Saanich Climate Plan

Annual Report Card 2025

Saanich

2025 Highlights

Mobility

10% increase in hourly EV charging usage

4.9 km of bike lanes installed

57% of bus stops are now wheelchair accessible

3.8 km of new and replaced sidewalks

31 multi-family buildings have completed EV Ready Plans, with **15** stratas going on to install EV-Ready infrastructure in their buildings, for a total of **1,074** EV-ready parking stalls installed since 2021

Buildings and Infrastructure

Gorge Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy project started in partnership with the City of Victoria, Esquimalt and View Royal to plan for future sea level rise and extreme flooding along the Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet

49 residents participated in the Provincial program to receive free portable A/C units with BC Hydro

An additional **15 households** participated in the Heat Pump Financing Program in 2025, with a total of **70 oil and gas furnaces replaced** with the support of Saanich's interest free loans since the program launch in 2022

163 new solar net metering customers came online in Saanich, for a total of 815 solar PV contributors to the grid

Food and Materials

Farm Residential Footprint regulations developed on A-Zoned properties to protect agricultural land from development

6 Saanich businesses accepted into the 2025 Circular Accelerator Program

PKOLS Farmers and Artisan Market is the **first farm market in Saanich since 2018** after Zoning Bylaw updates to permit farm markets in more Saanich locations

Ecosystems

3,368 trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants planted at twenty-four Pulling Together sites, encompassing 53 different native species

2,086 trees planted on District-owned lands by Parks staff

Recieved the 2025 Community Exellence Award - President's Committee Choice for *Asset Management Strategy and Implementation Plan*

170 meters of in-stream restoration of Gabo Creek within the Colquitz River watershed

Pulling Together volunteers spent over 14,300 hours at 48 different sites removing invasive species and enhancing ecosystems

450 private properties monitored and 220 properties received removal assistance for priority noxious weeds through the Invasive Species Management Program

Community Well-being

1,480 native tree seedlings and 114 native trees provided to community members for planting

5 new Neighbour to Neighbour projects completed

123 residents volunteered 3,726 hours with the Saanich Emergency Program

Saanich Emergency Program delivered **23 presentations to 459 residents**

Leadership in District Operations

Zero Emissions Fleet Strategy adopted by Council

New secure bike enclosure for staff at the Douglas municipal building

2 new electric vehicles in the municipal fleet

50 additional staff completed E-bike safety training, for a total of 153 staff trained through the program

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Introduction

The Saanich Climate Plan, adopted in 2020, outlines a vision along with targets, objectives, strategies, and actions to protect our community, improve our quality of life, and reduce local and global risks associated with a changing climate. It looks at both mitigation (reducing our greenhouse gas [GHG] emissions) that drive climate change and adaptation (preparing for a changing climate) in the wider Saanich community as well as the District's operations. It contains 131 actions across 6 focus areas:

1. Mobility
2. Buildings and Infrastructure
3. Food and Materials
4. Ecosystems
5. Community Well-being
6. Leadership in District Operations

An important action in the plan is to report annually on our progress. This Report Card provides a summary of progress on:

- GHG emissions targets;
- Climate Plan objectives (i.e. the metrics and targets) for each Focus Area; and
- Climate Plan actions for each Focus Area.

Since the adoption of the 2020 Climate Plan, we've made strong progress. As this report shows, most actions are now completed or underway, and we have seen a significant reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions since our 2007 baseline. At the same time, our community context has shifted, with more extreme weather events, a housing and affordability crisis, and greater global political and economic uncertainty. While emissions are trending in the right direction, ambitious actions must continue if we are to reach our climate goals and adapt to the extreme weather events and climate hazards we are already experiencing.

To respond to these changes, a targeted update to the 2020 Climate Plan is underway. The updated plan will identify the future actions needed to reach our targets and will prioritize the many co-benefits of climate action, including affordability, green jobs, health and wellbeing, environmental health, and quality of life. The update will focus on both climate mitigation (reducing emissions) and climate adaptation (building resilience to climate impacts).

While the District has direct control over the implementation of our Climate Plan actions, we have shared influence over our community wide GHG emissions and the Climate Plan objectives, so it is clear that we cannot achieve this alone. Our collective success requires action from everyone, including the provincial government, the federal government, businesses, non-profits, community organizations, institutions, and residents.

Obtaining recent data can be challenging, as data for several of the targets outlined in the Climate Plan are currently unavailable on an annual basis. Targets related to mobility rely on the regional Origin Destination Household Travel Survey and targets related to waste rely on regional waste composition studies, both conducted approximately every five years. Staff are working on data access and improvements across several of the Climate Plan key focus areas. Where data is unavailable or metrics are in development, this is noted within the report. Data sources and methodologies are available upon request from **sustainability@saanich.ca**

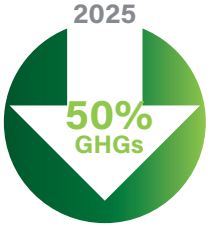
Figure 1: Climate Plan Goals

Saanich Community-wide Climate 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**

District of Saanich Corporate Climate Goals

Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from municipal operations to 50% of 2007 levels by 2025.



Achieve net-zero GHG emissions from municipal operations by 2040.

Progress on Community-Wide GHG Targets

Territorial Emissions Inventory

The latest Saanich community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory is for 2024 and outlined in Figure 2. The full report can be found on the Progress Reports page at saanich.ca/climateprogress. It follows the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories, accounting and reporting standard for cities (Basic+).

The majority of our territorial GHG emissions come from fossil fuels used for transportation (mainly gasoline and diesel) and buildings (mainly natural gas and, to a lesser extent, oil). In comparison to fossil fuels, approximately 98% of BC's electricity generation is renewable and the Provincial government and BC Hydro have committed to a 100% Clean Electricity Delivery Standard for electricity by 2030. Given this, Climate Plan actions focus heavily on electrification.

The latest territorial inventory shows the following:

- **Total community-wide emissions – 18% reduction from 2007 baseline**
  - » Decreased from 489,473* tCO_2e** to 484,073 tCO_2e from 2023 to 2024.
  - » This is an 18.4% decrease from a baseline of 593,359 tCO_2e in 2007.
- **Per capita emissions – 29% reduction from 2007 baseline**
  - » Decreased from 3.84 to 3.80 tCO_2e /person from 2023 to 2024.
  - » This is a 29% decrease from a baseline of 5.33 tCO_2e /person in 2007.
- **Transportation Emissions – 28% reduction from 2007**
  - » Remained approximately the same between 2023 and 2024.
  - » This is a decrease of 28.1% from our 2007 baseline.
  - » By far the biggest source of emissions from transportation are from personal vehicles, with 24% of on-road transportation emissions from light duty vehicles and 65% from light duty trucks.
  - » While there are some counterproductive trends such as growing adoption of larger, heavier vehicles, we are seeing decreases in vehicle kilometers travelled overall despite population growth***, as well as a growth in electric vehicles, with a 5% increase in EV adoption for personal and business vehicles in 2024.
  - » Saanich's Active Transportation Plan (ATP) Annual Report Card indicates that the district is moving towards achieving its transportation targets***.
- **Building Emissions – 10% reduction from 2007**
  - » Decreased by 9% between 2023 and 2024.
  - » This is a 10% decrease from our 2007 baseline.
  - » Residential buildings are our largest source of building emissions (32%). They saw a 17% decrease between 2023 and 2024, including a 0.5% reduction in natural gas emissions, and a 67% decrease in emissions from fuel oils.
  - » Commercial and Institutional buildings saw a 7% decrease between 2023 and 2024, with a 3% decrease in natural gas emissions, while stationary emissions from agriculture, forestry and fishing activities remained relatively stagnant (1% emissions increase).
  - » In 2024, heating degree days (HDD)**** were about 3% higher than in 2023, indicating cooler conditions and typically higher expected natural gas demand. Despite this, natural gas-related emissions continued to decline.

* This value has been updated from the 2024 Climate Plan Report Card due to an update to the 2024 greenhouse gas inventory data.

** tCO_2e = tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, which is a measure of the global warming potential of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

***Data comes from the CRD Origin Destionation Study, which is completed once every 5 years, with the last update completed in 2022.

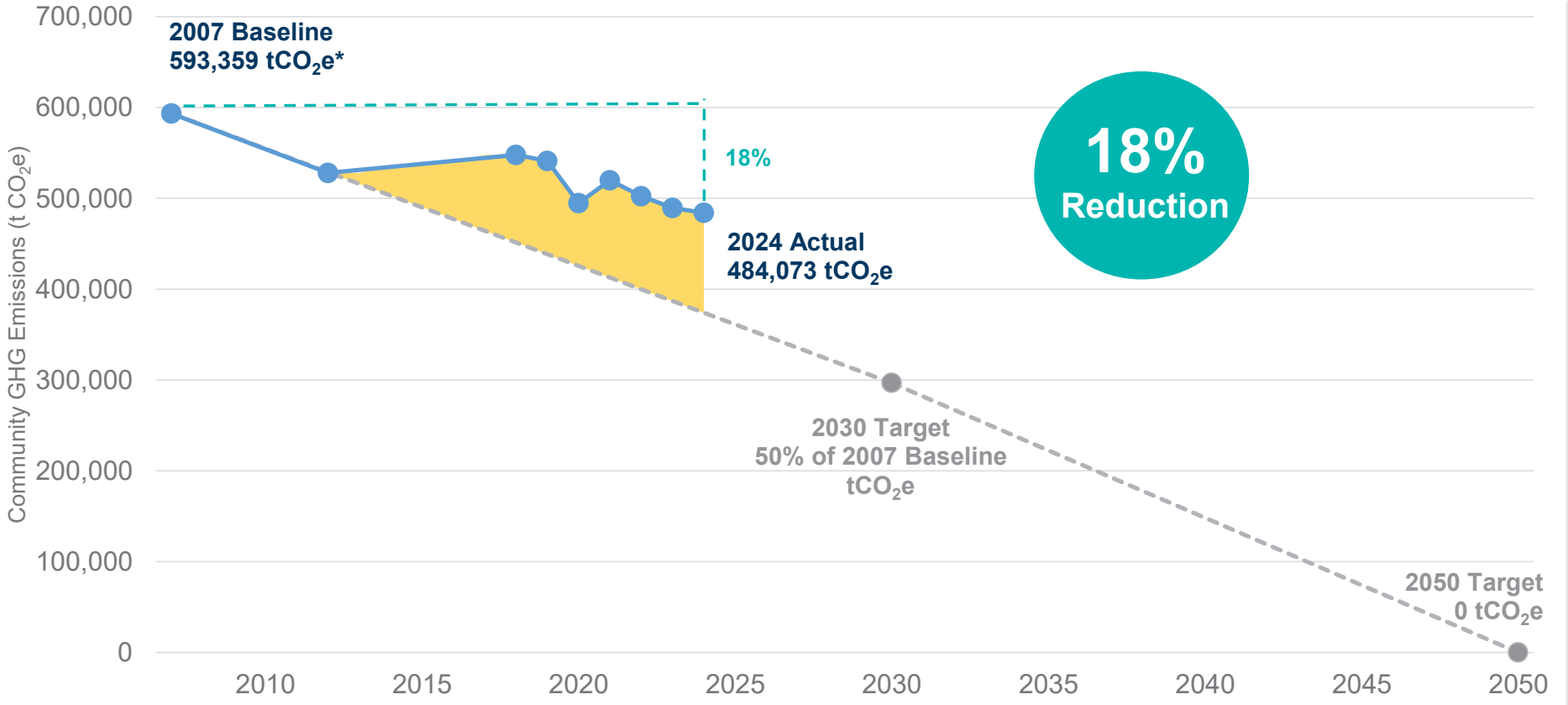
**** Heating Degree Days sourced from https://victoria.weatherstats.ca/charts/

- **Waste emissions – 21% reduction from 2007 baseline**
  - » There was a 67% increase in waste emissions from 2023 to 2024. This increase was due to additional flaring of methane during the decommissioning of the on-site electric generator at the Hartland Landfill as the site transitions to the generation of renewable natural gas (RNG)*. This was a temporary increase with emissions expected to return to those seen in previous years for the 2025 GHG emissions inventory.
  - » Despite the increase, we have still seen a 21% reduction in waste emissions from our 2007 baseline.

