Regional Growth Strategy Indicators Report 2022

CRD

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RGS INDICATORS – AT A GLANCE

Managing and Balancing Growth

Number of net new dwelling units in areas where more than 45% walk/bike/bus to work

Hectares added to the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA) Growth Boundary

Percentage of net new dwellings built outside the UCPA

Environment and Infrastructure

Percentage of Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt acquired

Percentage of the Regional Trail Network completed

Compliance with Source Control Bylaw

Number of stormwater discharges with a high public health concern

Waste stream: solid waste disposal

Average residential water consumption

Net new dwelling units in East Sooke and Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) areas

Housing and Community

Create safe and complete communities

Monitored Via OCPs

Reduce core housing need

Average rent for two-bedroom apartment

Vacancy rate by rental price quartiles

Increase supply of affordable housing

Transportation

Percentage of total trips made by walking, cycling and transit in the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA) (*update pending*)

Economic Development

Jobs to population ratio (*update pending*)

Food Systems

Hectares of farmland in the GMPA (*update pending*)

Average age of farmer

Climate Action

Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions (*update pending*)

CONTENTS

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)

The 2018 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) is a framework developed by municipalities and the regional district to address how communities will work together to enhance regional quality of life and social well-being over the next 20 years.

The provincial government created the growth strategy legislation to "promote human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources."

The RGS also includes policies, actions and targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The strategy was developed with significant public and stakeholder involvement and responds to the regional vision of a livable community that stewards the environment and natural resources with care.

The RGS Indicator Report

A robust monitoring program helps the region measure progress towards achieving RGS goals and objectives.

Wherever possible, indicators were selected such that data would be available on an annual basis. However, for many of the indicators, information is only available through census data and will therefore only be updated every five years.

Data updated for 2022

This report is based on data available for the 2021 reporting year (January 2021 to December 2021). In this reporting year, 15 of the 20 indicators were updated with new data. It should be noted that some census indicators rely on custom tabulations that will be available in 2023. As well, several of the indicators experienced impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

How to use this report

For each indicator, four key questions are answered:

- What is being measured?
- Why is the indicator important?
- What is the target/desired trend?
- How are we doing?

Indicator performance is described relative to a goal or baseline year. However, it is important to note that changes in year-to-year performance do not always equate to a long-term trend.

While performance in any given year may be positive or negative, it may take many years of data to reliably identify a clear trend. Where possible, trend lines are included in the graphs to help illustrate indicator trends.

The RGS indicators evaluated in this report are shown in the following table.

2038 Targets by priority area and objective

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE	TARGETS BY 2038
1.0 Managing and Balancing Growth	1.1 Keep Urban Settlement Compact 1.2 Protect the Integrity of Rural Communities	• Accommodate a minimum of 95% of the region's new dwelling units within the Urban Containment Policy Area.
2. 0 Environment and Infrastructure	2.1 Protect, Conserve and Manage Ecosystem Health	• Acquire 100% of the Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt. • Complete 100% of the Regional Trail Network. • Reduce contaminants to fresh and marine water bodies.
	2.2 Deliver Services Consistent with RGS Objectives	• Prepare long-term capital plans for Capital Regional District utilities and major infrastructure improvements that take into consideration the conservation of land, water and energy resources and the impacts of climate change and natural hazards.
3.0 Housing and Community	3.1 Create Safe and Complete Communities	• Municipal targets for the number of people living in complete communities to be identified by municipalities in Regional Context Statements.
	3.2 Improve Housing Affordability	• Increase the supply of more affordable housing. • Reduce the number of people in core housing need. • Reduce the number of people who are homeless.
4.0 Transportation	4.1 Improve Multi-Modal Connectivity and Mobility	• Achieve a transportation system that sees 45% of all trips made by walking, cycling and transit.*

5.0 Economic Development	5.1 Realize the Region's Economic Potential	• Achieve a jobs/population ratio of:
		   • 0.60 in Core Area
		   • 0.53 in Saanich Peninsula
		   • 0.36 in West Shore

6.0 Food Systems	6.1 Foster a Resilient Food and Agriculture System	• Increase the amount of land in crop production for food by 5,000 hectares to enhance local food security. • Municipal targets to increase the amount of land in crop production for food and to encourage agricultural land to be identified by municipalities in Regional Context Statements.
7.0 Climate Action	7.1 Significantly reduce community based greenhouse gas emissions	• Reduce community greenhouse gas emissions by 33% (from 2007 levels) by 2020, and by 61% by 2038.

1.1a Number of net new dwelling units in areas where more than 45% walk/bike/bus to work

What is being measured?

This indicator tracks new dwelling units created in census Dissemination Areas (DA) where at least 45% of trips involve active transportation (walking, biking or taking transit).

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to keep urban settlement compact and directs new growth to be located where it can be efficiently serviced by transit and active transportation.

Target/Desired Trend

Place growth in areas conducive to walking, cycling and transit.

How are we doing?

Currently, we are not meeting the desired trend.

In the Growth Management Planning Area between 2012-2015, we saw as much as 26% of growth in net new dwelling units in areas with greater than 45% active transportation. In the period of 2016-2021, 17% of growth in net new dwelling units was in high active transportation areas.

BC Transit has increased its mode share target from 12% to 15%. Our target has been adjust to reflect this change from 42% to 45%.

Net Units Built Where Less than 45% Active Transportation

Net Units Built Where More Than 45% Active Transportation
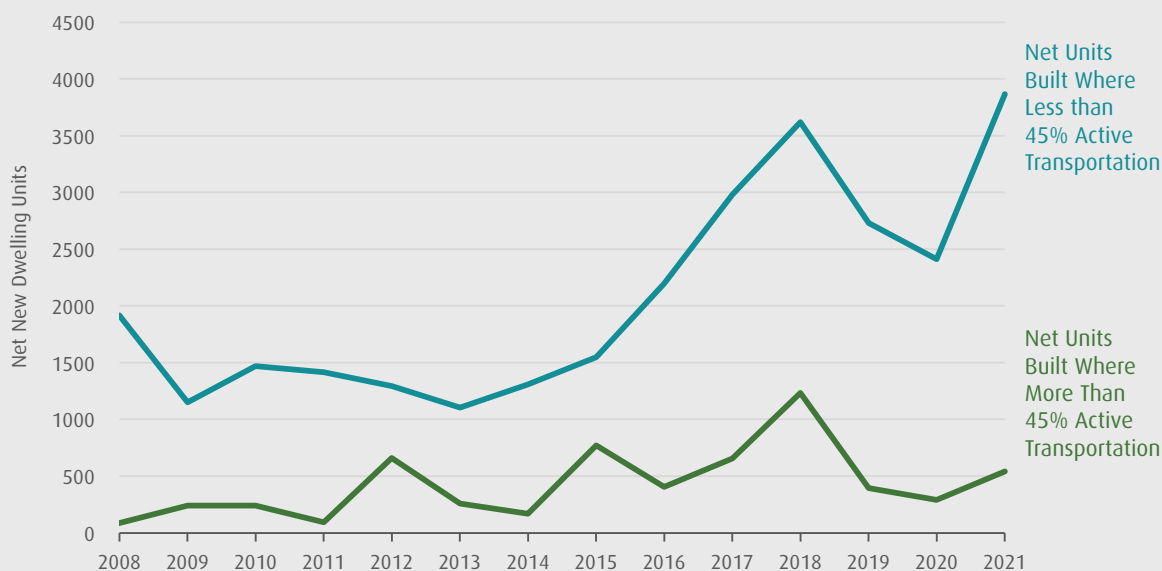
Source: CRD Building Permit Database and Statistics Canada Census of Population 2016

## Supplemental map of areas with more than 45% walk/bike/bus to work

What does the map indicate?

This map shows census dissemination areas where more than 45% of residents walk, bike and bus to work, meeting the Regional Growth Strategy mode share target.

These areas are mostly located in the region's core in Victoria, and portions of Esquimalt, Oak Bay and Saanich.

Also provided for reference are the areas with between 25% to 45% walk/bike/bus to show locations that could meet the Regional Transportation Plan goal if further action was taken.

As noted in Indicator 1.1(a), new growth in these areas is desirable as infrastructure and services are already in place to support high levels of active travel and transit. As the region develops, the desired trend is to see more areas meeting the target.

