



## Notice of Meeting and Meeting Agenda Environmental Services Committee

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Wednesday, July 15, 2026

9:30 AM

Electronic

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### Electronic Meeting

#### ELECTRONIC MEETING

##### [26-0841](#) Electronic Meeting Notice

In accordance with Capital Regional District Board Procedures Bylaw No. 3828, the meeting will take place electronically with committee members participating on Microsoft Teams. Members of the public may attend the meeting by connecting to the meeting by phone (1-877-567-6843 ID: 89371462#), electronically (MS Teams link below) or in person at the public viewing room (Capital Regional District, 625 Fisgard Street, Room 129).

**Attachments:** [MS Teams Link](#)

B. Desjardins (Chair), S. Tobias (Vice Chair), J. Brownoff, J. Caradonna, G. Holman,  
D. Kobayashi, C. Plant, M. Tait, D. Thompson, A. Wickheim, C. McNeil-Smith (Board Chair, ex-officio)

The Capital Regional District strives to be a place where inclusion is paramount and all people are treated with dignity. We pledge to make our meetings a place where all feel welcome and respected.

#### 1. Territorial Acknowledgement

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

#### 3. Adoption of Minutes

##### 3.1. [26-0820](#) Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting of May 20, 2026

**Recommendation:** That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting of May 20, 2026 be adopted as circulated.

**Attachments:** [Minutes: May 20, 2026](#)

#### 4. Chair's Remarks

## 5. Presentations/Delegations

*The public are welcome to attend CRD meetings in-person.*

*Delegations will have the option to participate electronically. Please complete the online application at [www.crd.ca/address](http://www.crd.ca/address) no later than 4:30 pm two days before the meeting and staff will respond with details.*

*Alternatively, you may email your comments on an agenda item to the CRD Board at [crdboard@crd.bc.ca](mailto:crdboard@crd.bc.ca).*

## 6. Committee Business

### 6.1. [26-0693](#) Climate Action Strategy 2026-2030

**Recommendation:** The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

- 1) That the Board adopt the renewed Climate Action Strategy attached as Appendix A to guide the Capital Regional District (CRD) Climate Action and Adaptation Service through to 2030;
- 2) That staff be directed to review and report back on regional greenhouse gas reduction target alternatives for inclusion in the next update to the Regional Growth Strategy;
- 3) That the Chair on behalf of the Board send a letter to the Premier of BC and relevant ministers advocating for the full implementation of the recommendations of the CleanBC Independent Review, including continued funding for the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP);
- 4) That staff establish all necessary processes and systems to direct all revenues from the sale of carbon credits - such as those generated under the federal Clean Fuel Regulation and provincial Low Carbon Fuel Standard - into CRD programs and projects aligned with the renewed Climate Action Strategy;
- 5) That staff establish continuous internal processes to seek opportunities that generate carbon credit and renewable energy revenues; and,
- 6) That staff report back on how these carbon credit revenues will be used to accelerate climate action, for the Board's consideration and approval.

**Attachments:** [Staff Report: Climate Action Strategy 2026-2030](#)  
[Appendix A: Climate Action Strategy Renewal - 2026-2030](#)  
[Presentation: Climate Action Strategy 2026-2030](#)

### 6.2. [26-0768](#) Harbours Environmental Action Service Summary

**Recommendation:** There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

**Attachments:** [Staff Report: Harbours Environmental Action Service Summary](#)  
[Appendix A: Harbours Service Accomplishments 2021-2026](#)  
[Appendix B: Harbours Ecological Inventory & Rating Summary](#)



- 6.3. [26-0707](#) Bowker Creek Blueprint | 2026 Update: A 100-Year Action Plan to Restore the Bowker Creek Watershed

**Recommendation:** There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

**Attachments:** [Staff Report: Bowker Creek Blueprint Update - 100-Year Action Plan](#)  
[Appendix A: Bowker Creek Blueprint Update: What We Heard \(Aug 2025\)](#)

- 6.4. [26-0771](#) Previous Minutes of Other CRD Committees and Commissions for Information

**Recommendation:** There is no recommendation. The following minutes are for information only.  
a) Climate Action Inter-municipal Task Force - March 13, 2026  
b) Solid Waste Advisory Committee - April 10, 2026

**Attachments:** [Minutes: Climate Action Task Force \(March 13, 2026\)](#)  
[Minutes: Solid Waste Advisory Committee \(April 10, 2026\)](#)

## 7. Notice(s) of Motion

- 7.1. [26-0805](#) Motion with Notice: AI Data Centres (Director Caradonna)

**Recommendation:** The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:  
In light of the Federal AI Strategy announcement, that staff report back on AI data centres, their potential environmental, utility, and land use impacts in this region, and potential policy options for regulating data centres within the CRD.

## 8. New Business

## 9. Motion to Close the Meeting

- 9.1. [26-0821](#) Motion to Close the Meeting

**Recommendation:** 1. That the meeting be closed for contract negotiations in accordance with Section 90(1)(k) of the Community Charter. [1 item]  
2. That the meeting be closed for proposed municipal service in accordance with Section 90(1)(k) of the Community Charter. [1 item]

## 10. Adjournment

There are no more scheduled meetings for 2026.

**Connect to the meeting electronically:**

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/26901701406454?p=wzaPuJyVRmM44KECzZ>

Meeting ID: 269 017 014 064 54

Passcode: oL2RK7Tj

**Connect to the meeting by phone:**

[+1 778-402-9211,,89371462#](#) Canada, Victoria

[\(877\) 567-6843,,89371462#](#) Canada (Toll-free)

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 913 251 689#

**Attend the public viewing room:**

Capital Regional District, 625 Fisgard Street, Room 129

## Meeting Minutes

### Environmental Services Committee

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Wednesday, May 20, 2026

9:30 AM

6th Floor Boardroom  
625 Fisgard St.  
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

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**PRESENT:**

Directors: B. Desjardins (Chair), S. Tobias (Vice Chair), J. Brownoff (EP), J. Caradonna, G. Holman (EP), D. Kobayashi (EP), C. Plant, M. Tait (9:38 am) (EP), D. Thompson, C. McNeil-Smith (Board Chair, ex-officio) (9:36 am)

Staff: T. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer; L. Jones, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Environmental Services; R. Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management; P. Enright, Manager, Climate Action, Environmental Innovation; M. Tromp Hoover, Manager, Environmental Resource Management Policy and Planning; M. Miklea, Manager, Legislative Services/Deputy Corporate Officer; J. Dorman, Committee Clerk (Recorder)

EP - Electronic Participation

Regrets: A. Wickheim

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.

#### 1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Tobias provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED** by Director Thompson, **SECONDED** by Director Plant,  
That the agenda for the Environmental Services Committee meeting of May 20,  
2026 be approved.  
**CARRIED**

#### 3. Adoption of Minutes

- 3.1. [26-0508](#) Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting of April 15, 2026

**MOVED** by Director Tobias, **SECONDED** by Director Plant,  
That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting of April 15,  
2026 be adopted as circulated.  
**CARRIED**

#### 4. Chair's Remarks

There were no Chair's remarks.

#### 5. Presentations/Delegations

There were no presentations or delegations.

#### 6. Committee Business

##### 6.1. [26-0461](#) Recycling in Schools - Opportunities for Diversion

L. Jones and R. Smith spoke to Item 6.1.

Director McNeil-Smith joined the meeting in person at 9:36 am.

Director Tait joined the meeting online at 9:38 am.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- regulation of household versus institutions and commercial recyclables
- source separation regulation and enforcement
- identification of measurables and reporting data analysis
- existing initiatives and grants
- funding allocations to school programs versus other recycling initiatives
- fine allocations for haulers versus waste generating entities
- school specific waste composition studies and audits
- waste generator studies and inclusion of schools

Motion Arising 1:

**MOVED** by Director Plant, **SECONDED** by Director Tobias,  
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the recommendation be referred to staff and a report be brought back with options to conduct a waste stream and food scrap audit.

**DEFEATED**

**Opposed:** Brownoff, Caradonna, Desjardins, Holman, Kobayashi, McNeil-Smith, Plant, Tait, Thompson, Tobias

Motion Arising 2:

**MOVED** by Director Plant, **SECONDED** by Director McNeil-Smith,  
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That staff conduct audits in the four School Districts and provide program options to the Committee.

**CARRIED**

**6.2.     [26-0462](#)     Beyond the Curb - Drop-off Recycling Program for Non-curbside Materials**

L. Jones and R. Smith presented Item 6.2. for information.

Director Tait left the meeting at 10:31 am.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- goals, targets, effectiveness and expectations of the initiative
- measurable deliverables and levels of success
- messaging and marketing plans to promote program
- baselining, data analysis and reporting back
- cost allocation for initiative
- participating community markets and market suggestions
- hub locations during late fall and winter months

**6.3.     [26-0464](#)     Previous Minutes of Other CRD Committees and Commissions for Information**

The following minutes were received for information:

a) Solid Waste Advisory Committee - January 9, 2026

**7. Notice(s) of Motion****7.1.     [26-0579](#)     Motion with Notice: Community Energy Association Support (Director Thompson)**

D. Thompson spoke to Item 7.1.

Discussion ensued on the previous funding provided and the future funding requests timeline.

**MOVED by Director Thompson, SECONDED by Director Caradonna,  
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional  
District Board:**

**That the Capital Regional District provide \$15,750 to the Community Energy  
Association to act as a secretariat and support priority initiatives of the  
Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Leadership Steering  
Committee through 2026.**

**CARRIED**

**8. New Business**

There was no new business.

**9. Adjournment**

**MOVED by Director McNeil-Smith, SECONDED by Director Plant,  
That the Environmental Services Committee meeting of May 20, 2026 be  
adjourned at 10:38 am.**

**CARRIED**

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CHAIR

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RECORDER

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026**

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**SUBJECT**     **Climate Action Strategy 2026-2030**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To present the Capital Regional District's (CRD) renewed Climate Action Strategy to guide the Climate Action and Adaptation Service from 2026 to 2030.

**BACKGROUND**

From 2021 to 2025, the Climate Action and Adaptation Service has been guided by the 2021 Climate Action Strategy (CAS), created following the CRD Board's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. Since late 2024, staff have been preparing a renewal of the CAS to guide the service to 2030, including engagement with municipalities. In October 2025, the Board approved updates to the CAS guiding framework including the vision, principles, goals and targets.

The Board also directed that within the renewed CAS, staff clarify the CRD's jurisdiction on greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, the support role played by the CRD, and the targets and progress of the 13 member municipalities and three electoral areas. Earlier motions from the Board also directed that the renewed CAS include a climate budget and additional opportunities to achieve the regional GHG target.

**DISCUSSION**

*Changing Context*

There have been significant recent changes to the climate policy context with implications for the capital region, including the elimination of consumer carbon taxes and adjustments to electric vehicle mandates at the provincial and federal levels, the deepening housing and cost-of-living crisis, economic uncertainty from USA tariffs, and most recently, a sharp rise in fuel prices due to war.

Climate action in British Columbia (BC) is largely enabled and constrained by provincial legislation and jurisdiction. The Province's November 2025 CleanBC Independent Review<sup>1</sup> noted that the provincial climate strategy (CleanBC) was generally found to be working, while making several recommendations for a pragmatic approach in today's context. The review noted the critical role of consumer rebates in driving public adoption of clean technologies and suggests recycling revenues from climate policies into climate action. It also notes that overly ambitious targets can be counterproductive and suggests an alternative approach of tracking leading indicators (such as adoption rates) in addition to lagging indicators like GHG emissions.

The CleanBC Independent Review priorities for action guided the renewal of the CRD's CAS, including making it easier for residents to cut energy bills and GHG's, deepening partnerships with First Nations and local governments, and focusing on delivering effective, achievable and fiscally responsible outcomes.

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<sup>1</sup>Retrieved from: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2025/11/CleanBC-Independent-Review-Final-Report-November-2025.pdf>

### *Progress Summary*

CRD staff across multiple services - in collaboration with municipalities - have made continual and precedent-setting progress on the CAS since it was approved in 2021, with 85% of the original 126 sub-actions now complete or operationalized by 2025. Leading initiatives include establishing a new Regional Transportation Service, becoming the first regional government in BC to adopt a Zero Carbon Step Code (ZCSC) in electoral areas and the first to create a regional building benchmarking program, and adding over 164 public electric vehicle chargers to the regional network since 2021. Electrification of over a third of the CRD fleet saved \$104,000 in 2025, and major efficiency upgrades completed or underway at CRD facilities save hundreds of thousands of dollars and hundreds of tonnes of GHG emissions a year. Community GHG emissions are now 11% below 2007 levels despite a growing region – compared to a 6% reduction across BC since 2007 and a 9% increase in Metro Vancouver from 2010 to 2022 – with per capita GHG emissions down 30% in the CRD since 2007.

The current CAS has targets for corporate and community GHG reductions that are summarized in the table below. The renewed CAS includes reviewing the community targets as part of future updates to the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), and reporting under the renewed CAS will evolve to show how the CRD's actions contribute to achieving the regional targets by introducing new outcome statements and indicators as additional measures of success. The indicators will be reviewed and updated with each annual report to improve reporting over time.

**Table 1: Status of Climate Targets**

|             | <b>Corporate</b>                                              | <b>Community</b>                                                             |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Target      | 45% below 2007 levels by 2030                                 | 61% below 2007 levels by 2038                                                |
| Status      | On track                                                      | Off track                                                                    |
| CRD Control | Direct: reductions can be projected for specific CRD projects | Indirect: reductions are influenced by many factors beyond the CRD's control |

While climate change presents a challenge for the region to adapt and to do our part to reduce emissions, addressing climate change also presents an opportunity to create a more efficient, resilient and affordable region. Electric bicycles (E-bikes) and electric vehicles can save residents thousands of dollars a year on transportation costs, and efficient electric heat pumps can heat homes and buildings for less than the cost of a gas appliance, while providing summertime cooling. Every one dollar invested in preparing infrastructure for climate change saves \$10-15 over its lifetime<sup>2</sup>.

### **Renewed Climate Action Strategy 2026-2030**

The renewed CAS clarifies the CRD's roles and responsibilities, improves progress tracking and reporting, and focuses on clear and specific actions with the highest impact. It also reflects the changing context and establishes a more pragmatic approach to ambitious but achievable climate action.

#### *CRD Role and Strategy*

While the CRD does not directly control regional GHG emissions, the renewed CAS focuses on actions where the region can have the greatest influence, such as zero-carbon buildings and

<sup>2</sup> Canadian Climate Institute, *Damage Control: Reducing Climate Impacts*. Retrieved from: <https://climateinstitute.ca/reports/damage-control/>



electric mobility, and on establishing the enabling conditions for broader climate action. This approach clarifies the CRD's role: to plan, invest in, coordinate, and deliver the infrastructure and programs that enable residents, businesses and municipalities to achieve emissions reductions and improve climate resilience.

The CRD's role, the Board-approved guiding framework, and the changing context all inform the renewed strategy. For climate mitigation, the strategy emphasizes supporting and accelerating the transitions already underway, like heat pump retrofits, electric mobility and electric vehicles. For climate adaptation, the strategy uses a disaster risk reduction approach, which emphasizes the overlap between climate adaptation and emergency management. It also places natural assets and healthy ecosystems across the region as the first line of defence against climate hazards, together with resilient critical infrastructure and connected and empowered community networks.

### *Key Actions and Workplan*

Actions in the renewed CAS are proposed to continue existing high-impact initiatives including the benchmarking program for large existing buildings, the Home Energy Navigator retrofit support program for low-rise homes, installing regional electric vehicle charging infrastructure, convening staff across the CRD with municipalities and mobilizing public climate action, and providing climate data and mapping for the region.

The renewed CAS also introduces new actions that position the CRD to advance a focused set of high-impact initiatives delivering tangible benefits across the capital region. These include accelerating the uptake of low-carbon home retrofits such as heat pumps, expanding and improving low-carbon mobility options through the newly established transportation service, unlocking opportunities to generate renewable energy from CRD facilities and infrastructure, and embedding climate resilience into the design and delivery of core services.

### *Immediate Actions*

In addition to the renewed CAS that will guide the CRD's climate initiatives over the next four years, staff are recommending immediate direction to move forward with two foundational elements that will reinforce and accelerate regional climate action:

- First, advocating for full implementation of the recommendations of the independent CleanBC Independent Review, including continuing the Local Government Climate Action Program, which provides funding to local governments across the province for climate action.
- Second, that revenues from the sale of carbon credits are directed into CRD programs and projects with demonstrated climate benefits. This direction will secure additional funds for climate action and enable the program to accelerate infrastructure delivery and take full advantage of emerging opportunities for climate action without additional requisition increases.

## **NEXT STEPS**

In 2026, staff will continue implementing key initiatives such as the Building Benchmarking Program and the Regional Public Electric Vehicle Charging Network Project and begin new initiatives such as exploring incentive program options for E-bikes and heat pumps. Staff will report back to the Board by Q2 2027 with an annual update and progress report on how the renewed strategy is being implemented.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### *Alternative 1*

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

- 1) That the Board adopt the renewed Climate Action Strategy attached as Appendix A to guide the Capital Regional District (CRD) Climate Action and Adaptation Service through to 2030;
- 2) That staff be directed to review and report back on regional greenhouse gas reduction target alternatives for inclusion in the next update to the Regional Growth Strategy;
- 3) That the Chair on behalf of the Board send a letter to the Premier of BC and relevant ministers advocating for the full implementation of the recommendations of the CleanBC Independent Review, including continued funding for the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP);
- 4) That staff establish all necessary processes and systems to direct all revenues from the sale of carbon credits – such as those generated under the federal Clean Fuel Regulation and provincial Low Carbon Fuel Standard – into CRD programs and projects aligned with the renewed Climate Action Strategy;
- 5) That staff establish continuous internal processes to seek opportunities that generate carbon credit and renewable energy revenues; and,
- 6) That staff report back on how these carbon credit revenues will be used to accelerate climate action, for the Board's consideration and approval.

### *Alternative 2*

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities*

Climate action has been a CRD Board priority since 2009, when the Climate Action and Adaptation Service was first established, and is one of the five current 2023-2026 Board priorities. The current CRD Corporate Plan includes four goals and 11 initiatives for climate action, covering goal areas of sustainable and resilient land use, planning and preparedness, low carbon mobility, low carbon and resilient buildings and infrastructure, and community-based greenhouse gas emissions. The renewed CAS sets out a suite of actions to continue progress on climate action through to 2030.

### *Climate Implications*

The renewed CAS is the key guiding document for CRD climate action. While the CRD does not directly regulate or control regional GHG emissions, the actions included will enable significant reductions in regional GHG emissions and - together with action by all other levels of government – have the potential to approach the region's ambitious emissions reduction targets.

### *Environmental Implications*

Climate action has wider environmental benefits beyond decreasing GHG emissions, and the actions in the renewed CAS have the potential to reduce waste, reduce air and water pollution from vehicles, and protect and enhance regional ecosystems.

### *Financial Implications*

#### Current Funding

The Board-approved CRD Financial Plan includes an annual operating budget of approximately \$2.6 million for the Climate Action and Adaption Service. Historically this has been funded through a mix of requisition, reserves, funding from the provincial LGCAP, and grant contributions from utilities. The service also oversees a capital budget of approximately \$2.7 million over three years for public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, of which 73% (\$2 million) comes from grants from higher levels of governments. The current operating reserve for the Climate Action and Adaptation Service is \$1.5 million, which is used strategically to stabilize requisition impacts in consideration of variable climate program and projects costs over multiple years.

#### Financial Strategy for Climate Action Strategy Implementation

The updated CAS will be delivered within the CRD's existing Financial Plan and funding framework. The Climate Action and Adaptation Service will continue to leverage external grants, partnerships, and ongoing program reviews to maintain requisition impacts at or near inflationary increases. New initiatives and expanded climate action programs will be supported through reinvestment of revenue generated from carbon credits, including credits associated with renewable natural gas production at Hartland Landfill and electricity supplied through CRD-owned electric vehicle charging infrastructure. This approach enables the CRD to expand climate action efforts while maintaining the current financial plan assumptions and minimizing impacts on requisition-funded services.

### *First Nations Implications*

The actions in the renewed CAS have been developed to consider First Nations engagement responses including the exploration of opportunities to support and coordinate on priority initiatives identified by First Nations such as coastal and ecosystem restoration.

### *Intergovernmental Implications*

Coordinating with and supporting climate action of municipalities and electoral areas is a core part of the renewed CAS and can increase the reach, effectiveness, and consistency of climate action across the region. The renewed CAS also includes advocacy to other levels of government and utilities, whose actions are critical to achieving regional GHG targets.

### *Regional Growth Strategy Implications*

The RGS is an important tool in planning for complete, climate-resilient communities and managing emissions from a growing region. Preparing a CAS was one of the implementation measures noted in the 2018 RGS, and the renewed CAS and the RGS work together to create a lower carbon region. The RGS also includes the regional GHG reduction target. The renewed CAS includes taking action through potential updates to the RGS proposed to take place in 2027-2028 by applying a strong climate lens and reviewing the regional GHG targets.

## **CONCLUSION**

Since 2021, the Capital Regional District (CRD) has made significant progress supporting regional climate action. With the costs of fuel and climate hazards rising, climate action represents an opportunity to support a cleaner, more affordable and resilient region. The renewed Climate Action Strategy, developed with input from member municipalities, continues important existing programs and introduces new opportunities and targeted actions, while clarifying the CRD's role, evolving annual reporting, and creating a strong financial foundation for accelerating climate action. This report renews CRD climate action through to 2030 for a cleaner, more affordable and resilient region, includes previous Board direction, and recommends immediate actions the Board can take to advance climate action.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

- 1) That the Board adopt the renewed Climate Action Strategy attached as Appendix A to guide the Capital Regional District (CRD) Climate Action and Adaptation Service through to 2030;
- 2) That staff be directed to review and report back on regional greenhouse gas reduction target alternatives for inclusion in the next update to the Regional Growth Strategy;
- 3) That the Chair on behalf of the Board send a letter to the Premier of BC and relevant ministers advocating for the full implementation of the recommendations of the CleanBC Independent Review, including continued funding for the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP);
- 4) That staff establish all necessary processes and systems to direct all revenues from the sale of carbon credits – such as those generated under the federal Clean Fuel Regulation and provincial Low Carbon Fuel Standard – into CRD programs and projects aligned with the renewed Climate Action Strategy;
- 5) That staff establish continuous internal processes to seek opportunities that generate carbon credit and renewable energy revenues; and,
- 6) That staff report back on how these carbon credit revenues will be used to accelerate climate action, for the Board's consideration and approval.

|               |                                                                                     |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Submitted by: | Patrick Enright, P.Eng., Manager, Climate Action                                    |
| Concurrence:  | Rory Tooke, PhD, Acting General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services |
| Concurrence:  | Varinia Samosan, CPA, CGA, Acting Chief Financial Officer                           |
| Concurrence:  | Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer                         |

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: CRD Climate Action Strategy 2026-2030 (June 2026)  
Presentation: Climate Action Strategy 2026-2030



# Climate Action Strategy

Renewing climate action for a more affordable and resilient region  
2026-2030

June 2026



Making a difference...together



## Territorial Acknowledgement

The CRD conducts its business within the Territories of many First Nations, including but not limited to BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin), MÁLEXEL (Malahat), paaʔčiidʔatx (Pacheedaht), Spuneʼluxutth (Penelekut), Scʼianew (Beecher Bay), Songhees, STÁUTW (Tsawout), TʼSou-ke, WJOLÉEP (Tsartlip), WSIKEM (Tseycum), and xʷsepsum (Esquimalt) Nations, all of whom have a long-standing relationship with the land and waters from time immemorial that continues to this day.



Front Cover:  
Aerial view of the Gorge Waterway



Hiking at Sooke Wilderness Trail

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# Executive Summary

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is an important leader of regional climate action, and this strategy renews the CRD's role, approach, and proposed actions to continue and accelerate climate action from 2026 to 2030. By working together with municipalities, electoral areas, First Nations, organizations, residents and businesses across the region, the CRD can create a cleaner, more resilient, affordable and livable capital region.

There have been significant changes to the climate policy context since 2021, and the climate crisis has directly impacted the region in recent years. This renewed strategy takes lessons from recent policy research to inform a pragmatic approach to energy security and climate action in today's context, and will make it easier and more affordable for residents to heat their homes and get around, while helping communities to avoid expensive repairs and recovery from climate hazards. It focuses on accelerating progress in the sectors with the greatest emissions reduction potential—buildings and transportation—while strengthening climate resilience across the region.

To emphasize how the CRD contributes to climate action, this renewed strategy groups actions into four roles: to deliver, coordinate, invest in, and plan the infrastructure and programs that enable people across the region to succeed in taking climate action with a combination of continuing and new initiatives.

Continuing high-impact actions include providing climate data and mapping for the region, mobilizing public climate action, providing the building benchmarking program for large existing buildings, convening climate action among municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations, and installing regional public electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

New high-impact actions that position the CRD to accelerate climate action include increasing the uptake of low-carbon home retrofits such as heat pumps, advocating for expanded support and authority for local government climate action, unlocking opportunities to generate renewable energy from CRD facilities and infrastructure, expanding and improving low-carbon mobility options through the newly established transportation service, and embedding climate resilience into the planning and design of core services.

The implementation timeline provides an overall picture of when planned actions will likely unfold in the coming years, while leaving space for actions to grow and evolve in response to new opportunities and contexts. Reporting on climate progress will add outcomes and impacts as new indicators of success rather than only activity, and reporting will be reviewed and refined annually, beginning in 2027.

The renewed strategy is completed by a series of appendices full of supporting details including: guiding principles (Appendix A); regional, municipal and electoral area emissions inventories (Appendix B and C); full descriptions of each action (Appendix D); indicators (Appendix F); the climate budget (Appendix G); and a summary of the engagement that supported the development of the strategy (Appendix H). Together these resources provide a reference that will serve as a foundation and guide for climate action at the CRD and across the region in the coming years.



# Introduction

## Background

Addressing climate change is one of the defining issues of the twenty-first century, and how we respond will shape the capital region for generations to come. Climate hazards like extreme heat and rainfall disrupt our lives and livelihoods more often with each decade, while regional ecosystems are under increasing stress. Volatility in the costs of fossil fuels strain household budgets and business plans, while our buildings and vehicles continue to emit climate-changing greenhouse gases (GHGs) every day. Without thoughtful and coordinated action, the costs of climate change to the capital region will continue to mount.

The region has made important progress in responding to climate change in recent years. Municipalities across the region have installed public electric vehicle (EV) chargers and bike lanes, adopted zero carbon codes for new buildings, and supported building and homeowners with retrofits, alongside many other programs. They have also started adapting to climate change by studying hazards, planning for long-term changes, and expanding green spaces that help manage rainwater and extreme heat.

Residents and businesses have continued to switch to electric vehicles and cycling, reducing emissions from on-road transportation in the region 22% below 2007 levels. They have retrofitted away from natural gas and heating oil to electric heat pumps, reducing emissions from buildings in the region 16% below 2007 levels. In a growing region, overall per-capita emissions are down by 30% from 2007.

Addressing climate change also presents an opportunity to create a more efficient, resilient, and affordable region. E-bikes and electric vehicles can save thousands of dollars a year on transportation costs, and efficient electric heat pumps can heat homes and buildings for less than the cost of a gas appliance, while providing summertime cooling. Every dollar invested in preparing infrastructure for climate change saves \$10-15 over its lifetime.<sup>1</sup>

Prioritizing nature in climate adaptation can also advance reconciliation, improve quality of life, and increase interconnection with other species and the land.



## A Renewed Climate Action Strategy

The Capital Regional District (CRD), through the Climate Action and Adaptation Service and guided by the Climate Action Strategy (2021), has been an important leader of regional climate action. This 2026 strategy outlines the CRD's role, approach, and proposed actions for 2026-2030.

By working together with all levels of government, First Nations, utilities, organizations and community groups, and residents and businesses across the region, we can create a cleaner, more resilient, affordable, and livable capital region.

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<sup>1</sup> Canadian Climate Institute, Damage Control: Reducing Climate Impacts. Retrieved from: <https://climateinstitute.ca/reports/damage-control/>



# Climate Action at the CRD

## What is Climate Action?

Climate action is any effort taken to address climate change and lessen its negative impacts. Climate action usually involves two main concepts that can sometimes overlap:

**Climate Mitigation** – involves reducing or preventing the emission of GHGs into the atmosphere, such as switching from a gas powered car to an electric one.

**Climate Adaptation** – is the process of adjusting to the current and future effects of climate change, such as restoring a wetland to help protect against flooding.

Many examples of climate action contribute to both climate mitigation and adaptation. For example, switching from a natural gas furnace to an electric heat pump avoids GHG emissions when heating a home, and also offers cooling to protect from extreme summer heat.

## CRD Climate Action and Adaptation Service

Climate action at the CRD is led by the Climate Action and Adaptation Service, a regional service established under Bylaw 3510 in 2009. The Service acts as both a resource and a coordinator for municipalities, citizens and organizations in the capital region interested in taking climate action. This includes the following responsibilities:

- Monitoring and reporting on energy consumption and GHG emissions;
- Collaboration and cooperation with member municipalities on climate action and adaptation; and,
- Information dissemination and public education.

## Climate Action Across the CRD

The CRD has over 200 services, infrastructure and financing agreements with municipalities and electoral areas to deliver services at the regional, sub-regional, and local levels, including regional water supply, solid waste management, regional parks, and more. Climate action is embedded across the CRD's more than 200 services and their operations, and this strategy has important connections with other CRD strategic plans, including the Regional Parks Strategic Plan, Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan, Solid Waste Management Plan, Regional Transportation Plan, Regional Growth Strategy, Regional Emergency Management Partnership Strategic Plan, and others.

To improve focus and avoid duplication, this strategy does not cover an exhaustive list of all climate-related activities across all services. It instead focuses on the highest priority actions the CRD can take, led by the Climate Action and Adaptation Service and in coordination with other services.



### From Waste to Renewable Energy

The Hartland RNG Facility captures landfill gas produced by decomposing waste and transforms it into Renewable Natural Gas. That gas is then injected directly into the natural gas system, where it helps heat homes and businesses and fuel vehicles across the region with renewable energy. Landfills are among the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in most communities, and capturing and repurposing this gas is one of the most meaningful actions the CRD can take to reduce its carbon footprint and support a cleaner future.

*Renewable Natural Gas Facility at Hartland Landfill*



## Role of the CRD in Climate Action

The CRD plays a critical role in climate action in the region: to deliver, coordinate, invest in, and plan the infrastructure and programs that enable residents, businesses, and municipalities to achieve emissions reductions and improve climate resilience. As a regional government, the CRD can coordinate and support action that municipalities or residents can't achieve on their own, including actions that are more efficiently delivered on a regional scale.

