#### **AGENDA**

## Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2.

Wednesday March 20, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the ləkwəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the WSÁNEĆ peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and Malahat Nations.

We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.

#### 1. CHAIR'S REMARKS

#### 2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

February 27, 2024

#### 3. CLIMATE PLAN REPORT

Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability

### 4. ZERO WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

Melissa Hauzer, Senior Sustainability Planner

#### 5. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Farmer's Market Pilot Project – Reynolds Secondary School

#### **MINUTES**

### SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams 770 Vernon Avenue
Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Nathalie Chambers (Chair), Timio Colistro (via Teams), Diya Courty-

Stephens, Ronald Jeffries, Kurban Keshvani, George Klima, Leslie Miller-Brooks,

Karin Nelson, and Mattias Spalteholz

Staff: Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability (4:09 p.m.); Renee Cenerini,

Environmental Education Coordinator; Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk;

and Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk

#### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair made the following comments:

- The effects of climate change were clear during a recent trip to Costa Rica. An atmospheric river caused much rain and flooding, especially in jungle areas of logging clear cuts.
- Costa Rica has high pesticide use, in part due to encouragement from fruit producers to use Roundup and other pesticides which maximize monoculture fruit production.
- Costa Rica is biodiversity hot spot. Indigenous stewards who require land back for sustainable growing practices conflicts with profitable logging and farming, much like here.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by K. Keshvani and Seconded by D. Courty-Stephens: "That the Minutes of the Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting held February 6, 2024, be adopted as circulated."

**CARRIED** 

#### NATURESCAPE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Environmental Education Coordinator gave a presentation (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- The Land Conservancy offers grants for native seeds and local stewardship, a similar Saanich program would be helpful to promote biodiversity in the District.
- Staff are currently looking into grant options to establish a native biodiversity fund, which could be used to promote programs like Neighbour to Neighbour (N2N) and funding for native plants to distribute to the community.
- There could be benefits of hiring a landscaping partner who specializes in native plants and ecosystems to consult and improve on various Saanich capital projects.
- Biodiversity resources currently exist on the Capital Regional District (CRD) website.
- The Elk Lake and Beaver Lake Management Plan is one example of a joint initiative between Saanich and CRD.
- Rewilding areas by removing lawn grass and planting native species is extremely beneficial.
- Financial constraints can pose a problem for those who are interested in rewilding the lawn.
- The Province has provided signs for homeowners partaking in the Naturescape program.
- Rewilding and removal of grass can lead to judgement by neighbours who do not

- understand the process or benefits. Many people still view green grass and lawns as a prestige symbol, and letting the grass die or removing it may be cause for criticism.
- Currently Saanich Naturescape participants do not receive lawn signs. Many neighbours of those who are naturalizing their lawns are left wondering what is happening and why. There would be great benefit in having a Naturescape sign that could be erected, possibly with a QR code or a link to the website which gives details about the program and benefits.
- Swan lake hosts an annual native plant sale, which typically sells out quickly due to demand.
- Boulevard permits are an option for those who wish to take on Naturescape initiatives on the Saanich boulevard or road frontage of their homes.
- Saanich also has a Boulevard Tree Program, where residents can request a boulevard tree be planted by Saanich in exchange for a commitment to help maintain it.
- More signage about the Naturescape program would be a supportable initiative.
- Regulations on reducing pesticides for lawns would also be a supportable idea.
- There are a number of resources available from the Province and the CRD related to providing habitats, these tools can help residents be more biodiversity friendly.
- Naturescaping the meridian lane dividers and having some areas be used as examples of Natrurscaping would be ideal. These areas could include signs, information and benefits.
- We should be using as much municipal land to grow native species as possible.
- People living in apartment buildings do not have the same access to space to grow food and plants. In these scenarios even a patio planter is better than nothing.

The Manager of Sustainability stated the following:

One example of Saanich divisions coming together to reach common goals was upgrades to the Active Transportation network, where Sustainability provided funding early on during the design process. This funding allowed for a Landscape Architect to be hired, who provided reports on shade, permeability and drainage during the pre-construction and post-construction phases. This also allowed for thorough planning to ensure that Naturescaping principals were implemented. This is now an example of green infrastructure.

