competitive in the long term, as the Bill specifies that the Cleantech ITC will remain available to 2034.

Now that the Cleantech ITC has been implemented, the BCSEA will continue to work with governing bodies to ensure the prompt introduction and passage of the Clean Electricity ITC. 🌍



BC HYDRO OFFERS UP TO \$10,000 ON ELIGIBLE SOLAR PANELS AND BATTERY STORAGE TO BRITISH COLUMBIANS

New BC Hydro rebates are now available of up to \$5,000 on eligible grid-connected solar panels and up to an additional \$5,000 for battery storage systems to qualifying residential customers. These rebates will make it easier for British Columbians to generate their own power, reduce their bills and deliver clean energy back to the province's electricity grid.

"We need more clean energy to power our homes, businesses and industries, to power a growing economy and to power our future," says Josie Osborne, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. "British Columbians are up for the challenge. That's why we are providing new BC Hydro

rebates for rooftop solar panels and battery storage so that more people across the province can generate electricity, save on their energy bills and help build a clean economy."

About 9,500 British Columbians are already part of BC Hydro's Self-Generation Program (previously net metering), harnessing the power of the sun to generate their own renewable energy, which is a good option for those looking to gain energy independence and lower their electricity bills. Battery storage allows customers to store their excess renewable energy to power their homes on cloudy days, overnight or in the event of a power outage. Residents can install solar panels or a battery – or both – to

maximize the value of their project and their rebate.

To be eligible for rebates, customers must participate in our Self-Generation Program and enrol in the Self-Generation Rate. Any excess generation will be credited to them on the next bill, and this power can be used to serve other customers and businesses. If customers still have generation credits on their anniversary date (March 1), BC Hydro will pay them for the excess electricity at market price.

"BC Hydro is committed to supporting the energy transition as British Columbians look to power homes and businesses with more clean electricity," says Chris O'Riley, President and CEO of BC Hydro. "We





are excited for the first time ever to offer rebates for eligible solar panels and battery storage systems, allowing our customers to lower their energy bills, generate their own renewable electricity and store excess energy to use when and how they want. Adding more renewable generation and storage options also helps the overall electricity system by reducing demand from the grid.”

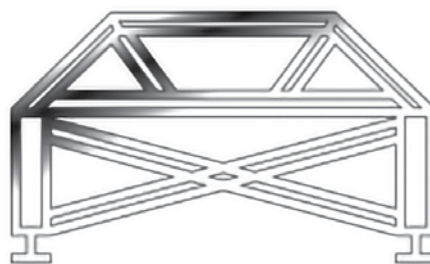
BC Hydro is also offering targeted rebates to schools, apartment buildings, municipal government and community centres, small businesses, social housing providers and Indigenous communities. These rebates range from up to \$50,000 to \$150,000 based on the individual customer.

These rebates are one of many actions BC Hydro is taking to support its customers and provide more choices in its new Energy Efficiency Plan – a key action to meet the growing demand for electricity. Over the next three years, BC Hydro

is investing over \$700 million in tools, technology, and programs for customers to encourage more energy efficient choices. This is a 60 per cent increase over previous budgets and adds up to about 2,000 gigawatt hours of savings, which is the equivalent of powering 200,000 homes. As more people look to switch from fossil fuels to cleaner, renewable sources of

power, these programs will help BC Hydro’s customers save more than \$80 million, deferring the need for additional capital infrastructure and offering added flexibility to the BC Hydro system.

For more information on solar and battery rebates, eligibility, and how to apply, visit bchydro.com/solarrebate. 



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B.C. LEADING THE CHARGE IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE ADOPTION

British Columbia has emerged as a leader in Canada's transition to electric vehicles (EVs), driven by robust government policies and high consumer demand. The province's pioneering efforts have positioned it at the forefront of the country's push towards a sustainable transportation future. While B.C. has made significant strides in electrifying passenger vehicles, the commercial vehicle sector faces unique challenges that require innovative solutions.

Accelerating Passenger Vehicle Electrification

B.C. has set ambitious targets to ensure the widespread adoption of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs). The provincial government's Go Electric program, part of the Clean Energy Vehicle Program, offers incentives to encourage the purchase of EVs. This initiative has contributed significantly to B.C. leading Canada in per capita EV adoption.

The 2023 Zero-Emission Vehicle Update highlights the province's progress, noting that nearly one in five new cars sold in B.C. is electric. This surge in EV adoption is driven by growing consumer awareness of environmental issues, the availability of a broader range of EV models, and the expansion of the charging infrastructure. The demand for EVs in B.C. is increasing, with a recent survey indicating that more residents are considering purchasing an electric vehicle within the next five years.

Challenges in Commercial Vehicle Electrification

While B.C. has made significant progress with passenger vehicles, the electrification of commercial vehicles presents more complex challenges. The province is committed to reducing emissions in the commercial transport sector, but the path is fraught with technical and logistical hurdles. The B.C. Trucking Association's 'Zeroing in on ZEV: Low and Zero-Emission Commercial Vehicle' Summit highlighted these challenges, emphasizing the need for advancements in battery technology, charging

infrastructure, and vehicle design tailored to the needs of commercial operations.

Commercial vehicles, particularly long-haul trucks, require more powerful batteries and a more extensive, stronger charging network. The current infrastructure is primarily designed for passenger vehicles and is inadequate for the demands of heavy-duty trucks. Other significant barriers include high initial costs of electric commercial vehicles and the limited availability of models that meet the diverse needs of the trucking industry.

Government Initiatives and Industry Efforts

To address these challenges, the B.C. government is collaborating with industry stakeholders to develop solutions. Incentives and pilot programs are being introduced to support the adoption of electric commercial vehicles. The government is also investing in research and development to improve battery technology and charging solutions designed for commercial vehicles.

The province's efforts are complemented by private sector initiatives. Companies are exploring innovative technologies such as hydrogen fuel cells and hybrid systems to bridge the gap while fully electric solutions are being developed. Collaboration between government, industry, and research institutions is crucial to overcoming the technical and economic barriers.

B.C.'s leadership in the electrification of passenger vehicles sets a strong precedent for the rest of Canada. The province's aggressive targets and supportive policies have helped build a growing market for EVs. However, achieving similar success with commercial vehicles will require continued innovation and investment. By addressing the unique challenges of electrifying commercial transport, B.C. can pave the way for a comprehensive transition to a low-emission transportation future, solidifying its role as a leader in Canada's clean energy landscape. 🌍



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