25% to 45% Walk/Bike/Bus
45% or more Walk/Bike/Bus
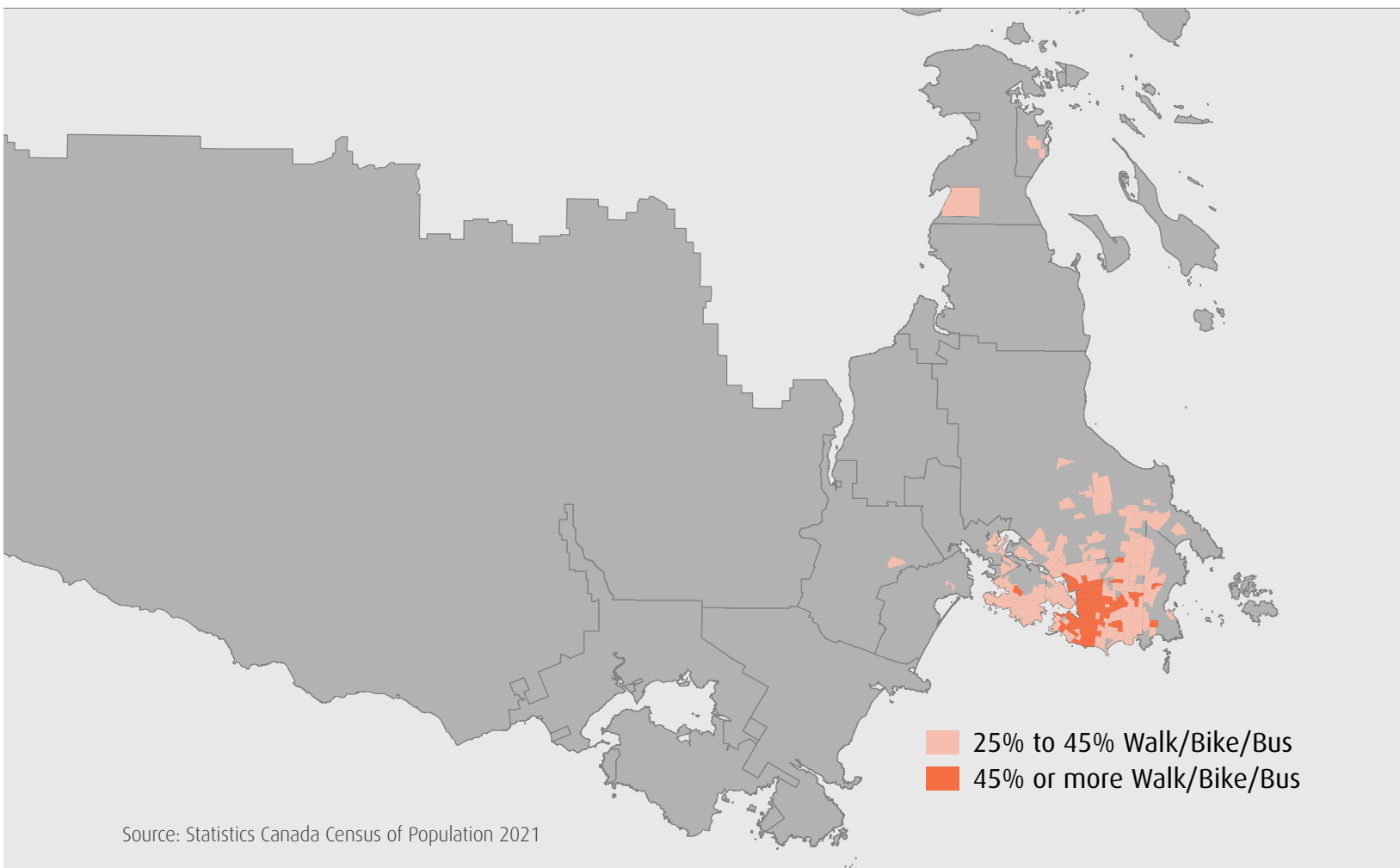
Source: Statistics Canada Census of Population 2021

1.1b Hectares added to the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA) growth boundary
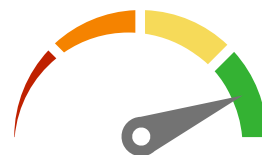
What is being measured?

This indicator measures the net change in the land area of the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA). The UCPA is intended to hold a land supply that will accommodate the region's population and employment growth.

Why is this indicator important?

This indicator aligns with the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) objective to keep urban settlement compact. The RGS includes a policy that generally permits amendment to the UCPA only as an outcome of a comprehensive 5-year review of the RGS.
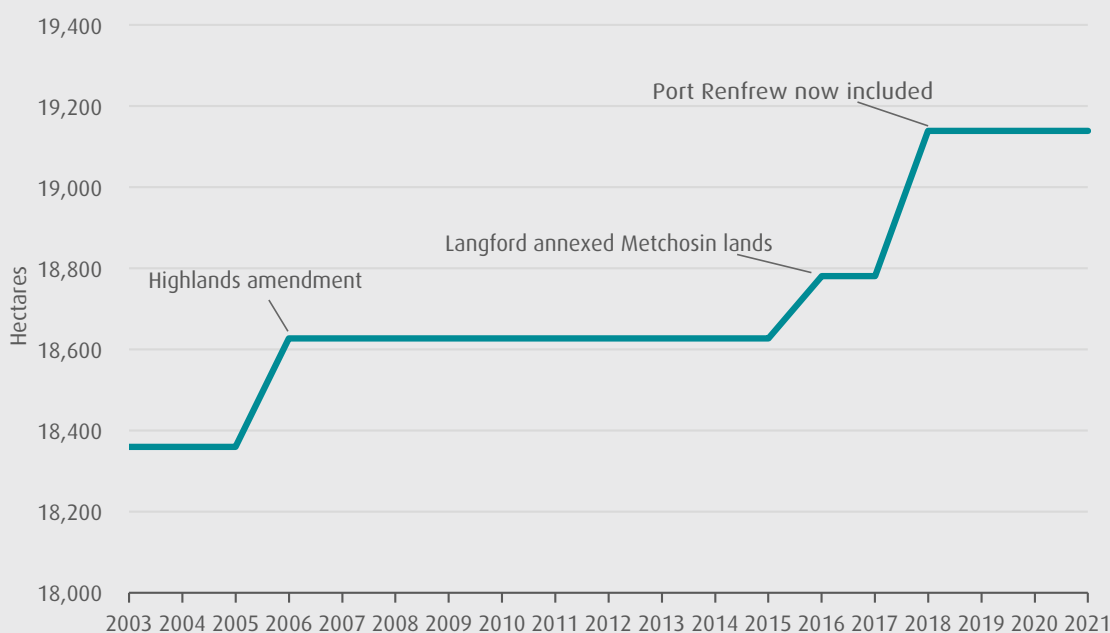
Target/Desired Trend

Minimize change to the UCPA from the date of adoption of the 2018 RGS.

How are we doing?

We are meeting the desired trend.

Since the March 2018 adoption of the RGS, there have been no changes to the UCPA.

Source: CRD Regional Planning

1.0 MANAGING AND BALANCING GROWTH

1.2a Percentage of net new dwellings built outside the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA)

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the annual share of net new dwelling units located outside the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA).

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) aims to keep urban settlement compact and protect the integrity of rural communities.
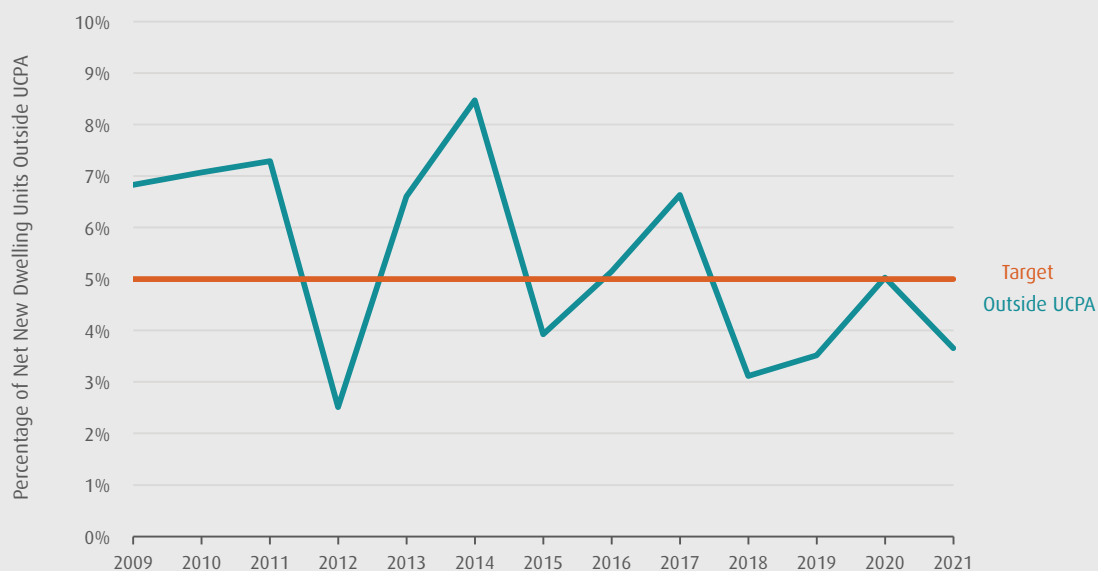
Target/Desired Trend

Accommodate a maximum of 5% of the region's net new dwelling units outside the UCPA (for a minimum 95% of net new dwelling units within the UCPA, as per RGS target).