#### **CLIMATE PLAN REPORT CARD**

The Manager of Sustainability gave a presentation on the Climate Plan Report Card (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Having more transit options would help encourage ridership.
- A target has not yet been set for electrification of commercial vehicles; this metric will likely be included in the updated Climate Plan in the future.
- Creation and burning of biofuel can have negative impacts on the environment.
- The updated Climate Plan will likely have more information on hydrogen and the different colours of Hydrogen, there will be an emphasis on using Green Hydrogen.
- The updated Climate Plan will also refer to "natural gas" as "fossil gas" instead.
- Creation of a position for a climate adaptation staff would be ideal.
- The Climate Report outlines resource requests which are being put forward for consideration in the budget. Council will prioritize the needs of the District.

MOVED by L. Miller-Brooks and Seconded by R. Jefferies: "That the Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee recommends that Council prioritize the funding for a Climate Adaptation Position in order to assist meeting the goals of the Climate Plan."

### **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Due to time constraints this item did not take place.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion from M. Spalteholtz the meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 20, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Nathalie Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Secretary

# Climate Plan Annual Report Card 2023

# Saanich Climate Plan Annual Report Card 2023

Rebecca Newlove Manager of Sustainability

Sustainability and Climate Committee: February 27, 2024

saanich.ca/climateplan

# **PURPOSE**

Provide an overview of the Saanich Climate Plan Annual Report Card for 2023 including the progress made on implementation of the Climate Plan, E-Mobility Strategy, and Building Retrofit Strategy; and

Potential future funding opportunity to support action implementation.



# **CLIMATE PLAN**

**PLAN GOALS** 







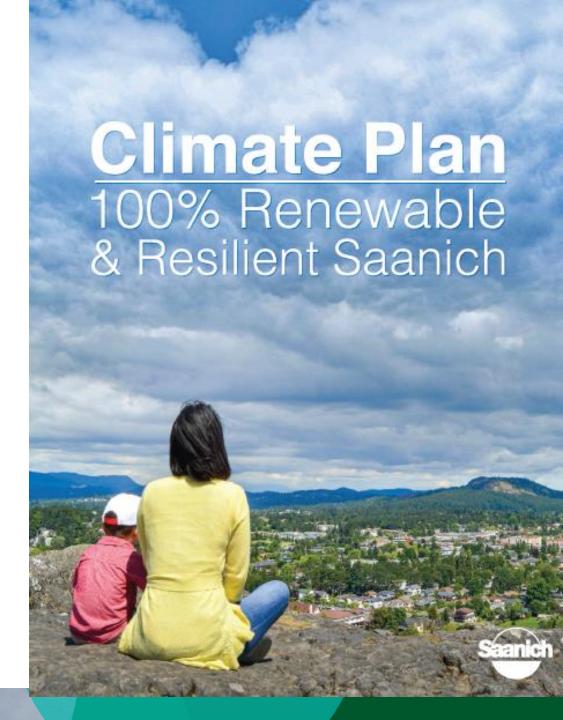
1. CUT EMISSIONS IN HALF BY 2030 AND TO NET ZERO BY 2050

2. TRANSITION TO 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2050 3. PREPARE FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

