

From: ["White, Josh" <Josh.White@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Josh.White@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 12/3/2025 11:23:06 AM

Subject: Memo re Update on CleanBC Review

Attachments: Council Memo to Mayor & Council - Update on CleanBC Review.pdf

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Dear Mayor and Council,

This memo provides an update on the independent review of CleanBC (the provincial government's plan to transition to clean energy).

- The CleanBC Review made recommendations to improve the targets, policies, programs, and accountability mechanisms in CleanBC. At a high level, the Review found that CleanBC is working but needs to be renewed to place a stronger emphasis on affordability and economic opportunity.
- Examples of recommendations in the Review include: a) accelerating efforts to expand and modernize the electricity system, b) continuing to use the Zero Carbon Step Code to transition away from natural gas as planned in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, while slowing adoption by several years in colder parts of the province, and c) continuing to use the Zero Emissions Vehicle Act to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles, while making adjustments to ensure the sales targets are achievable.
- In terms of next steps, Premier Eby and Minister Dix indicated that the provincial government will use the 2026 provincial budget and the spring legislative session to demonstrate how they will be updating CleanBC in response to the recommendations.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Josh White M.Pl. (He/him)

General Manager | Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability

City of Vancouver | 510 W. Broadway

[josh.white@vancouver.ca](mailto:josh.white@vancouver.ca)

604-307-2263



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x̱m̱ ḵ y̱ m̱ (Musqueam), S̱ w̱x̱ḻu̱817̱ \_w̱ú7̱mesh (Squamish), and s̱ ḻilw̱ ta̱ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

## MEMORANDUM

December 2, 2025

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager  
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager  
Lon LaClaire, General Manager Engineering Services  
Corrie Okell, General Manager Development Building and Licensing  
Colin Knight, General Manager, Finance  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Maria Pontikis, Chief of External Relations  
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office  
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Josh White  
General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability

SUBJECT: Update on CleanBC Review

This memo provides Council with an update on the [recommendations](#) that the independent CleanBC Review Panel provided to the provincial government and BC Green Party on November 26, 2025, as it relates to the City's climate work. At a high level, the Panel found that CleanBC is working but that it needs to be renewed to place a stronger emphasis on affordability and economic opportunity.

### CleanBC Review Overview

On May 7, the provincial government [announced](#) it was reviewing CleanBC, which is the provincial plan to transition to clean energy. The CleanBC Review (the Review) was led by Merran Smith and Dan Woynillowicz, who are recognized climate experts in B.C. They were tasked with reviewing the targets, policies, programs, and accountability mechanisms in CleanBC. Their recommendations were informed by input from First Nations, Indigenous leaders, local governments (including the City of Vancouver), and diverse stakeholders (e.g. developers, academia, non-profit organizations, industrial representatives, etc.).

### Summary of CleanBC Review Recommendations

The Panel's recommendations were summarized into seven priorities:

- Accelerate clean electricity production and electrification as the foundation of energy security and economic growth.

- Make it easier for British Columbians to cut energy bills and climate pollution.
- Leverage B.C.'s clean energy advantage to create more jobs in the energy transition
- Support B.C.'s industries to become cleaner and more competitive
- Increase production of clean, made-in-B.C biofuels and renewable natural gas
- Deepen partnerships with First Nations and local governments
- Focus on delivering effective, achievable and fiscally responsible outcomes

Examples of their specific recommendations topical for Vancouver include:

- For electricity supply and infrastructure, accelerate efforts to expand and modernize the electricity system to ensure residents, businesses, and industries continue to have ready access to a sufficient supply of clean and reliable electricity.
- For new buildings, continue using the Zero Carbon Step Code to transition away from natural gas as planned in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, while slowing adoption by several years in colder parts of the province. The Review also recommends against adopting the top step of the Energy Step Code because of high costs relative to benefits. These recommendations align with Vancouver's approach to the Zero Carbon and Energy Step Codes.
- For existing buildings, continue to offer incentives for heat pumps and move ahead with the Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard to require all new space and water heating equipment sold and installed in B.C. to be at least 100% efficient by the early 2030's. This standard would allow for heat pumps, electric resistance, and gas hybrid equipment when replacements are needed, and aligns with Vancouver approach to improve efficiency in existing buildings.
- Continue to use the Zero Emissions Vehicle Act to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles, and make changes to the Act to encourage vehicle manufacturers to invest in charging and provide rebates for EVs, and ensure the sales targets are achievable over the next decade.
- For active transportation and transit, develop a sustainable funding model outside of CleanBC funding to recognize the wide range of benefits these investments provide.
- Extend the Local Government Climate Action Program beyond 2026 to continue providing funding and support for local governments on climate action.

### Next Steps

In releasing the Review, Premier Eby and Minister Dix indicated that the provincial government will use the 2026 provincial budget and the spring legislative session to demonstrate how they will be updating CleanBC in response to the recommendations.

Please feel free to contact me at [josh.white@vancouver.ca](mailto:josh.white@vancouver.ca) if you have any questions.



Josh White  
General Manager of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability  
604.877.5159 | [josh.white@vancouver.ca](mailto:josh.white@vancouver.ca)