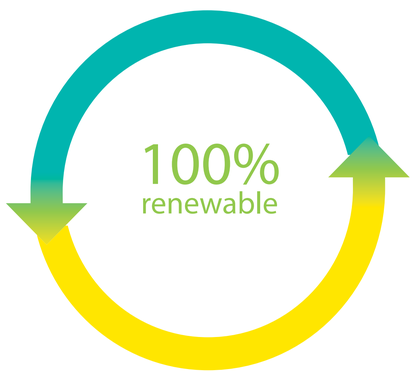
Overview

Saanich is updating the 2020 Climate Plan, to identify the actions needed to meet our climate goals.

Saanich Community-wide Climate Goals

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

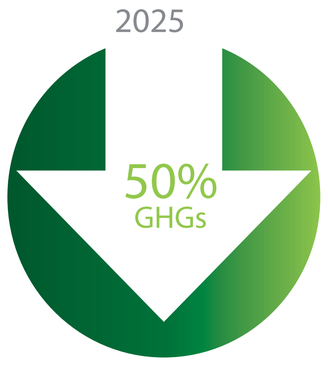


2. TRANSITION TO 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2050

3. PREPARE FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

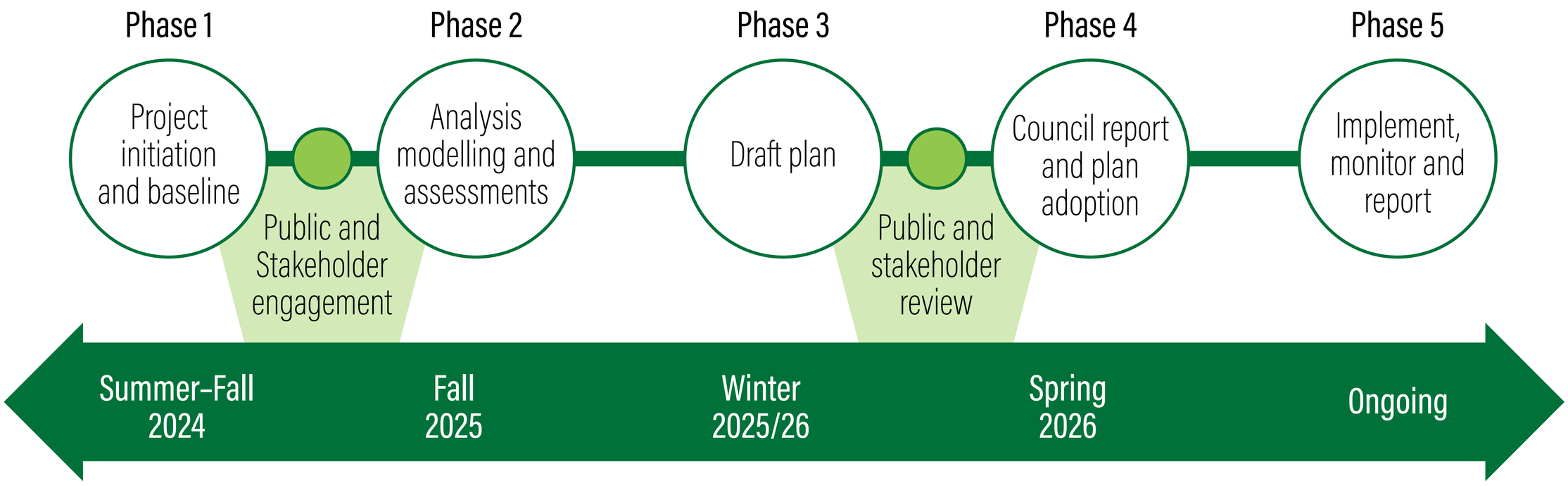
District of Saanich Corporate Climate Goals

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.

Climate plan process and timeline



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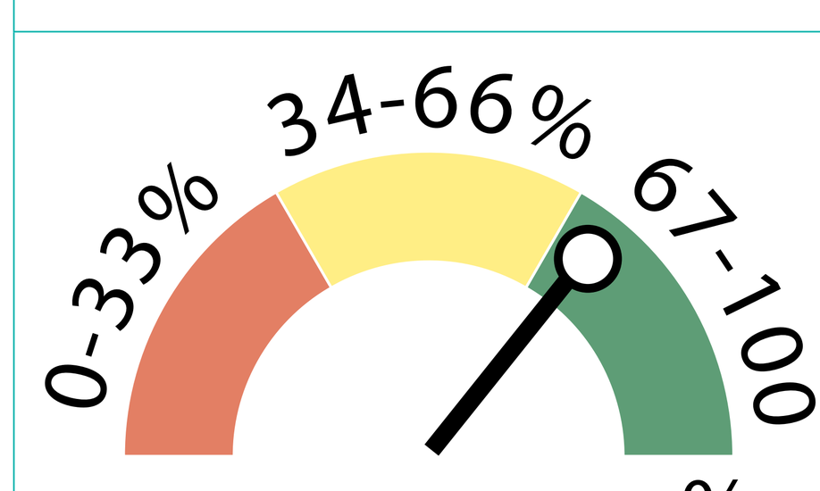
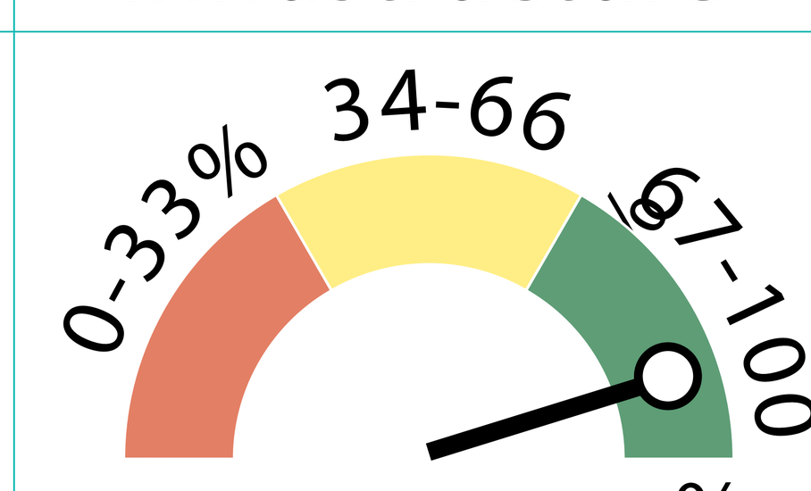
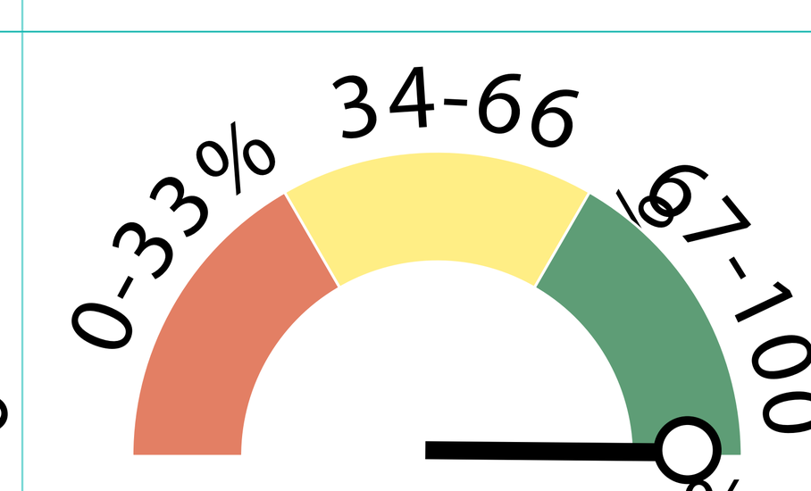
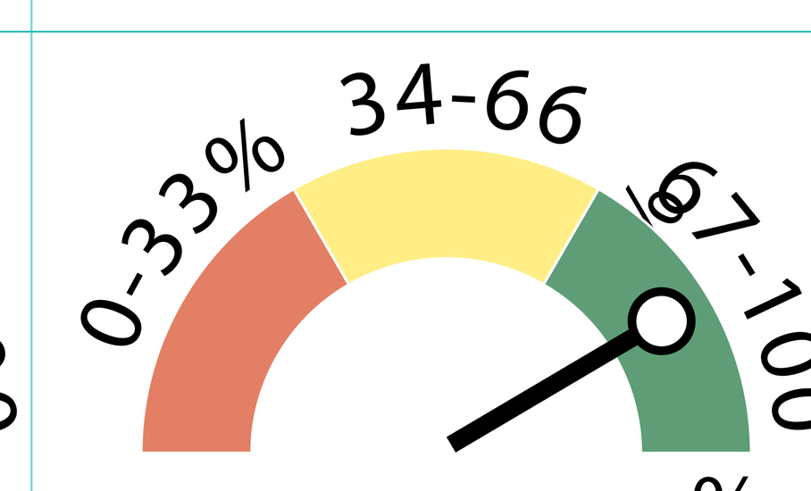
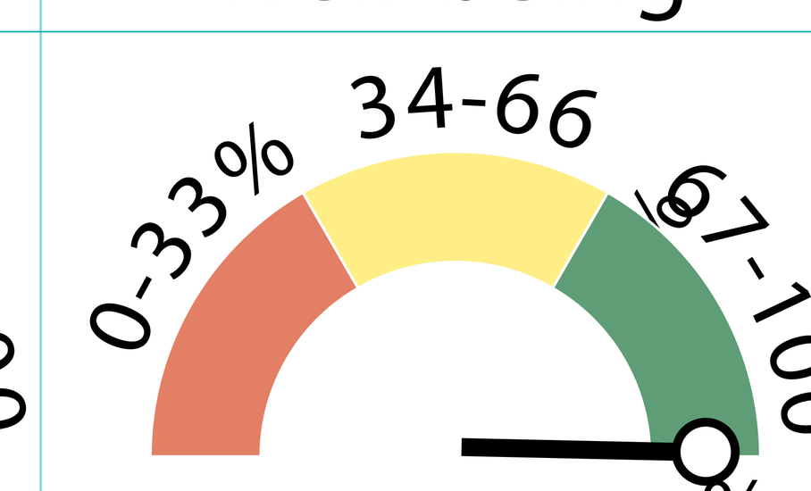
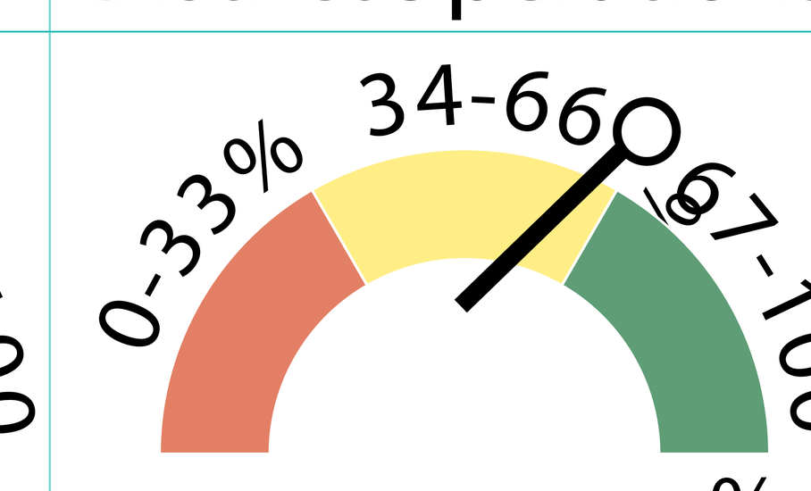
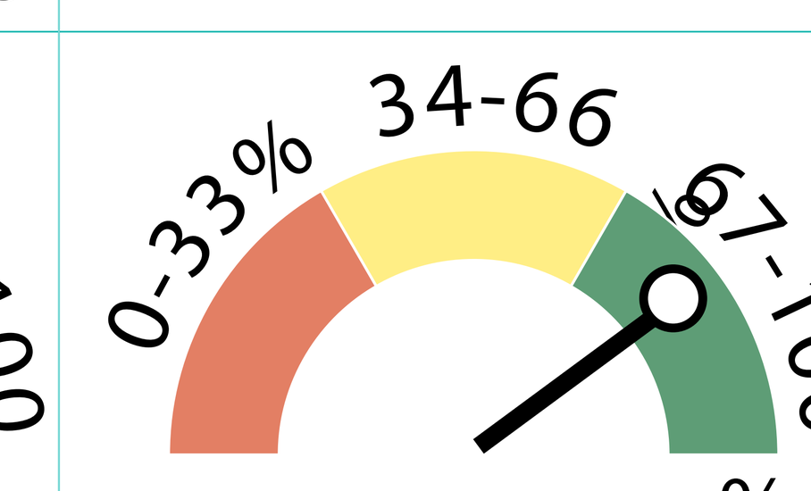
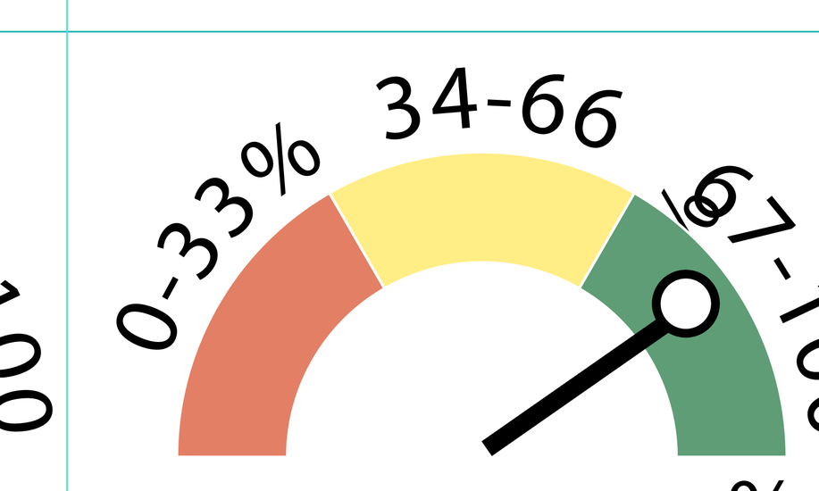
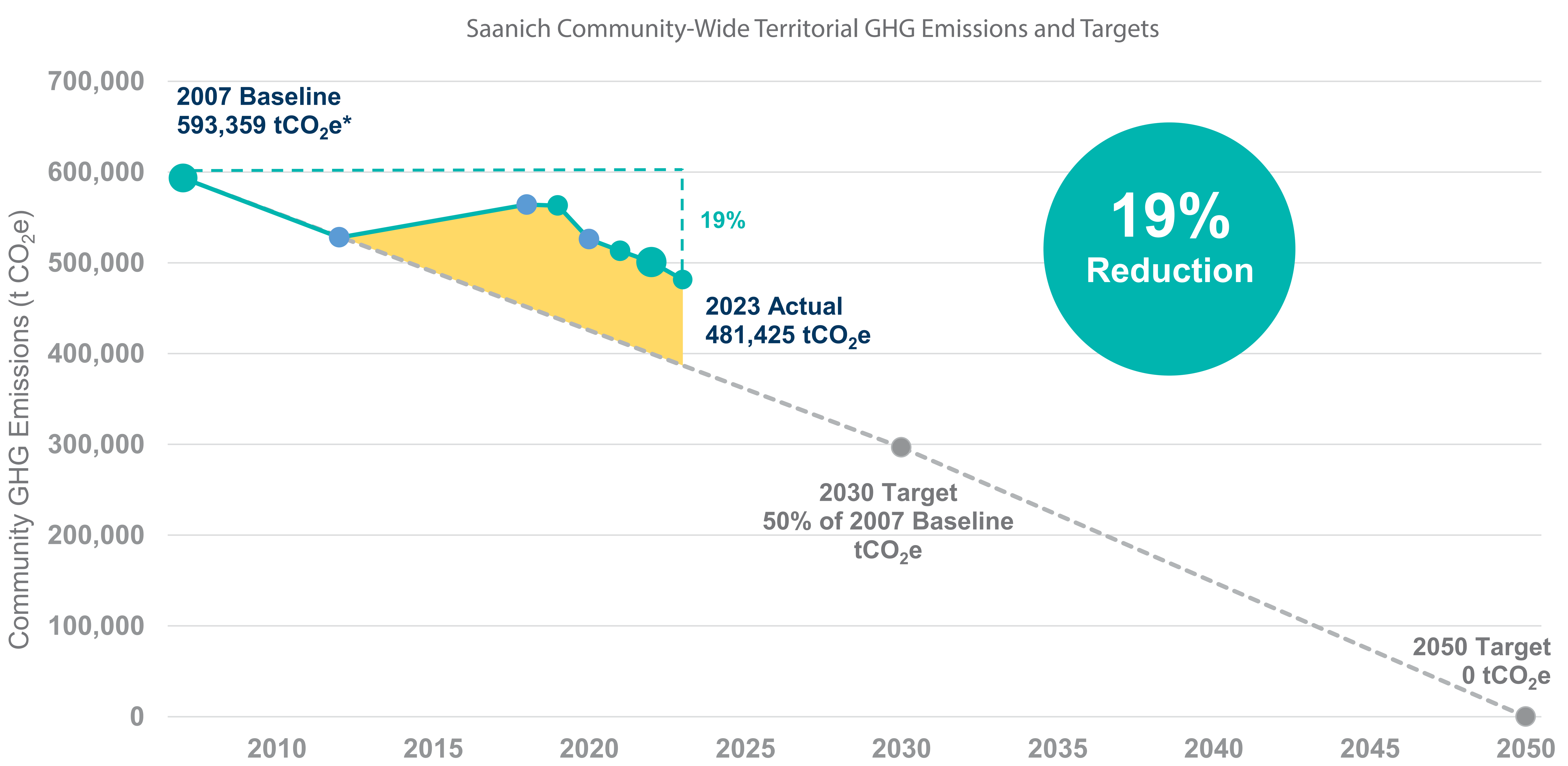
Overview