Multiple sources of data are used to inform the community-wide GHG inventory. All data sources, data quality and assumptions are outlined in the Community Inventory Report available online and no significant changes in data methodology or assumptions occurred between the 2023-2024 inventory. The emissions factors used to estimate the amount of GHG emissions per unit of fuel are updated annually by the Province and are available at www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/climate-change/cng/methodology/2024_methodology_for_quantifying_greenhouse_gas_emissions.pdf.

*In 2024, the CRD decommissioned the on-site electric generator that had been used to destroy methane from landfill gas to transition to Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) production. During the transition period, all collected landfill gas was managed through flaring, which resulted in higher emissions. As of April 2025, landfill gas is being directed to the RNG upgrading facility, where it is processed and injected into the FortisBC gas system, helping displace fossil natural gas.

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



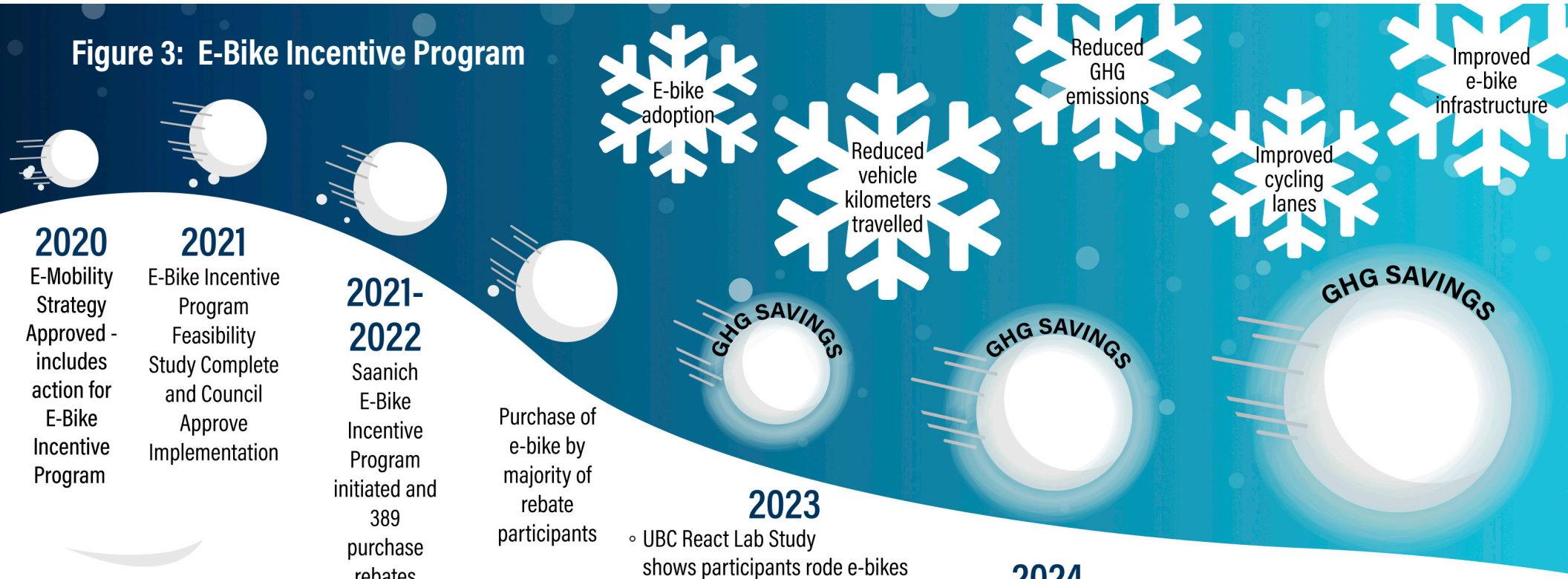
Biogenic emissions in 2024 were an additional 28,684 tCO_2 (b). This is an increase of 74% from 2007 levels (16,541 tCO_2 (b)).

Progress is not Linear: the Snowball Effect

Seeing the results of individual Climate Plan actions takes time and resources and is often the culmination of years of collaboration between many stakeholders. The timeframe between initiating an action, implementing it, and then seeing the resulting GHG emission reductions varies between each action - some may take years to complete, and progress can be hindered by various obstacles along the way.

Actions are also interrelated or have a stacking effect – meaning that in order to reach considerable GHG emissions reductions, we may need multiple types of actions to be implemented by different orders of government (and/or other organizations). For example, transportation emissions reductions rely on phased fossil fuel vehicle sales bans alongside incentives for early EV adoption, as well as investment in EV charging infrastructure to ensure the environment is ready for the increased number of EVs. In parallel, reducing emissions from transportation relies on planning for compact, complete communities to reduce the need for auto travel, while simultaneously investing in transit and active transportation infrastructure (new buses, bike lanes, bus

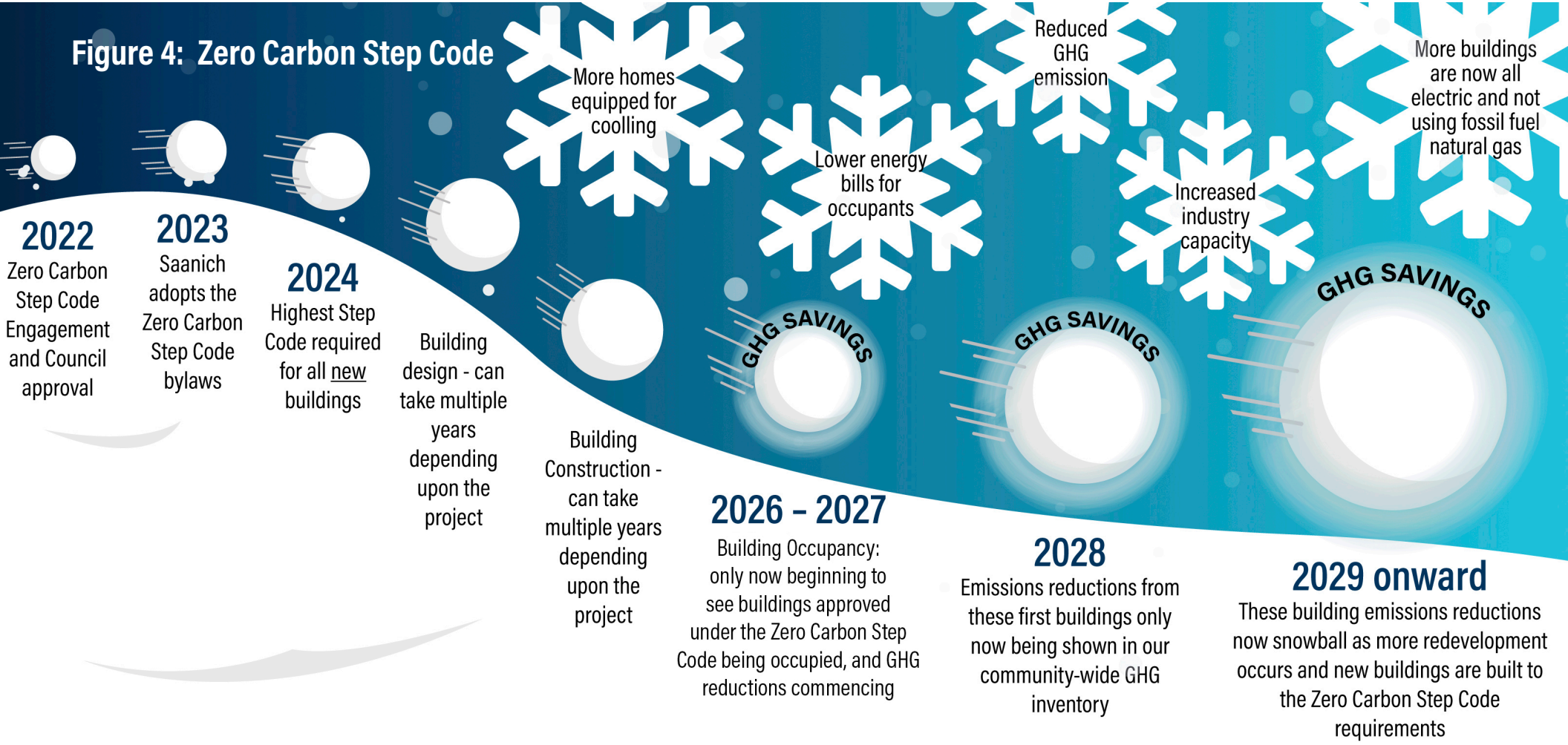
Figure 3: E-Bike Incentive Program



lanes, facilities, secure storage etc.) and incentives that support mode shift. There is no silver bullet; incentives, policy/legislation, infrastructure investments and education, with collaboration between all orders of government (and other organizations) are required to address the climate crisis.

Figures 3 and 4 demonstrate how the timeline for emissions reductions can differ significantly among climate actions. For example, the GHG emissions savings from the Saanich E-bike Incentive Program were realized relatively quickly. Conversely, implementation of the Zero Carbon Step Code is a longer-term endeavor, resulting in significant emissions savings but over a much longer period of time.

Understanding these time lags is crucial in setting realistic expectations and for planning sufficiently far ahead to meet our targets. It demonstrates the critical importance of continuing the course, of not being discouraged, and persisting with action implementation and ambitious policy adoption, even if the results are expected to occur in the longer term.

