

# **BCLA Climate Action Committee Benchmarking Survey**

#### 2024 BC Libraries Climate Benchmarking Survey

<u>Thank you</u> for participating in the first BC Libraries Climate Benchmarking Survey, the next step in our ongoing sectoral response following the BCLA Climate Action Statement.

Establishing a baseline will help us move forward, and identify strengths, opportunities, and areas for growth. As a living tool, it will evolve alongside the library sector's response to climate change.

Whether your library is already taking on major initiatives or you are just beginning to consider what is possible within your organization, your survey contribution matters in determining how we can work together now, and in the future.

The deadline for completion is <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>August 6, 2024</u>.

#### Questions?

Please contact the <u>BCLA Climate Action Committee</u> at <u>climateaction@bcla.bc.ca</u> with any questions or comments, and the Benchmarking Working Group (Diana Marshall, Dan Hackborn or Amory Strader) will reply.

Please join us for an Information Session!

- Thursday, June 20, 12:00 noon to 12:30 pm.
- We plan to record this session.
- Register here.

#### **Survey Results and Uses**

Survey responses will help BCLA and libraries identify barriers to and approaches for our climate action. We will make the findings available as a summary report, and incorporate them into future projects and toolkits.

Potential uses include:

- · Assessing where climate impacts are affecting libraries,
- Supporting advocacy to communities and funding partners about how libraries facilitate climate action, and
- Highlighting sites for potential collaboration and opportunity.

#### **Who Should Complete the Survey**

This survey is <u>open to all libraries</u> <u>and library-supporting organizations</u> operating within the provincial boundaries of British Columbia, including public, academic, school and special libraries, as well as consortia.

Ideally <u>one survey per location</u> will be completed by a senior employee, manager, or supervisor. We recognize and are grateful for the expenditure of time and effort your participation represents. Each library works in a distinct community and climate context; for relevant results, we need your unique location counted.

If it feels necessary to have someone answer on behalf of an organization's overall strategic direction (e.g. Strategy & Vision is exclusively the domain of leadership or executives), we welcome additional responses from the system perspective (in these cases please identify that you're responding from the Strategic/System perspective where indicated).

#### **Survey Logistics**

The survey contains three parts and should typically take <u>25 - 45 minutes</u> to complete.

You can <u>leave and come back</u> to a partially complete submission if you accept all cookies. We suggest testing this option on your device before relying upon it. There is also a <u>Back Button</u> if you want to change your previous answers.

You can <u>preview the full survey as a PDF (this is it!)</u>, however we ask that you submit your responses via the online survey collector.

#### **Time Period Covered**

As the first instance of what is intended to be a recurring biennial assessment, the questions in this survey typically solicit information about the past two calendar years only: 2022 and 2023.

We recognize a great deal has happened prior to the past two years. At the end of each section, there is an open-ended text box to share relevant information from the time period <u>preceding the past two years</u>: 2021 or earlier.

#### What If I Don't Know the Answer?

That's okay! All questions are optional and all data is valuable.

Some questions may not be relevant to your organization - simply leave these blank. If you don't know an answer and find it inconvenient, impractical, or onerous to find the necessary information, reporting 'Don't Know' is useful data for benchmarking. Conversely, if a particular

question sparks something for you, we welcome additional context and detail.

Any knowledge you share will create a richer, more detailed picture of our sector in relation to ongoing climate change, but there is <u>no need to expend unreasonable energy</u> or time to research any answers.

#### **Privacy and Anonymity**

We are asking for your organization's name and postal code to allow us to cross-reference data with other open source datasets. This will allow us to better understand how climate change is affecting different library systems and their communities across the province.

After analyzing the data, we will make a summary of our findings available on the BCLA website. The Climate Action Committee will anonymize the data in this report. Organizations wanting access to their own library or system's responses may contact the Committee to access their data.