### LEAD BY EXAMPLE through municipal operations







# PLAN STRUCTURE

## 6 Focus Areas – 131 Actions



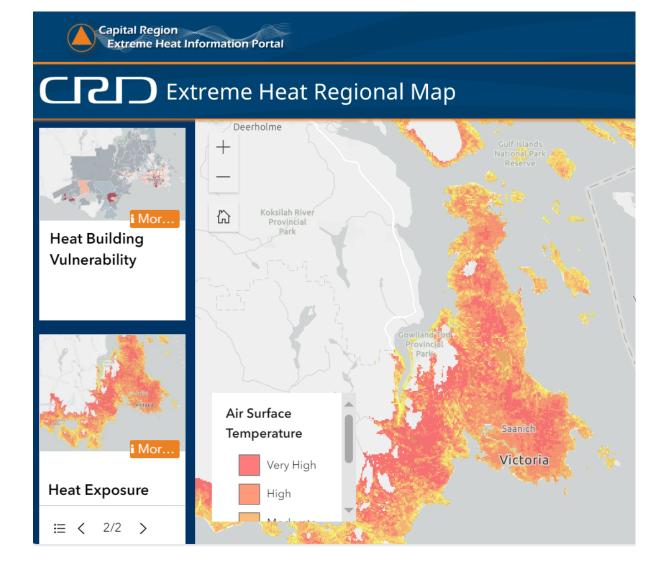
# REPORT CARD CONTENT

- 2023 Highlights
- Introduction Summary of Climate Plan
- Progress on Community-wide GHG Targets
- Progress on Objectives
- Progress on 2020-2023 Actions
- 2 or 4-page Summary for each Focus Area
- Conclusions & Next Steps
- Appendix progress on individual actions



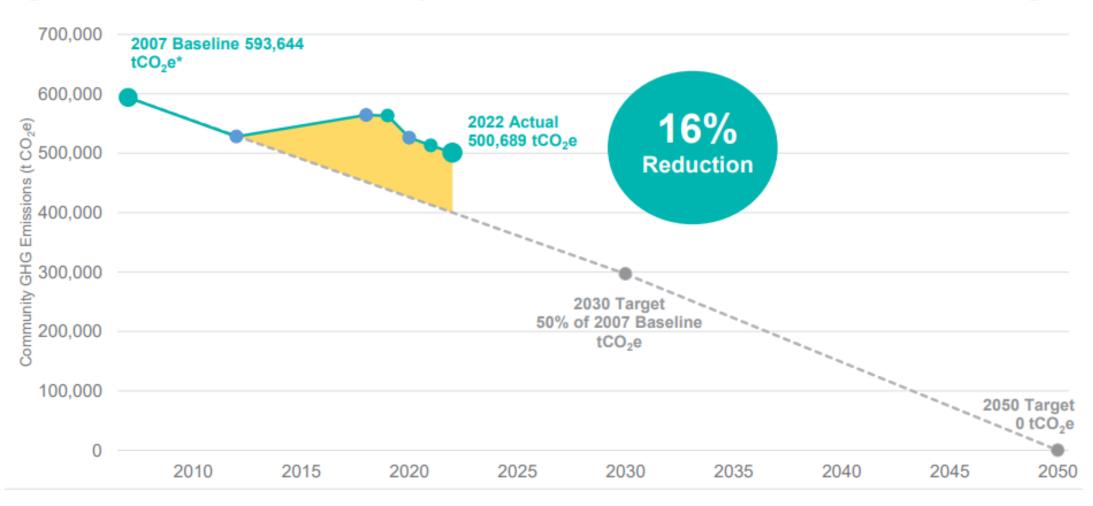
# THE WHY!