Saanich's progress on climate action

The 2020 Climate Plan identified 131 actions to be initiated by or before 2025. Most of the actions have now been completed or are well underway.

Mobility	Buildings and Infrastructure	FoodandMaterials	Ecosystems	Community Well-being	Leadership in DistrictOperations	E-mobilityStrategy	Retrofit Strategy
							
71% of actions are Ongoing/Achieved/On track	89% of actions are Ongoing/Achieved/On track	100% of actions are Ongoing/Achieved/On track	86% of actions are Ongoing/Achieved/On track	100% of actions are Ongoing/Achieved/On track	78% of actions are Ongoing/Achieved/On track	79% of actions are Ongoing/Achieved/On track	80% of actions are Ongoing/Achieved/On track

We have made significant progress towards our goals, including a 19% reduction in territorial GHG emissions from our 2007 baseline, however this is not on track to meet our climate targets and more ambitious action is needed.



Biogenic GHG emissions are released through combustion of bio-fuels, including biomass and renewable diesel. These emissions are considered to balance with those released naturally into the environment as part of the planetary carbon cycle, as opposed to non-biogenic emissions from fossil fuels that would not be released naturally and contribute to climate change. Our biogenic emissions are reported separately from scope 1 and 2 emissions shown in the figure above. In 2023, 774 tonnes of biogenic carbon emissions were emitted by the District.

Some of the amazing work completed includes:

2019

- Launched the corporate fleet e-bike program
- Completed Regional Flood Inundation and Sea Level Rise Mapping
- Adopted the BC Energy Step Code and accelerated requirements for new buildings

2020

- Launched top-up incentives for the CleanBC EV Ready Rebate Program
- Adopted the Saanich E-Mobility Strategy
- Implemented Electric Vehicle (EV)-Ready Infrastructure Requirements for new construction
- Launched District 2030, Building Benchmark BC, and Bring it Home4 Climate (now the Home Energy Navigator) building energy upgrade programs

2021

- Launched the first of its kind in BC E-Bike Incentive Pilot Program
- Joined the Love Food Hate Waste campaign
- Joined the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

2022

- Launched the first of its kind in BC Heat Pump Financing Program
- Adopted a Vision Zero policy for transportation
- Initiated a Food Hub feasibility study
- Launched the Neighbour to Neighbour (N2N) Resilience Initiative and Incentive

2023

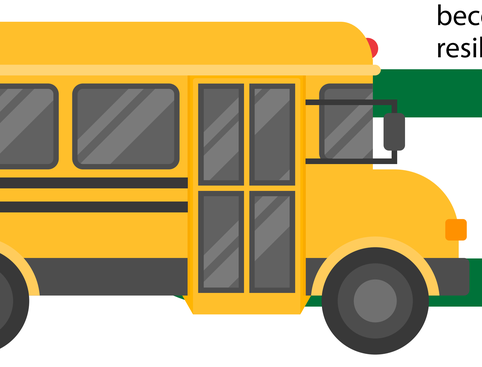
- Launched the Strata Energy Advisor and the Rental Apartment Retrofit Accelerator
- Launched the first of its kind in BC Climate Action Tax Exemption program
- Adopted the updated Saanich Active Transportation Plan
- Adopted the BC Zero Carbon Step Code, EL 4 (Zero Carbon) for new development
- Adopted the Saanich Building Retrofit Strategy

2024

- Adopted the Updated Urban Forest Strategy and Biodiversity and Conservation Strategy
- Secured funding for the Tillicum Green Infrastructure Project, with approximately 100 trees planting and bioswales

Ongoing

- Saanich owned building electrification upgrades to become 100% renewable and resilient
- Tree planting, natural area restoration and Pulling Together invasive plant program
- Build-out of the AAA active transportation network
- Considerable expansion of the EV fleet
- Considerable expansion of the Saanich owned public EV charging network



- Funded BCSEA CoolIt! Climate Champions and Safe Routes to School programs
- Completion of models for Cordova Bay and Douglas Creek Integrated Stormwater Management Plans with modelling for Colquitz underway.
- Achieved A- and A Grade City status for CDP (Climate Disclosure Program)

Saanich

Progress is not linear!

GHG emissions reductions take time and collaboration. 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.

The actions Saanich has completed since the 2020 Climate Plan will contribute to a cascade of positive impacts and GHG reductions for the years ahead!

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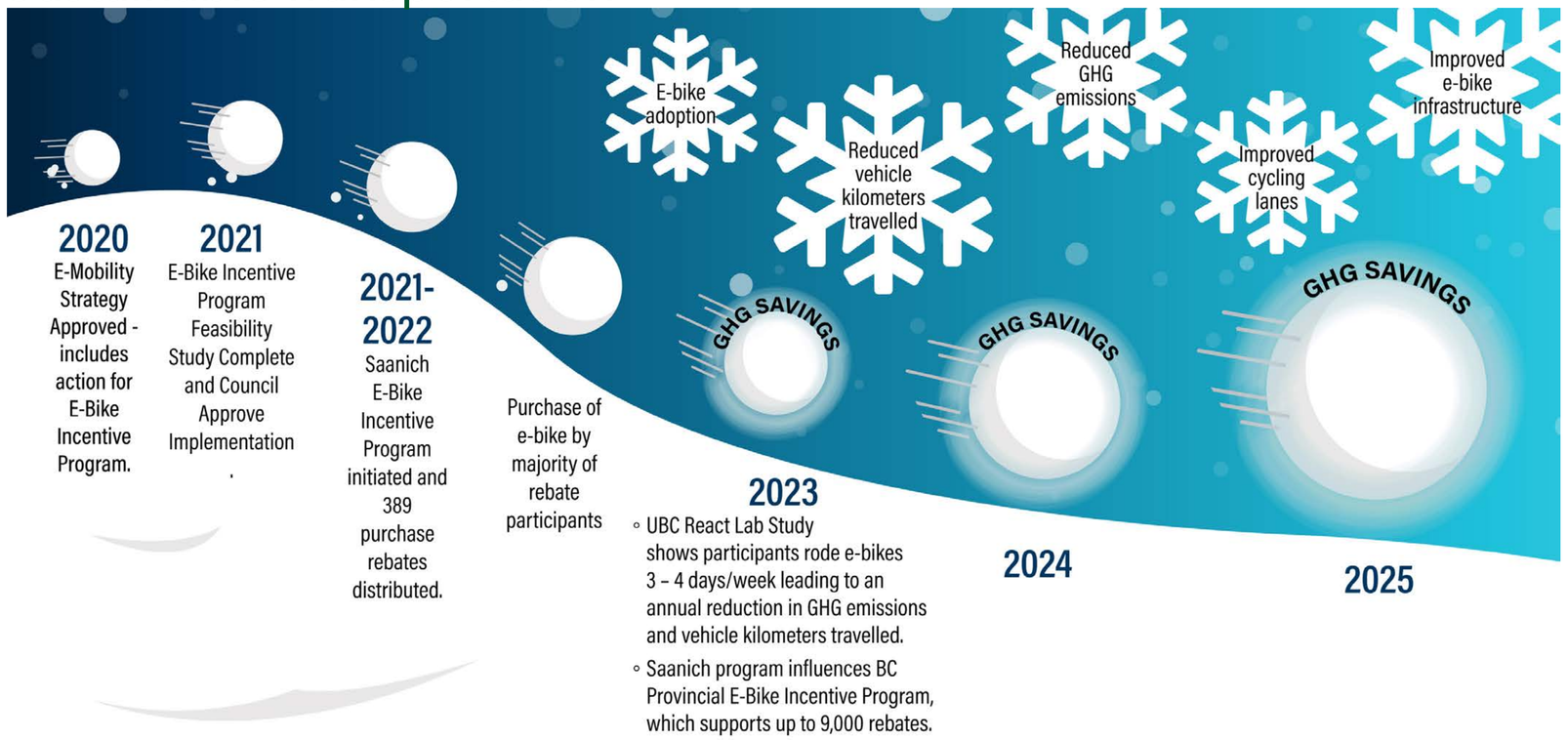
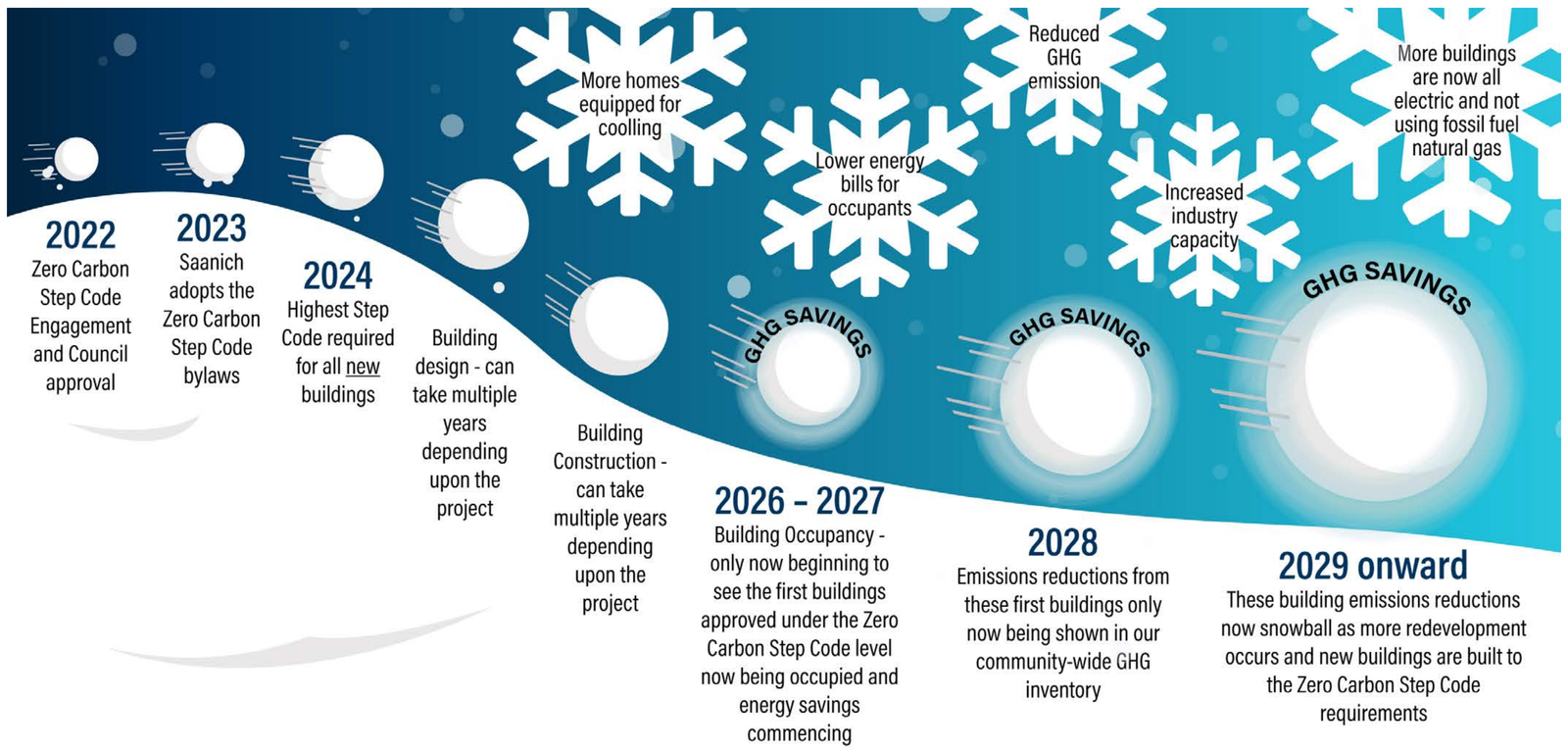
Sustainable Transportation



New Construction Standards



Overview

Why act on climate change?