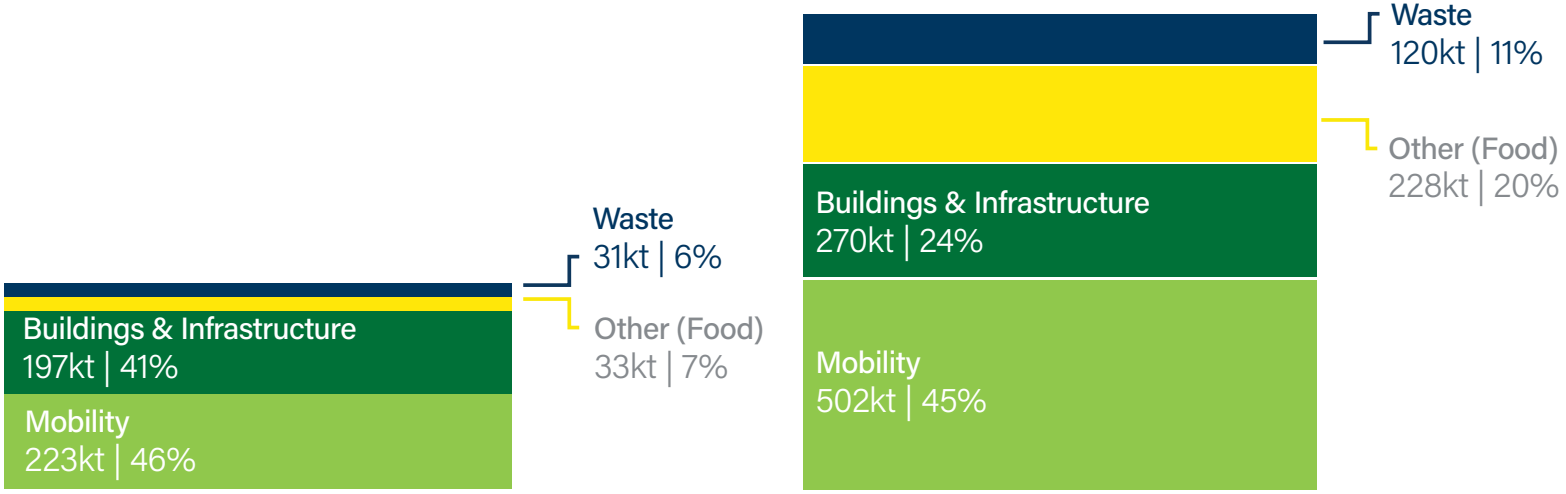


Consumption Based Emissions Inventory and One Planet Living

While the global standard for measuring city-wide climate impact is the territorial GHG emissions inventory (Figure 2), this does not provide a complete picture of our community's impact on global climate change. It assigns the climate impacts from producing the food and goods we consume to the producer community instead of Saanich. Most of the goods we consume in Saanich are produced in other regions and countries. To better understand the climate impact of our consumption, the Climate Plan also includes a Consumption Based Emissions Inventory (CBEI) and actions to reduce it. Saanich has completed two CBEIs, one released in 2018 using 2015 data and one released in 2023 using 2021 data. Both CBEIs show our consumption-based emissions are approximately double what we report in our territorial emissions inventory (Figure 5). The CBEI can be viewed at saanich.ca/ecofootprint. Total consumption-based emissions saw a slight increase between 2015 and 2021, although per capita emissions did drop slightly from 9.4 to 9.0 tCO_2e/person.

Climate change is not the only type of planetary overshoot we are experiencing. Due to unsustainable levels of consumption, global society today is demanding more in a year through consumption of energy and resources than nature can provide and polluting more than nature can assimilate – we are exceeding many planetary boundaries and are in a state of "ecological overshoot" rather than living within the carrying capacity of our one planet. We measure our impact in ecological "footprints" – the number of hectares per person of productive land on earth required to support our lifestyle. If everyone had lifestyles comparable to a Saanich resident, we would need approximately four earths to provide all of the natural resources necessary to support us. Reducing our climate impact is just one part of achieving One Planet Living. To ensure we make decisions holistically while facing multiple social and ecological challenges, and to maximize co-benefits and minimize unintended consequences, we will continue to use One Planet Living Principles in climate action. More information on One Planet Living and the list of principles can be found at oneplanetbc.com.

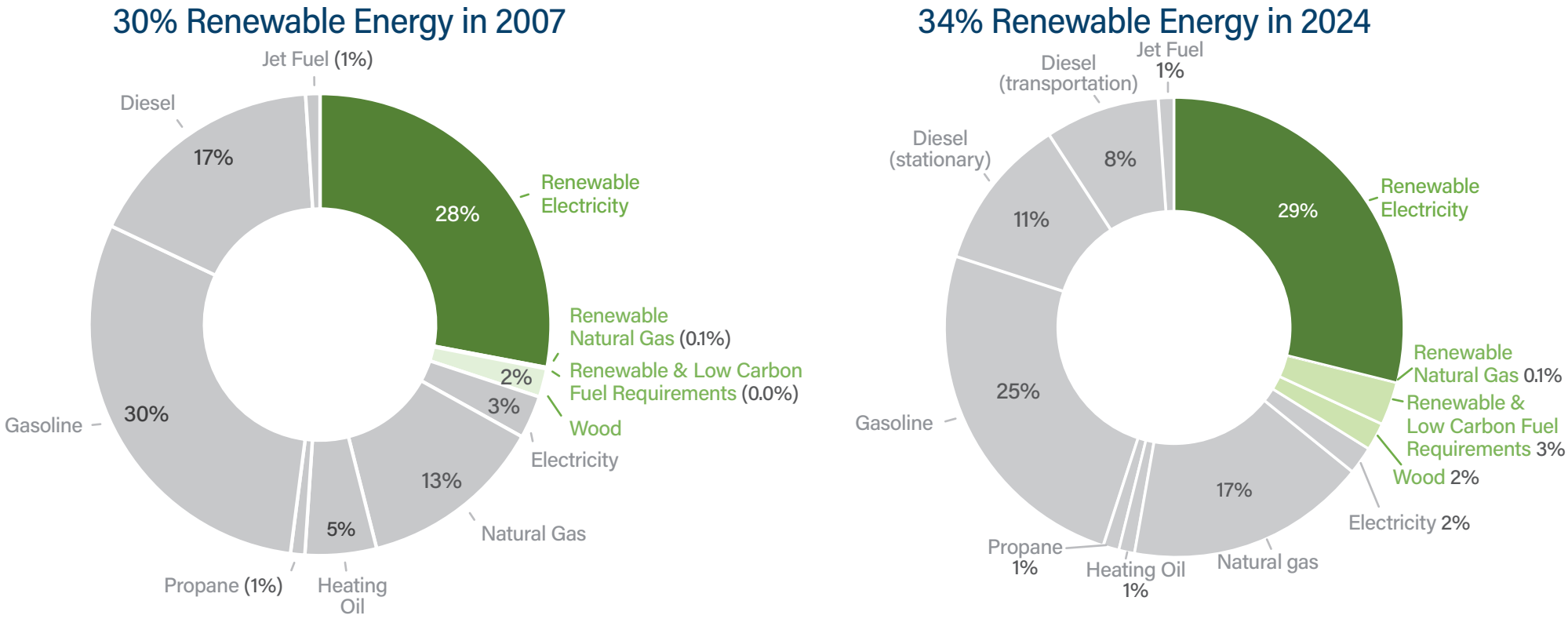
Figure 5: Saanich GHG Inventories: Territorial vs. Consumption Based Emissions



Renewable Energy Transition

Fossil fuel combustion is driving climate change in Saanich and worldwide. In order to meet our climate targets, we must transition to 100% renewable energy. As shown in Figure 6 below, Saanich's current energy mix includes fossil and renewable energy sources. Our 2024 Community GHG inventory shows that 34% of the energy we use is currently renewable, with electricity being by far the largest source of renewable energy. This is a 4% increase since the 2007 baseline, reflecting a growing ratio of renewable energy being supplied and used compared to fossil energy options, and an increase in low carbon fuel requirements for gasoline and diesel sales in BC.

Figure 6: Renewable Energy as a Percentage of Total Energy Use



Progress on Objectives

Table 1: Progress on Objectives

KEY FOCUS AREA	MEASURE OF SUCCESS (OBJECTIVE)	WHERE WE ARE AT	2030 TARGET	2050 TARGET	CURRENT YEAR STATUS
Mobility	% of all trips taken by walking and cycling	17% (9% walking, 8% cycling)	21% (2028)*	30%	
	% of trips taken by transit	9%	11% (2028)*	20%	
	% of personal vehicles that are electric	4.7%	36%	100%	
	% of commercial vehicles that are electric	5.3%	-	50%	
	% of remaining transport fuel that is "biofuel"	13.3%	10%	100%	
	% of buses that are electric	8% (25 electric)	100%	100%	
Buildings and Infrastructure	New buildings that achieve the higher steps of BC Energy Step Code	14%	100% by 2025	100%	
	New buildings that are net-zero carbon (defined as all-electric space and hot water heating)	77%	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	45%	100%	100%	
	Building space heating demands are reduced	-18.2%	-12%	-24%	
	% of existing natural gas heating systems that are replaced by renewable energy systems	5.2%	40%	100%	
	Sufficient renewable energy sources are available to support required conversions from fossil fuel systems	Metrics to be developed			
	Buildings and infrastructure are designed or retrofitted for changing climate conditions, ecological functions and exposure to climate hazards	Metrics to be developed			
	Land use and development patterns minimize exposure to sea-level rise	Metrics to be developed			

*Updated target timeline to align with the latest Active Transportation Plan Report Card based upon the next CRD Origin-Destination survey being in 2028
** More information about embodied emissions can be found in the Saanich Climate Plan, available at saanich.ca/climate plan

KEY FOCUS AREA	MEASURE OF SUCCESS (OBJECTIVE)	WHERE WE ARE AT	2030 TARGET	2050 TARGET	CURRENT YEAR STATUS
Food and Materials	Saanich's consumption-based emissions related to food are reduced	4.6%	TBD	TBD	🔴
	0% of compostable organic waste and paper that is landfilled	19% organics 16% paper	0% 0%	0% 0%	🟡
	Agricultural land is protected: Hectares of land in Saanich within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)	1,841 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	399 properties	TBD	TBD	⚫
	The majority of local farmers have the ability to adapt their production practices to a changing climate	Metrics to be developed			⚫
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	Metrics to be developed			⚫
	Ecosystem services are maintained or enhanced	Metrics to be developed			⚫
	% tree canopy cover District Wide	43% (4,500 ha)		44% (by 2064)	🟢
Community Well-being	Emergency and community health services are adequate to respond to the identified climate risks	Metrics to be developed			⚫
	Climate action benefits people in Saanich, helping to improve air quality and community health while supporting clean energy jobs and a diverse economy	Metrics to be developed			⚫
Leadership in District Operations	The District of Saanich is a recognized leader in climate action: Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) report score	A- (2025)	A	A	🟡
	Reduction in GHG emissions from municipal operations compared to 2007 levels	47%	50% by 2025	100% by 2040	🟢

🟢 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

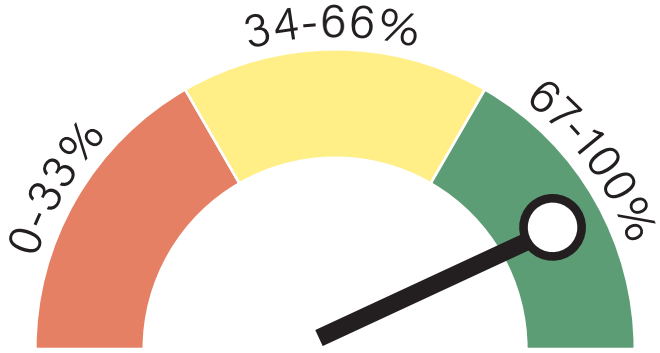
Progress on Actions

The Climate Plan identifies a total of 131 actions to be implemented over the coming years. Saanich staff have evaluated the status of those actions based on the descriptions in Table 3. Of the 131 actions, 95 are Ongoing, Achieved, or On Track, 25 are currently Behind Schedule or On Hold, 6 actions have been discontinued, and 5 actions have been indicated as future actions (Figure 7).