How are we doing?

We met the target this year.

In the past 10 years the average percentage growth outside the UCPA has been 4.9%.
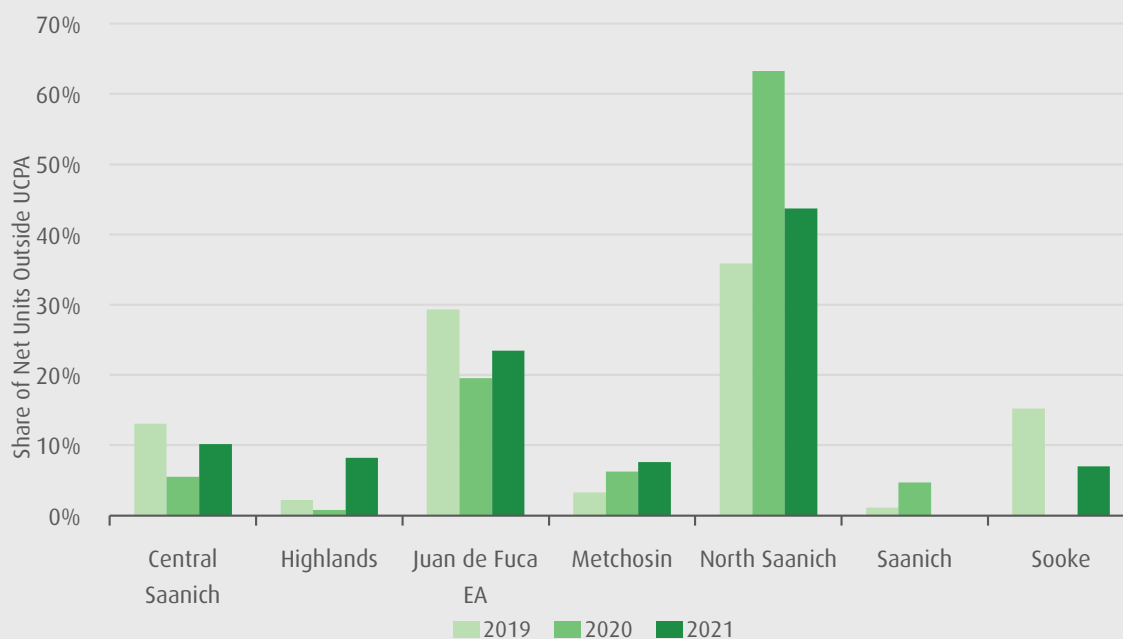
Source: CRD Building Permit Database

Supplemental graph showing the location of net new dwellings built outside the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA)

What does the graph indicate?

This graph shows the distribution of net new dwellings built outside the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA). Only local governments that have land outside the growth boundary are included. Together these units make up the percentage of new units built outside the growth area.

As noted in Indicator 1.2(a), the Regional Growth Strategy aims to keep urban settlement compact and protect the integrity of rural communities.

Local governments with land outside the growth boundary help achieve this goal through land use policy and decision making that avoids the creation of future urban areas. Monitoring the distribution of net new dwelling units built outside the growth area provides insight on the performance of local government growth management policies.

Source: CRD Building Permit Database

2.1a Percentage of Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt acquired

What is being measured?

This indicator tracks the percentage of land within the regional Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt that has been protected. Acquisition of additional land required to meet the target is to be undertaken by Capital Regional District and/or other levels of government.

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) targets refer to the 2012-2021 Regional Parks Strategic Plan and the 1997 Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt Strategy, which has been superceded by the new interim Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health.

The protection of the Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt will provide a continuous connected greenbelt network from Tod Inlet to the Sooke Basin.
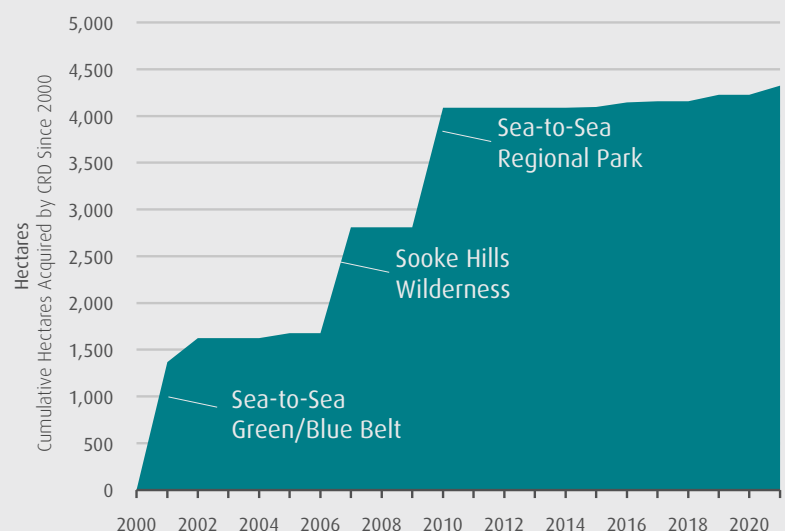
Target/Desired Trend

Acquire 100% of the Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt.

How are we doing?

As of December 2021, 92% of the proposed 11,310 hectares has been acquired.

As the Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt acquisition is almost complete, a revised indicator for expanding the regional parks system will be reported in 2023.

8% Remaining to reach target

92% Acquired

Cumulative Hectares Acquired by CRD Since 2000

Sea-to-Sea Regional Park

Sooke Hills Wilderness

Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt
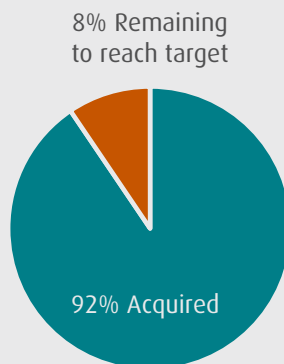
Source: CRD Regional Parks

2.1b Percentage of the Regional Trail Network completed

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the percentage of the Regional Trail Network that has been completed at the end of 2021. The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) targets refer to the 2012-2021 Regional Parks Strategic Plan and the 1997 Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt Strategy, which the new interim Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032 supersedes.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health. The Regional Trail Network represents an integrated trail and linear park system linking urban areas to rural green space and was a key element of the Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy.

Target/Desired Trend

Complete 100% of the Regional Trail Network as identified in the 2012-2021 CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan.

How are we doing?

We are making progress towards the target with an increase of 1,000m in 2021 (total length now 185,837m).

As of December 2021, 48% of the proposed 390 kilometres of the Regional Trail Network has been completed.

48% of Regional Trail Network completed (2021)
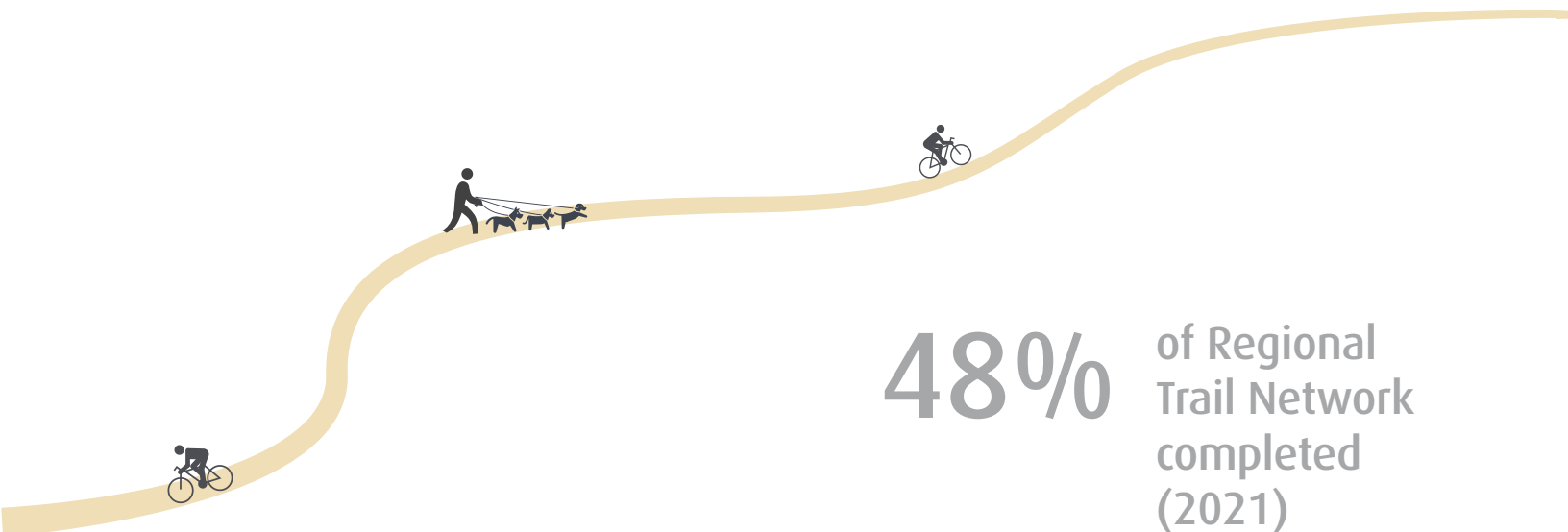
Source: CRD Regional Parks