To emphasize how the CRD can contribute to climate action, this strategy groups actions into four roles:

- Deliver climate data, programs, outreach, and monitoring and reporting that municipalities and others across the region need to effectively address climate change.
- Coordinate a regional approach to policies, initiatives, and resources with municipalities, First Nations and other regional actors.
- Invest in low carbon and resilient regional infrastructure, either directly or through grants.
- Plan for complete, low carbon communities, healthy ecosystems, and a changing climate.



### The CRD's Jurisdiction

Local governments have some authorities delegated from the Province, such as land use, administration of building codes, streets and roads, solid waste, and others. Regional governments have little direct authority and primarily provide services to local governments in the region (except in electoral areas, where they are the local government).

## Climate Action Progress (2021-2025)

Climate action has been a CRD Board priority since 2009, when the Climate Action and Adaptation Service was first established. Work to operationalize climate action as part of CRD programs and mandates has increased over time, highlighted by the Board's declaration of a climate emergency in early 2019. CRD staff across multiple services—in collaboration with municipalities—have made continual progress on the Climate Action Strategy since it was approved in 2021, with 85% of the original 126 sub-actions now complete or operationalized by 2025, including notable initiatives such as establishing a new Regional Transportation Service, and becoming the first regional government to adopt Zero Carbon Step Code (ZCSC) in electoral areas.

Appendix B includes a short list of significant highlights from the past five years, representing a small fraction of the many climate actions completed since 2021.

# The 2026-2030 Climate Action Strategy

## Guiding Framework: Vision, Principles, Goals, and Targets

The guiding framework establishes the vision, principles, goals and targets that guide climate action at the CRD. They inform the actions and how they will be implemented throughout the life of the strategy. These continue from the previous strategy and have been updated to align with the regional growth strategy, use plain language, and clearly reflect the CRD's commitment to reducing community-wide GHG emissions. The full vision, principles, goals, and targets are included in Appendix A, and a summary of engagement with internal CRD staff, municipal staff and elected officials, First Nations, and community climate organizations is detailed in Appendix H.

## Equity and Climate Action

Climate change is not just an environmental issue, but a social, economic, and political one. It is the people most marginalized and least responsible for climate change—and often with the least influence in decision making—that often bear the greatest impacts. In the 2021 heat dome in BC, 7.3% of deaths were from the top quintile (least deprived), while 33% of deaths were from the bottom quintile (most deprived). Applying an equity lens to climate action means seeing those most burdened by climate change and considering who benefits from climate action. It is an essential role of all orders of government - including the CRD - to ensure an equity lens is applied to relevant projects and programs.

For example, financial supports can be income tested to ensure public resources are directed to those who most need them to take action, and climate adaptation programs can be tailored to support those at highest risk from climate hazards. It can also mean considering how climate action supports are distributed across the capital region and ensure it is inclusive and effective across all communities, from urban to rural and everything in between.



*Family looks at their home through a thermal camera to detect insulation gaps.*



## Meeting the Moment

There have been significant changes to the climate policy context since 2021, from the federal and provincial shifts on carbon taxes, EV mandates, and rebates, to the deepening housing and cost-of-living crisis, economic uncertainty from American tariffs, and high variability of fossil fuel costs on the global market.

The climate crisis has also directly impacted the region in recent years. In 2021 alone, the heat dome caused 24 deaths in Greater Victoria, while the November atmospheric river closed the Malahat highway, causing severe disruptions to travel and fuel deliveries to the region.

Faced with these growing challenges, it is more important than ever that we prepare for a changing climate and do our part to rapidly reduce GHG emissions. Changing how we use energy and adapting our region can address these challenges head-on.

## Lessons from the CleanBC Review

Climate action in British Columbia (BC) is largely enabled and constrained by provincial legislation and jurisdiction. The Province's November 2025 CleanBC Independent Review<sup>2</sup> noted that the provincial climate strategy (CleanBC) was generally found to be working, while making several recommendations for a pragmatic approach to energy security and climate action in today's context.

The review's recommendations also guided the renewal of this strategy, in particular the recommendations to accelerate electrification, make it easier for residents to cut energy bills and GHGs, deepen partnerships with First Nations and local governments, and focus on delivering effective, achievable and fiscally responsible outcomes.

*"For citizens and businesses, the clean choice must be the easy choice: They need affordable access to efficient technologies like heat pumps and EVs, and support for energy upgrades that cut both climate pollution and energy bills." - CleanBC Independent Review, Page 9*

## A More Affordable, Resilient Region

Regional climate action can make it easier and more affordable for residents to heat their homes and get around, while helping communities to avoid expensive repairs and recovery from climate hazards.

In BC, a fully electric home using efficient electric heat pumps and EVs can save over \$500 every month in gas and utility bills. These are popular solutions with Canadians who have them—in a recent survey of 3,800 Canadians, 92% of BC respondents said they would recommend a heat pump to friends and neighbours, and nine in ten Canadian EV drivers said they would buy an EV again<sup>3</sup>. As federal EV rebates returned in February 2026, EV sales in BC reached nearly 18.6%, or nearly one in five new cars sold<sup>4</sup>, and as of 2024 EVs represented 4.6% of all registered vehicles in the capital region.



*Heat pump outside family home*

<sup>2</sup> Rising to the Moment – Final Report of the CleanBC Independent Review Panel, 2025. Retrieved from: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2025/11/CleanBC-Independent-Review-Final-Report-November-2025.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Back in the Race, Clean Energy Canada, 2026. Retrieved from: [https://cleanenergycanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Report\\_MyCleanBill2026\\_V7.pdf](https://cleanenergycanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Report_MyCleanBill2026_V7.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Business in Vancouver, April 2026. Retrieved from: <https://www.biv.com/news/transportation/bc-zev-sales-surge-36-per-cent-in-february-as-federal-rebates-return-12153090>

Electricity prices in BC are also more stable and predictable than fossil fuels, with the cost of natural gas rising 17.5% in 2025 and 11.1% in 2026, compared to 3.75% for BC Hydro in each of those years<sup>5</sup>.

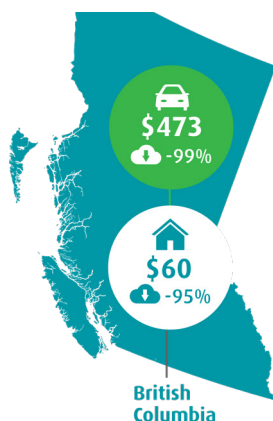


Figure 1: A fully-electrified home in BC can save over \$500/month - (Based on figure from Clean Energy Canada, *Back in the Race*, 2026, p13)



Figure 2: Proactive climate adaptation measures generate \$5 of direct benefits and \$10 of economy-wide benefits for every \$1 spent - (Based on figure from Canadian Climate Institute, *Damage Control*, 2022, p15)

Preparing for climate change now will pay dividends in avoided costs to residents, businesses, and governments. In 2021, severe flooding in southern BC from multiple atmospheric rivers resulted in massive damages, with initial estimates of insured losses at \$450 million and broader estimates reaching billions in damages. On a national scale, climate change impacts are projected to cost Canada's economy \$140 billion in economic losses by 2050<sup>6</sup>. By contrast, every dollar spent today on climate adaptation can avoid up to \$15 in future costs when considering both direct costs from repairing damaged infrastructure and indirect costs to the economy from disruptions such as road delays<sup>7</sup>. Managing and restoring natural assets to better protect communities and infrastructure can also have significant and valuable health, ecosystem, economic, and cultural co-benefits.

Taking climate action as a region will reduce costs and improve long-term affordability for residents and communities now, and for decades to come.



Cyclists in bike lane next to bus

<sup>5</sup> BC Building Electrification Roadmap, 2026. Retrieved from: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2025/11/CleanBC-Independent-Review-Final-Report-November-2025.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> The Cost of Doing Nothing, ICLEI Canada, 2022. Retrieved from: <https://icleicanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/CODN-Primer.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Damage Control, Canadian Climate Institute, 2022. Retrieved from: [https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Damage-Control\\_-EN\\_0927.pdf](https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Damage-Control_-EN_0927.pdf)

# Taking Action

Achieving a more affordable, resilient region requires undertaking climate action both by reducing emissions (mitigation) and adapting to the already changing climate. By combining both mitigation and adaptation approaches to climate action the CRD can maximize impact and benefits across the region using the resources available. Appendix B provides more details on the current emissions profile and anticipated climate projections for the region. Appendix C provides a summary of 2024 municipal absolute emissions and current targets.

## Mitigation Approach

The CRD and local governments across the region can make it easier for residents and businesses to reduce their emissions and energy bills. This strategy focuses on putting in place the infrastructure and programs necessary to accelerate the transitions already underway and where the impact is largest, such as the increasing adoption of electric heat pumps, EVs, e-mobility and public transit (*see Actions 1.4, 3.6, and 4.2 respectively, Appendix D*).

As climate solutions become more popular and widely-used, and as friends and neighbours share their experience, the transition can accelerate, meaning well-designed and targeted programs can have an out-sized impact over time.

The CleanBC Independent review panel heard that carefully designed consumer rebates can play a critical role in accelerating adoption of clean solutions. The review emphasizes the importance of rebates and other supports to heat pump adoption, notes the Province's income-tested e-bike rebate program generated new (marginal) e-bike purchases and displaced vehicle use, and that rebates can be funded by recycling revenues from EV charging and carbon credits into climate programs. The review notes that fast and reliable public EV charging can alleviate challenges for EV owners, meaning more public EV charging can accelerate the transition.

This strategy also includes advocating for more support for climate action from other levels of government, and expanding local government authorities (*see Action 2.5, Appendix D*). Local governments in the region have a proven track record of leadership on climate action when given the authority, as proven by wide-spread adoption of the highest level of the Zero Carbon Step Code for new buildings. This model could be replicated for existing buildings with Building Performance Standards, which could build off of the recently launched CRD Building Benchmarking Program, and regulatory authority could compliment other actions to greatly contribute to emissions reductions in the region.



*CRD Fleet of light duty electric vehicles parked at their chargers*



Taking action to reduce emissions from buildings and light-duty vehicles focuses action on the areas of largest potential, as these are the two largest sources of emissions in the region. Modelling of emissions reductions shows how nearly eliminating emissions from light-duty vehicles and significantly reducing emissions from buildings has the potential to approach the region's ambitious emissions reduction targets. More details on regional and corporate emissions are included in Appendix B.

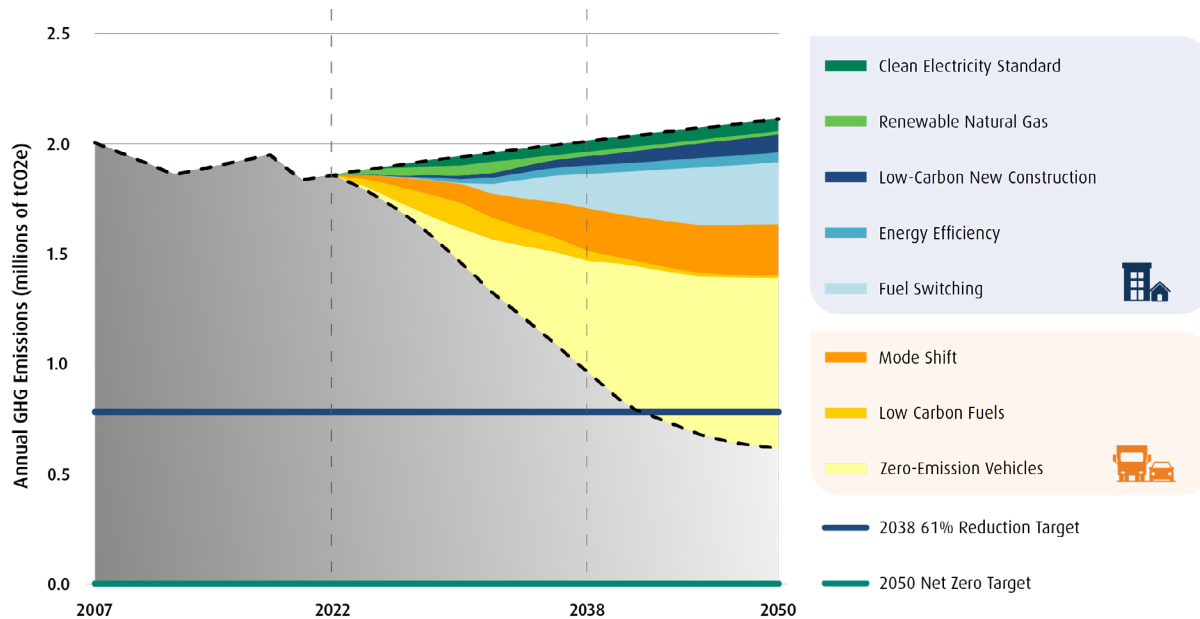


Figure 3: Significant emissions reductions from buildings and vehicles approach regional emissions targets



## Coordination with Others:

The success of climate action in the capital region depends on the collaboration and coordination of a diverse range of organizations, including First Nations, utilities, municipal governments, provincial and federal authorities, and community and non-profit organizations. The CRD plays an important role in coordination among these organizations to identify gaps and opportunities, avoid duplication, optimize available resources, and enhance the region's collective capacity for climate action.

*Climate community groups listen to a presentation from PEPAKEN HÁUTW - CRD Community Climate Gathering, 2025*

## Adaptation Approach

Climate action is closely linked with emergency management through climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and this creates an opportunity for ongoing collaboration on shared concerns between two important CRD services, as shown in the figure below.

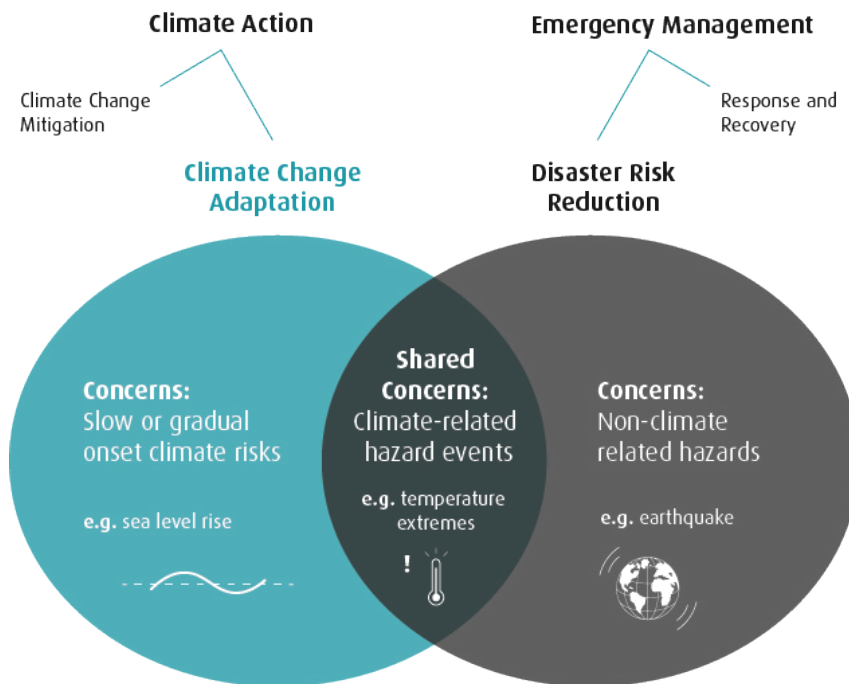


Figure 4: Climate Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

Climate adaptation is also closely linked to protection and restoration of healthy ecosystems. Restoring ecosystems is often the most cost-effective long-term approach to increasing resilience, and can also put into practice principles—including those heard during engagement with First Nations—of reconciliation, interconnectedness, reciprocity, and respect for the rights of others.

The CRD plays a coordination role in adaptation efforts in the region by leveraging data, providing training, managing critical infrastructure and services, and convening and supporting municipalities, electoral areas, and regional interest holders (*see Actions 2.1, and 2.3 Appendix D*). While many adaptation measures are already embedded in CRD operations, there are opportunities to strengthen these efforts in the coming years (*see Actions 3.4, and 4.3, Appendix D*).



Malahat washout during November 2021 extreme rain event (Credit: Emcon Services Inc.)



## Key Actions for 2026-2030

The CRD will advance climate action in the coming years with a combination of continuing programs and focused new initiatives. For full descriptions with examples of the kinds of initiatives and activities included in each action and other information about the actions, refer to the table in Appendix D.

This strategy combines four plans in one, including community and corporate-oriented actions for both mitigation and adaptation, as well as actions that are cross-cutting and touch on all these areas of influence and practice. For a table listing actions organized by the four areas of influence and practice, refer to Appendix E.

### Continuing **high-impact** initiatives include:

|                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Providing climate data and mapping for the region (Action 1.1)</b>                                 | Providing regional GHG inventories, climate projections, and other data is foundational to the CRD Climate Action and Adaptation Service and climate action across the region, and is highly valued by municipalities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Mobilizing public climate action (Action 1.2)</b>                                                  | Supporting, mobilizing, and empowering the public to take climate action is also essential to the CRD Climate Action and Adaptation Service and climate action across the region, and creates the opportunity to support other CRD goals such as waste reduction, water conservation and emergency preparedness, while climate leadership training in schools grows the next generation of climate leaders across the region.                                          |
| <b>Providing the building benchmarking program for large existing buildings (Action 1.3)</b>          | This recently launched program enables large building owners and managers to understand their energy use, receive support on how to save energy and money, and facilitates compliance with local energy reporting bylaws. It is a critical step in reducing emissions from large existing buildings, and could be expanded in the future to include reduction requirements (i.e. Building Performance Standards) if that authority were provided to local governments. |
| <b>Convening climate action among municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations (Action 2.1)</b> | This is also a core action of the Climate Action and Adaptation Service and is critical to regional collaboration on climate policy, programs, planning, grant applications, research, and other initiatives among municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations. It is highly valued by member municipalities and a model for other regions.                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Installing regional public electric vehicle charging infrastructure (Action 3.6)</b>               | Expanding access to public EV charging infrastructure is one of the most important actions governments can take to accelerate EV adoption. This flagship CRD climate action program makes use of a large grant from the federal government and has already installed over 164 public EV chargers across the capital region in collaboration with municipalities, with hundreds more to be installed in coming years.                                                   |

These continuing, high-impact actions are critical to supporting long-term climate action success, and are highlighted with a  icon in this strategy.

This strategy also introduces **new actions** that advance multiple high-impact initiatives. These include:

|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Accelerating the uptake of low-carbon retrofits, such as heat pumps (Action 1.4):                                      | Continuing and accelerating low-carbon retrofits of existing homes and buildings is critical to rapidly reducing emissions in the region. This action will identify and implement initiatives to accelerate energy efficiency and heat pump retrofits, such as by enhancing the CRD's Home Energy Navigator program that provides free concierge support, offering targeted incentives or other financial supports, or supporting other ways to accelerate heat pump retrofits across the region.                                                          |
| Advocating for climate action and expanded local government authority with other levels of government (Action 2.5):    | Support from other levels of government is critical to climate action in the region, and expanding local government authority would enable regulation to compliment other actions to reduce emissions. This action will facilitate advocacy and engagement by staff and elected officials with other levels of government, utilities, and others for stronger climate action and more supports, as well as expanded authority for local governments to regulate emissions from existing buildings.                                                         |
| Unlocking opportunities for energy recovery and renewable energy generation across CRD infrastructure (Action 3.2):    | This action will explore and prioritize energy recovery and utilization within CRD's wastewater and solid waste infrastructure, including biogas capture and use, renewable natural gas production, as well as hydraulic turbines, heat recovery, solar energy and energy storage where feasible.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Expanding and improving low-carbon mobility options through the newly established transportation service (Action 4.2): | Transportation is the largest source of emissions in the region, and an important opportunity to improve regional affordability, livability, and resilience while reducing emissions. This action groups transportation actions together to facilitate collaboration with the Regional Transportation Service, and includes developing a new Regional Transportation Plan to establish a regional multi-modal network (RMMN), continuing existing transportation programs, and exploring ways to support e-mobility, such as through a new rebate program. |
| Embedding climate resilience into the planning and design of core services (Actions 3.4 and 4.3):                      | Preparing infrastructure for climate change is critical to maintaining regional services and avoiding costly repairs. These actions will integrate climate adaptation into asset management and renewal of CRD buildings, infrastructure, and natural assets, and will coordinate and implement climate adaptation planning across the CRD, such as climate projections and hazard assessments, design standards, and long-term infrastructure and strategic plans.                                                                                        |

These new, high-impact actions are critical to accelerating climate action success, and are highlighted with a  icon in this strategy.

# Actions Overview

The actions in this strategy are categorized by the four roles the CRD plays in climate action: Deliver, Coordinate, Invest, and Plan. Each role is described below, and all actions are listed, with full descriptions and examples of the kinds of initiatives and activities included in each action provided in Appendix D.

## 1. Deliver

The CRD delivers climate data, programs, outreach, and monitoring and reporting services for municipalities and the region. These actions are services and programs the CRD creates and delivers to municipalities and the public.



### Action 1.1

Create and share regional climate-related data, mapping, monitoring and reporting



### Action 1.2

Provide outreach programs, materials and other supports to mobilize climate action among community groups and the public



### Action 1.3

Continue providing a regional building benchmarking program for large existing buildings



### Action 1.4

Enhance building retrofit support programs to accelerate energy efficiency and heat pump retrofits across the region

### Action 1.5

Support regional capacity-building and training programs to implement climate adaptation

## 2. Coordinate

The CRD coordinates a regional approach to policies, initiatives, and resources. These are actions where the CRD acts as a convener and facilitator of coordinated action among multiple jurisdictional partners, leverages the scope of the region to reduce duplication of work, and increases the capacity of organizations within its boundaries by sharing staff time, resources, and support.



### Action 2.1

Convene and coordinate climate action among municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations

### Action 2.2

Support regional climate mitigation initiatives in collaboration with municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations

### Action 2.3

Support regional climate adaptation initiatives in collaboration with municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations

### Action 2.4

Support reconciliation and Indigenous leadership through climate action



### Action 2.5

Advocate for expanded authority and supports for regional and municipal climate action

### 3. Invest

The CRD facilitates investment in low carbon and resilient regional infrastructure, either directly through capital planning or through grants and partnerships. These actions include direct investment in the buildings, vehicles, and infrastructure that provide CRD services, facilitating grant-funded investment in regional public EV infrastructure, and exploring ways to reinvest new climate-related revenues through a climate lens.



|                   |                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Action 3.1</b> | Continue low carbon and energy efficiency retrofits of CRD facilities and infrastructure                                                        |
| <b>Action 3.2</b> | Assess and implement energy recovery and renewable energy solutions across CRD infrastructure                                                   |
| <b>Action 3.3</b> | Continue climate adaptation of CRD facilities, infrastructure, and natural assets                                                               |
| <b>Action 3.4</b> | Continue implementing the EV Ready Fleet Plan and Green Fleet Policy for new CRD vehicles and equipment                                         |
| <b>Action 3.5</b> | Transition to low carbon fuels for existing CRD vehicles and equipment                                                                          |
| <b>Action 3.6</b> | Continue coordinating and funding the Regional Public EV Charger Program, guided by the Regional EV Infrastructure Roadmap                      |
| <b>Action 3.7</b> | Expand energy and resource recovery from solid and liquid waste streams, and reinvest value to deliver regional benefits through a climate lens |



### 4. Plan

The CRD plans for complete, low carbon communities, healthy ecosystems, and a changing climate. These actions also include the most collaboration between the Climate Action and Adaptation Service and other CRD services, such as the Regional Transportation Service, the Biodiversity Service, Emergency Management, and others, to integrate climate considerations into long-term community planning.

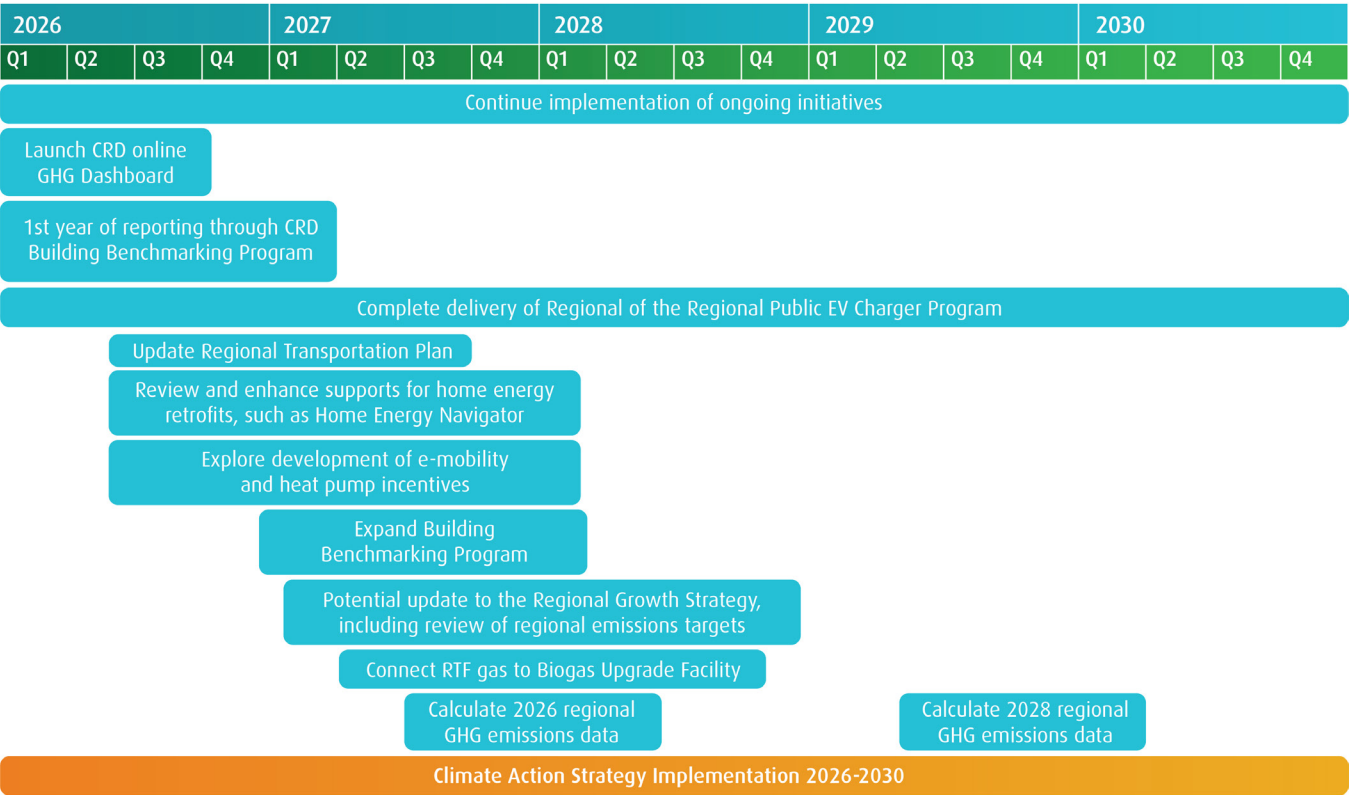


|                   |                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Action 4.1</b> | Support planning for complete, low carbon, and resilient communities                                                     |
| <b>Action 4.2</b> | Develop a new Regional Transportation Plan, and support public, active, shared, and electric transportation options      |
| <b>Action 4.3</b> | Integrate climate adaptation into planning of CRD emergency management, infrastructure, parks and trails, and watersheds |
| <b>Action 4.4</b> | Support healthy, resilient, and biodiverse regional ecosystems and sustainable local food                                |



# Implementation Timeline

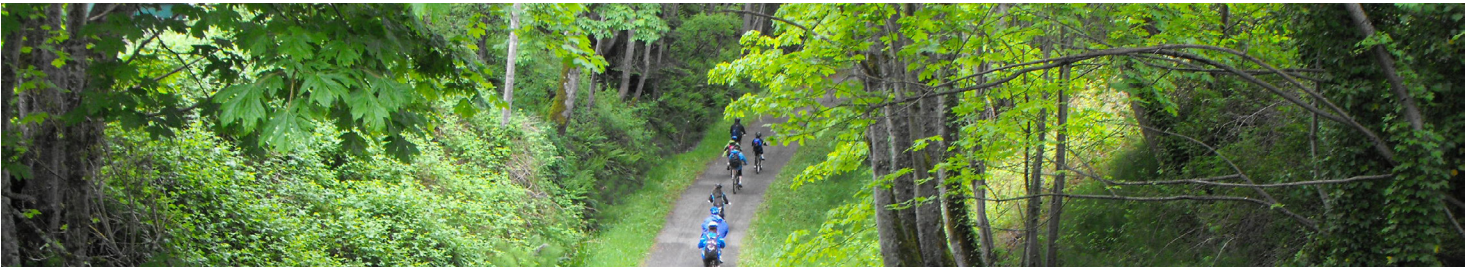
Many of the actions included in this strategy will be carried out on an ongoing basis, and some initiatives will happen over different timeframes. The timeline below gives a preview of when some of the already planned community-oriented initiatives will unfold over the next five years.



## Outcomes, Indicators, and Reporting

This updated strategy adjusts how the CRD reports on climate progress, moving to report on outcomes and impacts, rather than only activity. For example, with the CRD’s Public EV Charging Program, reporting will indicate how regional EV charging capacity has improved (outcome), and the resulting estimated regional GHG and fuel cost savings (impact), rather than only the number of EV chargers the CRD has installed (activity).

The indicators may shift over time, and will be re-evaluated for available data and effectiveness with each year’s annual report. Appendix F lists the outcome statements and proposed indicators for outcomes, impact, and activity for all actions. As part of complete climate reporting, a summary of the climate budgeting lens applied to the actions outlined in this strategy, and budget and emissions numbers for specific corporate initiatives, is detailed in Appendix G. Reporting will be reviewed and refined annually, and included in the first annual report under this strategy in 2027.



Cyclists along the Galloping Goose trail

# Appendix A: Guiding Framework



## Climate Action Vision

In 2038, Capital Regional District residents enjoy a healthy and rewarding quality of life. We have a vital economy, livable communities and steward our environment and natural resources with care. Our choices reflect our commitment to collective action on climate change.

The purpose of the climate action vision statement is to define the Capital Regional District's (CRD) long-term aspirations. This vision statement aligns with the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS 2018), to harmonize the Climate Action vision with the CRD's major planning document, align the vision with CRD's official emission reduction goal, and activate a more compelling vision.