<u>Data security small print</u>: Survey data is collected via Qualtrics and stored on Qualtrics servers in Montreal and Toronto. Access to individual survey responses will be limited to BCLA staff, BCLA Climate Action Committee executive members, and the Benchmarking working group. Libraries/systems wanting their own libraries' data can contact the Committee for access. Individual survey data will be retained as long as relevant to future benchmarking comparison. When no longer useful, it will be destroyed. Individual survey responses will be aggregated and the results will be used to inform BCLA activities. Aggregated anonymized results of the survey will be retained permanently and shared publicly. Names of individuals or institutions are used for demographic purposes and will not appear in public reporting.

#### Ready? Let's Begin!

CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY ONLINE NOW or continue reading to preview the survey questions.

### Part 1. Demographics and Location

In this section we'll ask about who you are, your position, and what organization you represent. This will help us link related responses, and assess the breadth and depth of the response base. What type of library or organization do you work for? O Public library (1) Academic library (2) O School library (3) O Special library (4) O Library school (5) Library consortium (6) Other (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Are you answering on behalf of \*select all that apply A specific library/organization location or branch (1) An overall system/strategic perspective (2) What is the name of your organization?

What is the name of your branch/location?  * leave blank if responding on behalf of overall strategy only, and not a specific location	on 
What is your library or organization's postal code?	
What is your name?	
What is your job title?	
May we contact you about your responses? If so, please provide us with your email ad and phone number.	dress

## Part 2: Climate Impacts on your Library in the Past Two Years

Here we'll ask about how climate changes are impacting your library, and how much it has cost your library to respond to these impacts. We are only looking for responses about impacts from 2022 and 2023. At the end of the section there is an opportunity to share about impacts from 2021 and prior years.

Has your organization been significantly affected by <u>direct</u> climate impacts? e.g. extreme temperature or precipitation event, flood, wildfire, extended smoke hours, drought, changes in precipitation patterns, snowpack, deglaciation, sea level rise or degradation, etc.
○ Yes
○ No
O I don't know
Has your organization been significantly affected by indirect climate impacts? e.g. water shortages, infrastructure failure, supply chain disruption, invasive species, food insecurity, climate-related physical and mental health impacts, novel vector-borne diseases, loss of housing, economic effects, loss of culture or tradition, etc.
○ Yes
○ No
O I don't know

your organization been impacted? \*select all that apply Temporary library closure (when it would otherwise be open) Forced to significantly alter service delivery Evacuated the building Cooperated in larger community evacuation Damage to building Complete loss of building Relocation of service, or shift to mobile delivery Redeployment of staff to other municipal services Irreplaceable loss of documentation, collections or cultural knowledge Replaceable loss of documentation, collections or cultural knowledge Loss of staff, staff time, increased staff turnover or staff burnout Minor inconvenience ( Other \_\_\_\_\_

If your organization has experienced direct or indirect impacts from climate change, how has

*total costs including those paid by insurance coverage
O No cost, \$0
O Under \$1K
○ \$1 - 10K
○ \$11 - 50K
○ \$51 - 100K
○ \$101 - 500K
○ \$501K - \$1M
○ \$1 - 5M
Over \$5M
O Don't know
Other
Is there anything that you would like to share about direct or indirect climate <u>impacts</u> on your organization <u>during</u> the past two years that was not covered by the preceding questions? This may include experiences, what concerns you most, or anything else that you think is important.
· <u> </u>

If your organization has experienced direct or indirect impacts from climate change, what were

the estimated total costs\* of these impacts over the past two years?

organiz	Inything that you would like to share about direct or indirect climate <u>impacts</u> on tion <u>prior</u> to the past two years? This may include experiences, what concerns yanything else that you think is important for establishing a baseline context.	•

## Part 3: Climate Actions in your Library over the Past Two Years

Here we'll ask about how your library is adapting to and mitigating climate change, including actions related to your buildings, infrastructure, and grounds, as well as your collections, programs, transportation logistics, staff capacity, waste management, communication and advocacy, collaboration, outreach, relationships, and planning.

