

# 2021

## PSO CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT



LIQUOR  
DISTRIBUTION  
BRANCH

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## Declaration Statement

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2021 to reduce our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2022 and beyond.

By June 30, 2022, the Liquor Distribution Branch final 2021 Climate Change Accountability Report will be posted to our website at <https://bcldb.com>.

## Executive Summary

Despite the ongoing challenges and changes precipitated by the global COVID-19 pandemic and the numerous climate-related events that occurred, the LDB met its goal of operating as a carbon neutral public sector organization in 2021. This sustainability goal was achieved while maintaining the liquor and cannabis supply chains, ensuring the continued flow of products to customers and businesses throughout British Columbia and meeting government mandates.

The LDB is committed to working towards the goals of the CleanBC plan and making our practices more sustainable and efficient, while continuing to serve our customers and vendors and provide revenue that supports vital BC services.

2021 marked another full year where BCLIQUOR (BCL) stores offered paper bags to customers as a result of plastic bags being phased out in 2019. In-line with municipal bylaws, all BCL and BC Cannabis Stores started charging a nominal fee for the locally sourced paper bags, which reduced paper bag usage by six per cent.

As in previous years, employees were engaged on our environmental initiatives, which included an Earth Month challenge, a virtual workshop hosted by our beekeepers Alvéole as well as a virtual workshop held by one of our waste providers for employees to learn about where LDB waste and organics end up and how these materials are reused.

Our BCL stores have nearly doubled their offering of organic products with almost 100 on their shelves. Renovated BCL stores have been upgraded with more environmentally friendly fridges, HVAC and heating systems and new BC Cannabis Stores have been designed and constructed to be energy efficient.

The LDB's Corporate Social Impact Strategy will be launched in 2022, reflecting input from employees and stakeholders.

In line with LDB's values, we will continue to make decisions through the lens of social impact and modify our practices to support environmental responsibility.



Blain Lawson

General Manager and Chief Executive Officer

## 2021 Highlights



### Reducing Emissions from Waste

2021 marked another full year where BCLIQUOR stores offered only paper bags to customers. Removing plastic bags has prevented over 22 million plastic bags from ending up in waterways and landfills.



### Cleaner Transportation

The LDB now offers three Level 2 EV chargers at its Head Office facility. These charging stations have saved 17,838 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions from the environment, which equates to planting 457 trees and letting the trees grow for 10 years.



### Better Buildings

Additional BC Cannabis Stores opened in 2021, all with energy efficient heating and cooling systems. BCLIQUOR undertook several major and minor retrofits which saw their carbon footprint reduced.



### Waste Reduction Week

The LDB held a virtual session for employees to discuss where waste and organics go after being picked up from locations and how the waste is reused to grow food in B.C. The session also provided tips and tricks to help employees reduce their waste at home.

## Emission Reductions: Actions and Plans

The BC Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) is committed to being environmentally responsible and sustainable in its operations. The LDB aligns with the CleanBC plan and BC's Climate Change Accountability Act (CCAA), which requires all public sector organizations to operate as carbon neutral organizations. The CleanBC plan was launched to reduce emissions across the economy by 2030. It focuses on sustainable transportation, better buildings and reducing emissions from waste.

While the LDB remains committed to reducing overall emissions as business grows, we expect to be offsetting additional carbon emissions for the 2021 year. The offsets will be used to invest in clean energy programs and carbon sequestration projects across BC. The latest version of the [Climate Change Accountability Report](#) is located on the LDB Corporate website.

To determine offsets, the LDB enters energy data for its buildings, fuel usage data from its vehicle fleet and paper usage data from all worksites into the Clean Government Reporting Tool (CGRT), which determines the total carbon emissions associated with its sources. The LDB then purchases carbon offsets through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to become carbon neutral and invest in future carbon reduction projects and initiatives. The LDB frequently monitors its diversion rates and energy use to identify efficiencies and to plan retrofits and renovations to its network of retail stores and its distribution centres.

## Stationary Sources

While business continued to grow in 2021 with the addition of seven new BC Cannabis Stores (BCCS) and three relocations including major and minor retrofits of various BCLIQUOR (BCL) stores, the LDB continued to take steps to reduce emissions from all major sources with a focus on our buildings, which are our largest source of GHG emissions.

