



Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

Creating a sustainable future



British Columbia, *Naturally.*

BritishColumbia.ca

Naturally, **British Columbia is leading the way**

In British Columbia (B.C.) like-minded individuals, businesses, communities and Indigenous Peoples are collaborating to create an economic and investment climate that prioritizes sustainability. With strong, measurable commitments to environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles, B.C. goes beyond talking about diversity and sustainability — these principles are ingrained in their everyday business practices.

Invest with Confidence

As ESG metrics become leading guideposts for investment and purchasing decisions, B.C. companies are in a comparatively strong position to build on their successes and be ready to inform markets and investors that they are delivering on ESG commitments and managing risks, with confidence.

Global Leader

B.C. has grown into a global leader in the ESG space. Leadership and policy reflect progressive environmental, social and governance goals. The province is a stable, transparent democracy with rules of law and strong institutions.

The ESG Centre of Excellence

The StrongerBC Economic Plan recognized the growing importance of supporting businesses on their sustainability journeys, which led to the creation of the ESG Centre of Excellence. This dynamic new Centre helps drive investments in B.C., attracting socially and environmentally conscious investors while opening up new markets for the province's world-class products and services. Acting as a trusted hub, the Centre aims to empower businesses to launch or expand their ESG strategies, offering a range of complementary resources and services to increase trade, investment and sustainable economic growth across the province.

esgbc.ca



British Columbia's Environmental Advantages

Environmental Goals

British Columbia is committed to building a sustainable, growing economy and prioritizes low carbon initiatives that benefit the province and the world. With the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, B.C. is accelerating climate action to meet climate targets and build a cleaner, stronger economy for everyone. The Roadmap builds on B.C.'s natural advantages — abundant clean electricity, natural resources and skilled workforce — and it will spur innovative new technologies and sectors where climate solutions are still in development. B.C. is working toward measurable emission reductions from 2007 levels and has a goal to be net zero by 2050.

Vancouver stands as a global leader in sustainability, aiming to become a zero-waste community by 2040. The city's forward-thinking initiatives like the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) and the Green Operations Plan, places Vancouver at the forefront of environmental innovation. With bold commitments and a vision for a greener future, Vancouver is paving the way for sustainable urban living.



Meet your Sustainability Targets in British Columbia

British Columbia provides companies with leading clean energy infrastructure and government resources to help meet sustainability and growth goals, including access to renewable, reliable and affordable hydroelectricity. Sustainable resources (e.g., clean power, recycled materials, mass timber, biofuel and renewable natural gas/biomethane) are integrated into supply chains making B.C. a competitive jurisdiction to conduct green business practices and meet global sustainability targets for businesses.



British Columbia's environmental advantages by numbers:

- The electricity grid, from 98 per cent renewable sources helps make sustainability goals achievable, as B.C. reduces greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) with alternative energy options across sectors.
- Vancouver performs near the top (#2) compared to global peers on cost of energy for households. With 97% of Vancouver's electricity produced from renewable resources, Vancouver benefits from energy that is affordable as well as clean.

British Columbia's Social Advantages

Meaningful Outcomes with Indigenous Partners

British Columbian companies are moving beyond regulatory compliance and are building trust by demonstrating good governance and transparency. This is particularly critical with respect to Indigenous Peoples, where advancing reconciliation is a cornerstone of B.C.'s distinctive approach to ESG. Legislation aligns us with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and gender-based analysis applies to the Government of B.C.'s policy work and framework for reconciliation.



The Government of B.C. passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) into law in November 2019, the first jurisdiction in Canada to do so.



Engaging Indigenous Peoples respectfully, knowledgeably and collaboratively supports good conditions for de-risking investment while advancing meaningful societal outcomes. Working collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples in B.C. as respected partners creates certainty and clarity for projects, leading to increased confidence for investors and businesses operating in the province.



