

Three in Four British Columbians Support BC's Clean Fuels Regulation

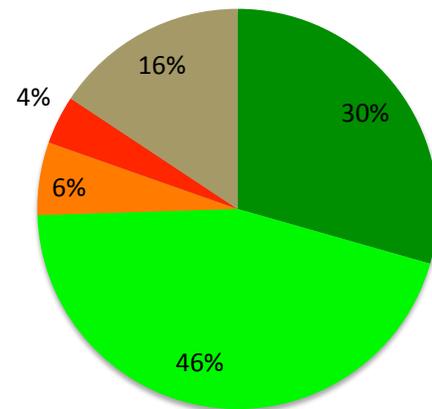
The Western Canada Biodiesel Association has released a new poll showing that three in four British Columbians support BC's renewable and low carbon fuels regulation.

Under the regulation, transportation fuels sold in BC must have renewable content (5% in gasoline and 4% in diesel) and 10% less carbon content by 2020. This regulation has been quietly working every day since 2010 with no negative impact on fuel price or performance, and important reductions in tailpipe emissions and greenhouse gas pollution.

The recent Ipsos Reid poll of 800 British Columbians shows that a significant majority (75%) support the renewable and low carbon fuel regulation. Support is remarkably uniform across British Columbia's diverse regions, and across personal age groups, income levels, employment status and family types.

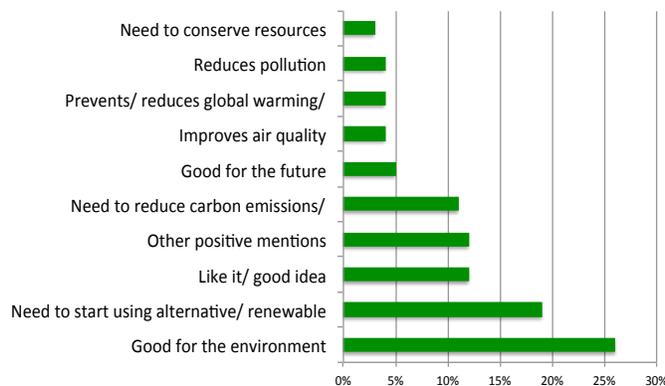
The BC regulation delivered 32% (905,000 tonnes) of the province's greenhouse gas reductions in 2012. It also created more competition in the fuels market, with increased use of biodiesel, ethanol, electricity and natural gas for cars and trucks.

The top reasons for support centred on benefits to the environment and the need to start using alternative/renewable energy sources. The top reasons for not supporting included concerns about costs, role of government, and effectiveness.

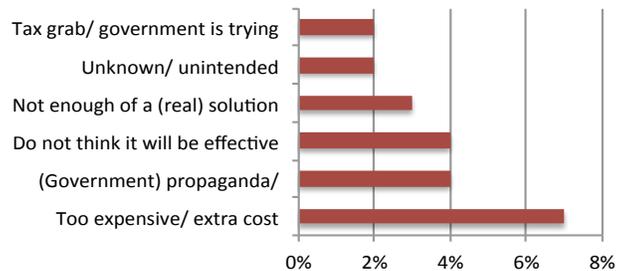


■ Strongly support ■ Somewhat support
■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose
■ Don't know

Why do you support the Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements Regulation?



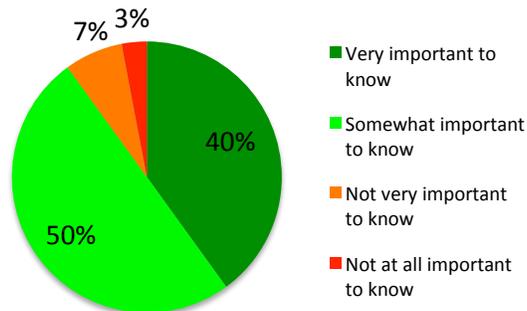
Why do you not support the Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements Regulation?



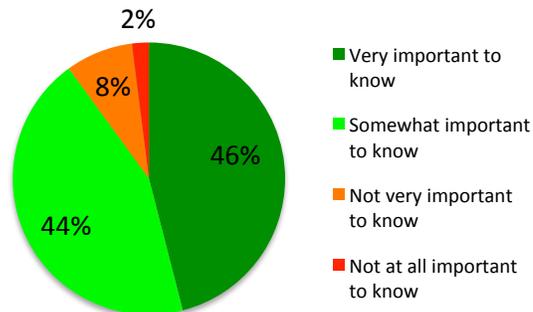
The seamless introduction of ethanol and biodiesel into the in BC fuels market has gone mostly un-noticed; only ten percent (10%) of respondents claimed to be ‘clearly aware’ of the regulation. Once respondents had reviewed more detailed information about the regulation, overall support remained consistent but the intensity of support increased, with the proportion indicating that they ‘strongly support’ the regulation increasing from 24% to 30%. This highlights the opportunity for the BC government and other climate action advocates to more broadly publicize the regulation’s benefits to British Columbians.

