

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—NOVEMBER 20, 2015

# ACADEMICS SET CRITERIA FOR SUCCESSFUL CLIMATE ACTION BY BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Open letter to B.C. Premier outlines elements of effective policies ahead of first ministers' meeting with Trudeau**

VANCOUVER—More than 25 prominent academics and policy experts sent an open letter today to B.C. Premier Christy Clark, setting a high bar for the Province's forthcoming draft climate leadership plan.

The letter states that “the Premier's goals of reducing carbon pollution and growing the economy are compatible.” To be credible, however, B.C.'s climate plan must set interim targets aligned with B.C.'s legislated 2050 emissions reduction target. The plan must also include a variety of measures that collectively are projected to meet the province's emissions targets, including:

- Increasing the level and scope of the **carbon tax**
- Increasing the stringency of the **low-carbon fuel standard**
- Strengthening **building standards** to reduce carbon pollution
- Implementing a **zero-emission vehicle standard** for motor vehicles with sales targets
- **Regulating LNG** and **natural gas** production to reduce carbon pollution

Among the letter's signatories are prominent experts from a range of disciplines and academic institutions, including: **Mark Jaccard**, a renowned energy economist at SFU; **George Hoberg**, a specialist in environmental and resource management policies at UBC; **Kathryn Harrison**, a celebrated expert on environmental policy; **Jonn Axsen**, a specialist in sustainable energy system transition at SFU; and **Kirsten Zickfeld**, an expert in atmospheric climate science.

The letter and a full list of signatories follows.

## QUOTES

“For the Premier's climate plan to be credible, it must have one or a combination of a rising carbon tax, a falling emissions cap, or increasingly stringent regulations that independent experts agree will meet her promised reductions. With these policies in place, B.C. can drive down its carbon pollution while growing its economy.” ~ Mark Jaccard

"Research shows that roughly a third of BC drivers already want electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles. A zero-emissions vehicle mandate would require auto makers to give British Columbians cleaner options for their next vehicle purchase—just as we already see in California and eight other American states. It is win-win policy for consumers and the climate." ~ Jonn Axsen

"In 2007, British Columbia enacted a world-leading framework for climate policy. That was an impressive start. But to make real change, these policies need to be updated and strengthened—BC needs to plug the final gaps so we can sustain this momentum and confidently transition to a clean, green, vibrant economy and society." ~ Jonn Axsen

"To credibly present itself as a climate leader in Paris, BC must ramp up its efforts to reduce carbon pollution. It must set ambitious targets for 2020 and 2030 and present a portfolio of effective policies to achieve those targets". ~ Kirsten Zickfeld

"A credible climate action plan must include regulation of the LNG industry. New LNG projects should only be allowed to go forward if compatible with BC's targets". ~ Kirsten Zickfeld

Honourable Premier Christy Clark  
 PO BOX 9041, STN PROV GOVT  
 Victoria, BC  
 V8W 9E1  
 Canada

Date: November, 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

RE: Climate Leadership Plan

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Dear Premier Clark,

Your goals of reducing carbon pollution and growing the economy are compatible, but only if your upcoming climate leadership plan includes **meaningful policy** to reduce carbon pollution in a manner compatible with a global carbon budget that limits global warming to 2 degrees Celsius.

British Columbia has led the world in driving down carbon pollution and growing the economy. But this is no longer the case. British Columbia's carbon pollution has increased since 2012 and will continue to increase without your action.

In response you've created a climate leadership team and plan to share draft recommendations in late November or early December. This plan must include interim targets that align with B.C.'s legislated 2050 target. Any targets must be backed by effective policy and evidence-based public analysis showing how the policies will reduce carbon pollution, while maintaining a competitive and affordable economy. The plan must include a variety of effective measures that collectively are projected to meet the province's emissions targets. These measures include:

- Increasing the level and scope of the **carbon tax**
- Increasing the stringency of the **low-carbon fuel standard**
- Strengthening **building standards** to reduce carbon pollution
- Implementing a **zero-emission vehicle standard** for motor vehicles with sales targets
- **Regulating LNG** and **natural gas** production to reduce carbon pollution

LNG development must fit within the targets, and the burden to reduce emissions should not fall solely on the rest of the economy. These policies can be supported by initiatives to protect low-income families and help businesses adapt. However, if we don't see evidence of meaningful policy, your ambition to be acting on climate is not credible.

Sincerely,

Mark Jaccard – Professor Environmental Economics, SFU	Kathryn Harrison – Professor Political Science, UBC
George Hoberg – Professor Department of Forest Resources Management, UBC	Jonn Axsen – Assistant Professor Energy and Materials Research Group, SFU
Kirsten Zickfeld – Associate Professor	Sarah E. Gergel, Associate Professor

Department of Geography, SFU	Department of Forest & Conservation Sciences, UBC
Lori Daniels – Associate Professor Forest and Conservation Sciences, UBC	Ronald Kellett - Director and Professor, School of Architecture + Landscape Architecture, UBC
Tim K. Takaro - Professor and Chair, Masters and PhD Committee Faculty of Health Sciences, SFU	Andrew Rowe – Institute for Integrated Energy Systems Dept. of Mechanical Engineering UVIC
Curran Crawford - Associate Professor Graduate Program Director, Department of Mechanical Engineering, UVIC	Wendy J. Palen – Associate Professor Dept. of Biological Sciences, SFU
Peter Hall – Professor and Director, Urban Studies, SFU	Stephanie Bertels – Associate Professor, SFU Beedie School of Business
Shane Gunster – Associate Professor, School of Communication, SFU	Hisham Zerriffi - Assistant Professor, Liu Institute for Global Issues, UBC
Karen E. Kohfeld – Associate Professor & Canada Research Chair in Climate, SFU	Anne Salomon – Associate Professor Coastal Marine Ecology and Conservation Lab, SFU
Simon Donner – Associate Professor, Climatology, UBC	Arne Mooers – Professor, Biological Sciences, SFU
Tara Ivanochko - Senior Instructor, Director Environmental Science, UBC	Robert Gifford – Professor of Psychology and Environmental Studies, UVIC
Milind Kandlikar – Professor, UBC	Pascal Haegeli – Assistant Professor Research Chair in Avalanche Risk Management, SFU
Meg Holden – Associate Professor, Urban Studies and Geography, SFU	Lynne Quarmby – Professor, Molecular Biology & Biochemistry, SFU
Sally Aitken – Professor, Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences, UBC	Sumeet Gulati – Associate Professor, Environmental and Resource Economics, UBC
Anthony Perl – Professor of Urban Studies and Political Science, SFU	