British Columbia's social advantages by numbers:

- B.C. is the most ethnically diverse province in Canada. Almost 30% of British Columbians immigrated from another country.
- Clear immigration pathways are in place to recruit global talent through the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program and Canada's Global Skills Strategy.
- In 2024, Mercer ranked Vancouver the 7th best city in the world — and top in North America — for quality of living.

Leading Post-secondary Education

British Columbia boasts 25 universities and colleges, which are consistently highly ranked among universities in the world, this includes the University of British Columbia which was ranked 5th overall in the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025. According to the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, University of Victoria ranked 13th overall in their 2024 edition out of more than 2,000 global educational institutions. Simon Fraser University was ranked 3rd globally in climate action by the same ranking.

From 2016 to 2021, the percentage of the population aged 25 to 64 with a bachelor's degree or higher in B.C. increased by 5.1%, the highest growth in Canada. This brought the total percentage to 35%, second only to Ontario at 36.8%



A Vibrant Economy and Diverse Culture

British Columbia values the contributions everyone makes to build a vibrant economy by promoting new skills, ways of thinking and embracing new people. B.C.'s immigration plays an important role in the social and economic fabric. People from around the world move to B.C. to pursue new lives in a welcoming and beautiful province. B.C. provides wide-spread support for immigration and holds a commitment to investments in settlement services and supports. This allows the province to attract talent, grow the population and realize the socioeconomic benefits of immigration that contributes to a prosperous economy.



British Columbia's Governance Advantages

Stable and Strong Governance

Canada and B.C. offer a stable political, government and regulatory environment based upon the rule of law. Strong collaboration across all orders of government creates a strong and dynamic business environment that encourages and safeguards foreign investment.

ESG Reporting

Good governance includes transparency and disclosure of ESG performance. Through strong and transparent regulations, B.C. provides a legislative and regulatory atmosphere that supports environmental sustainability, meaningful societal outcomes and strong governance for businesses that operate within the province. Many B.C. Crown Corporations including [BC Hydro](#), [BC Transit](#) and [InBC](#) have published annual ESG or ESG-related (climate action/sustainability) reports for consistent reporting, transparency and accountability.

The Government of B.C. is committed to reporting frameworks that encourage continuous improvement on how we evaluate, assess and adapt performance standards, measures and outcomes. [B.C.'s ESG Summary Report](#) and [Supplementary Data Report](#) provide metrics that highlight the efforts made across government to incorporate ESG values into ongoing strategic work. By using an ESG lens, the Government of B.C. plans to continuously work to enhance the quality of life for all British Columbians, becoming a leader in this field to attract more investment and to grow the economy while more accurately measuring how growth translates to improvements in quality of life.