### LDB Head Office

The LDB Head Office located in Burnaby, B.C. is a LEED Platinum (Core and Shell) building. The building uses an air-source variable refrigerant flow system that reduces electricity consumption by about 35 per cent over a conventional HVAC system. The building's site footprint is small for a building of its capacity, with nearly all parking located underground.

Rainwater is collected and circulated into dedicated plumbing distribution lines for use in flush water and landscape irrigation, thereby reducing water consumption by 45 per cent.

The building also features an exterior green wall and multiple outdoor spaces for staff. A full-size basketball court that doubles as a volleyball court and general exercise area is featured on the ground floor and setback in a grove of trees in the outdoor courtyard. In the front of the building, staff can enjoy a casual seating area in front and above the living green wall.

Lighting sensors and dimmers are installed throughout the building to conserve electricity.



**LDB's Head Office in Burnaby, B.C.  
Certified LEED Platinum**

# Retail Stores

## BC Cannabis Stores (BCCS)

Seven new BCCS opened across the province in 2021 for a total of 33 stores. All BCCS are power smart, energy efficient, and are outfitted with state of the art heating and cooling systems.

BCCS have high-efficiency LED lighting installed and also feature LED backlit informational panels. All BCCS are either newly remodeled or brand new buildings and the heating and cooling systems are newly installed rendering the stores efficient.

Materials are often reused in BCCS. For example, if a store has excess cash registers, unused registers are repurposed and added into future stores.



**Brand New BC Cannabis Store, 2021**

## BCLIQUOR (BCL)

In 2021, BCL relocated three stores and undertook multiple major and minor retrofits across its network. BCL is a power smart retailer and operates 132 'ColdZone' locations monitored by equipment for ongoing energy optimization. The coolers allow for energy usage to be adjusted and they have thicker insulation which reduces energy consumption by approximately 18 per cent. They are equipped with a shade that is drawn at closing time every evening to reduce excessive cooling. BCL has 45 stores with fridges that are front loading.

Thirty-three stores across the province are outfitted with LED lighting, while other stores have a combination of LED lighting and high efficiency compact fluorescent lamp lighting. LED lighting is installed in all renovated stores and stores not yet converted to LED are nominated to receive an LED lighting package each year. If LED lights are missing components, older LED fixtures are reused until components become available.

Eleven BCL stores prominently feature an instore 'green wall', which highlights information about the LDB's environmental initiatives, container recycling and sustainable store features. The LDB plans to continue installing these feature walls as part of regular renovations to inspire and inform customers of the LDB's commitment to environmental sustainability.



**BCL ColdZone Fridges**



**BCLIQUOR store, Relocated to a Brand New Building, 2021**



## BCL Organic Products

BCL is proud to feature over 100 organic beverage alcohol products on their shelves which has almost doubled from the previous year. The LDB Retail Merchandising team actively recruits certified organic products from suppliers to sell in BCL stores.

## New and Remodeled BCCS and BCL Stores

- Light fixtures with highly efficient LED bulbs.
- Non-toxic paints.
- Finishes that have low chemical emissions and contain recycled content and biobased materials.
- New flooring that requires no waxing which minimizes the energy draw for the machinery and eliminates the water and chemicals used in the waxing process.
- During store renovations, reusable paneling is deployed to segregate closed portions of the store under renovation opposed to plastic sheets and drywall resulting in a safer experience for customers and keeping single use construction plastic out of the landfill.
- The retail teams aim to purchase local materials whenever possible, leaving transportation emissions low.

## Distribution Centres

The LDB operated four distribution centres in 2021:

- The Richmond Cannabis Distribution Centre (RDC)
- The Delta Liquor Distribution Centre (DDC)
- The Kamloops Liquor Distribution Centre (KDC) and,
- The Burnaby Dry Goods Centre (BDC)

## Cannabis Wholesale Distribution Centre

As the LDB Cannabis Operations Division continues to grow, it has significantly improved its waste diversion rates from 80 per cent to 94 per cent due to process improvements at its distribution centre.

In 2021, the LDB's Cannabis Operations division launched a plastic recycling program where the LDB's carriers collect and recycle pallet plastic wrap and reuse pallets from the stores. All shrink wrap used in shipments are recycled and every pallet is reused and recycled at end of life.

In addition, cardboard corners used to assist with securing and protecting palletized shipments are



**BCCS Warehouse, Richmond, B.C.**

reused as many times as possible and only recycled when the cardboard becomes too worn.