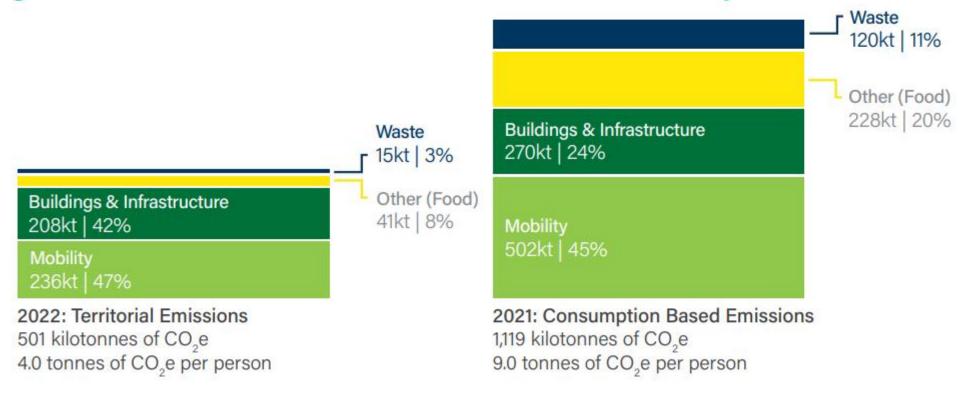
## PROGRESS ON COMMUNITY TARGETS

## Figure 2: Saanich Community-Wide Territorial GHG Emissions and Targets



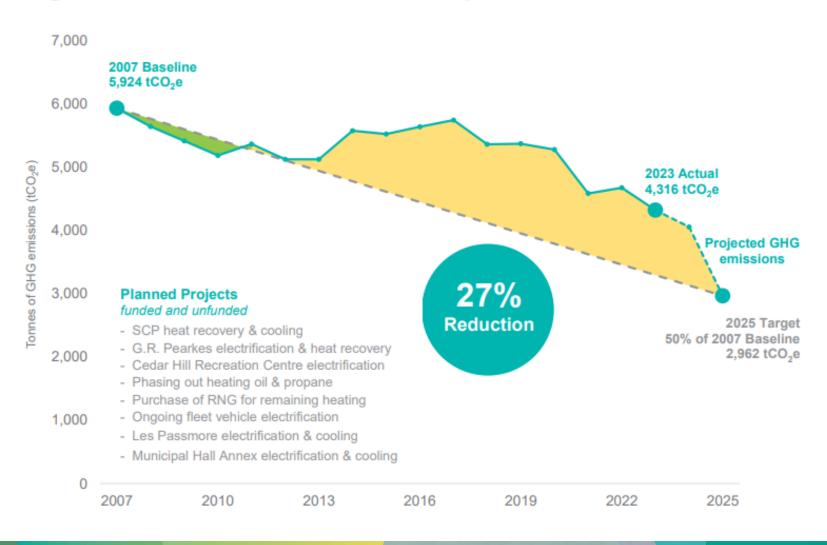
# CONSUMPTION BASED EMISSIONS

Figure 3: Saanich GHG Inventories: Territorial vs. Consumption Based Emissions



## PROGRESS ON CORPORATE TARGETS

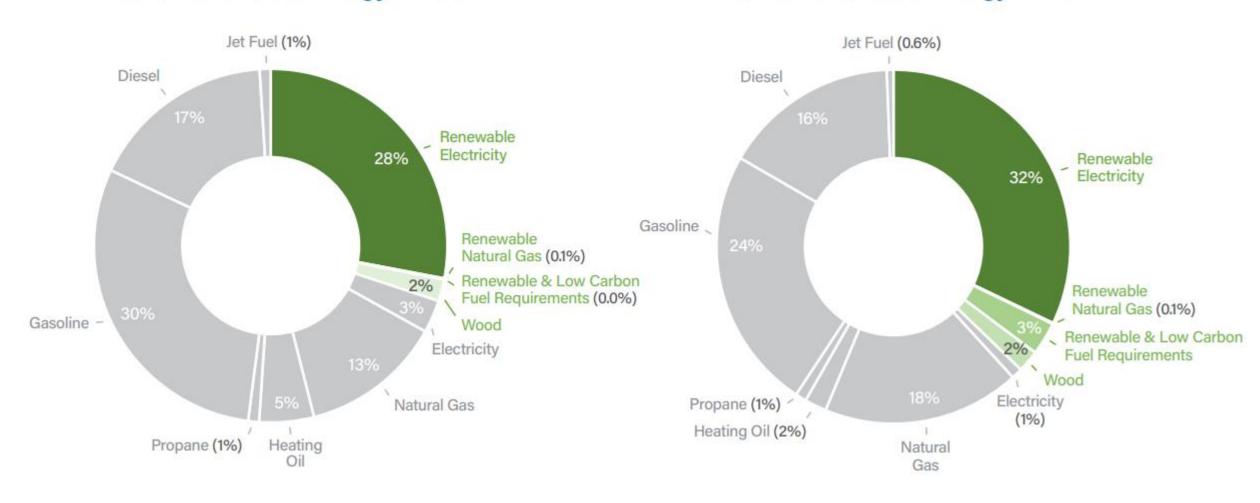
## Figure 10: District of Saanich Corporate GHG Emissions



