

## Our government must protect the health and safety of our communities. It's time to end the free ride for dirty U.S. thermal coal.

Thanks to years of work from tens of thousands of British Columbians, fourteen municipalities, B.C. public health officers, the nurses' union and many others, all of the major provincial parties strengthened their stances against thermal coal in the last election. The Liberals and Greens called for an outright ban, while the NDP pledged comprehensive health reviews for coal projects.

Former Premier Christy Clark finally bowed to public pressure and our policy recommendations and announced her intention to ban thermal coal exports from B.C.'s ports, starting by implementing a levy that would ensure foreign coal shippers pay their fair share to account for the health and environmental damage their product causes. **But promises are easily broken.** We need to hold our elected officials to their word and make sure the health of British Columbians is protected.

### Why must we act?

1. **Coal combustion is the single largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and the climate crisis globally.** B.C. is facilitating this by exporting this toxic product.
2. **The health of British Columbians is at stake.** Thermal coal trains cause asthma, increased cancer rates, and other respiratory and cardiac diseases. They are also linked to increased mortality rates, particularly of infants.
3. **The health care costs of coal are massive.** By phasing out thermal coal exports, we can save millions of dollars in health care costs.
4. **Coal proposals in B.C. were not subject to thorough reviews.** Washington and Oregon communities have stopped every coal export proposal because of the health, environmental and/or financial risks brought to light through comprehensive reviews.
5. **Foreign coal trains are tarnishing our local air quality.** But it's much worse where they burn the coal.
6. **It's within the province's jurisdiction to encourage good practices and discourage bad ones through financial means.** Under the Climate Leadership Plan, B.C. can implement a regulatory fee or levy that would disincentivize bad practices and free up valuable port space for safer, more profitable projects and well-paying, long term B.C. jobs, while still meeting the requirements of NAFTA.
7. **The B.C. government has promised action on the climate crisis.** The BC Greens and BC NDP have agreed to increase the existing carbon tax starting next year. The Liberals need an environmental win. This is a perfect time to expand our carbon pricing mechanisms to include risky products like thermal coal.

### What can you do?

1. Sign the petition to end dirty coal's free ride through B.C.
2. Join your local Dogwood team
3. Let your MLA know you care about this issue
4. Help us pressure our new government to implement a levy on thermal coal exports
5. Share the deadly truth about coal export with your friends.

The end of the line for dirty U.S. coal trains begins here: [www.BeyondCoal.ca](http://www.BeyondCoal.ca)