A portion of the cannabis warehouse must be kept cooler to house sensitive product and the LDB installed an energy-efficient air conditioning system to store temperature sensitive products. The system is LEED certified and free of harmful chemicals like freon. The storage area is also semi-enclosed to increase energy efficiency. This colder section was designed specifically on the north side of the building where the area naturally receives less sun, the temperature is closely monitored, and doors are closed in the summer to ensure the cold air does not escape.

## Liquor Wholesale Distribution Centre

The Liquor Wholesale Distribution Centre in Delta is significantly newer and larger than the previous facility in Vancouver and allows for additional operational efficiencies, such as a separate area to manage and clean up any product breakage and increased charging capacity for mobile electric warehouse equipment.

In addition to utilizing energy efficient machinery to pick beverage alcohol products from the racking, the layout and design of beverage categories (spirits, wine, beer and refreshment beverage) was taken into account to reduce the amount of return trips. This layout and mapping of the warehouse to improve the picking of product orders ensures an efficient process and reduces the amount of energy used.

All lighting in the new warehouse location was converted to LED. Lighting sensors were added to the warehouse aisles and the lights dim to conserve power when staff are not working in the aisles. As a staff member enters the aisle, the lights increase to full power and then dim once the staff exits the aisle.

In addition, all liquid waste is treated before disposal to ensure the PH levels align with municipal guidelines and standards.

Finally, digital screens in staff break areas display messaging around environmental sustainability and encourage employees to participate in the LDB's environmental initiatives and campaigns throughout the year.



Liquor Warehouse, Delta, B.C.

# Plans to Continue Reducing Emissions

## Better Buildings

The LDB uses efficient LED lighting in both liquor and cannabis store construction and renovation projects. In BCL stores, ColdZone coolers are being installed to replace older fridges as they use more efficient insulation to save energy and will be monitored remotely to reduce consumption. To continuously improve the energy efficiency of its buildings, the LDB periodically updates its construction specifications handbook. This handbook provides building contractors with the information they need to ensure all stores, new or renovated, meet the LDB's energy-efficient requirements.

With the Clean Government Reporting Tool, the LDB continues to have access to energy data to perform ongoing monitoring across its more than 200 worksites. The LDB plans to use information provided by the tool to track energy consumption and set reduction targets.

## Cleaner Transportation

The LDB liaises with other public sector organizations to provide input to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy regarding future policy directives for fleet vehicles. The LDB will continue to examine hydrogen vehicle opportunities as the infrastructure continues to expand throughout the province.

## Reducing Emissions from Waste

The LDB consistently reviews its efforts to minimize waste and divert materials from the landfill through audits, system changes, employee education, and moving paper intensive activities to digital formats. The LDB is working to support the CleanBC plan targets including diverting 95 per cent of organic waste from landfill by 2030. The LDB recognizes that the purchases it makes and the way it manages waste are equally important activities in terms of reducing waste emissions. Below are the actions the LDB has taken in 2021 to minimize emissions from waste:

The LDB launched its waste reduction and recycling program more than seven years ago. Following the launch, the LDB rolled out a comprehensive recycling program at Head Office and its distribution centres to divert as much recyclable material as possible from the landfill.

The first step of LDB's waste reduction and recycling strategy was the implementation of enhanced recycling and waste disposal activities at Head Office and its distribution centres to more than 1,000 employees. The LDB took further steps to improve recycling and developed and installed an organics recycling program in 29 BCL stores in addition to the paper and cardboard recycling programs present at all BCL locations.

At Head Office, and in two of its distribution centres, the LDB collects e-waste, batteries, styrofoam, cardboard, soft plastic, organic material, wood waste, scrap metal, recyclable containers and mixed paper, and then prepares the material for pick-up by waste haulers.



## Waste Reduction Week

In 2021, the LDB organized virtual celebrations for Waste Reduction Week in October due to COVID-19 restrictions. The LDB's Corporate Impact team invited the LDB's waste vendor for liquor and cannabis stores in the Lower Mainland to host an interactive webinar for employees to discuss where the waste and organics go after being picked up and how the waste is reused to grow food in B.C. The virtual session also provided tips and tricks to help employees reduce their organic waste at home. Hosted by Maple Leaf disposal, the session also provided information about circular economy from a business and personal perspective.



