

British Columbia Libraries Association Climate Action Committee



Annual Report 2025 – 2026

CAC EXECUTIVE TEAM FOR 2025 – 2026

- Co-chairs: Caitlin MacRae and Lisa Nathan
- Recording Secretary: Dan Hackborn
- Directors at Large: Diana Marshall and Alexis Greenwood
- Student Representative: Brielle Steeper

SUMMARY & CONTEXT

The BCLA Climate Action Committee spent the past year growing our reach and selectively starting new initiatives. We continually ask ourselves the question: ‘How do we keep doing this, to greater impact, and in a sustaining way?’

Sustaining the Committee

Committee meeting attendance continues at about the same rate, but we do see a rotating variety of faces in addition to the core executive group. We know folks are following along with our activities through posts on Branches, and recent events have highlighted how the committee’s work is increasing visibility within the sector, and therefore normalizing climate action work in libraries.

Committee sustainability requires opportunities for regular members to step aside for a time to recharge or focus on other projects, as well as helping new members find their footing within the group. Some initiatives to increase social events and new member onboarding are in progress, which we hope will help with both of these aspects.

INITIATIVES

Work on projects by committee members is driven by personal interest, as well as a general effort to increase visibility of our work.

Inaugural Benchmarking Survey Project leads: Diana Marshall, Dan Hackborn, Amory Strader
The CAC Benchmarking Survey group worked through some kinks in evaluating the data collected from the inaugural survey conducted in 2024, and stored on the UBC Qualtrics site. They were able to create a [one-page summary](#) of some highlights, and a more [in-depth report](#) which was presented to and accepted by the BCLA Board. The report is organized around the 10 calls to action in the [Climate Position Statement](#) (from 2024). They also presented a presentation about the results at the 2026 BCLA conference.

The next iteration of the survey was opened in May 2026 and will be open until July 20, 2026.

Discussions of finding a secure storage solution for survey data are ongoing. Some experimentation of creating a dedicated CAC server storage system using discarded hardware has started. This could be used to store survey data as well as committee documents, to allow shared access. None of the BC-based library cooperative organizations are able to help with shared server space (we have approached BCLA and BC Libraries Co-operative). We continue to have committee members who have links to UBC and can use their access to Qualtrics for the survey. Other solutions, that are not linked to specific individuals, should be sought in future.

Climate Action Week Project lead: David C. Waddell
Climate Action Week in Libraries occurred for the third year from November 1-7, 2025. The level of interest in Climate Action Week increased slightly (2% increase in participating libraries) and saw marked increases in participation in provinces outside of BC. We made an effort to create invitations and notices in both official languages, increasing participation across the country. We continue to plan this event on an ongoing annual basis.

We began the process to apply for a Gaming Grant in 2025 to help fund the CAW in a similar fashion to Summer Reading Club, with some part-time staff work coordinated through BCLA. This step would help grow not only the impact but also the scale of the project. Unfortunately we were not eligible as our parent organization is too financially healthy--the grant requires non-profits to be able to prove that they have almost no cash on hand. While we are pleased that BCLA is financially responsible, this was not good news for our proposal. We thought about some alternatives, both in organizational structure and in places to apply for funds, but did not make any further moves. BCLA remains supportive of our efforts.

Conference Presentations

Committee members presented at conferences both on committee work and on areas of their own work or research.

- **BCLA Conference (April 2026)**

- **Climate Benchmarking Survey:** results of the initial survey presented by Diana Marshall and Dan Hackborn
- **Informing Climate Action:** members of the committee who are working on this research project presented their work so far. Presenters included committee members Lisa Nathan, Dan Hackborn, Diana Marshall.
- **BCLA Virtual Reboot (January 2026)**
 - **Increasing Climate Literacy in Your Community:** The small panel that presented this at the 2025 BCLA conference, presented it again, online. Committee member Caitlin MacRae was joined by RegenerateBC Facilitators, Kristen Andrews and Joan Gillies.

BC Libraries Book Recycling and Donation Directory

We compiled information on possible ways libraries could recycle or donate discarded books, and created a shareable list of companies and places where books can be sent for recycling or reuse. The list can be found [here](#).

Mental Health and Climate Change

Knowing that there is a deep need to address the intersection of mental health and climate change, both for library workers and for patrons, we continue to work with the Mental Health and Climate Change Alliance to develop new initiatives.

COLLABORATION & RELATIONSHIPS

For many years, we have collaborated with other climate action committees across the country including having a member sit on the Ontario Library Association (OLA) and the Canadian Federation of Library Association's (CFLA) Climate Action Committees. There is great benefit to understanding what is happening in other provinces and library spheres, and to find opportunities to share work or results of research.

Both the OLA and the CFLA committees were dissolved this year in favour of a task force, project-based model. The opportunity exists for us to participate in their task forces, and possibly scale up some of our own work. We have also extended the invitation for members of those committees to attend our meetings. It remains important to us to continue to invite libraries of all kinds and operating in all languages to engage in the topic of climate change, so we do continue to create bilingual information about Climate Action Week, and will create new materials for any new initiatives.