# PROGRESS ON 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET

## 30% Renewable Energy in 2007

## 37% Renewable Energy in 2022



#### WHERE WE 2030 2050 YEAR **MEASURE OF SUCCESS (OBJECTIVE) KEY FOCUS AREA** ARE AT **TARGET** TARGET **STATUS** Mobility % of all trips taken by walking and cycling 19% 22% 30% % of trips taken by transit 7% 14% 20% % of personal vehicles that are electric 3% 36% 100% % of commercial vehicles that are electric 3.2% 50% % of remaining transport fuel that is "biofuel" 13.3% 10% 100% % of buses that are electric <1% 100% 100%

 On track to meet climate targets  Not on track to meet climate targets but moving in the right direction

Not on track to meet climate targets

No metric or data available

CURRENT

KEY FOCUS AREA	MEASU	RE OF SUCCESS (OBJECTIVE)	WHERE WE ARE AT	2030 TARGET	2050 TARGET	YEAR STATUS
Buildings and Infrastructure		New buildings that achieve the higher steps of BC Energy Step Code	8%	100% by 2025	100%	•
		New buildings that are net-zero carbon (defined as all- electric space and hot water heating)	26%	100% by 2030	100%	•
		Embodied emissions are reported and lowered*	No data	100%	100%	•
		% of residential oil heating systems replaced by heat pumps since 2017	23%	100%	100%	•
		Building space heating demands are reduced by 30%	Emissions increased from baseline	40%	80%	•
		% of existing natural gas heating systems that are replaced by renewable energy systems	1.7%	40%	100%	
	80	Sufficient renewable energy sources are available to support required conversions from fossil fuel systems	Metric	s to be deve	loped	
		Buildings and infrastructure are designed or retrofitted for changing climate conditions, ecological functions and exposure to climate hazards	Metric	s to be deve	loped	
		Land use and development patterns minimize exposure to sea-level rise	Metric	s to be deve	loped	

CHIRDENIT

<sup>\*</sup> More information about embodied emissions can be found in the Saanich Climate Plan, available at saanich.ca/climate plan

KEY FOC	US AREA	MEASU	RE OF SUCCESS (OBJECTIVE)	WHERE WE ARE AT	2030 TARGET	2050 TARGET	YEAR STATUS
	Food and Materials		Saanich's consumption-based emissions related to food are reduced	Metrics	to be devel	oped	•
			0% of compostable organic waste and paper that is	19% organics	0%	0%	
			landfilled	16% paper	0%	0%	
			Agricultural land is protected: Hectares of land in Saanich within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)	1,843 ha	TBD	TBD	
			A greater proportion of food is grown and consumed locally: Hectares of land and % of total land that is actively farmed in Saanich	408 properties	TBD	TBD	•
			The majority of local farmers have the ability to adapt their production practices to a changing climate	Metrics	to be devel	oped	•

EY FOCUS	AREA	MEASURE	OF SUCCESS (OBJECTIVE)	WHERE WE ARE AT	2030 TARGET	2050 TARGET	YEAR STATUS
	Ecosystems		Ecosystem health and biodiversity are protected	Metrics to be developed			
			The removal of carbon from the atmosphere by trees, plants, and ecosystems in Saanich is increased	Metri	cs to be deve	eloped	•
		50	Ecosystem services are maintained or enhanced	Metri	cs to be deve	eloped	
Communi	Community Well- being	4	Emergency and community health services are adequate to respond to the identified climate risks	Metrics to be developed			
		B.G.	Climate action benefits people in Saanich, helping to improve air quality and community health while supporting clean energy jobs and a diverse economy	Metri	cs to be deve	eloped	•
	Leadership in District Operations	ĸĸ	The District of Saanich is a recognized leader in climate action: Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) report score	A-	А	А	•
		U	Reduction in GHG emissions from municipal operations compared to 2007 levels	28%	50% by 2025	100% by 2040	•

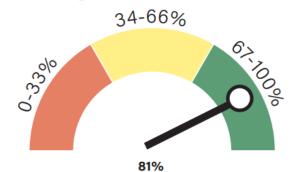
CURRENT



# PROGRESS ON ACTIONS

- 131 actions overall
- 99 actions to be initiated by 2023
- 80 actions (81%) are Ongoing, Achieved or On Track
- 4 additional actions from future years
- 19 actions (19%) Behind Schedule/On-Hold