### Beverage Containers Returned to BCLIQUOR

BCL customers consistently bring back empty liquor containers for recycling and for a deposit refund. In 2021, over 93 million empty beverage containers were returned to BCL stores across the province.

## Mobile Sources

The LDB will continue to work with other public sector organizations to provide input to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy regarding future policy directives for fleet vehicles.

The LDB is planning to transition its light duty fleet vehicles to zero-emissions vehicles (ZEVs), where possible over the next several years as vehicles need to be replaced. This aligns with the CleanBC plan which requires that by 2040 every new car sold in B.C. will be a ZEV.

To learn how the LDB can further reduce emissions from fleet vehicles, it continues to be an active member of the Public Sector Fleet Community of Practice. This group meets quarterly with staff from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to provide input on policy development and to share best practices around greening fleets.

In 2021, the LDB continues to operate one ZEV vehicle for use in the Lower Mainland. The LDB fleet also operates 16 hybrid electric vehicles which is close to 37 per cent of the fleet. It continues to look for new ways to add additional lower emission vehicles to its fleet in the future. A broader fleet management strategy is in the final stages of development to ensure that the LDB's cleaner transportation initiatives are aligned across the organization.



EV Charger, LDB Head Office

## Cleaner Transportation

The LDB now offers three Level 2 EV chargers at its Head Office facility. The chargers allow for six vehicles to charge at once offering staff and fleet vehicles an opportunity to charge at Head Office. The charging stations have saved 17,8387 kilograms of greenhouses gas emissions from the environment, which equates to planting 457 trees and letting the trees grow for 10 years.

## Carpool

The LDB encourages staff to carpool to work and the carpool program is gaining ground again as employees return to Head Office following the COVID-19 pandemic. There are 29 employees enrolled in the carpool program and participants are buddied up with employees from the same area of the city and enjoy a perk of a guaranteed parking spot if they arrive before 9:00 am.

## GPS

The LDB continues to use GPS monitoring technology in its light duty fleet vehicles. Studies have shown that driver behaviours change with the installation of this technology, including a reduction in harsh breaking, rapid acceleration, harsh cornering, speeding, and idling. Minimizing these driving habits helps to reduce fuel consumption, emissions, and long-term maintenance. Additionally, this system will alert a manager if a vehicle is idling for more than a five-minute period, providing an opportunity to investigate why a vehicle was left running and burning fuel unnecessarily.

# Employee Initiatives

## Impact Team

The LDB's Impact Team champions the organization's impact strategy and builds awareness about the LDB's social impact and environmental initiatives. The team leads and accelerates initiatives such as environmental reporting, waste recycling and reduction, energy management for facilities, beverage container recycling, sustainable commuting programs for staff, employee EV vehicle charging monitoring and reporting, the sustainability ambassador program, employee-led environment engagement programs and the transition to low emission fleet of vehicles.

## Earth Month

In 2021, the LDB celebrated the 51st Anniversary of Earth Day virtually due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Employees were invited to take part in educational activities on sustainability and activating their environmental consciousness within our community.

The LDB encouraged employees across the organization to participate in the 100 Earths Challenge, which empowers individuals to take steps to reduce their carbon footprint across all facets of their lives. In addition, staff were invited to participate in an environmental quiz and environmental information was shared in various communication channels reaching all areas of the organization.

## Bike to Work Week

The Impact Team supports sustainable commuting programs at the LDB through secure bike storage, shower and change facilities at Head Office and the LDB's own Spirited Cyclist group. This group facilitates a buddy system for new cyclists who would like assistance getting acquainted to their biking route. Bike to Work Week is a popular annual event across all LDB worksites.

In 2021, the LDB participated in Bike to Work Week in the spring and encouraged employees to remain active and get outdoors during COVID-19. Employees cycling to work were encouraged to register online with a local cycling environmental impact statistics. During the spring bike to work week, employees cycled over 1,000 km!

## Urban Agriculture

Three beehives continued to thrive in 2021 at the LDB Head Office outdoor patio to support an estimated 150,000 honeybees as they are in dramatic decline and need our support. The hives will contribute pollinators into the surrounding urban environment to help sustain local gardens.

The 'LDBeez' beehives are a partnership between the LDB, the building owner Manulife, and urban beekeeping organization Alvéole.