## Guiding Principles

The 2026 Climate Action Strategy has six principles that carry forward from the previous strategy. The principles are intended to guide the organization's work under each goal area, and were updated for this strategy to use plain language to improve accessibility, and to emphasize rapid reductions in emissions:

|                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lead</b>                        | Act boldly as an organization to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resilience and lead by example.                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Evidence Based Decisions</b>    | Base decisions on the best available evidence to ensure actions reduce greenhouse gas emissions or increase resilience, are responsible, and can be adjusted as needed.                                                                          |
| <b>Collaborate and Listen</b>      | Work together across the region and seek to understand what the community needs.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Work Towards Reconciliation</b> | Further CRD's work towards reconciliation by supporting Indigenous-led climate solutions that are grounded in Indigenous self-determination and shared prosperity, and respecting Indigenous relationships with the land, water, and all beings. |
| <b>Strive for Climate Equity</b>   | Apply an equity, diversity and inclusion lens to climate action so that actions are inclusive and accessible to residents across the region, and particularly support those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.                    |
| <b>Co-Benefits</b>                 | Maximize win-wins for greenhouse gas reduction, including energy efficiency, resilience, affordability, health and well-being, and biodiversity.                                                                                                 |

As heard in consultation from First Nations, underpinning all six principles are also the central tenets of interconnectedness, reciprocity, and respect for the rights of others, both human as well as plant and animal.

## Goals

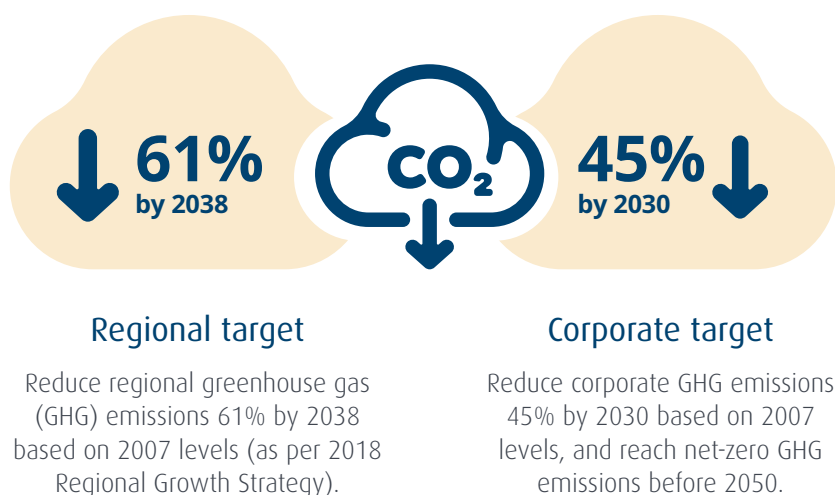
The work the CRD conducts to deliver, coordinate, invest, and plan climate action is all in the pursuit of achieving the overall vision of a resilient and sustainable region. Six goals areas have been defined to help further clarify the ultimate outcomes of this strategy. Each goal area represents an overarching category of work that either directly or indirectly impacts the region's ability to reduce GHG emissions or increase its resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change. By completing the work defined in this strategy, the CRD will advance toward the following goals:

1. **Climate-focused decisions:** Climate action is integrated at all levels of decision making across the organization.
2. **Sustainable and prepared communities:** Support the region's transition to low-carbon, affordable and climate-ready communities.
3. **Low carbon mobility:** Rapidly reduce vehicle GHGs and support more options for active and public transportation and zero emissions transportation options across the region.
4. **Low carbon and resilient buildings and infrastructure:** Accelerate energy efficiency, GHG reductions, and prepare buildings and infrastructure for climate impacts.
5. **Resilient ecosystems and foodlands:** Enhance natural spaces to sustain life, improve water quality, and support climate adaptation.
6. **Waste reduction:** Reduce waste and landfill GHG emissions. Transform remaining waste into a resource.

## Emission Reduction Targets

The emission reduction targets included in the 2021 Climate Action Strategy are divided into two targets: one for regional emissions and another for corporate emissions. The regional emissions target is 61% by 2038, as defined by the 2018 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). This target will be reviewed in future revisions to the Regional Growth Strategy.

The corporate target of 45% by 2030 and net-zero by 2050 is based on global best practices as advised by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).



# Appendix B: Regional Climate Action Data and Outlook

Since 2021, the CRD has completed or operationalized 85% of all actions identified in the 2021 Climate Action Strategy, improving how the CRD makes financial decisions, operates its buildings and infrastructure, and shares information. This work has made it easier for residents to access information, improve their homes, charge their vehicles, and get around, setting the CRD and the region on a path to steady and sustainable climate action in the years to come.

## Significant highlights from the past five years include:

- Integrating a climate lens into corporate decision-making via staff report guidance and an evaluation framework assessing climate action impacts in corporate strategic planning, service planning and annual reporting;
- Launching the Home Energy Navigator program and supporting over 550 home energy upgrades;
- Launching the CRD Building Benchmarking program to help large building owners understand and reduce energy use, emissions, and costs;
- Becoming the first regional government to adopt Zero Carbon Step Code (ZCSC) Level 3 for Part 9 buildings in electoral areas, and supporting the coordinated, wide-spread adoption of Level 4, the top level, across the region;
- Transitioning the corporate light-duty vehicle fleet to electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, with 37% of the whole fleet now electric, saving an estimated \$104,000 in 2025;
- Coordinating funding and installation of public EV chargers as part of the EV Charging Roadmap, adding over 164 public EV chargers to the Regional Public EV Network since 2021;
- Establishing a new Regional Transportation Service to consolidate transportation planning and regional trail management across the region;
- Administering the BC Sustainable Energy Association Cool It! Climate Leadership Training Program, delivering 360 workshops in the region since 2021;
- Developing the Capital Region Extreme Heat Information Portal and CRD Emergency Dashboard, helping residents and municipal planners understand regional vulnerability to extreme heat and providing a centralized source for real-time emergency alerts and preparedness resources.

## 2024 Capital Region Emissions Profile

Every two years the CRD completes a regional energy and emissions inventory of the region's energy consumption and GHG emissions using the Global Protocol Community-Scale GHG Emission Inventories BASIC+ Framework. The framework is the international standard for local government GHG inventorying and reporting and includes:

- on-road transportation (e.g. commuter vehicles);
- buildings
- waste (e.g. landfills);
- off-road transportation;
- agriculture (e.g. fertilizer application);
- industrial production and product use (IPPU).

As a geographic inventory, the GPC BASIC+ framework does not include emissions associated with consumption of consumer products like food and textiles in the region, which are assumed to be included in the emissions of the region in which those items are produced. While the inventory discloses an estimate of emissions associated with land use changes, this number is not included in the calculation of the CRD's GHG emissions reduction target.

In 2025, the CRD completed the regional inventory as well as inventories for all 13 municipalities and 3 electoral areas within its boundaries for the 2024 calendar year<sup>8</sup>. The 2024 inventory indicates that the capital region emitted approximately 1.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). GHG emissions in 2024 were approximately 11% (215,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e) below the 2007 baseline, while on a per capita basis, regional GHG emissions have decreased by 30% since 2007.

In 2026, the CRD published its 2024 GHG inventory through an interactive dashboard providing clear, engaging, and accessible GHG emissions information for local governments and the public.

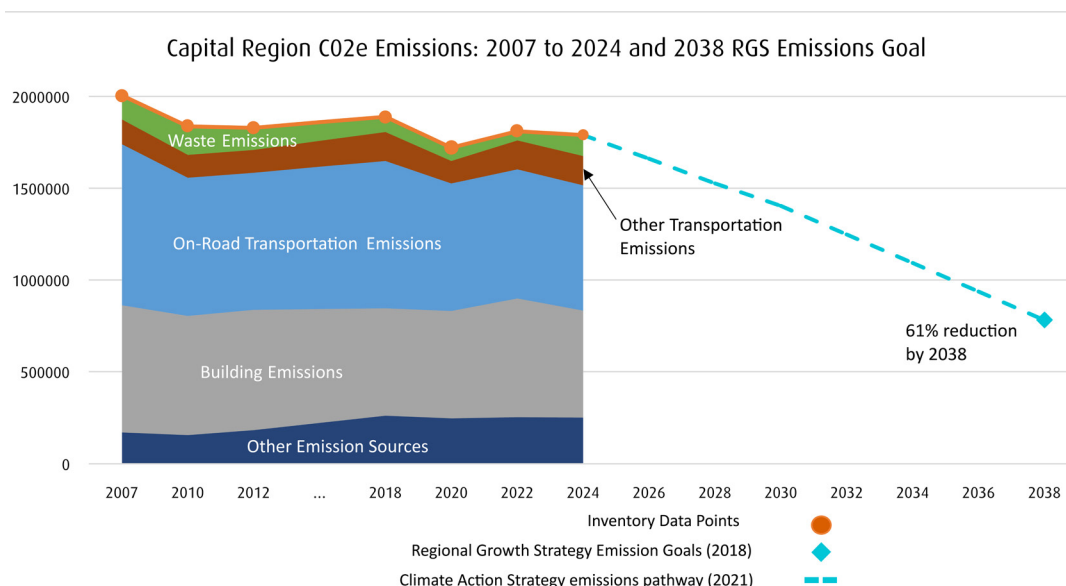


Figure 5: Regional GHG emissions over time

## 2025 Corporate Emissions Profile

In 2025, the CRD's corporate operations generated 3,432 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, with 1,104 tonnes associated with vehicle and equipment use and 2,328 tonnes coming from facilities and infrastructure. Emissions associated with Hartland Landfill, CRHC, and CRHD are not included in this total, as they are excluded from the provincial reporting framework. This represents a 20% increase from 2024 and a 14% increase from the baseline level of emissions from 2007.

Emissions from vehicle and equipment use decreased by 4% in 2025 compared to 2024. This is a result of the increased use and additional procurement of several electric vehicles and the use of e-bikes in CRD operations.

Overall emissions from facilities increased by 36% in 2025 compared to 2024. This is primarily as a result of the emission factor for electricity used from the BC Hydro grid increasing by approximately threefold in 2025 compared to 2024.

While the emission factor of BC Hydro's integrated grid electricity changes from year to year, staff expect any increases to be temporary. The Clean Energy Act requires that electricity supplied to BC's integrated grid is 100% renewable by 2030, and BC Hydro has made significant investments to bring new renewable energy online in the coming years to meet this objective.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.crd.ca/news/crd-releases-2024-greenhouse-gas-inventory>



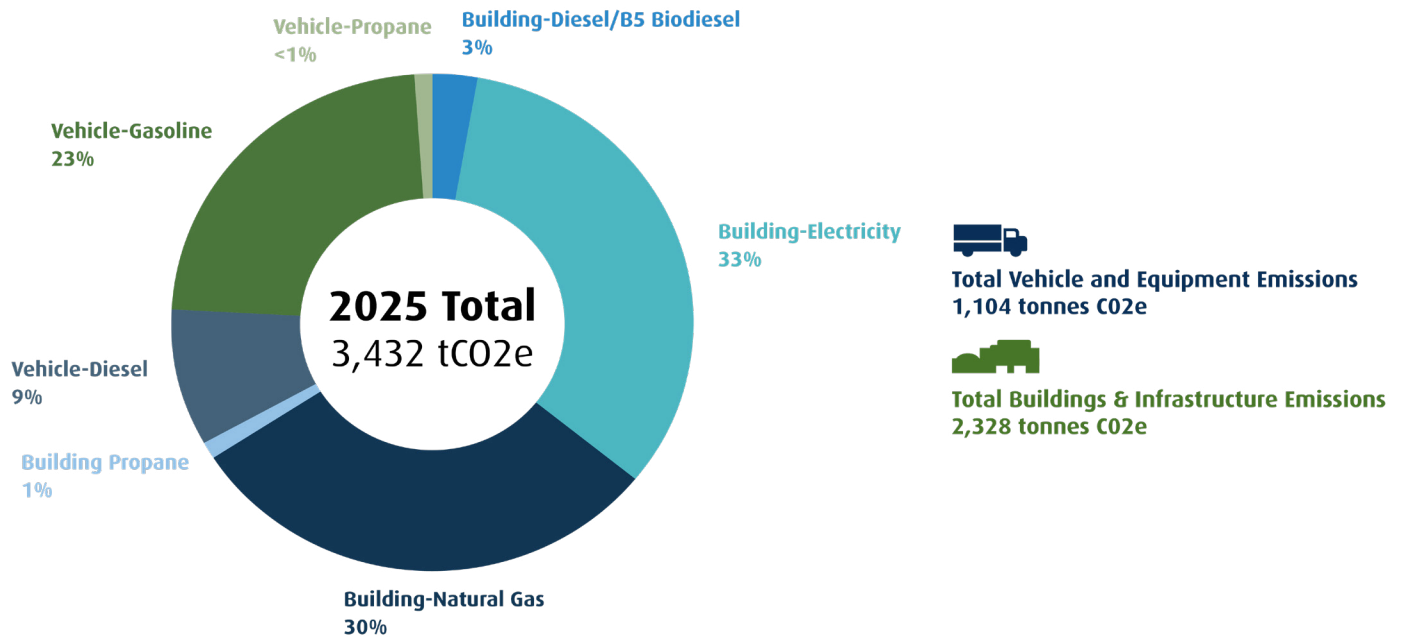


Figure 6: Corporate GHG emissions in 2025

To meet corporate GHG reduction targets, the CRD will prioritize actions addressing the largest GHG emitters in the CRD portfolio and scheduled equipment replacements. To achieve this goal, the CRD will continue to focus on accelerating the following critical actions in upcoming years:

- Light-duty vehicle electrification
- Heat Recovery projects at Panorama Recreation Centre and SEAPARC Recreation Centre
- Electrical efficiency projects at multiple sites
- Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant connection to the district energy shared system
- CRD Fisgard headquarters decarbonization
- Infrastructure and Water Services at 479 Island Highway headquarters decarbonization

## Climate Adaptation

The global average temperature has increased by over 1°C in the past 150 years and the impacts on weather patterns are already being felt. Given the region's geographic diversity, climate change will impact different areas in distinct ways, influencing health, infrastructure, water supply, agriculture, ecosystems, and species.

As a result of climate change, modelling indicates that the region will continue to experience:

- Hotter summer temperatures, with more extreme heat days and heatwaves
- Warmer winter temperatures and less frequent frost, with less snowfall in the colder months
- Less rain and more dry days in the summer months
- More precipitation falling in autumn, winter and spring, with longer lasting and more frequent extreme rainfall events
- More extreme and unseasonal weather within and between years, and
- Sea level rise.

These climate impacts and related acute climate-related hazard events will continue to impact built, natural and social systems in the region and surrounding areas, affecting nearly everything communities value and local governments are responsible for. Adaptation is essential to help our communities prepare for and thrive amid change, not just react to disasters. The CRD is well positioned to help the region plan and design for the future climate, delivering co-benefits from improved health and equity to stronger ecosystems, local economics, and social connection.

## Community Mobilization

Climate change impacts all aspects of life, from health and infrastructure to the economy and environment. Addressing these challenges demands widespread awareness, preparation, and public support for bold, transformative action.

Mobilizing the community fosters shared responsibility and ensures collective efforts to reduce GHG emissions and build resilience. The CRD is well-positioned to play a strong role in supporting communities in climate action by enhancing existing programs, fostering collaboration and partnerships, and amplifying community driven initiatives. By partnering with residents and community groups, the CRD can better align actions with local needs, promote community participation, and build trust, all essential for advancing a low-carbon, resilient future, and can result in several benefits, including:

- Increased Impact: extends the reach of climate initiatives, accelerating progress
- Building local capacity: educates and connects citizens, fostering social cohesion
- Promoting equity: reaches underrepresented groups and fosters inclusivity, ensuring that climate action benefits everyone
- Ensuring longevity: local ownership of projects encourages long-term public support
- Lowering costs: Reduces government resource demands by empowering residents to implement local actions
- Informing Policy: provides innovative ideas for effective policymaking
- Strengthening trust: fosters trust, ownership, and support for local government climate policies and programs

The CRD is well positioned to provide support to community-led climate action by offering funding, facilitating collaboration, advocacy, and resources to community groups and residents who are leading significant change in their communities.



*Climate Adaptation Collaboration Workshop, February 18, 2026*

# Appendix C: Regional and Municipal GHG Emissions

In October 2025, the CRD Board directed staff to include in the Climate Action Strategy the GHG targets and progress of the 13 member municipalities and three electoral areas. The table below shows absolute GHG emissions by community in 2007 and 2024, the percent reduction between those times, and the reduction targets set by those communities.

Table C-1: Capital Region Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e Emissions Absolute

| Community                            | 2007      | 2024      | Percent (%) Reduction (2007 to 2024) | Community Reduction Target (from 2007)        |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Capital Region                       | 2,004,628 | 1,783,513 | 11%                                  | 61% by 2038                                   |
| Central Saanich                      | 100,771   | 99,940    | 0.8%                                 | 45% by 2030, carbon neutral by 2050           |
| Colwood                              | 84,132    | 84,215    | -0.1% (increase)                     | 30% by 2030, 50% per capita, net zero by 2050 |
| Esquimalt                            | 96,206    | 72,051    | 25.1%                                | 38% by 2030, net-zero by 2050                 |
| Highlands                            | 11,901    | 14,465    | -21.5% (increase)                    | Carbon neutrality by 2030                     |
| Juan de Fuca Electoral Area          | 63,610    | 30,104    | 51.7%                                | 61% by 2038 (regional target)                 |
| Langford                             | 137,319   | 211,697   | -54.2% (increase)                    | N/A                                           |
| Metchosin                            | 28,165    | 22,951    | 18.5%                                | 40% by 2030, net-zero by 2050                 |
| North Saanich                        | 65,819    | 58,530    | 11.1%                                | 45% by 2040                                   |
| Oak Bay                              | 90,308    | 69,795    | 22.7%                                | N/A                                           |
| Saanich                              | 593,359   | 484,073   | 18.4%                                | 50% by 2030, net-zero by 2050                 |
| Salt Spring Island Electoral Area    | 50,023    | 46,785    | 6.5%                                 | 61% by 2038 (regional target)                 |
| Sidney                               | 64,104    | 56,204    | 12.3%                                | 50% by 2030, net-zero by 2050                 |
| Sooke                                | 52,539    | 62,426    | -18.8% (increase)                    | 50% by 2030, net-zero by 2050                 |
| Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area | 32,015    | 28,023    | 12.5%                                | 61% by 2038 (regional target)                 |
| Victoria                             | 483,269   | 392,117   | 18.9%                                | 50% by 2030                                   |
| View Royal                           | 51,087    | 50,140    | 1.9%                                 | 45% by 2030, 100% by 2050                     |

Table C-2: Capital Region Tonnes of CO2e Emissions Per Capita

| Community                            | 2007 | 2024 | Percent (%) Reduction<br>(2007 to 2024) |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|-----------------------------------------|
| Capital Region                       | 5.6  | 3.9  | 30%                                     |
| Central Saanich                      | 6.1  | 5.4  | 12%                                     |
| Colwood                              | 5.4  | 3.9  | 27%                                     |
| Esquimalt                            | 5.5  | 3.8  | 31%                                     |
| Highlands                            | 5.4  | 4.9  | 8%                                      |
| Juan de Fuca Electoral Area          | 13.8 | 4.9  | 64%                                     |
| Langford                             | 5.5  | 3.8  | 32%                                     |
| Metchosin                            | 5.5  | 4.3  | 22%                                     |
| North Saanich                        | 5.9  | 4.4  | 25%                                     |
| Oak Bay                              | 4.8  | 3.7  | 24%                                     |
| Saanich                              | 5.3  | 3.8  | 28%                                     |
| Salt Spring Island Electoral Area    | 4.9  | 3.8  | 23%                                     |
| Sidney                               | 5.5  | 4.2  | 23%                                     |
| Sooke                                | 5.0  | 3.6  | 27%                                     |
| Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area | 6.2  | 5.0  | 20%                                     |
| Victoria                             | 6.0  | 3.8  | 36%                                     |
| View Royal                           | 5.5  | 3.9  | 29%                                     |



*Cyclists traveling along bike lane, downtown Victoria, BC*

# Appendix D: 2026-2030 Actions

|                                                                                   | Action                                                                                  | Example Activities                                                                                                       | Outcome Statement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Goal                                                                                                                            | Area of Influence and Practice                        | Key Divisions                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                   | Role 1: Deliver regional climate programs, outreach, data, and monitoring and reporting |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                 |                                                       |                                                           |
|    | 1.1                                                                                     | Create and share regional climate-related data, mapping, monitoring and reporting                                        | Continue corporate and regional GHG inventory monitoring and reporting and improve access to regional climate-related and planning data, including hazard maps, regional intensity-duration-frequency (IDF) curves, climate projections and studies, policy research, and other inventories.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Improved access to timely, contextually-relevant climate-related data for communities and the public.                           | Sustainable and Prepared Communities                  | Cross-cutting<br>Climate Action                           |
|    | 1.2                                                                                     | Provide outreach programs, materials and other supports to mobilize climate action among community groups and the public | Support, mobilize, and empower community groups, businesses and the public to take climate action through public outreach, education, and support programs. These include public outreach and information campaigns, Cool It! Climate Leadership Training in schools, newsletters, community networking events and other resources, and support other CRD goals such as active and sustainable transportation, waste reduction, water conservation, healthy landscapes, resilient neighbourhoods and emergency preparedness.                                                | Increased awareness and participation in climate action among community groups and the public.                                  | Sustainable and Prepared Communities                  | Cross-cutting<br>Climate Action, Environmental Protection |
|    | 1.3                                                                                     | Continue providing a regional building benchmarking program for large existing buildings                                 | Continue the CRD Building Benchmarking Program to enable large building owners and managers to compare and understand their energy use against similar buildings and receive support on how to save energy and money. The program will also facilitate compliance with energy reporting bylaws in participating municipalities and improve their ability to understand and manage energy use and GHG emissions from buildings in the community.                                                                                                                             | Building owners and managers are enabled to reduce energy use and emissions intensities of large buildings.                     | Low Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure | Community Mitigation<br>Climate Action                    |
|  | 1.4                                                                                     | Enhance building retrofit support programs to accelerate energy efficiency and heat pump retrofits across the region     | Identify and implement initiatives to accelerate energy efficiency and heat pump retrofits, in collaboration with utilities, homeowners, installers, realtors, energy advisors and others, such as enhancing the CRD's Home Energy Navigator program that provides free concierge support, offering targeted incentives or other financial supports, contractors and local industry supports, support the expansion of oil removal programs or bylaws, creating commercial retrofit guidance, or supporting other ways to accelerate heat pump retrofits across the region. | Building owners and local industry are enabled to increase energy and heat pump retrofits in the region.                        | Low Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure | Community Mitigation<br>Climate Action                    |
|                                                                                   | 1.5                                                                                     | Support regional capacity-building and training programs to implement climate adaptation                                 | Continue the Climate Adaptation Capacity Building Initiative to train municipal and regional staff, enhance adaptation planning, build regional collaboration, identify regional climate adaptation priorities, and develop a regional climate adaptation roadmap. Support climate adaptation training and programs such as Green Shores and Fire Smart and explore supports for building community resilience through resilience hubs, training, and micro-grants.                                                                                                         | Increased ability for regional communities and organizations to integrate climate adaptation into systems, policies, and plans. | Climate-focused decisions<br>Community Adaptation     | Climate Action                                            |



|                                                                                         | Action                                                                                                                   | Example Activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Outcome Statement                                                                                                      | Goal                                 | Area of Influence and Practice | Key Divisions                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Role 2: Deliver regional climate programs, outreach, data, and monitoring and reporting |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                        |                                      |                                |                                                                             |
| 2.1                                                                                     | Convene and coordinate climate action among municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations                           | Continue coordinating regional collaboration on climate policy, programs, planning, grant applications, research, and other initiatives among municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations, by convening the Inter-Municipal Working Group, sharing a monthly newsletter, and leading ad-hoc gatherings as opportunities arise. Examples of collaboration include coordinated advocacy, sharing workplans and identifying overlap, shared development of risk assessments and design guidelines, sharing corporate purchase policies, and coordinated adoption of building codes. | Increased coordination on climate action among municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations in the region.       | Sustainable and Prepared Communities | Cross-cutting                  | Climate Action                                                              |
| 2.2                                                                                     | Support regional climate mitigation initiatives in collaboration with municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations | Support and coordinate mitigation initiatives led by (or in collaboration with) municipalities, electoral areas, First Nations, and utilities, such as streamlining permits and power efficient design, embodied carbon and construction waste policies, supporting electric landscaping, and active transportation infrastructure and programming. Support initiatives through participation, funding, data, engagement, or other supports, and share outputs through templates, toolkits, or case studies for use by others across the region.                                        | Increased reach, effectiveness, or consistency of local emissions reduction actions for communities across the region. | Sustainable and Prepared Communities | Community Mitigation           | Climate Action                                                              |
| 2.3                                                                                     | Support regional climate adaptation initiatives in collaboration with municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations | Support and coordinate adaptation initiatives led by (or in collaboration with) municipalities, electoral areas, First Nations, and utilities, such as coastal flood adaptation planning and risk assessment, measuring overheating in homes, stormwater management guidelines, and managing growth and urban forest. Support initiatives through participation, funding, data, engagement, or other supports, and share outputs through templates, toolkits, or case studies for use by others across the region.                                                                      | Increased reach, effectiveness, or consistency of local climate adaptation for communities across the region.          | Sustainable and Prepared Communities | Community Adaptation           | Climate Action, Environmental Protection, Infrastructure and Water Services |
| 2.4                                                                                     | Support reconciliation and Indigenous leadership through climate action                                                  | Coordinate climate action with the organizational priorities and plans for reconciliation by providing funding, participation, or other contributions to build capacity and support Indigenous-led climate initiatives such as coordinating on coastal protection, ecosystem restoration, and priority initiatives identified by First Nations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Indigenous communities are enabled to increase the number, scope, or impact of climate initiatives.                    | Climate-focused Decisions            | Cross-cutting                  | First Nations Relations, Climate Action                                     |
| 2.5                                                                                     | Advocate for expanded authority and supports for regional and municipal climate action                                   | Facilitate advocacy and engagement by staff and elected officials with other levels of government, utilities, and others for stronger climate action, including rebates for climate solutions, data access, regulatory changes, and more supports and resources for local governments to take climate action, as well as expanded authority for local governments to set standards and regulate emissions from existing buildings and other identified gaps, such as through Building Performance Standards (BPS).                                                                      | Increased awareness and urgency by other levels of government on the climate action needs of the region.               | Climate-focused Decisions            | Cross-cutting                  | Climate Action                                                              |

|                                                                                    | Action                                                                                                                         | Example Activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Outcome Statement                                                                                  | Goal                                                  | Area of Influence and Practice | Key Divisions                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Role 3: Invest in low carbon and resilient regional infrastructure                 |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                    |                                                       |                                |                                                                                               |
|                                                                                    | 3.1 Continue low carbon and energy efficiency retrofits of CRD facilities and infrastructure                                   | Continue to identify and implement electrification and efficiency retrofits, including zero emissions heating upgrades at Fisgard and Island Highway offices, connecting waste heat from the District Energy Shared System to the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment building, energy audits of large CRD infrastructure and buildings, energy efficiency education for staff, and supporting maintenance teams.                                      | Reduced GHG emissions and energy and emissions intensities from CRD facilities and infrastructure. | Low Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure | Corporate Mitigation           | Climate Action, Infrastructure and Water Services, Regional Parks                             |
|    | 3.2 Assess and implement energy recovery and renewable energy solutions across CRD infrastructure                              | Prioritize energy recovery and utilization within CRD's wastewater and solid waste infrastructure, including biogas capture and use, renewable natural gas production, and other system-level opportunities that reduce emissions, improve operational efficiency, and generate value. Explore additional opportunities such as hydraulic turbines, heat recovery, solar and energy storage where feasible to support resilience and optimize energy use. | Reduced GHG emissions and energy and operating costs from CRD facilities and infrastructure.       | Low Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure | Corporate Mitigation           | Climate Action, Environmental Innovation, Infrastructure and Water Services                   |
|                                                                                    | 3.3 Continue climate adaptation of CRD facilities, infrastructure, and natural assets                                          | Integrate climate adaptation into asset management and renewal of CRD buildings, infrastructure, and natural assets, including regional parks and the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area, prioritizing initiatives that support business continuity and community resilience in the context of increasing climate risks.                                                                                                                                  | Increased climate resilience of CRD facilities, infrastructure, and natural assets.                | Low Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure | Corporate Adaptation           | Emergency Management, Infrastructure and Water Services, Regional Parks, Watershed Protection |
|                                                                                    | 3.4 Continue implementing the EV Ready Fleet Plan and Green Fleet Policy for new CRD vehicles and equipment                    | Continue implementing the EV Ready Fleet Plan to ensure EV chargers continue to be available for electric fleet vehicles. Continue the Green Fleet Policy and update as needed, with the goal of electrifying the light-duty vehicle fleet. Review and update the policy in collaboration with users, and explore use of telematics data, to inform effective continuing implementation.                                                                  | Increased electrification of CRD vehicles and equipment.                                           | Low Carbon Mobility                                   | Corporate Mitigation           | Fleet                                                                                         |
|                                                                                    | 3.5 Transition to low carbon fuels for existing CRD vehicles and equipment                                                     | Explore options to transition to biofuels for gas- and diesel-powered vehicles and equipment, including a storage and fueling location for CRD vehicles and equipment to receive biofuels.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Increased use of biofuels for CRD vehicles and equipment.                                          | Low Carbon Mobility                                   | Corporate Mitigation           | Fleet                                                                                         |
|  | 3.6 Continue coordinating and funding the Regional Public EV Charger Program, guided by the Regional EV Infrastructure Roadmap | Continue implementing the Capital Region EV Infrastructure Roadmap, including coordinating grant funding, planning and procurement of charger installations, and monitoring usage and performance. Continue collaborating with BC Hydro to further identify viable public fast-charging sites across the region.                                                                                                                                          | Improved access for the public to reliable EV chargers across the region.                          | Low Carbon Mobility                                   | Community Mitigation           | Climate Action                                                                                |

|                                                                                    | Action                                                                                               | Example Activities                                                                                                                              | Outcome Statement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Goal                                                                                                    | Area of Influence and Practice                        | Key Divisions                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                    | 3.7                                                                                                  | Expand energy and resource recovery from solid and liquid waste streams, and reinvest value to deliver regional benefits through a climate lens | Maximize resource recovery from solid and liquid waste streams, including landfill gas and wastewater biogas for renewable natural gas production, and evaluate opportunities for additional recovery pathways such as a heat recovery and carbon products. Where appropriate, assess opportunities for carbon credit generation and other value streams, including exploring carbon credits from CRD forested lands, and strategically reinvesting the resulting value to support regional priorities through a climate lens, including infrastructure investment, system optimization, innovation, and other climate actions. | Increased landfill gas capture and production of renewable natural gas from waste.                      | Minimized Waste                                       | Community Mitigation<br>Environmental Innovation                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                    | <b>Role 4: Plan for complete, low carbon communities, healthy ecosystems, and a changing climate</b> |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                         |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                                                                    | 4.1                                                                                                  | Support planning for complete, low carbon, and resilient communities                                                                            | Support planning for complete, climate-resilient communities, including a strong climate lens and a review of regional GHG targets in any future update of the Regional Growth Strategy. Identify locations of potential overlap between high growth and waste heat and explore facilitating its potential use.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Residents and businesses are enabled to reduce GHG emissions from transportation.                       | Low Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure | Community Mitigation<br>Regional Planning                                                                                                                   |
|    | 4.2                                                                                                  | Develop a new Regional Transportation Plan, and support public, active, shared, and electric transportation options                             | Develop a new Regional Transportation Plan to establish a regional multi-modal network (RMMN), which may include a rapid transit network and support for long-term regional transportation mode shift toward walking, rolling, and transit use. Continue existing transportation programs such as sustainable school and community planning and the Regional Trestle Renewal, Trail Widening and Lighting project, and provide updated data and modelling such as the Origin-Destination survey. Explore ways to support e-mobility, including coordination of shared mobility and options for new rebates for e-mobility.      | Improved access for the public to public, active, shared, and electric transportation options.          | Low Carbon Mobility                                   | Community Mitigation<br>Regional Transportation                                                                                                             |
|  | 4.3                                                                                                  | Integrate climate adaptation into planning of CRD emergency management, infrastructure, parks and trails, and watersheds                        | Continue leading a CRD Climate Adaptation Working Group to coordinate and implement climate adaptation across the CRD. Develop and include regional climate projections and hazard assessments in emergency planning for electoral areas, infrastructure planning and design standards, and planning of regional parks and the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Climate hazard and risk are included in planning of CRD emergency management, infrastructure and lands. | Sustainable and Prepared Communities                  | Corporate Adaptation<br>Emergency Management, Infrastructure and Water Services, Regional Parks, Watershed Protection, Regional Planning and Transportation |

| Action | Example Activities                                                                        | Outcome Statement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Goal                                                                                             | Area of Influence and Practice | Key Divisions                                                                                                                              |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4.4    | Support healthy, resilient, and biodiverse regional ecosystems and sustainable local food | Integrate climate adaptation into plans and programs to enhance biodiversity and climate resilience, such as supports for species at risk, habitat restoration, management of invasive species, environmental stewardship, and agriculture pilot projects. Support access to updated climatic and ecosystem data, such as LiDAR data and natural asset inventories. | Increased health, biodiversity, and resilience of regional ecosystems to manage climate hazards. | Ecosystems and Foodlands       | Community Adaptation<br><br>Environmental Protection, Biodiversity Service, Foodlands Access Service, Regional Parks, Watershed Protection |