1

IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

Acting on climate change provides us with opportunities to save money, create a diverse economy and lasting jobs, improve air quality, and protect our natural environment.

2

LEAD LOCALLY

194 countries, including Canada, have committed to reducing GHG emissions enough to keep global temperature rise below 2C. Local communities have an important part to play in meeting these goals.

3

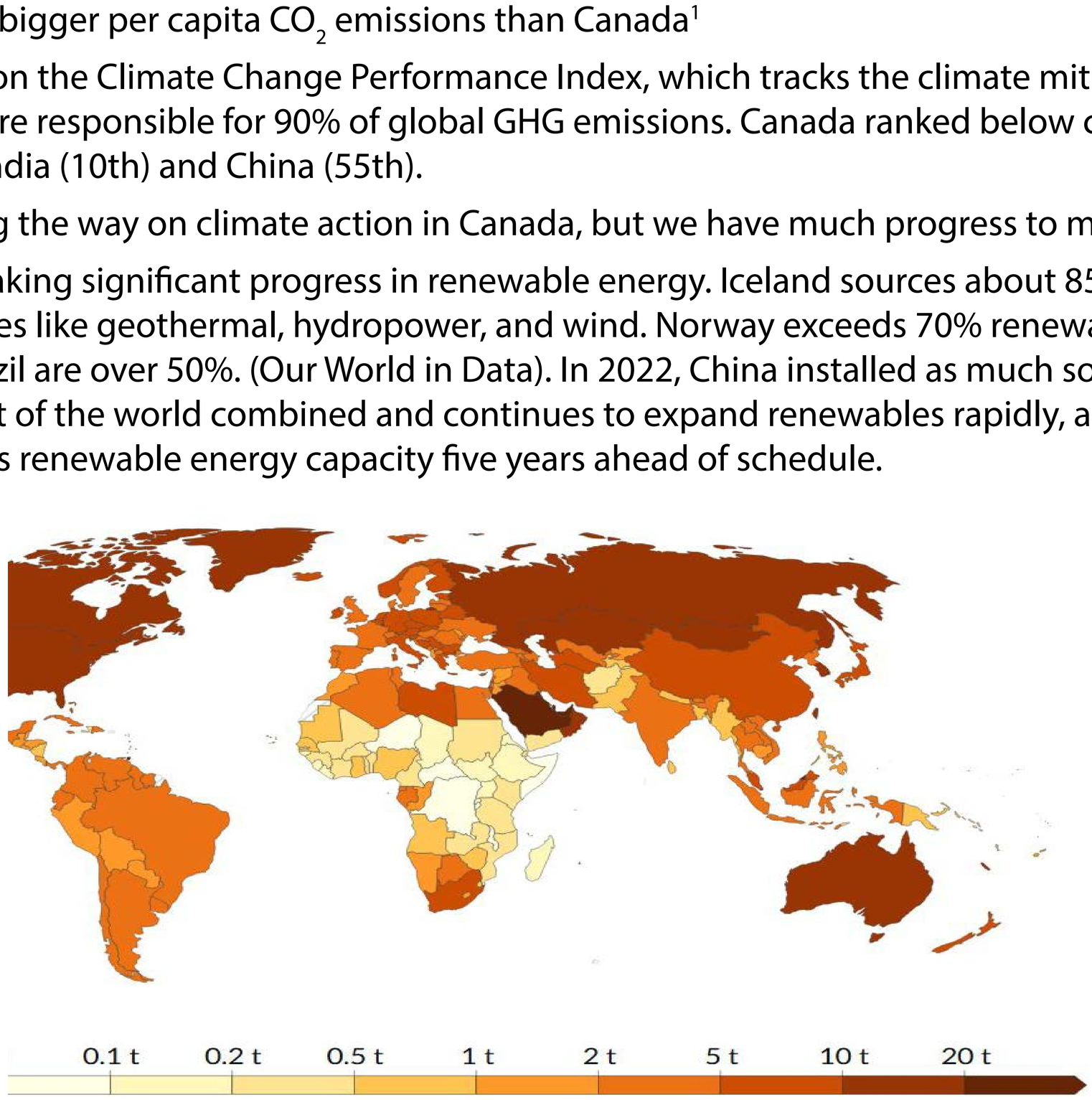
AVOID GRAVE RISKS

Failure to act will drive rising global temperatures, more extreme storms, rising sea levels, droughts, and other impacts that will have devastating impacts on our health, environment, economy, and future generations.

Why does it matter what Saanich residents do?

It may seem that Saanich has a small part to play in the grand scheme of climate change, and that the pollution from other countries is so significant that our efforts will be in vain. However, in 2025, of the 194 countries in the world and over 8.2 billion people in it:

- Only 13 countries had bigger per capita CO_2 emissions than Canada[1]
- Canada ranked 62/67 on the Climate Change Performance Index, which tracks the climate mitigation efforts of the 67 countries that are responsible for 90% of global GHG emissions. Canada ranked below countries like the United States (57th), India (10th) and China (55th).
- Generally, BC is leading the way on climate action in Canada, but we have much progress to make.
- Some countries are making significant progress in renewable energy. Iceland sources about 85% of its primary energy from renewables like geothermal, hydropower, and wind. Norway exceeds 70% renewable energy use, while Sweden and Brazil are over 50%. (Our World in Data). In 2022, China installed as much solar capacity nearly equal to the rest of the world combined and continues to expand renewables rapidly, achieving its goal to double the country's renewable energy capacity five years ahead of schedule.



Global CO2 emissions per capita, 2023[1]

1 Our World in Data

Overview

Why a climate plan update?

Most of the actions in the 2020 Climate Plan were focused on climate change mitigation, as a number of actions related to climate change adaptation, and consumption-based and embodied emissions required additional work and data to be further developed. There has been significant and accelerated changes over the last five years, including more extreme weather events and climate hazards, an update to regional climate data and increasing political and economic uncertainty. The updated plan will incorporate these changes to develop and detail the additional actions needed to achieve our climate goals and prepare for a changing climate.

What will the plan include?

The updated plan will target:

- Climate change mitigation (reducing our GHG emissions), and
- Climate change adaptation (being prepared and resilient to climate impacts) in our community.

The plan will prioritize:

- Respecting and integrating Indigenous rights and knowledge
- Building on the work of recent Saanich Plans and strategies
- Addressing climate equity
- Enhancing co-benefits of climate actions
- Accounting for major local and global changes, such as the affordability crisis and more extreme weather events

Focus areas

The plan is centered around 6 focus areas:

MOBILITY

BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE

FOOD & MATERIALS

ECOSYSTEMS

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

LEADERSHIP IN DISTRICT OPERATIONS

It will include actions under both our control and influence

Control	Direct – e.g. leading by example through our municipal infrastructure and operations, policy and regulations, etc.
	Indirect – e.g. through land use and transportation planning and policy, building standards, waste diversion and participation on regional decision making boards, etc.
Influence	Direct – e.g. policies, programs, incentives and partnerships with stakeholders, institutions, agencies and other levels of government, etc.
	Indirect – e.g. through advocacy, information sharing, municipally supported education programs, etc.

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Overview

What is the plan's approach?

Actions will be evaluated to maximize co-benefits and prevent negative impacts, for example, on equity, our ecosystems, and our health and well-being. We will be using the One Planet Living framework alongside an equity framework to help inform, evaluate and prioritize the potential actions and strategies identified for the Climate Plan. There are several local stakeholders such as shops, schools, businesses and non-profits also currently developing One Planet Action plans as part of the One Planet Saanich project – more information can be found at oneplanetsaanich.org.

One planet framework

- Health and happiness
- Equity and local economy
- Culture and community
- Land and nature
- Sustainable water
- Local and sustainable food
- Travel and transport
- Materials and products
- Zero waste
- Zero carbon energy

ONE PLANET LIVING | Bioregional | one earth

What will it mean for our quality of life?

Our quality of life does not need to decrease and, if anything, actions to address climate change leads to various co-benefits, including:

- Increased health and well-being
- Affordability (e.g., cheaper at-home heating bills, and more affordable frequent and reliable transportation options).
- Future cost savings (e.g., avoiding the high costs of climate-induced damage)
- Improved comfort and convenience
- Economic development
- Protected ecosystems
- Being more resilient
- and more!

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Saanich

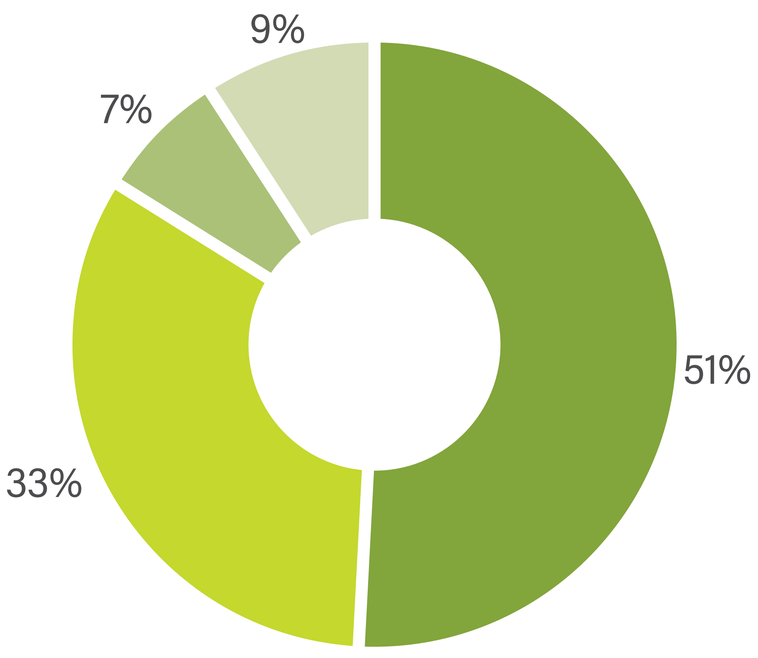
Measurement

What we measure

We measure our climate impact by calculating the greenhouse gases (GHG) we emit as a community within our municipal boundaries – our Territorial GHG Emissions Inventory. The majority of our emissions are from transportation, followed by buildings and then a smaller proportion from waste.

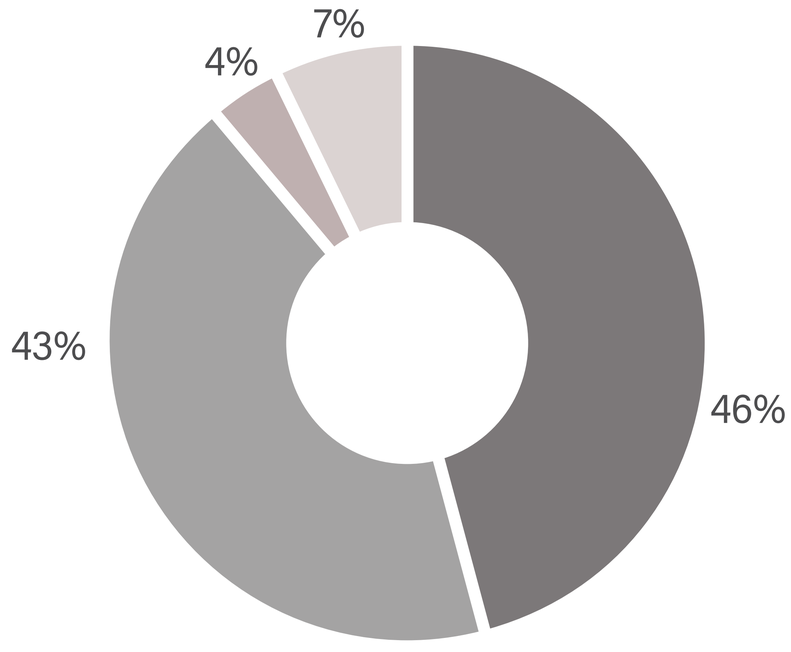
However, there are also climate impacts from the products we consume, like our food and clothing, which may have been produced and processed outside of Saanich and imported for our use. This is called our Consumption Based GHG Emissions Inventory – and it measures the GHG emissions from all of the goods and services that the Saanich Community consumes, regardless of where those goods and services are produced. While the Climate Plan's new targets apply to territorial emissions, the plan will also address our consumption based emissions.

