

# **Developing a conceptual framework for understanding provincial legislative efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in BC**

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## **Summary:**

Will the “Green Communities Act” help to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in British Columbia (BC)? To begin addressing this question, the proposed project will develop a conceptual framework for evaluating state/provincial legislative efforts to mitigate climate change impacts. Potentially harmful changes to the earth’s climate have been attributed in part to GHG emissions from human activities (IPCC 2007). In response, 20 state governments in the United States have passed legislation that sets targets for reducing GHG emissions (Pew Center on Global Climate Change 2010). In 2008, BC set provincial targets (BC Bill 44) and passed the “Green Communities Act” (BC Bill 27) that requires all municipal official community plans to include targets by May 2010 for reducing GHG emissions and to adopt policies for achieving the targets. This project will develop a conceptual framework for understanding the implementation of Bill 27 through the completion of two separate tasks. The first task will involve a comprehensive literature review on intergovernmental coordination and cooperation, policy implementation, and governmental efforts to reduce GHG emissions. The second task will utilize a database constructed by the Pew Center on Global Climate Change (Pew Center) to identify and collect authorizing legislation and associated implementing documents for states that have adopted GHG emission reduction targets, regional climate change mitigation initiatives, and/or climate action plans. Once collected, these documents will be analyzed and synthesized into a conceptual framework to guide future research by the co-investigators aimed at evaluating the implementation of Bill 27 in BC.