

August 24, 2018

**Clean Growth Initiative BC**  
Ministry of Environment  
Email: [clean.growth@gov.bc.ca](mailto:clean.growth@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Clean Growth Initiative BC Committee Members:

**Re: Surrey Board of Trade's Submission to Working Towards Clean Growth**

Please accept the Surrey Board of Trade's following comments as part of B.C.'s clean growth strategy consultation on integrating BC's goals for climate action, clean energy, and sustainable economic growth.

**SURREY BOARD OF TRADE ENVIRONMENT AND BUSINESS PORTFOLIO:**

Surrey is a large and rapidly growing city South of the Fraser River. The Surrey Board of Trade recognizes the value that clean energy activity brings to Surrey's economic foundations. The Surrey Board of Trade Environment Team reviews issues that impact businesses while promoting the development of green initiatives and a clean energy future. Under the guidance of the Team, Surrey Board of Trade is a member of the [National Zero Waste Council](#), and the Team's chair sits on the council's executive committee. It is a delicate balance between the environment and business growth, however, the Team goes deep to ensure that SBOT's policies reflect that both can be achieved.

**Mandate**

ADVOCACY: Issues related to environment and infrastructure locally, provincially and federally  
EVENTS: To initiate engagement, education and action ([Surrey Environment & Business Awards](#), Dialogues)  
PROJECTS: Position papers and other projects to encourage environment initiatives for business

**WHAT IS BEING ASKED BY THE BC GOVERNMENT:**

The BC Government is asking for comments on:

**QUICK FACTS**

- Government inviting input on clean transportation, clean and efficient buildings, and a clean-growth program for industry
- "A responsible climate strategy means that we are building the low-carbon economy for now and for the future"
- And meets legislated carbon reduction targets," said George Heyman
- Clean-growth future with a strong, stable, and innovative economy
- Integrated with the B.C. energy roadmap and other economic initiatives, like the #BCTech Strategy and the Emerging Economy Task Force.
- "Global markets are shifting as people demand cleaner solutions – and B.C. is poised to have the competitive advantage," said Bruce Ralston
- "Now is the time to help our industries grow and make them even cleaner, creating more opportunities for people throughout the province."

Three (3) intention papers have been released, and inform the government's strategy:

- "Climate change and the world's response to it will fundamentally reshape the global economy. There are opportunities to be had from this transition, but they will flow to those who lead, not late adopters," said Andrew Weaver
- Intention papers are a step towards implementing a plan that will position B.C. to be a leader in the low-carbon economy.
- What matters now is that we take decisive action, so that we can move quickly to deliver on our promise to meet our targets and build a thriving 21st-century economy in B.C.

**SURREY BOARD OF TRADE RESPONSE:**➤ **What is a “clean growth future”?**

This is a future where growth does not cause adverse effects to the environment we live in, especially since there have been generations of industry processes and systems that result in polluting waste, consumption of fossil fuels that release carbon into the atmosphere, consume a lot of non-renewable energy, etc. Clean growth, based on how we define it, means environmentally sustainable growth for all sectors of businesses and the economy. The buzz words for clean growth are “low carbon” and “low energy” consumption. With higher carbon emissions, there will be more impact to the environment we live in. This means bad air quality and global warming that can affect everything around us.

➤ **How do we get ready and prepare for “Clean growth future”?**

Pass legislation that will encourage businesses and stakeholders to use processes, equipment, automobiles, systems etc. that will generate as little polluting waste as possible and with the smallest carbon footprint. Incentivize technology that will use renewable energy, such as solar and wind energy. Targeting sectors that release the maximum amount of carbon and other harmful gases into the atmosphere (reference -National Pollutant Release Inventory) and pass laws that would help reduce emissions at a reasonable cost over the next five years. Encourage innovation and R&D efforts within BC targeted on reduction of carbon emissions within various polluting sectors which should be unique in Canada (BC should demonstrate leadership in this regard). Encourage and invest in the “Zero Waste” culture throughout BC. Metro Vancouver is doing a great job through the National Zero Waste Marketing Council which it has spearheaded both with funding and leadership over the last 4-5 years.

Market the incentives that the government is offering to businesses and individuals through various means (municipal level, provincial level etc.) to help reduce energy consumption as well as lower carbon emissions. Rebate programs are not enough to ensure a “clean growth future”. The impacts of such programs to carbon emissions or energy consumption across BC may not be significant. I cannot think of any significant incentive or rebate currently in place that significantly affect people’s mindset to change to something more environmentally friendly.