The next section provides a summary of progress on the Climate Plan Targets, Objectives and Actions for each Focus Area and the progress on actions within each Focus Area is outlined in Figure 8. As stated in the introduction, these actions are under the District's control. However, we require action from everyone, in particular, higher levels of government, if we are to achieve our climate targets.

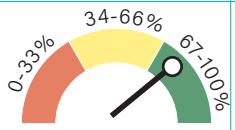
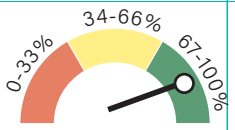
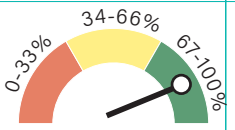
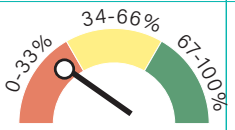
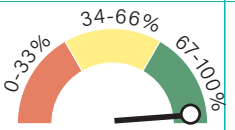
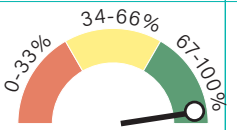
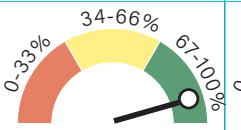
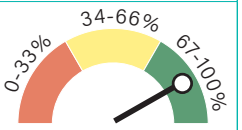
Council approved seven First Priority Actions to shift away from business as usual and respond quickly and effectively to the Climate Emergency. These First Priority Actions are outlined in Table 2.

Figure 7: Progress on all 2020 - 2025 actions



79%
Ongoing / Achieved / On track

Figure 8: Progress on 2020-2025 actions for each focus area

Mobility	Buildings and Infrastructure	Food and Materials	Ecosystems	Community Well-being	Leadership in District Operations	E-mobility Strategy	Retrofit Strategy
							
74% of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	**85%** of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	**85%** of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	**29%** of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	**95%** of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	**94%** of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	**89%** of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	**81%** of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track

Progress on Mobility Actions

Table 2: First Priority Actions Status

First Priority Action	Climate Plan Action / Strategy	Status Update
1. Increase investment in active transportation to reduce both territorial and consumption-based emissions, improve air quality, and promote health and equity.	Action M1.1	Behind schedule
2. Accelerate personal transportation electrification by developing an electric mobility strategy for Saanich.	Action M3.1	Achieved
3. Convert all oil heating systems to renewable heating systems by 2030 or sooner.	Action B2.2	Behind schedule
4. Enhance support for efficiency and renewable energy upgrades in existing buildings to enable 40% of homes and businesses to switch to efficient and renewable energy systems by 2030.	Strategy B2	Achieved (5), On Track (5), Ongoing (8), behind schedule (2)
5. Double the rate of planting trees to enhance urban forest for increased carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services.	Action E1.1	Achieved
6. Improve climate resilience of Saanich's infrastructure, such as our stormwater system, flood hazard planning, and engineering design specifications.	Strategy B5	On Track (3), Ongoing (1), behind schedule (1)
7. Catalyze community actions by developing a supportive network and resources to encourage and sustain personal efforts.	Strategy C2	Achieved (1), Ongoing (10), behind schedule (1)

Table 3: Action Reporting Status

Ongoing	The action has no completion timeline and requires continuous work on an annual basis.
Achieved	The action has been implemented.
Ahead of schedule	The action is underway and anticipated to be completed before the designated time frame.
On track	Work is progressing and the action is anticipated to be met in the designated time frame.
Behind schedule	Work has either not started or it progressed, but the pace of effort will need to increase before it can be considered on track to be completed in the designated timeframe.
On hold	The action is currently on hold and work is not proceeding.
Discontinued	The action has been discontinued

Mobility and Electric Mobility

Following the great success of Saanich's award-winning e-bike incentive pilot program in 2021-22, the Province launched a BC Electric Bike Rebate Program in 2023. In 2025, the Province brought an additional 64 provincial e-bike incentives to Saanich residents, equating to approximately $84,000 in external funding to support sustainable, healthy and affordable transportation choices. A Saanich resident states that the program "has helped us move in the direction we were wanting to go by getting rid of our second car and purchasing an e-bike. It will be life changing for us."

Mobility Summary

Transportation is the largest source of our community-wide Territorial GHG emissions. The latest 2024 community-wide GHG inventory shows a 28% reduction in Saanich's transportation GHG emissions since our 2007 baseline, which demonstrates significant progress towards our 2030 targets.

Although there was no decrease in transportation emissions between 2023 and 2024, progress is still being made in the uptake of active transportation, number of personal vehicle trips and the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs):

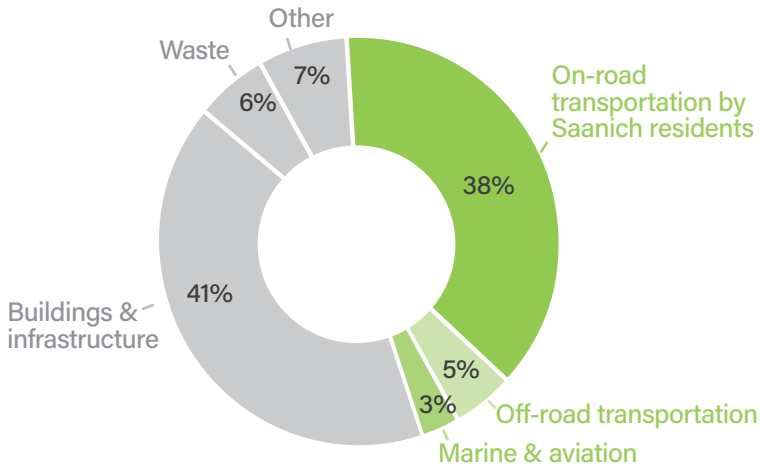
- Regional transportation trends in the 2022 (most recent) Origin Destination Household Travel study completed by the CRD show that amidst a growing population, the total number of personal vehicle trips is decreasing in the region.
- ICBC data for Saanich shows an increase in the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), with 623 new personal EVs and 98 new business EVs in 2024 compared to 2023.
- Saanich's 2025 Active Transportation Plan Report Card indicates with the most recent data available (2022), Saanich is on track to meet its 2028 active transportation targets, with 26% of trips made by walking, cycling and transit use.

Land use

Land use is key to sustainable transportation and our GHG targets. Council adoption of the 2024 Updated Official Community Plan (OCP) 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, significantly reducing the need for auto travel. The OCP supports increased density in our centres, villages and corridors. Along with new housing targets and implementation of the Province's small-scale, multi-unit housing standards, these changes will provide further opportunity for the development of compact, complete communities and land use changes that support cost-effective sustainable transportation and significantly reduced emissions.

Work also moved forward on several Centre, Corridor and Village (CCV) plans. In 2025, work progressed on the development of the Draft Quadra

Figure 9: Transportation Emissions in Saanich Territorial GHG Inventory, 2024



Mckenzie Plan, Draft Shelbourne Valley Plan and Tillicum Burnside Plan. These Plans are guided by the OCP's direction of the 15-minute community and One Planet Living principles, which are critically important for supporting Saanich climate targets.

Active Transportation

Implementation of the Active Transportation Plan and Road Safety Action plan are behind schedule, mainly due to budget constraints and delayed funding, but work continued in 2025, including the addition of protected bike lanes and sidewalk replacements. Work on the Speed Limit Establishment Policy also advanced, with more roadway speed reductions planned in the coming years. Evolve launched an e-bike share in Saanich in 2025, expanding flexible, affordable access to e-bikes for residents. In 2025, the District also entered into an agreement to support bus priority at signalized intersections using an AI powered intersection management tool. Several 2025 active transportation projects also integrated storm water upgrades and green infrastructure (including raingardens and tree planting), reinforcing climate resilience across the network.

Electric Vehicles

The growth in EV adoption continues, supported by an expanding public charging network and more access to at-home charging. Saanich continues to offer incentives for EV Ready Plans and electrical infrastructure upgrades to support at-home charging in existing multi-family buildings through top-ups to the CleanBC EV Charger Rebate Program. Since this program launched in 2021, uptake has grown considerably and we now have 31 EV Ready Plans for multi-unit residential buildings, with 15 having completed the retrofits (providing over 1,074 EV ready stalls) and more expected in 2026. Groundwork continued to be laid in 2025 to expand the Saanich-owned EV charging network in partnership with the CRD, support the electrification of car share vehicles, and bring new DC Fast Chargers to the community through a partnership with BC Hydro. Construction on these projects is anticipated to be complete in the first half of 2026.

Of the 38 actions in the Electric Mobility Strategy due to start by 2025, 34 (89%) are Ongoing, Achieved or On track, with 4 (11%) Behind Schedule. Of the 19 Mobility actions due to start by 2025, 14 (74%) are Ongoing, Achieved or On track and 5 (26%) are Behind Schedule or On hold. One action is planned as a future action. These delays are primarily related to inflation, budget constraints, and staff resource restrictions.

Photo courtesy of BC Transit

BC Transit is charging up public transit with 25 electric buses now deployed in the in the Victoria Regional Transit System. Made by a Canadian company, each electric bus will save the equivalent of one tanker truck of diesel fuel per year, or about 550 fill-ups for a mid-size car.

The electric buses are built for efficiency and high service quality. With a daily range of about 400 kilometers, they're more than equipped to handle the average 200 kilometers a bus covers in the Victoria transit region each day. Overnight, they recharge fully at the Victoria Transit Centre, requiring just 4-6 hours hooked up to plug-in chargers. They've already proved their reliance in cold and snowy conditions, as proven in colder cities like Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal.

Both operators and riders alike are enjoying the quieter, smoother ride that these electric buses offer. The transformation is just beginning, as BC Transit plans to expand its electric fleet to up to 80 buses across eight BC cities by the end of 2026. Construction for electric bus charging infrastructure is already underway in several communities around the province to support the incoming 125 electric buses that are part of the first phase of BC Transit's Low Carbon Fleet Program.

BC Transit is not only ramping up the deployment of electric buses across the province but also actively seeking to reduce emissions further by integrating renewable fuels into their diesel bus operations and acquiring hybrid electric buses as well. These efforts underline BC Transit's commitment to sustainable transit and priorities to transition to zero emissions.

Story courtesy of BC Transit

Recent upgrades to the streets surrounding Tillicum Elementary School have enhanced safety and accessibility while advancing environmental resilience. Albina Street, Maddock Avenue, and Orillia Street previously had narrow sidewalks, ageing stormwater infrastructure, and limited safe crossings. Residents expressed a desire for streets that are safer, more connected and neighbourhood-friendly, supported by more trees and green spaces. Completed in 2026, the project delivered safer and more comfortable crosswalks and sidewalks, expanded active transportation connections, traffic calming measures, and stormwater system improvements. It also added street trees and green infrastructure to help manage rainfall, reduce urban heat impacts, and strengthen climate resilience. This project is a strong example of how one project can achieve multiple community goals; safety, accessibility, climate action, resiliency, community health, affordability and biodiversity.