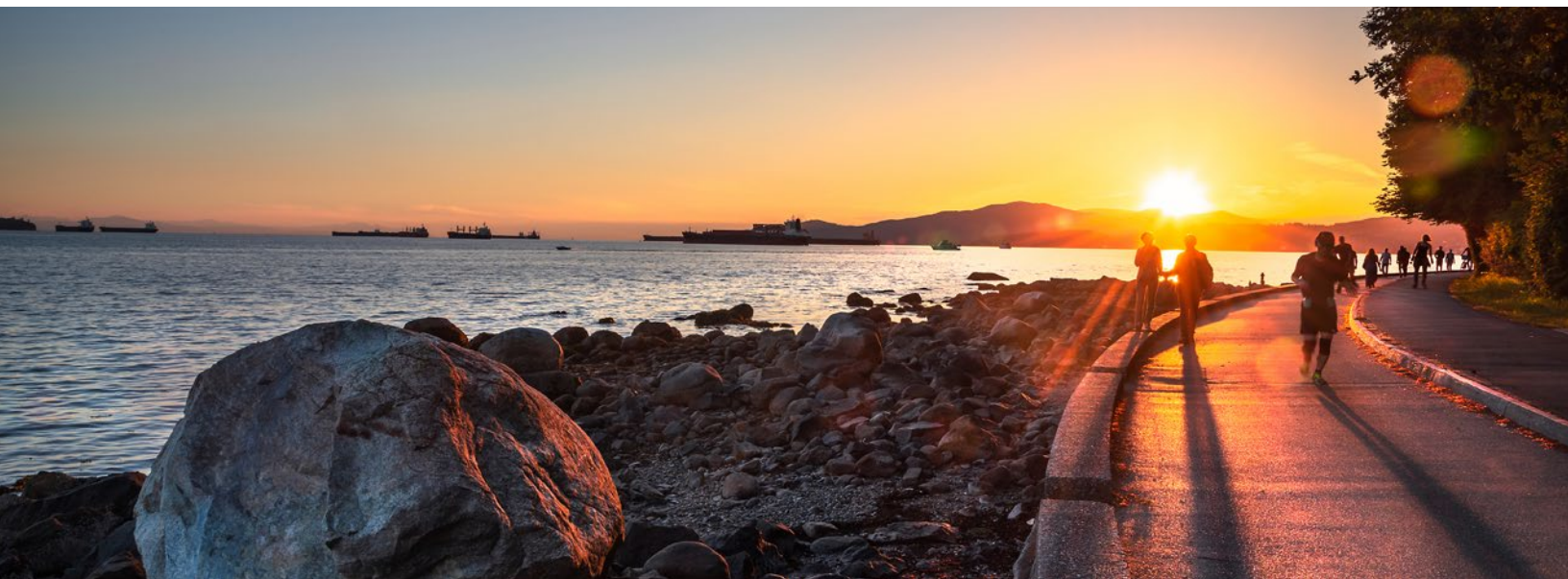
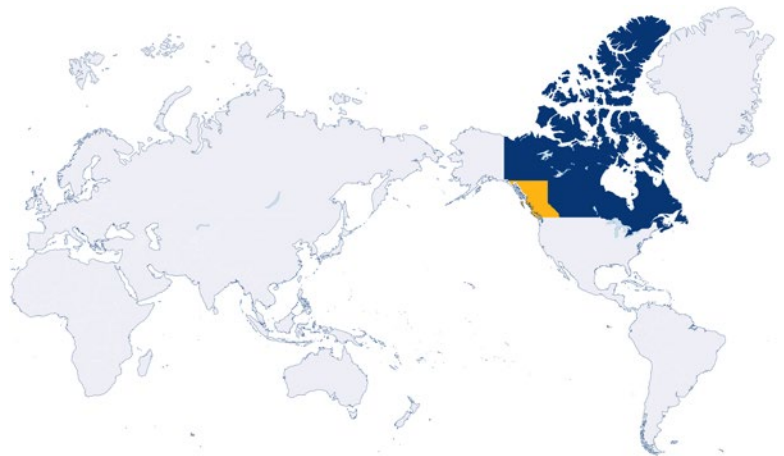
British Columbia's governance advantages:

- B.C.'s annual budget process — is guided by the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act (BTAA). The Act ensures that, at every stage of budget making, the public is able to participate, be informed and hold the government accountable.
- Canada ranks 12th on Transparency International's 2023 Global Corruption Perceptions Index.



British Columbia's Competitive Advantages:

- Prime location on Canada's West Coast
- Large, flexible and educated workforce
- High quality of life
- Competitive corporate and personal income taxes
- Excellent public infrastructure
- Expert researchers and state-of-the-art research infrastructure
- A flourishing innovation ecosystem
- A leader in sustainable development



British Columbia, *Naturally.*

Trade and Invest British Columbia

999 Canada Place, Suite 730
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada, V6C 3E1
Phone: +1 604 775-2100
international@gov.bc.ca
ESGTeam@gov.bc.ca
www.esgbc.ca

Published in February 2025. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this publication at the time of writing. However, the programs referred to, and data cited are subject to change. All figures are in Canadian dollars.



BritishColumbia.ca