The bees made just over 17kg of honey which equates to approximately 121 jars (each jar is 140 grams). Each year, the harvested honey from the hives is donated to local charities supporting families who may not have access to honey products.

Alongside the bees, the LDB developed a Head Office rooftop green space and added eight grapevines that provide opportunities for employees to spend time outdoors and engage with nature during the workday.



**LDBeez at LDB's Head Office**

## Paper Consumption

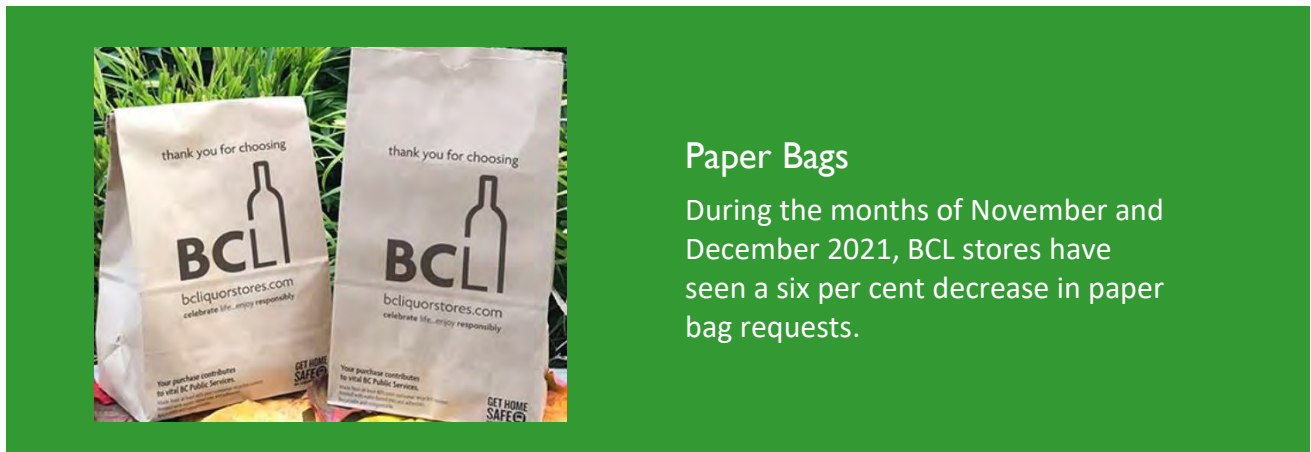
The LDB measures the weight of cardboard, plastic and paper material that it sends directly to recycling plants from its Head Office, distribution centers and BCL stores. In 2021, a reduction of 100 tonnes to total of 2,400 tonnes of cardboard and wood was recycled and turned into new paper products through an LDB vendor. This does not include material picked up by recycling service providers directly from BCL and BCCS. Cardboard is the heaviest and largest quantity item that the LDB recycles.

In 2021, the majority of the LDB's Head Office staff worked from home and paper usage was greatly reduced during this time. During this time, the LDB Wholesale Liquor Pricing team also developed a new procedure to move from an older legacy paper system to a digital one.

In addition, the LDB Sourcing and Vendor Performance team switched to a new online contracting system which allows it to go paperless, reducing thousands of pieces of paper as contracts are hundreds of pages long. This will be an ongoing initiative to track the paper savings as contracts expire and new ones are awarded to vendors.

## Paper Bags

2021 marked another full year where BCL stores offered paper bags to customers. Plastic bags were phased out in 2019. As of November 2021, all BCL and BCCS stores charged 25 cents for each paper bag to encourage customers to bring their own reusable bags, which is in-line with municipal laws. The paper bags supplied to BCL and BCCS are manufactured locally by Bulldog Bags and contain 40 per cent post-consumer recycled content and plant-based ink making them 100 percent recyclable and compostable.



### Paper Bags

During the months of November and December 2021, BCL stores have seen a six per cent decrease in paper bag requests.

## Brochures, Magazines and Cardboard Box Recycling

The LDB determines the total weight of checkout paper bags, paper sleeves, flyers, brochures and magazines distributed to customers each year and then pays a fee to Recycle B.C. for costs incurred for collecting these materials in residential curbside collection and return-to-depot programs.

The Manager of Environmental Initiatives and the LDB Retail Liquor Merchandising department work with beverage alcohol industry clients and affiliated stewardship organizations responsible for the beverage container collection system in B.C. to support further compliance with B.C. Recycling Regulations around Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs.