2.1c Compliance with Source Control Bylaw

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the percentage of businesses in compliance with Source Control Bylaw standards. This pollution prevention initiative aims to reduce the amount of contaminants that industries, businesses, institutions and households discharge into the region's sanitary sewer systems.
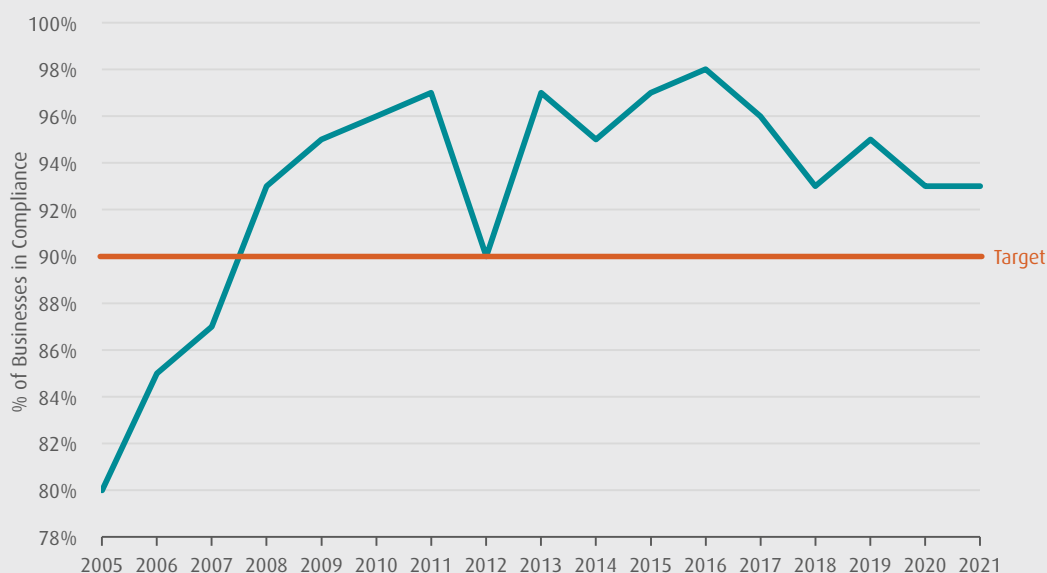
Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health. A high level of compliance reduces contaminants in fresh and marine regional waterways.

Target/Desired Trend

Maintain compliance of the standards established in the Source Control Bylaw at a rate of 90% or above.

How are we doing?

We are seeing consistently high levels of compliance.

NOTE: Prior to 2014, the indicator tracked proper waste treatment. The new measure, overall compliance, is a stricter standard indicating proper waste treatment facilities that are fully functioning.

Source: CRD Environmental Protection

2.1d Number of stormwater discharges with a high public health concern

What is being measured?

This indicator monitors the number of stormwater discharges with high public health concern.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health.

Target/Desired Trend

Reduced bacterial contamination to fresh and marine water bodies.

How are we doing?

We are meeting the desired trend.

The overall number of stormwater discharges with high public health concerns has decreased in the Core Area since 2012 and on the Saanich Peninsula since 2005. However, there were still 25 discharges in the Core Area and six in the Saanich Peninsula in 2021.
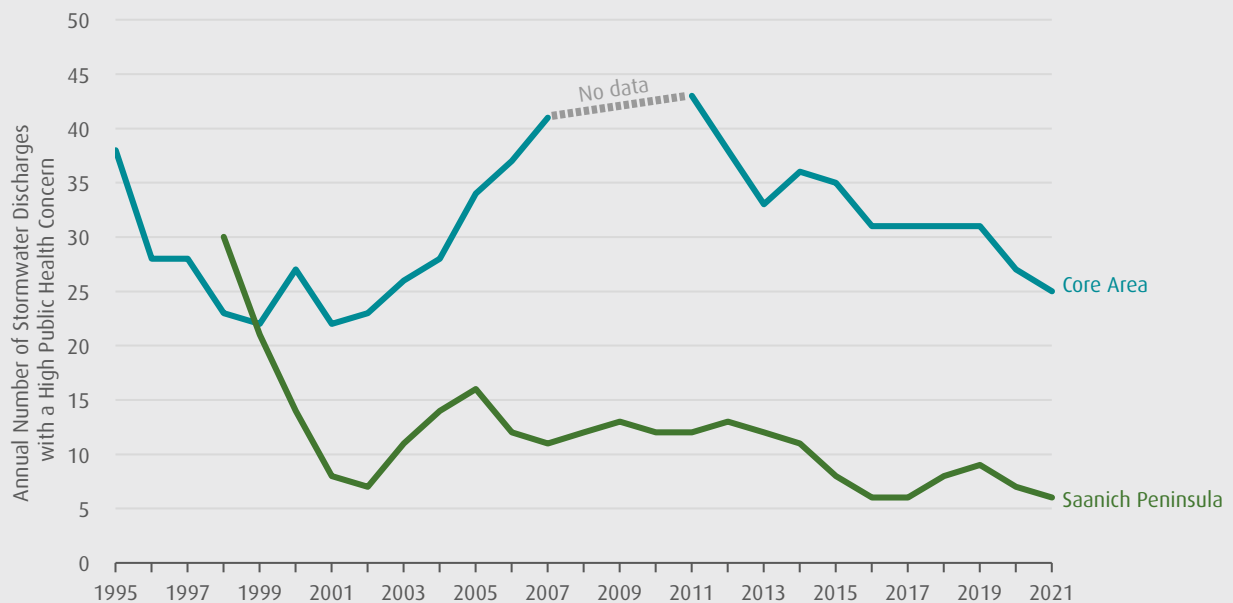
Source: CRD Environmental Protection

2.2a   Waste stream: solid waste disposal

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the per capita amount of solid waste disposed of annually from both residential and non-residential sources.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to minimize the consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources through efficient use and responsible management.

Target/Desired Trend

The BC government has set a 2020 solid waste disposal target rate of 350 kg/person per year which is the current target. In 2022, the target will be from the Capital Regional District Solid Waste Management Plan.

This plan identifies three new targets: short-term (three years) 340 kg/person, medium-term (five years) 285 kg/person and long-term (10+ years) 250 kg/person.

How are we doing?

Currently, we are not meeting the target.