# Appendix E: Four Plans in One

The 2026 Climate Action Strategy includes actions that span multiple areas of influence and practice, resulting in a strategic document that combines corporate, community, mitigation, and adaptation lenses. Several actions impact all four of these areas of influence and practice, while others can be categorized into one of the four. This section organizes the actions by area of influence and practice.

|                                                                                     | Action                                                                                                                                              | Goal                                                  | Key Divisions                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                     | Cross Cutting                                                                                                                                       |                                                       |                                          |
|    | 1.1 Create and share regional climate-related data, mapping, monitoring and reporting                                                               | Sustainable and Prepared Communities                  | Climate Action                           |
|    | 1.2 Provide outreach programs, materials, and other supports to mobilize climate action among community groups and the public                       | Sustainable and Prepared Communities                  | Climate Action, Environmental Protection |
|    | 2.1 Convene and coordinate climate action among municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations                                                  | Sustainable and Prepared Communities                  | Climate Action                           |
|                                                                                     | 2.4 Support reconciliation and Indigenous leadership through climate action                                                                         | Climate-focused Decisions                             | First Nations Relations                  |
|     | 2.5 Advocate for expanded authority and supports for regional and municipal climate action                                                          | Climate-focused Decisions                             | Climate Action                           |
|                                                                                     | Community Mitigation                                                                                                                                |                                                       |                                          |
|    | 1.3 Continue providing a regional building benchmarking program for large existing buildings                                                        | Low Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure | Climate Action                           |
|   | 1.4 Enhance building retrofit support programs to accelerate energy efficiency and heat pump retrofits across the region                            | Low Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure | Climate Action                           |
|                                                                                     | 2.2 Support regional climate mitigation initiatives in collaboration with municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations                        | Sustainable and Prepared Communities                  | Climate Action                           |
|  | 3.6 Continue coordinating and funding the Regional Public EV Charger Program, guided by the Regional EV Infrastructure Roadmap                      | Low Carbon Mobility                                   | Climate Action                           |
|                                                                                     | 3.7 Expand energy and resource recovery from solid and liquid waste streams, and reinvest value to deliver regional benefits through a climate lens | Minimized Waste                                       | Environmental Innovation                 |
|                                                                                     | 4.1 Support planning for complete, low carbon, and resilient communities                                                                            | Low Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure | Regional Planning                        |





| Action               |                                                                                                                          | Goal                                                  | Key Divisions                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4.2                  | Develop a new Regional Transportation Plan, and support public, active, shared, and electric transportation options      | Low Carbon Mobility                                   | Regional Transportation                                                                                                            |
| Community Adaptation |                                                                                                                          |                                                       |                                                                                                                                    |
| 1.5                  | Support regional capacity-building and training programs to implement climate adaptation                                 | Climate-focused Decisions                             | Climate Action                                                                                                                     |
| 2.3                  | Support regional climate adaptation initiatives in collaboration with municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations | Sustainable and Prepared Communities                  | Climate Action, Environmental Protection, Infrastructure and Water Services                                                        |
| 4.4                  | Support healthy, resilient, and biodiverse regional ecosystems and sustainable local food                                | Ecosystems and Foodlands                              | Environmental Protection, Foodlands Access Service, Regional Parks, Watershed Protection                                           |
| Corporate Mitigation |                                                                                                                          |                                                       |                                                                                                                                    |
| 3.1                  | Continue low carbon and energy efficiency retrofits of CRD facilities and infrastructure                                 | Low Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure | Climate Action, Infrastructure and Water Services, Regional Parks                                                                  |
| 3.2                  | Assess and implement energy recovery and renewable energy solutions across CRD infrastructure                            | Low Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure | Climate Action, Environmental Innovation, Infrastructure and Water Services                                                        |
| 3.4                  | Continue implementing the EV Ready Fleet Plan and Green Fleet Policy for new CRD vehicles and equipment                  | Low Carbon Mobility                                   | Fleet                                                                                                                              |
| 3.5                  | Transition to low carbon fuels for existing CRD vehicles and equipment                                                   | Low Carbon Mobility                                   | Fleet                                                                                                                              |
| Corporate Adaptation |                                                                                                                          |                                                       |                                                                                                                                    |
| 3.3                  | Continue climate adaptation of CRD facilities, infrastructure, and natural assets                                        | Low Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure | Protective Services, Infrastructure and Water Services, Regional Parks, Watershed Protection                                       |
| 4.3                  | Integrate climate adaptation into planning of CRD emergency management, infrastructure, parks and trails, and watersheds | Sustainable and Prepared Communities                  | Protective Services, Infrastructure and Water Services, Regional Parks, Watershed Protection, Regional Planning and Transportation |



# Appendix F: Proposed Outcomes and Indicators of Success

This appendix outlines proposed outcome, impact, and activity indicators to be tracked and reported as part of the ongoing monitoring and reporting of climate action success at the CRD. The indicators included below are proposed, and will be reviewed and refined annually, and included as part of the first annual report under the updated strategy in 2027.

|                                                                                    | Action                                                                                                                       | Outcome Statement                                                                                           | Outcome Indicator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Impact Indicators (if any, typically an estimate)                                                                                                                                                                                     | Activity Indicators                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | 1.1 Create and share regional climate-related data, mapping, monitoring and reporting                                        | Improved access to timely, contextually-relevant climate-related data for communities and the public.       | Examples of increased access to climate related data                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | n/a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Examples of data, maps, and monitoring and reporting delivered by CRD                                                                                                                              |
|    | 1.2 Provide outreach programs, materials and other supports to mobilize climate action among community groups and the public | Increased awareness and participation in climate action among community groups and the public.              | Examples of increased awareness and participation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Qualitative: examples of climate action resulting from increased awareness and participation                                                                                                                                          | # of events, participants, newsletter subscribers, climate action to-go kit uses/waitlist, Cool It! Workshops delivered                                                                            |
|    | 1.3 Continue providing a regional building benchmarking program for large existing buildings                                 | Building owners and managers are enabled to reduce energy use and emissions intensities of large buildings. | Energy Use Intensity (EUI) and Greenhouse Gas Intensity (GHGI) of participating buildings<br><br>% of participants with reduction in EUI and GHGI<br><br>Average % change in EUI and GHGI among participants<br><br>% participants reporting taking action to reduce EUI and GHGI due to participation | GHG emissions reduction from participants<br><br>Estimated energy cost savings from participants (in first year could estimate reductions/savings from 1% reduction in energy use)                                                    | % compliance rate of covered buildings<br><br># of total buildings covered by the program<br><br>Total emissions from participating buildings<br><br>Total energy use from participating buildings |
|  | 1.4 Enhance building retrofit support programs to accelerate energy efficiency and heat pump retrofits across the region     | Building owners and local industry are enabled to increase energy and heat pump retrofits in the region.    | Total number of heat pumps installed in the region<br><br>% of homes heated with heat pumps vs. gas vs. electric baseboards in the region                                                                                                                                                              | Estimated total GHG reduction from participant retrofits<br><br>Estimated total cost savings from participant retrofits<br><br>Estimated total cost saved from all installed heat pumps in the region (recommended in CleanBC Review) | # of participants in program<br><br># of participants with energy efficiency and heat pump retrofits completed<br><br>Value of incentives provided<br><br># of subsidized participants             |



|     | Action                                                                                                                   | Outcome Statement                                                                                                               | Outcome Indicator                                                                                                                            | Impact Indicators (if any, typically an estimate)                                                                                                                                                                                          | Activity Indicators                                                                                                                     |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.5 | Support regional capacity-building and training programs to implement climate adaptation                                 | Increased ability for regional communities and organizations to integrate climate adaptation into systems, policies, and plans. | TBD: assessment of organizational adoption of climate adaptation<br><br>Examples of increased organizational capacity for climate adaptation | Learning outcomes of training provided                                                                                                                                                                                                     | # of programs and workshops supported by CRD funds/staff time each year<br><br># of participants<br><br>Value of micro-grants delivered |
| 2.1 | Convene and coordinate climate action among municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations                           | Increased coordination on climate action among municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations in the region.                | Examples of regional coordination on climate action                                                                                          | Outcomes and co-benefits from initiatives convened by the CRD                                                                                                                                                                              | Examples of convening and coordination by CRD                                                                                           |
| 2.2 | Support regional climate mitigation initiatives in collaboration with municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations | Increased reach, effectiveness, or consistency of local emissions reduction actions for communities across the region.          | \$ leveraged from CRD support (\$ and in-kind)<br><br>Reported examples of increased reach, effectiveness, or consistency due to CRD support | Estimated GHG emissions reduction from programs and regulations supported by CRD<br><br>Estimated energy cost savings from programs and regulation supported by CRD<br><br>Examples of regional initiatives where CRD support was critical | \$ value of support funding and in-kind support                                                                                         |
| 2.3 | Support regional climate adaptation initiatives in collaboration with municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations | Increased reach, effectiveness, or consistency of local climate adaptation for communities across the region.                   | \$ leveraged from CRD support (\$ and in-kind)<br><br>Reported examples of increased reach, effectiveness, or consistency due to CRD support | Examples of regional initiatives where CRD support was critical                                                                                                                                                                            | \$ value of support funding and in-kind support                                                                                         |
| 2.4 | Support reconciliation and Indigenous leadership through climate action                                                  | Indigenous communities are enabled to increase the number, scope, or impact of climate initiatives.                             | Examples of Indigenous-led climate initiatives where CRD support was critical                                                                | Outcomes and co-benefits from Indigenous-led climate initiatives with CRD support                                                                                                                                                          | \$ value of support funding and in-kind support                                                                                         |
| 2.5 | Advocate for expanded authority and supports for regional and municipal climate action                                   | Increased awareness and urgency by other levels of government on the climate action needs of the region.                        | Examples of action resulting from or related to CRD advocacy efforts                                                                         | n/a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Examples of advocacy letters, coordinated campaigns, engagements, and major meetings                                                    |



| Action |                                                                                                                            | Outcome Statement                                                                                  | Outcome Indicator                                                             | Impact Indicators (if any, typically an estimate)                         | Activity Indicators                                |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 3.1    | Continue low carbon and energy efficiency retrofits of CRD facilities and infrastructure                                   | Reduced GHG emissions and energy and emissions intensities from CRD facilities and infrastructure. | GHG emissions from CRD facilities and infrastructure                          | Estimated GHG emissions reduction                                         | Projects or studies completed                      |
|        |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                    | EUI and GHGI of CRD facilities                                                | Estimated energy cost savings                                             |                                                    |
|        |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                    | kWh/ML for CRD water systems                                                  |                                                                           |                                                    |
| 3.2    | Assess and implement energy recovery and renewable energy solutions across CRD infrastructure                              | Reduced GHG emissions and energy and operating costs from CRD facilities and infrastructure.       | GHG emissions from CRD facilities and infrastructure                          | Estimated energy generated                                                | Projects or studies completed                      |
|        |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                    | Energy costs from CRD facilities and infrastructure                           | Estimated operating cost savings                                          |                                                    |
|        |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                    | Energy generated from CRD facilities and infrastructure                       | Estimated GHG emissions reduction                                         |                                                    |
| 3.3    | Continue climate adaptation of CRD facilities, infrastructure, and natural assets                                          | Increased climate resilience of CRD facilities, infrastructure, and natural assets.                | TBD: assessment of climate adaptation readiness of CRD assets                 | Estimated repair costs avoided from CRD investments in climate adaptation | \$ investment on climate adaptation infrastructure |
|        |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                    | Examples of climate adapted renewal of CRD assets                             |                                                                           | Examples of climate adapted renewal of CRD assets  |
| 3.4    | Continue implementing the EV Ready Fleet Plan and Green Fleet Policy for new CRD vehicles and equipment                    | Increased electrification of CRD vehicles and equipment.                                           | % of CRD fleet light-duty vehicles (LDV) that are electric                    | Estimated GHGs avoided by adding EVs to fleet                             | # EVs added to the fleet                           |
|        |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                    | % of CRD small equipment that is electric                                     | Estimated cost savings by adding EVs to fleet                             |                                                    |
| 3.5    | Transition to low carbon fuels for existing CRD vehicles and equipment                                                     | Increased use of biofuels for CRD vehicles and equipment.                                          | % of CRD fuel use that is biofuels                                            | Estimated GHGs avoided by using biofuels                                  | Litres of biofuel used                             |
| 3.6    | Continue coordinating and funding the Regional Public EV Charger Program, guided by the Regional EV Infrastructure Roadmap | Improved access for the public to reliable EV chargers across the region.                          | % implementation of EV Roadmap                                                | Estimated GHGs avoided by charging at CRD EV chargers                     | # of public EV chargers installed/operated by CRD  |
|        |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                    | Ratio of public EV chargers to EVs (total for the region and by municipality) | Estimated costs saved by charging at CRD EV chargers                      | # of public EV chargers in the region              |
|        |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                    | Number of public EV chargers in the region and in each municipality           |                                                                           |                                                    |
|        |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                    | % of population within X-minutes of public EV charging                        |                                                                           |                                                    |



|   | Action | Outcome Statement                                                                                                                               | Outcome Indicator                                                                                       | Impact Indicators (if any, typically an estimate)                                                                                                                                                                        | Activity Indicators                                                                                                                                         |
|---|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   | 3.7    | Expand energy and resource recovery from solid and liquid waste streams, and reinvest value to deliver regional benefits through a climate lens | Increased landfill gas capture and production of renewable natural gas from waste.                      | % landfill gas capture efficiency                                                                                                                                                                                        | Estimated GHGs reduced by renewable gas capture and transfer<br>% landfill gas captured<br>Tonnes of renewable natural gas created                          |
|   | 4.1    | Support planning for complete, low carbon, and resilient communities                                                                            | Residents and businesses are enabled to reduce GHG emissions from transportation.                       | Number of net new dwelling units in areas where more than 42% walk/bike/bus to work (from RGS Indicators)<br>New active transportation infrastructure (e.g. kilometres of All Ages and Abilities bike lanes)             | Estimated GHGs reductions enabled through planning for complete communities<br>Examples of delivery of regional plans, programs, and projects.              |
| ≡ | 4.2    | Develop a new Regional Transportation Plan, and support public, active, shared, and electric transportation options                             | Improved access for the public to public, active, shared, and electric transportation options.          | % of total trips made by walking, cycling and transit in Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA) (from RGS Indicators)<br>% regional mode share<br>Vehicle kilometres travelled (VKT)                                     | Estimated GHGs reductions enabled through transportation planning and programs.<br>Examples of delivery of transportation plans, programs, and projects.    |
| ≡ | 4.3    | Integrate climate adaptation into planning of CRD emergency management, infrastructure, parks and trails, and watersheds                        | Climate hazard and risk are included in planning of CRD emergency management, infrastructure and lands. | Assessment of organizational climate planning<br>Examples of inclusion of climate adaptation into planning                                                                                                               | n/a<br>Examples of inclusion of climate adaptation planning                                                                                                 |
|   | 4.4    | Support healthy, resilient, and biodiverse regional ecosystems and sustainable local food                                                       | Increased health, biodiversity, and resilience of regional ecosystems to manage climate hazards.        | Assessment of health, biodiversity, or resilience of natural assets and ecosystems<br>Examples of increased health, biodiversity, and resilience to manage climate hazards among regional natural assets and ecosystems. | Estimated ecosystem improvements enabled through biodiversity planning and programs.<br>Examples of delivery of biodiversity plans, programs, and projects. |



# Appendix G: Climate Budget

In October 2024, the CRD Board directed climate action staff to use climate budgeting approaches in the next climate planning cycle. Climate budgeting integrates climate considerations into the financial budget of an organization. Each climate action is linked to an estimated emissions reduction and funding approach to illustrate the costs required to achieve the targeted emission reductions.

The CRD now incorporates a climate lens into all Initiative Business Cases (IBCs) and capital planning—the internal process the CRD uses to decide which new initiatives to fund—giving weight to initiatives that contribute to GHG reductions and climate adaptation. The corporate carbon price policy requires life-cycle costing and an internal carbon price be applied in decision-making on capital assets.

The tables below show the projects and programs supported or provided by the CRD Climate Action and Adaptation Service. Each program is funded through a combination of either the Climate Action Service's or other CRD services' operational or capital budgets, and leveraged grant funds. As climate budgeting experience grows, future iterations of the climate budget may adjust or add to this approach, such as including climate-related programs provided by other services.

In addition to operating and reserve funds, and capital funding from other services, the Climate Action and Adaptation Service has successfully secured significant external grant funding to support climate action and other CRD services in implementing key climate and energy initiatives. This includes approximately \$3.2 million in confirmed grant funding for projects completed in 2025 or currently underway.



## Leveraged Funding: Estimated at 7:1

While not all relevant data is available, since 2021, CRD staff estimate that climate-related initiatives and programs have leveraged nearly \$6M in grants received by the CRD, \$5.1M in grants received by project partners, \$1.8M in external partner investment, and \$7.3M in induced investment from program participants, for a total of nearly \$20.3M in leveraged funding and investment on approximately \$2.9M in CRD investment and in-kind support, for an estimated leveraged funding ratio of 7:1 on CRD climate action.

## Corporate GHG Reduction Projects

The projects shown below have largely been integrated into regular asset end-of-life planning, and the budgets shown are not indicative of the cost of carbon reductions alone. In some cases the low carbon choice is the default and lowest cost design choice for building or equipment renewals, while in others it is subject to life-cycle cost assessment and internal carbon price, as set out in the CRD carbon price policy.

Table G-1: Corporate GHG Reduction Projects

| Community                                                         | Estimated GHG Reductions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e/yr) | % of 2025 CRD Emissions* | CRD Budget | Included in Financial Plan |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Light Duty Vehicle Fleet Electrification (Green Fleet Policy)     | 232                                              | 7%                       | N/A        | Y                          |
| Light Duty Vehicle Fleet EV Charging (EV Ready Fleet Policy)      | N/A                                              | N/A                      | \$3.6M     | Partial                    |
| Heat Recovery at Panorama Recreation Centre                       | 231                                              | 7%                       | \$4.0M     | Y                          |
| Heat Recovery at SEAPARC Recreation Centre                        | 120                                              | 3.5%                     | \$2.2M     | Y                          |
| Saanich Peninsula WWTP connection to District Energy System (DES) | 140                                              | 4%                       | \$1.2M     | Partial                    |
| Fisgard Headquarters Decarbonization                              | 100                                              | 3%                       | \$2.6M     | Y                          |
| Salt Spring Island Multispace Decarbonization                     | 50                                               | 1.5%                     | \$0.5M     | Y                          |

\* Note: 2025 Corporate GHG emissions total was 3,432 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/yr

## Community Programs

These programs are delivered by the Climate Action and Adaptation Service, among others that focus on climate adaptation and community outreach, and draw funding from a combination of operating funds and grant funding.

Table G-2: Corporate GHG Reduction Projects

| Community                     | Estimated GHG Reductions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e/yr) | % of 2025 CRD Emissions* | CRD Budget | Included in Financial Plan |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Home Energy Navigator Program | Residential Buildings: 222,592                   | 12%                      | \$0.3M/yr  | Y                          |
| Building Benchmarking Program | Residential & Commercial Buildings: 466,835      | 26%                      | \$0.3M/yr  | Y                          |
| Public EV Charging Program    | Light Duty Vehicles: 572,601                     | 32%                      | \$2.7M     | Y                          |

\* Note: 2024 Regional GHG emissions total was 1.8M tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/yr

# Appendix H: Engagement Summary

During the course of developing the Climate Action Strategy, engagement was conducted with internal staff across various CRD service areas, municipal staff and elected officials, First Nations, and community groups. Across all engagement streams, feedback was collected through workshops, meetings, interviews, and correspondence, ensuring the 2026 Climate Action Strategy reflects a broad range of perspectives and is grounded in operational realities, regional priorities, and community needs. A summary of how each group was engaged, what was heard, and how this information was used to shape the Climate Action Strategy is outlined below.

## Internal CRD Staff

Internal engagement was conducted through workshops and one-on-one meetings with project and management level staff across all relevant service areas, including Facilities Management, Fleet, Finance, Protectives Services, Regional Planning and Transportation, Regional Parks, Environmental Protection, Drinking Water Supply, Wastewater Management, Watershed Protection, First Nations Relations, Health and Capital Planning, Regional Housing, and Environmental Resource Management. Five group workshops, five one-on-one interviews, and three email reviews providing feedback were provided as part of engagement with internal CRD staff for the development of this strategy.

### What was heard:

Staff reviewed the actions and priorities outlined in the 2021 Climate Action Strategy and identified next steps, gaps, and opportunities for improvement. They also provided input on the level of operational readiness for advancing climate action within their respective service areas. Staff identified linkages with strategic priorities within their service area and climate action, provided feedback on timelines of key projects, and communicated upcoming planned work to help reduce duplication and ensure efficient use of resources.

### How the CRD Climate Action and Adaptation Service used this information:

This input informed the refinement of actions, ensuring they are realistic, aligned with divisional service mandates, and responsive to operational constraints and opportunities across service areas.

## First Nations

The CRD sought both written and verbal feedback from nine local First Nations via engagement letters on the development of the strategy's vision, guiding principles, and goal areas.

### What was heard:

First Nations emphasized the importance of relationships with nature, other living beings, and the interconnectedness of physical and spiritual worlds. Key principles included respect for the rights of all living things and reciprocity. Concerns were raised about coastal erosion and sea-level rise impacting cultural sites, as well as broader issues related to population growth and land-use change. Nations also expressed strong interest in meaningful collaboration and ongoing involvement in climate action initiatives.

### How the CRD Climate Action and Adaptation Service used this information:

These perspectives were incorporated into the strategy's guiding principles, with interconnectedness, respect and reciprocity identified as core tenets. The CRD also included priority actions to support Indigenous-led climate initiatives and committed to ongoing collaboration and coordination with First Nations throughout implementation of this Strategy.

## Community Organizations

The CRD conducted interviews with twenty local climate-focused community organizations to better understand their experiences in mobilizing community action.

### What was heard:

Organizations highlighted the need for increased regional funding and expanded educational resources to support community-led initiatives. They expressed strong interest in improved collaboration and networking opportunities with local governments and emphasized the importance of reaching broader and more diverse audiences, including youth, Indigenous communities, and underrepresented groups. Participants also noted the need for clear, consistent, and accessible climate messaging, as well as practical outreach tools that connect climate action to daily life.

### How the CRD Climate Action and Adaptation Service used this information:

This feedback informed priority actions related to community programming, outreach, and education, with a focus on strengthening partnerships, improving accessibility of resources, and enhancing the CRD's role in regional coordination and advocacy.

## Municipal Staff (Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group)

Municipal staff participated through regular quarterly meetings of the Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group, where facilitated discussions focused on reviewing the strategy's vision, goals, principles, and priority actions.

### What was heard:

Municipal staff emphasized the importance of knowledge sharing, regional collaboration, policy alignment, and capacity building. They also highlighted the need for stronger public outreach and access to practical tools such as data, emissions inventories, and case studies to support implementation. CRD staff also conducted multiple interviews with select municipal staff to understand needs and priorities for community mobilization.

### How the CRD used this information:

This feedback shaped actions focused on strengthening regional coordination, improving access to shared resources and data, and enhancing communication and outreach efforts to support implementation across municipalities.

## Elected Officials (Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force)

Elected officials on the Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force were engaged through regular quarterly Task Force meetings, where they reviewed and provided input on the strategy's overarching vision, goals, principles, and priority actions.

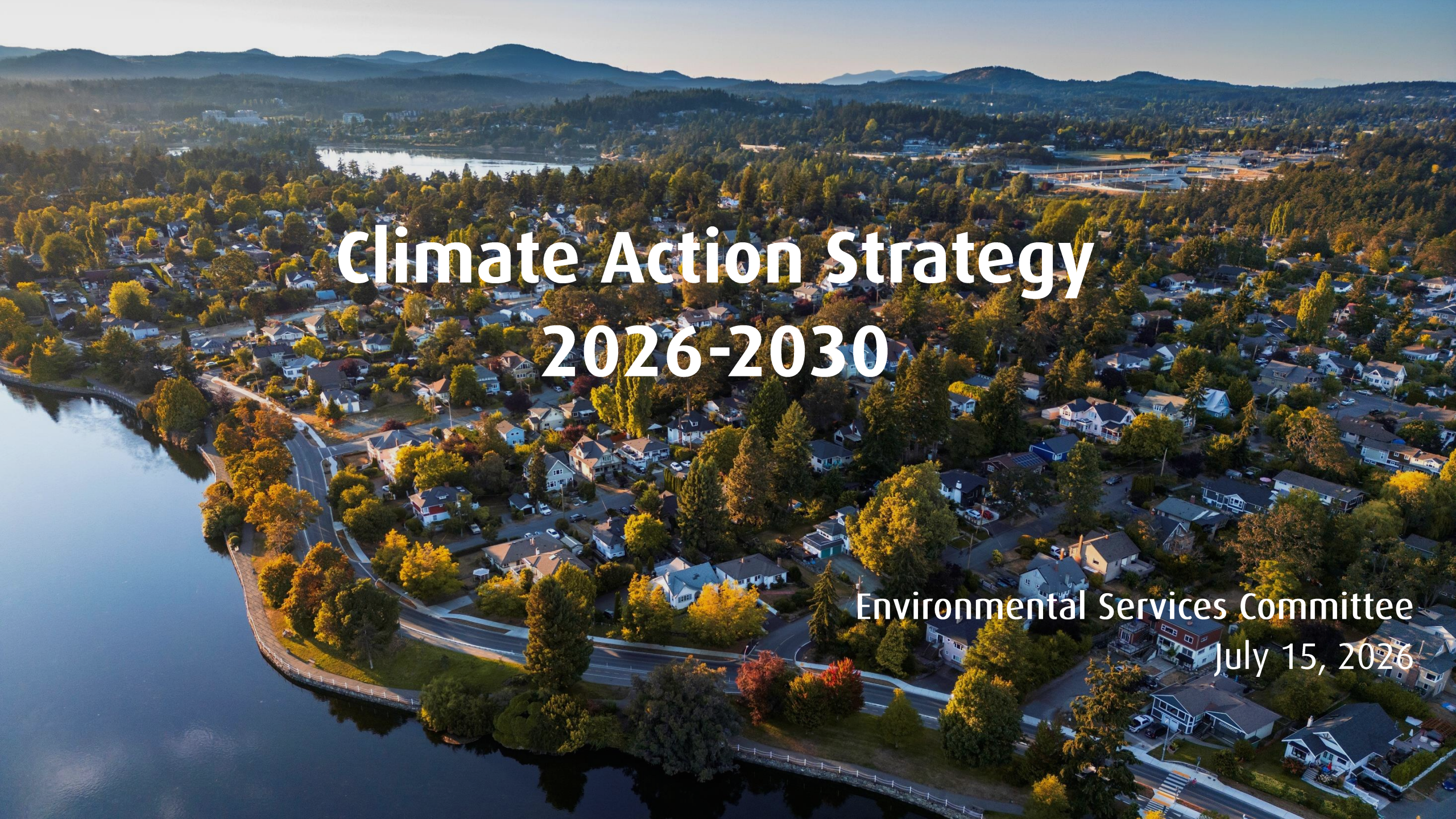
### What was heard:

Elected officials identified the need to move beyond siloed, resource-constrained approaches toward more coordinated, region-wide climate action. They emphasized the importance of stronger evidence-based decision-making, shared tools, and integrated approaches, as well as shifting from incremental and car-centric efforts to more systems-level strategies that prioritize resilience, ecosystem value, local solutions, and higher-impact investments.

