

## ***BCHPA Environment/Green Initiative Task Force Report October 2022***

Our committee looks forward to being included in conference planning as our association works through a return to in-person gatherings with a hybrid element. Congratulations to our current executive for making this weekend happen. Thank you.

Up until now we find ourselves akin to being benevolent guard bees buzzing around making folks aware of our presence. As beekeepers we all share a deep respect for the environment and are aware of climate change challenges that affect our bees and our vocation.

It is our committee's mandate to share beneficial, environmentally sound practice recommendations. And to coordinate with whatever supports are available to BCHPA members.

To follow is an extensive list kindly provided by:

**Karina Sakalauskas P.Ag** | Industry Specialist, Emerging Markets  
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food

We welcome suggestions for topics and hands-on experiences that will benefit everyone.

With best regards,

Diane Dunaway  
Committee Chair

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### ***In response to our Green Committee's request for program information specific to environmental sustainability in our beekeeping practices.***

*Please find below the information you have requested for your publication BeesCene. I have included the topics of your interest: Environment Farm Plan, Sustainability Programs, Climate Change Initiatives, Toxic Farm Waste drop-off locations for 2022, and others that your members may be interested in as well.*

*I encourage you to review the links as many programs and /or initiatives maybe already closed by the time of your publication.*

## Information Requested. Resources

### [Agriculture and seafood programs](#)

Agriculture and seafood producers and processors can access programs and funding to support their businesses.

### Environmental sustainability

The BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food announces a new intake for the [Beneficial Management Practices \(BMP\) program](#). The new funding will help farmers and ranchers protect their operations by adopting regenerative agriculture practices, improving farms drought resilience and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The funding is part of the [Province's CleanBC program](#) and will help meet the goals of the new Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.

The Beneficial Management Practices program is open to farm and ranch businesses throughout the province and is administered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. [www.iafbc.ca/bmp](http://www.iafbc.ca/bmp)

Environmental programs are available to support sustainable agriculture practices.

- [Environmental Farm Plan](#)  
[Environmental Farm Plan success stories](#)

Farmers that participate in the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program are proud to share the successes they have had working to contribute to a healthy environment and community. You can recognize a farm that has completed an EFP by the familiar EFP sign.

An EFP can help place B.C. farms and ranches at the forefront of regenerative agriculture and climate adaptation. There are over 70 categories of practices and actions that are eligible for cost share funding through the EFP Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) program. See all the BMPs eligible for cost share funding on the [IAF website](#).

Follow the links below to see initiatives:

- [Increasing water and nutrient use efficiency](#)

The EFP process and cost share funding helped ranchers identify production challenges, reduce water use, and prevent nutrient loss.

- [Building healthy soil](#)

The foundation for good productivity is healthy soil. Producers can invest in practices and equipment that will help use organic wastes in a safe way and build valuable soil amendments at the same time by accessing funding through the EFP Beneficial Management Practices program.

- [Protection of riparian areas](#)

Protection of sensitive riparian areas helps ensure water is safe and clean and promotes diverse and well functioning ecosystems. One of the EFP program's most frequently used cost share options to install fencing can make a big difference.

- [Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant](#)

Through the Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant Program (GCTRG), the B.C. government provides carbon tax relief to B.C. commercial vegetable, floriculture, wholesale nursery and forest seedling operations.

## **Climate**

Climate Change Adaptation Program website, there are a range of documents that may be useful: [CAP: Climate Change Adaptation Program – Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC \(iafbc.ca\)](#)

If you type in Bees in the search bar it brings you to the Pest and Pollinator section which may or may not be relevant to your stakeholders: [Pests & Pollinators – CCAP \(bcclimatechangeadaptation.ca\)](#)

Perhaps the recent [Pest and Pollinator Assessment of Vancouver Island](#) is of interest.

Other than that, some Honey Bee farmers may be eligible for the newly released [Extreme Preparedness for Agriculture Program](#).

*Note that this is the final year of funding for the Climate Change Adaptation Program but that we are anticipating new climate change programs and opportunities under the federal-provincial Next Policy Framework.*

*We are in a bit of a transition phase for the climate change programing so not whole lot to report on at the moment (other than the past work listed above).*

## **Other Agriculture and seafood programs**

- Business, innovation, and market development
- Insurance and income protection
- Food safety and traceability
- Recognition

## **Agriculture-Farm Waste drop-off locations for 2022**

[Clean Farms](#) is a non-profit environmental stewardship organization. We work collaboratively with our members, partner agencies, and the government to ensure that Canadian farmers can actively contribute to a healthy environment and a sustainable future. Our programs create meaningful change and offer a tangible way to address agricultural waste management and resource in the community.

*Regards,*

**Karina Sakalauskas P.Ag** | Industry Specialist, Emerging Markets

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*I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work within the unceded, ancestral and traditional territories of the Kwantlen and S'ólh Téméxw (Stó:lō) peoples.*