2007 Baseline Territorial GHG Inventory
= 495,384 tonnes carbon
= 4.4 tonnes carbon/person



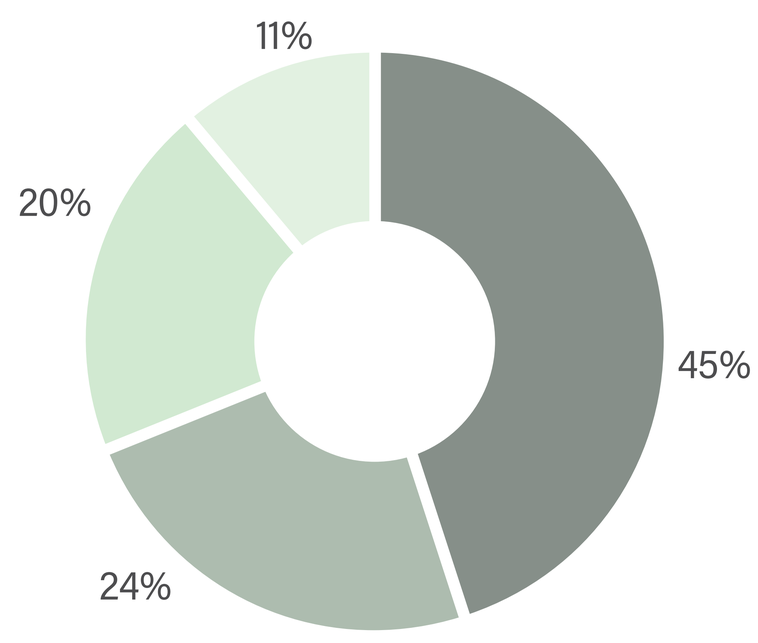
- 51% Transportation
- 33% Buildings
- 7% Waste
- 9% Other
  Industrial Processes, and Product Use (IPPU)
  Livestock, Land and Agriculture (AFOLU)

2023 Territorial GHG Inventory
= 481,000 tonnes carbon
= 3.8 tonnes carbon/person



- 46% Transportation
- 43% Buildings
- 4% Waste
- 7% Other
  Industrial Processes, and Product Use (IPPU)
  Livestock, Land and Agriculture (AFOLU)

2021 Consumption Based GHG Inventory
= 1,119,000 tonnes carbon
= 9 tonnes carbon/person



- 45% Transportation
- 24% Buildings
- 20% Food
- 11% Consumables & Waste

Embodied emissions

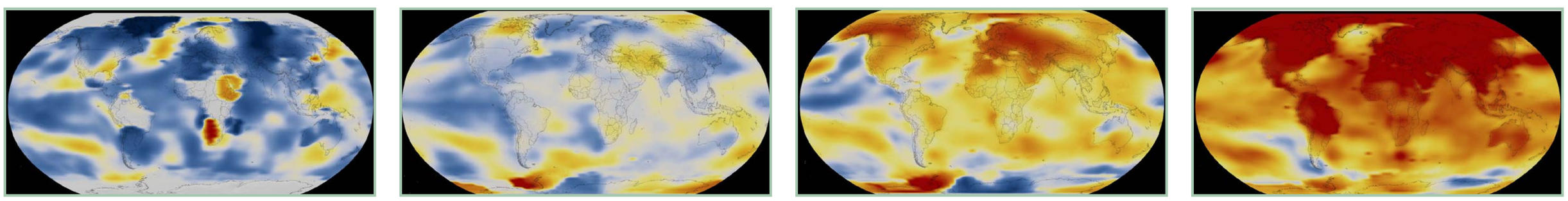
The update will also include targets for embodied emissions. Embodied emissions refer to the total amount of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions associated with the production and lifecycle of a building material or product. This includes the emissions required for the production, construction, maintenance and end-of-life disposal or recycling of a product.

Climate projections & sea level rise

Climate changes

Globally, human-caused climate change is affecting weather extremes in every region across the globe, resulting in widespread loss and damage. In Canada alone, climate change will result in $25 billion in losses in 2025 relative to a stable-climate scenario, which is equal to 50% of projected GDP growth for this year (Canadian Climate Institute).

Earth's Global Temperature Indicator (NASA)

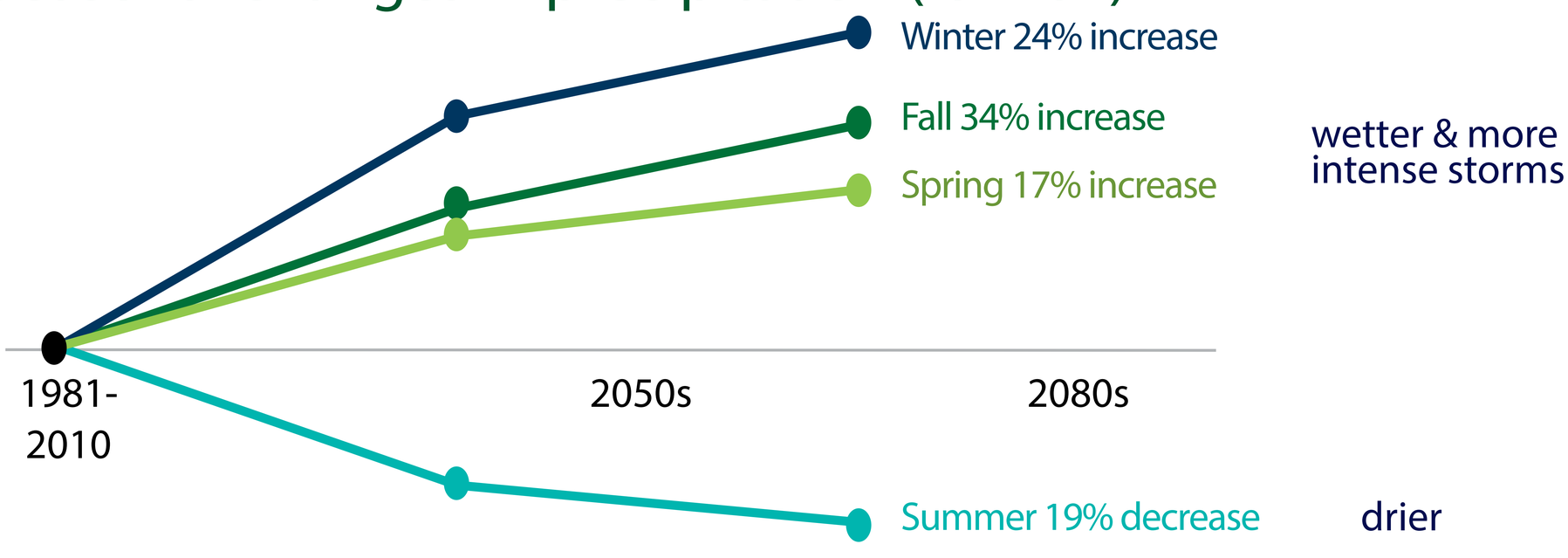


1890 1970 2000 2025 NASA

Locally we are already seeing increasing summer temperatures and extreme heat events, summer droughts, and larger rainfall events in the winter and shoulder seasons. These, along with sea level rise, are projected to increase.

For details see Capital Regional District, Climate Projections for the Capital Region 2024 and Coastal Flood Inundation Mapping Project 2021 (available on the CRD website.)

Seasonal changes in precipitation (rainfall)



Changes in temperature and sea-level

Summer Days	Regional Hottest Daytime Temperature	Freezing Days	Sea Level Rise
40 above 25°C	32°c	27 below 0°C	1 meters
2041-2070	2041-2070	2041-2070	2100
12	29°c	60	0.5
1981-2010	1981-2010	1981-2010	2050

Climate Projections for the Capital Region (CRD, 2024)[1]

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Saanich

Climate projections & sea level rise

What are the impacts?

Climate change causes many cascading impacts to the systems we rely on, including:

- **Human health**
  e.g. hot summers & forest fires = heat exposure, disease and respiratory illnesses.
- **Buildings and infrastructure**
  e.g. increased rainfall and storms = flooding, erosion, slope instability, property damage.
  e.g. increased heat = need for cooling.
- **Ecosystems and species**
  e.g. changes in temperature and rainfall patterns = increased invasive species and changes in species survivability and decline of biodiversity.
- **Food and agriculture**
  e.g. extreme weather causing crop failures locally and elsewhere, causing rising costs and supply issues at our grocery stores.
- **Economy and livelihoods**
  e.g. rising insurance costs and decreased insurance coverage after extreme weather events, increased costs for responding to and rebuilding after wildfires and floods, displacement of people and communities.

Rising waters

What could happen at 1 meter of sea level rise?

In the Capital Region, especially during storm surges, we could see:

- Flooding in Gyro Park and neighbouring blocks
- Flooding in parts of the Saanich Gorge neighbourhood
- Flooding in Victoria Inner Harbour marina
- Overwhelm of stormwater infrastructure
- Saltwater infiltration to groundwater wells e.g. in Salt Spring Island

Renewable energy

RENEWABLE ENERGY CAN INCLUDE:
Hydro electricity
Solar
Wind
Geothermal
Bioenergy
Wave & tidal Power

What is renewable energy?

Renewable energy is energy derived from natural processes (e.g. sunlight and wind) that are replenished at a faster rate than they are consumed.

BC Hydro: hydro electricity purchased from BC Hydro is currently 98% renewable. It mainly uses hydroelectric generation – which harnesses the power of moving or falling water to produce energy. This means that Saanich residents who use electricity for all of their home's energy needs, including space and water heating, are already living in a 98% renewable home! BC Hydro's future electricity generation will include more solar and wind energy.

Biomass energy is the creation of heat and/or power from biofuel such as wood, agricultural crops, aquatic plants and animal wastes. Biomass technologies are generally considered to be renewable and carbon neutral due to the short processing cycle combined with replanting. It is important to note that biomass sources are limited globally, which restricts the potential for Renewable Diesel and Renewable Natural Gas to be more than a transition fuel or saved for hard to electrify sectors.

Solar photovoltaic (PV) transforms the sun's energy into electricity for local use or selling to the grid. Currently, nearly 500 homes and are producing solar electricity and are "net metering" customers with BC Hydro and there are considerable grants available. Learn more at bchydro.com/netmetering

Solar thermal captures the sun's energy as heat, typically for domestic water heating. Currently, at least 39 Saanich households are using solar thermal systems.

Geothermal energy is the use of heat stored in the Earth to generate electricity, and boost efficiency. A ground source heat pump is a common technology used to capture geothermal energy.

Wind energy harnesses the kinetic energy from the wind and converts it into electrical energy through wind turbines. BC has almost 700 MegaWatts of wind energy, supplying nearly 2% of our demand with large on-shore wind farms. Small scale generation (up to 1 MegaWatt) is successful in urban settings in Europe.

Wave power is designed to capture the energy found near the surface of the water. BC has some of the best wave energy potential in the world with two projects on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Tidal power is the energy generated from power found in ocean tidal currents and the use of tidal height differences. BC got an early lead in tidal development with the Race Rocks Tidal Project in 2006, just off Vancouver Island.

Transportation

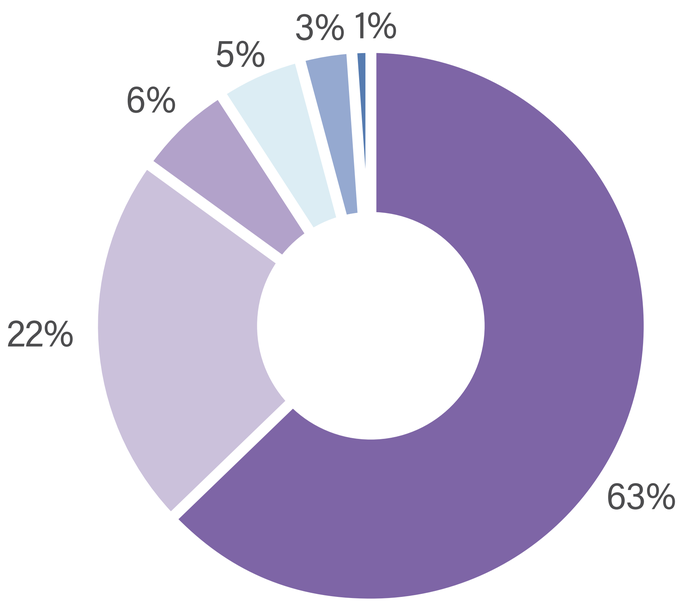
Transportation is the largest source of GHG emissions in Saanich, responsible for 46% of our total emissions in 2023. The majority of transportation GHG emissions come from the use of private vehicles with significant contribution also from air travel.

GHG Emissions from Transportation (CBEI)

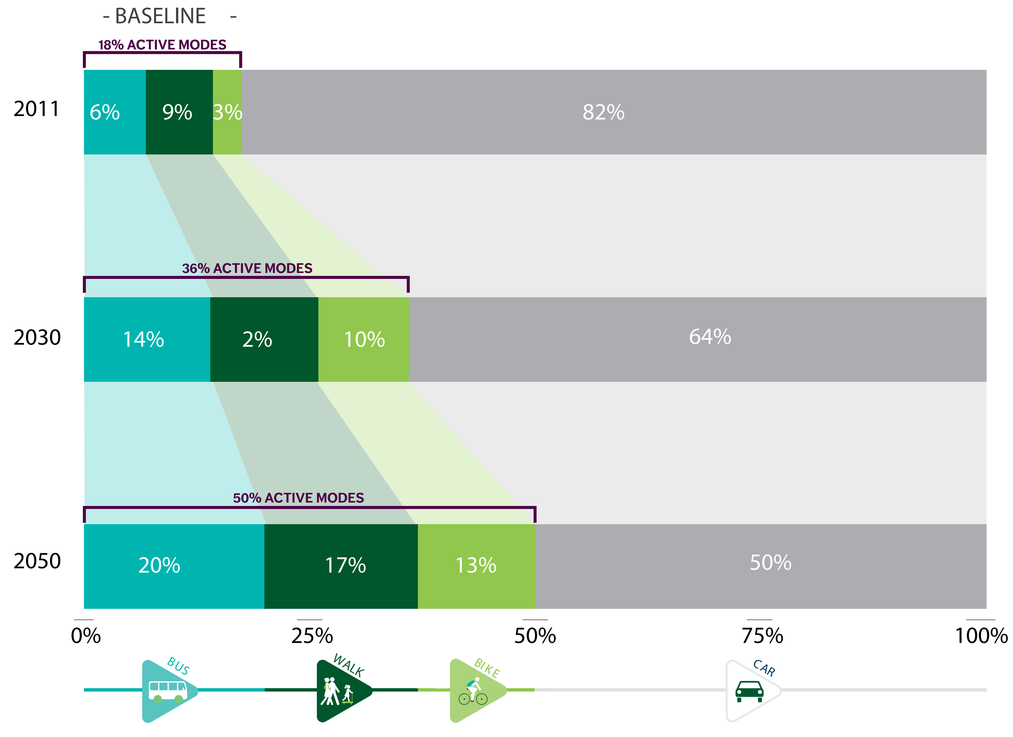
= 505,000 tonnes carbon

= 4.0 tonnes carbon/person

- 63% Private Vehicles
- 22% Air Travel
- 6% Commercial Vehicles
- 5% Off road
- 3% Ferry Travel
- 1% Roads



Mode Share Targets in Saanich



Actions that decrease our transportation GHG emissions not only reduce our climate impact, they also improve our health and equity, minimize noise and air pollution and improve our experience of moving through our community.

15-minute community

Sustainable land use, delivered through compact, complete communities means individuals are able to travel shorter distances to meet their needs; this is a core principal behind Saanich's transition to a 15-minute community. Compact, 15-minute communities greatly increase the ability to use active transportation and transit and reduce car dependence.

saanich.ca/climateplan

Transportation

Active transportation

Walking and biking not only reduce our GHG emissions, they also save us money, help us stay fit and healthy, and allow us to more easily interact with friends, neighbours, and local businesses. Those who cycle free up road and parking space for those using vehicles, including for goods and service deliveries and emergency vehicles. Businesses along bike lanes benefit from more visitors.