### How the CRD Climate Action and Adaptation Service used this information:

This input informed the overall direction of the strategy, reinforcing an emphasis on regional coordination, systems thinking, and prioritization of high-impact actions supported by evidence and cross-departmental collaboration.



An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood. A river flows along the left side of the frame, with a paved path and a low stone wall separating it from the residential area. The houses are mostly two-story, with varying roof colors and styles, interspersed with lush green trees. In the background, a large body of water is visible, followed by a range of rolling hills or mountains under a clear sky. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

# Climate Action Strategy 2026-2030

Environmental Services Committee  
July 15, 2026





# Agenda

- 1. Timeline**
- 2. Renewed Climate Action Strategy**
  1. CRD role
  2. Guiding framework
  3. Context & lessons from CleanBC review
  4. Mitigation and adaptation approach
  5. Actions
  6. Implementation timeline
  7. Outcomes and indicators of success
- 3. Funding Approach**
- 4. Recommendations**





# Timeline





An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely Victoria, British Columbia. The city is built on a peninsula and surrounding land, with a large harbor in the center. Several large ships are docked at the pier on the right. The background shows a vast body of water and distant mountains under a clear sky. The text "Renewed Climate Action Strategy" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# Renewed Climate Action Strategy



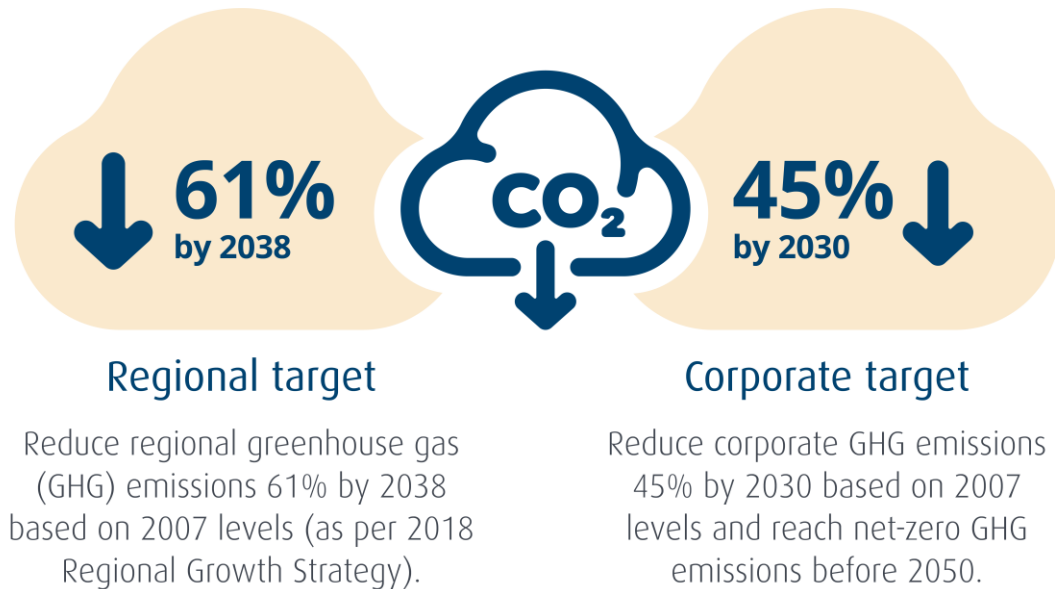


# CRD Role

**Regional emissions come  
from many sources  
outside our control**

**We provide the infrastructure  
and programs that make better  
climate outcomes possible**

# Guiding Framework



- Climate-focused decision making
- Sustainable land use, planning and preparedness
- Low-carbon mobility
- Low-carbon and resilient buildings and infrastructure
- Resilient and abundant nature, ecosystems and food systems
- Minimized waste





# Context

## Changing context

- Provincial and Federal policy
- Tariffs, inflation
- Tightening budgets

## CleanBC Review (2025)

- Making progress, falling short
- Renewables are energy security
- Make it easier to cut bills and GHGs
- Focus on delivering outcomes



# A More Affordable, Resilient Region

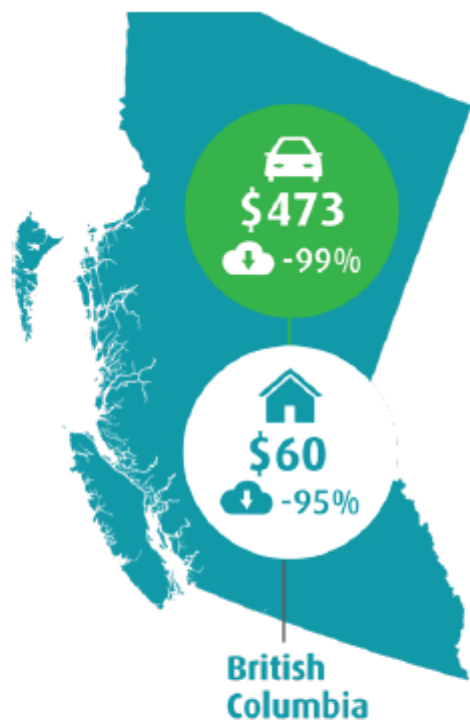


Figure 1: A fully-electrified home in BC can save over \$500/month - (Based on figure from Clean Energy Canada, *Back in the Race*, 2026, p13)



Figure 2: Proactive climate adaptation measures generate \$5 of direct benefits and \$10 of economy-wide benefits for every \$1 spent - (Based on figure from Canadian Climate Institute, *Damage Control*, 2022, p15)

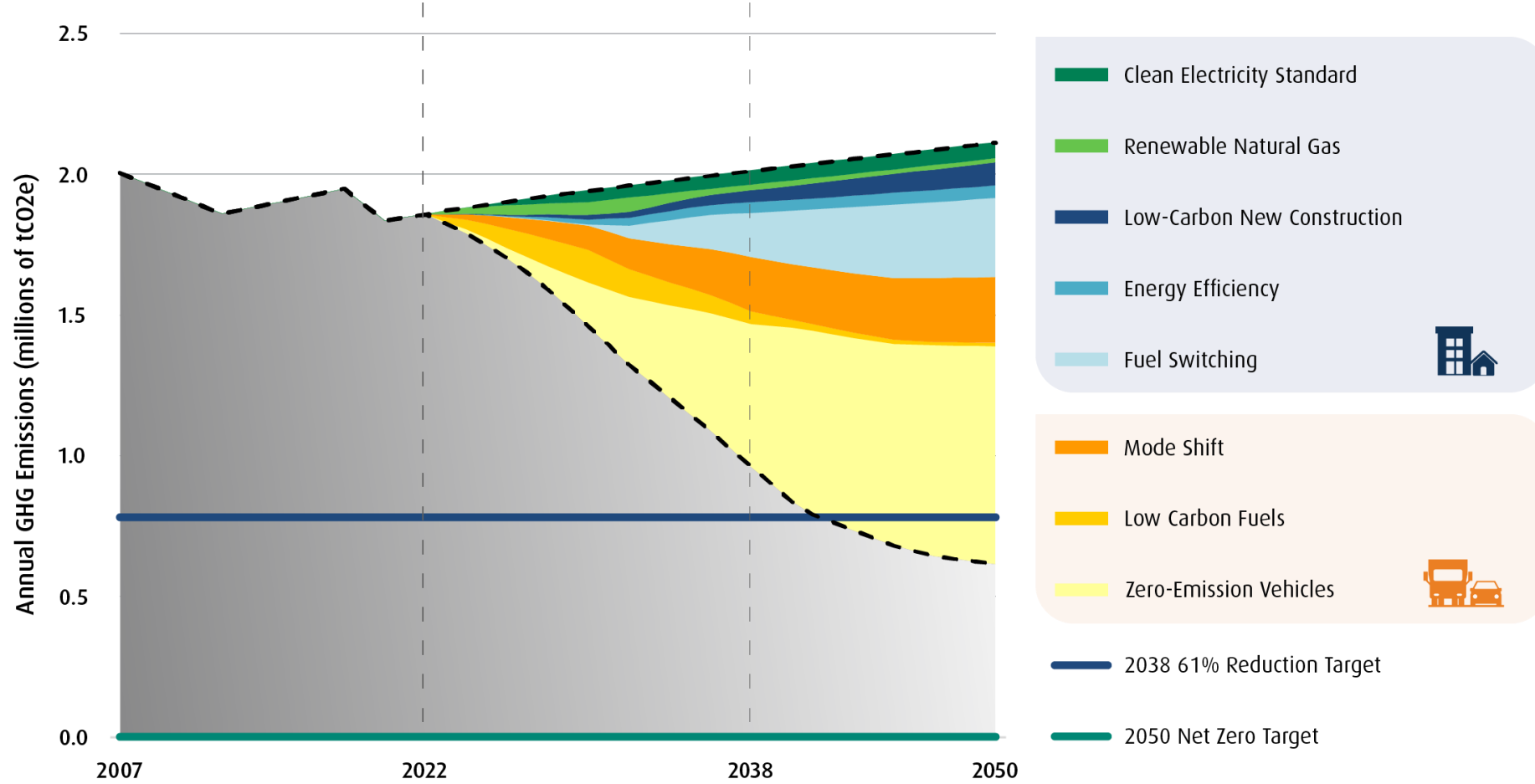
A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a gas pump nozzle. The person is wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt. The nozzle is silver and black, and it is being held over the fuel tank of a white vehicle. The background is blurred, showing other parts of the gas station. Overlaid on the image is a semi-transparent box containing text.

**\$1,320,000**

estimated total savings on fuel by CRD electric fleet by 2030



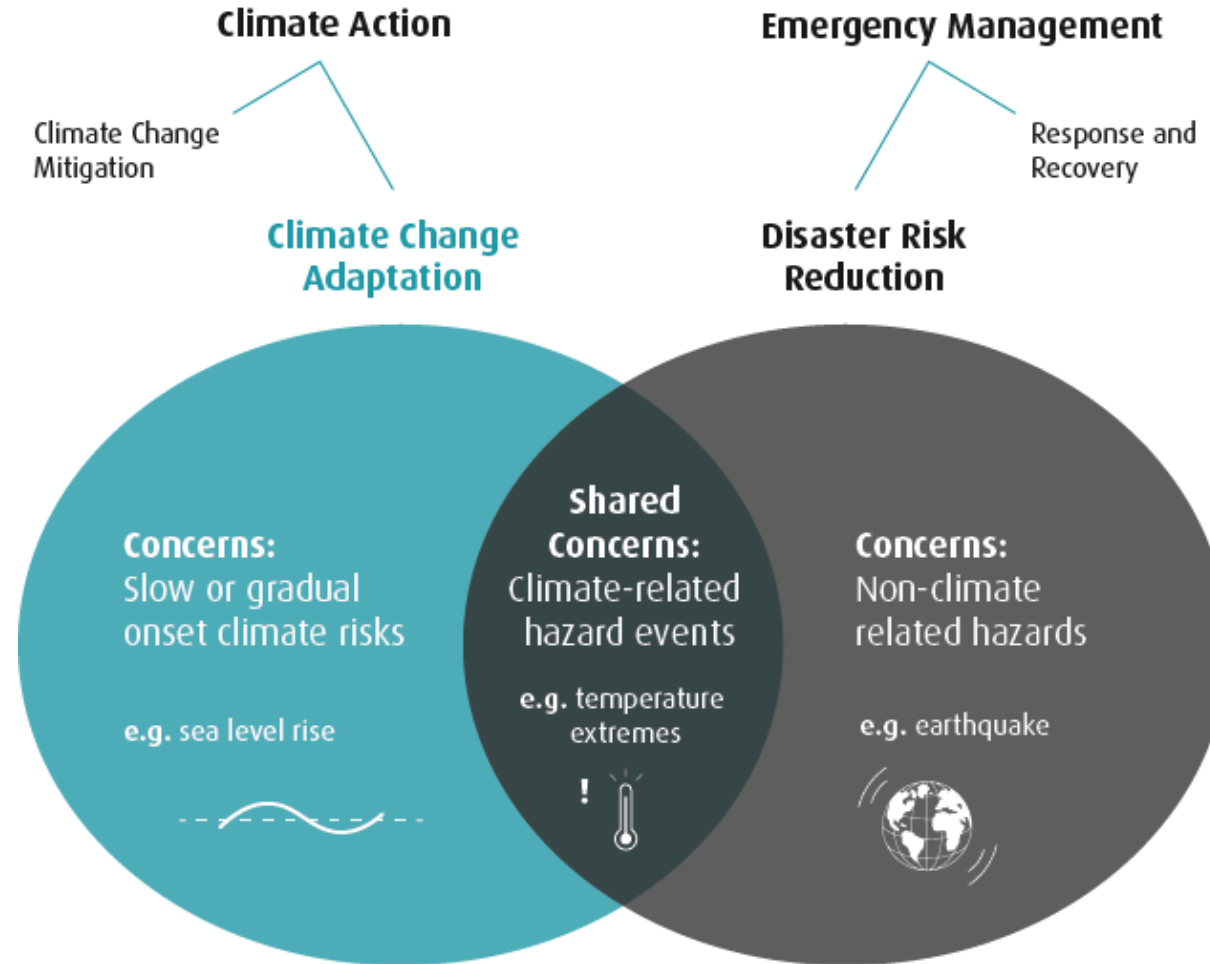
# Mitigation Approach







# Adaptation Approach



# ▶ Actions



**Continue high-impact initiatives to support long-term success**



**New high-impact initiatives to accelerate climate action**



# ► Actions



## • Building benchmarking program



# ▶ Actions



- Building benchmarking program
- Public EV Charging Network







## ► Actions



- Building benchmarking program
- Public EV Charging Network



- Accelerate energy retrofits



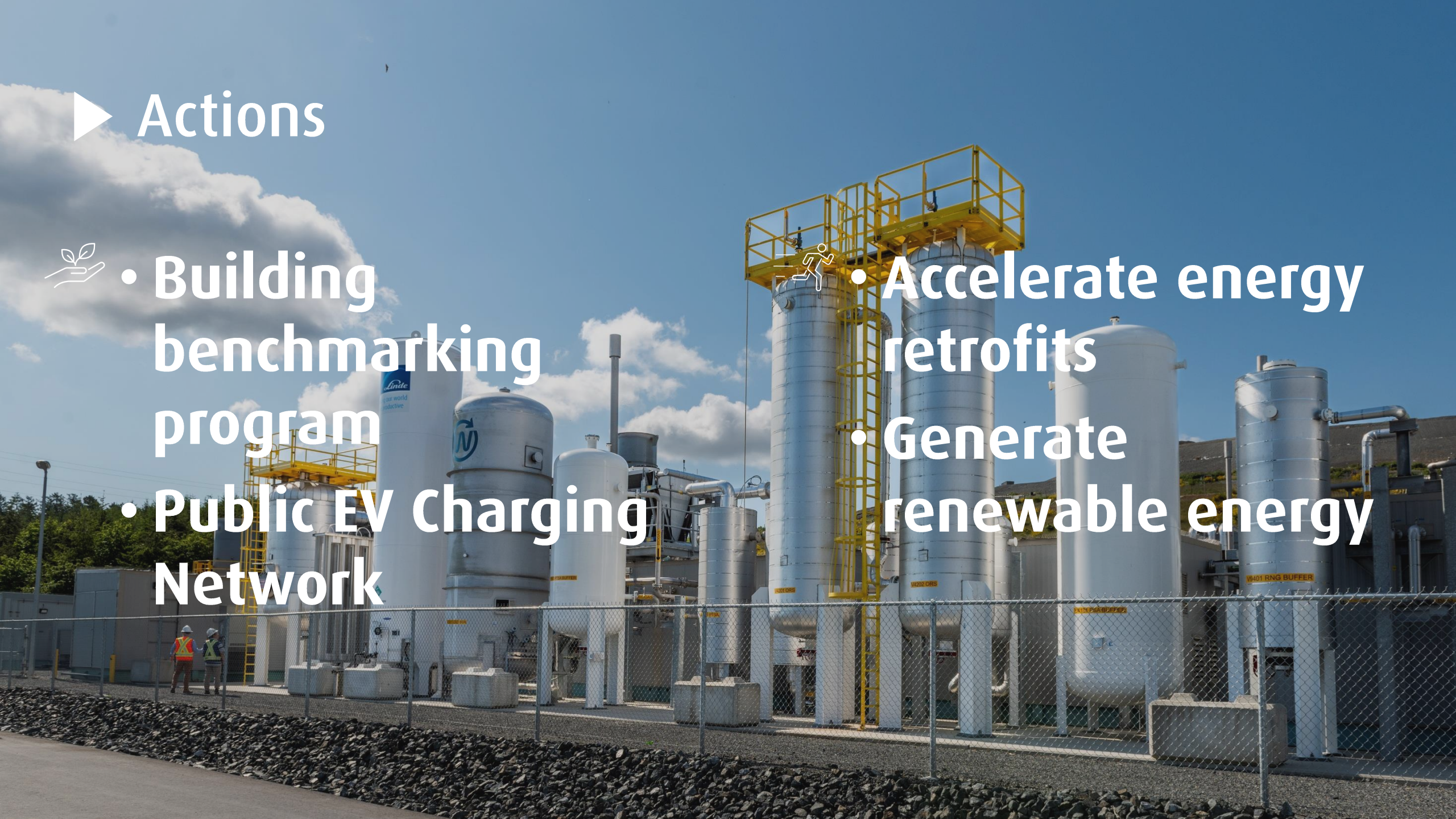
# ► Actions



- Building benchmarking program
- Public EV Charging Network



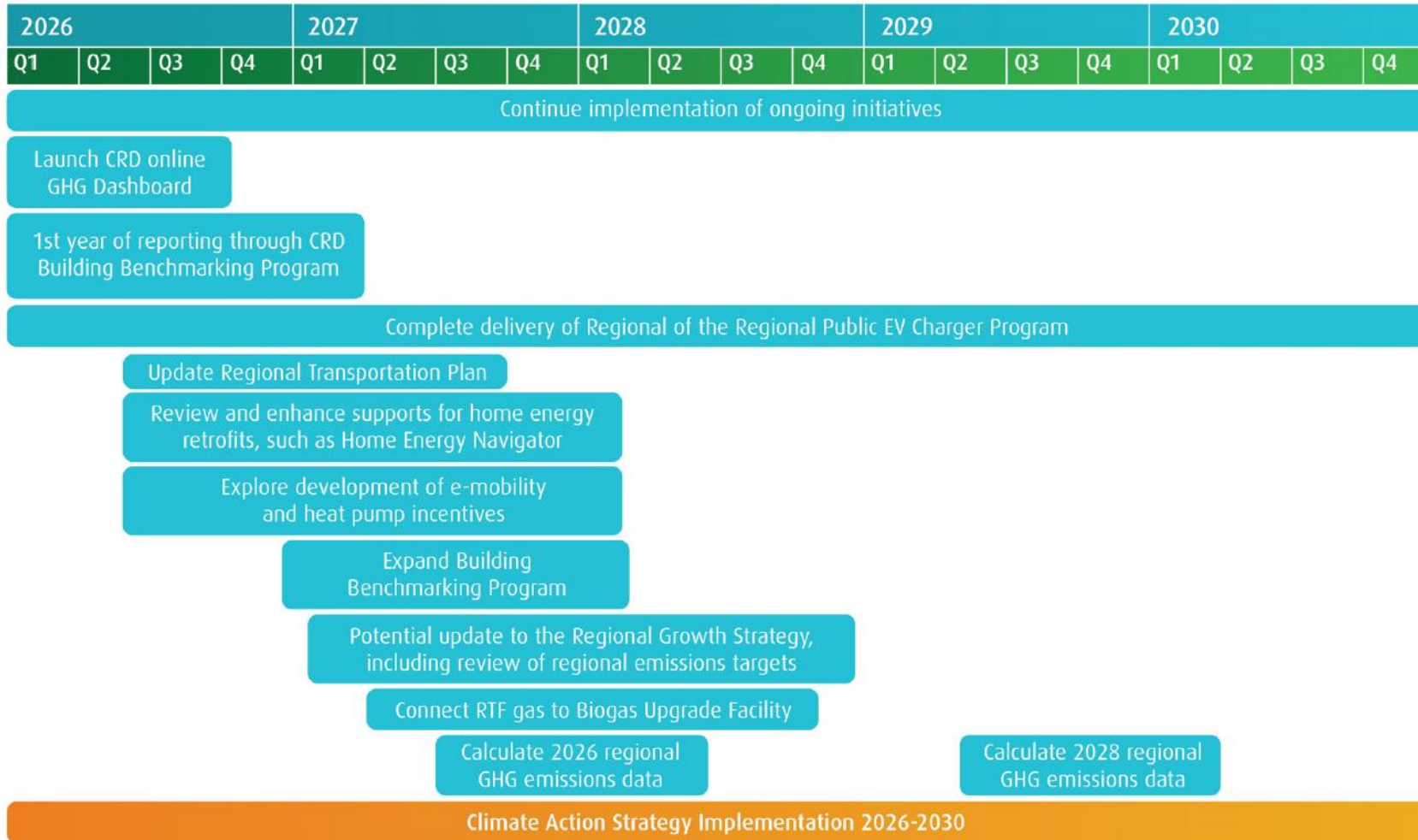
- Accelerate energy retrofits
- Generate renewable energy



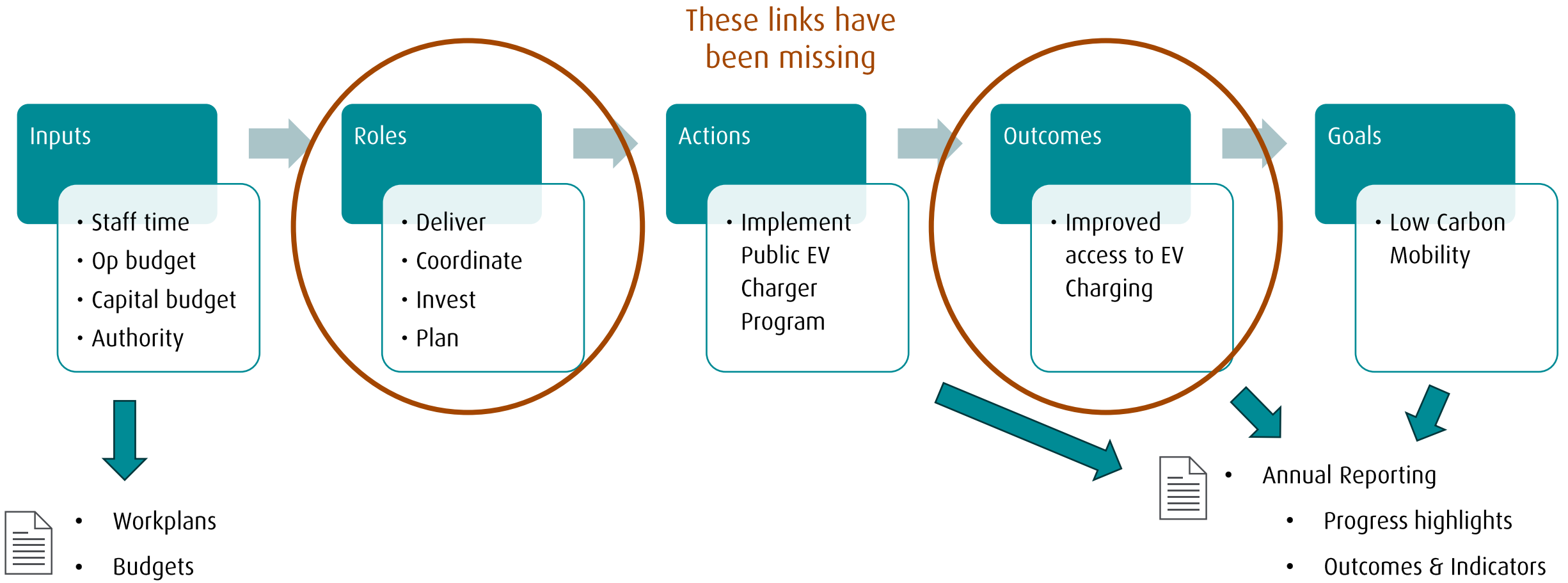




# Implementation Timeline



# >>> Reporting on Success





An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely Victoria, British Columbia. The city is built on a peninsula and along the waterfront, with a large harbor area. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The text "Funding Approach" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Funding Approach





# \$20,300,000

estimated leveraged funding by CRD climate action initiatives since 2021, including grants, partner project funding, and supported retrofit spending, for an estimated leveraged funding ratio of 7:1





# Funding Approach

## Continue:

- Leverage grants & partnerships
- Right-sizing existing programs
- No additional requisition increases

## New:

- Re-invest new revenues
  - EV charging electricity sales
  - Carbon credits

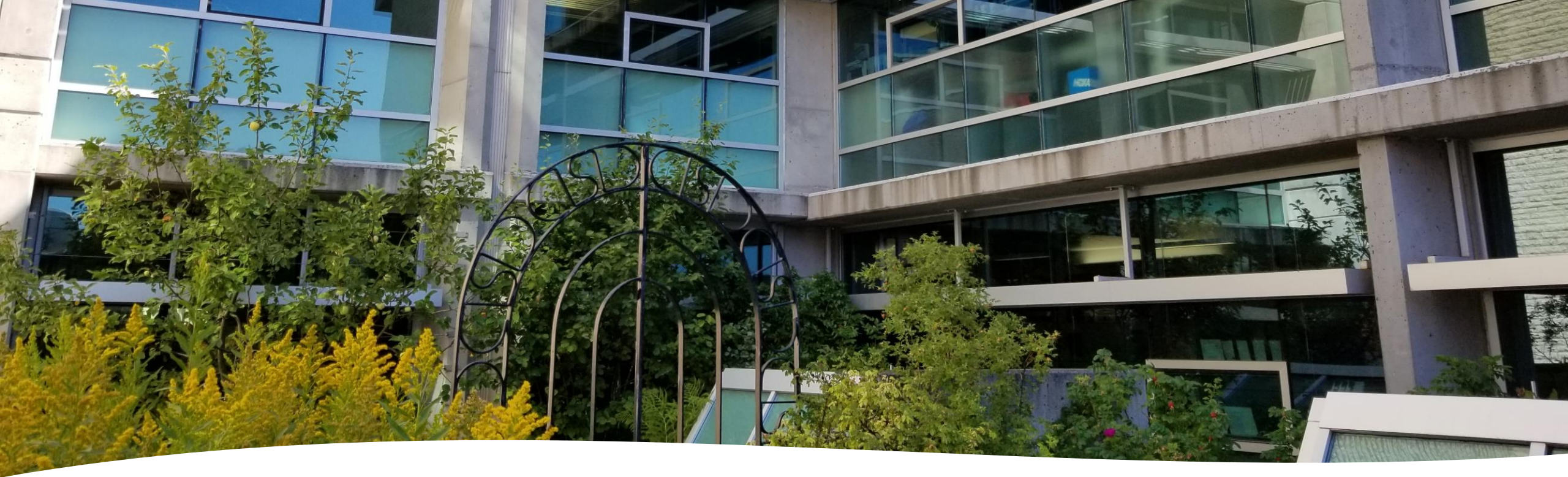




# Recommendations

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That the Board **adopt the renewed Climate Action Strategy** attached as Appendix A to guide the Capital Regional District (CRD) Climate Action and Adaptation Service through to 2030;
2. That staff be directed to review and **report back on regional greenhouse gas reduction target alternatives** for inclusion in the next update to the Regional Growth Strategy.
3. That the Chair on behalf of the Board **send a letter** to the Premier of BC and relevant ministers advocating for the full implementation of the recommendations of the CleanBC Independent Review, including continuing funding for the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP); and,
4. That staff establish all necessary processes and systems to **direct all revenues from the sale of carbon credits** – such as those generated under the federal Clean Fuel Regulation and provincial Low Carbon Fuel Standard – **into CRD programs and projects aligned with the renewed Climate Action Strategy**;
5. That staff establish continuous internal processes to **seek opportunities that generate carbon credit and renewable energy revenues**; and,
6. That staff **report back on how these carbon credit revenues will be used** to accelerate climate action, for the Board's consideration and approval.



Thank you.

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Capital Regional District



CRDVictoria



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**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026**

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**SUBJECT**     Harbours Environmental Action Service Summary

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To provide a five-year summary of accomplishments of the Harbours Environmental Action Service (Harbours Service) (Appendix A) and highlight the updated Harbours Ecological Inventory and Rating project (Appendix B).

**BACKGROUND**

The Capital Regional District's (CRD) Harbours Service works with partner organizations to implement the region's environmental work in local harbours. This work is guided by the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP), which commits the CRD to coordinate environmental protection and improvement efforts with partner organizations. It also works with federal, provincial, and local governments to reduce pollution and protect and restore habitats in Portage Inlet, the Gorge Waterway, Victoria Harbour, Esquimalt Harbour, and Esquimalt Lagoon (core area harbours). The Harbours Service was formally established in 2010 through CRD Bylaw No. 3743, Harbours Environmental Action Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1.

The Harbours Service focuses on coordination of stewardship initiatives and partnerships, building partner capacity, and ecological data collection. The CRD coordinates multi-stakeholder initiatives in the Gorge Waterway, Portage Inlet and Esquimalt Lagoon through the Gorge Waterway Initiative (GWI) and the Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Initiative (ELSI). These initiatives provide collaborative forums for government partners, community associations and environmental groups to share information, collaborate on ecological monitoring and habitat restoration projects, and provide coordinated responses on planning and development proposals. CRD representatives also participate in the Tri-Departmental Revitalization Working Group for Victoria and Esquimalt Harbours with Transport Canada, the Department of National Defence (DND), Public Services and Procurement Canada, and Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.

In 2025, the CRD updated the Harbours Ecological Inventory and Rating (HEIR) Project, which was originally completed in 2000. The updated HEIR systematically inventoried biophysical features in the backshore, intertidal and subtidal areas of the included core area harbours and assigned ecological ratings that reflect spatial variation in ecological value across the project area.

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Service Delivery Implications and Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies*

The Harbours Service coordinates and implements environmental protection and improvement initiatives within included core area harbours. Service activities include:

- monitoring, mapping, reporting and public education on the harbour environments,
- coordination and collaboration with public authorities, community groups and others on issues relating to the marine and shore area environments, and
- implementing programs to rehabilitate and improve the marine and shore area environments.

Section 18 of the LWMP outlines the Harbours Environmental Action program. The goals are to advocate for environmental protection, decrease contaminant inputs, protect and enhance habitat



quality, set environmental objectives, achieve environmentally protective land use, and monitor environmental quality.