We are only looking for responses about actions from 2022 and 2023. At the end of the section there is an opportunity to share about actions that were taken in 2021 and prior years.

Has your organization made any significant changes to <u>adapt</u> to climate impacts? This includes changes to:

J	Yes	No	I don't know
Buildings e.g. foundation waterproofing, backwater valves, sump pump, fire resistant cladding, sky well, white roof, green roof, elevating physical collections or digital equipment, etc.	0	0	0
Mechanical infrastructure e.g. HVAC HEPA filters, backup power storage or generation, renewable microgrid, communication backup, etc.	0	0	
Grounds e.g. xeriscaping, regrading, rain garden, wind break, firesmart landscaping, constructed wetland or bioretention system, permeable pavement, community garden, increased tree canopy coverage, etc.	0		
Operations e.g.expanded open hours, emergency plan for extreme weather or community-wide disasters, etc.	0	0	0

### If you selected "Yes" as an answer to any of the categories in the last question, this follow-up will appear:

What was the estimated total cost of these changes over the past two years?
O No cost, \$0
O Under \$1K
○ \$1 - 10K
○ \$11 - 50K
○ \$51 - 100K
○ \$101 - 500K
○ \$501K - \$1M
○ \$1 - 5M
Over \$5M
O I don't know
Other

Has your organization encountered any obstacles <u>adapting</u> to climate impacts? *select all that apply			
	Lack of organizational climate strategy		
	Lack of expertise		
	Lack of time		
	Lack of finances		
	Lack of government leadership		
	Lack of organizational priority		
	Lack of administrative support		
	Lack of internal climate-related dialogue		
	Lack of staff support		
	Lack of community buy-in		
	Lack of feasible technological options		
	Risks to public perception		
	None, we encountered few significant obstacles		
	Other		

s your organization assessed or audited the environmental impacts and/or greenhouse gas hissions it produces?
○ Yes
○ No
O I don't know

Has your organization made any significant changes to  $\underline{\text{reduce}}$  its greenhouse gas emissions or ecological footprint? This includes changes to:

	Yes	No	I don't know
Buildings e.g. more efficient insulation, windows, appliances, passive climate control features, reclaimed materials for construction or renovation, complete renovation, etc.	0	0	0
Mechanical infrastructure e.g. low emission heating/cooling systems, grey water system, renewable power, HVAC or light timers, electrified water heaters, etc.	0	0	0
Grounds e.g. xeriscaping, swales, replaced turf with species featuring high sequestration potential, increased pollinator- friendly species, naturalization/rewilding, forest garden, rainwater harvesting system, improved walking paths, increased or upgraded bicycle parking, ebike charging station, EV chargers, etc.	0		
Operations e.g. reduce transportation routes, update procurement policy, implement work from home where possible, etc.		0	0

### If you selected "Yes" as an answer to any of the categories in the last question, this follow-up will appear:

Vhat was the estimated total cost of these changes over the past two years?
O No cost, \$0
O Under \$1K
○ \$1 - 10K
○ \$11 - 50K
○ \$51 - 100K
○ \$101 - 500K
○ \$501K - \$1M
○ \$1 - 5M
Over \$5M
O I don't know
Other

Has your organization encountered any obstacles <u>reducing</u> your greenhouse gas emissions? *select all that apply			
	Lack of organizational climate strategy		
	Lack of expertise		
	Lack of time		
	Lack of finances		
	Lack of government leadership		
	Lack of organizational priority		
	Lack of administrative support		
	Lack of internal climate-related dialogue		
	Lack of staff support		
	Lack of community buy-in		
	Lack of feasible technological options		
	Risks to public perception		
	None, we encountered few significant obstacles		
	Other		
Did your organization attempt or complete any <u>mitigation or adaptation changes</u> to buildings, mechanical infrastructure, or grounds <u>prior to the past two years</u> that you would like to share with us?			