Saanich is improving the active transportation network by developing more sidewalks and cycling facilities for all ages and abilities as well as improving accessibility for those with mobility challenges. Read the Active Transportation Plan: Moving Saanich Forward to learn more: saanich.ca/movingsaanichfwd

Electric bikes

E-bikes in Saanich are replacing vehicle trips and enabling commuters to travel further distances and with more cargo than they could with traditional bikes.

There are other types of e-mobility devices too, such as electric-powered mopeds and scooters, electric powered mobility devices, electric scooters and more!

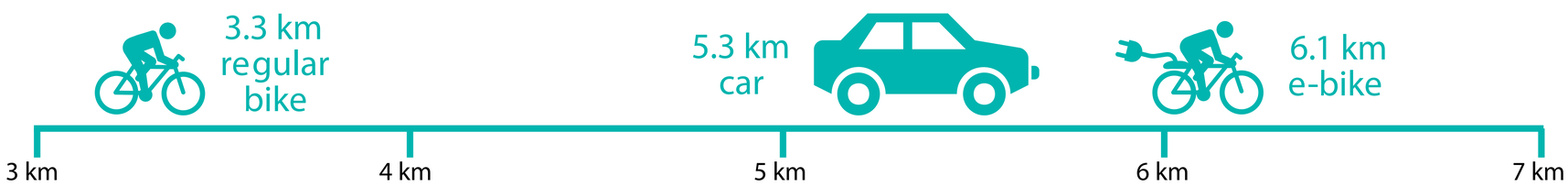
Electric vehicles

Electric vehicles (EVs) are quiet and inexpensive to operate compared to internal combustion engine vehicles, and can be powered by low carbon, renewable energy. Thanks to superior fuel efficiency and low maintenance, they also cost less over their lifetimes. Some models today can go over 400km on a single charge and fueling can be done at home or any of the growing number of charging stations in the region (plugshare.com).

Public transit

Public transit can move more people using less space and resources than if everyone uses their own car, and is essential for moving people efficiently in urban areas.

BC Transit is already introducing dedicated bus lanes and operating electric buses in the region.



Resea rch shows the average e-bike trip distan ce in other communities is 6. 1 km. In Saanich, the average trip length by regular bike is 3.3 km, and by car is 5.3 km . E-bikes can replace typical car trips more easily than regular bikes, and therefore can reduce more GHG emissions .

saanich.ca/climateplan

Transportation

The 2020 Climate Plan includes the following strategies, which each contain various actions. For detailed progress, see the 2024 Climate Plan Report Card (saanich.ca/climateplan).

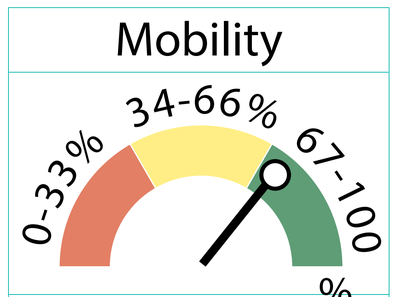
Mobility and e-mobility strategies:

M1- Invest in active transportation (7 actions)

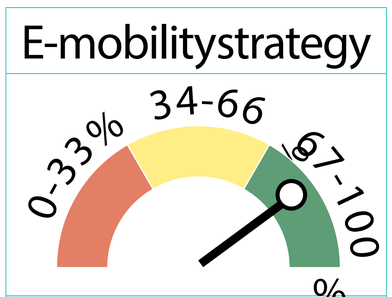
M2- Prioritize transit-supportive policies and practices (8 actions)

M3- Accelerate electric and renewable mobility (7 actions)

E-Mobility Strategies (38 actions)



71% of actions are Ongoing/Achieved/On track



79% of actions are Ongoing/Achieved/On track

What transportation-related actions would you like to see in the updated Climate Plan?

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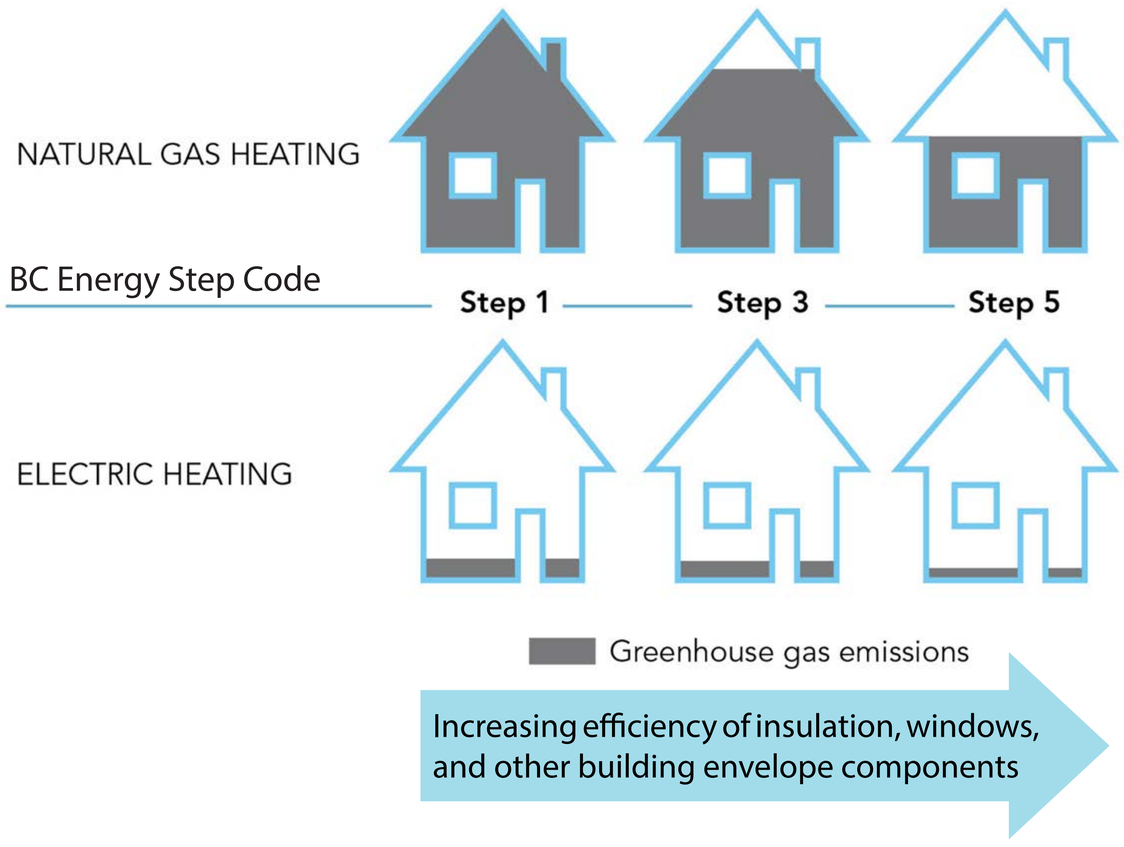
Buildings and infrastructure

The impact of our buildings

Buildings and infrastructure are the second largest source of GHG emissions in Saanich, responsible for 42% of our total emissions in 2023 (205,854 tCO_2e).

Low carbon, renewable energy homes



Fossil fuels are the most GHG intensive heating fuels, and FortisBC natural gas is the largest source of GHG emissions in our buildings and one of the largest sources of emissions community-wide. Electricity has the lowest GHG emissions, as 98% of electricity in BC is from renewable hydroelectricity.

Making energy efficiency improvements to your home, such as upgrading insulation, windows, and draftproofing, and choosing efficient space and water heating systems, lighting, and appliances, can make a home more comfortable with more affordable energy bills. Switching to electricity for home heating is the single most effective way to reduce GHG emissions from your home - and a heat pump is the most efficient way to use energy for home heating and cooling.

A climate friendly home

- uses an electric heat pump for both heating and cooling
- has an induction stove for faster, safer and cleaner cooking
- has an electric hot water tank or heat pump hot water heater
- is well-insulated and draft-free for greater comfort and lower energy bills
- has no reliance on fossil fuels such as natural gas, propane or oil
- is set-up for EV charging

Embedded vs. operating carbon in residential buildings

Operational carbon refers to emissions from a building's heating, cooling, lighting, and appliances, while embodied carbon includes emissions from materials and construction, including future retrofits and demolition. The key to reducing these emissions is to build or renovate our homes to high efficiency standards and build them to last in a changing climate.

Buildings and infrastructure

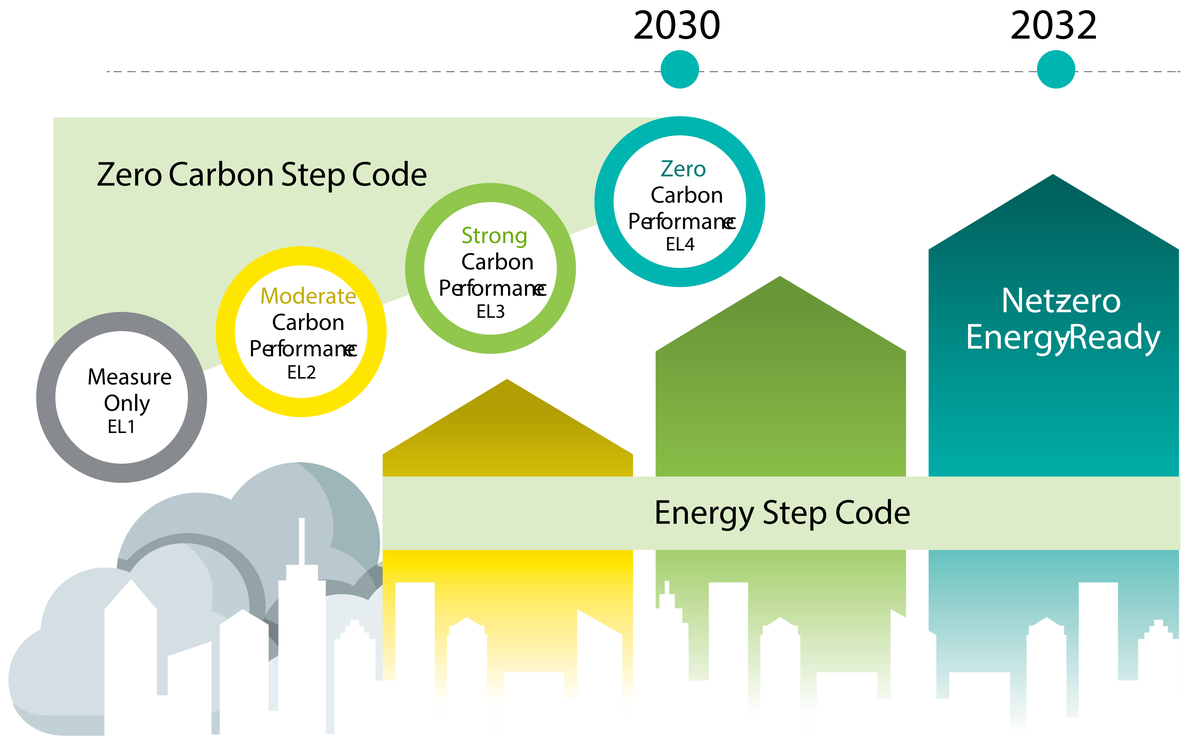
Building right

When shopping for a new car, you can easily compare fuel efficiencies. If you're buying a new home, how do you know how big your energy bills will be or how comfortable you will be living there?

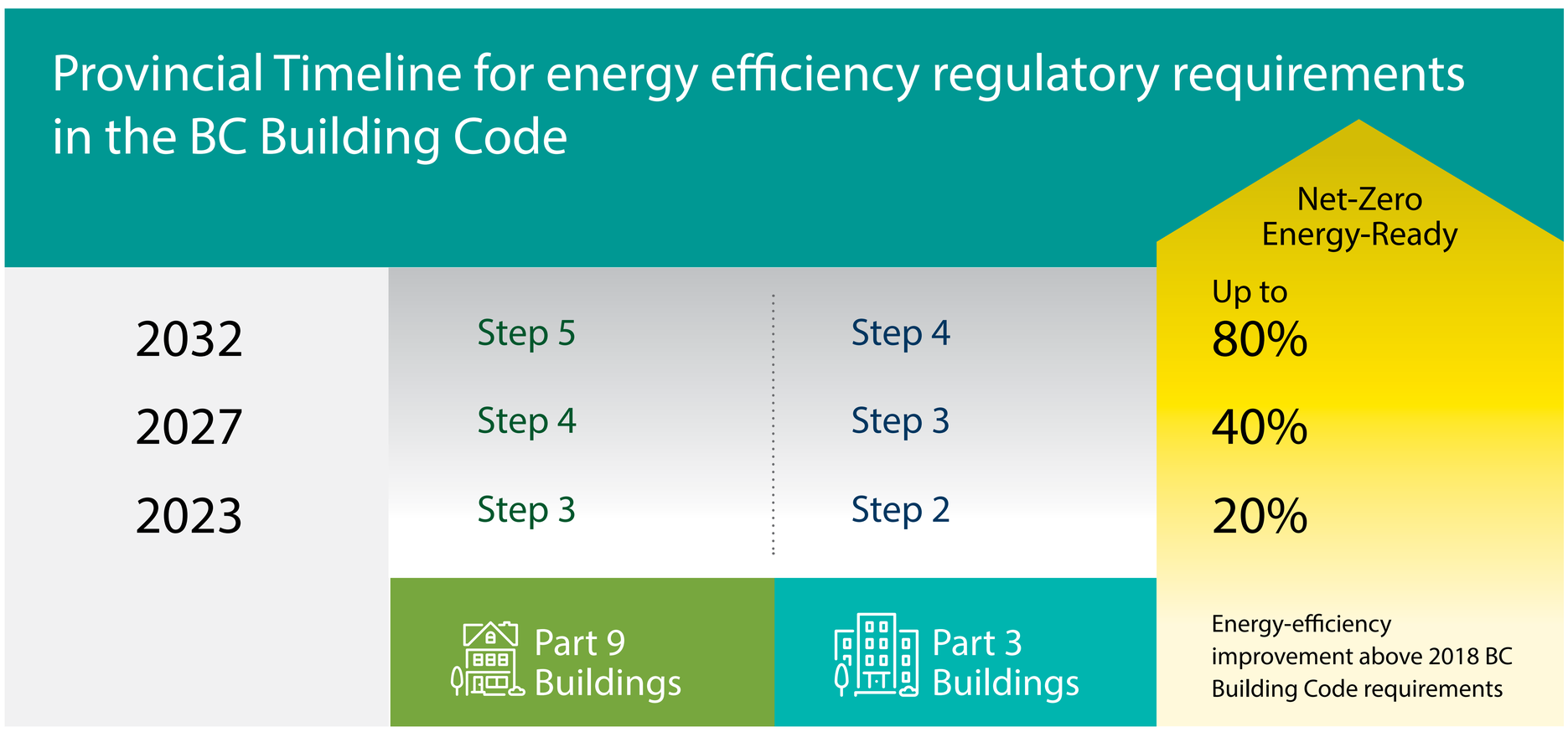
Only a small portion of buildings in Saanich have been built to a certified sustainable standard with an energy label that helps us understand its performance. New Provincial Building Code legislation is regulating the performance and GHG emissions from new buildings:

BC Zero Carbon Step Code regulates the GHG emissions from new buildings. For a building to meet the Zero Carbon standard (Emissions Level 4), most will use electricity for all space and hot water heating.