However, we are at less than the provincial average of 499 kg/person (2020). Following years of decline, recent economic activity has resulted in a sustained increase in per capita solid waste disposal. It is hoped that planning policy as well as tipping fee changes in 2023 will have a positive impact on decreasing our per capita waste disposal numbers.
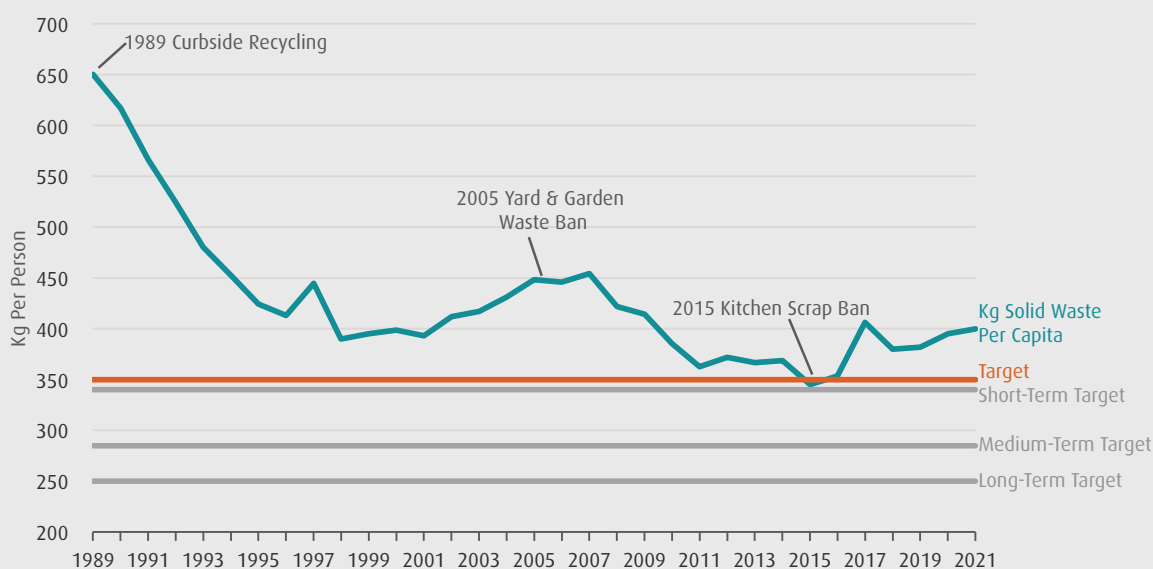
Source: CRD Environmental Resource Management

2.2b Average residential water consumption
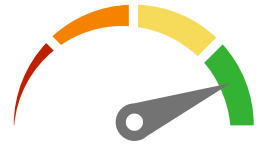
What is being measured?

This indicator measures the average daily consumption of potable water per capita for residential uses.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to minimize the consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources through efficient use and responsible management.

Target/Desired Trend

Decrease per capita consumption of potable water.

How are we doing?

Following a sizable reduction in per capita water consumption in the region, rates have stabilized around the Canadian average.

It is expected that the increase in water consumption observed in 2021 is attributable to changed residential water consumption patterns during the COVID-19 pandemic as people spent significantly more time at home due to office, business and facility closures. It is anticipated that average Canadian residential water use increased 10-20% during the pandemic.
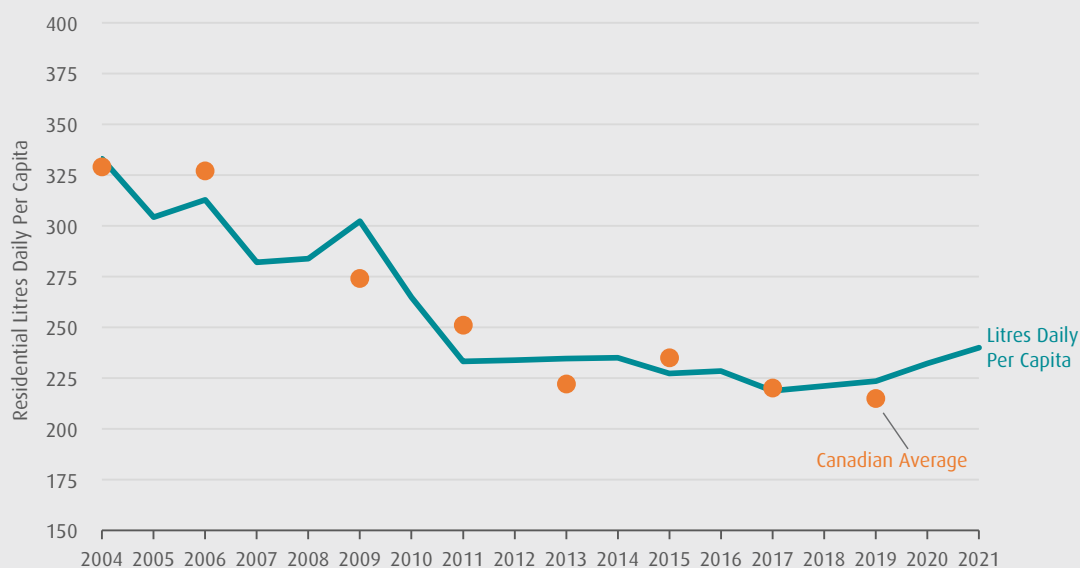
Source: CRD Integrated Water Services, 2004-2009 Environment Canada Municipal Water and Wastewater Survey
2011-2019 Statistics Canada Survey of Drinking Water Plants

2.2c Net new dwelling units in East Sooke and Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) areas

What is being measured?

This indicator measures annual net new dwelling units located in the East Sooke and Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) areas of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy allows for the possible provision of water servicing in East Sooke and Otter Point, and specifies the total number of existing and new units permitted within their OCPs.
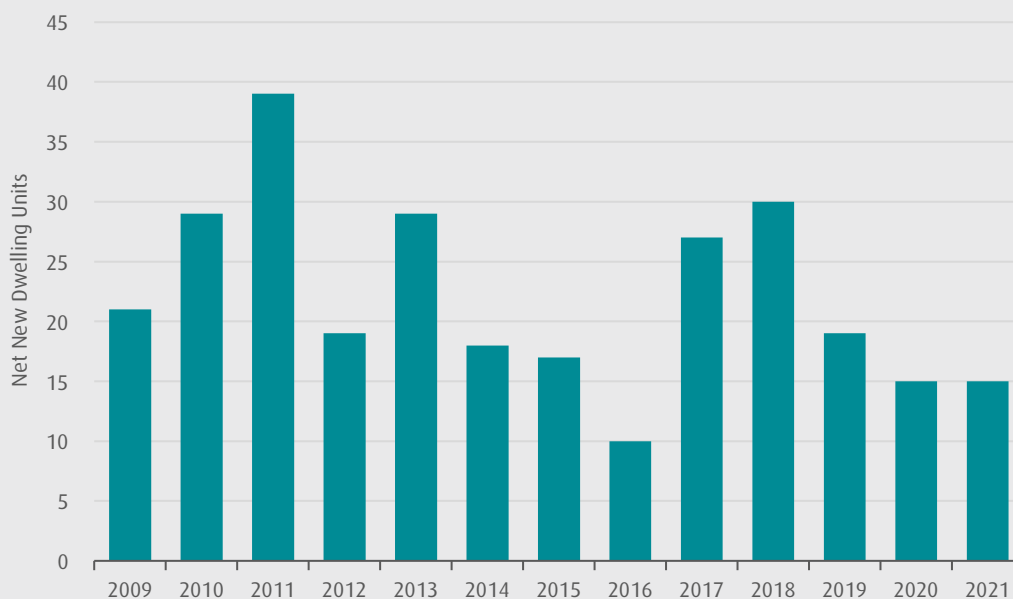
Target/Desired Trend

The total number of units in East Sooke and Otter Point is not to exceed 3,384 units. This includes both existing and new units.

How are we doing?

We are meeting the target.

As of 2021 there are 1,666 dwelling units in East Sooke and Otter Point. There has been minimal expansion, with an average of 20 net new units per year over the past 10 years.

Source: CRD Building Permit Database

3.1a   Create safe and complete communities

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the number of people living in complete communities identified by municipalities in their Official Community Plans (OCP).

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy supports the development of complete communities that allow residents to undertake many daily activities close to home.

Target/Desired Trend

Increase the number of people living in complete communities.

How are we doing?

Achieving the desired trend will be different for each municipality as measures of community completeness are context-specific. Trends would be best reported through OCP monitoring.

3.2a Reduce core housing need

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the percentage of households in core housing need.

A household in core housing need falls below at least one of the housing standards: adequacy (property does not require major repairs); affordability; or suitability (number of bedrooms match household size) *and* it would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent for housing that is acceptable (meets all three standards).

Why is this indicator important?