- <del></del>	
Has your organization demonstrated support for an internal culture of engagement, mo and advocacy on climate action? e.g. vocal support for climate-related initiatives; willingness to discuss organizational of	
impacts; resourcing climate work, etc.	
O Highly supportive	
O Supportive	
O Neutral	
O Unsupportive	
O Highly unsupportive	
O I don't know	

Has your organization increased staff capacity for climate crisis response by: \*select all that apply

Offering supports for ecological anxiety or grief? e.g. counselling  Offering or funding climate or sustainability-related training or professional development opportunities to its employees/members? e.g. climate science 101  Having an active internal climate or sustainability-related team or similar working group?  Including climate or sustainability-related skills in new job descriptions or	now	I don't kno	No	Yes	
climate or sustainability-related training or professional development opportunities to its employees/members? e.g. climate science 101  Having an active internal climate or sustainability-related team or similar working group?  Including climate or sustainability-related skills in new job		0	0	0	ecological anxiety or
internal climate or sustainability-related team or similar working group?  Including climate or sustainability-related skills in new job	)		0	0	climate or sustainability-related training or professional development opportunities to its employees/members? e.g. climate science
sustainability-related skills in new job	)	0	0	0	internal climate or sustainability-related team or similar
redefining existing descriptions to include them?	)	0	0	0	sustainability-related skills in new job descriptions or redefining existing descriptions to
Having dedicated climate or sustainability-related position(s)?		0	0	0	climate or sustainability-related

Has your organization hosted climate change related programming?
e.g. climate education, identifying or countering climate mis- and disinformation, citizen science, climate justice or activism, adaptation or emergency response, ecological anxiety/grief,

repair and maintenance, upcycling, swap meets, gardening or tree planting, Library Climate Action Week, etc.
○ Yes
○ No
O I don't know
If you selected "Yes" as an answer to the last question, this follow-up will appear:
Please share more about this programming if you'd like!
Has your organization hosted climate community development? e.g. climate hub, facilitated community conversations, town-hall, future visioning, etc.
○ Yes
○ No
O I don't know
If you selected "Yes" as an answer to the last question, this follow-up will appear:
Please share about your community development work if you'd like!

How would you characterize your organization's current physical and digital knowledge collection on climate-related topics? e.g. climate science, adaptive actions, climate grief or emotional responses, Indigenous knowledges, systemic inequalties or other social, economic and political aspects, etc.
○ Plentiful
O Adequate
O Inconsistent
○ Inadequate
O Sparse or non-existent
O I don't know
Does your organization offer non-traditional shared collections? e.g. seeds, tools, toys, clothing, bikes, makerspace, repair cafe, community garden, community pantry, etc.
○ Yes
○ No
O I don't know

If you selected "Yes" as an answer to the last question, this follow-up will appear:

If yes, was the collection developed with its potential ecological benefits in mind?
○ Yes
○ No
O I don't know
If you selected "Yes" as an answer to the last question, this follow-up will appear:
Please share about your non-traditional collections if you'd like!
Does your organization have access to facilities to reuse or recycle most physical collection materials weeded from its collections?
○ Yes
○ No
O I don't know

If you selected "No" as an answer to the last question, this follow-up will appear:

You indicated your organization does not have access to facilities to reuse or recycle most physical collection materials weeded from its collections. What types of collection materials are

you unable to dispose of in a sustainable manner?  *select all that apply		
	Books	
	Magazines	
	Optical media e.g. CDs / DVDs / video games	
	eWaste (e.g. laptops, tablets, other computer or robot collections)	
	Other	
Does your org waste that it p	ganization have access to facilities to reuse or recycle most of the non-collection produces?	
O Yes		
○ No		
O I don't	know	
If you select	ted "No" as an answer to the last question, this follow-up will appear:	
What types of	non-collection waste are you unable to dispose of in a sustainable manner?	
	Paper waste	
	Plastic waste	
	Mixed materials	
	eWaste e.g. laptops, tablets, other computer or robot collections	
	Biodegradable waste	
	Other	