BC Energy Step Code regulates the energy efficiency of new buildings. There are up to five steps depending upon the building type.



Gradually incorporating the step code into the BC Building Code. Source: energystepcode.ca



Provincial timeline for Energy Efficiency Requirements in the BC Building Code. Source: energystepcode.ca

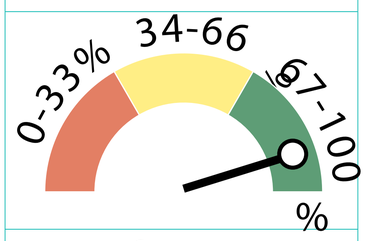
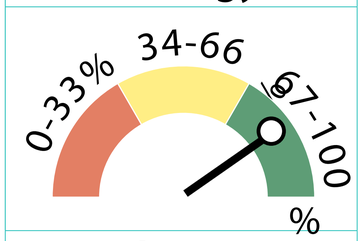
The District of Saanich, alongside many other local governments in the region, across Vancouver Island and lower mainland have adopted Zero Carbon Step Code Emissions Level 4 to ensure that all new buildings are built to minimize GHG emissions.

Renovating for energy efficiency & renewables

The District of Saanich and Province of BC have rebates available for building energy retrofits and upgrades including rebates for people who live in multi-unit buildings, renters, and low income households. Visit saanich.ca/rebates.

Buildings and infrastructure

The 2020 Climate Plan includes the following strategies, which each contain various actions. For detailed progress, see the 2024 Climate Plan Report Card (saanich.ca/climateplan).

Buildings and Infrastructure	Retrofit Strategy
	
89% of actions are Ongoing/Achieved/ On track	80% of actions are Ongoing/Achieved/On track

Building and Infrastructure and Building Retrofit Strategies:

B1- Require efficient, net-zero carbon new construction (7 actions)

B2- Accelerate efficiency and renewable energy upgrades in existing buildings (17 actions)

B3- Increase energy resilience and renewable energy supply (4 actions)

B4- Transition towards a climate-ready building stock (6 actions)

B5- Increase the resilience of Saanich's infrastructure and assets (5 actions)

B6- Prepare for long-term sea level rise (3 actions)

Building Retrofit Strategies (46 actions)

What actions related to buildings and infrastructure would you like to see in the updated Climate Plan?

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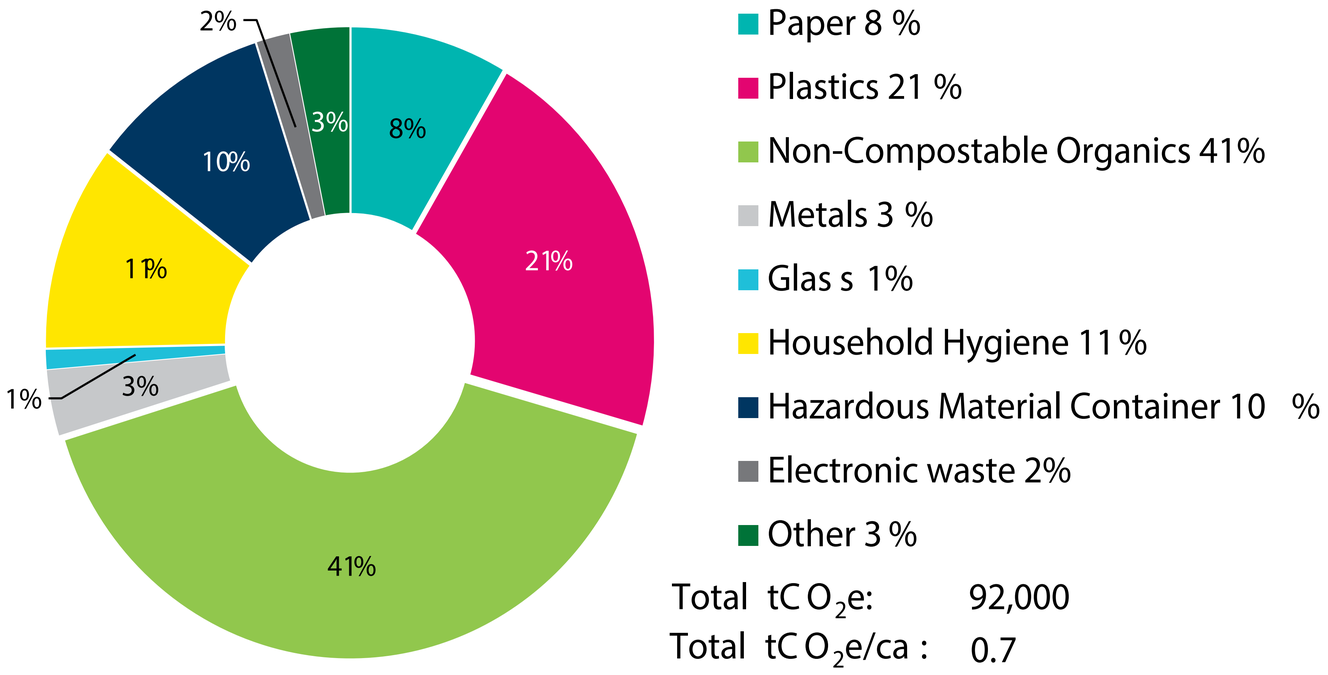
Consumption & waste

What we buy and throw away matters

Saanich residents make choices about consumer goods and waste every day. The materials in the products we buy, their packaging, and how we dispose of them when they're no longer of use to us all have implications for our GHG emissions.

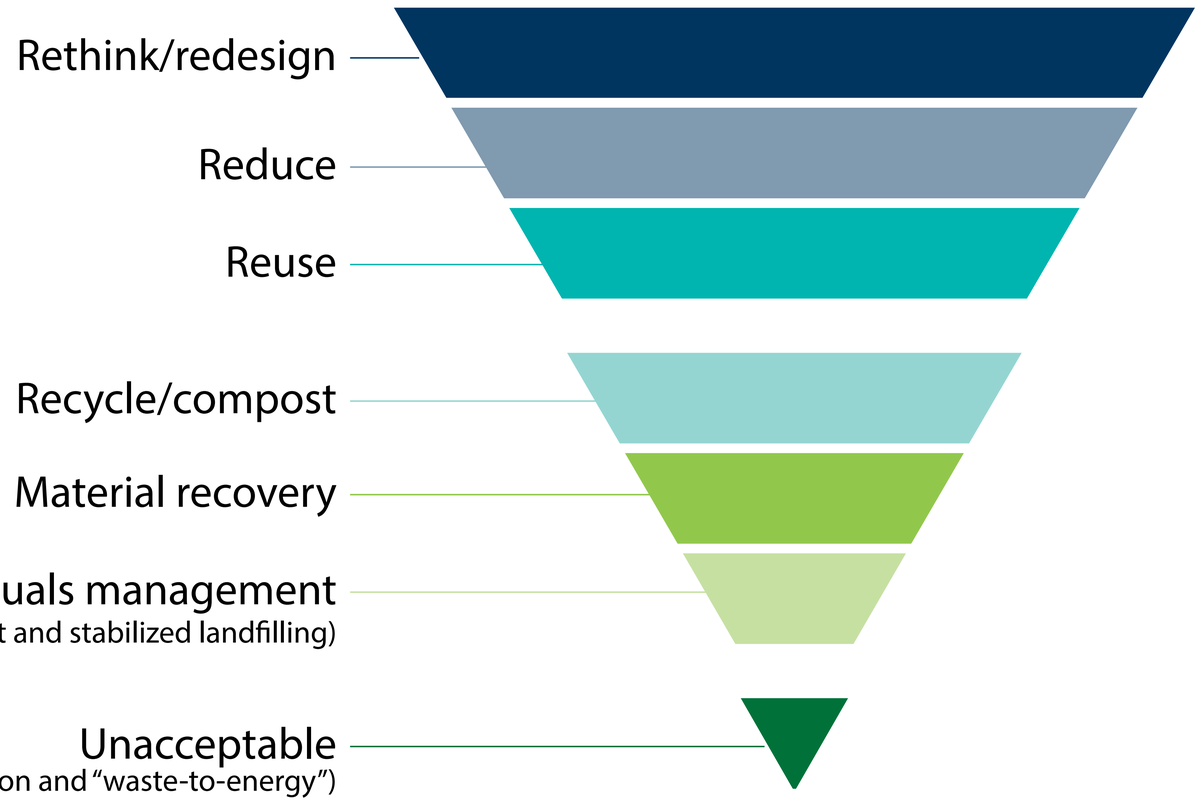


CB EI of Consumables & Waste by Material Type for t he District of Saanich, 2021

GHG emissions from products we buy are not currently counted in Saanich's Territorial GHG Inventory or our 2050 targets unless the products are made in Saanich. However, if we use a Consumption-Based GHG Emissions Inventory, which considers the emissions that result from the production, transport, and disposal of goods consumed in Saanich regardless of where they are made, our community emissions nearly double, and consumables and waste account for 11% of our GHG emissions.

Simple tips to reduce waste

- Rent, borrow, or share rather than buy your own (e.g. car sharing, the library, tool libraries, etc.)
- Repair rather than buy new (learn more at repaircafe.org)
- Reduce throw-away packaging by bringing your own containers & bags
- When you need to buy, consider the lifecycle of the product, and when it makes sense look for:
  - well-made, long lasting products
  - minimal or no packaging
  - recycled content and ease of recycling/ composting the product
  - third-party certification for eco-friendliness
  - energy efficient and renewable energy design
- Take part in the second-hand economy using the many online tools or local businesses available in the region.
- If a product is not useful for someone else when you're done with it, recycle or compost it. Check out myrecylopedia.ca for tips about how to recycle just about everything and how to reduce and reuse, too!



The Zero Waste Hierarchy from the Zero Waste International Alliance

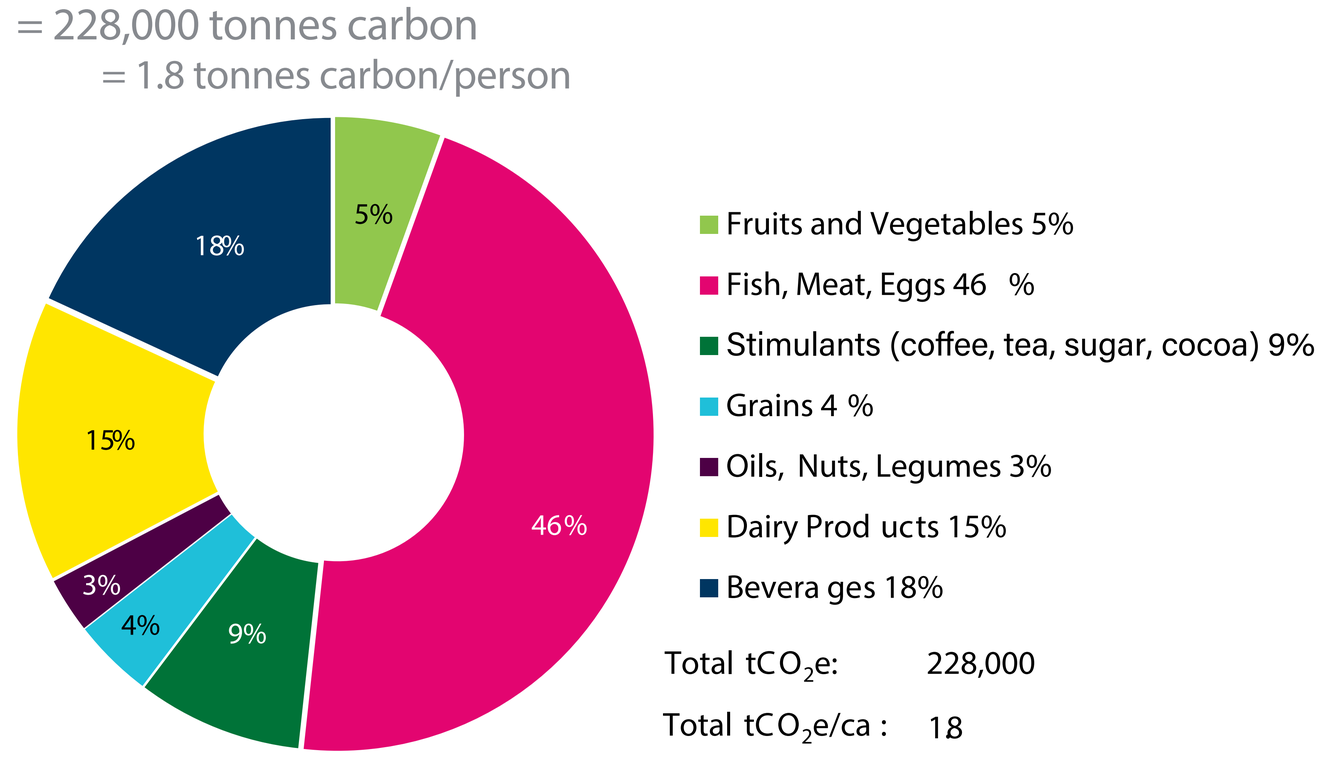
saanich.ca/climateplan

Food & materials

Food choices impact climate

Food is not just a basic human need, but also plays an important role in culture and enjoyment of life. Our food choices can have a big impact on our household's climate impact. According to Saanich's 2021 CBEI inventory, food accounted for 20% of our total consumption emissions – this includes all the food purchased by residents and businesses in Saanich, whether it is grown and processed in Saanich or elsewhere in the world.