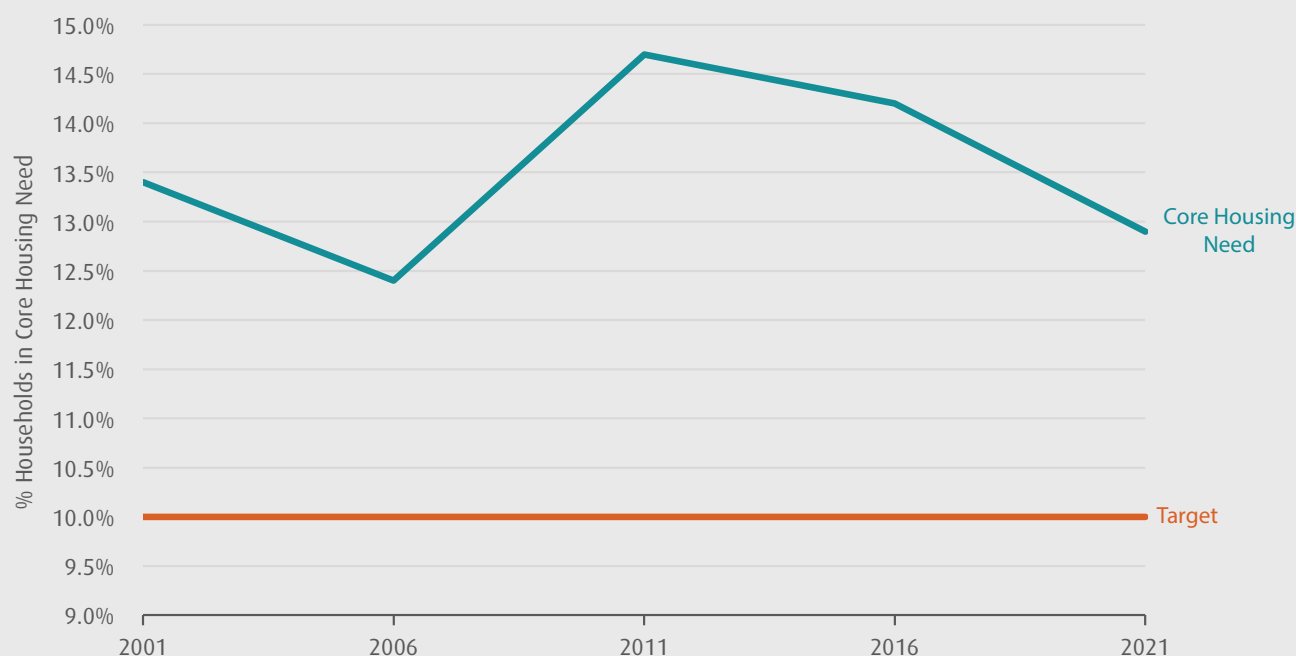The Regional Growth Strategy aims to improve housing affordability.

Target/Desired Trend

Reduce percentage of households in core housing need to 10%.

How are we doing?

The income measure used to calculate core housing need was from 2020. The percentage of Canadians living with low income saw the most significant decline in a five-year period since 1976. This was driven mainly by higher government transfers, especially pandemic-related benefits. These benefits primarily benefitted the working-age population, with the Canada Child Benefit helping parents and children (The Daily, Statistics Canada, July 13, 2022).

We are far from our target.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 2006, 2016 and 2021 and National Household Survey, 2011

3.0 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

3.2b Average rent for two-bedroom apartment
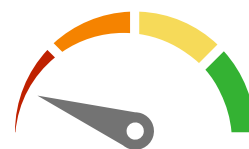
What is being measured?

This indicator measures the average cost of two-bedroom rental housing in the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to improve housing affordability.
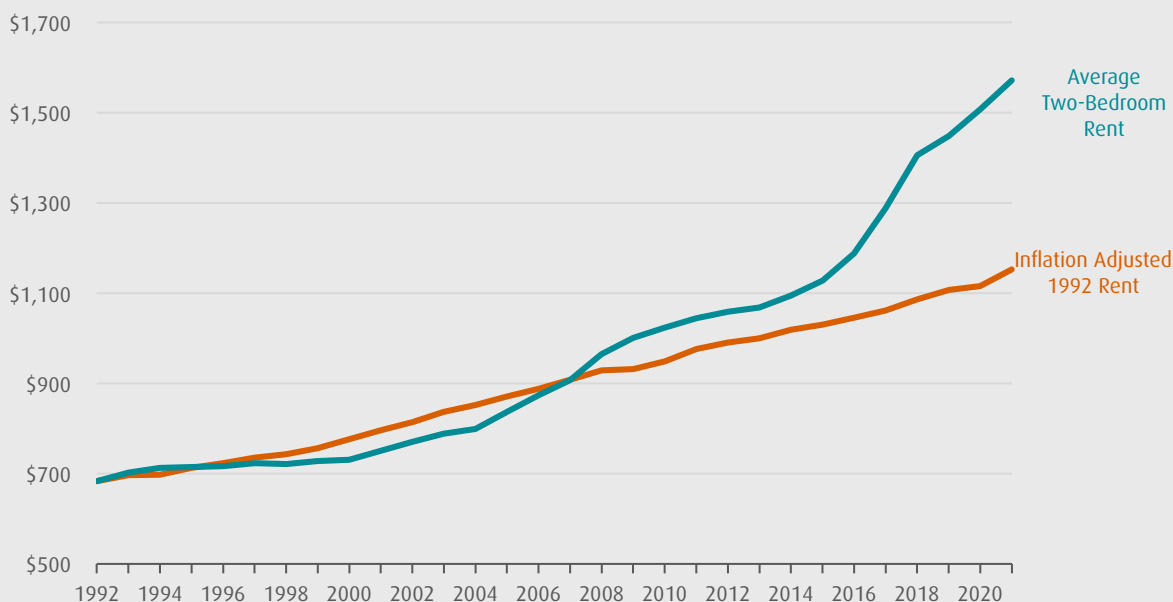
Target/Desired Trend

There is no target for the average cost of rental housing, however, cost increases at or below the level of inflation are preferable.

How are we doing?

We are currently not meeting the target.

The price of a two-bedroom rental has outpaced inflation since 2008.

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Rental Market Survey

3.2c Vacancy rate by rental price quartiles

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the rental vacancy rate by rental price quartiles in the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area over time.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to improve housing affordability in the region. The rental vacancy rate by rental price quartiles is an indicator of housing supply and housing affordability in the region.
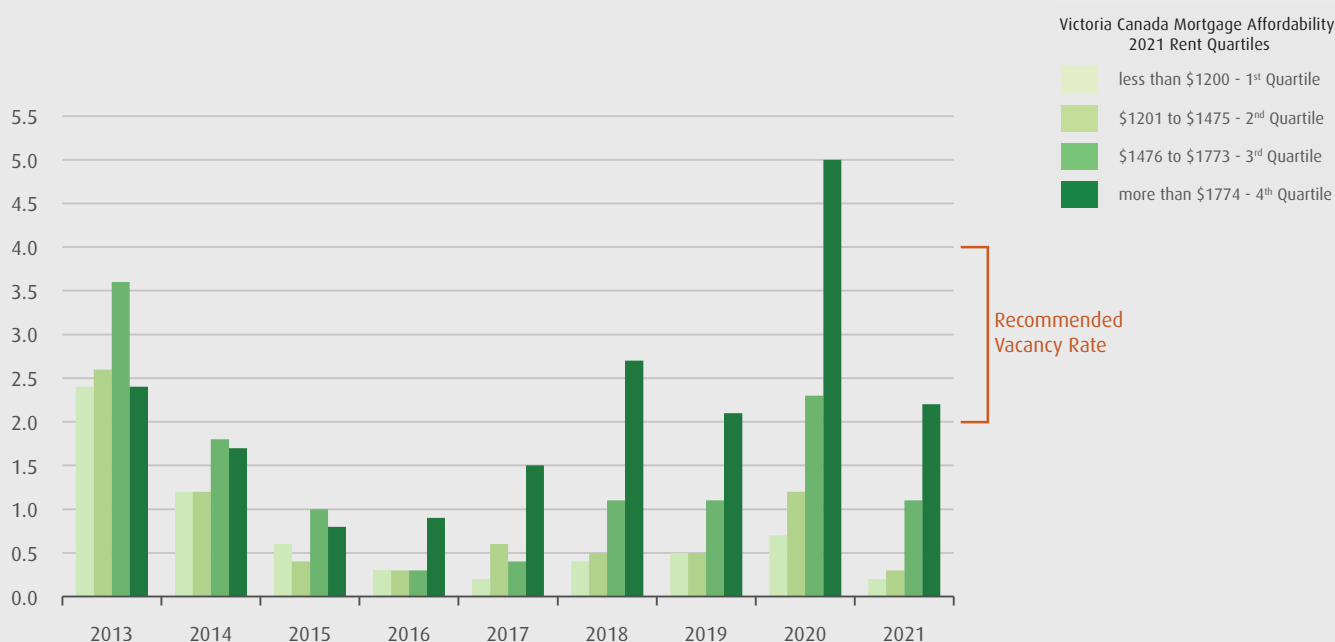
Target/Desired Trend

Higher vacancy rates across all prices are preferable. Recommended vacancy rates range between 2-4%.

How are we doing?

We are currently not meeting the desired trend.

There has been a general trend of very low vacancy rates in the region, especially at the lower price quartiles. Data from the past four years shows a marginal increase in vacancies, most significantly in units renting for more than $1,475.