➤ **What needs immediate consideration:**

**Transportation sector** – Buses, cars, trucks etc. – 39% of carbon emissions – what are we doing to motivate people to buy electric and convert to electric vehicles? What rebates are currently in place? How can we trigger some measurable change in conversion to electric? Investment in millions of dollars to construct charging stations across major road routes is an option. Should we have an EV lane in major highways just like HOV lanes?

**Light and Heavy Industry, Small, medium and Large Commercial Businesses** – Saw mills, industrial manufacturing facilities, trucking companies etc. How do we get them to move away from fossil fuels and convert into other renewable energy options? How do we get them to reduce emissions?

**Buildings – Residential, Commercial, Industrial** – We need energy efficient buildings. The energy step code approach, which Surrey just implemented, is a good step forward. Is this now mandated by legislation or are municipalities just taking the initiative to implement due to their own motivation to reduce energy consumption within cities?

**Zero Waste** – Reduce, reuse, recycle waste in every sector. Pass legislation that enforces the zero-waste culture targeting municipalities and businesses and giving money back to them if they achieve certain goals. This will help deal with the landfill space issue within the region as well. Pass legislation to deal with plastics or any other non-biodegradable waste.

➤ **Other:**

1. BC should act as a leader in the “clean economy”;
2. The intention papers address only a portion of BC’s overall emission sources (3 sectors). We need action on many other fronts;
3. Need to see the details of the strategy to better assess how changes will contribute to emissions reductions overall;

4. Need more details on how energy planning, moving forward, will meet energy demands within a low-carbon framework (innovation, efficiency, conservation, alternate clean sources);
5. For all statements of: emission reductions, target compliance, efficiencies, growth, etc., need verifiable, independent monitoring (some occurring now – must be comprehensive moving forward and transparent as to process/results);
6. Introduction of specific sectoral targets and reporting also key;
7. “Clean growth” implies low/non-carbon/renewable: i.e., replacement of fossil fuel energy; practice, of clean growth, however, needs to consider/acknowledge use of LNG, fracked gas production, bitumen pipelines, etc.;
8. How LNG/bitumen, fracking, etc. (fossil fuel based economic drivers), which are so prominent in current economic discussions, are addressed/incorporated into the strategy is entirely absent from the intention papers;
9. Transportation proposal needs to be enhanced – there is no clear strategy in this area;
10. “Buildings intention paper” identifies the key public policies needed to facilitate this process but need to be integrated into a comprehensive low-carbon building strategy. Supporting regulations, incentives and monitoring are required;
11. “Transportation discussion paper” mentions *Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*, however, does not acknowledge the federal-provincial climate agreement already committing BC away from carbon pollution;
12. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives argue that a zero-emissions transportation system by 2040 is both desirable and achievable but will rely heavily on renewable electric power, shifts toward electric vehicles, and expansion of public transit and cycling infrastructure;
13. To be effective, low carbon transport/communities also need emphasis on complete communities where people do not travel each day. Mobility includes ride-share, road-type (user pay) pricing, shared or private electric cars, affordable housing options, decent jobs, good and close public services/spaces, and high value city centers to keep people home (music, restaurants, offices, sports and retail outlets);
14. Targeting more sectors that release a majority of carbon and harmful gases into the atmosphere.
  - a) Within the Transportation sector: motivate people to buy electric; invest in millions of dollars to construct charging stations by implementing transparent policy with achievable goals. Ensuring there are “complete communities” – communities that have public services close by, and high value city centers with restaurants, offices, and retail outlets – will further incentivize individuals to reduce travel by car.;
  - b) Light and heavy industry such as saw mills, industrial manufacturing facilities, and trucking companies need to be incentivized to move away from fossil fuels. We need to look at various options to reduce emissions;
  - c) Buildings need to be energy efficient, and the energy step code is a good step forward. Mandated legislation is necessary.
15. Offer businesses incentives through a rebate program at various levels of government to encourage a “Zero Waste” culture. Utilizing reduce, reuse, and recycle in every sector is necessary, while also giving money back to those that achieve certain goals outlined by policy;
16. Further investigate and support initiatives towards a circular economy.

The Surrey Board of Trade has an active membership of over 2,500 businesses and organizations, representing over 60,000 employees. We support and attract business through government advocacy, business development, international trade services and workforce strategies.

If you have any questions or require further comment, please do not hesitate to contact me at [anita@businessinsurrey.com](mailto:anita@businessinsurrey.com) or 604-634-0342.

Respectfully submitted,



Anita Huberman, CEO, Surrey Board of Trade