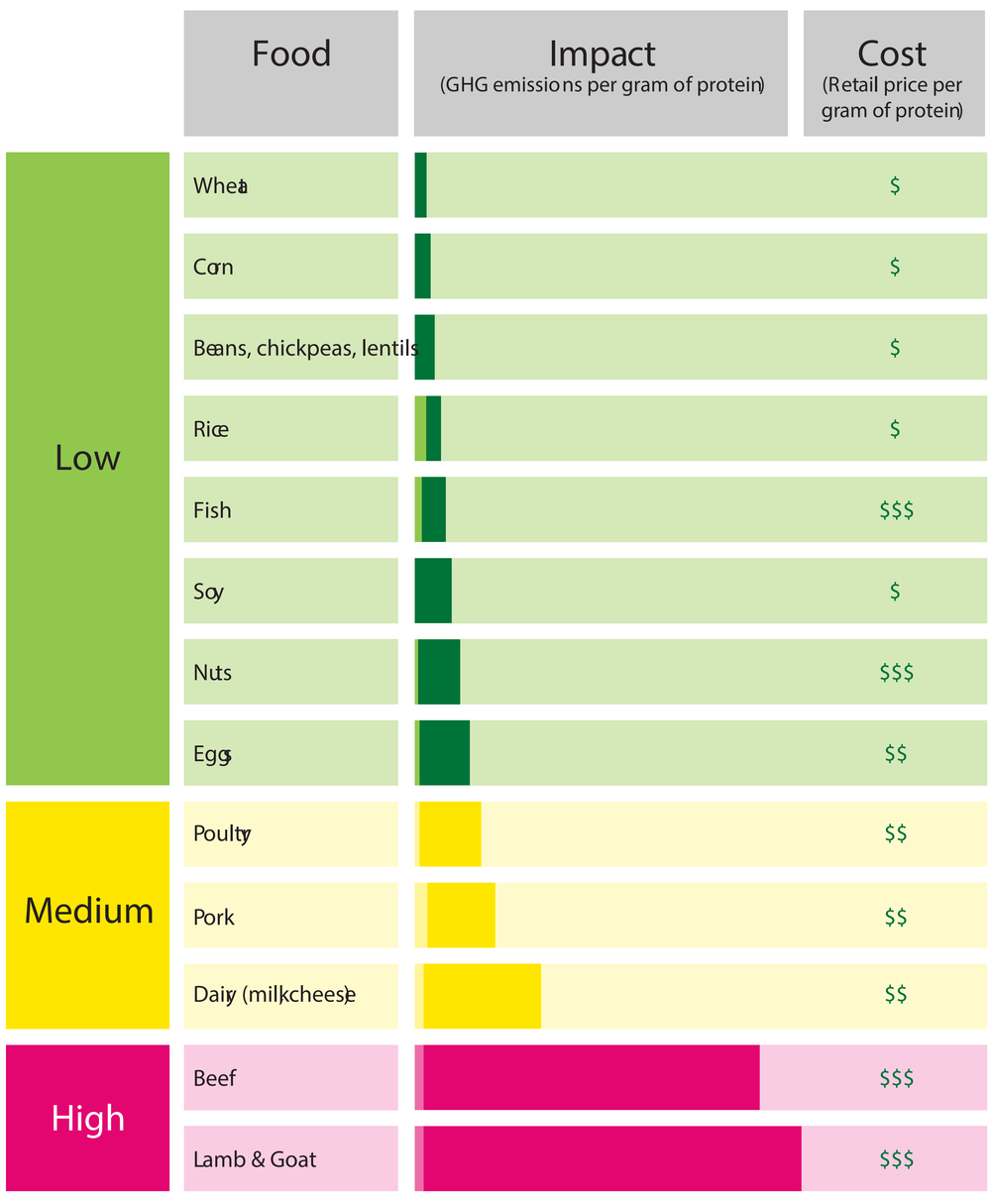
In Saanich, the biggest sources of food GHG emissions are related to our food choice, not its transportation. Choosing lower carbon foods can significantly reduce your household's carbon footprint.



CBEI of Food by Type for the District of Saanich , 2021

How to shrink our GHGs from food

Choose low carbon foods



GHG Impact of protein food choices. Source: World Resource Institute.

Avoid food waste

On average Canadians create over 50 million tonnes of food waste every year, however 60% of that is avoidable through proper planning and awareness.

Compost, not landfill

In landfills, organics decompose anaerobically, producing methane, a GHG 28 to 39 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Composting food waste aerobically (with oxygen) prevents this creation of methane.

Support local food and farmers

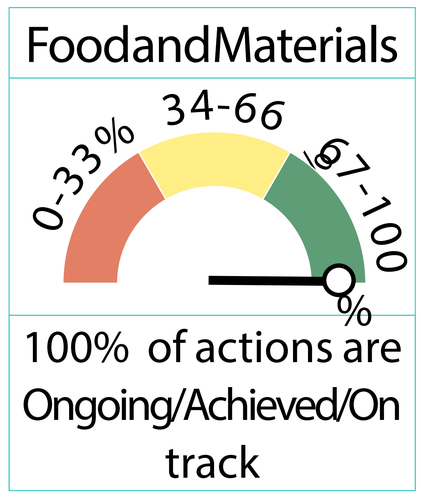
Buying local food reduces GHGs from transportation (i.e. food miles) and supports Saanich's local food economy, which is home to farms, community gardens, farm markets, backyard chickens, and more. Visit saanich.ca/food for more information.

Cook with renewable energy (i.e. electricity)

saanich.ca/climateplan

Consumption, Waste, Food & Materials

The 2020 Climate Plan includes the following strategies, which each contain various actions. For detailed progress, see the 2024 Climate Plan Report Card (saanich.ca/climateplan).



Food and Materials Strategies:

F1- Reduce the climate impact of food production and consumption (3 actions)

F2- Move towards "lighter living" in Saanich (7 actions)

F3- Improve the resilience and self-sufficiency of the local food system (4 actions)

Specifically, the Climate Plan identified an action for Saanich to develop a Zero Waste Strategy. This Strategy is underway and due to be completed by late 2025/early 2026. It will help to identify the actions needed to address our consumption and drastically reduce the amount of waste our community generates and sends to the landfill. Learn more at saanich.ca/zerowaste.'

What actions related to consumption, waste, food and materials would you like to see in the updated Climate Plan?

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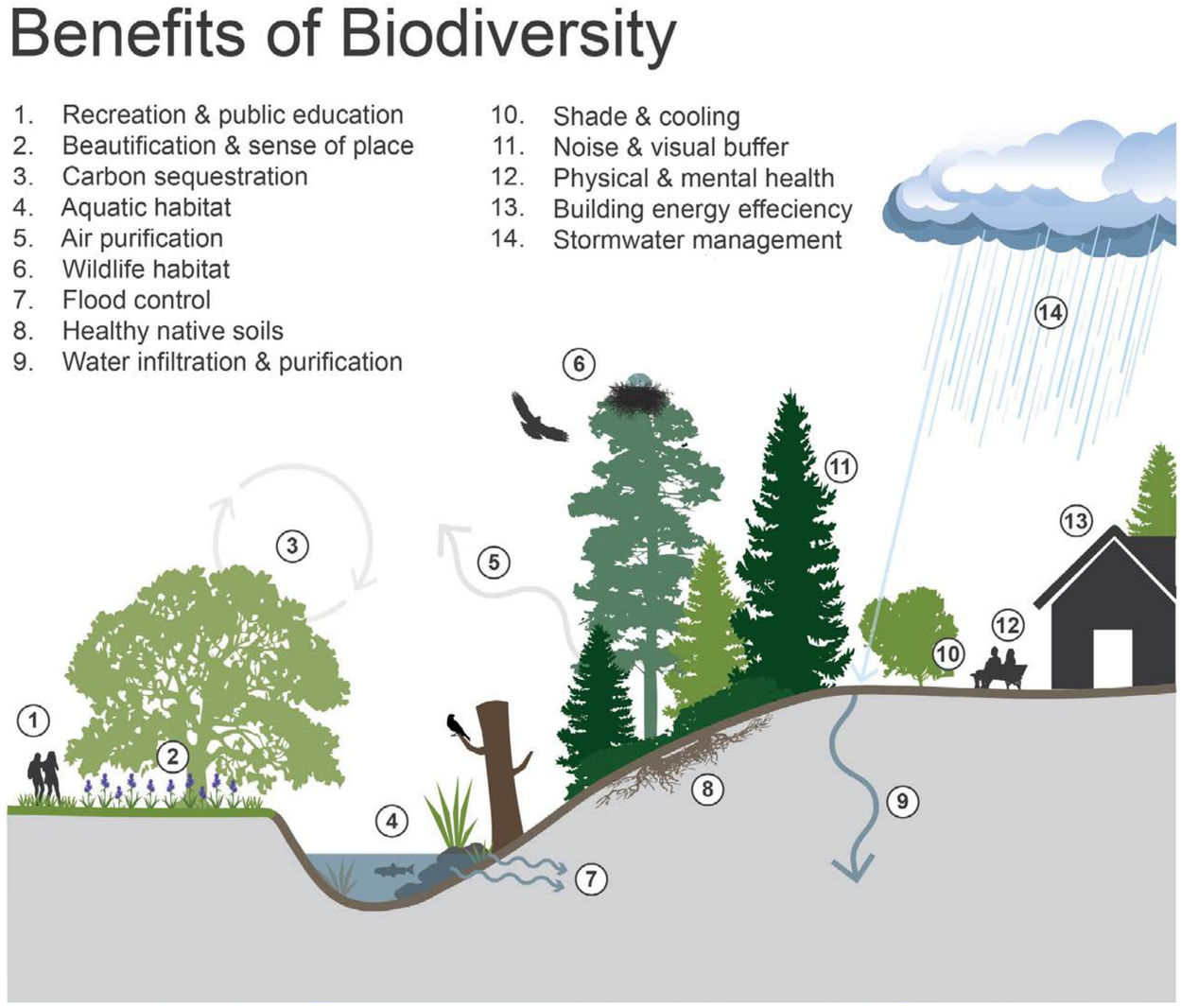
Ecosystems

Saanich is home to many ecosystems and natural areas that provide critical ecosystem services and benefits to our community.

Ecosystems and natural areas can serve as greenhouse (GHG) sinks, helping to mitigate and protect us from climate changes. However, climate changes and human impact threaten these services and have a negative impact on community-wellbeing. Protecting these areas helps to keep our communities healthy and resilient.

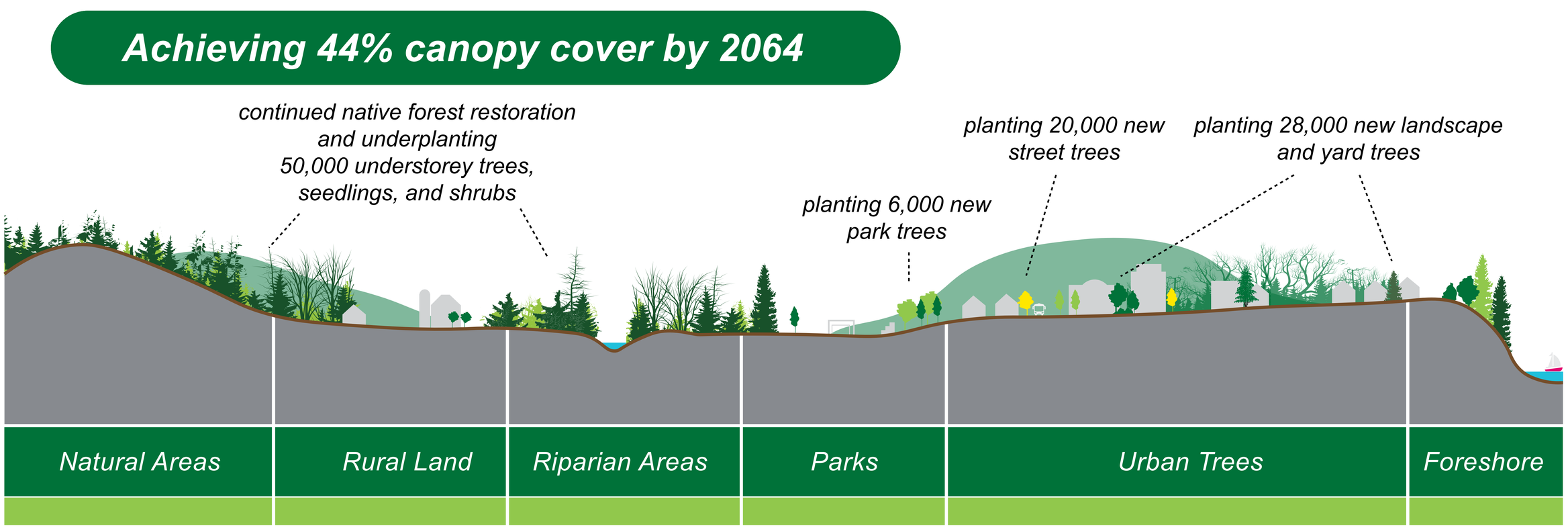


Saanich plans and policies aim to protect Saanich's ecosystems, natural areas and assets as our community grows, some of these include:

The Official Community Plan focuses population growth into centres and corridors so that natural areas are preserved and it contains land use strategies that support ecosytems

The Biodiversity and Conservation Strategy: focuses on stewardship of private and public lands and park management and restoration

The Urban Forest Strategy: offers a long term plan to achieve a sustainable urban forest in Saanich



Indigenous Peoples have a deep connection to the land, water, and ecosystems that are central to their cultures, languages, and livelihoods. Indigenous knowledge is critical for navigating and adapting to climate change. In BC, First Nations have been leaders in climate action through ecosystem monitoring projects, developing renewable energy projects, whole-community building electrification projects, and supporting ecosystem health and biodiversity, among many other initiatives.

In recognizing the strong connection between reconciliation and our climate work, the updated Climate Plan will centre respect for Indigenous rights and knowledge and tangible support for Indigenous priorities and leadership as they relate to climate action.

saanich.ca/climateplan

Ecosystems

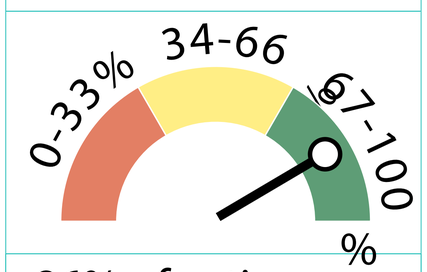
The 2020 Climate Plan includes the following strategies, which each contain various actions. For detailed progress, see the 2024 Climate Plan Report Card (saanich.ca/climateplan).