### *Financial Implications*

The 2026 Harbours Environmental Action Service operating budget is \$383,960, which is collected through requisition & grants in lieu of taxes under the mandate of the LWMP. A service review in 2010 expanded the mandate of the service to include support for watershed initiatives connected to the core area harbours which fall outside a direct wastewater mandate. The current operating reserve is \$444,968, which is used strategically to support the subtidal and intertidal inventories that inform environmental monitoring and stewardship initiatives across multiple levels of government.

### *Environmental and Climate Implications*

Currently, the harbours service supports partner programs and volunteer citizen science initiatives addressing key issues including monitoring invasive European green crab, and native cutthroat trout, mapping Olympia oyster and eelgrass habitat, and sampling for emerging contaminants such as 6PPD-quinone (tire wear toxin). The service also provides free public and professional capacity building opportunities through a Harbour Stewardship Speaker Series. The CRD participates in the Local Government Green Shores working group and co-hosts regular level one and two training workshops with priority registration for local government and First Nations staff. Green Shores, a program of the Stewardship Centre of BC, promotes natural and resilient shoreline design to protect ecological and physical function, enhance habitat, and reduce climate change risks such as sea level rise and storm surge (Appendix A).

For the updated HEIR, the biophysical features were inventoried along 100 kilometers of intertidal and backshore, and 110 kilometers of subtidal transects in the core harbour areas (Appendix B, Maps 1-3). Changes since the 2000 inventory were estimated for eelgrass, widgeon grass and bladed kelp. In Esquimalt Harbour, survey coverage was limited to the Songhees and X<sup>w</sup>sepsem First Nations water lots due to data sharing constraints related to DND datasets.

Ecological ratings were assigned based on species diversity, habitat diversity, degree of naturalness, and presence of key life cycle areas (Appendix B, Map 4). These ratings help identify areas of comparatively high or low ecological values, support prioritization for conservation and restoration, and can inform planning, development application review and stewardship opportunities. Additional indicators (priority for protection or restoration, vulnerability to coastal squeeze, fisheries values, habitat connectivity and blue carbon potential) were assessed and can support management and planning decisions related to protection, restoration and climate adaptation.

HEIR datasets, along with compiled existing “Valued Fish and Marine Bird Habitat” layers, will be made publicly available through an update to the CRD Harbours Atlas in September 2026. Data will be accessible as Geographical Information System layers through a web-based mapping interface and can be shared with partners under data use agreements. The updated Harbours Atlas is an important tool supporting partnership organizations in their efforts toward coastal management, stewardship, land use planning, ecological restoration, habitat protection, environmental research, and public education.

Local government staff have enquired about expanding the intertidal and subtidal inventory to other shoreline areas to support their biodiversity inventories, however, these areas fall outside the service boundaries.

### *Intergovernmental Implications*

Municipal representatives from Colwood, View Royal, Victoria, Saanich, and Esquimalt participate in the GWI and ELSI steering committees. A collaborative staff working group, led by the City of Victoria, is supporting the development of the Gorge Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy with CRD staff providing technical and environmental input. The updated HEIR dataset informs this project.

In 2025, a Tri-Department Revitalization Working Group for Victoria and Esquimalt Harbours was established with representatives from Transport Canada, DND, Public Services and Procurement Canada, Esquimalt First Nations, Songhees First Nations and the CRD. This group is working to address stormwater and sanitary waste source control, including defining responsibilities, outlining the timing for monitoring, identifying needs for source tracking and control of outfalls, reducing chemical and bacterial pollutants, and resuming shellfish harvesting in targeted areas.

### *First Nations Implications*

Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations have expressed strong interest in resuming food harvesting in the harbours and restoring critical herring and salmon habitat. Both Nations are active participants in the Tri-Departmental Working Group for Victoria and Esquimalt Harbours.

While representatives from Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations have been invited to participate in GWI and ELSI, capacity limitations have prevented ongoing participation on the steering committee. CRD staff provide regular updates on initiatives and engage on a project-by-project basis. Songhees First Nation participated in HEIR workshops and fieldwork to collect inventory data within their water lots. The CRD continues to nurture these staff relationships through various aspects of the Harbours Service.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Harbours Environmental Action Service continues to demonstrate success through coordination of stewardship initiatives, partner capacity building, and ecological data collection and monitoring. The updated Harbours Ecological Inventory and Rating (HEIR) project provides comprehensive, up-to-date information on ecological conditions across the included core area harbours. The HEIR supports informed decision making regarding coastal management, stewardship, land use planning, ecological restoration, habitat protection, biodiversity inventories, environmental research and public education.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

|               |                                                                                                   |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Submitted by: | Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Acting General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services |
| Concurrence:  | Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer                                       |

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: Harbours Environmental Action Service 2021-2026 Program Accomplishments (July 2026)

Appendix B: Harbours Ecological Inventory and Rating Project Summary (July 2026)

# Harbours Environmental Action Service



## 2021-2026 Program Accomplishments

### Capital Regional District | Environmental Protection

This appendix provides a summary by priority focus areas of the Harbours Environmental Action Service (Harbours Program) collaborative efforts and accomplishments in 2021-2026. For more information about the program see: <https://www.crd.ca/environment/stormwater-watersheds-harbours/harbours>.

#### Ecological Data Collection and Monitoring

Monitoring and data collection form the foundation of the Harbours Program, supporting evidence-based decision-making, long-term environmental protection and planning.

- Harbours Ecological Inventory and Rating: The Harbours Program has completed an update to the Harbours Ecological Inventory and Rating (HEIR) Project, providing a comprehensive spatial inventory and ecological ratings for intertidal, backshore, and subtidal habitats across the core area harbours. This work represents the second iteration of the original HEIR 2000 Project. The HEIR Project datasets support coastal management, ecological restoration, land use planning and stewardship initiatives, and will be made publicly available through the Capital Regional District (CRD) Harbours Atlas in 2026, with interim access available to partners through a data use agreement.
- Land Cover Classification: With support from regional services, the land cover classification was completed in 2021. Watershed-scale mapping provides estimates of tree canopy cover, impervious surface area, and changes over time by municipality and watershed.
- Support for Partner Monitoring Projects: The Harbours Environmental Action Service supported the following partner-led monitoring initiatives through financial support, volunteer support or data sharing:
  - Olympia oysters in Gorge and Portage Inlet – World Fisheries Trust
  - Acoustic monitoring for Coastal Cutthroat Trout – Peninsula Streams and Shorelines
  - Invasive European Green Crab monitoring – Fisheries and Oceans Canada
  - 6PPD Quinone Monitoring – BC Conservation Foundation and Vancouver Island University
  - Coastal Cutthroat Trout Habitat in Victoria Harbour – BCIT and Peninsula Streams and Shorelines
  - Eelgrass Species Distribution Model Validation Project – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

#### Capacity Building

- Harbours Stewardship Speaker Series: The Harbours Stewardship Speaker Series provides free public and professional learning opportunities focused on harbour and watershed protection. Since 2024, topics have included:



- Salmon Safe Certification
- Green Shores – Protecting Waterfront Properties and Natural Shoreline
- Mitigation Inputs of Tire Wear Toxins (6PPDQ) to Protect Salmon Habitat
- Coastal Engineering Design Considerations for Shoreline Protection and Restoration
- European Green Crab Detection and Response in the Capital Region
- Natural Asset Management
- Green Shores Training: Green Shores, a program of the Stewardship Centre for BC, promotes natural and resilient shoreline design to protect ecological and physical function, enhance habitat, and reduce climate change risks such as sea level rise and storm surge. The CRD is an active member of the [Green Shores Working Group](#), a collaborative network of local governments from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. As a member of the Green Shores Working Group, the CRD Harbours Program:
  - sponsors an annual Green Shores level 1 training course free of charge for local government and First Nations staff
  - supported delivery of a two-day level 2 training course in 2023 and 2024 and is exploring offering this course again in 2026
- Support for Partner Events:
  - Coastal Zone Canada – Pacific Chapter on Nature Based Solutions
  - Peninsula Streams and Shorelines Cutthroat Trout Symposium
  - Synergy Foundation Ecostar Awards
  - Victoria Herring Enhancement Society Symposium
  - Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary

### Coordination of Stewardship Initiatives and Partnerships

Strong partnerships and community stewardship are essential to protecting and enhancing the core area harbours and watersheds. The Harbours Program coordinates the following stewardship initiatives:

- Gorge Waterway Initiative: Coordinated by the CRD, the Gorge Waterway Initiative (GWI) is a collaborative, community-driven partnership of local governments, non-profits and community groups working to protect, enhance and restore the natural and cultural features of the Gorge Waterway, Portage Inlet and associated watersheds.
- Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Initiative: Coordinated by the CRD, the Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Initiative (ELSI) is a coalition of local government, community and environmental organizations, academic institutions, and government partners dedicated to protecting, enhancing, and restoring the Esquimalt Lagoon and Coburg Peninsula.
- Information Sharing, Outreach and Project Engagement:
  - GWI and ELSI meet quarterly to share information, identify priorities, and discuss emerging issues and opportunities.
  - Regular email updates are distributed by the GWI and ELSI Coordinator.

- GWI and ELSI have engaged with many projects and learning opportunities through presentations, site visits and tours including:
  - Infrastructure Projects
    - BC Hydro Esquimalt to Victoria Cable Replacement Project
    - CRD Regional Trestles Renewal, Trail Widening and Lighting Project
    - Highway 1 Bus on Shoulder Project
    - BC Transit HandyDART – Salmon Safe Certification
  - Planning Projects
    - Gorge Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy
    - City of Colwood Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
    - Colwood Waterfront Stewardship Plan
    - Parks Canada - Proposed National Urban Park
  - Restoration, Remediation and Monitoring
    - Transport Canada – Cecilia Cove Restoration Project
    - A cultural tour of the Gorge Waterway led by Songhees Tours
    - CRD Goose Management Program
    - McLoughlin Point Wastewater and Marine Monitoring Programs
    - Royal Roads University monitoring Colwood Creek and Hatley Creek
    - Purple Martin Stewardship and Recovery Program
- ELSI and GWI non-profit partners attend public summer events to provide outreach on behalf of the CRD. Each event includes displays, print materials and interactive watershed models.
- Coordinated Responses and Site Engagement: The GWI and ELSI provide coordinated input on planning documents and development applications, including Official Community Plan updates and waterfront development proposals such as:
  - Colwood Waterfront Stewardship Plan (2021)
  - 2820 Shoreline Drive (Town of View Royal) – Environmental Permit Application (2023)
  - Coastal Marine Strategy Intentions Paper (Province of British Columbia) (2023)
  - Rezoning Application - Capital Cultural District (City of Victoria) (2025)
  - District of Saanich Official Community Plan Update (2024)
  - Victoria Official Community Plan Update (2024)
- Volunteer Engagement and Citizen Science: Volunteers play a central role in monitoring, restoration, and public education. The Harbours Program has supported the following volunteer opportunities:
  - **Invasive European Green Crab Monitoring:** ELSI volunteers collaborate with Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Aquatic Invasive Species Program to monitor Esquimalt Lagoon for invasive European Green Crab which were originally detected by ELSI volunteers in 2019. GWI and ELSI representatives are members of the Victoria European Green Crab Response Working Group coordinated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
  - **Coastal Cutthroat Trout Monitoring:** Bee Creek (ELSI) volunteers monitor fish presence and habitat conditions monthly between May and October.

- **6PPD-Quinone Monitoring:** ELSI volunteers collaborated with the BC Conservation Foundation and Vancouver Island University to monitor tire-wear toxins in Colwood Creek.
- **City Nature Challenge Participation:** Stewardship partners support community-based biodiversity monitoring initiatives.
- **Volunteer Appreciation:** The Harbours Program hosts an annual volunteer appreciation dinner to celebrate the significant commitment and effort of volunteers to protect and enhance local marine waters and watersheds.
- Support for Restoration Projects
  - **Esquimalt Gorge Park Green Shores Demonstration Project (2022-2025) (Township of Esquimalt):** The Harbours Program participated as a member of the technical advisory committee alongside the Township of Esquimalt, the Stewardship Centre for BC, the Pacific Salmon Foundation and World Fisheries Trust. The project was completed in 2025.
  - **Green Shores Feasibility Inventory for the Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet (2022):** CRD report review as part of the Resilient Coasts for Salmon initiative.
  - **District of Saanich – Colquitz River Green Shores Design Project (2024):** Participation in design workshop. Staff from Saanich and the CRD, community stakeholders, and representatives from Associated Engineering, DHI Water & Environment Inc, and the Stewardship Centre for BC collaborated to create a preliminary conceptual design incorporating Green Shores nature-based approaches to shoreline restoration.
- Gorge Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy: Led by the City of Victoria, the Gorge Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy is a collaborative project between municipalities that border the Gorge and Portage Inlet. The project partners include the District of Saanich, the Township of Esquimalt and the Town of View Royal with support from the CRD Harbours and Climate Action programs. The strategy will help guide long-term decision-making about how each municipality adapts to rising water levels to protect people, infrastructure, the shoreline and local ecosystems.

#### Priority Focus for 2026

- Update Harbours Atlas with the Harbours Ecological Inventory and Rating data
- Update land cover classification using 2023 provincial LiDAR data (once available)
- Continue to build awareness of harbour and watershed health with Harbours Stewardship Speaker Series and initiative outreach
- Provide training and technical support related to shoreline management and nature-based solutions through Green Shores Level 1 and 2 training
- Develop education and outreach materials, including the *Ecology of the Gorge* brochure
- Expand engagement with stewardship partners and First Nations



# Harbours Ecological Inventory and Rating



## Project Summary

### Capital Regional District | Environmental Protection

#### Overview

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has completed an update to the Harbours Ecological Inventory and Rating (HEIR) Project, representing the second iteration of the original 2000 project. The updated HEIR Project systematically inventories biophysical features within the CRD's core area harbours (Victoria Harbour, the Gorge Waterway, Portage Inlet, Esquimalt Lagoon, and Esquimalt Harbour) and assigns ecological ratings that reflect spatial variation in ecological value across the project area.

#### Key outcomes of the update include:

- Updated inventory of intertidal, backshore, and subtidal habitats across approximately 100 km of shoreline and 110 km of subtidal transects.
- Intertidal mapping using high-resolution imagery, supervised classification, and field validation.
- Subtidal mapping using towed video surveys and spatial modeling.
- Updated intertidal ecological ratings and development of a new (preliminary) subtidal rating framework.
- Identification of spatial variation in ecological values to support planning, restoration, and stewardship.
- Enhanced data accessibility through integration with CRD mapping tools.

The HEIR dataset is intended to support coastal management, stewardship, land use planning, ecological restoration, environmental research, and public education. The datasets are not a substitute for site specific environmental assessments.

#### Ecological Inventory

##### Intertidal and Backshore (Part 1)

Intertidal mapping was conducted using supervised classification of high-resolution orthophoto imagery, supported by field verification and desktop review. This represents a methodological advancement over the original shore-unit-based approach. The intertidal inventory expanded the spatial extent of the original HEIR project and mapped both biological and physical features along approximately 103 km of shoreline, including:

- Biological features: salt marsh, eelgrass, bladed kelp, turf algae, barnacles
- Physical features: bedrock, cobble, sand/mud, modified shorelines, overhanging features

Backshore conditions were characterized using existing land cover datasets to identify features such as trees, roads and built structures.

### Subtidal Inventory (Part 2)

Subtidal habitats were assessed using boat-based towed video surveys, with resulting imagery interpreted by a qualified biologist, following a methodology generally consistent with the original HEIR project.

- Approximately 110 km of transects were surveyed. In Esquimalt Harbour, survey coverage was limited to the water lot administered by the Songhees and Xwsepsem Nations due to data-sharing constraints related to Department of National Defence (DND) datasets.
- Point observations include marine vegetation, substrates, invertebrates, and fish.
- Spatial modeling techniques (interpolation algorithms) were used to generate polygons for eelgrass, kelps, and selected features. This approach improves upon previous manual delineation methods. Modeled habitat polygons represent estimated distributions based on transect data and should not be interpreted as precise boundaries.
- Estimates of change over time were developed for the general distribution of eelgrass, widgeon grass, and bladed kelp.

Maps 1, 2 and 3 (attached) depict select intertidal and subtidal biological features for Victoria Harbour, Portage Inlet and the Gorge Waterway, Esquimalt Harbour and Esquimalt Lagoon.

### **Ecological Ratings**

Intertidal ecological ratings were updated using a refined version of the original HEIR methodology. Shoreline segments ("Shore Units") were evaluated based on:

- Species-diverse assemblages
- Habitat diversity
- Degree of naturalness
- Presence of key life cycle areas

Each Shore Unit is assigned an overall ecological rating ranging from *Very High* to *Very Low*.

Additional indicators were assessed but not incorporated into the overall rating, including:

- Priority for protection
- Priority for restoration
- Vulnerability to coastal squeeze
- Fisheries value
- Habitat connectivity
- Blue carbon potential

These supplementary indicators can support management and planning decisions related to protection, restoration, and climate adaptation.

Ecological ratings are relative within the study area and are intended to:

- Identify areas of comparatively high or low ecological value
- Support prioritization for conservation and restoration
- Inform planning, development application review, and stewardship

Ratings are suitable for regional and strategic applications and are **not intended to replace site-specific environmental assessments or regulatory requirements**.

A new ecological rating framework was developed for subtidal habitats, applying similar criteria to benthic (sea floor) units defined primarily by depth and substrate. This methodology represents an initial implementation and is expected to benefit from further refinement.

Map 4 (attached) shows the overall ecological ratings for the intertidal and subtidal areas of the harbours.

### Data Accessibility and Applications

HEIR datasets, along with compiled existing “Valued Fish and Marine Bird Habitat” layers, will be made publicly available through an update to the CRD Harbours Atlas (anticipated September 2026). Data will be accessible as GIS layers and through a web-based mapping interface and may also be shared with partners under data use agreements.

#### Key applications include:

- Coastal and marine spatial planning and management
- Land use planning
- Habitat protection and restoration prioritization
- Climate adaptation (e.g., coastal squeeze, blue carbon)
- Environmental research
- Public education and stewardship initiatives

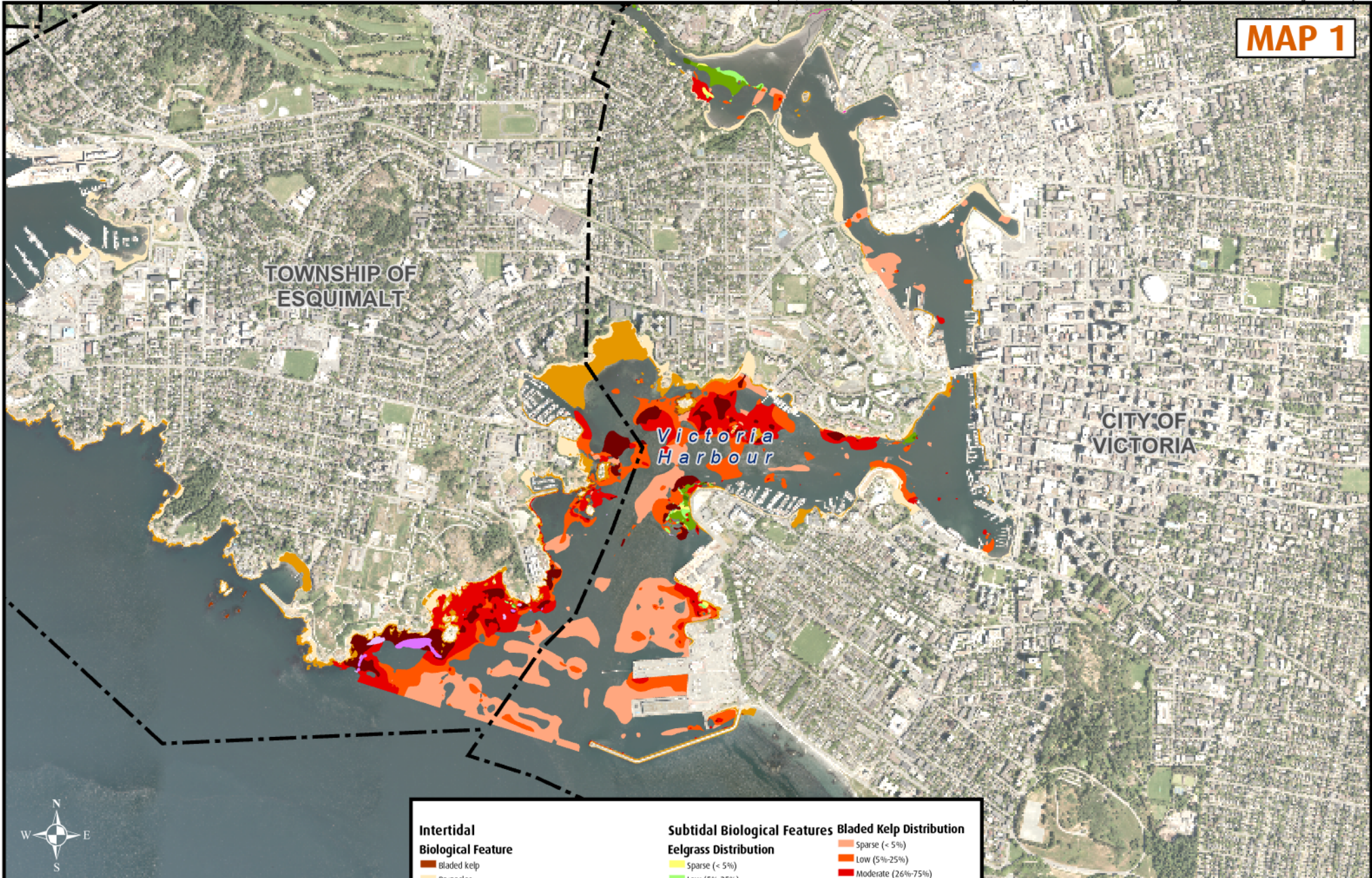
### Limitations

The HEIR dataset should be interpreted with consideration of the following limitations:

- **Spatial coverage constraints:** Subtidal data gaps exist in portions of Esquimalt Harbour
- **Modeling uncertainty:** Interpolated subtidal habitat polygons and some intertidal polygons represent estimated distributions
- **Temporal variability:** Data was collected over multiple seasons and years
- **Detection limitations:** Towed video surveys are influenced by visibility and field conditions, and intertidal mapping is influenced by orthophoto image quality
- **Data resolution:** Not intended for detailed site-level decision-making
- **Backshore data dependence:** Based on existing land cover datasets with varying accuracy



# MAP 1



**CRD**  
Making a difference...together

0 250 500 750 Metres  
Projection: UTM ZONE 10N NAD 83

**Important** This map is for general information purposes only. The Capital Regional District (CRD) makes no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy or completeness of this map or the suitability of the map for any purpose. **This map is not for navigation.** The CRD **will not be liable** for any damage, loss or injury resulting from the use of the map or information on the map and the map may be changed by the CRD at any time.

## Intertidal

### Biological Feature

- Bladed kelp
- Barnacles
- Canopy kelp
- Intertidal turf algae (inc. barnacle, rockweed, red & green algae)
- Salt marsh
- Eelgrass

## Subtidal Biological Features

### Eelgrass Distribution

- Sparse (< 5%)
- Low (5%-25%)
- Moderate (26%-75%)
- Dense (>75%)

### Bull Kelp Distribution

- Sparse (< 5%)
- Low (5%-25%)
- Moderate (26%-75%)
- Dense (>75%)

## Bladed Kelp Distribution

- Sparse (< 5%)
- Low (5%-25%)
- Moderate (26%-75%)
- Dense (>75%)

## Other Boundaries

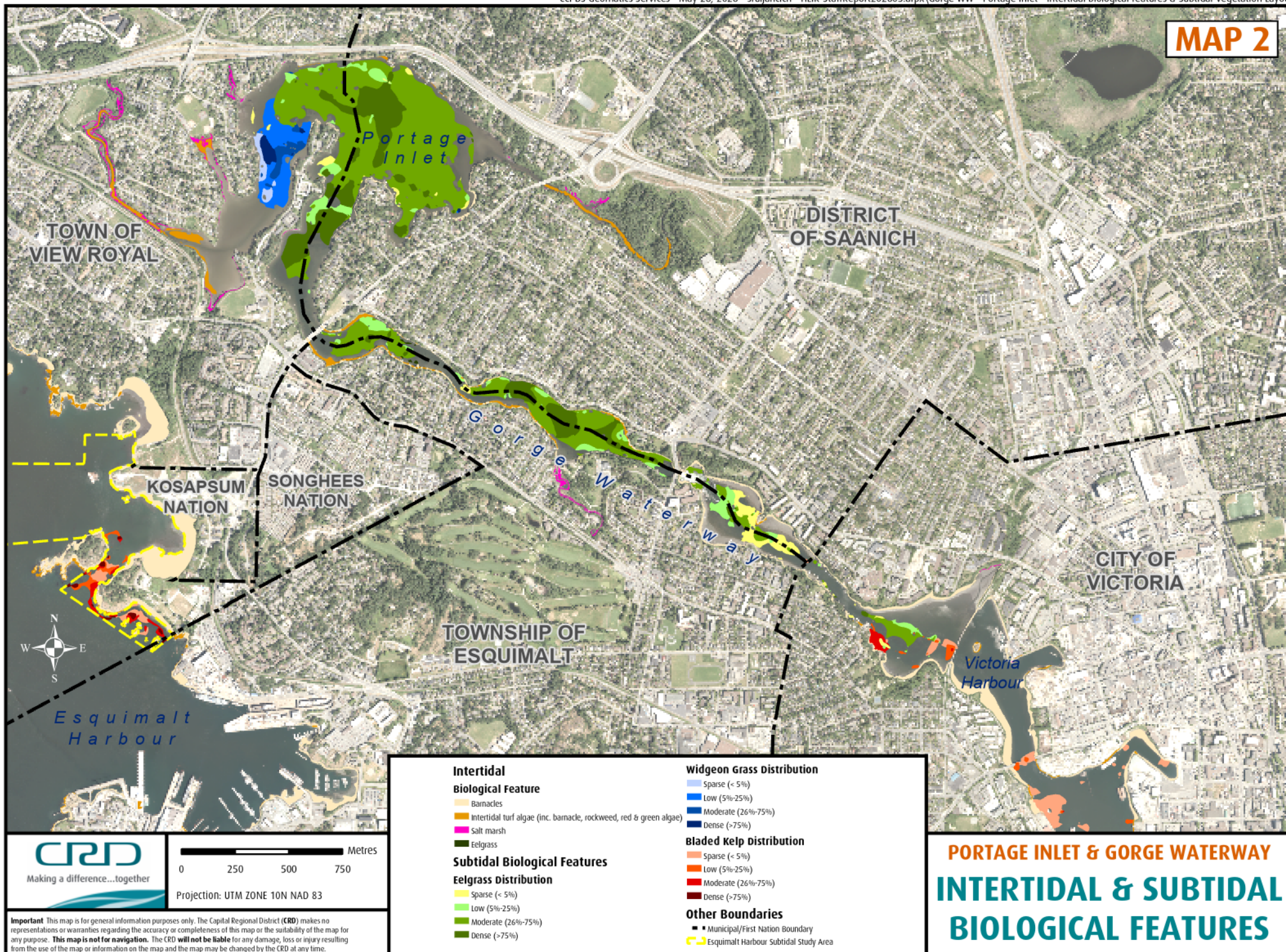
- Municipal/First Nation Boundary

**VICTORIA HARBOUR**

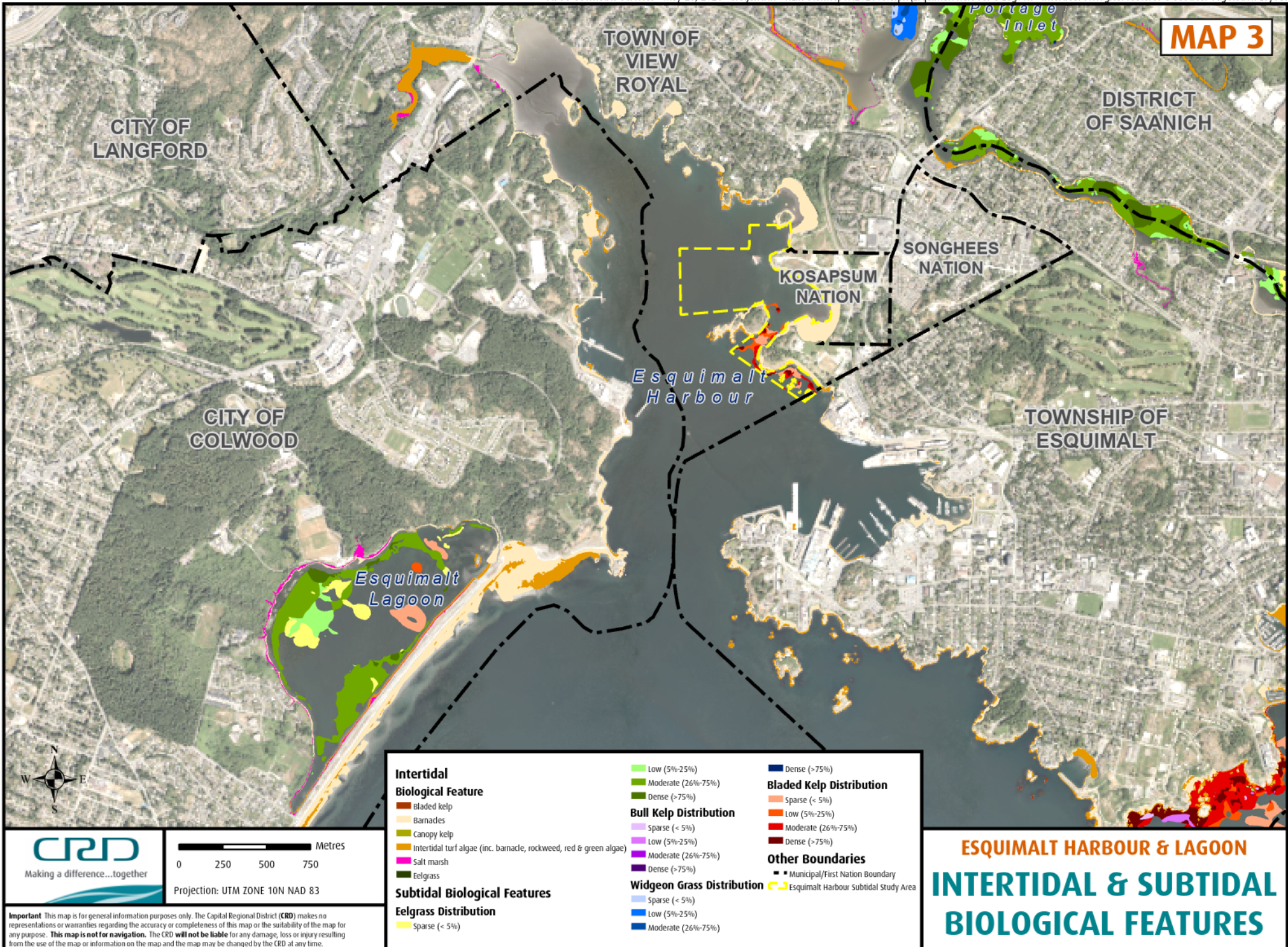
**INTERTIDAL & SUBTIDAL  
BIOLOGICAL FEATURES**



## MAP 2





**MAP 3**



**MAP 4**

**CRD**  
Making a difference...together

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 Metres  
Projection: UTM ZONE 10N NAD 83

#### Intertidal Overall Ecological Rating

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very Low

#### Subtidal Overall Ecological Ratings

- High
- Medium
- Low

**Important** This map is for general information purposes only. The Capital Regional District (CRD) makes no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy or completeness of this map or the suitability of the map for any purpose. **This map is not for navigation.** The CRD will not be liable for any damage, loss or injury resulting from the use of the map or information on the map and the map may be changed by the CRD at any time.