Figure 5: Progress on all 2020 - 2023 actions



Ongoing / Achieved / On track

## Mobility and Electric Mobility

## **Mobility Summary**

The latest 2022 community-wide GHG inventory shows a 24% reduction in Saanich's transportation GHG emissions since our 2007 baseline. To meet our 2030 targets, we should have achieved a 33% reduction by 2022; therefore, we are currently not on track. Regional transportation trends in the 2022 Origin Destination Household Travel study completed by the CRD show important shifts from previous surveys, including:

- A decrease in total personal trips, even amidst a growth in population;
- A rise in active transportation, with 29% of trips made by walking, cycling, and transit use, up from 26.6% in 2017;
- · An increase in the number of electric vehicles (EVs) (380 new personal EVs and 50 new business EVs); and
- E-bikes were included in the survey for the first time, creating a baseline that can be used to show trends over time.

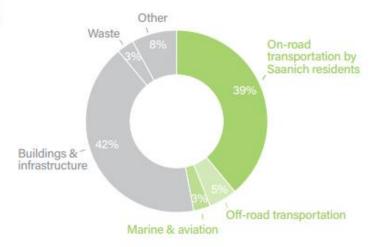
Considerable efforts to support active transportation in 2023 include new and upgraded sidewalks, protected bike lanes, bus shelters, transit priority measures, speed limit reductions, and other initiatives as described in the updated <a href="Active Transportation Plan">Active Transportation Plan</a> and draft <a href="Road Safety Action Plan">Road Safety Action Plan</a>. Notably, following the earlier Saanich pilot,

the Province launched an income-scaled E-bike Rebate program, adapted from the Saanich model, showing the influence the District can have on equitable climate action at a wider scale.

Land use is key to sustainable transportation. The new Official Community Plan commits to making Saanich a 15-minute community within the Urban Containment Boundary, where amenities that support daily living are within a 15-minute walk. It supports increased density in our centres and corridors, which aligns with new Provincial Transit-Oriented Development requirements within 200 m of transit exchanges. Along with new housing targets, these changes will provide further opportunity for the development of compact, complete communities and land use changes that support cost-effective sustainable

transportation.

# Figure 7: Transportation Emissions in Saanich Territorial GHG Inventory, 2022



The Tillicum transit
queue jumper lane is
dedicated road space that is
always available for busses to
pull to the front of the line at the
intersection, even when there is a
long line of single occupant vehicles
waiting. This helps transit to be more
time competitive and an attractive
transportation option.

The growth in electric vehicle adoption continues, supported by expanding public charging networks and more access to at-home charging. Of the 38 actions in the Electric Mobility Strategy due to start by 2023, 33 (87%) are Ongoing, Achieved or On track, with 5 (13%) Behind Schedule or On Hold. These delays are primarily related to cost escalations, budget constraints, and staff resource restrictions (see Appendix). An updated Active Transportation Plan (ATP) was presented to Council in 2023 to reflect progress made, align with recent priorities and initiatives, and prioritize investments and actions to meet the ATP's goals.



The success of the Saanich E-bike Incentive
Pilot Program led the Province of B.C. to
adapt and scale the program for provincial
implementation, with an extremely
popular launch in summer 2023. Saanich
residents benefitted from the Provincial
program and a Saanich top-up, with
over 230 rebates distributed in
Saanich this year.

Of the 19 Mobility actions in the Climate Plan due to start by 2023, 13 (68%) are Ongoing, Achieved or On track and 6 (32%) are Behind Schedule or On hold.