Table 4: Progress on Mobility GHG Emissions Targets

Moving in the right direction

Baseline:	In 2007, Saanich's transportation emissions **were**	310,158	t CO_2e	Baseline
Latest measurement:	As of 2024, Saanich's transportation emissions **were**	223,024	t CO_2e	28% lower than baseline
Where we should be:	As of 2024, Saanich's transportation emissions **should be**	195,402	t CO_2e	37% lower than baseline
2030 target:	As of 2030, Saanich's transportation emissions **should be**	155,079	t CO_2e	50% lower than baseline

Table 5: Progress on Mobility Objectives

Objective	Where we were		Where we are at		2030 Target	2050 Target	Status
	Status	Year	Status	Year			
% of all trips taken by walking and cycling	16.3%	2017	**17%***	2022	21% (2028)**	30%	🟢
% of trips taken by transit	8.7%	2017	**9%***	2022	11% (2028)**	20%	🟡
% of personal vehicles that are electric	4%	2023	**4.7%**	2024	36%	100%	🟡
% of commercial vehicles that are electric	4.3%	2023	**5.3%**	2024	-	50%	🟡
% of remaining transport fuel that is biofuel	13.3%	2023	**13.3%**	2024	10%	100%	🟢
% of transit buses that are electric	0%	2024	**8%** (25 electric)	2025	100%	100%	🔴

*Value updated since 2024 report card with data from Saanich's Active Transportation Plan

**Updated target timeline to align with the latest Active Transportation Plan Report Card based upon the next CRD Origin-Destination survey being in 2028

Table 6: Progress on Electric Mobility Strategy Metrics

Metric	Where we were		Where we are at	
	Status	Year	Status	Year
EVs in Saanich by use				
▪ # of EVs for personal use (% of all vehicles registered for personal use)	2,756 (4%)	2023	3,379 (5%)	2024
▪ # of EVs for business use (% of all vehicles registered for business use)	439 (4.3%)	2023	537 (5%)	2024
EVs in Saanich by vehicle class				
▪ # of passenger/light duty EVs (% of passenger vehicle registrations)	3,202 (4.8%)	2023	3,992 (6%)	2024
▪ # of Commercial/medium & heavy duty EVs (% of commercial vehicle registrations)	14 (0.1%)	2023	15 (0.1%)	2024
▪ # of "other"EVs/motorcycles & motorhomes (% of "other" vehicle registrations)	15 (0.4%)	2023	18 (0.4%)	2024
Municipally owned public EV charging station use				
▪ # of Saanich-owned public EV charging stations	34	2024	34	2025
▪ Total hours of use annually	45,972 hours	2024	50,634 hours	2025
▪ Average daily hours of use per station in each calendar year	3.7 hours	2024	4 hrs 5 min	2025
▪ Total electricity use annually	216,232 kWh	2024	243,713 kWh	2025
▪ Average daily electricity use per station in each calendar year	17.4 kWh/day	2024	19.6 kWh/day	2025
Saanich-wide public EV charging network				
▪ # of level 2 public EV charging stations	129	2024	146	2025
▪ # of DCFC public EV charging stations (includes Tesla superchargers)	26	2024	28	2025
Availability of at-home charging in multi-family buildings				
▪ # multi-family buildings or strata complexes that have installed EV Ready infrastructure for all units	1 (10 culmulative)	2024	5 (15 cumulative)	2025
▪ # of parking stalls in existing multi-family buildings that have been retrofitted to become 100% EV Ready (all units)	46 (764 cumulative)	2024	310 (1,074 cumulative)	2025
Saanich fleet				
▪ # of Municipal Fleet vehicles electrified/renewable (% of municipal fleet)*w	34 (15%)	2024	35 (18%)	2025
▪ # of Fire Fleet vehicles electrified/renewable (% of fire fleet)	4 (12%)	2024	4 (12%)	2025
▪ # of Police Fleet vehicles electrified/renewable (% of police fleet)	5 (6%)	2024	5 (5%)	2025

* 100% of Municipal Fleet light duty cars are electric

Buildings and Infrastructure

Nearly half the residential heating oil tanks in Saanich have now been replaced with electric heat pumps (45% reduction from 2019)! Since launching in 2022, Saanich's Heat Pump Financing Program has helped 70 residents replace oil and gas furnaces with high-efficiency electric heat pumps. These upgrades, from the financing program alone, are estimated to reduce GHG emissions by 370.5 tCO2e annually (or 5,557.5 tCO2e over a 15-year lifespan) and cut household energy use by approximately 3,944 GJ (59,160 GJ over a 15-year lifespan). Scott, a resident who completed the program in 2025, noted that the 10-year, zero-interest loan is a major benefit. Scott's household shared that since installation, their heat pump has been quiet and has kept their home comfortable year-round.

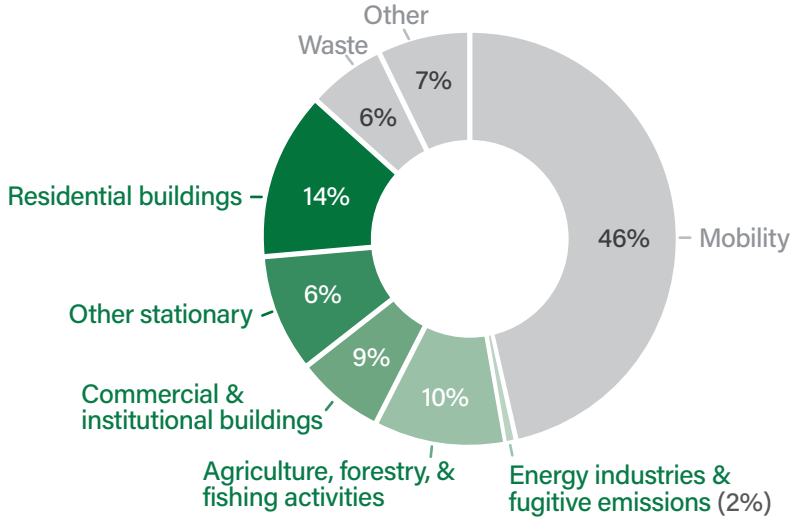
Buildings & Infrastructure Summary

Buildings are the second largest source of community-wide Territorial GHG emissions in Saanich and these emissions are mainly from fossil fuel 'natural' gas. The latest 2024 community-wide GHG inventory indicates that there has been a 10% reduction in Saanich's building and infrastructure GHG emissions since our 2007 baseline. This reduction in building emissions is currently not on track to meet our 2030 targets, which should have seen a 37% reduction in emissions by 2024 if progress were linear.

Residential building emissions saw a 17% decrease between 2023 and 2024, with a big proportion of this attributed to the switch from fuel oil (67% decrease) to electric heat pumps. Natural gas use in residential buildings remained relatively the same and connections in residential buildings continued to increase. Commercial and institutional buildings saw a 7% reduction in overall GHG emissions, with a 3% reduction in natural gas emissions, despite a 3% increase in heating degree days (HDD) (meaning cooler conditions that would usually result in higher natural gas demand). FortisBC heavily funded and advertised incentives for dual-fuel heating systems* continue to negatively impact efforts to support the switch from fossil fuel natural gas to renewable energy heat pumps for heating and cooling.

Renewable natural gas (RNG) represents only <1% of our community's natural gas

Figure 10: Building and Infrastructure Emissions in Saanich Territorial GHG Inventory, 2024



* These are incentives that provide a heat pump with natural gas 'backup' systems, but where the switch-over control points are designed for the natural gas system to continue to be used heavily for heating.

Photo courtesy of the Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC) and Jawl Properties (Atrium 3)

consumption and is a limited resource that should be saved for hard to electrify sectors, such as industry.

Of the 43 Building Retrofit Strategy Actions that were due to start by 2025, 35 (81%) are Achieved, Ongoing or On Track and 8 (19%) are Behind Schedule or On hold. 3 actions are planned as future actions. Of the 39 Buildings & Infrastructure actions in the Climate Plan due to start by 2025, 33 (85%) are Achieved, Ongoing or On Track and 6 (15%) are Behind Schedule or On hold. 3 actions are planned as future actions.

New Buildings

2025 marked the first full year of the Zero Emissions Step Code (Emissions Level 4/EL4) being in place for all new construction in Saanich, with the highest step coming into effect for new Part 3 (larger, more complex) buildings as of July 1 or November 1, 2024 depending on the building type. This results in buildings with all-electric space and hot water heating.

Many other local governments in the region and across BC have now also adopted the Zero Carbon Step Code highest performance level. This delivers on a key climate action and ensures that these new buildings do not become part of the future existing building stock that need energy retrofits.

In 2025, BC Hydro updated their Distribution Extension Policy to lower the cost of connections for many customers, speed up connection timelines, and better balance cost sharing between customers. The new policy provides greater cost certainty for developers and helps to support investments in affordable housing and electrification.

Existing Buildings

2025 was a challenging year for building retrofits, with many foundational policies and programs from higher levels of government being repealed or put on hold, including the carbon tax, the CleanBC Commercial and Better Homes incentive programs for fuel switching, and the Canada Greener Homes Loan program, in addition to a general sense of market uncertainty that discouraged investment in building upgrades.

However, Saanich continues to innovate and support action for this sector, with many notable achievements. 2025 marked the first full year in operation for the two retrofit concierge programs that are supporting larger, more complex buildings in partnership with the Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC): the Rental Apartment Retrofit Accelerator and the Strata Energy Advisor. Together, these programs have now engaged with 14 buildings in exploring electrification projects, with two buildings likely pursuing retrofits. Saanich also approved the first participant for the Climate Action Tax Exemption Program. The Heat Pump Financing Program is also continuing to support residents in replacing their fossil fuel heating systems through the provision of interest-free financing. There are currently 130 approved participants and 70 completed projects.

Most notably, Saanich Council adopted an Energy and Emissions Reporting Requirement for large buildings in 2025, alongside the City of Victoria. The first cohort of buildings, those larger than 30,000 square feet (2,787 m^2), will report their 2025 energy use data by June 2026. The CRD is providing a regional Building Benchmarking Program to provide support services to building owners and property managers.

Building benchmarking and disclosure has been shown to drive action amongst building managers and yield an average cumulative energy savings of 7% over three years. The intent of the Program is to support better energy management practices, improve community-wide GHG accounting, grow knowledge and increase uptake of climate related programs and co-benefit opportunities, such as efficiencies and cost savings for existing buildings.

Infrastructure

Work continued in 2025 to embed climate change within the Asset Management Program. This included using the Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (PIEVC) green protocol. PIEVC workshops were undertaken for each asset type to evaluate climate risks and identify the adaptation actions necessary to mitigate them. This information is being used to inform the updated Climate Plan and individual Asset Management Plans and risk registers. Specific considerations are being incorporated into condition and capacity assessments - e.g., Climate Change IDF (Intensity-Duraction-Frequency) curves are being used in stormwater analytics.

Work also continued on Integrated Stormwater Management Plans (ISMP), with Douglas Creek ISMP model in progress and overland flooding hazard mapping underway for Colquitz Creek. The Gorge Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy project was initiated in 2025, led by City of Victoria in partnership with the District of Saanich, Town of View Royal, Township of Esquimalt and the CRD. The project will make recommendations for resiliency actions necessary to mitigate and adapt to sea level rise and extreme flooding along the Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet. Public engagement was undertaken through July to October 2025 and this will be used to inform the strategy, due to be completed late 2026.