**CORE AREA HARBOURS  
INTERTIDAL & SUBTIDAL  
ECOLOGICAL RATINGS**



**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026**

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**SUBJECT**     **Bowker Creek Blueprint | 2026 Update: A 100-Year Action Plan to Restore the Bowker Creek Watershed**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To present the Bowker Creek Blueprint | 2026 Update: A 100-Year Action Plan to Restore the Bowker Creek Watershed<sup>1</sup> (the 2026 Blueprint Update) for information and demonstrate the value of collaborative urban watershed management in the capital region.

**BACKGROUND**

Bowker Creek is a 9.3 km urban creek (3.5 km of open channels and 5.8 km enclosed in pipes and culverts) that runs through the District of Saanich (Saanich), City of Victoria (Victoria), and the District of Oak Bay (Oak Bay). The Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan (BCWMP) was completed in 2003 to protect and improve the overall health of the creek and its watershed.

Since 2004, the Capital Regional District (CRD) has coordinated the Bowker Creek Initiative (BCI), a unique multi-jurisdictional collaborative that brings together citizens, community organizations, local and regional government, and educational institutions to improve watershed management and stewardship, guide the implementation of BCWMP and protect and enhance the ecological, social, and hydrological health of the Bowker Creek and its watershed. The BCI coordinator position, held by the CRD, is cost-shared by the participating municipalities.

In 2010, the BCI developed the Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-Year Action Plan to Restore the Bowker Creek Watershed<sup>2</sup> (the Blueprint) which was endorsed by Victoria (2011), Saanich (2011), Oak Bay (2012) and School District 61 (2018). It provides governments, land stewards, and community groups with information and guidance to manage and restore the watershed and creek corridor. Recommended actions were identified as short and medium term, other actions were to occur opportunistically or through long-term efforts. The time horizon of the Blueprint recognizes the time required for significant change in an urban environment.

Considerable progress on the Blueprint implementation has been achieved, including restoration of Bowker Creek through Oak Bay High School (2015), completion of a Daylighting Feasibility Study (2020), installation of demonstration rain gardens in each municipality, and acquisition of the Kings Road Community Nature Green Space. New studies and plans have enhanced understanding of the watershed. Significant and complex climate change and social pressures continue to challenge the Bowker Creek watershed; however, they also offer unique opportunities for innovation and collaboration.

Driven by these pressures and accomplishments, the BCI partners collaborated to update the Blueprint. Municipal staff will present the 2026 Blueprint Update to their respective councils this summer. Implementation of the 2026 Blueprint Update will improve climate resiliency, mitigate

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.crd.ca/media/file/bowker-creek-blueprint-2026-update>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.crd.ca/media/file/bowker-creek-blueprint-2011pdf>

flooding, extend greenways, daylight and restore the creek. Bowker Creek is important to the community and the BCI is a model of collaborative urban watershed management in the region.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Environmental and Climate Implications*

Flooding, water quality, and habitat loss are significant concerns for Bowker Creek. Home to more than 33,000 people, the watershed is highly urbanized with residential, commercial and institutional land uses; about 62% of the creek is enclosed in pipes and an estimated 45% of the 1,016-ha watershed is covered with impervious surfaces. Despite its degradation, Bowker Creek offers connections with the natural environment, affords opportunities to daylight and restore the creek, provides a greenway corridor and has the potential to create more vibrant neighbourhoods.

Climate change and its impacts are already a reality for Bowker Creek and its watershed. Hotter summers, extended droughts, and wetter winters are becoming the new normal. Compounded by urban development and the loss of pervious area, these shifting conditions increase the risk of flash flooding, erosion, declining water quality, and biodiversity loss.

The 2026 Blueprint Update defines a plan to daylight the creek, identifies opportunities for stormwater management facilities, and outlines proactive measures to protect the creek and its watershed from the impacts of climate change and development. It will continue to guide the municipalities and community land stewards to manage and restore the Bowker Creek and its watershed. Implementation will safeguard local ecosystem health and biodiversity, protect water quality, mitigate flooding and maintain important green spaces and recreational areas.

### *Intergovernmental and First Nations Implications*

Bowker Creek, known as Thaywun by the local Coast Salish Nations, was once a healthy source of fresh water, food and medicine, and an important transportation route. Today, significant cultural and archeological sites remain. The 2026 Blueprint Update includes an action to “complete an archaeological overview assessment of Bowker Creek in partnership with interested First Nations”. This assessment will help to identify areas with archaeological potential along the proposed daylighting route in advance of land altering projects. Individual projects may require additional archaeological assessment when land altering occurs. Staff from Songhees First Nations reviewed the 2026 Blueprint Update and gave their support for the goals.

Local governments face complex social challenges with constrained resources. The push for new housing, driven by provincial mandates, can place added strain on creeks, tree canopies, and natural areas. Equitable access to urban greenspace is a growing public health issue, especially as climate change accelerates. These pressures highlight the need to incorporate innovative rainwater management techniques into new developments and local streets, including measures that reduce peak stormwater flows, enhance groundwater recharge and treat contaminants in stormwater runoff. Equally important is the need to protect and enhance greenspace as the watershed develops, which will support both public health and climate resiliency goals.

The BCI partners established the 2026 Blueprint Update Working Group, made up of municipal engineering, planning and parks staff and community association representatives, to guide the update and ensure the 2026 Blueprint Update actions reflects the needs, constraints, and



aspirations of their organizations, while working towards the shared goals and vision for Bowker Creek. Municipal staff will present the 2026 Blueprint Update to their respective municipal councils in the coming months.

### *Social Implications*

Considerable public engagement was conducted during the development of the Blueprint in 2009-2010. In 2025, extensive public consultation was conducted to gauge support for the Blueprint, guide prioritization of actions, understand how the community interacts with the watershed and creek, and collect feedback. Engagement was carried out through an online survey, an in-person open house, an online presentation and community walks. Information was also shared by BCI steering committee partners, news media ads, posters, postcards, community email lists and newsletters, the project website, and social media.

Consultation indicated strong public desire to daylight Bowker Creek and restore habitat, mitigate flooding and create a connected greenway. All 2026 Blueprint Update goals are well supported with enhanced livability and resilience to climate change as valued co-benefits by the public. The What We Heard Engagement Report (August 2025) is attached as Appendix A.

### *Financial Implications*

The BCI coordinator position (~1 day/week) is held by the CRD and cost-shared by the participating municipalities. Municipal partners will review the role of the BCI coordinator and determine if the current level of staffing continues to be sufficient.

Implementation of key short-term actions in the 2026 Blueprint Update will require future funding. Working at a watershed scale, the partners may want to consider collaborative funding models because installation of flood mitigation infrastructure in one part of the watershed may provide the most significant benefits to the downstream municipality. For example, the 2026 Blueprint Update envisions large stormwater management facilities within Saanich to reduce the downstream flooding that occurs in Oak Bay. BCI partners will develop creative funding and financing options, that may include adaptation or infrastructure grant opportunities, operational and capital funds, collaborative partnerships, and potentially long-term financing options at a watershed scale.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Bowker Creek Blueprint | 2026 Update: A 100-Year Action Plan to Restore the Bowker Creek Watershed, which defines a daylighting route for the creek, has been updated to identify potential locations for large stormwater management facilities and provide watershed-wide and reach-specific actions to protect the watershed and creek. Implementation will improve climate resiliency, mitigate flooding, and improve livability as the creek is daylighted and restored and greenways are extended bringing wildlife corridors and biodiversity into the community.

Bowker Creek Initiative (BCI) is a model of collaborative urban watershed management in the region and ongoing collaboration among the BCI partners will be required to capitalize on re-development opportunities and create watershed-scale funding mechanisms. The Bowker Creek Blueprint | 2026 Update: A 100-Year Action Plan to Restore the Bowker Creek Watershed is presented to the CRD Board for information and will be presented to the District of Saanich, the City of Victoria, and the District of Oak Bay councils for consideration this summer.

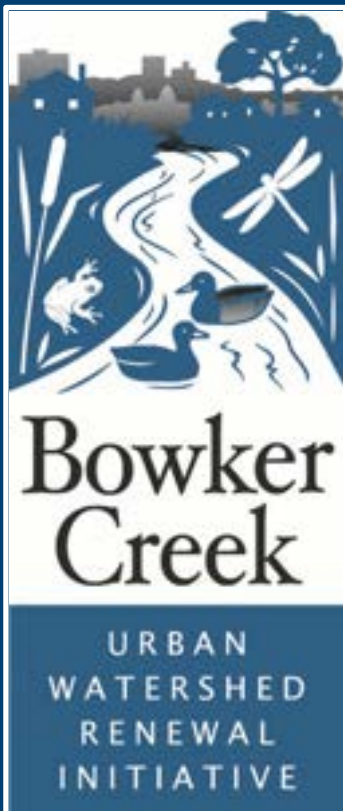
**RECOMMENDATION**

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

|               |                                                                                                   |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Submitted by: | Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Acting General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services |
| Concurrence:  | Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer                                       |

**ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: What We Heard Report - Bowker Creek Blueprint Update (August 2025)



## What We Heard Report

Bowker Creek Blueprint Update  
August 2025



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## Brought to you by the Bowker Creek Initiative

The Bowker Creek Initiative (BCI) is a collaborative effort between people, organizations, and local governments to protect and enhance the ecological, social and economic health of the Bowker Creek watershed. The initiative was established because of concerns about flooding, pollution, and the degraded condition of Bowker creek.

This report was prepared by ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Capital Regional District (CRD) through the Bowker Creek Initiative (BCI) is updating the Bowker Creek Blueprint, a 100-year action plan aimed at protecting and restoring the Bowker Creek Watershed. This report captures the key messages, ideas, and concerns shared by community members engaged as part of the update process. The input from 393 participants combined with the technical knowledge from municipal staff and final review with the Blueprint project working group will help shape the finalization of the Bowker Creek Blueprint and 100-year action plan.

### Key Themes

- **Activities and Connectivity:** Most participants visit Bowker Creek and the Bowker Creek watershed primarily for walking, running, biking, relaxing, and enjoying nature. Living nearby is also a significant factor connecting participants to the area.
- **Popular Locations:** The Bowker Creek Walkway in Oak Bay and the Oak Bay Recreation Centre are the most visited places in the watershed by participants. Oak Bay High School and Hillside Centre Mall are also popular.
- **Information Preferences:** Most participants showed a strong preference for information about native trees and plants, preventing pollution, and watershed stewardship.
- **Education Methods:** Most participants considered signage as the most useful form of education about the watershed, followed by volunteer opportunities for restoration and awareness campaigns.
- **Blueprint Goals:** All Blueprint goals are important to participants.
- **Co-benefits of a Healthy Watershed:** Increased community greenways and recreational space, enhanced livability, and resilience to climate change are the most valued co-benefits by most participants.
- **Environmental Actions:** Most participants said planting native trees and plants, removing invasive species, daylighting, and implementing green stormwater infrastructure and low-impact development are the preferred environmental actions.
- **Concerns:** Wildlife habitat loss and water pollution are the greatest concerns, followed by construction and development impacts.

### Next Steps

The Bowker Creek Blueprint Update Working Group will review all feedback gathered through this report and consider how it can be incorporated into the final plan. For more information, visit <http://www.bowkercreekinitiative.ca>.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Bowker Creek Initiative (BCI) is updating the Bowker Creek Blueprint, a 100-year action plan to protect and restore the Bowker Creek Watershed. In 2011, the Bowker Creek Blueprint was created to revitalize the Bowker Creek watershed. The Blueprint identified a series of actions that would lead to improvements in the watershed, the creek, habitat, and community. The update will revise planned actions in the Blueprint based on accomplishments, new information, and current pressures facing the watershed. The updated Blueprint will continue to guide municipalities, the community, and other land stewards in managing and restoring the watershed and creek corridor into the future.

## ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

As part of the final update for the project, we invited community input through both an online presentation and an in-person open house. In total, we heard from 393 participants.

### Events:

#### In-Person Open House

- 📅 June 10, 2025
- 🕒 3:00 – 7:00 PM
- 📍 Na'tsa'maht, Lansdowne Campus – Camosun College

#### Virtual Information Session

- 📅 June 12, 2025
- 🕒 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- 💻 Online Presentation

#### In-Person Walking Tour

- 📅 June 15, 2025
- 🕒 10:30 AM - Noon
- 👣 Walking Tour – Lower Watershed

#### In-Person Walking Tour

- 📅 June 17, 2025
- 🕒 6:30 – 8:00 PM
- 👣 Walking Tour – Upper Watershed





## How We Engaged and Shared Information

Engagement was carried out through an online survey, an in-person open house, online presentation and a community walk. Information was also shared by BCI steering committee partners, news media ads, posters, postcards, community email lists and newsletters, the project website, and social media.

### Promotional efforts

We shared using the following methods:



**59,090 views** on Facebook and Instagram posts



**403 clicks** from posts to visit project webpage



**2500 postcards** distributed at community events (i.e. Fernfest etc.)



**2 news ads** placed in Black Press and Times Colonist each



**55 posters** throughout the community



**Community groups shared information** over internal email and newsletter distribution lists



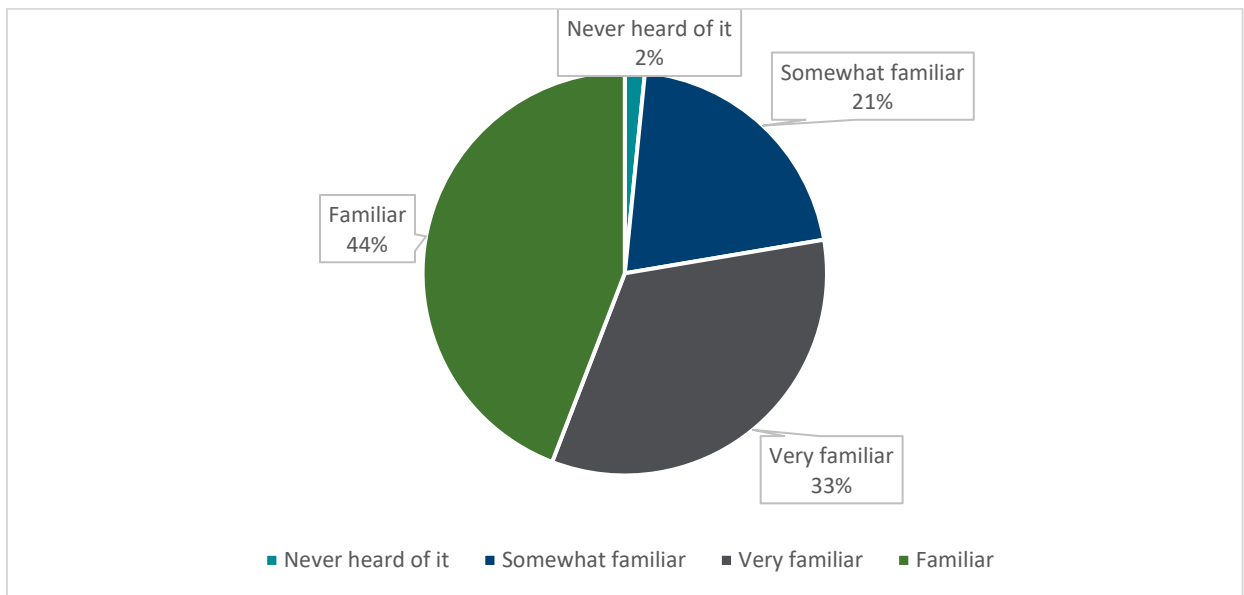
## WHAT WE HEARD

### Online Survey

The following section reflects what we heard from 188 participants in the online survey.

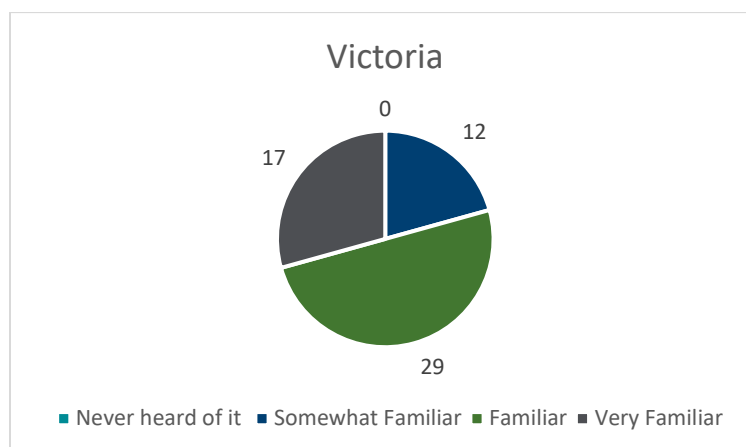
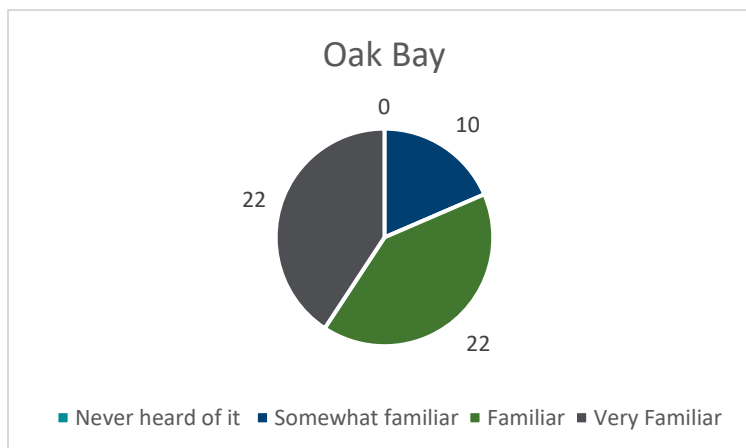
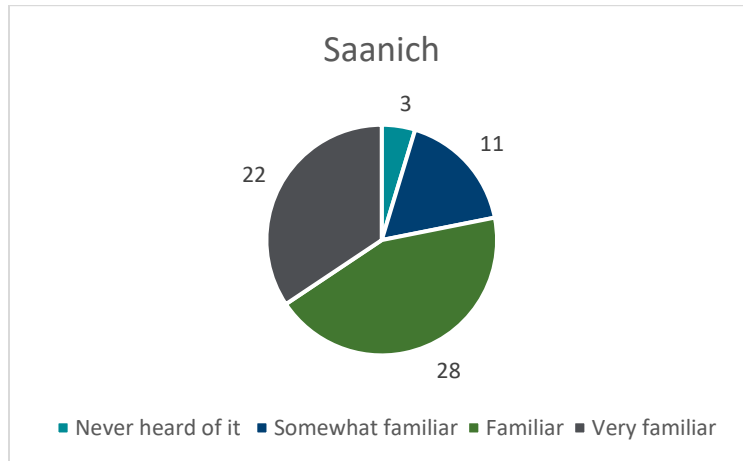
#### 1. What is your knowledge of Bowker Creek and the Bowker Creek watershed?

Most participants were familiar with Bowker Creek and the watershed.



188 responses

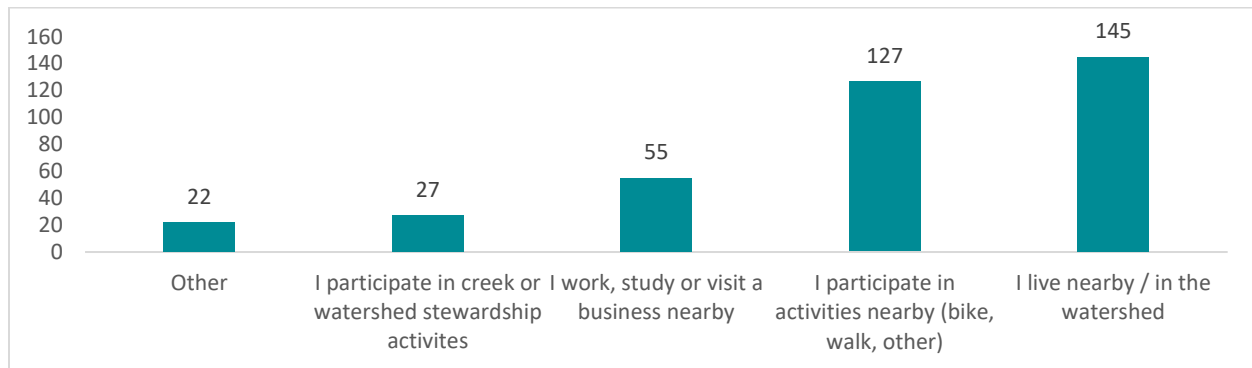
Here's how each municipality responded to Question 1, as shown in the charts below. Responses are numbers and not reflected as percentages.





## 2. What is your connection to Bowker Creek or the Bowker Creek Watershed?

Most participants said they live near the watershed and participate in activities nearby.



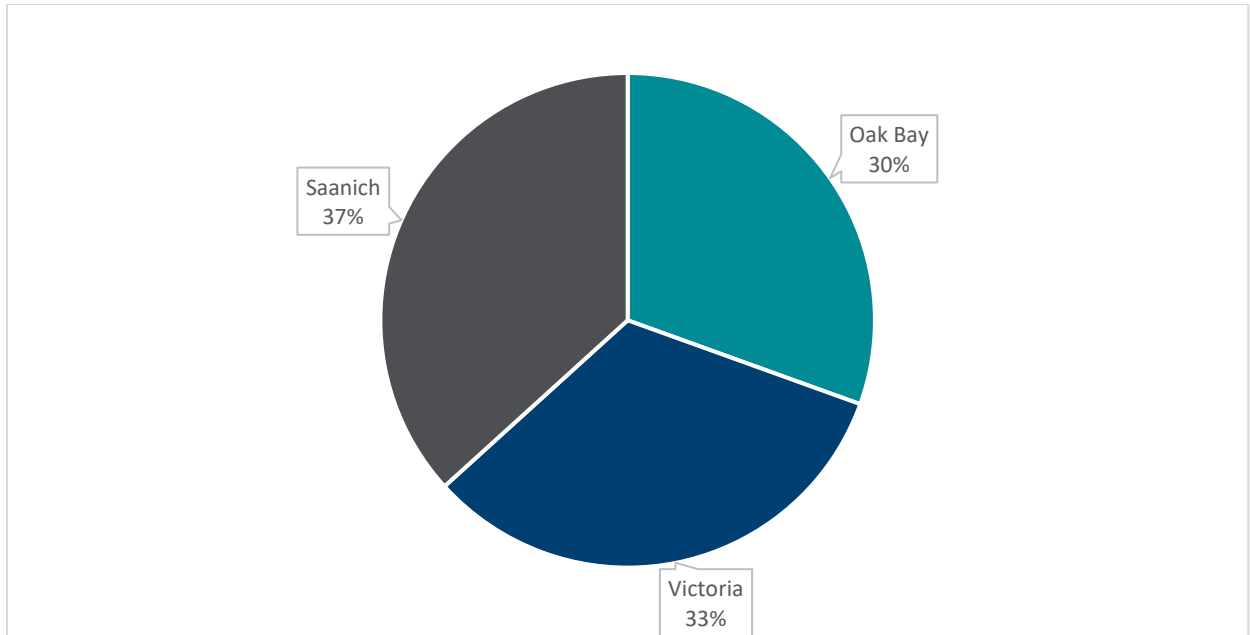
188 Responses

### OTHER:

- **Personal Connection to Place**
  - Born in Victoria.
  - Mount Tolmie is my mountain.
  - Bowker Creek is my river.
  - Grew up here, backing onto Bowker Creek.
  - Lived near the creek from 1956–1975.
  - My family has lived in Oak Bay for over 50 years.
- **Lifelong Learning & Research**
  - Studied Bowker Creek in elementary through university (Geography at UVic).
  - Conducted university research on the creek and watershed.
  - Spent 10 years at UVic, including work related to the creek.
- **Stewardship & Advocacy**
  - Volunteer fundraiser and social media contributor.
  - Advocate for daylighting and restoring orphaned waterways.
  - Participated in the first 100-year plan for Bowker Creek.
  - Worked to halt interference with the creek's wellbeing.

### 3. If you live nearby / in the watershed, which area do you live in?

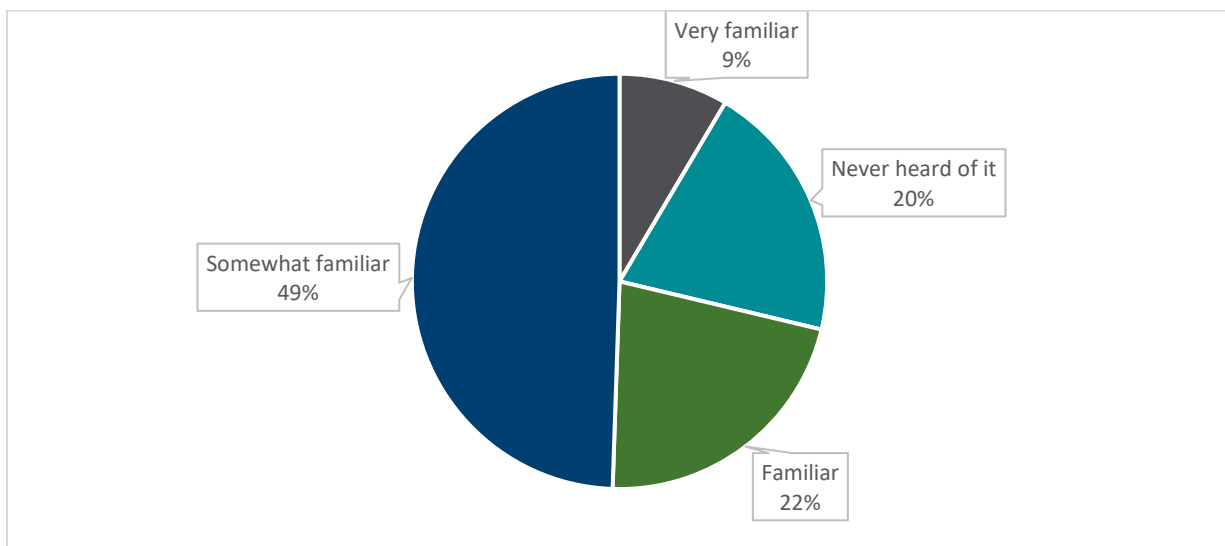
One third of participants were either from Saanich, Victoria or Oak Bay.



177 responses

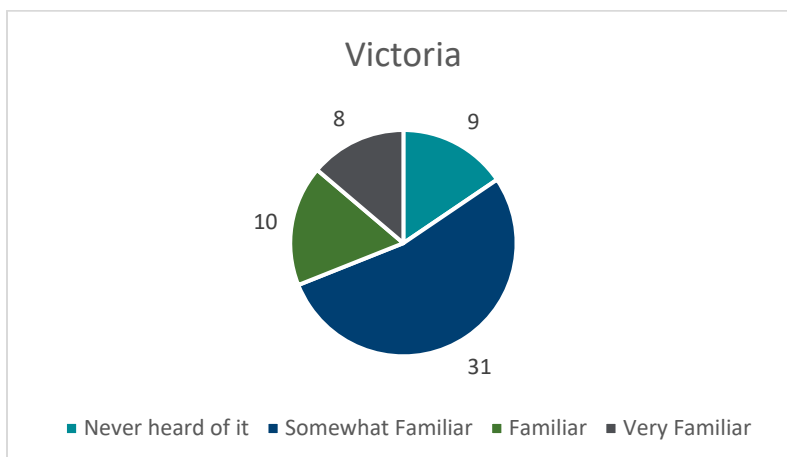
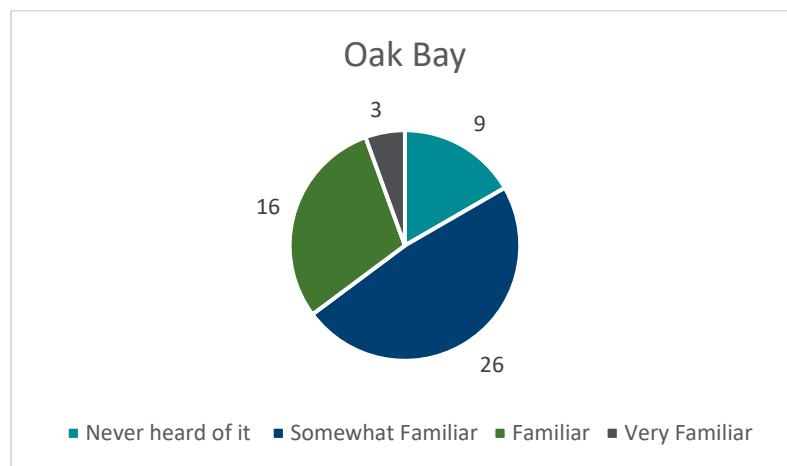
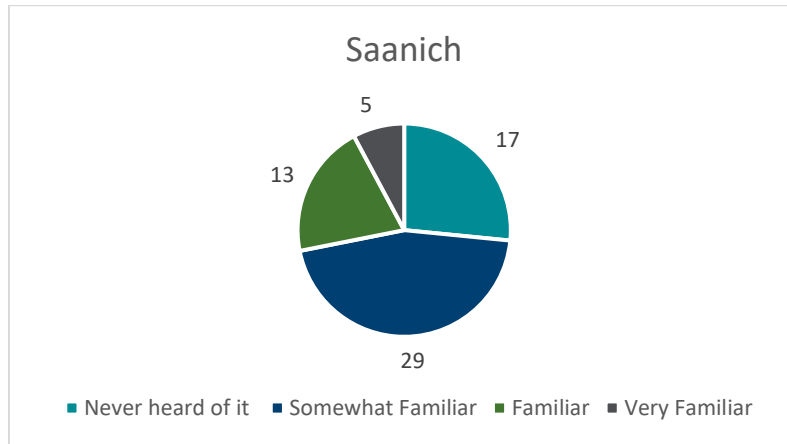
### 4. What is your knowledge of the Bowker Creek Blueprint – a 100-year Plan to Restore Bowker Creek Watershed?