Does your org	ganization own or lease any institutional vehicles?
O Yes	
○ No	
O I don't	know
If you selec	ted "Yes" as an answer to the last question, this follow-up will appear:
ii you selec	ted Tes as an answer to the last question, this follow-up will appear.
How is your o	rganization mitigating the greenhouse gases emitted by its fleet?  at apply
	Finding logistical efficiencies e.g. scheduling, routes, etc.
	Converting the vehicles to low/zero emission fuels
	Replacing the vehicles with low/zero emission vehicles
	No mitigation strategy
	Other

If you selected "Yes" as an answer to the last question, this follow-up will appear:

Please identify the major obstacle(s) to mitigating the impact of your organization's fleet:			
	Lack of organizational climate strategy		
	Lack of expertise		
	Lack of time		
	Lack of finances		
	Lack of government leadership		
	Lack of organizational priority		
	Lack of administrative support		
	Lack of internal climate-related dialogue		
	Lack of staff support		
	Lack of community buy-in		
	Lack of feasible technological options		
	Risks to public perception		
	None, I encounter few significant obstacles		
	Other		

facilitating: *select all tha	at apply
	Active transportation options
	Public transit
	Ridesharing/carpooling
	Work from home
	Remote meeting
	Restricting conference travel
	Condensed work week
	Use of low/zero emission vehicles
	Other
	ning about staff, programming, collections or logistics at your organization prior to years you would like to share with us for establishing a climate benchmarking ext?
Page Break	

Has your organization mitigated the impacts of staff travel by encouraging, incentivizing, or

Has your orga following? *select all that	nization engaged in advocacy for increased climate action with any of the apply
	Your organizational board
	Your parent organization
	Policy makers at the municipal/local government level
	Policy makers at the provincial level
	Policy makers at the federal level
	Vendors
	Other
Has your orga of the followin *select all tha	
	Your organization's board
	Your parent organization
	At the municipal/local government level
	At the provincial level
	At the federal level
	Other

Indigenous-led organizations developed and maintained? *select all that apply			
	Joint governance agreement(s)		
	My organization is Indigenous-led		
	Memorandum of understanding (or similar)		
	Organizational committee or governance group with dedicated representation		
	Dedicated staff liaison		
	Dedicated programming and/or collections		
	Local protocols have been shared and incorporated into library practices		
	Staff training to support informed and respectful relationships		
	Outreach visits		
	No formal strategy at this time		
	Other		

How are your relationships with Indigenous host nations, other resident Indigenous people, and

Has your organization collaborated on climate-related initiatives with:  *select all that apply			
	Local First Nations, Inuit, or Métis governments		
	Indigenous-led organizations		
	My organization is Indigenous-led		
precarity of	Local groups who identify as facing historical, persistent, and systemic ration e.g. 2SLGBTQIA+, ethnic or racialized groups, people experiencing housing or the economically disadvantaged, women, feminized, sex- and gender nong, physically and neurologically divergent, physically and mentally disabled, etc.		
marginaliz	My organization is led by a historically, persistently, and systemically zed community.		
heightene	A group that is historically less responsible for causing climate change, faces d overall risk from climate impacts, or both *please specify		

organizations' *select all tha	
	Traditional ecological knowledge keepers
	Citizen science organizations
	Climate scientists
	GLAM organizations
	Faith-based organizations
	Journalists or news media
	Grade schools
	Post-secondary schools
	Other
Has your orga organizations' *select all tha	
	Climate justice advocacy/activism groups
models e.	External local organizations operating non-traditional collections or sharing g. tool library, community garden
	Local business associations
	Other

Has your organization collaborated on climate initiatives with other culture or knowledge

Has your organization worked with government agencies; First Nations, Inuit, or Métis governments; Indigenous-led organizations; and/or community/municipal services to collaborate on climate-related emergency response plans? e.g. public dialogues, climate education campaigns, sharing economy infrastructure, adaptation or emergency planning, etc.