**Victoria Canada Mortgage Affordability
2021 Rent Quartiles**

- less than $1200 - 1st Quartile
- $1201 to $1475 - 2nd Quartile
- $1476 to $1773 - 3rd Quartile
- more than $1774 - 4th Quartile

Recommended Vacancy Rate

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Rental Market Survey

3.2d Increase supply of affordable housing

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the cumulative number of subsidized housing units in the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA) that have a financial relationship with BC Housing. The units include emergency shelters, housing for the homeless, transitional and supported housing and assisted living, independent social housing and rent assistance in the private market.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to increase the supply of affordable housing and to reduce the number of people who are experiencing homelessness.
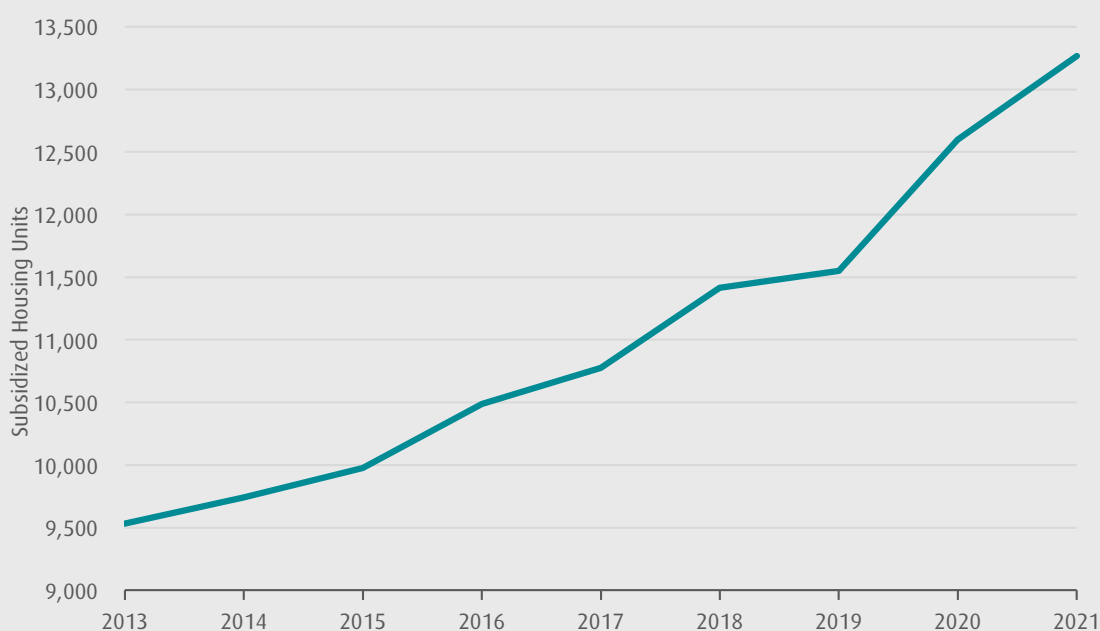
Target/Desired Trend

Increase the cumulative number of subsidized housing units that have a financial relationship with BC Housing.

How are we doing?

Progress is being made toward the target.

As of March 31, 2021 there were 13,265 subsidized housing units in the GMPA, representing an increase of 668 units in this reporting period.

Source: BC Housing's Research & Corporate Planning Department Unit Count Report March 2019, 2020, 2021

4.1a Percentage of total trips made by walking, cycling and transit in the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA)

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the percentage of total trips made by cycling, walking and transit in the Growth Management Planning Area.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to improve multi-modal connectivity and mobility. Mode share percentages provide the necessary data to track transportation choices over time.
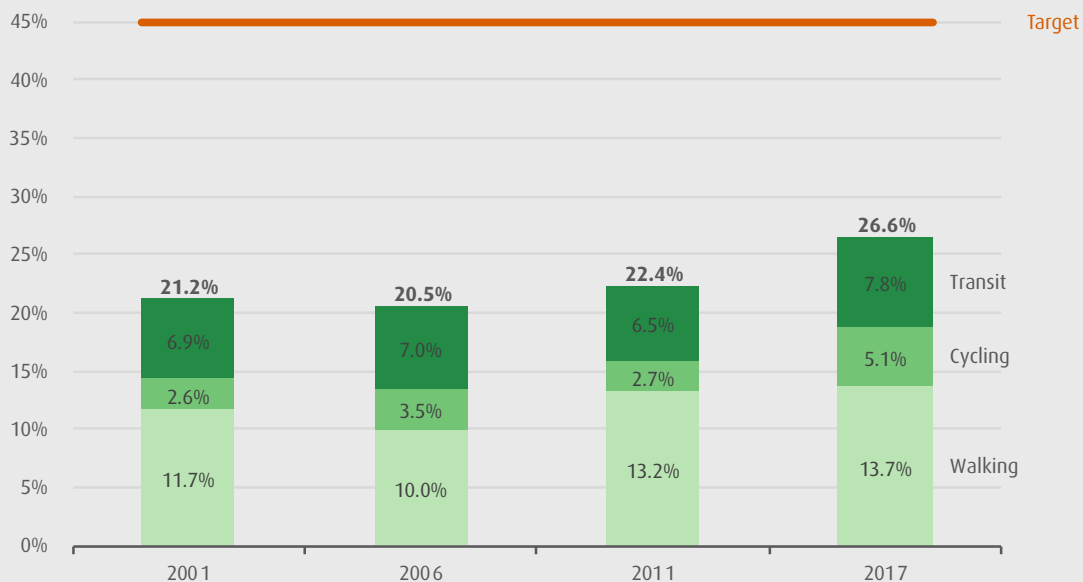
Target/Desired Trend

Achieve a transportation system that sees 45% of all trips made by walking, cycling and transit by 2038.

How are we doing?

Progress is being made toward the target.

The past three Origin Destination Household Travel Surveys show steady increases in active transportation and transit mode share over the past decade.

Year	Walking	Cycling	Transit	Total
2001	11.7%	2.6%	6.9%	21.2%
2006	10.0%	3.5%	7.0%	20.5%
2011	13.2%	2.7%	6.5%	22.4%
2017	13.7%	5.1%	7.8%	26.6%

Target: 45%

Source: CRD Origin Destination Survey 2001, 2006, 2011, 2017

5.1a Jobs to population ratio

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the ratio of employment to population in each Capital Regional District sub-region.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to realize the region's economic potential. A balanced distribution of employment and jobs indicates economic opportunities spread across the region.
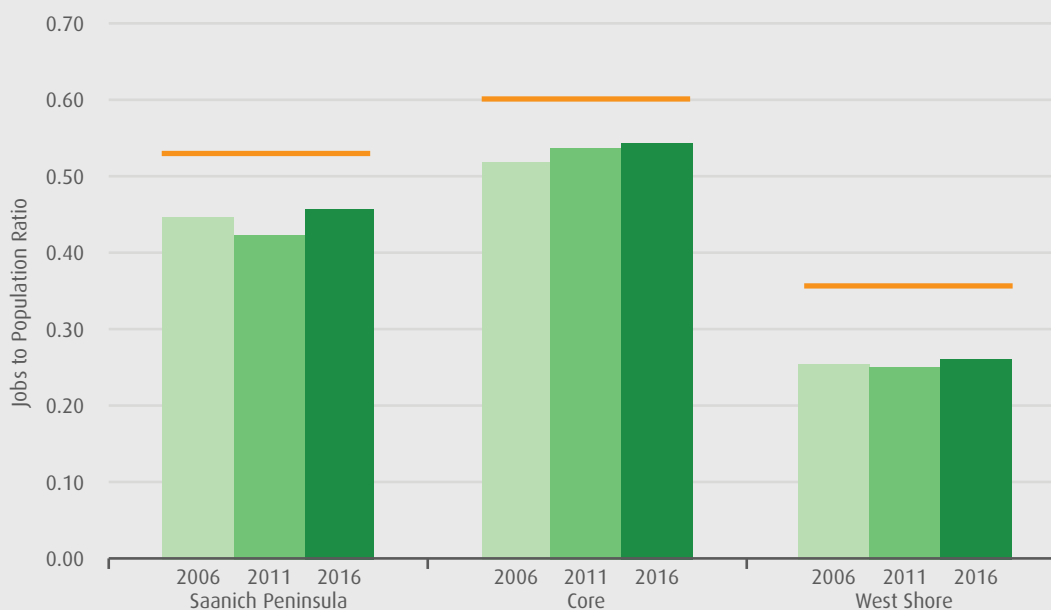
Target/Desired Trend

Achieve a jobs to population ratio of:

· 0.60 in the Core Area
· 0.53 in the Saanich Peninsula
· 0.36 in the West Shore

How are we doing?