We also learned that the Library Toolshed, a shared location for disseminating ideas, projects, plans, and climate work is being discontinued. We mourn its passing, and are looking to create a new spot for this information to be housed. We are working with institutional repositories to find a way, and our longstanding project, the Climate Toolkit, will likely be housed in some sort of institutional repository. This work is ongoing and related to the storage of our survey data and committee documents referenced above.

Several committee members have begun work with Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) engagement and outreach team to work together on creating materials, exhibits, and pathways

for science-based publications to be disseminated to the general public through libraries. A pilot project involving three public libraries (Jasper, Moose Jaw, and New Westminster) will likely result in accessible options for public libraries to engage in this type of work.

Coming Together Around Climate Work in BC Libraries (April 2026): Presented by UBC Informing Climate Action Research Team (including committee members Lisa Nathan and Dan Hackborn)

This special full-day workshop at UBC organized by the Informing Climate Action research team allowed library workers to come together to learn from each other and get inspired by the community. Planned to happen the day before BCLA conference to allow out of town participants to combine trips and attend, the day-long event was attended by many committee members, but also by a large number of non-committee members. The strong attendance suggests that the work of the committee has an active and engaged audience beyond those who regularly attend meetings.

Our list of major collaborations is as follows:

- **BC Libraries Co-operative:** The BCLA CAC continues to engage and cooperate with the Co-Operative. Examples include supporting Co-Operative professional development opportunities, and consulting on BCLA CAC informational pieces.
- **Association of BC Public Library Directors:** The group works with BCLA leadership to keep ahead on trends and through these channels assists the CAC. We appreciate their assistance on promoting initiatives from the committee and offering to connect individual libraries with various committee projects.
- **Canadian Federation of Library Associations:** In 2023 CFLA formed a Climate Action Committee and established inaugural membership. The committee has transferred to a Task Force model, to consult stakeholders and offer design options for a national peer-to-peer network for climate-engaged library workers. Helen Brown and Dan Hackborn are likely task force members, with opportunities for others to become involved as well.
- **UBC iSchool:** Several committee members are faculty or students at the UBC iSchool, so there is natural collaboration in the area of LIS education. But non-UBC committee members have also consulted on course development at the school in the area of climate change, and have appeared as guest speakers at lectures on the subject.

People continue to reach out to us in BC and across the country, which is an important reminder of how important community and support is for this work. The BCLA CAC continues to be seen as a national trailblazer in this area, and folks across the country look to us for inspiration.

SUPPORT AND CELEBRATION

We recognize that working in the sphere of climate action is difficult - the topic is heavy and brings up existential questions, which we often feel unprepared to answer. One of the best ways to keep doing the work and not burning out is to cultivate networks of support with like-minded

folks. In essence, the committee itself acts as a space for support for its own members. We also prioritize personal connections at regular meetings and have made efforts to organize in-person and online social events and outings throughout the year.

- Annual winter holiday get together
- Open door meet and greet at BCLA conference
- Online film screening and discussion (in May 2026, Emergence: Women in the Storm)
- Attending gallery exhibits or performances around the theme of climate change
- Attending marches and protests together as a group

Committee members also regularly invite folks to their own events (personal or library) that may be of interest to other members.

One opportunity in the last year allowed us to support major climate action work in a particular library. Surrey Libraries completed the ALA Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI), and invited committee members to their final presentation to the SLI panel. Many members attended via Zoom, showing support for their colleagues.

WEBSITE

The Climate Action Committee's website includes the documentation produced by the committee, as well as core resources and briefing materials to provide context and reliable information on climate change and actions being taken by library organizations.

MEETINGS & MEMBERSHIP

Regular monthly meetings were held on the 3rd Friday of every month at 12:00 pm. Working group meetings occurred as needed, depending on the project. In order to make the meetings accessible for members from different libraries and positions, all meetings were held on Zoom and the date and time were determined based on surveys and feedback.

Most communications are shared through the BCLA Climate Action Committee forum, which is part of BCLA's [Branches Online Forums](#) and is available to BCLA members and non-members. Some announcements are also shared in the main BCLA Discussion forum. Communication about upcoming meetings and initiatives takes place via the forum. It is also available for subscribers to connect with others about their initiatives, resources, professional development opportunities, and questions. Anyone can attend committee meetings or get involved in working groups.

GETTING INVOLVED

New members are always welcome! You do not have to be a member of BCLA to get involved. Communication about upcoming meetings and initiatives take place via the online forum.

- Join the BCLA Climate Action Committee forum known as Branches [here](#)
- Join Climate Action Committee meetings (specifics shared monthly in the online forum)

- Get involved in a project working group
- Run for a Climate Action Committee executive position at our annual AGM (BCLA members only)
- Visit the Climate Action Committee website [here](#)
- Contact us at climateaction@bcla.bc.ca

Report submitted with gratitude for everyone who worked tirelessly for the committee in the past year, and for BCLA as a whole for supporting our work wholeheartedly. Special thanks to Rina Hazdiev for always being willing to have a meeting and work through ideas.