Yes: First Nations, Inuit, or Métis governments

Yes: Indigenous-led organizations

	165. Indigenous-led organizations
	Yes: Provincial or Federal agencies
	Yes: Municipal agencies e.g. climate action or emergency response departments
	No
	I don't know
Does your fun	ding municipality or parent organization have a formal climate action strategy?
O Yes	
○ No	
O I don't	know

If you selected "Yes" as an answer to the last question, this follow-up will appear:

If yes or if it is currently in development, is your organization explicitly referenced or included?			
○ Yes			
○ No			
O I don't know			
How frequently does your organization share climate or sustainability-related information and/or resources via your organization's formal communication channels?  e.g. promotions, social media, newsletter, website, etc.			
O Never			
O Sometimes			
O About half the time			
O Most of the time			
O Always			
O I don't know			
Is there anything about advocacy, collaboration, outreach or communication at your organization prior to the past two years that you would like to share with us for establishing a climate benchmarking baseline context?			

e.g. climate action, climate justice, environmental sustainability, etc.
○ Yes
○ No
O I don't know
If you selected "Yes" as an answer to the last question, this follow-up will appear
To what extent has your organization changed its operations or infrastructure in the last two years because of those aspects in your strategic plan?
O Major changes
O Moderate changes
O Minor changes
○ No changes
O I don't know

Does your organization's current strategic documents, policies or procedures include the following?

\*select all that apply

coroct an arat appry	Yes	No	Don't know
Knowledge of the socially vulnerable demographics to climate impacts within the community you serve	0	0	0
Knowledge of probable climate impacts relevant to your region or community	0	0	0
Knowledge of effective climate solutions relevant to your region or community	0	0	0
Sustainable procurement policy and standards for 3rd party vendors	0	0	0
Documentation of past experience supporting community resilience, post-disaster information needs, and emergency support during or after climate impacts and other natural disasters	0	0	0
Promotional strategy for sharing your organization's past experience supporting community resilience, education, and emergency support during climate change impacts and disasters e.g. to your board; to parent organizations, at the municipal level, at the provincial level, to the public	0		
Capacity for building community resilience and emergency response and recovery support	0	0	0

predicted for your region	nave contingency plans the or community? Predness, Continuity of Se		it likely climate impacts
O Yes			
○ No			
O I don't know			
If you selected "Yes"	as an answer to the	last question, this fo	ollow-up will appear:
With respect to these co	ntingency plans accounti	ng for climate impacts:	
	Yes	No	I don't know
Does your organization communicate these plans? e.g. to staff, community members, local emergency services, etc.	0	0	0
Does it include community-wide (as opposed to facility-level) emergencies?	0	0	0
Does it include operational changes during an officially declared emergency? e.g. extended or different hours, staffing levels, services etc.	0	0	0
Is there anything about swould like to share with	strategy or planning at yous for context?	ur organization prior to	the past two years you

there anything that you would like to share about climate <u>actions</u> at your organization <u>during</u> be past two years that was not covered by the preceding questions? This may include experiences, what concerns you most, or anything else that you think is important.
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you have any further comments, questions, or suggestions for the BCLA Climate Action ommittee, please enter them here! (If you'd like a response from us, please make sure to let s know how we can contact you in your reply, or email us directly at imateaction@bcla.bc.ca.)
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#### **THANK YOU!**

Your input will help us track and better understand BC libraries' climate work, as well as identify the ways we can support you best.

Sincerely, the BCLA Climate Action Committee.

PRESS THE ARROW TO SUBMIT YOUR SURVEY