All three sub-regions have made minor progress towards their targets. This indicator will be updated in 2023 when data is available.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of population, 2006, 2011, 2016, Place of Residence and Place of Work Tables

6.1a Hectares of farmland in the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA)

What is being measured?

This indicator measures hectares of farmland in the Growth Management Planning Area.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) aims to foster a resilient food and agricultural system.

Target/Desired Trend

Increase the amount of land in food crop production by 5,000 hectares by 2038.

How are we doing?

Food systems were a new RGS objective, added in 2018. Data from the 2021 census will be the first opportunity to measure progress toward this target following adoption of this new RGS objective.

The most recent statistics from 2016 show there has been a slight increase in land being used for farming. This indicator will be updated in 2023 when data is available.
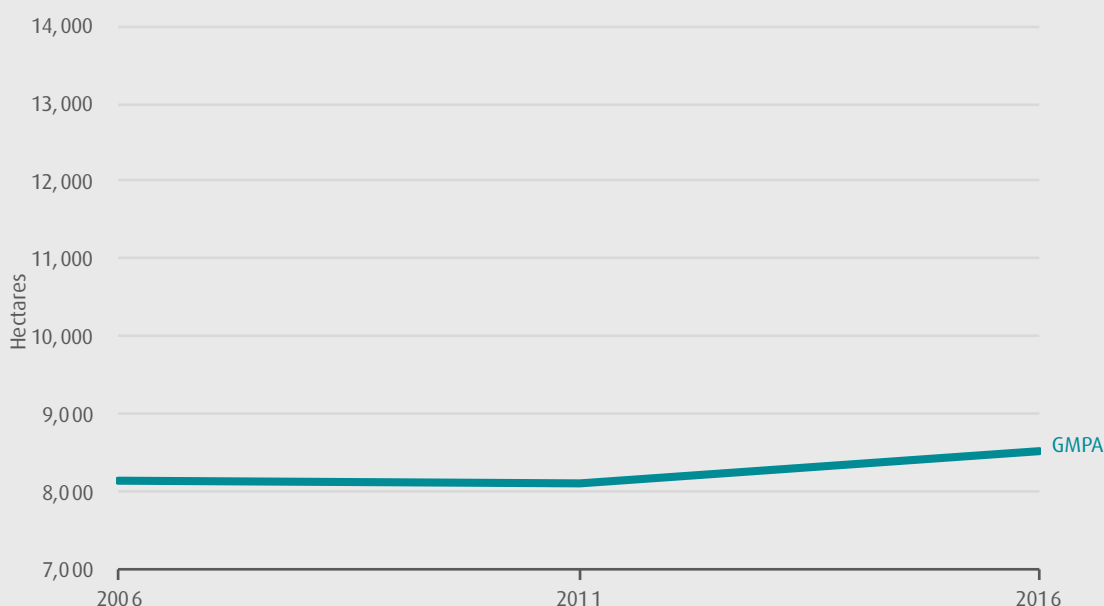
Source: Statistics Canada, custom tabulation of Census of Agriculture 2006, 2011, 2016

6.1b Average age of farmer

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the average age of farm operators.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to foster a resilient food and agricultural system. A higher average age of farmers represents a warning sign for the future of food production in the region.
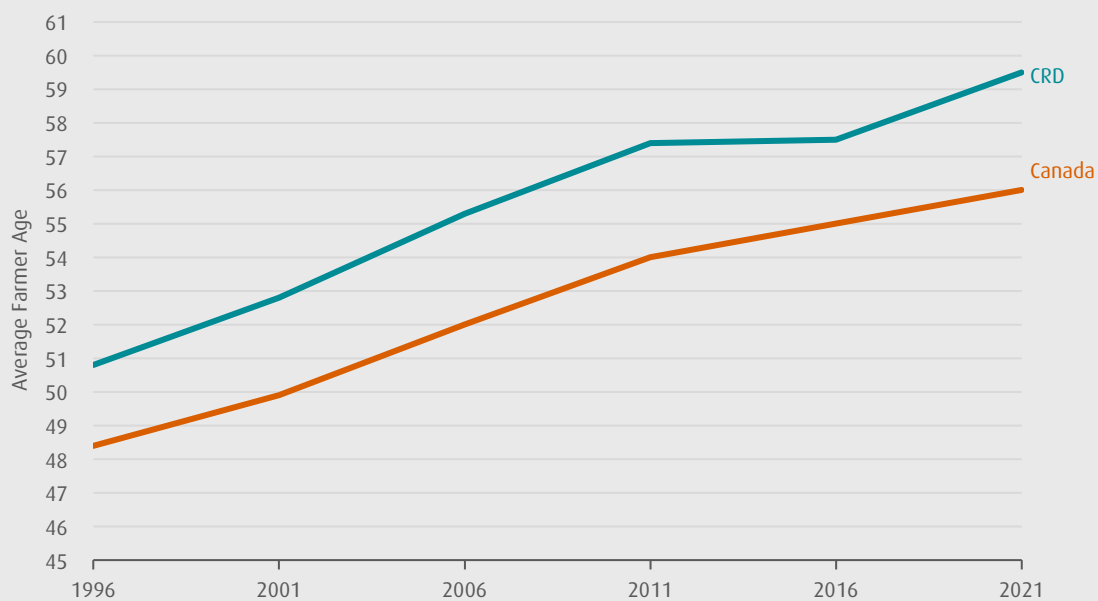
Target/Desired Trend

A lower average age of farmers is desirable.

How are we doing?

Progress toward this target remains static.

The average age of farmers in the region remains higher than the Canadian average.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021

7.1a   Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions

What is being measured?

Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to significantly reduce community GHG emissions.

Target/Desired Trend

Decrease community GHG emissions by 33% from 2007 levels by 2020 and 61% by 2038.

How are we doing?

In 2020, the Capital Regional District's (CRD) annual GHG emissions totalled approximately 1.8 million tonnes, which represents a 9.8% decline from the 2007 base year GHG emissions, and a 5% decline from 2018.

The decline in emission in 2020 over 2018 are largely associated with changes in transportation patterns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

On a per capita basis there has been a decline of 23% between 2007 and 2020, which speaks to the efforts by the CRD, local and senior governments to reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions.

However, the current trend suggests that we will not meet the target by 2038 unless greater effort is taken. This indicator will be updated when data is available.
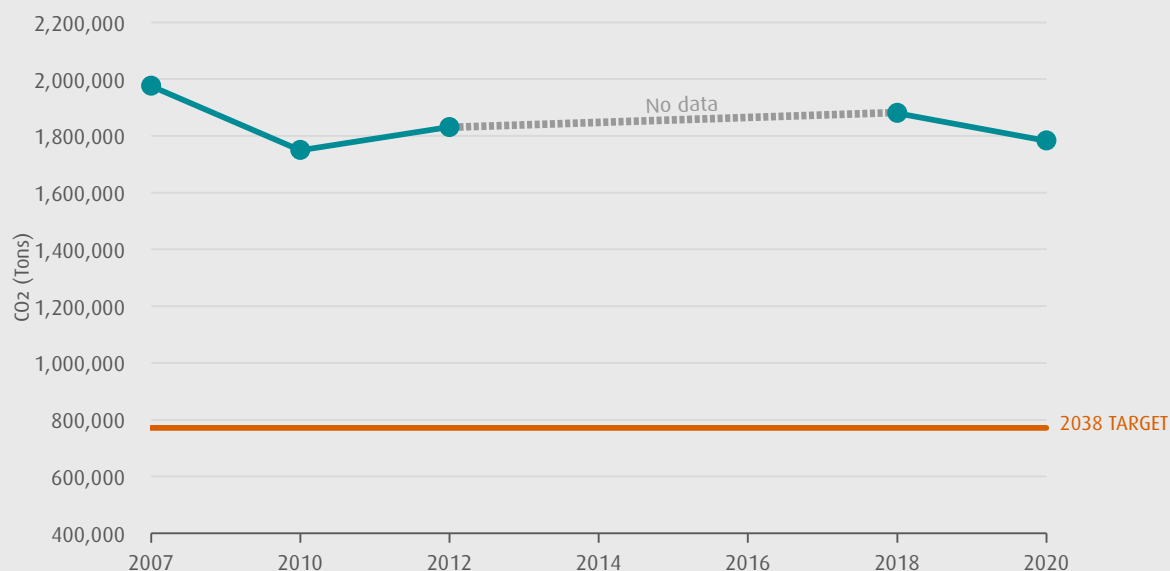
Source: CRD 2020 Greenhouse Gas Protocol BASIC+ Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report