## Table 4: Progress on Mobility GHG Emissions Targets - Not on Track

Baseline:	In 2007, Saanich's transportation emissions were	310,158	t CO <sub>2</sub> e	Baseline
Latest measurement:	As of 2022, Saanich's transportation emissions were	236,493	t CO <sub>2</sub> e	24% lower than baseline
Where we should be:	As of 2022, Saanich's transportation emissions <b>should be</b>	209,020	t CO₂e	33% lower than baseline
2030 target:	As of 2030, Saanich's transportation emissions <b>should be</b>	155,079	t CO₂e	50% lower than baseline

### Table 5: Progress on Mobility Objectives

Objective	Where we were		Where we are at		2030	2050	Status
Objective	Status	Year	Status	Year	Target	Target	Status
% of all trips taken by walking and cycling	16.3%	2017	19%	2023	22%	30%	
% of trips taken by transit	8.7%	2017	7%	2023	14%	20%	
% of personal vehicles that are electric	2.5%	2021	3.1%	2022	36%	100%	
% of commercial vehicles that are electric	2.7%	2021	3.2%	2022	-	50%	•
% of remaining transport fuel that is biofuel	13.3%	2021	5%	2022	10%	100%	
% of transit buses that are electric	0%	2022	<1%	2023	100%	100%	•

## **Table 6: Progress on Electric Mobility Strategy Metrics**

		Where we were		Where we are at	
M	letric	Status	Year	Status	Year
E	Vs in Saanich by use				
	# of EVs for personal use (% of all vehicles registered for personal use)	1,789 (2.5%)	2021	2,117 (3.1%)	2022
	# of EVs for business use (% of all vehicles registered for business use)	268 (2.7%)	2021	318 (3.2%)	2022
E١	Vs in Saanich by vehicle class				
	# of passenger/light duty EVs (% of passenger vehicle registrations)	2,059 (3.1%)	2021	2,431 (3.7%)	2022
	# of Commercial/medium & heavy duty EVs (% of commercial vehicle registrations)	2 (<0.1%)	2021	8 (0.1%)	2022
	# of "other" EVs/motorcycles & motorhomes (% of "other" vehicle registrations)	8 (0.2%)	2021	12 (0.3%)	2022
M	unicipally owned public EV charging station use				
	# of Saanich-owned public EV charging stations	32	2022	34	2023
	Total hours of use annually	25,951 hours	2022	50,771 hours	2023
	Average daily hours of use per station in each calendar year	2.2 hours	2022	4.9 hours	2023
	Total electricity use annually	120,015 kWh	2022	152,097 kWh	2023
	Average daily electricity use per station in each calendar year	10.3 kWh/day	2022	14.8 kWh/day	2023
S	aanich-wide public EV charging network				
	# of level 2 public EV charging stations	106	2022	120	2023
	# of DCFC public EV charging stations (includes Tesla superchargers)	26	2022	232	2023
A	vailability of at-home charging in multi-family buildings				
	# multi-family buildings or strata complexes that have installed EV Ready infrastructure for all units	1 in 2022 (4 cumulative)	2022	5 in 2023 (9 cumulative)	2023
•	# of parking stalls in existing multi-family buildings that have been retrofitted to become 100% EV Ready (all units)	255 (328 cumulative)	2022	390 in 2023 (718 cumulative)	2023
Si	aanich fleet				
	# of Municipal Fleet vehicles electrified/renewable (% of municipal fleet)	27 (15%)	2022	33 (16%)*	2023
	# of Fire Fleet vehicles electrified/renewable (% of fire fleet)	1 (3%)	2022	3 (9%)	2023
	# of Police Fleet vehicles electrified/renewable (% of police fleet)	3 (4%)	2022	6 (6%)	2023

<sup>\* 100%</sup> of Municipal Fleet light duty cars are electric.

## Table 7: Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure GHG Emissions Targets - Not on Track

Baseline:	In 2007, Saanich's building and infrastructure emissions were	219,876	t CO <sub>2</sub> e	Baseline
Latest measurement:	As of 2022, Saanich's building and infrastructure emissions were	207,876	t CO <sub>2</sub> e	5% lower than baseline
Where we should be:	As of 2022, Saanich's building and infrastructure emissions <b>should be</b>	148,177	t CO <sub>2</sub> e	33% lower than baseline
2030 target:	As of 2030, Saanich's building and infrastructure emissions should be	109,938	t CO₂e	50% lower than baseline