The poll asked respondents what they believed was important to know about the regulation; their responses showed interest in all categories of information presented to them, but ‘renewable fuels are proven to work in today’s engines’ and ‘consumers in BC have increased fuel options’ emerged as most important to know. Respondents also rated highly the need to know that the regulation ‘increased competition amongst fuel suppliers and helped to moderate fuel price increases’ and that it ‘resulted in the elimination of greenhouse gas emissions.’

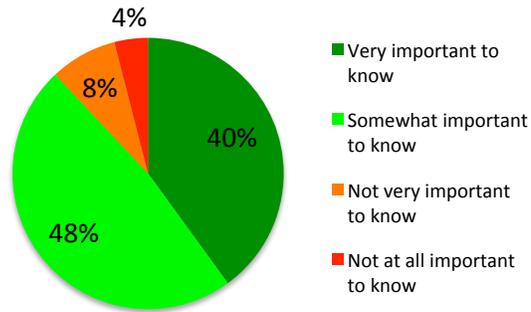
Consumer Choice: The Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements Regulation increases the number of transportation fuel options (e.g. electricity, biodiesel, ethanol, natural gas, hydrogen) available to consumers in BC.



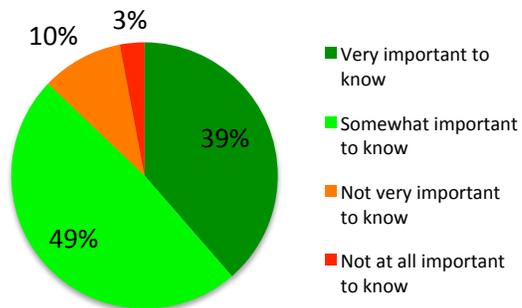
Proven Fuels: Vehicle and engine performance are not affected by approved blends of renewable fuels. Renewable fuel blends have been extensively tested and proven to work in today’s engines



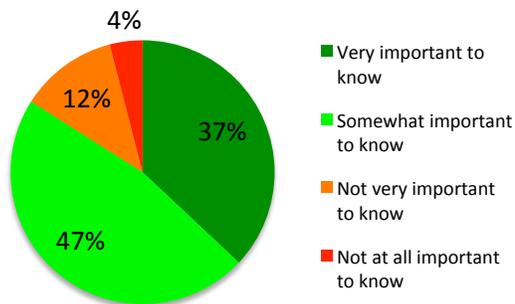
Competition and Fuel Prices: The growing use of renewable and alternative fuels in BC has increased competition amongst fuel suppliers and helped to moderate fuel price increases since 2010.



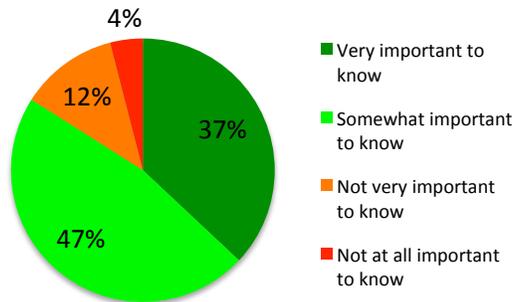
Fuel Availability: The availability of renewable and alternative fuels varies across regions of British Columbia. Low-level renewable fuel blends with gasoline (E10 or 10% ethanol) or diesel (B5 or 5% biodiesel) are common at many service stations in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island. High-level gasoline blends (E85 or 50-85% ethanol) and mid-level diesel blends (B6-20 or 6-20% biodiesel) are not currently supplied by most BC fuel retailers. The network of charging stations for electric cars or fueling terminals for natural gas or hydrogen fuel cell vehicles is currently very limited in British Columbia.



Climate Action Commitments: The Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements Regulation supports British Columbia's commitment to lower provincial greenhouse gas pollution by 33 percent by 2020. In its 2014 Progress Report on Climate Action, the province confirmed that it had met its 2012 interim target, with approximately one third of the reductions coming from the expanded use of renewable and alternative fuels under the Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements Regulation.



Greenhouse Gas Pollution: In 2012 alone, use of renewable and alternative fuels eliminated 904,868 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, which is the equivalent of removing over 190,000 cars from the road.



The visibility of clean fuels in BC is changing. Because of the BC regulation, alternative fuels such as biodiesel and ethanol are now used across BC. Biodiesel produced in Canada is sustainable and globally-proven, creating jobs at home and reducing our dependency on fossil fuels. With 59% to 96% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than diesel, and cleaner tailpipe emissions, Canadian biodiesel is a significant contributor to clean urban air and BC's climate action leadership.

Low carbon fuel standards are the front line for taking action on fossil fuel carbon pollution and creating real market competition. California has a similar regulation already in place, with Washington State and Oregon actively working towards comparable rules. In British Columbia, the public strongly endorses action by the province to open up access to renewable and low carbon fuel alternatives for all consumers.