



Project for Environmental Priorities in New-Brunswick

A re-elected Liberal Government will continue to protect the environment through the implementation of its climate change plan.

On December 7, 2016, the Gallant Government announced a new action plan, *Transitioning to a Low-carbon Economy*, has been released as part of a made-in-New Brunswick response to climate change.

Highlights of the climate change plan, *Transitioning to a Low-carbon Economy*, include:

- providing the government leadership needed through more than 100 clear action items to support sustained and ambitious actions on combating climate change;
- expanding energy efficiency and clean energy programs across all sectors and all fuels with ambitious performance targets;
- phasing out coal as a source of electricity, respecting New Brunswick's economic reality and considering potential financial support from the federal government;
- planning for and investing in new technologies that reduce pollution, such as smart grid and renewable electricity;
- establishing a made-in-New Brunswick price on carbon and caps on GHG emissions that reflect the reality of the New Brunswick economy;
- leading by example by making government carbon-neutral by 2030 and increasing spending on energy efficiency in the next capital budget by 50 per cent; and
- measuring and reporting progress with strong oversight by committees of cabinet and the legislative assembly.

Transitioning to a Low-carbon Economy was based on recommendations from the select committee on climate change. It provides a list of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while promoting economic growth and increasing the province's resilience to climate change through adaptation.

Following the announced action plan, *Transitioning to a Low-carbon Economy*, the Gallant Government introduced legislation on December 14, 2017 that would adopt the federal government's intensity targets for large industrial emitters, requiring them to be among the cleanest in the country or pay to offset their pollution.

There would be no new direct tax on consumers; instead, the government would redirect existing taxes on gasoline and diesel to fund programs that combat climate change.

The legislation sets out a modified hybrid carbon pricing system. Under the approach:

- the government would deliver the carbon levy aspect of the pricing; and
- Environment and Climate Change Canada would deliver the output-based performance standards for New Brunswick's large emitters.

A climate change fund established through the new legislation would reinvest in measures that address climate change, such as infrastructure adaptation, and energy efficiency in homes, businesses, industry and transportation.

The provincial government previously announced investments of up to \$234 million over the next five years in energy efficiency programs for homes, businesses and public buildings. This includes up to \$82 million from NB Power over the next three years, up to \$51 million from the federal government through the Low Carbon Economy Fund, and \$101 million for energy retrofits and renewable energy upgrades in provincial buildings.

These investments could spur an estimated \$150 million in growth to New Brunswick's GDP, create up to 400 jobs over the five-year period, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. NB Power's investments alone could be equivalent to taking up to 27,000 cars off the road.

Throughout the 2018 New Brunswick Election campaign, the Liberal Party of New Brunswick has announced:

- Continuing steps to ensure that New Brunswick embraces the clean technologies and green jobs ([Liberal News Release, August 30, 2018](#));
- Helping New Brunswick households to become more energy efficient ([Liberal News Release, August 30, 2018](#));
- Maintaining the moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, and its ban on the disposal of fracked wastewater ([Liberal News Release, August 21, 2018](#));
- Fully implementing the new water strategy developed by the government in its previous mandate ([Liberal News Release, August 21, 2018](#));
- A plan for sustainable development of natural resources ([Liberal News Release, August 20, 2018](#)).

Liberal Leader Brian Gallant believes that climate change is one of humanity's largest collective challenges and that we must all step up to protect our environment by combatting climate change and that we have a responsibility to put in place a policy to combat climate change that is good for New Brunswick's economy and our environment. Project for Environmental Priorities in NB