LDB publications are printed on paper with recycled content and using vegetable-based inks. The LDB's TASTE magazine, distributed to customers in BCL stores, is printed on Forest Stewardship Council-certified paper from responsible sources with a mix of 10 per cent recycled content. In 2021, the LDB continued to move marketing flyers online and reduced the number of brochures to offer customers in-store. In addition, BCL reuses the cardboard bottle boxes and offers customers these boxes to carry out large orders.

# 2021 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

The LDB has operated as a carbon neutral public sector organization since 2010. Carbon neutrality measures operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, works to reduce emissions and offsets the remainder of emissions. Annual public reporting then undergoes independent verification to ensure completeness and accuracy. B.C.'s legislated carbon neutral government commitment is the first of its kind in North America.

<b>BC Liquor Distribution Branch 2021 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary</b>	
<b>GHG Emissions created in Calendar Year 2021</b>	
<b>Total Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>3481</b>
<b>Total BioCO<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Total Offsets (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>3461</b>
<b>Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years</b>	
<b>Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Grand Total Offsets for the 2021 Reporting Year</b>	
<b>Grand Total Offsets (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) to be Retired for 2021 Reporting Year</b>	<b>3461</b>
<b>Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>86,525.00</b>

## Retirement of Offsets

*In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, the BC Liquor Distribution Branch (**the Organization**) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2021 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (**the Ministry**) ensuring that these offsets are retired on the Organization's behalf, the Organization will pay within 30 days, the associated invoice to be issued by the Ministry in an amount equal to \$25 per tonne of offsets retired on its behalf plus GST.*

## Public Sector Leadership

### Climate Risk Management

Throughout the weather challenges in 2021, including a heat dome, wildfires and severe flooding, the LDB remained focused on servicing its customers while supporting impacted employees and worksites, including our Kamloops Distribution Centre (KDC) which was threatened by one of the largest wildfires in the interior.



Efforts to maintain LDB service levels included working with customers impacted by regional evacuations and re-routing shipments due to closed highways. To add to the issues, the LDB faced increased impacts from a combination of commodity and supply chain challenges.

The LDB activated its emergency operations in response to the atmospheric rivers and fires that closed all main highways and worked with vendors, third-party warehouses, freight carriers and industry partners to find temporary emergency solutions that included re-routing shipments via the United States, allowing imported product from the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC) to supplement the LDB's on-hand supply and shipping product by ferry via Prince Rupert. The challenges and consistent pivoting resulted in additional financial, operational and labour costs to ensure product arrived to customers through the toughest times this year.

## Other Sustainability Initiatives

LDB's [Service Plan](#) identifies new waste diversion targets for stores, distribution centres, and Head Office. A Waste Reduction Strategy for the organization is being developed for all sites and Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are expanding to include an environmental questionnaire to learn more about vendors and their sustainability practices. This will allow data to be streamlined from various waste management providers across the province.

## Success Stories

Over the past 12 months, the LDB has undertaken a comprehensive stakeholder engagement exercise to understand the needs of internal stakeholders when determining social impact priorities specific to the LDB's operations. This data is informing the development of a Corporate Social Impact Strategy that is now near completion. As part of the impact work, the LDB seeks to engage suppliers to develop a certification program, which would incentivize suppliers to adopt increased sustainability practices across their operations.

The LDB will continue to focus on social responsibility campaigns that promote safe consumption amongst liquor and cannabis consumers, and ongoing employee engagement efforts intended to educate our employee base and increase sustainable behaviours both in the workplace and at home. In addition, the LDB will engage in several activities that recognize Pride Month, the 2SLGBTQ+ community, and celebrate diversity and inclusion.



## Disaster Relief Donations

The LDB is an official disaster-relief supporter for the Canadian Red Cross, allowing the collection of Red Cross donations from BCL and BCCS customers throughout British Columbia after major disasters.

Despite the state of the province and the challenges being dealt with in our communities during 2021, BCL and BCCS store customers supported the LDB in raising over \$1.45 million in donations to the Red Cross going directly to assist B.C. residents affected by the devastating wildfires and floods.

# 2021

## PSO CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

To find out more about the LDB's  
environmental initiatives, visit:

[www.bdclb.com](http://www.bdclb.com)



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