## **Table 8: Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Objectives**

Objective	Where we were		Where we are at		2030	2050	Status
Objective	Status	Year	Status	Year	Target	Target	Status
New buildings that achieve the higher steps of BC Energy Step Code	0%	2022	11 (8%)	2023	100% by 2025	100%	•
New buildings that are net-zero carbon (defined as all-electric space and hot water heating)	23%	2022	26%	2023	100%	100%	•
New Part 9 buildings that installed a heat pump and can provide cooling	73%	2022	56%	2023	100%	100%	
Residential oil heating systems replaced by heat pumps annually (cumulative % removed since 2017)	22%	2022	23%	2023	100%	100%	•
Residential natural gas heating systems replaced by heat pumps annually (cumulative % removed since 2017)	1.6%	2022	1.7%	2023	40%	100%	•
Total natural gas connections (Residential)	16,558	2021	16,867	2023	8,789	TBD	
Total natural gas consumption (Residential)	900,271 GJ	2021	864,247 GJ	2023	TBD	TBD	•
Total natural gas connections (Commercial)	965	2021	964	2022	558	0	
Total natural gas consumption (Commercial)	869,187 GJ	2021	873,634 GJ	2022	TBD	TBD	•
Building space heating demands are reduced by 30%	2,980 TJ	2021	3,085 TJ	2022	2,011 TJ	TBD	
Renewable Natural Gas use in buildings (as a % of all natural gas used)	0.5%	2021	1%	2023	-	100%	
Sufficient renewable energy sources are available to support required conversions from fossil fuel systems	d Metrics in development						
Embodied emissions are reported and lowered			Metrics in o	developme	nt		
Buildings and infrastructure are designed or retrofitted for changing climate conditions, support ecological functions and reduce exposure to climate hazards	Matrice in development						
Land use and development patterns minimize exposure to sea-level rise			Metrics in o	developme	nt		

# LOCAL CHAMPIONS & STORIES





ey restored a natural area. Learn more at saanich.ca/r











Festival welcomed over
2,000 attendees who learned
from 23 local climate-friendly
vendors and organizations and heard
from 4 bands on a pedal-powered stage
including Indigenous performance group
ANSWER led by Jessica Sault.



# **CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS**

- Our fourth Climate Report Card shows continued progress and many successes
- However, still not on track to meet our 2030 community or 2025 corporate targets
- In addition to accelerated work on mitigation, greater efforts on climate adaptation are needed
- Additional funding/resources are required
- Inflation impacts both infrastructure projects /programs and budget deliberations
- Exploration of alternative funding through class action lawsuit against large fossil fuel companies aims to recover a fare share of costs in the future

# COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Council receive the Saanich Climate Plan Annual Report Card 2023 for information; and,
- 2. That Council direct staff to explore collaboration with other local governments on the development of a class action lawsuit against large fossil fuel companies to recover a fair share of the local government costs associated with climate change in order to support the successful delivery of our climate goals.

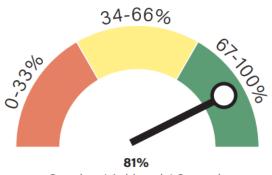




# 2023 vs. 2022 PROGRESS ON ACTIONS

## Progress on 2020-2023 Actions for each focus area

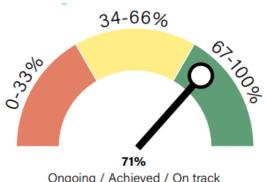
Mobility	Buildings and Infrastructure	Food and Materials	Ecosystems	Community Well-being	Leadership in District Operations
34-66%	34-66%	34-66%	34-66%	34-66%	34-66%
68% of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	91% of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	67% of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	<b>75%</b> of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	93% of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	<b>75%</b> of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track



Ongoing / Achieved / On track

## Progress on 2020-2022 Actions for each focus area

Mobility	Buildings and Infrastructure	Food and Materials	Ecosystems	Community Well-being	Leadership in District Operations
34-66%	34-66%	34-66%	34-66%	34-66%	34-66%
68% of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	77% of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	<b>33%</b> of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	<b>75%</b> of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	<b>92%</b> of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	<b>53%</b> of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track



Ongoing / Achieved / On track