The Berwick Royal Oak retirement community is championing sustainable living! By embracing denser, communal living, residents are reducing their carbon footprints. The community connects and benefits through shared amenities including meals, gardens, housekeeping, maintenance, caregiving, and transportation. Berwick's chauffeur-driven car service curtails car ownership, and their shared bus takes residents to local parks and festivals, providing access to recreation and amenities, all while reducing vehicle emissions.

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_2e	Baseline
Latest measurement:	As of 2024, Saanich's building and infrastructure emissions **were**	197,154	t CO_2e	10% lower than baseline
Where we should be:	As of 2024, Saanich's building and infrastructure emissions **should be**	138,573	t CO_2e	37% lower than baseline
2030 target:	As of 2030, Saanich's building and infrastructure emissions **should be**	109,938	t CO_2e	50% lower than baseline

Table 8: Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Objectives

Objective	Where we were		Where we are at		2030 Target	2050 Target	Status
	Status	Year	Status	Year			
New buildings that achieve the higher steps of BC Energy Step Code	20%*	2024	14%	2025	100% by 2025	100%	🟡
New buildings that are net-zero carbon (defined as all-electric space and hot water heating)	46%*	2024	77%	2025	100%	100%	🟢
New Part 9 buildings that installed a heat pump and can provide cooling	55%*	2024	79%	2025	100%	100%	🟢
Residential oil heating systems replaced by heat pumps annually (cumulative % removed since 2017)	346 (39%)**	2024	150 (45%)	2025	100%	100%	🟡
Residential natural gas heating systems replaced by heat pumps annually (cumulative % removed since 2017)	356 (5.6%)***	2024	63 (5.9%)	2025	40%	100%	🟡
Total natural gas connections (Residential)	17,046	2023	17,188	2024	8,789	TBD	🔴
Total natural gas consumption (Residential)	858,724 GJ	2023	862,701 GJ	2024	TBD	TBD	🔴
Total natural gas connections (Commercial)	953	2023	953	2024	558	0	🔴
Total natural gas consumption (Commercial)	843,545 GJ	2023	824,323 GJ	2024	TBD	TBD	🔴
Building space heating demands are reduced	2,999 TJ (-0.3%)	2023	2,354 TJ (-18.2%)	2024	2,640 TJ (-12)	2,290 TJ (-24%)	🟢
Renewable Natural Gas use in buildings (as a % of all natural gas used)	1%	2023	1%	2024	-	100%	⚫
Sufficient renewable energy sources are available to support required conversions from fossil fuel systems	Metrics in development						⚫
Embodied emissions are reported and lowered	Metrics in development						⚫
Buildings and infrastructure are designed or retrofitted for changing climate conditions, support ecological functions and reduce exposure to climate hazards	Metrics in development						⚫
Land use and development patterns minimize exposure to sea-level rise	Metrics in development						⚫

*Value has been updated since 2024 report card due to updated data to include only buildings with occupancy permits instead of active applications
**Value updated since 2024 report card to correct typographical error
***Value has been updated since 2024 report card due to updated CleanBC data

Food and Materials

Single-use items in the health care industry can be more difficult to replace due to stringent health regulations, but staff at Island Health have found a solution to develop custom reusable gowns that meet clinical needs. Approximately, 850,000 disposable gowns are used annually by Island Health sites south of Nanaimo. Staff are hopeful that at least 75% of single-use gowns will be replaced by reusable options, and the new gowns are estimated to be reusable up to 100 times before they are recycled.

Food and Materials Summary

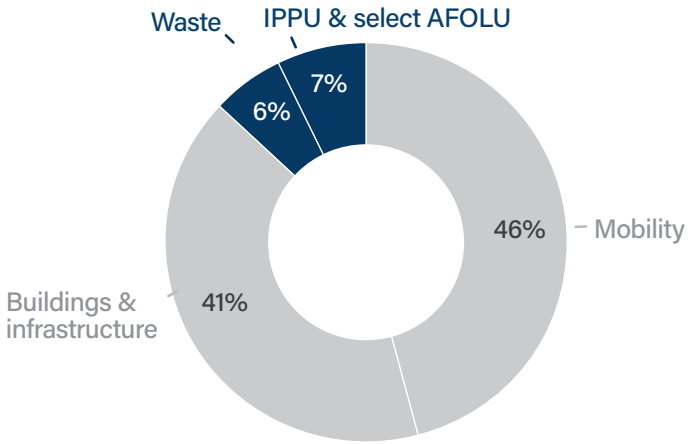
The community-wide territorial GHG inventory includes emissions from solid waste, compost and waste water, Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU), and Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU). There is limited local data available on Product Use emissions, so national data is used, which shows a considerable increase since our baseline. In comparison, there has been a 21% reduction in Saanich's waste emissions since our 2007 baseline, primarily due to the Greener Garbage program, landfill methane capture, the biological treatment of waste and changes in emissions factors.

While there was a 67% increase in waste emissions in 2024 compared to 2023, this is a temporary rise for the 2024 year and is a result of a reduction in methane captured at Hartland Landfill during the transition to the production of Renewable Natural Gas (RNG). In 2024, the CRD decommissioned the electric generator used to destroy methane from landfill gas, which resulted in higher emissions during this period. As of April 2025, landfill gas is being routed to an RNG upgrading facility, where it is processed for use as RNG to displace fossil natural gas. This transition is expected to result in a return to low waste GHG emissions for the 2025 and 2026 GHG inventories, similar to that of previous years.

Hartland Landfill saw a significant decrease in per capita waste entering the landfill from 382kg/person in 2023 to 338kg/person in 2024. While this progress is positive, it should be noted that the amount of waste going to landfill is still far from the regional waste targets. On this front, Council approved the Terms of Reference for a Zero Waste Strategy in May 2024 and work is underway, with the strategy due to be completed early-2026. The Strategy will inform the updated Climate Plan, which will also include a consumption-based emissions target and more focused action on lighter living.

Of the 13 Food and Materials actions due to be initiated by 2025, 11 (85%) are Ongoing, On Track or Achieved, with 2 (15%) Behind Schedule, and one action is planned as a future action.

Figure 11: Food and Materials Emissions in Saanich Territorial GHG Inventory, 2024



The GHG emissions from food and materials become much more significant when we consider our consumption-based emissions inventory (CBEI), with food accounting for 20% of our total CBEI. Most of the emissions from food relate to their production (91%) with only a minimal amount (9%) from their transportation. This demonstrates the critical need to encourage the switch from high emissions intensity foods such as meat and dairy to a more plant based diet, while reducing the amount of food wasted.

Staff continue to lead by example by reducing waste and providing low-carbon plant-based food options. 2025 marked the first year the Strawberry Festival replaced single-use paper and compostable dishes and cutlery with reusable stainless-steel bowls. The Festival also continued to offer plant-based ice cream options. Saanich's Earth Day Festival featured a 100% vegetarian menu and partnered with a local organization to provide reusable dishware at food trucks. Additionally, the Greener by Default pilot continued, with staff champions across multiple departments purchasing meals and snacks that are predominantly low-carbon, plant-based options.

Most of Saanich's food-related emissions come from food production. During production, meat and dairy generate more emissions than plant-based foods, so choosing lower-carbon options can significantly reduce our food-related GHGs.

Implementation of the Agriculture and Food Security Plan (AFSP) was ongoing in 2025, with several priority actions completed. These actions included measures to protect agricultural land from residential development, such as bylaw amendments that establish a farm residential footprint and set maximum house-size limits for single-family dwellings on agricultural land. In 2025, Council passed a motion to support a targeted update to the AFSP. The update will include targeted engagement with the farm community, agricultural organizations and agencies supporting food security to assess the current agriculture and food security context in Saanich and address potential gaps in the current plan.

Strawberry Festival is the District's largest and longest running festival, drawing more than 10,000 visitors each year. The festival is widely known for its legendary servings of strawberries and ice-cream and will often serve as many as 4,000 bowls at each event. This year, in theme with leading the way to reduce waste at Saanich events, the District received funding from the CRD Rethink Waste Grant to help support the purchase of stainless-steel bowls to replace the use of single-use paper and compostable bowls. By reusing these bowls every year, the district cuts down on single-use waste and saves about $650 each year by not buying disposable bowls.

In 2025, the District sponsored 6 Saanich businesses to complete the Synergy Circular Economy Accelerator Program. The program is designed to provide a comprehensive assessment of a company's business practices and provide recommendations on actions they can take to improve their circularity. If all 6 businesses are to implement the suggested actions from their assessments, they could divert a cumulative 28,250kg from the landfill and save $66,472 annually. Power to Be is one of the six businesses to have undergone the program. Since completing their assessment, they have added 60 new solar panels, begun transitioning to all battery powered yard equipment – including electric golf carts, and created paths and benches from fallen wood.

Photo courtesy of Power to Be

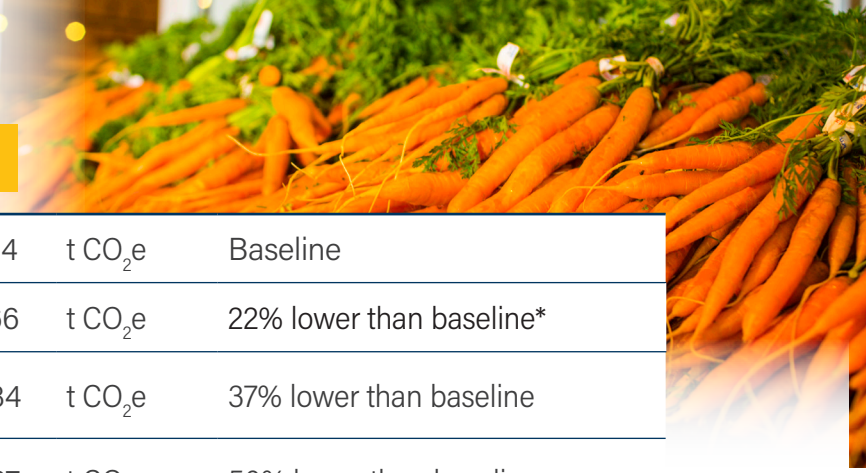


Table 9: Progress on Waste GHG Emissions Targets

Moving in the right direction

Baseline:	In 2007, Saanich's emissions from waste **were**	40,134	t CO_2e	Baseline
Latest measurement:	As of 2024, Saanich's emissions from waste **were**	31,366	t CO_2e	22% lower than baseline*
Where we should be:	As of 2024, Saanich's emissions from waste **should be**	25,284	t CO_2e	37% lower than baseline
2030 target:	As of 2030, Saanich's emissions from waste **should be**	20,067	t CO_2e	50% lower than baseline

*It is expected that waste emissions will drop considerably in 2025, similar to that of previous years, to once again exceed our targets.

Table 10: Progress on Food and Materials Objectives

Objective	Where we were		Where we are at		2030 Target	2050 Target	Status
	Status	Year	Status	Year			
Saanich's consumption-based emissions related to food are reduced	217,856	2015	227,963	2021	TBD	TBD	🔴
Saanich's consumption-based emissions related to consumables and waste	94,056	2015	119,474	2021	TBD	TBD	🔴
Amount of waste landfilled per person per year	382 kg/ person/ year	2023	338 kg/ person/ year	2024	250 kg/ person/ year	125 kg/ person/ year	🟡
0% compostable organic waste is landfilled	21%	2016	19%	2022	0%	0%	🟡
0% compostable paper is landfilled	15%	2016	16%	2022	0%	0%	🟡
Agricultural land is protected: Hectares of land in Saanich within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)	1,843 ha*	2024	1,841 ha	2025	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	415 properties	2024	399 properties	2025	TBD	TBD	⚫
The majority of local farmers have the ability to adapt their production practices to a changing climate	Metrics to be developed						⚫

*Value updated since 2024 report card due to corrected GIS data

Ecosystems

Ecosystems Summary

Ecosystems and natural areas can be both sinks and sources of GHG emissions and contribute towards our territorial emissions inventory through the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) category, dependent upon land use changes over time. Actions such as tree planting and ecosystem restoration may increase carbon sequestration, while events such as wildfires and tree removal could release emissions. These emissions and sequestrations are a relatively small part of our overall community GHG inventory due to the large impact of fossil fuel burning for transportation and building energy.

Beyond carbon sequestration, ecosystems and natural areas support the delivery of services to the community, such as stormwater management, erosion control, and water quality improvement. Natural areas also provide co-benefits for the community, such as air filtration, cooling, pollination, habitat, recreation, and physical mental health and well-being. They are also impacted by climate changes such as hotter summers and droughts, which reduce their ability to provide these services to the community.

The Urban Forest Strategy and updated Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, adopted in 2024 contain critical strategies and actions needed to achieve our biodiversity goals and urban forest canopy cover targets over the next forty years, contributing greatly to the climate resiliency of our community. In 2025, Saanich staff developed a short-term Implementation Plan based on the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy. It identifies priority actions from both strategies. While several critical initiatives continue with existing resources, implementation of the plan and the expansion of programs and initiatives are constrained by resource limitations.

Saanich Parks and Public Works staff, in partnership with Peninsula Streams & Shorelines, restored 170 meters of Gabo Creek within the Colquitz River watershed, building on 200 meters restored in 2024. The project removed sediment, reshaped pools, added spawning gravel, and installed large wood and rock to create habitat for salmon and trout. Early results are promising: monitoring found nearly 270 coho fry and 35 cutthroat trout in the restored section this year, compared to no coho and 35 cutthroat in 2024.

Most priority initiatives will necessitate additional resources beyond the current operating and capital budgets.

Grant funding has played a key role advancing this work. In 2025, $21,400 in grant funding contributed to various restoration, outreach and biodiversity-related projects, helping accelerate delivery beyond what would be feasible through existing resources.

Several key projects that protect, enhance and expand our natural areas were completed in 2025, supported by staff, partners and volunteers. This included the planting of 2,086 trees on District-owned lands by Parks staff. The Pulling Together Program completed more than 14,300 volunteer hours to remove invasive species and planted 3,368 trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants at 24 different sites across Saanich. Staff also supported private land stewardship through the Invasive Species Management Program, visiting more than 450 private properties in 2025, and removing invasive species from 220 properties. Restoration projects continued, with 170 meters of in-stream restoration completed along the Gabo Creek section of the Colquitz River watershed, adding new salmon spawning habitat. The Tillicum Green Infrastructure and Resiliency Project, a partnership between the Greater Victoria School District and District of Saanich, delivered a nature-based climate-resilience initiative by installing rain gardens and extensive tree and vegetation planting at Tillicum Elementary School and alongside adjacent road boulevards, as part of the Albina-Maddock-Orillia active transportation improvements.

Of the 14 Ecosystem actions due to start by 2025, 4 (29%) are Ongoing, Achieved or On track, and 10 (71%) are On hold or Behind Schedule. This is primarily due to funding and resource restrictions. Additional metrics for ecosystems are likely to be included in the updated Climate Plan.

In September 2025, students at Tillicum Elementary School planted 1,200+ shrubs and trees as part of the Tillicum Green Infrastructure Project. The project, a partnership between the District of Saanich and Victoria School District, aimed to address the growing impacts of climate change. By creating rain gardens and implementing tree and vegetation plantings at Tillicum Elementary School and along Albina and Orillia Street and Maddock Avenue, the project incorporates Indigenous knowledge of natural systems, the use of Indigenous plant species and sustainable practices. This project is being generously supported by a $396,865 grant from the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) funding stream of the Provincial Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF). This is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

During the summer of 2025, a series of Parks Naturalist Pop-up events were offered to connect with Saanich residents in a fun and informal setting. Hosted by Saanich Parks and held every second Friday in July and August, the events took place in four of Saanich's most popular parks, including Rithet's Bog, Cedar Hill, PKOLS, and Cuthbert Holmes parks. Residents and visitors had the opportunity to connect with a naturalist, learn about Saanich's remarkable biodiversity, discover ongoing volunteer stewardship projects, and access information about dog on-leash and off-leash regulations. These events supported the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy's theme of community engagement, fostering greater awareness of local ecosystems and encouraging stewardship among park users. Attendance and engagement were positive, demonstrating strong community interest in both nature education and park stewardship.

Table 11: Progress on Ecosystems Objectives

Objective	Where we were		Where we are at		2030 Target	2050 Target
	Status	Year	Status	Year		
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			Metrics to be developed			
Ecosystem services are maintained or enhanced			Metrics to be developed			
% tree canopy cover District Wide	43% (4,500 ha)	2019	43% (4,500 ha)	2019*	TBD	44% (by 2064)
% of Impervious Surfaces District Wide	15.8%**	2023	15.8%	2023	TBD	TBD

*Date updated since 2024 report card to reflect the last survey being 2019
**Value updated since 2024 report card to correct typographical error

Community Well-being

The Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association's (QCHCA) Climate Action group shared ideas for climate friendly gift giving at this year's Holiday Craft Fair at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre. The group handed out WestCoast microgreen seeds, a small bag of soil and an egg carton planter to provide people with everything they need to sprout healthy greens inside during the winter months. They also shared ideas for sustainable gift wrapping to reduce single-use wrapping paper waste!

Photo courtesy of Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association

Community Well-being Summary

A key part of the Saanich Climate Plan is to support people and organizations in Saanich being resilient to climate changes and empowered to take climate action. Several actions were undertaken in 2025 to empower the public and support climate preparedness, including the Neighbour to Neighbour (N2N) program, Emergency Preparedness program, Pulling Together and Park Ambassador programs, One Planet Saanich, BCSEA CoolIt! program and presentations to community groups and educational institutions.

As also noted in the Buildings and Infrastructure focus area, the District launched retrofit programs for renters in apartment buildings and for strata owners in multi-unit buildings. These programs help get cooling to residents, keeping them safer in extreme heat.

In 2025, Saanich initiated an updated community climate hazard and resilience assessment, which is being used to inform the Climate Plan update. This included multiple climate adaptation workshops conducted with Saanich residents. While all people in Canada are vulnerable to climate change risks and impacts, vulnerable populations face disproportionate challenges and climate equity becomes important for community well-being. As such, the District is working with multiple Saanich schools and with the Community Social Planning Council (CSPC) to engage with youth and equity-deserving groups in our community to better understand their climate change concerns and priorities. The climate plan update is being informed by this work and will include an analysis of community strengths along with a focus on the actions necessary to support specific groups in our community.

Of the 19 Community Wellbeing actions due to be initiated by 2025, 18 (95%) are Ongoing, On track or Achieved and 1 (5%) action is Behind Schedule. Metrics are expected to be developed to monitor and report on outcomes as part of the updated Climate Plan.

Neighbour to Neighbour Project: Marsett Place Emergency Preparedness Initiative

Three strata properties worked together to increase community resilience to many types of hazards including those worsened by climate change. The group developed plans to help each other in emergencies, became more prepared by getting to know their neighbours, promoted resident knowledge of the Saanich Emergency Program, and improved the resilince of people and nature to climate change.

Table 12: Progress on Community Well-being Objectives

Objective	Where we were		Where we are at		2030 Target	2050 Target
	Status	Year	Status	Year		
Emergency and community health services are adequate to respond to identified climate risks			Metrics to be developed			
Climate Action benefits people in Saanich, helping to improve air quality and community health while supporting clean energy jobs and a diverse economy			Metrics to be developed			

Neighbour to Neighbour Project: Frank Hobbs Bike Bus

The Frank Hobbs Bike Bus was "wildly successful" according to the organizers, and made a larger impact than they had anticipated. The project provided a weekly bike bus in the Cadboro Bay neighbourhood to Frank Hobbs School. A Bike Bus is a community-organized ride that meets regularly to ride to school. Students who walk or cycle to school are more attentive in class, and exhibit higher academic achievement and lower levels of stress than students who are driven in cars. By providing a safe, fun environment for cycling, bike busses reinforce positive behaviours in students who regularly ride, and encourage new habits in students and families who do not regularly ride.

Leadership in District Operations

Building Energy Cost Savings

Building retrofit work at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre focused on HVAC efficiency upgrades, lighting, building envelope enhancements, and accessibility improvements. The mechanical HVAC upgrades were largely completed in 2025, supported by grant funding from the CleanBC Communities Fund and Infrastructure Canada's Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) Program. To date, these upgrades have reduced energy use by 25% and GHG emissions by 50% over the last 3 years, while also improving occupant comfort and enhancing accessibility for community members.

Leadership in District Operations Summary

The 2025 corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory shows an 18% reduction in Saanich's GHG emissions from the previous year and a 47% reduction since our 2007 baseline (Figure 12 and Table 13). This is a major milestone reflecting successful decarbonization and energy efficiency initiatives across the corporate portfolio and positioning Saanich among British Columbia's leading municipalities tackling climate change.

Key emissions changes for this 2025 GHG Inventory include:

- **Municipal buildings:** emissions decreased by 29%, primarily due to strategic electrification upgrades and the use of renewable natural gas. This included electrification retrofits at the G.R. Pearkes and Cedar Hill Recreation Centres developed as part of the Building Retrofit Strategy and supported by significant Provincial and Federal grant funding.
- **Municipal fleet:** emissions decreased by 25%, primarily due to the deployment of electric vehicles, more efficient vehicles, route optimization, and the use of renewable diesel - supported by the Zero Emission Fleet Strategy.
- **Emissions factors:** BC's grid electricity emission factor increased in 2025, reflecting temporary operational grid needs. While this is expected to decrease in the longer term with BC Hydro's commitment to 100% renewable energy and the delivery of substantial new wind and solar power in BC, it has resulted in a minor increase in corporate GHG emissions. It is important to note that despite this increase, the electricity emissions factor remains significantly lower than that for fossil fuel natural gas, given that BC's electricity is nearly all generated from renewable sources.

Together, these results place the District very close to the 2025 corporate target (which is a 50% reduction in GHG emissions from 2007 levels) despite the change in electricity emissions factor, with additional projects underway that will continue to reduce emissions and energy use, increase efficiencies and achieve multiple other benefits including cost savings.

Of the 16 Leadership in District Operations actions due to be initiated by 2025 (with two discontinued actions), 15 (94%) are Ongoing, On track or Achieved, with 1 (6%) Behind Schedule. Metrics are expected to be developed to monitor and report on outcomes as part of the updated Climate Plan.

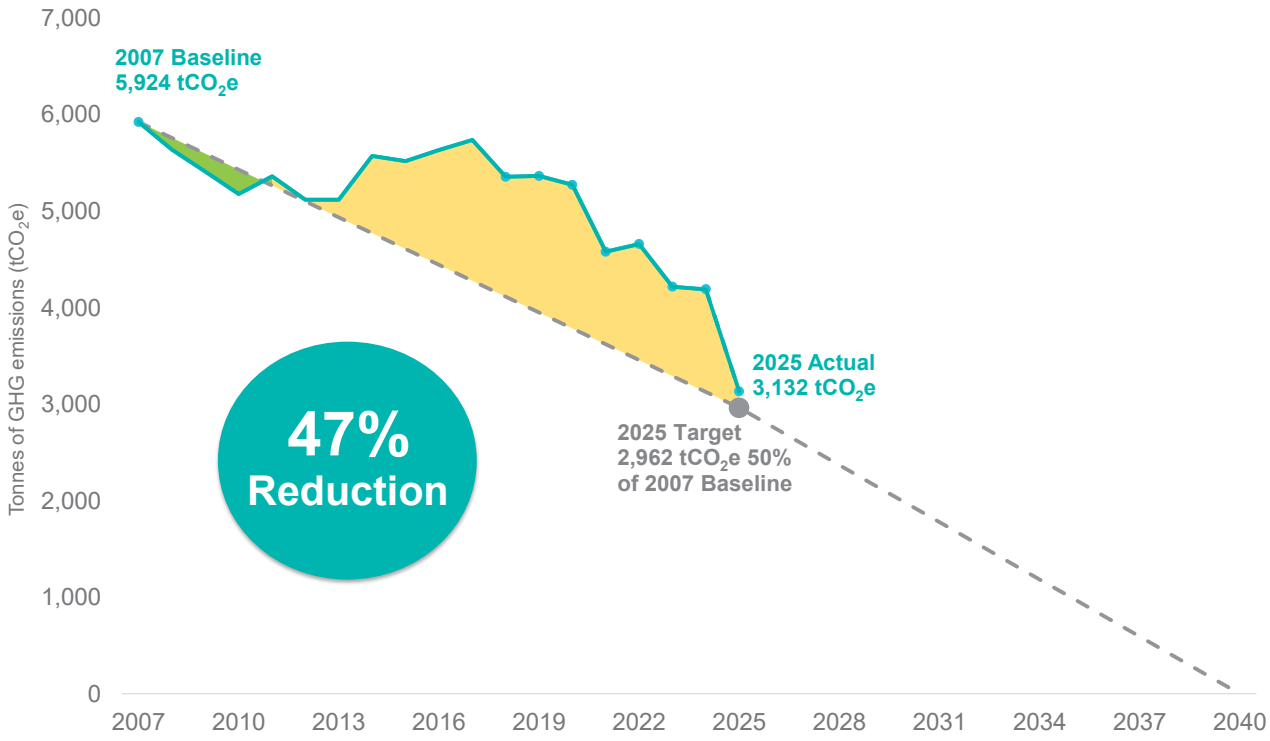
As shown in Table 14, the District's international climate reporting and benchmarking score through CDP remained at an A-. The A- score is due to our climate targets not including a Global Fair Share* component. This will be addressed in the upcoming Climate Plan update.

*For more information on Global Fair Share, please visit saanich.ca/calculator

Saanich staff are taking advantage of the opportunity to use e-bikes to commute to different work sites across the district. To date, 153 staff have participated in e-bike safety training. With 6 e-bikes available, staff are enjoying the exercise, convenience and time-savings. Here's a story from a Parks staff member:

"Last summer and fall, I was using the e-bike often for boulevard tree mapping which worked great for sites where trees were planted close together and there were a lot of trees planted on the same streets. I found this faster than using the car because I could just pull up with the bike and stand next to it to map the tree and then move to the next one instead of finding parking and having to walk a big circle to get back to the car. It was also nice to carry my tools in the saddle bags and not have to carry them all in my vest all day."

Figure 12: District of Saanich Corporate GHG Emissions



Biogenic emissions are reported separately from scope 1 and 2 emissions shown in Figure 9. In 2025, 1,965 tonnes of biogenic carbon emissions were emitted by the District.

Table 13: Progress on Leadership in District Operations Targets

Nearly at target

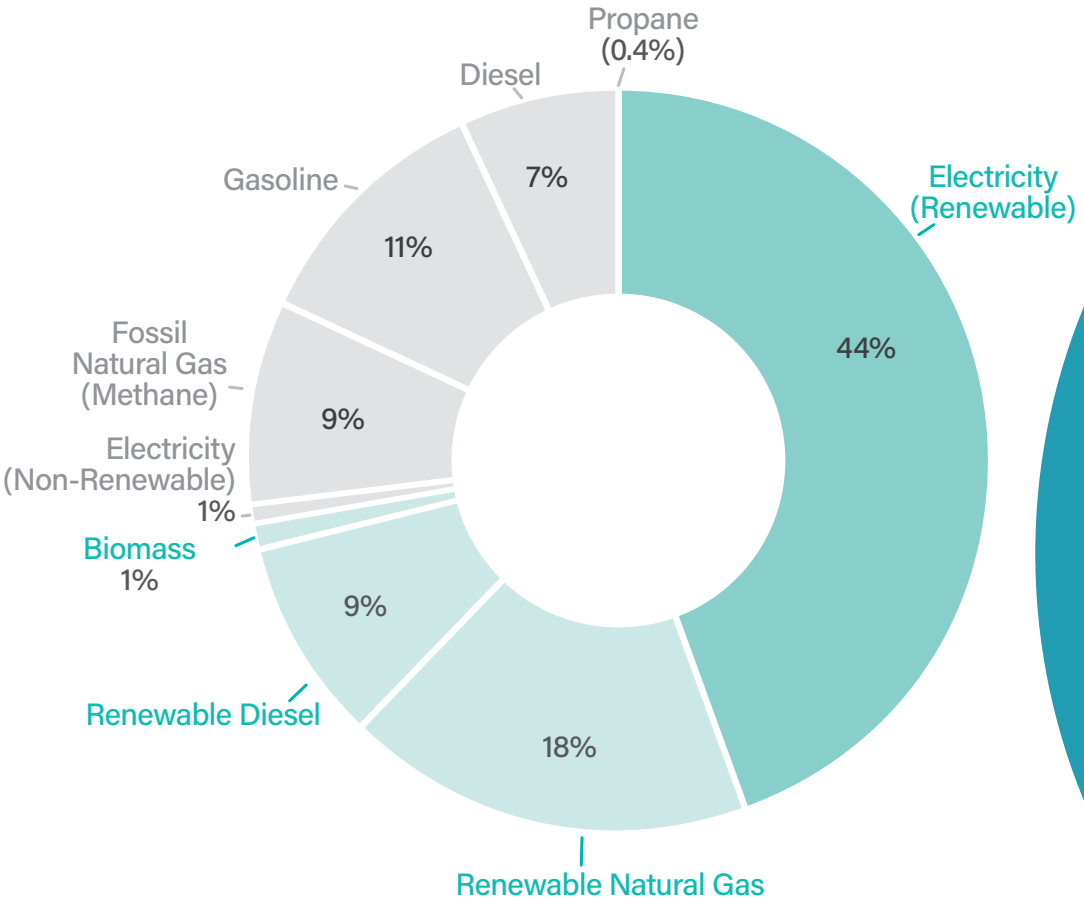
Baseline:	In 2007, Saanich's corporate emissions **were**	5,924	tCO_2e	Baseline
Latest measurement:	As of 2025, Saanich's corporate emissions **were**	3,132	tCO_2e	47% lower than baseline
Where we should be:	As of 2025, Saanich's corporate emissions **should be**	2,962	tCO_2e	50% lower than baseline
2040 target:	As of 2040, Saanich's corporate emissions **should be**	0	tCO_2e	100% lower than baseline

As shown in Figure 13, the District's energy usage was 74% renewable in 2025, up from 43% renewable energy in the 2007 baseline year.

Table 14: Progress on Leadership in District Operations Objectives

Objective	Where we were		Where we are at		2030 Target	2050 Target	Status
	Status	Year	Status	Year			
The District of Saanich is a recognized leader in climate action: CDP report score	A-	2024	A-	2025	A	A	

Figure 13: District of Saanich Corporate Renewable and Fossil Energy Use 2025



Operational Savings from Electric Vehicles

The District currently operates 44 electric vehicles (EVs) across municipal operations, Police, and Fire. EVs deliver significant fuel cost savings, along with additional savings from reduced maintenance requirements. Based on current performance, the District's EVs are saving approximately 80% in fuel costs, or approximately $500,000 in fuel savings over the estimated service life of these vehicles. Fleet EVs are also require less routine maintenance (e.g., no engine oil changes and reduced brake wear), further reducing operational costs and downtime.

In addition to cost savings, these EVs advance our Climate Plan goals by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by more than 97% on an operational basis, or by more than 80% when full lifecycle emissions are considered (including vehicle manufacturing and energy supply). EVs also eliminate tailpipe pollution and help reduce noise in the community.

Fleet electrification is a key component of the District's Fleet Emissions Strategy, providing a cost-effective pathway to net-zero corporate emissions by 2040 and supporting the community through cleaner, quieter vehicles.

Conclusions and Next Steps

Conclusions and Next Steps

This is our sixth year of reporting on Climate Plan implementation since the Plan's adoption in 2020. 2025 marks a significant milestone in the District's climate action, with a 47% reduction in our corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions since our 2007 baseline, coming incredibly close to achieving our 50% target. While Saanich is not yet on track to meet its 2030 community-wide GHG targets, with emissions now 18% below our baseline, it is important to acknowledge that progress is not linear, and many of the actions and policies put in place since the 2020 Climate Plan was approved will positively impact our GHG emissions in the coming years. The incredible progress seen to date is a testament to the work of the District, our partners, other levels of government and the wider community, and the 2025 achievements clearly demonstrate Saanich's commitment to leadership in reducing GHG emissions and adapting to climate change at both the corporate and community level.

A significant proportion (79%) of our Climate Plan actions have now been achieved, are ongoing or are on track. Implementation of these actions not only delivers on our GHG reduction targets but is critical for increasing our resiliency to climate change and avoiding the significant costs associated with extreme weather events. Further, these actions support multiple other goals and reap substantial benefits, including cost savings, improved affordability, operational efficiencies, community wellbeing, local economic development, environmental protection etc., clearly shown through some of the stories provided in this report. As such, it is critically important to stay the course, to persist with climate action and ambitious policy adoption, advocating to other orders of government to do likewise, and to challenge counter measures by fossil fuel industries and other actors.

An update to the 2020 Climate Plan will build upon the work undertaken since 2020, refining some of the current actions and identifying the future actions needed to accelerate progress towards our climate goals and the many co-benefits they provide. This update comes at a critical time, as we continue to experience record-breaking and costly extreme weather events, growing political uncertainty, and rising misinformation.

The updated Climate Plan is expected to be completed by mid-2026 and we will continue to implement the existing Climate Plan actions in parallel, making further progress towards our goals and targets as the updated plan is finalized.