



Re: External Review of the CleanBC
Date: July 9, 2025
Via email: CleanBCReview@gov.bc.ca

Introduction

The Canadian Propane Association (CPA) welcomes the opportunity to participate in the external review of B.C.'s CleanBC plan. Propane plays a critical role in helping people and businesses in B.C. meet their energy needs while lowering emissions. As a Canadian-produced fuel used daily by millions of people—heating homes, powering forklifts, transporting children to school, and drying crops—propane offers energy for all. Its accessibility, portability, and affordability make it particularly suited for rural, Indigenous, and remote communities. Furthermore, propane helps power important industries in B.C. such as agriculture, tourism and oil and gas production and mining – ensuring propane continues to play its role in providing portable and reliable energy supports communities and sectors across the province.

With an official review of CleanBC now underway, the government has a critical opportunity to reassess the scope, timing, and economic implications of the policy intentions and impacts. A more balanced approach is needed to safeguard long-term economic competitiveness, improve affordability, and still make meaningful progress toward environmental objectives.

1. Impacts to the Overall Competitiveness and Health of the B.C. Economy

Across the province, British Columbians are grappling with affordability pressures, a rising cost of living, and growing economic uncertainty. These concerns are especially acute in rural, resource-based, and export-reliant communities. At the same time, the province faces significant external economic threats—most notably, the potential for broad-based U.S. tariffs and retaliatory measures.

Leaders across the country are focused on reducing internal trade barriers as a way to immediately strengthen economies and benefit Canadians. Specifically in B.C., and fitting as part of this review, the province has an opportunity to adjust the CleanBC plan to align environmental and economic goals. According to the government's own economic modelling, CleanBC has already reduced B.C.'s real GDP by \$29.3 billion over the 2019–2024 period. Projections indicate that from 2025 to 2029, these policies could result in an additional \$109.7 billion loss in provincial income. These impacts are not abstract—they represent forgone investment, reduced competitiveness, and fewer economic opportunities for B.C.

The propane sector represents an important counterbalance to these challenges. In 2022, the propane industry contributed \$1.1 billion in GDP, supported over 4,700 jobs, and generated an estimated \$446 million in government revenues for B.C.. With 41,000 barrels per day of propane production, and over 123 auto propane fueling stations, the industry is a reliable, local economic driver.

The CPA strongly recommends that a recalibrated CleanBC plan strike a balance between environmental ambition and economic sustainability. Propane and now renewable propane—can play a key role in bridging that gap. As an affordable, portable, and lower emission energy solution – that already has significant infrastructure in place - propane helps reduce emissions without placing undue financial pressure on communities, businesses, or critical sectors of the economy. Propane furnaces, for instance, achieve up to 97% efficiency—far surpassing oil-based systems—and propane offers up to 45% cost savings compared to diesel, with reduced maintenance and insurance costs.

We urge the Government of B.C. to reassess the economic implications of CleanBC and adopt a more diversified, regionally sensitive energy strategy that supports emissions reduction while preserving economic competitiveness and affordability for all B.C.

2. Concerns About the Electrification and Lack of System Resilience

The CleanBC plan heavily emphasizes electrification across all sectors—from residential heating to transportation. While the intent to decarbonize is clear, reliance on a single energy is creating risks for the system and for the people and businesses of B.C.

Recent developments like BC Hydro becoming a net importer of electricity for the third consecutive year underscore that B.C. is facing a significant and growing electricity supply gap. In 2024 alone, BC Hydro has imported over 9,800 gigawatt hours, approximately one-fifth of total electricity needs, at an annual cost of \$1.4 billion. Just one year after the province's long-term electricity plan was approved by the BC Utilities Commission, the government has already announced a new call for power. This accelerated shift reflects growing concerns about electricity self-sufficiency.

Compounding this challenge, water levels for hydroelectric generation are well below average, raising concerns about continued shortfalls in domestic supply. These vulnerabilities—paired with B.C.'s dependence on imported electricity increasingly expose the province to energy security risks and volatile geopolitical trade dynamics.

Despite these warning signs, CleanBC policies are accelerating demand on the grid. Mandates requiring 26% electric vehicle sales by 2026, rising to 90% by 2030, along with building code requirements for electric heat pumps, are increasing the strain on infrastructure. At the same time, government plans call for shutting down existing natural gas-fired power plants, further reducing grid flexibility and adding costs to consumers.

Propane provides a practical, complementary solution that can alleviate pressure on the electric grid, particularly in rural, remote, and industrial applications. Its role as a resilient, lower emission, and locally available energy source—along with its renewable alternatives—makes it an ideal choice to support a diversified, secure energy system in B.C..

The CPA urges CleanBC reviewers to integrate energy diversity as a foundational principle in the plan's next iteration. Propane and other non-electric alternatives should be recognized not as transitional fuels to be phased out, but as complementary solutions that reinforce provincial energy resilience.

3. Achievable Targets, Simplicity, and Interprovincial Harmonization

With an official review of CleanBC now underway, the government has a critical opportunity to reassess the scope, timing, and economic implications of the policy intentions and impacts. A more balanced approach is needed to safeguard long-term economic competitiveness, improve affordability, and still make meaningful progress toward environmental objectives. CleanBC should be designed with the goal of reducing—not compounding—the cost burdens facing businesses across the province. This requires expediting permitting, rationalizing overlapping regulations, reducing the overall tax load, and adopting labour policies that encourage productivity and competitiveness.

B.C.'s climate leadership can and should continue in a way that integrates economic growth, industrial resilience, and pragmatic policy delivery. Recognizing and integrating the role of alternative low-carbon fuels like propane will be vital in delivering both environmental and economic outcomes. Notably, B.C. is a global gateway for propane, accounting for over 40% of Canadian propane exports, with key markets in Japan, South Korea, and the U.S. This international leadership reinforces propane's relevance as both a domestic and export energy solution.

Conclusion

The CPA supports B.C.'s climate leadership and believes that CleanBC can evolve into a more balanced, flexible, and pragmatic strategy. By recognizing the economic contributions of propane, ensuring energy system resilience, and pursuing greater policy harmonization, the province can achieve its emissions goals without compromising affordability, reliability, or inclusivity.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this review and stand ready to support B.C. in implementing a more resilient energy future. I look forward to discussing our feedback in further detail with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Kachur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first "K" being particularly large and stylized.

Katie Kachur
Vice President, Government Relations – West
Canadian Propane Association

cc: Clint Hillman, CPA BC Committee Chair
cc: Minister Dix, Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions