



Saanich Climate Plan

Annual Report Card 2023



2023 Highlights



Mobility



17 km of protected bike lanes installed



27 transit accessibility and bus shelter improvements



25% increase in cycling trips since 2017 (from the CRD Origin Destination Study)



Umo, BC Transit's new electric fare collection system became available in Saanich in August 2023, allowing riders to pay with an app or reloadable card



Saanich-owned public EV chargers were used for over **50,000 hours**



Speed limits lowered on **9 priority corridors** to improve safety



Buildings and Infrastructure



23 oil heated homes completed **heat pump upgrades** with the support of Saanich's Heat Pump Financing Program, which now operates with a revolving green fund, and is available for gas heated homes in addition to oil



236 Saanich registrants in the **Home Energy Navigator Service** are planning or undertaking energy saving home upgrades



123 new solar net metering customers came online in Saanich, for a total of 477 solar PV contributors to the grid



Regionally, **12 commercial and institutional property owners** with 44 buildings are participating in District 2030 for energy conservation, GHG emission reduction, and climate resiliency



Food and Materials



District is piloting **"Greener by Default"** meal purchasing, emphasizing low carbon plant-based food choices



Boulevard planting permit updated to allow food producing plants



Permits created to support **farmer's markets**



Ecosystems



Pulling Together volunteers provided more than **16,000 hours** to invasive species removal and ecosystem restoration work on **45 parks and natural areas**



15 Garry Oak sites protected, restored and enhanced



3,035 trees planted by the District in Saanich



100 meters of in-stream restoration of Colquitz River



Community Well-being



Over 90 students participated in the **One Planet Student challenge**



One Planet Saanich initiative brought together **20 stakeholders** for regular meetings to support implementation of One Planet Action Plans for their respective organizations



Saanich Emergency Program delivered **67 preparedness presentations to 1,272 residents**, including climate adaptation content



659 students in 31 classes in Saanich participated in **BCSEA Cool It!** program and reported a total of **149 tonnes of GHGs saved** through the program



Leadership in District Operations



Installed 8 new EV chargers at the Public Safety Building and **2 additional chargers** at the Saanich Operations Centre



Gordon Head Recreation Centre ranked the **lowest emitter of GHGs** among similar building types by Building Benchmark BC



1 electric truck and 5 electric cargo vans joined the Saanich fleet



Installed new biomass boiler at Saanich Commonwealth Place



The District received two **Community Energy Association Climate and Energy Action Awards**



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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
- Climate Plan actions for each Focus Area

Some Focus Areas still need metrics to be developed, particularly related to ecosystems, climate adaptation, and climate resilience. Fortunately, work underway, including the Official Community Plan update, Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Urban Forest Strategy update, Natural Asset Inventory, Stormwater Management Plans, Risk Registers and the Capital Regional District's (CRD's) Heat Vulnerability Mapping project, will support the development of these metrics for future report cards.

Another challenge we face is obtaining up-to-date data. For example, 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

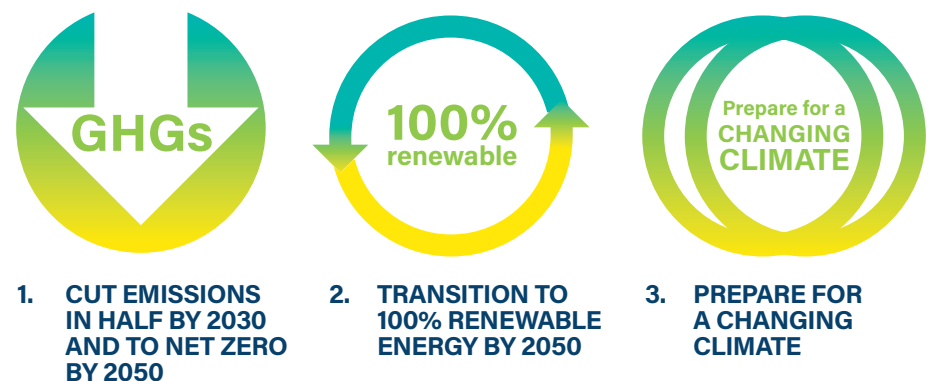
data is unavailable or metrics are in development, this is noted within the report. Data sources and methodologies are available upon request from sustainability@saanich.ca.

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.

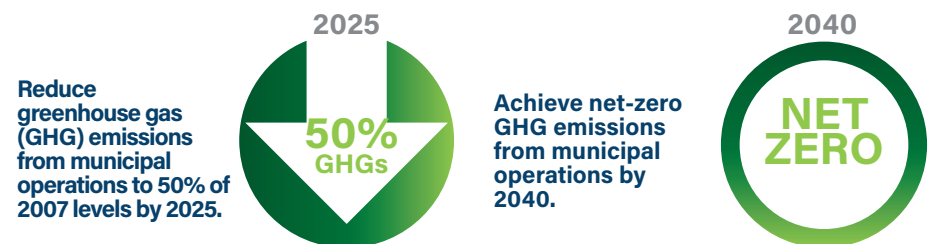
We need to do this together.

Figure 1: Climate Plan Goals

Saanich Community-wide Climate Goals



District of Saanich Corporate Climate Goals



Progress on Community-Wide GHG Targets

Territorial Emissions Inventory

The latest Saanich community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory is for 2022 and outlined in Figure 2. 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 the 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:

- Overall community-wide emissions decreased by 2% from 2021 to 2022 and have decreased by 16% in 2022 compared with the 2007 baseline*. If we are to meet our 2030 targets, we should have seen a 33% reduction in overall emissions between 2007 and 2022. The area in yellow highlight in Figure 2 between the target line and the actual emissions line shows how community emissions have been exceeding targets for several years. This shows that we must accelerate action not only if we are to meet our targets but also to compensate for the many years of carbon overshoot.
- Per capita emissions decreased between 2021 and 2022 from 4.1 to 4.0 tCO₂e**/person, and from 5.3 tCO₂e*/person in 2007.
- Transportation emissions have decreased by 22% in 2022 compared with the 2007 baseline, and a 2% decrease compared with 2021, with a slight decrease in diesel and gasoline consumption and a slight decrease in the number of registered vehicles in Saanich. The majority of these emissions continue to be from personal vehicles. This is not on track to meet our 2030 targets.

- Building emissions have decreased by 5% in 2021 compared with the 2007 baseline, and a 1.5% reduction compared with the 2021 inventory. This is not on track to meet our 2030 targets. Continued upgrades from oil to heat pump systems led to reduced emissions in residential buildings in 2022. However, there continues to be an increase in the number of natural gas connections and consumption, which is the main contributor to our building GHG emissions.
- Waste emissions continued to decrease in 2022 with a 63% reduction from the 2007 baseline, which is a 2% reduction compared with the 2021 inventory. This is primarily through widespread adoption of composting as well as landfill methane capture and the biological treatment of waste in addition to changes in emissions factors***. This already exceeds our 2030 targets of a 50% reduction in emissions from our 2007 baseline.

It is likely that the 2022 GHG emissions inventory continues to show the impact of behaviour changes established during COVID-19. In particular, the [CRD's Origin Destination Study](#) showed that a greater portion of the workforce continued to work from home for at least part of the work week, reducing emissions from the use of personal vehicles for commuting. Additionally, we are seeing a significant increase in cycling trips as a percentage of total trips and a continued increase in electric vehicle adoption in the community.

In summary, we continue to see a decrease in community-wide GHG emissions since our 2007 baseline. However, while we are trending in the right direction, we are not yet on track to meet our targets and considerable action continues to be needed.

* The 2022 inventory updated the 2021 and baseline years with several methodology changes. See crd.bc.ca/data for details.

** tCO₂e = tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, which is a measure of the global warming potential of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

*** Emissions factors are used to estimate the amount of GHG emissions per unit of fuel. There are different emissions factors for different fuel types and other sources of GHGs and these are updated annually by the Province, available [here](#).

Key Data Updates

Multiple sources of data are used to inform the community-wide GHG inventory including, but not limited to, Statistics Canada, the [CRD Origin Destination Survey](#), ICBC data, FortisBC and BC Hydro etc. Emissions factors are provided by the Province in the [2022 BC Best Practices Methodology for Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#). Some key changes to data sources were used in the 2022 inventory and are outlined below.

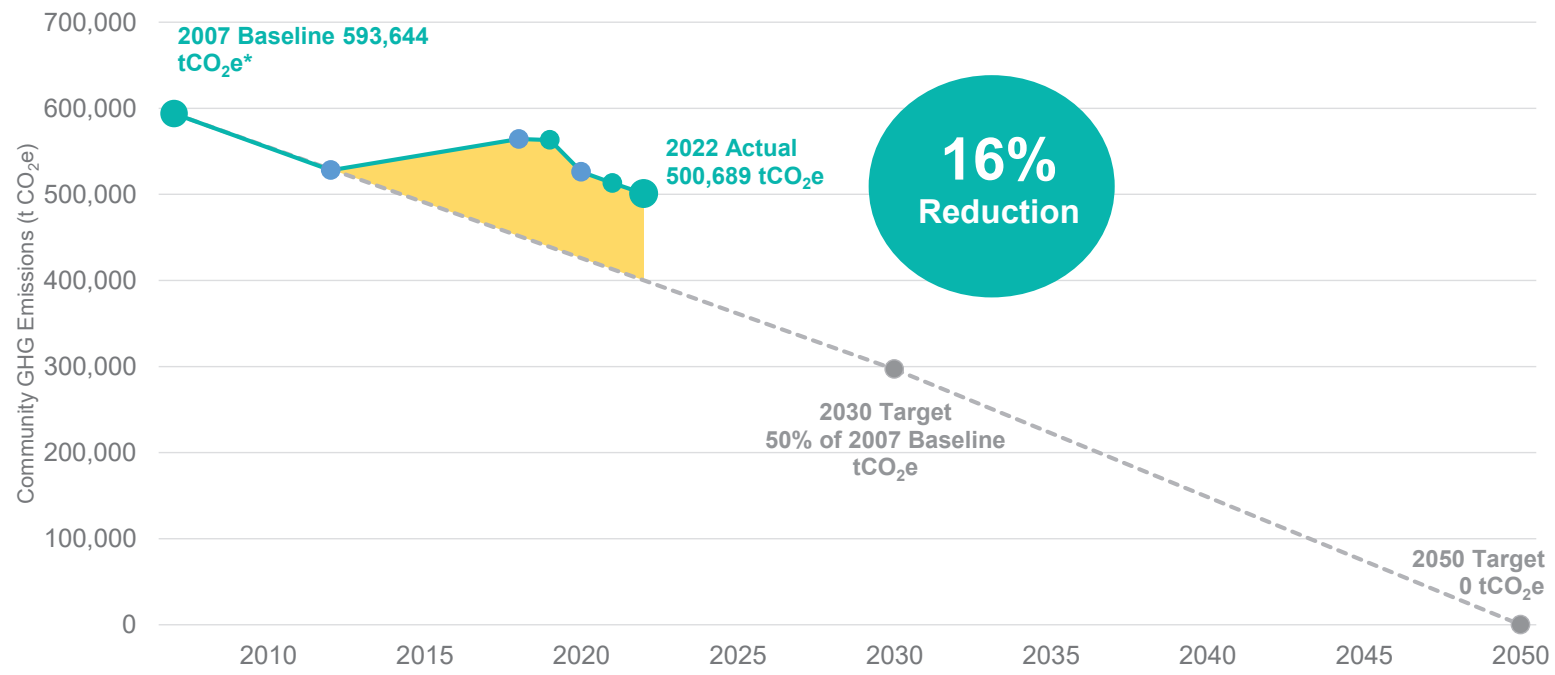
Transportation data continues to be a constraint in the absence of Vehicle Kilometres Travelled (VKT) information that could be provided through the collection of odometer readings by ICBC. This data has been requested by local governments for several years and the Province committed to providing it in their 2021 ministerial mandate letters. However, the data is yet to be provided and so the District of Saanich and City of Victoria conducted a VKT survey in 2022, which was used to inform the 2022 GHG inventory.

Industrial processes and product use emissions are derived from Provincial averages reported in the National Inventory Report, and methodology changes have resulted in changes in emissions factors in this sector which may or may not represent changes on the ground in our region.

Region-wide data and associated land use emissions factors are not yet robust enough for accurate calculation of sinks and sources of GHG emissions from land use changes in the region. The inventory includes this figure, but more work is required to meet data quality goals.

We continue working with regional partners and advocating to the Province, ICBC and utilities to acquire more frequent, reliable data at the local level to assist with reporting. For more information on data sources and methodologies, please contact sustainability@saanich.ca.

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



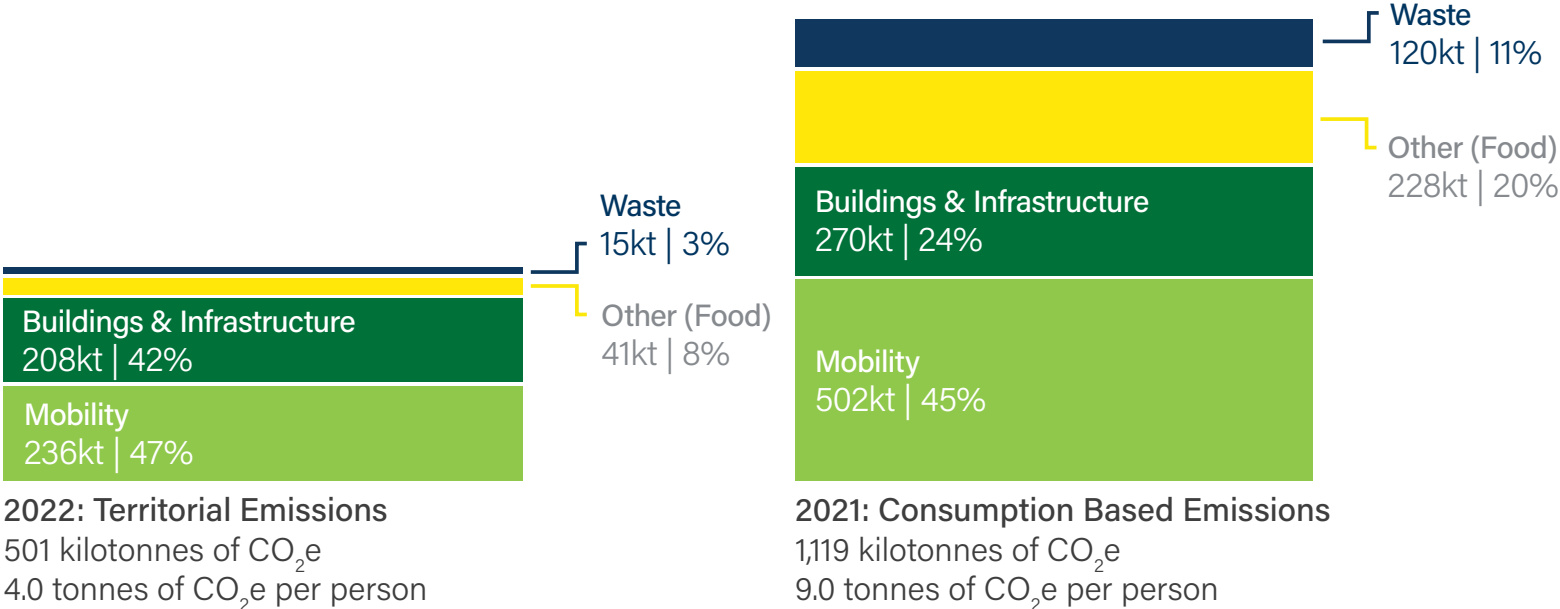
Consumption Based Emissions Inventory and One Planet Living

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. In order 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 3). 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 tCO₂e/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 3: Saanich GHG Inventories: Territorial vs. Consumption Based Emissions

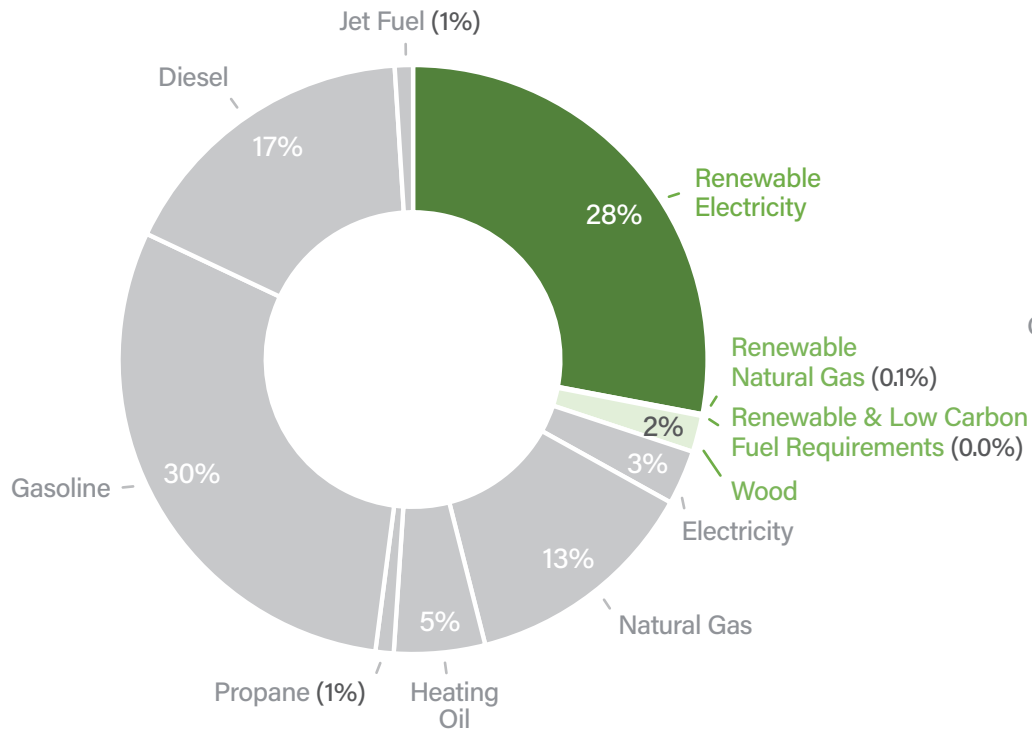


Renewable Energy Transition

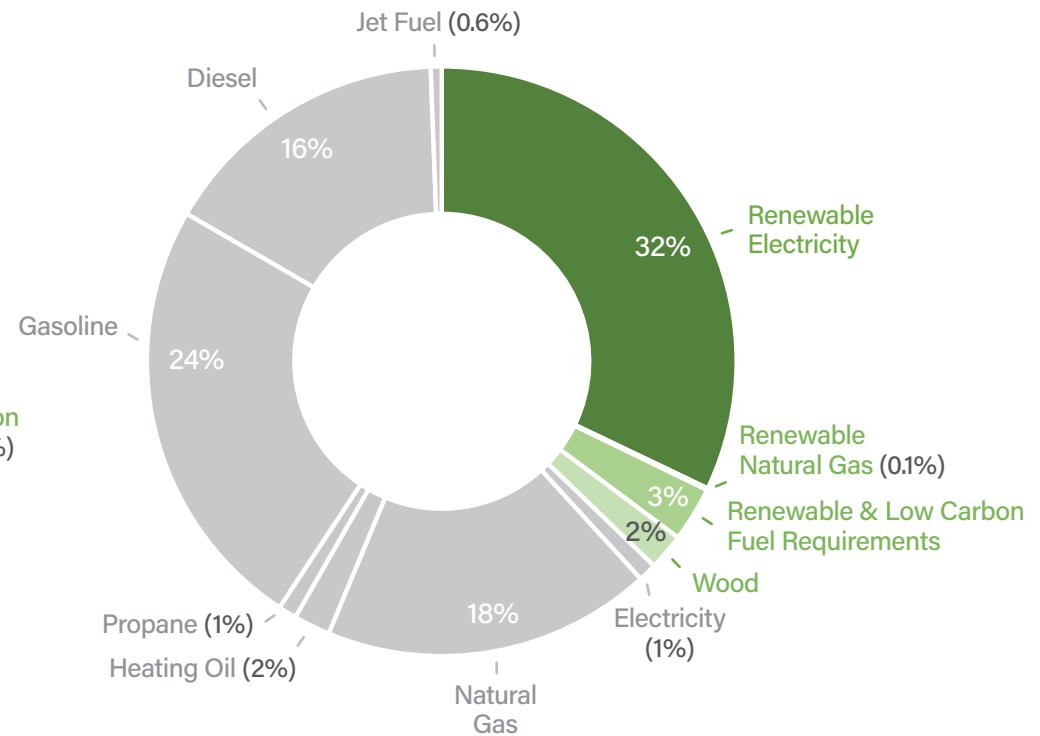
Fossil fuel combustion is driving climate change in Saanich and worldwide. In order to meet our climate targets we must transition to 100% renewable energy. As shown in Figure 4 below, Saanich's current energy mix includes fossil and renewable energy sources. Our 2022 Community GHG inventory shows that 37% of the energy we use is currently renewable, with electricity being by far the largest source of renewable energy. This is a 7% 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 4: Renewable Energy as a Percentage of Total Energy Use

30% Renewable Energy in 2007



































37% Renewable Energy in 2022



















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	19%	22%	30%	
	 % of trips taken by transit	7%	14%	20%	
	 % of personal vehicles that are electric	3%	36%	100%	
	 % of commercial vehicles that are electric	3.2%	-	50%	
	 % of remaining transport fuel that is "biofuel"	13.3%	10%	100%	
	 % of buses that are electric	<1%	100%	100%	
 Buildings and Infrastructure	 New buildings that achieve the higher steps of BC Energy Step Code	8%	100% by 2025	100%	
	 New buildings that are net-zero carbon (defined as all-electric space and hot water heating)	26%	100% by 2030	100%	
	 Embodied emissions are reported and lowered*	No data	100%	100%	
	 % of residential oil heating systems replaced by heat pumps since 2017	23%	100%	100%	
	 Building space heating demands are reduced by 30%	Emissions increased from baseline	40%	80%	
	 % of existing natural gas heating systems that are replaced by renewable energy systems	1.7%	40%	100%	
	 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			

* 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	Metrics to be developed			●
	 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)	1,843 ha	TBD	TBD	●
	 A greater proportion of food is grown and consumed locally: Hectares of land and % of total land that is actively farmed in Saanich	408 properties	TBD	TBD	●
	 The majority of local farmers have the ability to adapt their production practices to a changing climate	Metrics to be 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			●
 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-	A	A	●
	 Reduction in GHG emissions from municipal operations compared to 2007 levels	28%	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, of which 99 were due to be initiated by 2023. Saanich staff have evaluated the status of those actions based on the descriptions in Table 3. Of the 99 actions due to be initiated by 2023, 80 (81%) are Ongoing, Achieved, or On Track, with an additional four actions from future years Ahead of Schedule. Nineteen (19%) of the actions are currently Behind Schedule or On Hold (Figure 5).

The next section provides a summary of progress on the Climate Plan Targets, Objectives and Actions for each Focus Area.

Details on all actions are included in the Appendix and the progress on actions within each Focus Area are outlined in Figure 6. As stated in the introduction, these actions are under the District’s control. However, we require action from everyone, in particular, high levels of government, if we are to achieve our climate targets.

Figure 5: Progress on all 2020 - 2023 actions

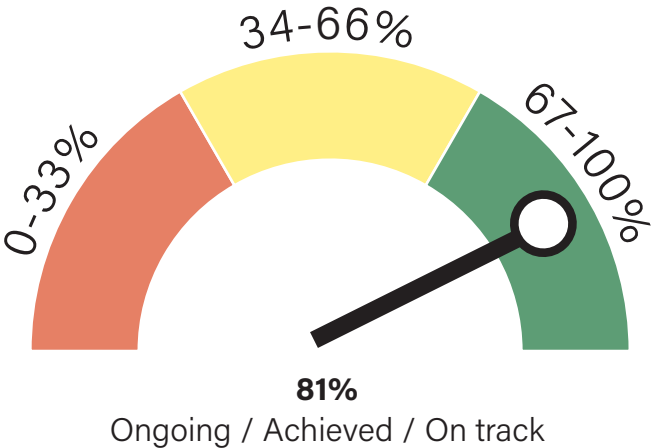


Figure 6: Progress on 2020-2023 actions for each focus area

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

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 include the following:

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	On track
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	2 future actions, the remainder Achieved, On Track, Ongoing or Ahead of Schedule
5. Double the rate of planting trees to enhance urban forest for increased carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services.	Action E1.1	On track
6. Improve climate resilience of Saanich's infrastructure, such as our stormwater system, flood hazard planning, and engineering design specifications.	Strategy B5	1 future action, 1 Behind Schedule, the remainder Achieved, On Track or Ongoing
7. Catalyze community actions by developing a supportive network and resources to encourage and sustain personal efforts.	Strategy C2	2 future actions, 1 Behind Schedule, the remainder Achieved, On Track or Ongoing

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.
Future action	The action has not yet started and is slated for development in the future.



Mobility and Electric Mobility



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

Mobility Summary

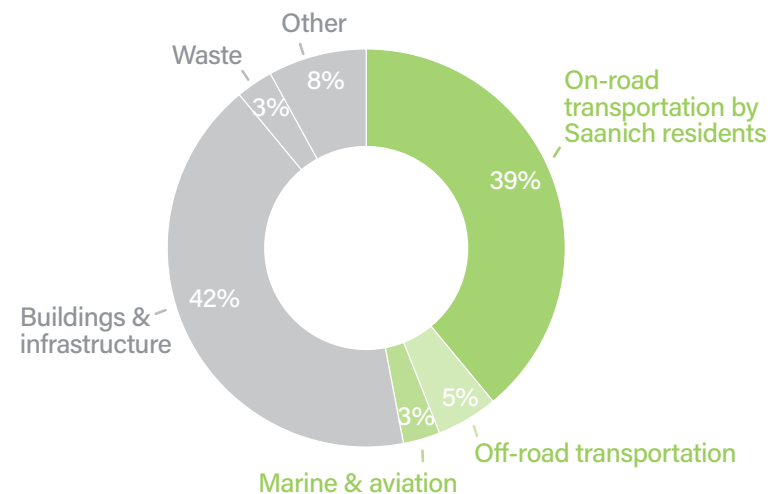
The latest 2022 community-wide GHG inventory shows a 24% reduction in Saanich's transportation GHG emissions since our 2007 baseline. To meet our 2030 targets, we should have achieved a 33% reduction by 2022; therefore, we are currently not on track. Regional transportation trends in the 2022 Origin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

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

Considerable efforts to support active transportation in 2023 include new and upgraded sidewalks, protected bike lanes, bus shelters, transit priority measures, speed limit reductions, and other initiatives as described in the updated [Active Transportation Plan](#) and draft [Road Safety Action Plan](#). Notably, following the earlier Saanich pilot, the Province launched an income-scaled E-bike Rebate program, adapted from the Saanich model, showing the influence the District can have on equitable climate action at a wider scale.

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

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



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



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

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

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

Baseline:	In 2007, Saanich's transportation emissions were	310,158	t CO ₂ e	Baseline
Latest measurement:	As of 2022, Saanich's transportation emissions were	236,493	t CO ₂ e	24% lower than baseline
Where we should be:	As of 2022, Saanich's transportation emissions should be	209,020	t CO ₂ e	33% lower than baseline
2030 target:	As of 2030, Saanich's transportation emissions should be	155,079	t CO ₂ e	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	19%	2023	22%	30%	●
% of trips taken by transit	8.7%	2017	7%	2023	14%	20%	●
% of personal vehicles that are electric	2.5%	2021	3.1%	2022	36%	100%	●
% of commercial vehicles that are electric	2.7%	2021	3.2%	2022	-	50%	●
% of remaining transport fuel that is biofuel	13.3%	2021	5%	2022	10%	100%	●
% of transit buses that are electric	0%	2022	<1%	2023	100%	100%	●

Table 6: Progress on Electric Mobility Strategy Metrics

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

* 100% of Municipal Fleet light duty cars are electric.

BC Transit is Going Places!

BC Transit in Greater Victoria had many exciting advances in 2023, including:

- Umo, BC Transit's new electric fare collection system, was implemented regionally in August 2023. Umo's convenient mobile app and reloadable card payment methods increase a rider's access to selecting transit as their transportation mode of choice by removing the need to prepurchase tickets or physical passes. By October 2023, one million boardings had been made using Umo.
- Approval from the Victoria Regional Transit Commission to expand hours and busses year over year to 2027, including a focus on RapidBus and Frequent Transit Network service improvements, development of the crosstown network on the Hillside/Gorge and Admirals/McKenzie corridors, simplifying and improving transit service on the Quadra corridor, and improvements to airport and Peninsula service.
- BC Transit's electric demonstration bus has been on the road since July 2023, travelling more than 4,500 kilometres in service. This initiative has provided BC Transit with valuable insights into the operation and maintenance of heavy duty battery electric buses.
- In summer 2023, BC Transit, alongside our federal and provincial funding partners, announced \$395.5 million of funding to support expanding electrification in British Columbia, marking another milestone achievement in BC Transit's goal to have an entirely electric fleet by 2040.
- BC Transit's BusReady education program, aimed at teaching B.C. kids and families how to safely ride the bus, won a prestigious award by the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA).





Buildings and Infrastructure

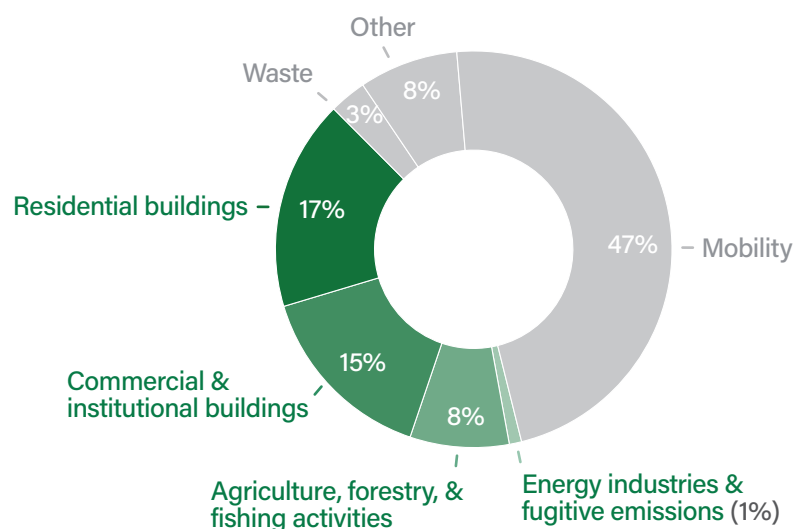
Buildings & Infrastructure Summary

The latest 2022 community-wide GHG inventory indicates that there has been a 5% reduction in Saanich's building and infrastructure GHG emissions since our 2007 baseline, including a 23% decrease in residential building emissions and a 12.6% increase in commercial and institutional building emissions. In order to meet our 2030 targets we should have seen a 33% reduction overall by 2022. Therefore, we are currently not on track to meet our building emissions targets.

Residential building energy use decreased slightly (0.6%) between 2021 and 2022, and commercial/institutional rose slightly (1.9%), potentially reflecting more return to office work as adjustments continue to be made in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of residential natural gas connections and consumption rose slightly in 2022 compared to 2021 (the most recent data available). Commercial natural gas consumption decreased slightly. Renewable natural gas (RNG) represented only 1% of our community's natural gas consumption, with the rest coming from fossil fuels and representing the single largest source of GHG emissions from buildings. This shows the need for continued electrification efforts, saving limited RNG supplies for hard-to-electrify uses.

Of the 32 Buildings & Infrastructure actions in the Climate Plan due to start by 2022, 29 (91%) are Achieved, Ongoing or On Track and an additional two from future years are Ahead of Schedule, with three actions (9%) are Behind Schedule.

Figure 8: Building and Infrastructure Emissions in Saanich Territorial GHG Inventory, 2022



T. McLean, long-time Saanich resident, senior, and participant in the Oil to Heat Pump Financing pilot says: *"This whole program has been such a pleasant surprise. My insurance company didn't want to insure me with an oil tank. That's how it started. And the whole thing evolved from there. I don't want to change at my age, but you've made it easy. You've informed me and made me feel very positive about going forward with it. The personal touch that you guys have all put on this is just amazing to me. I couldn't be more grateful, and I'd say that to everyone who asks."*

New Buildings

Council accelerated the adoption of the [Zero Carbon Step Code](#) in April 2023 and approved bylaws to bring this into effect. These require all new Part 9 buildings (e.g. single family homes, townhomes, houseplexes and some smaller multi-unit residential buildings) to achieve Emissions Level 4 (Zero Carbon) performance level as of November 1, 2023. This results in buildings with all-electric space and hot water heating. The same standard will be required for new Part 3 (larger complex) buildings as of July 1 or November 1, 2024 depending on building type. Mandatory energy benchmarking will also be required for Part 3 buildings. Saanich was the first municipality alongside the City of Victoria to adopt and implement the Zero Carbon Step Code highest performance level and is being joined by many others in the region and across BC. 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.

Existing Buildings

Saanich continues to be a leader in existing building retrofit initiatives, adopting the [Building Retrofit Strategy](#) in 2023 and launching the [Climate Action Tax Exemption \(CATE\) Program](#), which aims to fill an incentive gap for commercial, multi-unit residential, and mixed-use buildings. This is the first program of its kind in BC and is intended to accelerate the number of larger buildings undertaking electrification retrofits in the community.

A second intake for the [Heat Pump Financing program](#) was also opened in 2023, helping provide zero interest loans for single family homes to upgrade to a heat pump. Council approved additional funding for a revolving green fund for the program, supplemented by a Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) grant following full participation in the successful pilot.

Saanich continues to see some of the highest uptake of home energy upgrades and fuel switching rebates province wide. The demand for Saanich's residential heat pump top-up rebates continued to grow with the top-up fully subscribed by summer 2023. This has been partly driven

by the ongoing success of the [Home Energy Navigator](#); a program delivered in partnership with the CRD and other local governments in the region that provides end-to-end support for homeowners throughout the retrofit journey. The [District 2030](#) initiative continued supporting commercial building owners to improve energy efficiency in 2023 and staff further developed the Strata Energy Advisor program with an expected launch in 2024. Saanich continues to co-chair the Local Government Retrofit Peer Network, a hub of information exchange with municipal staff across the Province.

Infrastructure

The District continues to engage with the Province on the need for an aligned energy plan across all energy utilities in order to meet our climate targets. The Province is now engaging on a Climate Aligned Energy Framework and staff are seeking opportunities to provide input.

A District-wide Risk Management Framework was finalized in April 2023 to track risks to municipal infrastructure and services. A Climate Risk Register will support the integration of climate change considerations within individual risk registers and asset management plans across all departments. The Climate Risk Register was initiated in 2023 and will be informed by an updated detailed Climate Risk Assessment, due to be completed as part of the updated Climate Plan starting in 2024. This will be supported by new regional climate projections that were drafted throughout 2023 and due to be finalized and published by the CRD in early 2024.

The [Saanich Asset Management Strategy](#) was approved by Council in July 2023 and embeds climate change considerations throughout with a Natural Assets Inventory initiated and well underway. Work also continues on Integrated Stormwater Management Plans, including the hiring of a new stormwater specialist in 2023.

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 ₂ e	Baseline
Latest measurement:	As of 2022, Saanich's building and infrastructure emissions were	207,876	t CO ₂ e	5% lower than baseline
Where we should be:	As of 2022, Saanich's building and infrastructure emissions should be	148,177	t CO ₂ e	33% lower than baseline
2030 target:	As of 2030, Saanich's building and infrastructure emissions should be	109,938	t CO ₂ e	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	0%	2022	11 (8%)	2023	100% by 2025	100%	●
New buildings that are net-zero carbon (defined as all-electric space and hot water heating)	23%	2022	26%	2023	100%	100%	●
New Part 9 buildings that installed a heat pump and can provide cooling	73%	2022	56%	2023	100%	100%	●
Residential oil heating systems replaced by heat pumps annually (cumulative % removed since 2017)	22%	2022	23%	2023	100%	100%	●
Residential natural gas heating systems replaced by heat pumps annually (cumulative % removed since 2017)	1.6%	2022	1.7%	2023	40%	100%	●
Total natural gas connections (Residential)	16,558	2021	16,867	2023	8,789	TBD	●
Total natural gas consumption (Residential)	900,271 GJ	2021	864,247 GJ	2023	TBD	TBD	●
Total natural gas connections (Commercial)	965	2021	964	2022	558	0	●
Total natural gas consumption (Commercial)	869,187 GJ	2021	873,634 GJ	2022	TBD	TBD	●
Building space heating demands are reduced by 30%	2,980 TJ	2021	3,085 TJ	2022	2,011 TJ	TBD	●
Renewable Natural Gas use in buildings (as a % of all natural gas used)	0.5%	2021	1%	2023	-	100%	●
Sufficient renewable energy sources are available to support required conversions from fossil fuel systems			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				●



Uptown Shopping Centre in Saanich is a founding member of the Greater Victoria 2030 District.

Over the past five years, occupancy on the property continued to rise with the opening of new stores and restaurants. And at the same time, the property has seen a steady decline in water consumption, waste generation, and energy and carbon intensity.

In recognition of their superior operational performance, Shape Properties who manages Uptown, achieved a BOMA BEST Platinum level of Sustainable Buildings Certification for the property (with an assessment score within the top threshold of 90-100%).

Shape underwent a Recommissioning Report under BC Hydro's program for Continuous Optimization for Commercial Buildings. This led to implementing a number of energy efficiency and improvement measures, including enhancing schedules and settings for heat pumps and ventilation equipment, as well as replacing over 400 lamps with LED lighting.

District of Saanich was a founding sponsor of the [Greater Victoria 2030 District](#), and has provided annual support since 2020. This unique public-private partnership engages and supports commercial properties in setting and achieving aggressive energy and greenhouse gas emission targets. Currently twelve property managers are participating, including a diversity of building types, now totaling 21 properties with 44 buildings and over 4 million square feet of floor space. Members receive access to tools and programs that support energy conservation, GHG emission reduction, and climate resiliency goals. Key supports include: benchmarking reports, access to retrofit and fuel switching information via educational webinars, property tours, and case studies.



The University of Victoria secured funding to reduce its GHG emissions by more than 50% from 2010 levels—years ahead of its 2030 target—thanks in part to a \$2.4 million investment from the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund. This



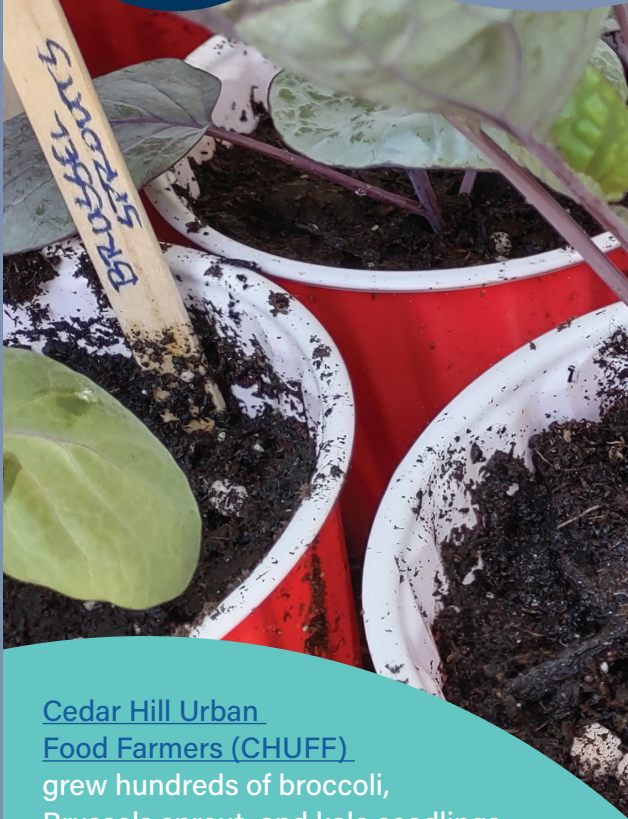
funding will allow the university to replace one of the natural-gas boilers in its District Energy Plant with two electric boilers, reducing the emissions from district energy heating by nearly 5,200 tonnes of CO₂ per year—equivalent to taking roughly 1,200 gas-powered cars off the road for a year.

That compares with more than 9,200 tonnes emitted by the plant in 2010. The electric boilers are expected to be operational by 2025.

GREATER VICTORIA
2030
DISTRICT®



Food and Materials



Cedar Hill Urban Food Farmers (CHUFF)

grew hundreds of broccoli, Brussels sprout, and kale seedlings to give away free in August, with instructions. The Eat Local - Grow Your Own initiative encouraged neighbours to help reduce Saanich's carbon and ecological footprint by eating more locally-farmed food, and wasting less. Food systems are a significant contributor of carbon emissions globally. What we consume and grow, makes a difference!

Food and Materials Summary

When looking at our consumption-based emissions inventory (CBEI), transportation and buildings are still the largest source of emissions, however, food and materials represent a considerably larger slice of the pie, 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. Concerningly, while our territorial emissions are dropping, our consumption-based emissions in this sector (food and materials) have increased between the first inventory in 2015 and the newly completed inventory in 2023 (see saanich.ca/ecofootprint for details).

Local food production also plays a key role in climate resilience and is heavily impacted by climate change. Progress is underway in implementing the [Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Plan](#), with all Phase 1 priority actions either underway or completed.

The community-wide 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 63% 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 this progress is positive, it should be noted that the amount of waste going to landfill per person is increasing and is still far from the regional waste targets. The updated Climate Plan will include more targeted actions for reducing consumption-based emissions, supported by the commencement of a Zero Waste Strategy early in 2024.

Of the Six Food and Materials actions due to be initiated by 2023, 4 (67%) are Ongoing, On Track or Achieved, and 2 (33%) are Behind Schedule. The remaining actions are set to commence in 2024 or thereafter.

Figure 9: Food and Materials Emissions in Saanich Territorial GHG Inventory, 2022

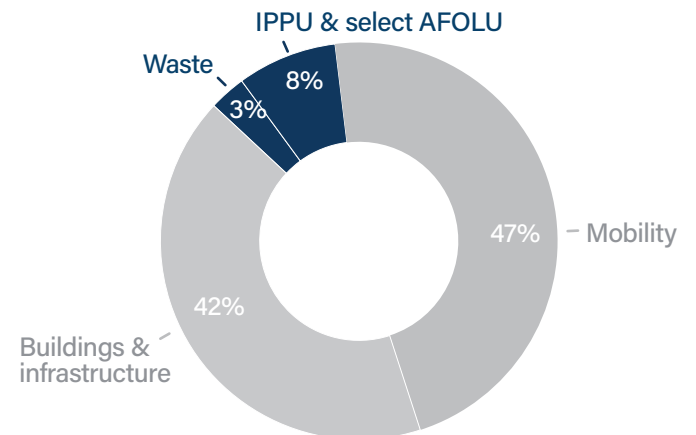


Table 9: Progress on Waste GHG Emissions Targets

- Ahead of Targets

Baseline:	In 2007, Saanich's emissions from waste were	40,134	t CO ₂ e	Baseline
Latest measurement:	As of 2022, Saanich's emissions from waste were	15,048	t CO ₂ e	63% lower than baseline*
Where we should be:	As of 2022, Saanich's emissions from waste should be	27,047	t CO ₂ e	33% lower than baseline
2030 target:	As of 2030, Saanich's emissions from waste should be	20,067	t CO ₂ e	50% lower than baseline

* Note: although waste emissions reductions appear to be ahead of schedule, these savings were mainly achieved before the Climate Plan modelled pathway was completed. So most of the emissions savings were already assumed in the Business as Usual scenario when planning the additional actions that were needed.

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	400 kg/ person/ year	2021	409 kg/ person/ year	2022	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	2022	1,843 ha	2022	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	1,478 ha (14%)	2017	408 properties	2022	TBD	TBD	●
The majority of local farmers have the ability to adapt their production practices to a changing climate	Metrics to be developed						●



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 deliver a suite of other critical values and services, including stormwater management, erosion control, water quality improvement, air filtration, cooling, pollination and habitat. Natural areas also provide rich co-benefits for the community, including recreation and physical and 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.

2023 saw the completion of several key ecosystem documents, including a [State of the Urban Forest report](#) (which gave Saanich's urban forests a "Fair" rating), along with a [State of Biodiversity report](#). These reports will inform the upcoming updated [Urban Forest Strategy](#) and [Biodiversity Conservation Strategy](#), expected to be presented to Council in 2024.

Developing a Natural Asset Management Plan is a priority in the District's overall [Asset Management Strategy](#) and will account for the value and services provided by natural assets to the District. A Natural Assets Inventory was initiated in 2023 to support the development of this work.

Several key projects that protect, enhance and expand our natural areas were also completed in 2023, supported by multiple organizations and many volunteers. These included the enhancement of 15 Garry Oak sites, in-stream restoration in Colquitz River, and a new Trembling Aspen Grove in Cuthbert Holmes Park. Efforts also continued on multiple education and awareness campaigns such as the [Natural Intelligence](#) and [Pulling Together](#) programs.

Of the 12 Ecosystem actions due to start by 2023, 9 (75%) are Ongoing, Achieved or On track, and 3 (25%) are Behind Schedule. It is hoped that the Environmental Policy Framework and Biodiversity Conservation Strategy will support the development of appropriate metrics and data sets for this section of the Climate Plan in future.

Working together with Parks staff, Pulling Together volunteers (234 registered plus hundreds of drop-in volunteers) gave 16,000+ hours to biodiversity enhancement, invasive species removal, and ecological restoration across 45 District parks and natural areas in 2023.

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			



Ecosystem restoration projects are underway at over 60 different sites across the District by Parks staff, Pulling Together and community volunteers including establishment of a native Trembling Aspen Grove with over 600 trees planted.



Parks staff protected, restored and enhanced 15 Garry Oak sites across the District of Saanich. As part of Natural Areas’ native seed harvesting, salvaging, and propagation program, native seeds and bulbs (including Camas, Woolly Sunflower, Chocolate and Fawn lilies) were collected and propagated at Garry Oak sites across the District.



Community Well-being



Through the Neighbour to Neighbour Resilience Initiative, a group of neighbours got together to remove invasive species and plant native species on a public right of way near their homes in Cadboro Bay and got to know each other better as they restored a natural area. Learn more at saanich.ca/n2n.

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 2023 to empower the public and support climate preparedness, including the [Neighbour to Neighbour \(N2N\) program](#), [Emergency Preparedness program](#), [Natural Intelligence program](#), [One Planet Saanich](#), [One Planet School Challenge](#), [BCSEA CoolIt! program](#) and presentations to community groups and educational institutions.

The new [BC Heat Alert Response System \(HARS\)](#) was established following the Heat Dome in 2021. HARS ensures a coordinated response between provincial and municipal emergency staff, health authorities, and others. It includes proactive preparedness messaging and defined heat warning thresholds. Heat preparedness educational materials were prepared and distributed. The province also enabled a layer on the [Emergency BC map](#) for local authorities to show their cooling centres and hours. During the August 2023 heat warning, the Province released the [Extreme Heat Preparedness guide](#) which was distributed at community events in Saanich throughout the summer.

Saanich supported research led by the CRD and UVic researchers to better understand the impact of extreme heat on vulnerable people. The findings of the “Feeling the Heat” study will help inform climate adaptation work. Work is nearly complete on the CRD-led Extreme Heat Vulnerability Mapping Project, which is creating a spatial database on three key indices to determine regional vulnerability to extreme heat. The portal is expected to be released in early 2024. Additionally, the University of Victoria, in collaboration with the Greater Victoria 2030 District continue to progress on the development of the Resiliency Opportunity Assessment and Response (ROAR) tool to help building owners understand their climate risks and plan for strategies that improve resilience. Buildings in the 2030 District will pilot the tool next year.

Since climate change impacts people differently depending on many factors, climate equity is important for community well-being. The District adopted its first [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan](#) in 2023. An equity lens was also applied to the draft [Active Transportation Plan update](#) and [Road Safety Action plan](#) in 2023.

14 Community Wellbeing actions were identified to commence by 2023 with 13 of these (93%) Ongoing, On track or achieved, 2 (14%) ahead of schedule, and 1 (7%) behind schedule. Metrics are expected to be developed to monitor and report on outcomes in the coming years.

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



The second annual One Planet Student Challenge welcomed video and illustrations from middle and high school students across the region showcasing where they saw One Planet Living Principles in their community.

Art credit: Jayla Boudewyn

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



Leadership in District Operations



The first five electric cargo vans (Ford E-Transit) and an additional electric truck (Ford F-150 Lightning) joined the increasingly electric-powered Saanich fleet in 2023. Eight new Level 2 EV chargers were installed at the Public Safety Building, and an additional two Level 2 chargers were installed at the Saanich Operations Centre in preparation for further vehicle electrification in the coming years.

Leadership in District Operations Summary

The 2023 corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory shows an 8.3% reduction in Saanich's GHG emissions from the previous year and a 27% reduction since our 2007 baseline (Figure 10 and Table 13). If we are to meet our 2025 targets, we should have seen a 44% reduction in our corporate GHG emissions compared with our 2007 baseline by 2023. The areas on Figure 10 in green show where we were ahead of targets, and the areas in yellow show our emissions overshoot.

Building emissions saw an 11% decrease over the last year, mainly due to savings from projects implemented in the previous year, preventative maintenance, some large facility shutdowns, and a resumption of normal ventilation levels following COVID. Fleet emissions also saw a slight decrease (5%) in 2023, which is within normal variations in fleet operations, but may be impacted by staff shortages, vehicle shortages, more efficient engines in new vehicles acquired in 2023, and ongoing vehicle electrification. Route optimization for garbage trucks is in the planning stage and should see benefits starting in 2024.

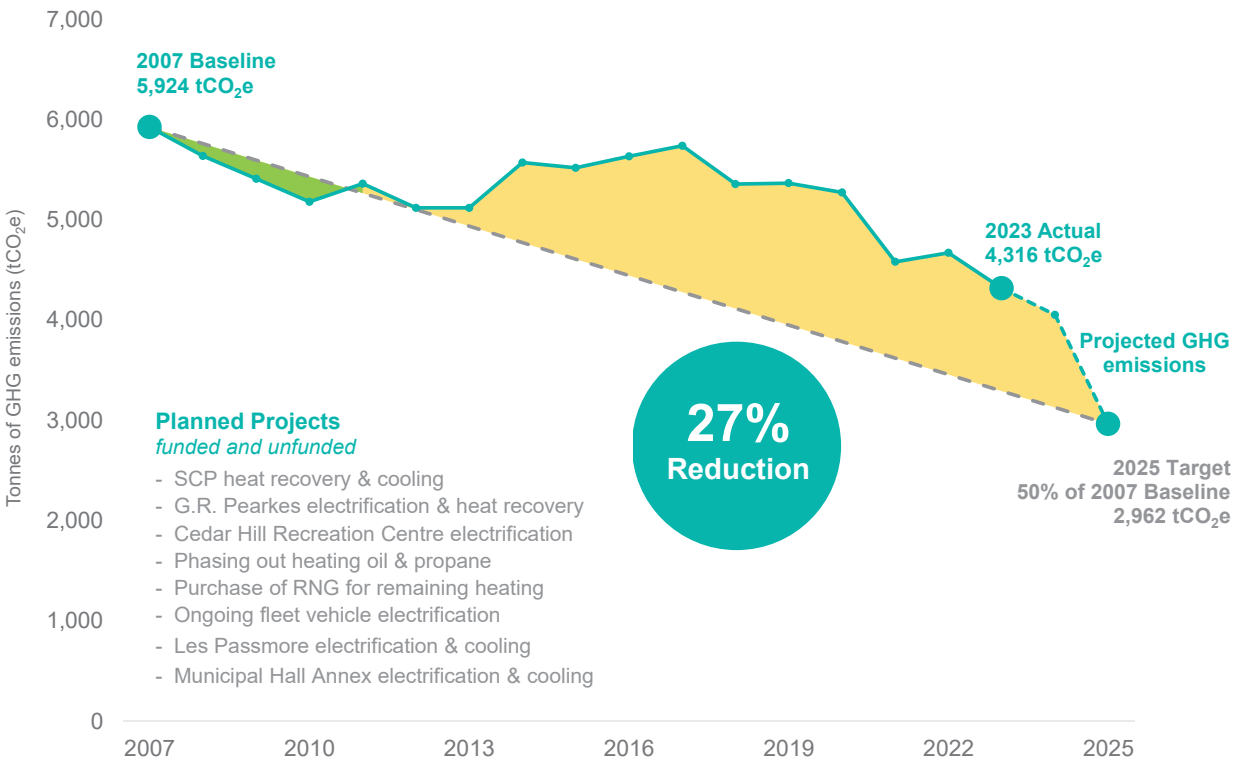
Fleet electrification progressed in 2023 with the first five electric cargo vans (Ford E-Transit) and another electric truck (Ford F-150 Lightning) added to the Saanich fleet, supplemented by new EV charging infrastructure. Building upgrades and the transition from fossil fuels to electrification continued in 2023 with the biomass boiler at Saanich Commonwealth Place becoming operational, advancements in building controls and preventative maintenance, and a heat pump installed at the Bert Richman building.



As part of the Corporate Building Retrofit Strategy, planning work is underway for several projects including electrification and heat recovery at G. R. Pearkes Recreation Centre; heat recovery and cooling at Saanich Commonwealth Place Recreation Centre; electrification, heat recovery and cooling at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre, and many others. However, there are considerable capital costs required, and, even with potential operational savings, inflation over the last year has greatly impacted the ability to fund these and other actions, despite multiple successful grant applications. Additional funding is required in order to implement the projects necessary to meet our corporate climate targets.

Twelve of the 16 Leadership in District Operations climate actions (75%) identified to start by 2023 are On track, Ongoing or Achieved, with 4 (25%) behind schedule. Additional staff and resources are needed to advance this work in 2024, subject to budget approval.

Figure 10: 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.

Table 13: Progress on Leadership in District Operations Targets

- Not on Target

Baseline:	In 2007, Saanich's corporate emissions were	5,924*	t CO ₂ e	Baseline
Latest measurement:	As of 2023, Saanich's corporate emissions were	4,316	t CO ₂ e	27% lower than baseline
Where we should be:	As of 2023, Saanich's corporate emissions should be	3,291	t CO ₂ e	44% lower than baseline
2025 target:	As of 2025, Saanich's corporate emissions should be	2,962	t CO ₂ e	50% lower than baseline

*Updated for new electricity emissions factors

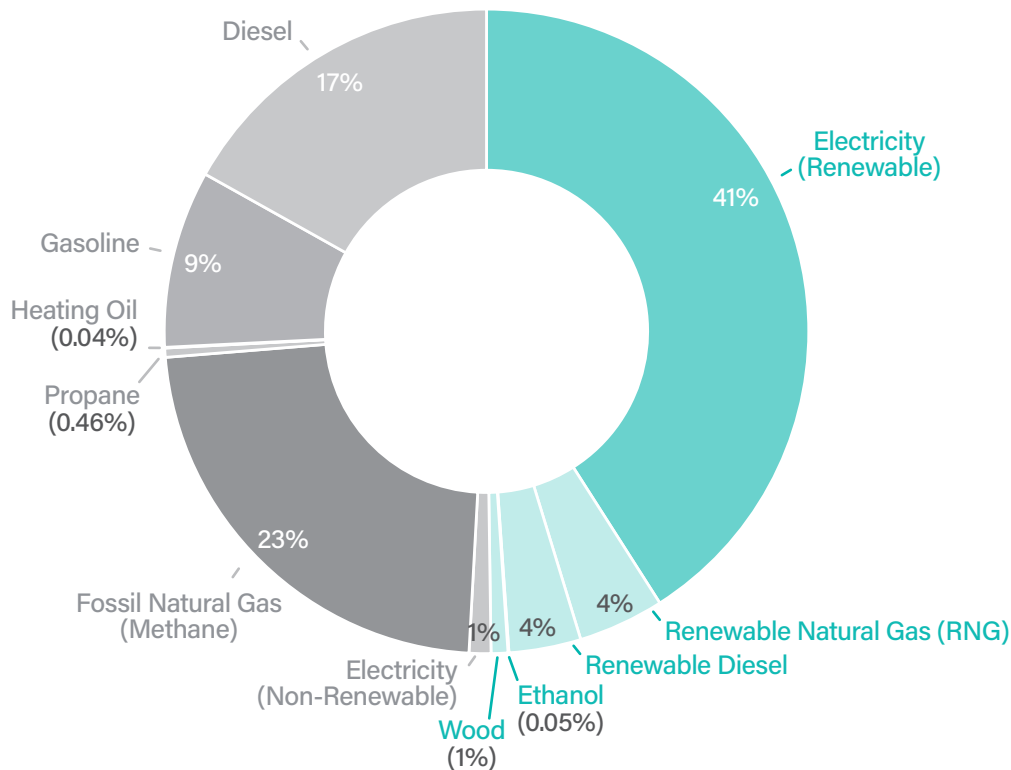
As shown in Table 14, the District’s international climate reporting and benchmarking score through CDP decreased from an A to an A- in 2023 due to our climate targets not including a Global Fair Share* component. This will be addressed in the upcoming Climate Plan update, set to commence in 2024.

As shown in Figure 11, the District’s energy usage was 50% renewable in 2023, 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	2022	A-	2023	A	A	●

Figure 11: Renewable and Fossil Energy 2023



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

The fleet e-bike program was expanded in 2023 to provide two Benno Boost cargo e-bikes at the Saanich Operations Centre for staff to use for work trips. It's faster to travel by bike than by vehicle between the Operations Centre and the Municipal Hall and healthier and more cost effective too!



Gordon Head Recreation Centre was ranked the lowest emitter of GHG emissions among similar building types by [Building Benchmark BC](#) in 2023.



Meals became more climate-friendly at the District with a new pilot to offer more plant-based meals to staff and public at meetings and events. In collaboration with non-profit [Greener by Default](#), we are reducing our corporation's carbon emissions and water use, while increasing our community's health. Serving more delicious plant-based meals and reducing animal-based meals helps Saanich reduce our Scope 3 emissions and helps us reach our climate goals.



Attendees at the [Quadra McKenzie Corridor Study](#) workshops provided input on accommodating new housing and employment growth sustainably within well designed Centres, Corridors and Villages (CCV).

Sustainable development of compact, complete communities, focusing growth in centres and corridors, as outlined in the proposed Official Community Plan, supports more climate-friendly transportation choices and building energy use in the following ways:

- Individuals can travel shorter distances to meet their needs, which greatly increases the ability to use active transportation and reduce car dependence (our largest source of GHG emissions);
- Construction and maintenance of cycling and transit infrastructure is more affordable by serving a greater population with a more compact system that requires less resources;
- Building more attached housing forms like apartments and townhouses improves building energy efficiency by reducing heat loss by sharing walls;
- Overall, less building materials and vehicles are required, reducing embodied emissions; and
- Importantly, it focuses population growth in a smaller area, protecting our valuable natural assets within the wider community (e.g. our forests, ecosystems, agricultural land etc.). These play a crucial role in climate adaptation and mitigation through the provision of ecosystem services such as shade, air purification, drainage, carbon sequestration and pollination.



Conclusions and Next Steps

Conclusions and Next Steps

This is our fourth year of reporting on Climate Plan implementation. Saanich continues to see recognition for our efforts (including two Community Energy Association awards in 2023) and progress towards our corporate and community targets. Community-wide emissions have decreased by 16% and corporate emissions have decreased by 28% since our 2007 baseline. This progress has been supported by a multitude of actions and great work undertaken by Saanich, other orders of government and the wider community in 2023. While we are trending in the right direction and there is much to be celebrated, 19% of our climate actions are still behind schedule or on hold with several new actions to be initiated in 2024. It is clear that we are not on track and more ambitious action is required if we are to reach our climate goals.

A key focus in 2023 has been on the affordable housing crisis with considerable policy direction from the Provincial government and great momentum underway. The climate crisis and affordable housing crisis are inextricably linked; addressing one in isolation of the other comes with consequences, but using levers that address both simultaneously leads to many co-benefits. Sustainable development of compact, complete communities, focusing growth in centres and corridors, while protecting and integrating critically valuable natural assets and ecosystems helps address both the housing and climate crisis together. It supports more climate-friendly transportation choices and building energy use, and makes our community more resilient to climate change through the use of nature to mitigate hotter and drier summers and greater storm and rainfall events. The upcoming Zoning Bylaw amendments to support infill housing, Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, updated Urban Forest Strategy and Natural Assets Inventory and Asset Management Plan will be key for identifying the actions necessary to protect our community from climate change, aligned with the updated Official Community Plan, future centres and corridor plans, updated Active Transportation Plan, Rapid Bus strategy, and integrated provincial Energy Framework and Strategy that will drive this community growth.

2023 saw an update to our regional climate projections but was also the hottest year on record in the past 150 years. The impacts of climate change are costly and damaging to ecosystems, infrastructure and human health and lives. Adequately responding through a transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy and adapting to a changing climate is imperative, as the costs of acting will be far less than the cost of inaction. However, while many of the Saanich actions necessary to address this crisis have been identified, there are considerable capital costs required, and inflation over the last year has greatly impacted the ability to fund these actions, despite multiple successful grant applications.

In 2023 Saanich, in partnership with others, received a Community Energy Association (CEA) Climate & Energy Action Award for the Community E-Bike Incentive Pilot Program and the Zero Carbon Step Code Engagement and Adoption.



**Climate & Energy
Action Award
2023**

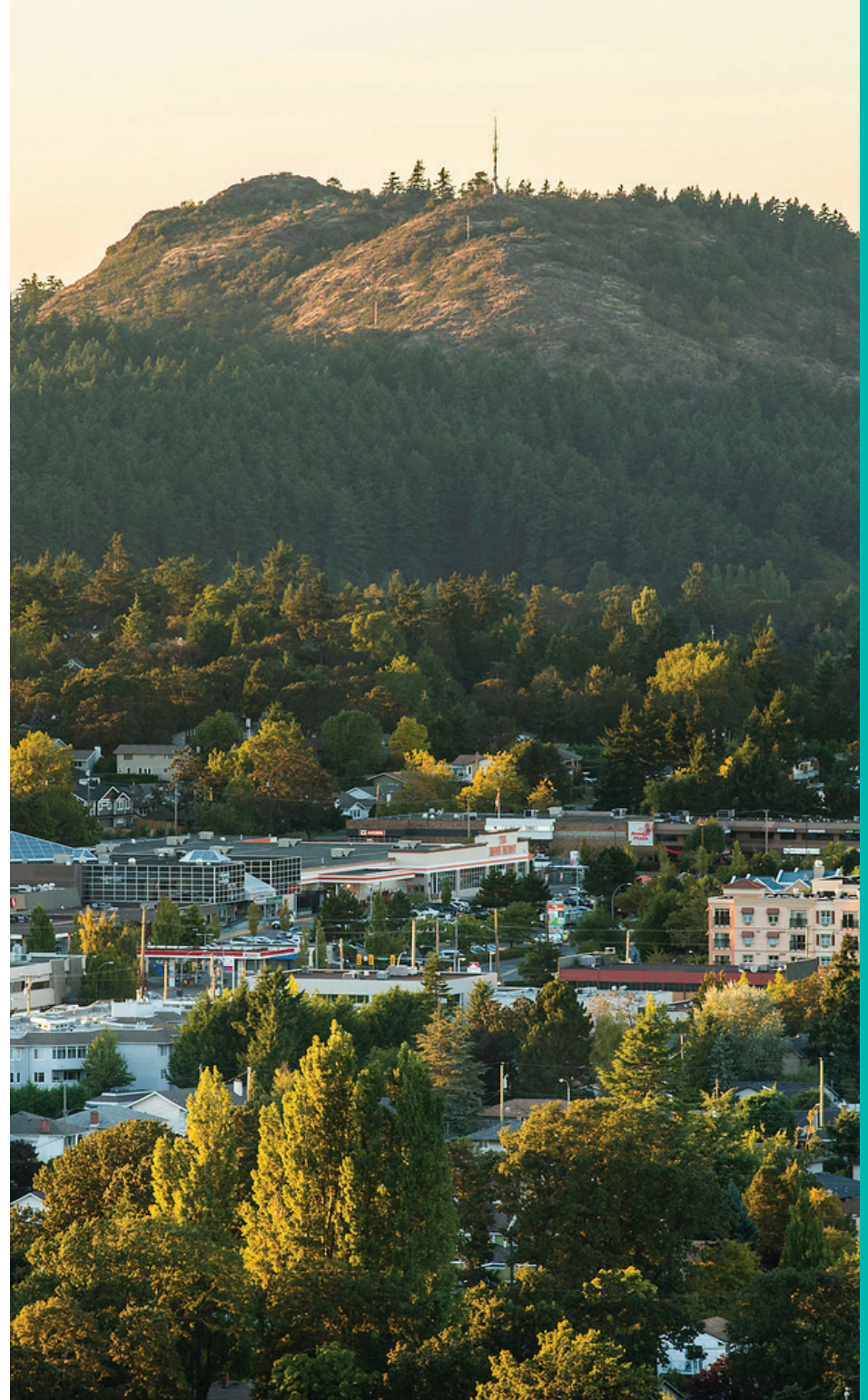
Awarded to

District of Saanich,
Greater Victoria Community
Social Planning Council,
University of British Columbia
Research on Active
Transportation Lab

Saanich Community E-bike
Incentive Pilot Program

Globally, more focus is being placed on the oil and gas companies, investors and decision makers that are not only heavily responsible for the climate crisis but have also profited from it to the extreme. A number of lawsuits have been filed in recent years against the fossil fuel industry for its role in the climate crisis with a desire to see them not only change their business practices but also pay their fair share for the harm caused. In 2023, California filed a lawsuit against five of the largest oil and gas companies in the world and the American Petroleum Institute for allegedly engaging in a decades-long campaign of deception and creating statewide climate change-related harms in California. Closer to home, in 2023, the Town of View Royal Council voted to work with other local governments to bring a class action lawsuit against global fossil fuel companies for a share of municipal climate change costs. They agreed to set aside \$1 per resident towards the costs of the lawsuit once other local governments are on board and to encourage other Capital Regional District (CRD) local governments to join. In December, the CRD voted to explore joining such a lawsuit and a report is due back from staff in early 2024. Such action may be instrumental in not only affecting change but providing the funding necessary for us to implement our actions and adapt to our changing climate.

Such actions, likely necessary if we are to achieve our climate goals, are expected to feature in an update to the Climate Plan, which will commence in 2024. This update will respond to the changing local and global context for climate action, reassess climate projections and risk, set updated targets based on latest climate data, review the impact of the actions completed to date and identify the transformative actions needed to bridge the gap and meet our goals. An overview of the project will be presented to Council in early 2024.





Appendix: Progress on Individual Actions




Progress on Mobility Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
Strategy M1: Invest in active transportation						
M1.1	Accelerate the implementation of the Active Transportation Plan	●		2020	Behind schedule	An update to the Active Transportation Plan was approved by Council in January 2024. This prioritizes active transportation infrastructure projects to be completed by 2030, 2040, and 2050. Cost inflation continues to challenge the implementation timelines. Further work on asset renewal and new asset construction costs is expected to take place in 2024. A \$2.3 M grant for Phase 3 of the Shelbourne Street Improvement Project was secured in 2022. In 2023, \$1 M in grant money was secured for projects on Gorge Rd (Phase 1) and Shelbourne St. (Phase 2).
M1.2	Pilot an electric bicycle incentive program	●		2020	Achieved	The Saanich pilot informed the development of a Provincial e-bike program that incorporated equity in design. The Provincial program was extremely popular, and Saanich offered top-up funding to reach additional Saanich residents.
M1.3	Expand the Active School Travel planning program	●		2020	Behind schedule	Most (30) schools in Saanich have now completed a Ready, Step, Roll: Active School Travel Plan. Saanich contributes funding to the CRD-led program and awaits additional resources from the school district to support implementation of the school travel plans and programming for secondary schools to be developed by the CRD.

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.
Future action	The action has not yet started and is slated for development in the future.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority
 Medium Priority
 Low Priority

Progress on Mobility Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS	
M1.4	Improve bike parking at existing buildings	●	2020	Behind schedule	The Active Transportation Plan includes actions to improving bike parking across the community. Updates to parking regulations are anticipated in 2024 which will improve provision of end of trip facilities for new construction and redevelopment. Saanich has recommended to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure that the Province create a retrofit support program for bike parking at existing commercial and multi-unit residential buildings.
M1.5	Explore integration between transit and other shared mobility providers	●	2022-2024	Future action	Future action
M1.6	Support bike shares and other shared mobility services	●	2020	Achieved	Saanich has updated relevant bylaws to enable bike shares and continues to monitor the Provincial pilot on other micro e-mobility devices that are not yet included in the BC Motor Vehicle Act (MVA). Shared vehicle services such as Modo and Evo are currently operating in Saanich. They offer residents additional options to live car-free or car-lite lifestyles. Electric kick (e-kick) scooters are not permitted under the MVA. In 2024 Saanich will consider an application to participate in a provincial pilot to allow use of e-kick scooters on Saanich roads, helping to inform future legislative and regulatory changes.
M1.7	Support lower speed limits on residential streets	●	Underway	On track	The Speed Limit Establishment Policy was approved by Council in July 2022. Speed limits have since been reduced on 9 priority corridors throughout the District. In December 2023, Council approved further speed limit reductions on 50 km of Major, Collector, and Local roads.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Mobility Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy M2: Prioritize transit-supportive policies and practices</i>				
M2.1	Work with partners (VRTC, BC Transit) to accelerate service level improvement and increase transit mode share	● Underway	Ongoing	<p>In September 2023, the Victoria Regional Transit Commission approved the following expansions: (subject to Provincial funding)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024/25: 20,000 hours, 8 buses 2025/26: 30,000 hours, 12 buses 2026/27: 40,000 hours, 16 buses <p>Investment priorities include: RapidBus and Frequent Transit Network Service improvements, development of the crosstown network on the Hillside/Gorge and Admirals/McKenzie corridors, simplifying and improving transit service on the Quadra corridor, and improvements to airport and Peninsula service.</p> <p>A third conventional transit facility is being planned, and a new handyDART facility is under construction. Both will be 100% electric fleet ready. Saanich supported transit improvements in 2023, including a transit queue jump lane on Tillicum Road and rapid transit corridor infrastructure improvement planning on Douglas St. and McKenzie Ave.</p> <p>The Active Transportation Plan update (1F.4) commits to developing a transit youth pass program for Saanich residents between 13-18 years old, as well as exploring affordable transportation options for other priority groups including low-income residents and new Canadians.</p>

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Mobility Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
M2.2	Support increased residential density along public transit routes	●		2021-2022	Ongoing	The new Proposed Official Community Plan received first reading in Dec 2023 and integrates land use with transit and active transportation, proposing a 15-minute walkable community tied with access to a Frequent Transit Network (FTN). It accommodates most new development in Primary Growth Areas (i.e., Centres, Villages, and Primary Corridors), supported by rapid (or future rapid) transit service. The new provincial transit-oriented development area requirements and Saanich Zoning Bylaw Updates that help implement the Provincial Small-Scale Multi-Unit housing legislation will support this action. The Quadra McKenzie Study is underway and will provide detailed guidance for future development for these two Primary Corridors and associated Centres and Villages.
M2.3	Make transit travel time-competitive	●		2021-2022	Ongoing	Saanich and BC Transit are working together to plan corridor and service improvements for implementation of a rapid bus service along McKenzie Ave. to better connect Uptown with the UVic. Transit will be given priority in select areas to decrease travel times.
M2.4	Investigate and consider updating off-street parking requirements to support a mode shift towards active transportation	●		2021-2022	Behind schedule	An update to the off-street parking requirements in the Zoning Bylaw has commenced and will include bike parking requirements and align with new Provincial housing legislation.
M2.5	Advocate for increased funding for transit service expansion and improvement	●		2020-2022	Behind schedule	The Victoria Regional Transit Commission approved the following expansions in September 2023: (subject to Provincial funding) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024/25: 20,000 hours, 8 buses 2025/26: 30,000 hours, 12 buses 2026/27: 40,000 hours, 16 buses
M2.6	Advocate for climate-informed ride hailing regulations	●		2020-2022	On hold	The period to comment on provincial ride hailing legislation has passed. We are waiting further information or opportunity to input from the Province.
M2.7	Work with BC Transit to incorporate latest best practices and new technology needs	●		2022-2024	Future action	Saanich promotes innovations from BC Transit with residents through our communication channels such as the NextRide and UMO apps.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Mobility Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS	
M2.8	Develop policies and resources for parking management and enforcement	●	2024-2029	Future action	Future action
Strategy M3: Accelerate electric and renewable mobility					
M3.1	Create a community-wide Electric Mobility Strategy	●	Underway	Achieved	Electric Mobility Strategy adopted by Council in November 2020. See E-Mobility Strategy Actions for progress on implementation.
M3.2	Require EV-ready infrastructure for new development	●	Underway	Achieved	EV-Ready Infrastructure Requirements bylaws adopted and came into effect September 1, 2020. Monitoring underway.
M3.3	Support EV infrastructure retrofits in existing buildings	●	Underway	Ongoing	Saanich continues to provide top-up incentives for EV Ready Plans and electrical infrastructure upgrades in existing Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs) through the CleanBC Go Electric Charger Rebate Program. Programs and resources are also promoted through the Saanich website and various outreach activities.
M3.4	Expand public EV charging network	●	Underway	On track	The feasibility study has been completed for Saanich's first public on-street chargers serving three neighbourhoods with a high density of multi-unit residential buildings. Construction is expected to be completed in 2024.
M3.5	Optimize the use of public EV charging stations	●	Underway	Achieved	EV charger Management Plan, associated Bylaws and User Fee implemented Jan 1, 2021. Staff will be exploring kWh billing in collaboration with other local governments in 2024.
M3.6	Support “Right to Charge” legislation	●	2020	Ongoing	In 2023, the Province introduced amendments to the Strata Property Act to make it easier for strata owners to request EV charging in their building. The changes include lowering the voting threshold required for EV charging decisions, requiring most stratas to complete an electrical planning report, and outlining the requirements when strata councils are considering an owner’s request to install charging. Staff will continue to advocate for Right to Charge legislation in rental buildings.
M3.7	Work with organizations in Saanich to reduce emissions from fleets	●	2022-2024	Ongoing	Local governments across the region continue to invest in fleet electrification and share resources and experiences through the Inter-municipal Working Group for Climate Action.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

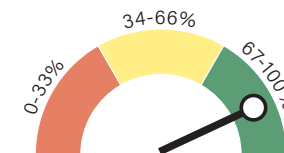
High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on E-Mobility Strategy Actions

E-Mobility Strategy



87% of actions
are Ongoing /
Achieved / On
track

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS	are Ongoing / Achieved / On track
Electric Bikes					
EB.1	Accelerate the implementation of the Active Transportation Plan	●	2020-2025	Behind schedule	See Climate Plan Action M1.1.
EB.2	Plan compact, complete communities and focus density in nodes and corridors	●	2020-2025	Ongoing	See Climate Plan Action M2.2.
EB.3	Identify and plan for infrastructure to ensure the safety and security of e-bike riders and others	●	2020-2025	Behind schedule	The updated Saanich Active Transportation Plan commits to two related actions: 1A.1: Use best practices, including the BC Active Transportation Design Guide and the Subdivision Bylaw to design all new and upgraded Active Transportation Infrastructure and 1E.3: Ensure all regional and Provincial projects are designed in accordance with the BC Active Transportation Design Guide.
EB.4	Advocate to the provincial and federal governments for an e-bike incentive program not linked to Scrap-It	●	2020-2022	Achieved	In 2023, the Province launched the BC Electric Bike Rebate Program, informed by the Saanich e-bike incentive pilot. As with the Saanich pilot, the provincial program also provided larger incentives for lower income residents and demonstrated considerable demand, filling within hours. The Province has also collaborated with researchers at UBC to study the climate impacts of the program. Study results are expected in early 2024 and staff are advocating for additional funding to support future program intakes in 2024.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on E-Mobility Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS	
EB.5	Provide 'top-up' incentives to augment provincial/ federal e-bike incentive programs	●	2020-2022	Achieved	Saanich provided additional funds to the BC Electric Bike Rebate Program, allowing more Saanich residents to access incentives through the provincial program.
EB.6	Pilot an e-bike incentive/trial program	●	2020-2022	Achieved	See Climate Plan Action M1.2.
EB.7	Increase awareness of e-bikes through a comprehensive communications campaign	●	2020-2023	Ongoing	Saanich delivered on this action in 2023 by promoting the BC Electric Bike Rebate Program, hosting a try-an-e-bike event for residents organized by non-profit Capital Bike, and participating in and supporting Go by Bike Week as well as e-bike training for staff.
EB.8	Support lower speed limits on residential streets	●	2020-2023	On track	See Climate Plan action M1.7.
EB.9	Review and update the Zoning Bylaw to consider amendments that support e-bikes	●	2021-2023	Behind schedule	See Climate Plan Action M2.4.
EB.10	Advocate to BC Transit and the CRD to update their infrastructure design guidelines to support e-bikes	●	2021-2023	Ongoing	In meetings with BC Transit and the CRD, Engineering continues to advocate for consideration of facilities to support multi-modal trips.
EB.11	Develop policies and infrastructure to support other kinds of e-mobility in collaboration with the Province and regional partners	●	2021-2023	On hold	Electric kick (e-kick) scooters are not currently permitted in BC under the Motor Vehicle Act. However, Saanich is monitoring the Provincial pilot project related to e-mobility devices and it is hoped that these will inform future legislative changes. The results are expected in 2024 and this action is on hold until that time.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on E-Mobility Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS	
Electric Vehicles					
EV.1	Advocate to provincial and federal governments to maintain EV incentive programs	●	2020-2025	Ongoing	Saanich continues to advocate to the Province on importance of EV incentives and provides feedback on existing programs. Some challenges in 2023 included temporary gap in funding for the EV Ready incentives for multi-family buildings. 2023 program improvements including townhomes in the recapitalized CleanBC Go Electric Charger Rebate Program.
EV.2	Increase awareness of EVs through a comprehensive communications campaign	●	2020-2023	Ongoing	Continued to provide education and awareness to the community on the benefits and incentives available for EVs, including through utility bill inserts, social media, and materials at in-person events.
EV.3	Explore E-mobility requirements and incentives for business licenses and fees	●	2021-2022	Behind schedule	This action is behind schedule due to limited staff capacity and other higher priority actions.
EV.4	Encourage and support regional organizations to convert their fleets to Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs)	●	2020-2025	On track	See Climate Plan Action M3.7.
EV.5	Support car sharing organizations to electrify their fleet	●	2021-2023	On track	Completed feasibility and design for three locations that will have dedicated car share charging. Work to commence in 2024 on installing chargers and working on a licensing program to enable car share organizations to have exclusive use of the stations.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on E-Mobility Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS	
EV.6	Advocate that higher levels of government work to remove barriers to EV adoption	●	2021-2024	Ongoing	Staff continue to engage in BC Hydro processes that are looking at restructuring rates and other policies that affect EV adoption. BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) rulings on some key applications, including time of use rates are expected in 2024. With Measurement Canada’s changes to enable kWh billing, staff will be working with other local governments in 2024 to understand the process and plan for a transition to a more equitable fee structure for public chargers.
EV.7	Explore the potential for EVs to act as backup power supply	●	2021-2025	On track	Staff are involved in a collaborative project with other local governments to explore ways to improve resilience to power outages in all electric homes. This will include use of EVs as a backup power supply and will result in communications materials that can be used in public outreach activities.
Home and Workplace Charging					
H+W.1	Monitor Saanich EV Infrastructure Requirements for New Developments and share knowledge regionally	●	2020-2025	Ongoing	Staff have monitored implementation of the new EV infrastructure requirements and no major issues have been raised. However, data collection and analysis is limited by resource restrictions and Tempest software program limitations.
H+W.2	Advocate for Right to Charge legislation	●	2020-2021	Ongoing	See Climate Plan Action M3.6.
H+W.3	Create guidelines for 100% EV-ready feasibility studies in existing Multi-Unit Residential Buildings	●	2020-2021	Achieved	Parameters for EV Ready Plans were created for provincial incentives in late 2020. Saanich staff continue to participate in the EV Working Group chaired by Technical Safety BC to provide guidance documents and address technical issues related to EV ready infrastructure.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on E-Mobility Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS	
H+W.4	Promote incentives for EV charging infrastructure	●	2020-2023	Ongoing	Continuing to promote through multiple channels, including webpage, social media (e.g. EV Ready top-up testimonial videos and case studies), utility bill mail outs and newsletters, and at in-person events.
H+W.5	Provide 'top-up' incentives to augment provincial/ federal EV charging infrastructure incentives for existing Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs) as required	●	2021-2022	Achieved	Saanich offers a \$100/stall top-up for EV Ready infrastructure that provides all units in a Multi-Unit Residential Building with an EV-ready parking stall. Saanich's top-up supported the installation of 328 EV ready stalls in multi-family buildings by the end of 2022.
H+W.6	Explore the need for and provide incentives for EV charging infrastructure feasibility studies in existing Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs) if required	●	2021-2022	Achieved	Saanich was the first local government in BC to offer this with agreements finalized in Fall 2021. Saanich offers a \$1,000 top-up for EV Ready Plans that outline the design and cost for installing EV Ready infrastructure for all units in the Multi-Unit Residential Building. Saanich's top-up supported 13 buildings to complete EV Ready Plans by the end of 2022.
H+W.7	Provide EV charging infrastructure education for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs)	●	2020-2021	Ongoing	While there weren't as many active campaigns and resources developed or delivered in 2023, Saanich continues to promote the resources and materials available on our website and through key partners, such as the Vancouver Island Strata Owners Association (VISOA), CRD, Plug In BC, BC Hydro and others.
H+W.8	Identify and address potential policy barriers to EV infrastructure in existing buildings	●	2021-2023	On track	This will be considered as part of bylaw amendments that were initiated alongside the Development Permit Area Design Guidelines project. Recommendations for bylaw changes are expected to be presented to Council by Q2 2024.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on E-Mobility Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS	
H+W.9	Support off-site EV charging for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs)	●	2021-2023	Ongoing	Feasibility and design completed for three on-street public charging sites in multi-family neighbourhoods. These chargers will be installed in 2024 with support from the CRD.
H+W.10	Support workplace EV charging	●	2021-2023	Ongoing	Supported CRD as they completed and disseminated their EV Charging Guidelines that can help support public and workplace charging installations.
H+W.11	Support dedicated EV charging access for car shares near Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs)	●	2022-2023	On track	Feasibility and design completed for three on-street public charging sites in multi-family neighbourhoods, with each site having one car share dedicated charger. These chargers will be installed in 2024 with support from the CRD.
H+W.12	Explore various financial approaches to overcome the capital cost barrier to EV charging	●	2022-2023	On track	The Province’s Low Carbon Fuel Standard was revised, and multi-family buildings with five or more units are eligible to claim and sell credits for electricity used in transportation. This represents significant potential revenue that can help pay for the cost of installation in MURBs over time. Further provincial amendments to the legislation will make it easier for credits to be sold on the market, which is a current barrier with aggregators taking a large percentage. Saanich provides information on this revenue opportunity, as well as promoting available incentives.
Public Charging					
PN.1	Identify priority areas in Saanich for the provision of additional public EV charging stations	●	2021-2022	On track	Projected EV charging station numbers and potential sites required to meet 2030 targets have been identified as part of the CRD EV Roadmap. Feasibility and design work was completed in 2023 for three on-street public charging sites in multi-family neighbourhoods. These chargers will be installed in 2024 with support from the CRD.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on E-Mobility Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
PN.2	Work with BC Hydro and the provincial and federal governments to install more DC fast charging stations in Saanich	●		2020-2022	Ongoing	In 2023, the CRD signed an MOU with BC Hydro to support the shared goal of increasing DC fast charging in the region. Saanich staff are involved to support site identification in Saanich, and feasibility will be carried out in 2023. For projects that proceed, BC Hydro will install, own and operate the stations.
PN.3	Explore how to encourage private sector investment in new EV charging infrastructure	●		2021-2025	On track	Saanich continues to support the CRD in efforts to encourage private sector EV charging hosts, including through the distribution of the CRD's Public EV Charging Guidelines Project, which was completed in 2023.
PN.4	Embed EV charging considerations in Saanich planning processes	●		2021-2023	Ongoing	EV charging infrastructure needs and considerations are embedded within the work of municipal, police and fire fleet, facility operations, transportation and engineering. Support for electric mobility and zero emissions vehicles is embedded in the updated OCP and the forthcoming Zero Emission Fleet Strategy. This action also benefits from a 2023 initiated partnership with BC Hydro to share more detailed land use and planning information and growth projections in support of future electrification.
Saanich Leadership						
Lead 1	Develop a fleet strategy to reduce corporate emissions	●		2020-2021	Ongoing	See Climate Plan action L3.1.
Lead 2	Convert all light-duty fleet vehicles to zero emissions vehicles	●		2020-2025	Ongoing	See Climate Plan action L3.2.
Lead 3	Develop an e-bike fleet program	●		2020-2022	Ongoing	See Climate Plan Action L3.3.
Lead 4	Implement a Climate Friendly Commuter Program and improve bike parking at all Saanich facilities	●		2020-2022	Behind schedule	See Climate Plan Action L2.1.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy B1: Require efficient, net-zero carbon new construction</i>					
B1.1	Identify and remove municipal barriers to high-performance buildings	●	2020	On track	Bylaw review undertaken in 2023 and due to be completed and presented to Council by Q2 2024.
B1.2	Accelerate adoption of net-zero carbon new construction	●	2020	On track	Council accelerated the adoption of the Zero Carbon Step Code in April 2023 and approved bylaws to bring this into effect. These require all new Part 9 buildings (e.g. homes, townhomes, houseplexes) to achieve Emissions Level 4 (Zero Carbon) performance as of November 1, 2023. The same standard will be required for new Part 3 buildings as of July 1/November 1, 2024.
B1.3	Require new construction to achieve upper steps of the BC Energy Step Code by 2025	●	2021-2022	On track	With the accelerated adoption of the <u>Zero</u> Carbon Step Code, Saanich has now aligned with the Provincial timeline for higher steps of the BC <u>Energy</u> Step Code. This is expected to move to the upper steps for energy performance by 2027 and the highest step by 2032.
B1.4	Support building industry capacity development	●	Underway	Ongoing	Zero Carbon building performance information sessions, case studies and engagement sessions were held with local industry in partnership with the City of Victoria, CRD, Step Code Peer Networks, industry players, Energy Step Code Council and Community Energy Association, amongst others.
B1.5	Encourage the adoption of low-carbon materials in new construction	●	2021-2022	Behind schedule	Due to staff capacity constraints, this action was not prioritized in 2023. Additional sustainability staff resource requests in 2024 will support work on this action.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B1.6	Advocate for GHG performance metrics in the BC Building Code	●		2020-2021	Achieved	The Province introduced the BC Zero Carbon Step Code in May 2023, which incorporates GHG intensity into the BC Building Code and allows for early adoption by local governments. Saanich has adopted the highest level (EL4/ Zero Carbon) for new Part 9 buildings as of Nov 1, 2023, and for Part 3 buildings in July/Nov 2024. The code changes still allow for fossil fuel use in fireplaces, stoves, laundry and other appliances. Saanich has amended the building bylaw and issued direction via bulletin to address fossil fuel use in fireplaces and back-up equipment.
B1.7	Require energy benchmarking for new Part 3 buildings	●		2021-2022	On track	Mandatory energy benchmarking for Part 3 buildings has been introduced and implemented as part of the Zero Carbon Step Code adoption.
Strategy B2: 🌟 Accelerate efficiency and renewable energy upgrades in existing buildings						
B2.1	Launch a Home Energy Retrofit Municipal Financing pilot project	●		Underway	On track	In January 2023, staff presented the results of the Oil to Heat Pump Financing Pilot program and Council approved the expansion of the program to include natural gas and propane heated homes. A revolving green fund was established and additional funding secured from FCM to ensure program continuation and allow additional participants over 3 years.
B2.2 🌟	Phase out oil heating by 2030	●		2020	On track	With renewed direction from the Building Retrofit Strategy, staff have begun scoping a project to develop a strategy to phase out oil heating. A grant application was submitted in fall 2023 to support this work.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B2.3	Carry out effective communications campaigns to promote conversion to renewable energy systems	● 2020	Ongoing	Multiple actions e.g. utility bill inserts, presentations, participation in the Home Energy Navigator program, social media campaigns etc. The Climate Friendly Homes campaign provides specific messaging about the climate impacts of natural gas and the Make the Switch study and communications materials is focused on the costs of operating a heat pump compared to natural gas furnaces.
B2.4	Explore regulatory power to require efficiency and renewable energy upgrades	● 2020	Ongoing	The implementation of the Zero Carbon Step Code has enabled Saanich to regulate most emissions in new construction (excludes stoves and appliances etc). The Building Retrofit Strategy identified regulatory actions necessary to support GHG reductions in existing buildings, including, Mandatory Energy and Carbon Reporting (i.e. benchmarking), phasing out oil heating (see action B2), and the early adoption of the Province's Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard which is currently in development. Staff are working on a proposed process for developing a Mandatory Energy and Carbon Reporting (i.e. benchmarking) requirement for existing buildings, which will be presented to Council in early 2024. Saanich continues to work with Help Cities Lead and other partners to advocate for more tools to regulate emissions in existing buildings.
B2.5	Increase top-up rebates for conversion from fossil fuel to renewable energy systems	● Underway	On track	Demand for Saanich's heat pump top-up rebates accelerated and funding was fully subscribed by summer 2023. Due to the level of market penetration, staff have recommended that future top-up funding focus on electrical service upgrades which can pose a costly barrier for heat pump installations - this is dependent upon approval of a one-time resource in the 2024 budget. Council approved a Tax Exemption Program to support electrification retrofits in Part 3 buildings, which will be promoted beginning in early 2024.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS	
B2.6	Develop a comprehensive building retrofit strategy	●	2020-2022	Achieved	The Building Retrofit Strategy was adopted by Council in July 2023. It confirmed that bold and ambitious action was required by local governments in addition to committed actions by the Province in order to meet our climate targets. It identified 45 actions in 5 focus areas, including 10 High Impact Actions that are directly within Saanich's control and were deemed to have the greatest impact on GHG reductions, resilience, equity and market transformation. See the Building Retrofit Strategy Actions for details on progress to date.
B2.7	Work with partners to support skills development	●	2021-2022	Ongoing	Continuing to engage on skills development as opportunities arise, including through the Greater Victoria 2030 District and liaising with the Home Performance Stakeholder Council.
B2.8	Advocate for long-term, effective rebate programs	●	2020	Ongoing	Continued messaging to Province and Federal Government on need for long term, consistent, sizable and well-resourced climate rebates. Consistent funding continues to be an issue, for example, the 6 month gap in funding for the CleanBC Go Electric Rebate Program, and the Canada Greener Homes program has forecasted that the program may close in early 2024. A focus in messaging this year has been the need for deeper equity-based retrofit programs and a need for more multi-family building incentives and supports.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B2.9	Advocate for provincial support on property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing	●		2020	Ongoing	Saanich continues to advocate through Help Cities Lead and other avenues by sharing experience from our Financing Program with the Province, stressing the value of this legislative amendment. BC municipalities are restricted in accessing significant Federal funding programs due to restrictions in borrowing and a lack of enabling PACE legislation. While the Province committed to PACE legislation as part of CleanBC, they have indicated that it is low priority and will not see progress in the near term.
B2.10	Work with industry partners to support renewable energy retrofits	●		Underway	Ongoing	Staff continue to work with diverse partners to develop and operate programs that support retrofits in different building sectors. These collaborative programs include Building Benchmark BC, the Home Energy Navigator, the Greater Victoria 2030 District, as well as the development of a Strata Energy Advisor program and expansion of Vancouver's Rental Apartment Retrofit Accelerator program, both currently underway.
B2.11	Develop incentive tools to encourage commercial and Multi-Unit Residential Buildings to undertake deep energy retrofits	●		2020	On track	Saanich's innovative Climate Action Tax Exemption Program was approved by Council by bylaw in December 2023 and will be actively promoted to commercial and multi-unit residential buildings in 2024. The program offers up to a 10-year municipal property tax exemption equal to 100% of project costs for residential buildings and up to a 3-year exemption equal to 50-80% of project costs for commercial buildings. This is the first program of its kind in BC and is intended to accelerate the number of larger buildings undertaking electrification retrofits in the community.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B2.12	Work with the Province to prevent fuel switching from low-carbon to high-carbon energy sources	●		2020	Ongoing	In 2023, the Province updated legislation that restricts the ability for utilities to offer incentives for natural gas furnaces and boilers as of the end of 2023. Saanich continues to monitor the number of new gas connections and advocates for policies and programs to address this issue as opportunities arise.
B2.13	Participate in retrofit code development	●		2020	On track	Saanich continues to monitor the development of the Province's Alterations Code. However, early details indicate weak legislation that may have little impact on GHG reductions, while requiring additional staff capacity to implement. Much deeper GHG reductions will be delivered through the Province's Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard. Saanich will continue to engage in all Provincial policy development opportunities and convene other local governments to advocate for effective provincial legislation through our role as co-chair in the Local Government Retrofit Peer Network.
B2.14	Introduce voluntary energy benchmarking for existing buildings	●		2024-2029	Achieved	Continued to support and participate in Building Benchmark BC, a voluntary program enabling building owners/managers to benchmark their energy use and GHGs against similar buildings.
B2.15	Advocate for home energy labelling and disclosure	●		2024-2029	Ahead of schedule	Saanich has been participating in the development of the Province's Virtual Home Energy Rating System which will provide a virtual energy label for all homes across BC and facilitate access to existing rebates and programs. The program will be piloted in some communities beginning in 2024.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B2.16	Support mandatory recommissioning for existing Part 3 buildings	●		2024-2029	Future action	Future action.
B2.17	Support mandatory energy and emissions benchmarking for existing Part 3 buildings	●		2024-2029	Ahead of schedule	Staff are working with local governments across BC to explore best practices for mandatory energy and carbon reporting (i.e. benchmarking) and get support in implementing a requirement. Saanich, Victoria and CRD staff have initiated conversations with local stakeholders and intend to develop a proposed requirement throughout 2024. An update will be presented to Council in Jan 2024.
<i>Strategy B3: Increase energy resilience and renewable energy supply</i>						
B3.1	Support development of local Renewable Natural Gas production	●		Underway	Ongoing	Continued to support CRD as required in relation to the RNG generation facility at Hartland Landfill and through the purchase of RNG for back-up natural gas use at our facilities following upgrades. RNG is a limited renewable resource that should be reserved for hard to electrify sectors. Saanich registered as an intervener alongside other BC local governments, in the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) proceeding on the FortisBC RNG rate application. This application would have considerable negative climate implications if approved. Final Evidence was submitted in Nov and Dec 2023 and a BCUC decision on each is expected in 2024.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B3.2	Support the Province and utilities to produce sufficient renewable energy	●		2021-2022	Ongoing	Staff continue to provide input to the utilities regarding their long term energy plans and rate applications that impact or influence the ability to meet our climate targets. Saanich registered as an intervener alongside other local governments, in the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) proceedings for the FortisBC Long Term Gas Resource Plan, BC Hydro Integrated Resource Plan and, notably, the FortisBC RNG rate application. These, in particular the RNG rate application, have considerable implications for our climate targets. Final Evidence was submitted in Nov and Dec 2023 and a BCUC decision on each is expected in 2024. Saanich continues to advocate to the Province, alongside other local governments, for an integrated energy framework and detailed plan that will deliver against CleanBC goals and our climate targets.
B3.3	Develop a renewable energy guide for residents	●	●	2024-2029	Future action	Future action. Considerable information on renewable energy and electrification is provided on the Saanich website to support residents.
B3.4	Work with the province and utilities to incentivize local renewable energy production	●		2024-2029	Future action	Saanich has promoted the Canada Greener Homes grant which provides incentives for, among other things, on-site renewable energy generation. Additionally, 123 new solar net metering systems were installed in Saanich in 2023, for a total of 485 systems with a total of 2897 kW capacity.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy B4: Transition towards a climate-ready building stock</i>						
B4.1	Develop strategies to preserve and enhance permeability and stormwater management	●		2021-2022	Behind schedule	<p>A stormwater specialist was hired in Q3 2023. Priority is being given to advancing development of drainage models to assist with infrastructure planning, including evaluating the impact of different levels of permeability. Green infrastructure strategies, tools and design specifications are in staff's work plan but remain under resourced at this time. The Natural Assets Inventory project that is currently underway will identify natural assets that contribute to the provision of Saanich's Stormwater Management Services.</p> <p>The content of Zoning Bylaw updates to implement Provincial Small-Scale Multi-Unit housing regulations will be key in determining the level of impact of infill development on the loss of permeable areas and stormwater management.</p>
B4.2	Develop a "programmed roof" policy	●	●	2021-2022	Ongoing	Guidelines that support beneficial use of roof space for green roofs and garden spaces are included as part of the updated Development Permit Area (DPA) Guidelines as presented to Council in November 2023. The DPA Guidelines are an appendix to the OCP Bylaw. They will go to Public Hearing early in 2024.
B4.3	Advocate for the incorporation of climate adaptation considerations into the BC Building Code	●		2020	Ongoing	In 2023, the Provincial government updated the BC Building code to require all new buildings to provide one living space that is designed not to exceed 26°C. The requirement will take effect in March 2024. Staff are still reviewing whether this will be effective given the lack of requirement to use future climate files in modelling. Staff continue to advocate for cooling requirements in existing buildings and for future climate projections to be reflected in cooling requirements.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B4.4	Encourage building design or retrofit measures to reduce impacts from heat waves and poor air quality events		●	2022-2024	On track	Ongoing communications to public about cooling and air quality benefits of heat pumps. Participating in CRD's Extreme Heat Vulnerability and Exposure Dashboard Project, which will help inform communications, programs, and policies to address overheating in neighbourhoods and buildings.
B4.5	Consider a rainwater collection system requirement in new development			2024-2029	Future action	Future action.
B4.6	Encourage the implementation of engineered greywater systems			2024-2029	Future action	Future action.
Strategy B5: ☀ Increase the resilience of Saanich's infrastructure and assets						
B5.1	Include climate change considerations in the corporate asset management system		●	2021-2022	On track	<p>The Asset Management Strategy includes integration of climate change considerations in District-wide asset management practices, including in the development of Asset Management Plans. The strategy also includes preparing a guidance document for Staff on integrating climate considerations throughout the lifecycle of the asset.</p> <p>The District's Asset Management Strategy includes natural assets in the scope of the Asset Management Program and prioritizes the development of a Natural Asset Management Plan, which will account for the value and services provided by natural assets.</p> <p>Hired a co-op student to complete the survey work needed to fill in the data gaps for stormwater infrastructure Jan-end Summer 2024. New flow monitors purchased for waterways and new GPS survey mobile units/devices. Flow monitoring completed on Colquitz river in preparation for development of ISMP. CRD stormwater quality report for 2022 was published and provides information for Saanich watersheds. CCTV investigation and condition assessment remains ongoing for sanitary and storm mains. Priorities are being determined based on current project needs.</p>

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B5.2	Update engineering design specifications to account for future climate projections		●	2021-2022	On track	New Rainfall Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) curves were published in Schedule H of the Subdivision Bylaw. A subsequent climate change adjusted IDF curve has been developed and is actively being used in the analysis for drainage system planning. Infrastructure improvements that will be required as a result of implementing the CC adjusted IDF curves require further context and engineering specifications to be addressed prior to being available for implementation with development applications. This will form part of the Subdivision Servicing Bylaw update.
B5.3	Conduct flood hazard planning		●	Underway	Ongoing	Continued work on the ISMP includes model builds for Douglas Creek and the start of the Colquitz Creek model. The latter will include an additional modeling tool to support simulating flood conditions and establish hydraulic boundary conditions for the dual drainage model of the Colquitz at the confluence with the ocean. With this tool, designing mitigation measures can be tested for their effectiveness. Grant funding will be pursued to support this aspect of the project. The current work plan strategy includes accelerating the drainage model development District-wide. This tool is needed to develop mapping and policy related to flooding.
B5.4	Accelerate the completion of a stormwater master plan with climate change considerations		●	2021-2022	Behind schedule	Dedicated staffing resources for this work were in place in 2023 and additional funding was allocated through the Climate Plan financial plan. Cordova Bay Pilot ISMP (the first of 4 ISMPs) and drainage master plan is well underway with project completion expected in early 2024. A “one-time” resource request for 2024 portion of the ISMP program funds will be included in the upcoming budget deliberations. The current work plan strategy includes accelerating the drainage model development District-wide.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B5.5	Investigate on-site stormwater management practices on private lands		●	2024-2029	Future action	Amendment was made to the subdivision bylaw to allow for on-site stormwater management for garden suites where no existing piped drainage service is available. On-site stormwater management practices on private land will be investigated as part of the development of ISMPs. The stormwater models will be important in projecting and identifying implications associated with future growth and understanding the impacts on the environment. A dedicated drainage funding mechanism is being developed in parallel with updates to the water and sewer utility rates.
<i>Strategy B6: Prepare for long-term sea-level rise</i>						
B6.1	Complete sea-level rise mapping		●	Underway	On track	Regional Coastal Flood Inundation Mapping project completed in 2020 with updates in 2021. To be used in awareness campaigns and to inform policies moving forwards.
B6.2	Increase sea-level rise knowledge and adaptation capacity in the community		●	2022-2024	Future action	Future action.
B6.3	Develop a Coastal Adaptation Strategy		●	2022-2024	Future action	Future action.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

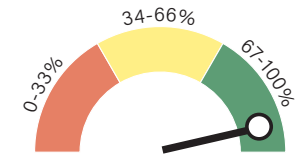
High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

Building Retrofit Strategy



94% of actions
are Ongoing /
Achieved / On
track

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy 1a: Municipal Policy and Regulation</i>				
PR.1	Require the removal of oil heating systems by 2030	● 2023-2025	On track	With renewed direction from the Building Retrofit Strategy, staff have begun scoping a project to develop a strategy to phase out oil heating. A grant application was submitted and will be a focus in 2024.
PR.2	Implement Mandatory Building Energy Benchmarking and Disclosure for large Part 3 buildings	● 2023-2025	On track	Staff are working with local governments across BC to explore best practices for mandatory energy and carbon reporting (i.e. benchmarking) and get support in implementing a requirement. Saanich, Victoria and CRD staff have initiated conversations with local stakeholders and intend to develop a proposed requirement throughout 2024. An update will be presented to Council in Jan 2024.
PR.3	Implement a fuel source declaration for building owners, if needed	● 2024-2026	Future action	Future action
PR.4	Remove policy barriers to retrofits and high performance buildings	● 2023	On track	Development Permit Area (DPA) Guidelines update is complete and aligned with high performance buildings. Bylaw updates are underway and expected to be presented to Council by Q2 2024.
PR.5	Develop policy on the use of alternative renewable energy sources to guide development of programs, policies and regulations	● 2024-2026	Future action	Future action

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
PR.6	Develop policies or tools to minimize the carbon impact of redevelopment			2025-2026	Future action	Future action
PR.7	Investigate options to leverage business licensing to support retrofit objectives			2024-2025	Future action	Future action
<i>Strategy 1b: Municipal Policy and Regulation (Provincially Enabled)</i>						
PR.8	Support the Province's Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard, and implement the early adoption pathway for local governments	●		2023-2027	On track	Latest updates from the Province confirm that there is intended to be an early adoption pathway for municipalities in implementing the Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard. Engagement on legislative changes to the Energy Efficiency Act is anticipated in 2024.
PR.9	Advocate for the timely implementation of property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing legislation and programs	●		2023 until legislation is enacted	Ongoing	Saanich continues to advocate through UBCM, Help Cities Lead, the Municipal Finance Authority, and through staff networks for enabling PACE legislation. However, despite previous commitment from the Province and work on this file, they continue to note this as low priority with no further action at this time.
PR.10	Advocate that the BC Building Code and Alterations Code address overheating and air quality issues in buildings	●		2024 until adopted	Future action	The Province has signalled that the committed Alteration Code will reference the National Model Code. Engagement on changes to the National Model Codes, including for 'Alterations to Existing Buildings' are anticipated in early 2024.
PR.11	Assess the impact of forthcoming Alterations Code when it is enabled by the Province to determine value of implementation			2024-2025	Future action	Future action
PR.12	Seek municipal authority to implement a Carbon Performance Standard for existing buildings, as needed			2026-2030	Future action	Future action

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy 2: Advocacy for Provincial Policy and Regulation</i>						
AD.1	Advocate for effective design and implementation of the Province's GHG emissions cap for Natural Gas Utilities	●		2023 until adopted	On track	Council sent a letter to multiple ministers regarding the need for stronger legislation to address gas utilities in BC, including the need for the Province to follow through on a strong GHG emissions cap for this sector.
AD.2	Advocate that the Province reform the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) mandate and that the Province and utilities adopt an aligned energy plan	●		2024 until adopted	On track	Council sent a letter to multiple ministers regarding the need for stronger legislation to address gas utilities in BC, including the need for an aligned energy plan. The Province is now engaging on a Climate Aligned Energy Framework and staff will seek opportunities to provide input.
AD.3	Advocate for effective design and implementation of Province's labelling program and time-off-listing labelling requirement	●		2023 until adopted	On track	Saanich is participating on the Advisory Committee for the development of the Province's Virtual Home Energy Rating System (VHERS) and will continue to provide feedback through the development and implementation process.
AD.4	Advocate for better access to building energy, emissions and program participation data	●		2023 until provided	On track	Staff continue to advocate for better data and are working closely with BC Hydro to improve systems for data sharing. The VHERS project (see above) is also developing a data portal that will improve local government understanding of energy, emissions, and upgrade trends in existing buildings.
AD.5	Advocate and support BC Hydro in removing barriers to electrification	●		2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Saanich has engaged in multiple BC Hydro rate design initiatives in 2023, including amendments to their extension fee policy and the introduction of an optional time-of-use rate, which was approved by the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) in December, 2023. Saanich is also collaborating with BC Hydro and City of Victoria to develop more proactive, streamlined, and data-driven approaches to grid capacity and distribution planning at the local level.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
AD.6	Address current gaps in incentives through advocacy and/or development of local programs			2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Saanich continues to provide feedback and advocate for gaps in programs to be addressed. In 2023, this included advocating for improved funding programs for Part 3 buildings, including MURBs, and for improved coverage as part of the CleanBC Income-Qualified Program. To address these gaps, Saanich introduced a tax exemption program for Part 3 buildings and are conducting a feasibility study for a direct-install heat pump program for low-income households.
AD.7	Advocate for legislation that upholds the rights of renters and strata owners to add passive or mechanical cooling and air filtration in their suites			2025 (until adopted)	Future action	Future action
AD.8	Advocate that strata depreciation reports be required to consider the forthcoming Highest Efficiency Equipment Standards in their assessments			2025 (until adopted)	Future action	The Province recently introduced legislation that will require strata corporations with 5 or more strata lots to complete an electrical planning report by December 31, 2026 (in the CRD). This will be foundational for stratas in planning for electrification, including meeting the Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard or any future cooling requirements.
<i>Strategy 3: Municipal Incentives and Supports</i>						
IN.1	Launch a Strata Energy Advisor Program in collaboration with regional partners			2023-2024	On track	Staff continue to collaborate with the City of Victoria and other partners to develop and launch a Strata Energy Advisor Program and anticipate that an RFP will be released early in 2024, with a program operational by summer 2024.
IN.2	Scale up the Heat Pump Financing (PACE) Program for Part 9 homes, and seek program financing from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) or other sources when Provincially enabled			2023	On track	The Heat Pump Financing Program was re-opened in August 2023, with the establishment of a revolving green fund and additional grant funding from FCM. The program expanded to include natural gas and propane homes and will support 50-70 participants per year for an additional 3 years. To date, 36 participants have completed fossil fuel to heat pump conversions through the program.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
IN.3	Implement a low-income direct install program for fossil fuel to heat pump conversions, subject to the findings of a feasibility study	2023-2024	Behind schedule	Funding has been secured for the feasibility study from BC Hydro. Work is underway but behind schedule on this action, which will be advanced in early 2024 thanks to additional staffing resources in the Sustainability Division.
IN.4	Incentivize electrification through a Revitalization Tax Exemption (RTE) program for Part 3 Buildings	2023	On track	In 2023, Council approved the Program Bylaw to enact a Revitalization Tax Exemption Program for commercial and multi-unit residential buildings in Saanich. The program offers up to 10 years municipal tax exemption for MURBs and up to 3 years for commercial buildings. Program promotions will begin early 2024.
IN.5	Support ongoing implementation and expansion of the Home Energy Navigator	2023 (ongoing)	On track	The Home Energy Navigator provides concierge services and supports for residents undertaking retrofits in the capital region (part 9 homes). There were 626 registrations across the CRD in its first year, with high participant satisfaction. Program evaluation and improvements are ongoing, with renewed outreach strategies planned for 2024. In addition, a "Neighbourhood Offer" is being piloted that helps participants develop a Retrofit Roadmap with bundled retrofit options to see if that model helps increase the depth and speed of retrofits.
IN.6	Deepen commercial building supports through the Greater Victoria 2030 District and other opportunities	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Saanich continues to support BOMA BC and the Greater Victoria 2030 District, which is focused on expanding support services and recruiting Class B and C building owners in 2024. Participating buildings are on track or have already achieved their 50% energy and GHG reduction commitments by 2030.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
IN.7	Develop and deliver resources, supports and outreach materials on key topics for tailored audiences			2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Resources continue to be developed to support different audiences, as needed. A neighbourly siting guide for heat pump installations is nearly complete, and a collaborative project with other local governments will be providing guidance on how to improve resilience to power-outages in all-electric homes. Other resources are likely to be developed as part of the Climate Plan Update in 2024.
IN.8	Support demonstration projects to showcase successful implementation of electrification and/or resilience projects			2024 (ongoing)	Future action	Future action
IN.9	Provide top-up incentive funding that maximizes program uptake and fuel switching and addresses program gaps			2023 (ongoing)	On hold	Due to accelerating demand for heat pumps, Saanich's CleanBC top-up rebate was fully subscribed in summer 2023. Continued top-up rebates for electrical service upgrades (an ongoing cost barrier that has lower coverage from rebate programs and also supports EV adoption) will be considered as part of the 2024 budget request.
IN.10	Explore opportunities to support or partner on localized, community-based renewable energy generation			2025 (ongoing)	Future action	Future action
IN.11	Facilitate climate empowerment programs that support community members to take action in their buildings			2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Saanich continues to offer multiple programs to support residents in taking action in their own lives. In 2023, this included participating in the inaugural Climate Friendly Homes Tour, where residents opened their doors to showcase their climate-friendly homes and upgrades, and presentations to the community about climate action.
IN.12	Increase participation in Building Benchmark BC to bridge towards and build capacity for a mandatory program			2023-2025	On track	The voluntary Building Benchmark BC program continues to grow, with over 1600 properties now benchmarking their energy and carbon emissions across BC. Scorecards are provided to all participating buildings, providing insights into GHG and energy reduction opportunities.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
IN.13	Develop and disseminate broad public education materials and campaigns to improve climate literacy	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Saanich continues to disseminate public education materials, with 2023 focused on delivering the Climate-Friendly Homes video series and materials. In addition, the “Make the Switch” materials were completed and disseminated, providing video testimonials and information on the relative costs of operating a heat pump compared to natural gas heating equipment. Campaigns were rolled out through social media, radio ads, newspaper ads, videos before movies at Cineplex Silvercity, and other outlets in collaboration with the City of Victoria.
IN.14	Develop a public dashboard for climate risk, energy and emissions	2026-2027	Future action	Future action
<i>Strategy 4: Research, Partnerships and Collaboration</i>				
RPC.1	Pursue partnerships and opportunities to increase industry capacity	2024 (ongoing)	Future action	Future action
RPC.2	Support implementation of the Province’s forthcoming home energy labelling program and requirements	2024-2025	Ahead of schedule	Staff have been participating on the Advisory committee for the Province’s Virtual Home Energy Rating System and providing input on its development. A pilot roll-out of the tool is anticipated in early 2024.
RPC.3	Collaborate with the Provincial and Federal Governments, utilities and other actors to maximize program integration	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Staff provided input on recommendations to the Province (facilitated by the Zero Emissions Building Exchange) on how to align and integrate Retrofit Concierge services across BC and with Provincial program offerings. Saanich also continues to integrate the Heat Pump Financing Program with the CleanBC Income-Qualified Program to maximize incentives and streamline processes for participants.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
RPC.4	Complete community-wide and building scale heat mapping			2023-2024	On track	Work is nearly complete on the CRD-led Extreme Heat Vulnerability Mapping Project, which is creating a spatial database on three key indices to determine regional vulnerability to extreme heat. The portal is expected to be released in early 2024.
RPC.5	Pilot Low-Carbon Resilience Audits in Part 3 buildings			2023-2024	On track	The University of Victoria, in collaboration with the Greater Victoria 2030 District continue to progress on the development of the Resiliency Opportunity Assessment and Response (ROAR) tool to help building owners understand their climate risks and plan for strategies that improve resilience. Buildings in the 2030 District will pilot the tool in 2024.
RPC.6	Partner with health authorities to support access to cooling as a lifesaving intervention			2024 (ongoing)	Future action	Future action
RPC.7	Collaborate with partners across BC to research, develop and implement large scale, transformative solutions to address retrofit barriers			2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Saanich continues to work collaboratively with many organizations across BC to foster transformative climate action. In 2023, this has included: participating in the newly launched Accelerating Community Energy Transformation (ACET) Project, led by the University of Victoria. The project was recently awarded \$84 M over 7 years to advance community-level renewable energy solutions. In addition, Saanich continues to co-chair the Local Government Retrofit Peer Network, a hub of information exchange with municipal staff across the Province.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy 5: Demonstrating Leadership</i>				
LD.1	Upgrade all existing District facilities to be Zero Carbon and 100% renewably fueled, prioritizing electrification first	2023-2040	Ongoing	See Climate Plan Action L4.1
LD.2	Upgrade District facilities to incorporate cooling and air filtration	2023-2027	Ongoing	See Climate Plan Action C1.1
LD.3	Design all new District facilities to be Zero Carbon and 100% renewably fueled, prioritizing electrification first. Incorporate cooling and air filtration	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Fire Hall 2 redevelopment will be zero carbon and incorporate mass timber low carbon materials and EV charging infrastructure, and solar PV, among other low carbon resilient measures. An overall new construction green standards policy for the District will be explored in 2024.
LD.4	Increase on-site renewable energy generation at District facilities and sites, including innovative solutions for energy back-up and storage	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Studies are underway to explore integrating solar PV and battery storage into a number of key municipal facilities.
LD.5	Showcase District facility retrofits and share learnings with industry	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Saanich is participating in District 2030 and Building Benchmark BC to showcase District energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reductions.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Food and Materials Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
Strategy F1: Reduce the climate impact of food production and consumption						
F1.1	Reduce carbon emissions from local food production	●	●	2021-2022	Behind schedule	Saanich is promoting Provincial programs to local farmers including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Environmental Farm Plan – Investment Agriculture FoundationBeneficial Management Practices Program- Investment Agriculture FoundationExtreme Weather Preparedness for Agriculture Program – Ministry of Agriculture These programs, among other things, help reduce fossil fuel use and build healthy soils.
F1.2	Encourage residents to choose low-carbon foods and reduce food waste	●	●	Underway	Ongoing	Continued the Love Food Hate Waste program promotions including on Saanich Greener Garbage trucks and promoting low carbon food choices through the Saanich Carbon Calculator and the Residents’ Climate Action Guidebook.
F1.3	Encourage food service establishments to reduce carbon emissions from their operations	●		2022-2024	Future action	Future action.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Food and Materials Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
Strategy F2: Move towards “lighter living” in Saanich						
F2.1	Reduce single-use plastics			Underway	Behind schedule	While the Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw came into effect in 2021, work on the reduction of other single use plastics would be addressed as part of the Zero Waste Strategy expected to begin in early 2024.
F2.2	Develop and implement a Zero Waste Strategy	●		2022-2024	Future action	This work will begin in early 2024 and is supported by a new Sustainability position.
F2.3	Work towards zero waste for large public events	●		2022-2024	Future action	Future action. Expected to be included within the upcoming Zero Waste Strategy.
F2.4	Work with partners on circular economy initiatives	●		2022-2024	Future action	Future action. Expected to be included within the upcoming Zero Waste Strategy.
F2.5	Mobilize residents and businesses towards “lighter living”	●		2020-2022	Ongoing	Saanich supported the One Planet Saanich initiative, the One Planet Student Challenge, and provide educational presentations and materials such as the Saanich Carbon Calculator and Saanich Residents’ Climate Action Guidebook which include support for reducing the impact of food and consumer goods.
F2.6	Advocate for expansion of extended producer responsibility programs	●		2024-2029	Future action	Future action. Expected to be included within the upcoming Zero Waste Strategy.
F2.7	Improve monitoring of and compliance with a recyclable materials ban	●		2024-2029	Future action	Future action. Expected to be included within the upcoming Zero Waste Strategy.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Food and Materials Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy F3: Improve the resilience and self-sufficiency of the local food system</i>				
F3.1	Accelerate the implementation of Agriculture and Food Security Plan (AFSP)	● 2021-2022	Ongoing	A recent progress report indicated that 10 of 15 Phase 1 priority actions are complete, with all other Phase 1 priority actions in progress. Five out of 15 Phase 2 priority actions are complete, with 3 priority Phase 2 actions in progress. Priority 3 actions will commence once phase 1 and phase 2 priorities are completed, or if elevated by Council.
F3.2	Support an Agricultural Adaptation Strategy for Vancouver Island	● 2021-2022	Achieved	Completed in 2020, the BC Agriculture and Climate Change Regional Adaptation Strategy for Vancouver Island includes regionally specific strategies and actions which can inform future District initiatives.
F3.3	Increase capacity for local food production	● ● 2022-2024	Future action	Future action.
F3.4	Increase adoption of water-wise agricultural practices	● 2024-2029	Future action	Future action.

Implementation Priority:




First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Ecosystems Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
Strategy E1: Enable natural systems to thrive and adapt						
E1.1 	Double the rate of planting trees to enhance the urban forest	●	●	2020	On track	3035 trees planted in 2023, which still keeps this action on-track to meet the 10,000 trees planted by 2025 target (with 6,160 trees planted in 2020-22). However, half are replacement trees from development (only one in two are 'new' trees that add to Saanich's urban forest canopy). Available planting areas and maintenance costs continue to be barriers. Climate change is significantly impacting the urban forest, with growing impacts on tree health and survival due to related increases in invasive species and diseases, heat stress and severe weather events.
E1.2	Increase stewardship tools for private land owners		●	2020	Ongoing	The upcoming Biodiversity Conservation Strategy will be considered by Council in 2024 and is anticipated to provide recommendations related to stewardship on private property.
E1.3	Implement "Natural Intelligence" parks program		●	Underway	Ongoing	The program continues to be promoted through existing and new materials through Saanich channels, including promotional videos on the Saanich website.
E1.4	Develop an operational approach to tree retention and replacement during development	●	●	2020	Ongoing	An internal working group was formed in 2023 to support tree retention on developments by the District, but this group did not address private land development tree retention.
E1.5	Protect and expand the urban forest	●	●	2020	Ongoing	Updated Urban Forest Strategy is due to be completed in 2024 and will include recommendations to support this action.
E1.6	Develop and implement a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy		●	2020-2022	On track	Development of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy is underway and it is due to be completed in 2024.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Ecosystems Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
E1.7	Expand, connect and restore natural areas		●	2021-2022	Ongoing	<p>Multiple projects were accomplished or ongoing in 2023 but these are focussed on Saanich owned land. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cuthbert Holmes Park: established a one hectare native Trembling Aspen grove (with over 600 trees) and riparian restoration area including five flood zones to improve fish habitat and manage flood risk ▪ Colquitz River: 100 metres of in-stream restoration ▪ Layritz and Vic Derman Parks: continued restoration of Garry Oak ecosystems (with funding from Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI)) ▪ Biodiversity enhancement at 30 new restoration sites including clearing invasive species with Pulling Together volunteers and planting native species ▪ Parks hosted Tree Appreciation Day community event in Colquitz Park: this initiative was part of restoring and enhancing a former Garry Oak Restoration Project (GORP) site along Mahon Brook. The day included planting 50 native trees, 250 native shrubs, and 100 native grasses and forbs together with our community. ▪ In support of the UN Decade on Ecological Restoration, Parks staff protected, restored and enhanced 15 Garry Oak sites (at Braefoot, Hyacinth, Phyllis, Camas, Camrose, Knockan, and Beckwith Parks etc). This included invasive plant removal, mulching, protective fencing and planting hundreds of native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. ▪ Natural Areas' native seed harvesting, salvaging, and propagation program: native seeds and bulbs (including Camas, Woolly Sunflower, Chocolate and Fawn lilies) were collected and propagated across approximately 15 Garry Oak sites ▪ Tree planting in natural areas: Parks Natural Areas section planted 2,370 trees in 2023 in natural state parks (980 seedlings, 483 one gallon, and 907 large trees)

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Ecosystems Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
E1.8	Partner with school districts on environmental education	●	●	Underway	Ongoing	Continued to support local schools through place-based hands-on experiences with community-based ecosystem restoration and environmental education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School youth stewardship contributed 1,700+ volunteer hours in 2023. Parks staff supported 15 schools, in many cases this included collaboration with a Pulling Together volunteer group. Continue to collaborate with SD 61 Indigenous Education Department to support ecosystem restoration experiences for local children and youth.
E1.9	Explore carbon dioxide removal measures with partners	●		2020	Behind schedule	An new canopy cover analysis was completed in 2023 as part of the State of Urban Forest report. This new data may support more accurate understanding of land use changes and GHG sinks and stores over time.
E1.10	Prevent planting and spread of invasive plants		●	2021-2022	Behind schedule	Saanich Parks' staff-lead, invasive management program managed over 1,400 priority invasive plant sites on public and private property across the District in 2023. Parks' Pulling Together community volunteer program had 234 registered volunteers plus hundreds of drop in volunteers in 45 natural area P4-N parks, with 16,000+ volunteer hours recorded in 2023 towards invasive species management. In general, more resources are required by Parks to keep up with the growing spread of high-risk invasive species, and the demand by community to engage in invasive species management. Parks is currently past capacity to keep up with invasive species surveys, treatment, monitoring and data entry and growing requirements for treatments. The CRD, the Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP), and the province continue to work on prevention of invasive species planting.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Ecosystems Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
E1.11	Improve monitoring of ecosystem health	●	●	2022-2024	Future action	It has been determined that this action may be more appropriate at a regional or provincial scale and will be reviewed as part of the updated Climate Plan in 2024-2025.
E1.12	Develop principles for assisted migration	●	●	2022-2024	Future action	It has been determined that this action may be more appropriate at a regional or provincial scale and will be reviewed as part of the updated Climate Plan in 2024-2025.
E1.13	Improve compliance with new bylaws and policies	●	●	2022-2024	Future action	The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy will likely include recommendations related to new bylaws and policies.
Strategy E2: 🌟 Protect and manage natural assets as critical infrastructure						
E2.1	Evaluate services provided by natural assets	●	●	2021-2022	Ongoing	A Natural Assets Inventory commenced in 2023 as part of the District's asset management strategy.
E2.2	Develop a strategy to maintain services provided by natural assets	●	●	2021-2022	Behind schedule	This work is underway as part of Natural Assets planning and is expected to be addressed in the upcoming Natural Assets Plan.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Community Well-being Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy C1: Ensure emergency and community health services keep pace with climate change</i>				
C1.1	Retrofit municipal facilities to increase cooling and air filtration capabilities	● 2020-2022	Ongoing	In 2023, several heat pumps and portable ACs were installed, one portable air conditioner was deployed in hot weather at the Municipal Hall, and 2-3 cooling devices were installed at the Saanich Operations Centre. During hot weather, recreation centres with cooling were available for the public to use and promotional materials were shared. An inventory of facilities with cooling is in development. Feasibility and design work has been completed to retrofit some facilities for cooling e.g. Municipal Hall, Les Passmore. However inflation and funding shortfalls limited the ability to deliver on this action. A report was presented to Council in November outlining resource constraints and forthcoming 2024 budget requests to help address this.
C1.2	Undertake urban heat mapping	● 2022-2024	On track	The CRD conducted an extreme heat vulnerability mapping project for the region, which is expected to be released in early 2024 and can be used to inform emergency response, future policy, and program development.
C1.3	Work with partners to ensure coordinated response during severe weather events	● 2022-2024	Ongoing	The new BC Heat Alert Response System (HARS) was established following the Heat Dome in 2021. HARS ensures a coordinated response between provincial and municipal emergency staff, health authorities, and others. It includes proactive preparedness messaging and defined heat warning thresholds. Heat preparedness educational materials were prepared and distributed. The province also enabled a layer on the Emergency BC map for local authorities to show their cooling centres and hours. During the Aug 2023 heat warning, the Province released the Extreme Heat Preparedness guide which was distributed at community events across the summer.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Community Well-being Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
C1.4	Update Wildfire Protection Plan and Interface Fire Hazard Development Permit Area	●	●	2022-2024	Ongoing	The Saanich Community Wildfire Protection Plan was updated in 2021 and includes 27 recommendations. The Interface Fire Hazard Development Permit Area guidelines were reviewed this year and remain unchanged.
C1.5	Develop Saanich-specific wildfire prevention materials	●	●	2022-2024	Ongoing	Saanich Fire has developed Saanich-specific content for public presentations and will develop Saanich-specific promotional materials for the summer of 2024.
C1.6	Work with service providers to vulnerable populations to develop adaptation strategies	●	●	2024-2029	Future action	Future action.
C1.7	Work with partners to minimize impacts from vector-borne diseases	●	●	2024-2029	Future action	Future action.
C1.8	Review severe weather protocols for vulnerable populations	●	●	2024-2029	Ahead of schedule	Saanich has been an active committee member supporting the Greater Victoria Extreme Weather Response Plan (EWP). This strategy coordinates the region's overnight shelters in the event of extreme/dangerous weather conditions. In 2023, the Salvation Army Housing and Support Services Division is filling the role of EWP Coordinator in collaboration with BC Housing, local governments and non-governmental organizations including shelter providers. Saanich Emergency Program and Police receive correspondence from the EWP Coordinator any time criteria is met to activate seasonal shelters. Saanich Police conduct proactive check-ins with vulnerable persons and enhance park patrols during extreme weather events. Police have access to shelter information and connect those who are in need with appropriate services including medical and transportation services.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Community Well-being Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
Strategy C2: 🌟 Empower Saanich residents and businesses to take climate action						
C2.1	Implement a tangible and hands-on neighborhood-level program	●	●	2020	Ongoing	The Neighbour to Neighbour (N2N) program was offered for a second year with funding from the Saanich Community Grants program. It supports residents to connect with existing programs from Sustainability, Emergency, and Parks, including the Natural Intelligence and Naturescaping programs.
C2.2	Host an annual climate fair	●	●	2020	Ongoing	The Saanich Earth Day festival had a pedal-powered stage for the first time in 2023 and emphasized low-GHG activities for kids such as a kids cycling obstacle course. Over 2000 attendees visited and met with local eco-friendly organizations.
C2.3	Provide educational programming and workshops	●	●	2020	Ongoing	Multiple educational programs are delivered by Saanich and partners that support climate action. These include the Neighbour to Neighbour Program, Natural Intelligence program, One Planet Saanich and the One Planet School Challenge, presentations to community groups and educational institutions, E-bike courses and awareness raising, BCSEA CoolIt! Climate Leadership program and Ready Step Roll program with the CRD, among others.
C2.4	Carry out a communications campaign on urgent climate action	●	●	2020	Ongoing	The climate communications campaign is updated annually and included multiple measures to highlight the urgency of climate change and priority actions and support for residents. Multiple channels are used including newspapers, social media, newsletters, posters, radio ads, videos at movie theatres, and more. Partnerships with the CRD and City of Victoria help to amplify common messages.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Community Well-being Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
C2.5	Host a Community Climate Collaborative	●	●	2020	Ongoing	The intent of this action is being addressed through focussed collaborations on specific climate topics e.g. through collaboration with community and business members in One Planet Saanich, District 2030 and others; and the formation of a new Sustainability & Climate Action Advisory Committee.
C2.6	Develop an equity tool	●	●	2020	Ongoing	The Saanich Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) strategy was adopted in 2023 and will be used to inform climate plan work going forward. The Climate Action Tax Exemption program was launched and is aimed to fill a gap in building retrofits, including for multi-unit residential buildings. In 2023, the Province provided an e-bike incentive program following the earlier Saanich model with larger incentives for lower income residents. The updated Active Transportation Plan and Road Safety Action Plan have also included equity analysis in their design in 2023 and equity is a key consideration in all planning projects regarding access to public engagement as well as populations served.
C2.7	Develop a Saanich climate information webpage	●	●	2020	Ongoing	Extensive online resources are available and regularly updated. Visit saanich.ca/sustainability .
C2.8	Seek opportunities to work with neighboring First Nations	●	●	2020	Behind schedule	This year Saanich supported the Lekwungen-led Sept 30th powwow and amplified Orange Shirt day communications, listened to feedback from WSANEC elders on the development of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, promoted the Lekwungen walking tours to staff and residents, and worked toward developing 'chance find' training for Public Works staff regarding archaeological artifacts, among other related initiatives.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Community Well-being Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
C2.9	Explore a bulk-purchase program	●	●	2022-2024	Future action	Future action.
C2.10	Develop a community grants program	●	●	2024-2029	Achieved	The Neighbour to Neighbour (N2N) Resilience Initiative offered \$500 grants and workshops to neighbourhood groups. In 2023, programs supported included an invasive species removal and native plants restoration project along a public right of way and a program helping neighbours maintain their hummingbird feeders in severe weather.
C2.11	Collaborate with researchers and post-secondary institutions	●	●	2024-2029	Future action	While this action speaks to a specific Saanich program - there were multiple collaborations with post-secondary institutions and students in 2023 including working with the UBC React Lab for the community e-bike incentive program study and the University of Victoria and other participating universities in the newly announced Accelerating Community Energy Transformations (ACET) program.
C2.12	Work with the arts community	●	●	2024-2029	Future action	The District, along with Victoria and the CRD, supported the One Planet Student art challenge, including hosting a celebration event and a travelling art show of student work. Saanich hosted award-winning environmental artist Colton Hash to host his exhibition Urban Watershed which invited community members to consider how our communities relate to our local waterways and regional ecosystems amidst climate change. Performers at the Earth Day event used song, dance, and story to convey themes of caring for nature.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Leadership in District Operations Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy L1: Integrate climate action into Saanich processes and decision-making</i>						
L1.1	Establish a new Climate Action Reserve Fund	●	●	2020	Achieved	Climate Action Reserve Fund established, and annual funding committed. Provincial climate action funding delivered in 2023 through the Local Government Climate Action Program.
L1.2	Include a climate alignment scorecard in reports to Council for development projects	●	●	2020	On hold	An update of the existing Sustainability Statement Guidelines was finalized and reviewed by a cross-departmental team in 2022. However, this action is on hold until implementation of the development process review is underway to ensure alignment, efficiency and that the intent of this climate action is met.
L1.3	Establish a carbon price policy	●		2020	Behind schedule	This work was not prioritized in 2023. Ambitious corporate GHG reduction targets are driving major projects regardless of carbon pricing. However, inflation and budget/resource limitations are restricting the ability to implement corporate climate actions, including building retrofits and medium-heavy duty and specialized electric vehicle purchases, amongst others. Resource requests are included as part of the 2024 budget to address some actions.
L1.4	Create a climate leadership group	●	●	2020	Achieved	Internal Climate Working Group continues to be instrumental for implementation, monitoring progress and supporting reporting. Key members of this group are also participants in other cross-departmental programs that are critical for climate action e.g. asset management and risk register. Meetings and collaboration are ongoing.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Leadership in District Operations Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
L1.5	Develop a risk register and monitoring platform		●	2020	Ongoing	Enterprise Risk Management Framework was finalized in April 2023. Work on developing a Climate Risk Register has commenced. This will be informed by an updated detailed Climate Risk Assessment to be undertaken as part of the updated Climate Plan during 2024/25. A resource request has been made as part of the 2024 budget to support this work. This will support the integration of climate change considerations with the individual risk registers and asset management plans across all departments.
<i>Strategy L2: Become a climate friendly employer</i>						
L2.1	Implement a Climate Friendly Commuter Program	●		2020	Behind schedule	Action on this item is delayed due to lack of staff resources. An RFQ for consultant support will hopefully be initiated in 2024 with the project led by Sustainability, resources dependent.
L2.2	Implement a training and capacity building program	●	●	2020	Behind schedule	Staff have completed multiple climate-action supporting trainings including: heat pump installation training through TECA, EV micro credential through Camosun, Reliable Controls Building Operator training from vendor, and Climate Plan 101 orientation for new staff. A broader training and capacity program would likely be considered in the coming years with additional staff resources.
L2.3	Recognize innovation, successes and leadership	●	●	Underway	Ongoing	Saanich climate actions have been highlighted in many different channels including Buzz and Spotlight periodicals, Saanich News and other media, Planning West magazine, Building Benchmark BC, various external organization e-newsletters, and awards presented at UBCM amongst others.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Leadership in District Operations Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy L3: Transition to an efficient, renewably powered fleet</i>						
L3.1	Develop a fleet strategy to reduce corporate emissions	●		2020	Ongoing	Zero Emissions Fleet Strategy in development, due for completion in 2024. Overall strategy to be presented to Council in 2024. The project will deliver a pathway to a Zero Emissions municipal, fire, and police Fleet by 2040, setting interim 2030 targets and identifying the infrastructure requirements and associated costs.
L3.2	Convert all light-duty vehicles to zero-emissions vehicles	●		Underway	On track	All municipal fleet cars are fully electric as of 2022. Light duty trucks and electric vans are now market ready in Canada. Saanich saw 1 electric truck (Ford F-150 Lightning) and 5 electric cargo vans (Ford E-Transit) delivered in 2023. 8 new Level 2 EV chargers were installed at the Public Safety Building, and an additional 2 Level 2 chargers were installed at the Saanich Operations Centre. This will enable continued piloting of electric vehicles to ensure they can support our operational needs while reducing GHG emissions. Inflation, incremental capital costs and available staff resources related to piloting new technology remain limiting factors to faster progress.
L3.3	Develop an e-bike fleet program	●		2020	Ongoing	Expanded the e-bike fleet program from the previous 2 e-bikes at the Engineering building with two new cargo e-bikes at the Saanich Operations Centre, with 34 staff trained in 2023. Progress is being made on a new e-bike storage enclosure at the Municipal Hall, where the fleet e-bike program will be expanded to in 2024.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Leadership in District Operations Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
L3.4	Review industry readiness to support medium- and heavy-duty fleet conversion pilot projects	●		2022-2024	On track	The Zero Emissions Fleet Strategy will be critical for analyzing fleet replacement and EV lead-in times, risks, opportunities, and cost estimates to maximize grants and identify budget needs in order to meet our fleet emissions targets. Additional staff and budget resources will be required to enable this action to remain on-track in 2024.
<i>Strategy L4: Transition to efficient and renewably-powered municipal buildings</i>						
L4.1	Transition to highly efficient and renewably-powered municipal facilities	●		Underway	Ongoing	Several corporate renewable energy, efficiency, and resilience projects were accomplished in 2023, including the commissioning of the Saanich Commonwealth Place (SCP) biomass boiler and the deployment of multiple cooling systems for staff and rec centre visitors. Council also approved the Municipal Building Retrofit Strategy, which included detailed actions for corporate facilities. However, inflation and lack of budget has impacted the ability to implement actions at the rate necessary, despite several successful, high-value grants. A report outlining the budget constraints and necessary actions was presented to Council in fall 2023 - progress will be dependent upon resource requests as part of the 2024 budget.
L4.2	Pilot low-carbon materials in municipal new construction	●		Underway	On track	Site preparation is currently underway for the Fire Hall #2 redevelopment project. This net zero targeted facility employs a mass timber structure as a key component of specifying low embodied carbon materials. A more comprehensive approach to embodied emissions will likely be taken as part of the Zero Waste work, expected to start in 2024.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Leadership in District Operations Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
L4.3	Showcase efficient and renewably-powered municipal buildings	●		Underway	Ongoing	Saanich participates in Building Benchmark BC and in District 2030 to track and report on the energy performance of our buildings. In 2023, Gordon Head Recreation Centre was ranked as having the lowest greenhouse gas intensity compared to 28 other of the same building types in the program. Staff continue to showcase any progress and innovative facility work in our sustainability webpages, social media, awards,energy manager networks etc.
<i>Strategy L5: Reduce waste and GHG emissions from goods and services</i>						
L5.1	Model a low-carbon diet through corporate catering	●		2020	Ongoing	Greener by Default pilot started in late 2023 with staff champions in multiple departments purchasing meals and snacks that are majority low-carbon plant-based options, while still preserving flexibility for different dietary preferences.
L5.2	Develop a corporate Zero Waste Strategy	●		2024-2029	Future action	Future action. A new Senior Sustainability Planner (Zero Waste & Embodied Emissions) started in January 2024 and will lead the development of the Zero Waste Strategy.
L5.3	Update Saanich Sustainable Procurement Guidelines	●		2024-2029	Future action	Future action.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Leadership in District Operations Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
Strategy L6: Measure and Report on progress						
ME.1	Publish annual report card			2020	Ongoing	2023 marks the fourth Climate Plan Report Card since the updated Climate Plan was approved in 2020.
ME.2	Measure resilience			2020-2021	Behind schedule	This work is in early stages and being developed through the collaboration of multiple departments and external networks. The Capital Region is updating the Regional Climate Projections and a Heat Vulnerability Map, both of which will be available in early 2024.
ME.3	Measure community GHG emissions			2022-2024	Ongoing	An updated Territorial GHG Emissions inventory, Consumption Based Emissions Inventory and Ecological Footprint were completed in 2023 and were used to update this Climate Plan Report Card and the Official Community Plan. They will form the foundation of the updated Climate Plan due to commence in 2024.
ME.4	Update Climate Risk Assessment			2024-2029	Future action	Future action. An updated Climate Risk Assessment is expected to commence in 2024.
ME.5	Update the Climate Plan			2024-2029	Future action	Future action. The updated Climate Plan is expected to commence in 2024 and be completed in collaboration with other regional partners.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority



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