Ecosystems Strategies:

E1- Enable natural systems to thrive and adapt
(13 actions)

E2- Protect and manage natural assets as critical infrastructure
(2 actions)

Ecosystems



86% of actions are Ongoing/Achieved/On track

What actions related to ecosystems would you like to see in the updated Climate Plan?

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Community well-being

Climate change impacts our community well-being in many ways:

- Physical impacts may include cardiovascular stress from heat exhaustion, respiratory issues from increased air pollution and allergens and a higher likelihood of being exposed to vector-borne diseases, injuries, fatality and food and water insecurity.
- Mental health impacts may include fear and uncertainty about the future effects of climate change, chronic stress from climate disasters, depression from loss of homes and livelihoods or the inability to do things we enjoy, and post-traumatic stress.

Some populations have a lower capacity to adapt to climate change, or may have higher exposure to climate hazards, greater vulnerabilities, or consequence to the risks.

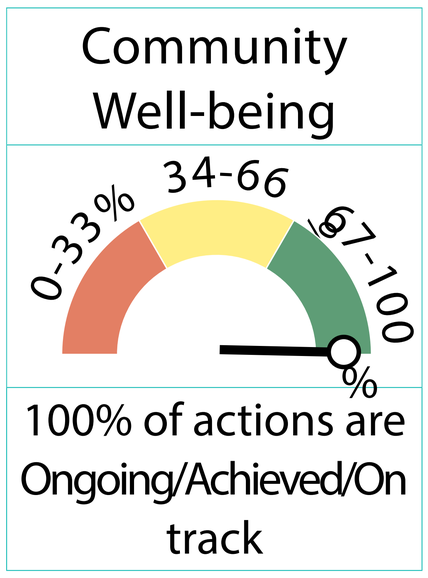
As climate change does not impact everyone equally, climate action requires an equity approach. Climate equity is the just distribution of the benefits of climate actions and alleviating unequal burdens created or worsened by climate change.

Building resilient communities relies on addressing barriers and removing the burden so everyone is able to participate in climate action and adaptation programs. Climate equity makes sure everyone is protected, decreasing the demand on our resources and health care systems and promoting long-term environmental and economic stability.

saanich.ca/climateplan

Community well-being

The 2020 Climate Plan includes the following strategies, which each contain various actions. For details progress, see the 2024 Climate Plan Report Card (saanich.ca/climateplan).



Community Wellbeing Strategies:

C1- ensure emergency and community health services keep pace with climate change.

C2- Empower Saanich residents and businesses to take climate action.

What actions related to community wellbeing would you like to see in the updated Climate Plan?

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What is Saanich doing to adapt?

Planning and preparing

Climate risk assessments for community and municipal operations

Sea level rise planning (Gorge Coastal Flooding Project)

Including climate adaptation considerations in emergency management, fire prevention, parks and recreation, stormwater, facilities, land use planning, transportation, and asset management design and processes

Piloting and building

Adding cooling and air filtration to Saanich facilities.

Adding trees and raingardens to transportation projects (e.g. Tillicum Green Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency Project).

Habitat restoration, invasive species removal and tree planting in natural areas and parks.

Updating our stormwater system for bigger rainfall events.

Supporting residents

Promoting heat pump retrofit and free AC programs for renters and owners in all building types.

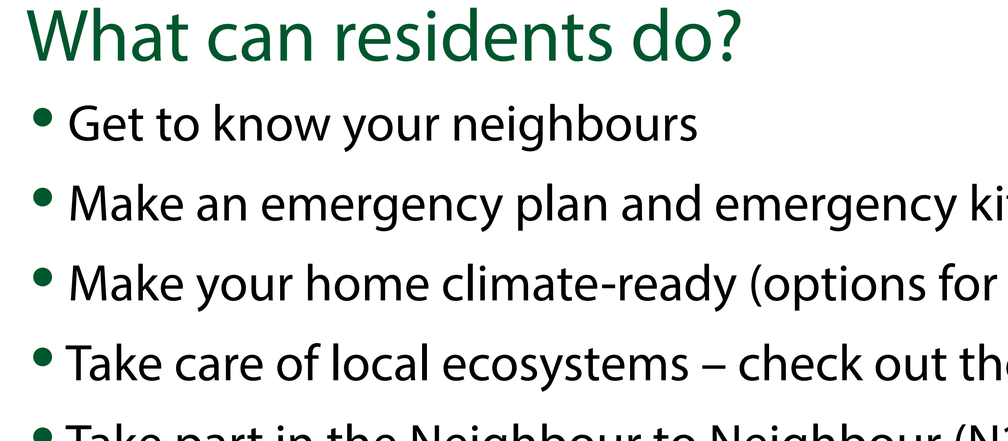
Including climate adaptation in Emergency Program training for residents and an upcoming FireSmart program.

Providing grants for residents through the Neighbour to Neighbour Resilience Initiative. Advocating for climate-safer building code to the Province.

What can residents do?

- Get to know your neighbours
- Make an emergency plan and emergency kit
- Make your home climate-ready (options for renters, stratas, and homeowners – see Saanich.ca/rebates)
- Take care of local ecosystems – check out the Naturescape and Pulling Together parks programs.
- Take part in the Neighbour to Neighbour (N2N) Resilience Initiative (Saanich.ca/n2n)

Tillicum Green Infrastructure Project



Gorge Flood Adaptation for Sea Level Rise

saanich.ca/climateplan

Saanich

Leading by Example

The District of Saanich provides an extensive range of services, infrastructure and key facilities for residents, including everything from greener garbage collection to the provision of recreation programs; from the maintenance of sewer and stormwater drains to front line emergency police and fire services; and from the installation of bike lanes and traffic signals to the conservation of natural areas and management of our valuable parks.

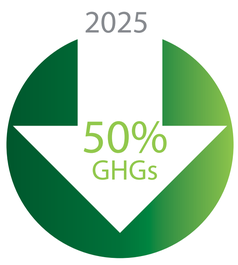
Providing these services requires energy use, primarily in buildings and transportation. These are called corporate GHG emissions.

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

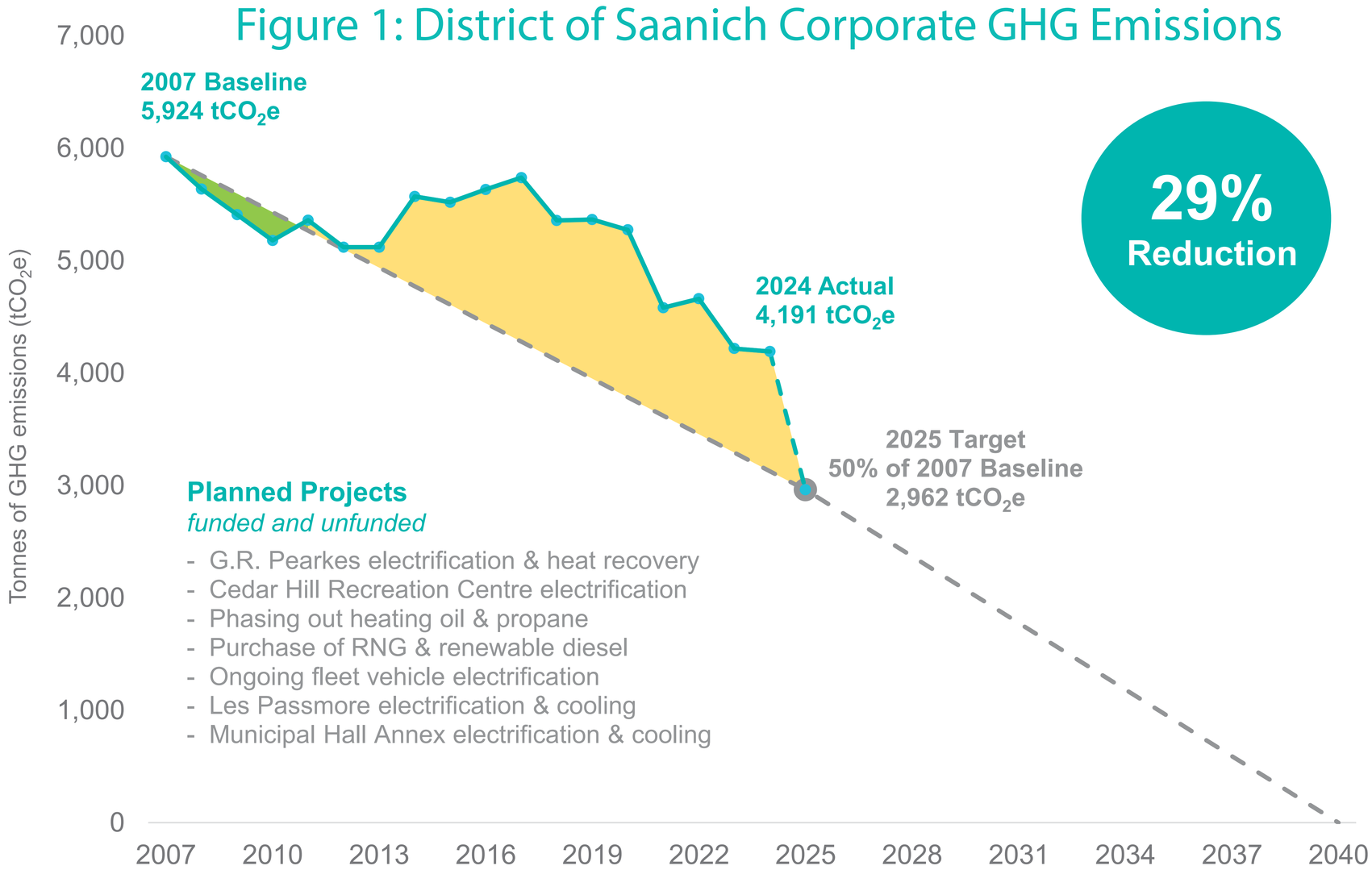
Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from municipal operations to 50% of 2007 levels by 2025.



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

Saanich has made significant progress in reducing GHGs since our 2007 baseline year. In 2024, corporate emissions were approximately 4,191 tonnes of carbon equivalent, which is 29% below 2007 levels. Half of these emissions were from fuel use in vehicles and half from fuel use in buildings. Several projects recently updated or planned for the next few years aim to bring us back on track close to reaching our corporate targets.

Figure 1: District of Saanich Corporate GHG Emissions



Biogenic emissions are reported separately from scope 1 and 2 emissions shown in Figure 9. In 2023, 774 tonnes of biogenic carbon emissions were emitted by the District.

Leading by Example

We are switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy and reducing our energy use

Fleet vehicles: Saanich's light duty municipal fleet has been fully electric since 2022, excluding fire and police vehicles. The fleet includes 42 EVs, some in police and fire services, with a growing number of medium-duty trucks and vans. The Zero Emissions Fleet Strategy targets zero emissions for all municipal vehicles by 2040.

E-Bikes: Six fleet e-bikes are available for staff work trips, reducing vehicle needs and costs. Over 140 staff have completed e-bike safety training, with some purchasing e-bikes for personal use.

Building upgrades: Saanich has been upgrading to energy-efficient, low-carbon systems as they reach end of life, notably switching furnaces from oil/gas to electric heat pumps. In 2024, a biomass boiler replaced a natural gas boiler at Saanich Commonwealth Place, reducing fossil fuel use. Recent projects include energy retrofits and heat recovery at recreation centres.

Greener by default: In 2024, Saanich partnered with Greener by Default to launch a low carbon food pilot. Staff champions focus on reducing GHG emissions through low-carbon food purchases while accommodating diverse diets, featuring local and plant-based foods at events, open houses, and meetings.

Helping local businesses: Saanich collaborates with the Synergy Foundation on a Circular Economy Accelerator Program for 14 local businesses. The program conducts circular economy audits and offers recommendations to enhance sustainability by improving efficiencies, reducing waste, and boosting revenue.

Compost, not landfill: The District's Greener Garbage program continues to divert thousands of tonnes of food scraps from landfills, cutting methane emissions and producing compost for use across Saanich.

Sustainable events: The District of Saanich is developing a Zero Waste Strategy, and piloting initiatives at our festivals and events. For the last two years, Earth Day Festival food trucks served plant-based meals, and the Strawberry Festival offered locally made vegan ice cream. Further, starting this year, efforts have been made to eliminate single use items by purchasing reusable dishware for use at our events.

saanich.ca/climateplan

Saanich

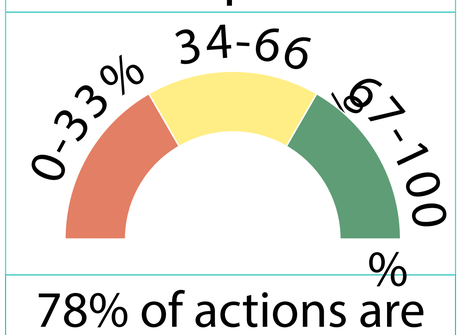
Leading by Example

The 2020 Climate Plan includes the following strategies, which each contain various actions. For detailed progress, see the 2024 Climate Plan Report Card (saanich.ca/climateplan).

Leadership in district operations strategies:

- L1- Integrate climate action in Saanich processes and decision-making (5 actions)
- L2- Become a climate-friendly employer (3 actions)
- L3-Transition to an efficient, renewably powered fleet (4 actions)
- L4- Transition to efficient and renewably-powered municipal buildings (3 actions)
- L5- Reduce waste and GHG emissions from goods and services (3 actions)
- L6- Measure and report on progress (5 actions)

Leadership in DistrictOperations



78% of actions are Ongoing/Achieved/On track

What actions related to leadership in district operations would you like to see in the updated Climate Plan?

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Have your say!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED!

We'd like to hear from you!

Welcome to the Saanich Climate Plan Public Workshops and Open House

- READ THE BOARDS, SPEAK WITH STAFF AND LEAVE COMMENTS
- COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE!
- SIGN UP FOR A WORKSHOP SESSION AS PART OF THIS PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE (SEE WELCOME DESK)
- VISIT SAANICH.CA/CLIMATEPLAN TO FOLLOW THE PROJECT ON HELLO SAANICH AND SIGN UP FOR THE CLIMATE PLAN EMAILS

The District of Saanich operates on the territories of the Lekwungen peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the WSÁNEĆ peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and Malahat Nations.