More than 3/4 of participants were at least somewhat familiar with the Bowker Creek Blueprint – a 100-year Plan to restore Bowker Creek watershed.



188 responses

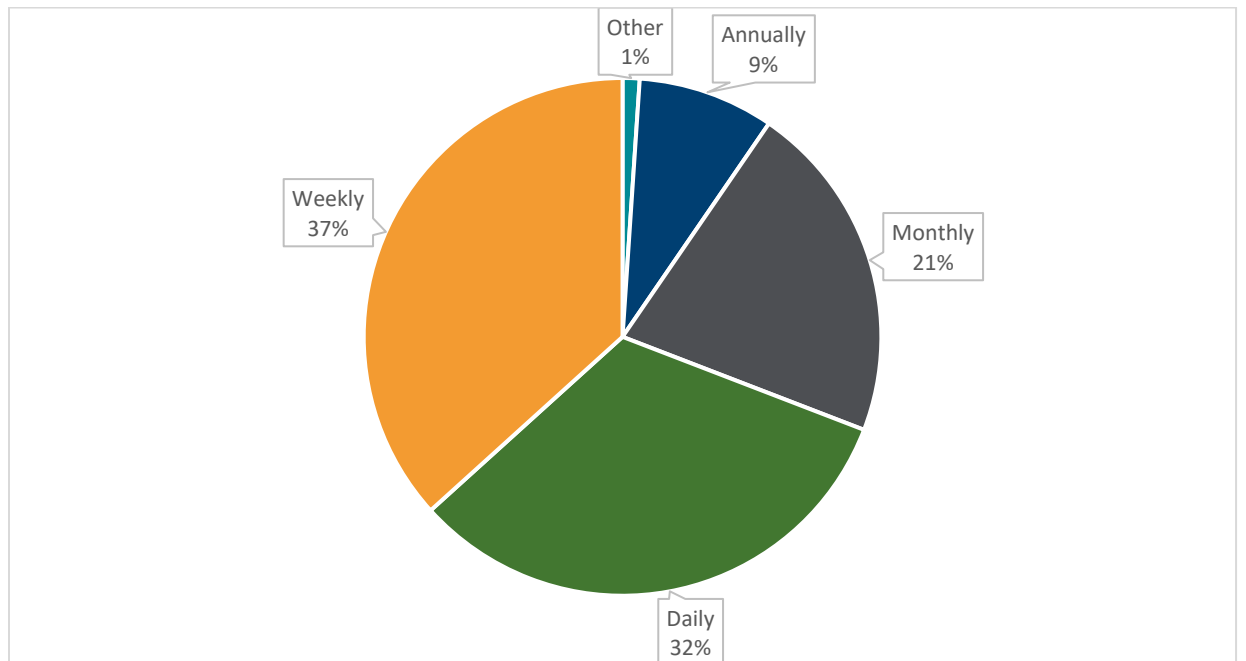
Here's how each municipality responded to Question 4, as shown in the charts below. Responses are numbers and not reflected as percentages.





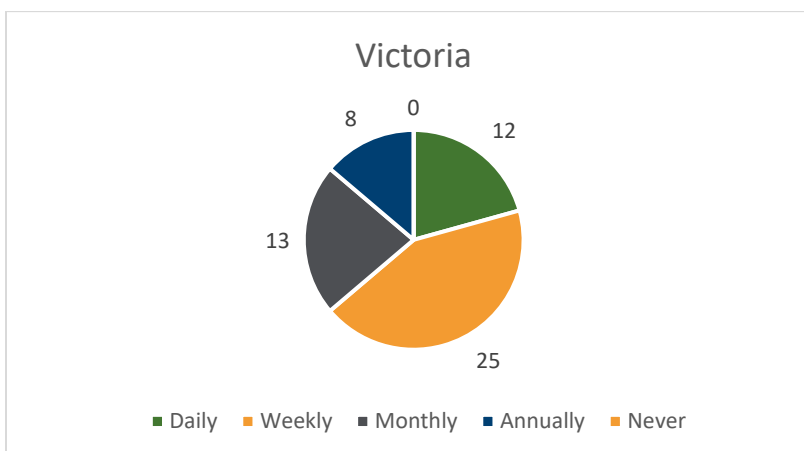
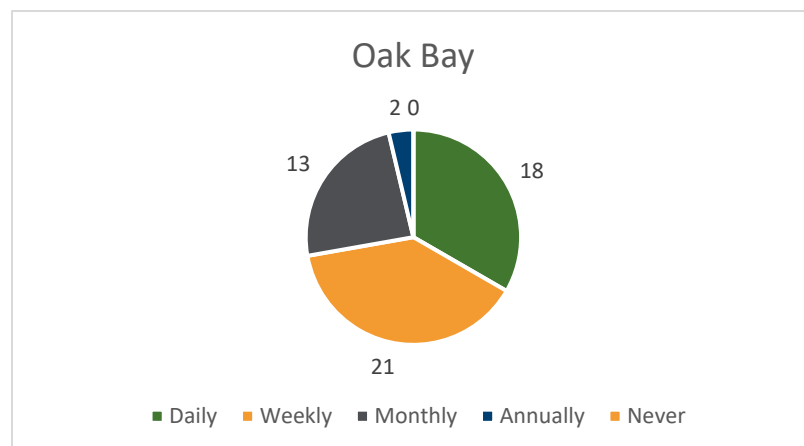
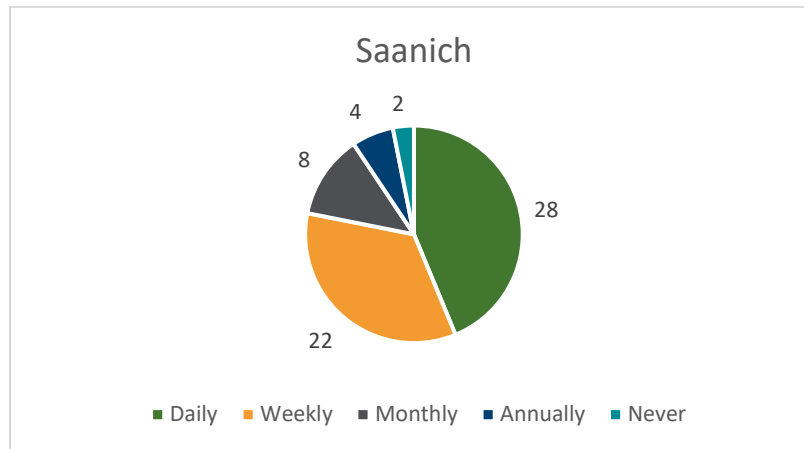
### 5. How often do you visit Bowker Creek or the Bowker Creek watershed?

Most participants visit Bowker Creek or the Bowker Creek watershed either daily (32%) or weekly (37%).



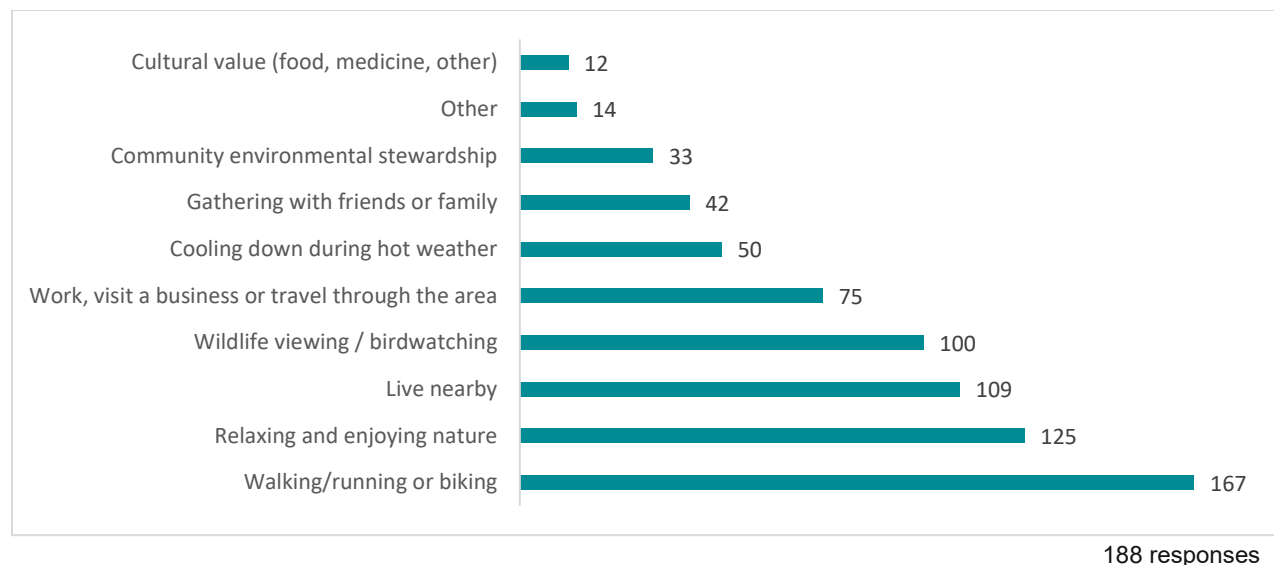
188 responses

Here's how each municipality responded to Question 5, as shown in the charts below. Responses are numbers and not reflected as percentages.



## 6. What activities do you participate in when you visit Bowker Creek or the Bowker Creek watershed?

Most participants said *walking, running or biking* were the primary ways they visited Bowker Creek and/or the Bowker Creek watershed followed by *relaxing and enjoying nature*. *Living nearby* was the third most mentioned activity that participants said connected them to the area.



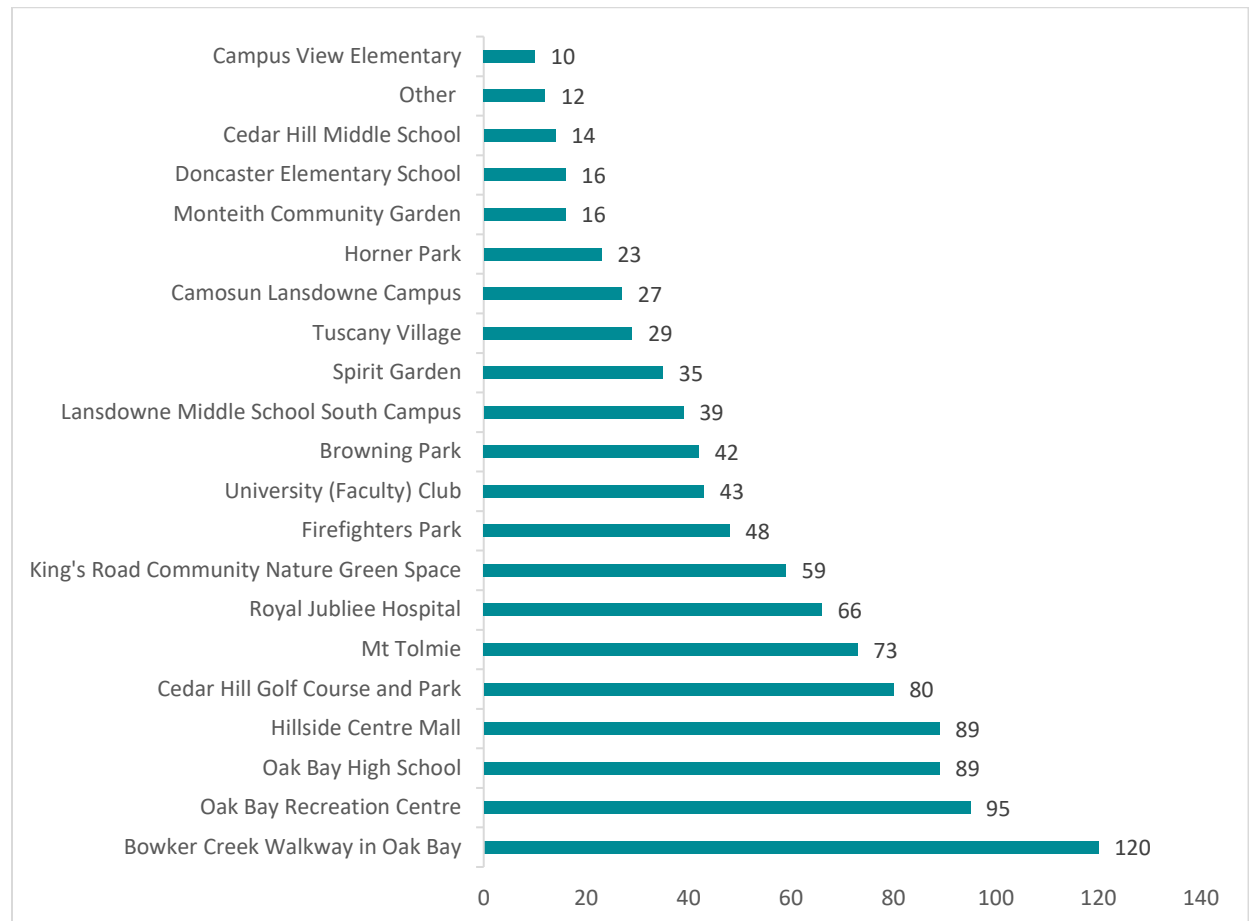
### OTHER:

- **Recreation & Community Life**
  - Envision the creek as a space for sports, dog walking, and family time.
  - A restored watershed could be a safe, vibrant route for students, like our child walking to Oak Bay High.
  - Attended community events like the Bowker Creek art festival.
- **Daily Connection**
  - Bike commute from Gordon Head to Jubilee via UVic trails and creekside paths.
  - Visits to relatives at the hospital often include time near the creek.
- **Personal History & Property**
  - Grew up on Doncaster, witnessing many changes to the creek.
  - Own property that borders Bowker Creek.
  - Occasionally revisit Monteith Street and Cranmore to reflect on childhood memories.
- **Observation & Documentation**
  - Photographing the creek and watershed over time.
  - Lived and worked in the watershed for many years.
- **Stewardship & Vision**
  - Live in the Mount Tolmie section, where the creek is buried—hope to see it daylighted.
  - Interested in environmental projects across Greater Victoria.



## 7. Where in the Bowker Creek watershed do you visit?

Most participants said the Bowker Creek Walkway in Oak Bay, followed by the Oak Bay Recreation Centre. Oak Bay High School and Hillside Centre Mall which were tied as the third most visited places in the watershed.



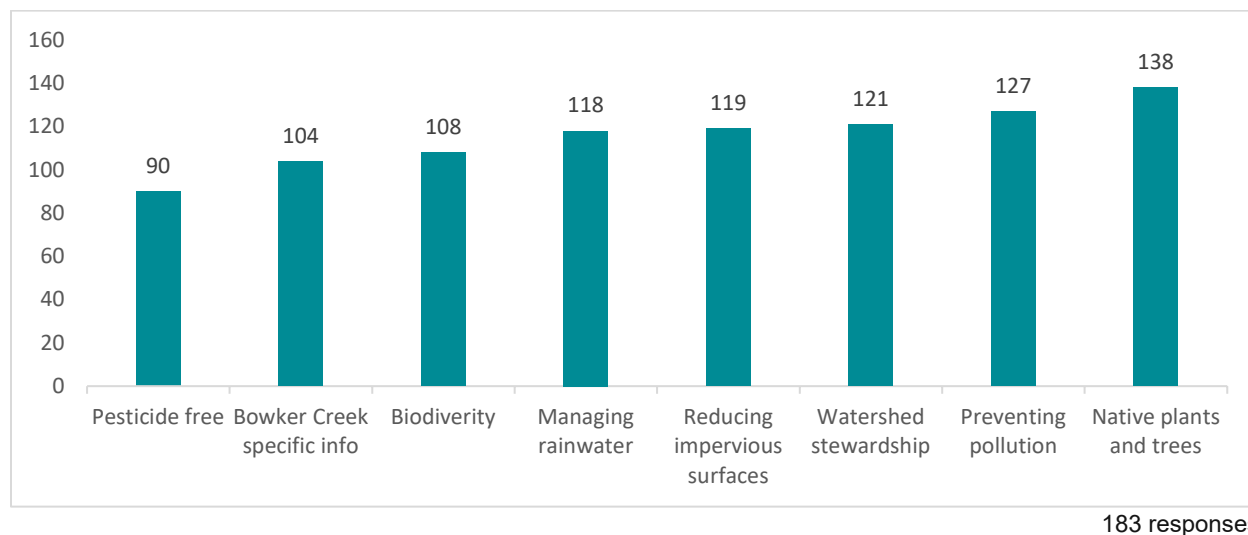
187 responses

### OTHER:

- Willows Beach
- Kings Rd Community Nature Space
- Doncaster Greenway
- Summit Park
- Shelbourne street, Cedar Hill Road, McKenzie Avenue
- Near 3900 Shelbourne
- Estuary
- UVic

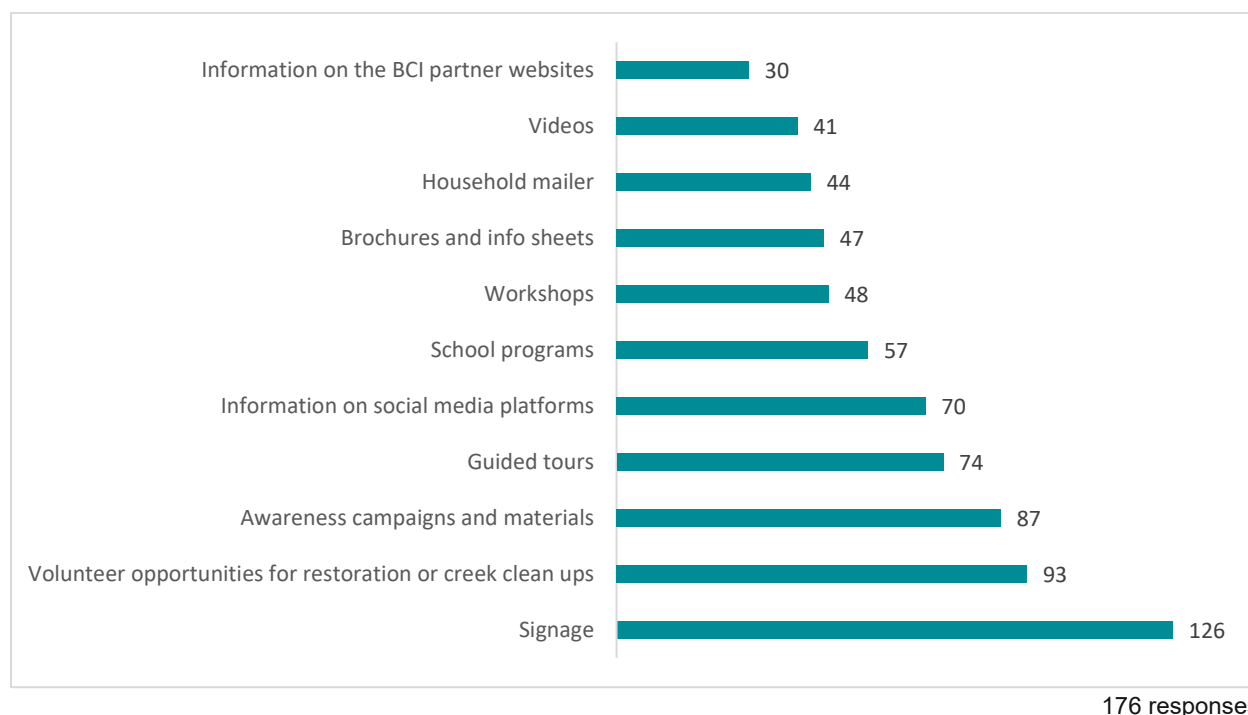
## 8. What information would you find helpful in regard to the Bowker Creek watershed?

The options for information topics were all very popular among participants, though many participants preferred information about native trees and plants, preventing pollution, and watershed stewardship.



## 9. What types of educational programs would be useful to you?

Most participants said signage would be the most useful form of education for them about the watershed, followed by volunteer opportunities for restoration of creek clean ups, and awareness campaigns.



## 10. Are there specific areas of the Bowker Creek watershed that are important to you?

Below is a summary of the most important areas mentioned by 97 participants.

Most participants said the entirety of the watershed was important to them. Many noted that it is an integrated ecological system, and they cannot put more value on one area over another.

### Parks, Trails, and Green Spaces

- Bowker Creek Park
- Bowker Creek Walkway (Oak Bay)
- Spirit Garden
- Spirit Park
- Browning Park
- Mount Tolmie (including Mt Tolmie area references)
- Firefighter's Park / Firefighters Park on Monterey Ave
- Doncaster Greenway
- Kings Road Community Nature Space
- BC Hydro Lands
- Parks behind Oak Bay High School and trail to Firefighters Park
- Bowker at Bee project
- Bowker Creek green space (general)
- Estuary and Oak Bay reaches of Bowker Creek

### Schools and Educational Areas

- Oak Bay High School
- Lansdowne Middle School (North & South Campus)
- Lansdowne Elementary School
- Richmond Elementary
- Glenlyon School
- UVic Alumni Chip Trail
- University of Victoria (UVic)

### Health and Community Facilities

- Royal Jubilee Hospital
- Cancer Centre
- Oak Bay Recreation Centre
- Cedar Hill Recreation Centre

### Roads, Streets, and Corridors

- Shelbourne Street / Shelbourne Valley
- McKenzie Avenue
- Fort Street



- Bee Street
- Foul Bay Road
- Monteith Street
- Monterey Avenue
- Landsdowne South stretch to Jubilee Hospital

## Commercial and Development Zones

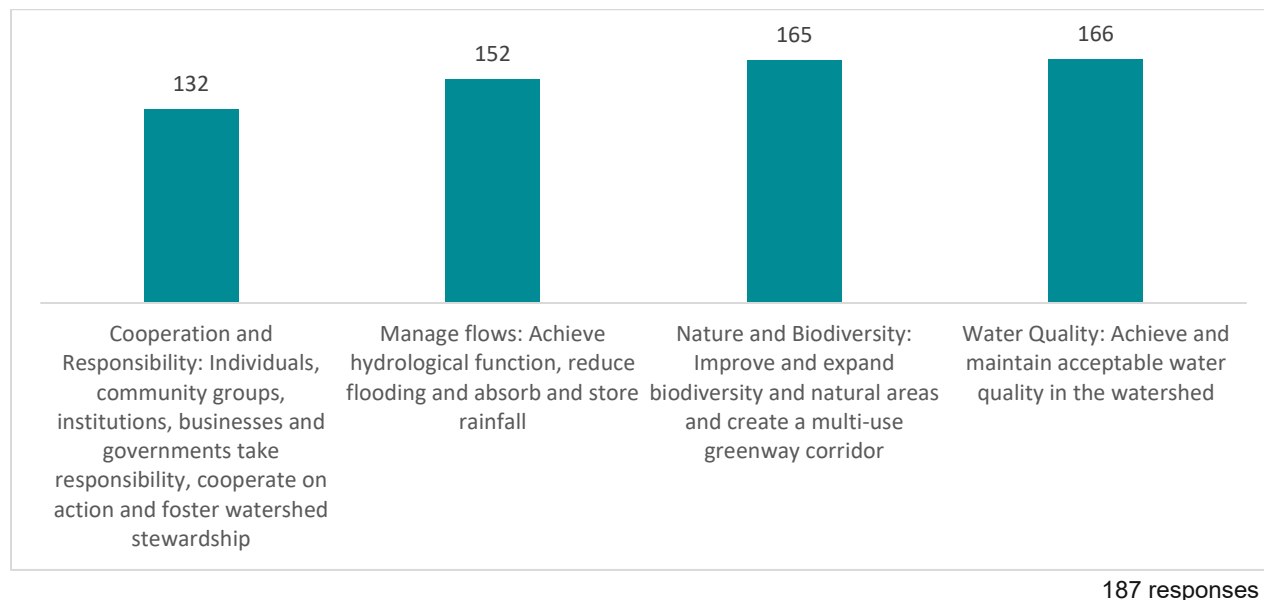
- Hillside Mall
- Shelbourne near Hillside Mall
- Shelbourne Development Area

## Other Comments (Concerns, Ideas, and General Statements)

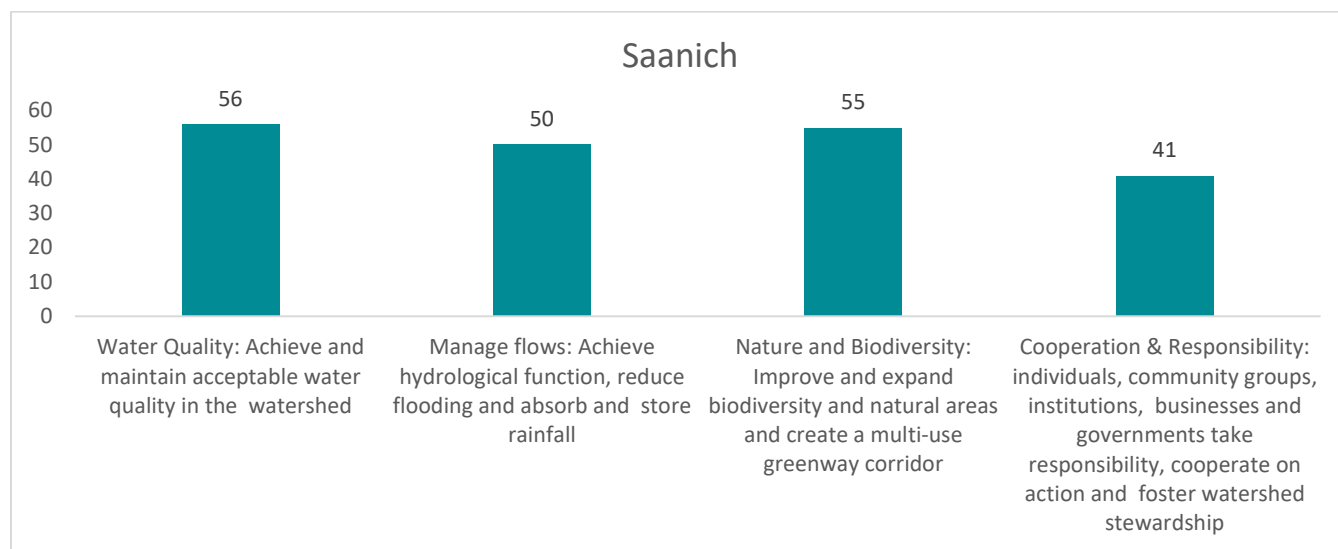
- Concern for the area directly by their property
- “All areas” or “all of it” responses — emphasis on interconnectedness of watershed
- Neighbourhoods with flooding issues
- Unclear about “multi-use greenway corridor” — concern about overdevelopment of trails
- Importance of inaccessible portions (behind fences, private property)
- Saanich areas designated for large-scale development
- Importance of salmon restoration
- Need for more daylighting of the creek
- Calls for interpretive signage and public education about the watershed
- Desire to restore appropriated shoreline for public access
- Interest in history and cultural significance of the watershed
- Awareness-raising about watershed protection
- Protection of native forest cover, especially Garry oak habitat
- Concern over destruction of wildlife habitats (e.g., hummingbird nests in Kings Park)
- Mention of too much “logging” in natural areas
- Excitement for restoration work in community green spaces
- Concerns about cyclists in pedestrian-heavy areas
- Concern over high-rise development near creek beds
- Negative impact of artificial turf replacement in green spaces
- Issues with encased or channelized sections of creek
- Desire for safe, well-marked multi-use trails (including in winter)
- Requests for flood mitigation projects
- Desire for picnic lawns and social spaces near creek
- Need for stronger community involvement in restoration efforts
- Calls for reduced hard surfaces and increased green buffers
- Interest in integrating creek restoration into educational programs
- Concern over lack of remediation in certain planned restoration sites

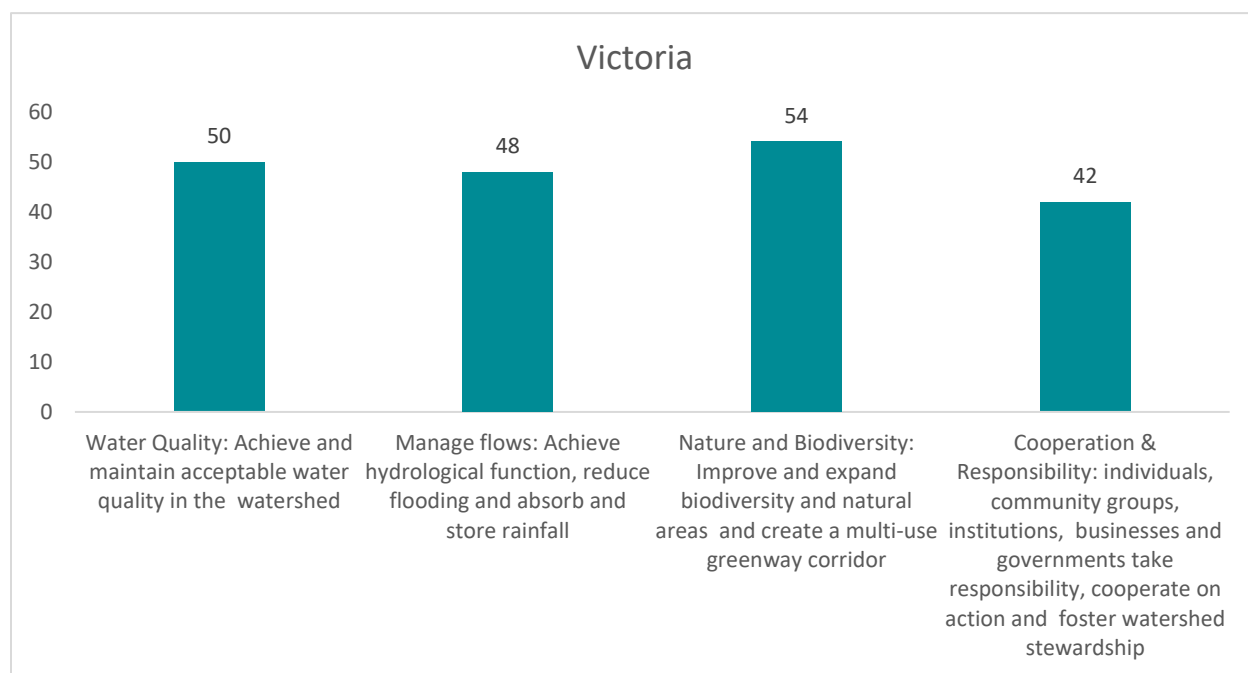
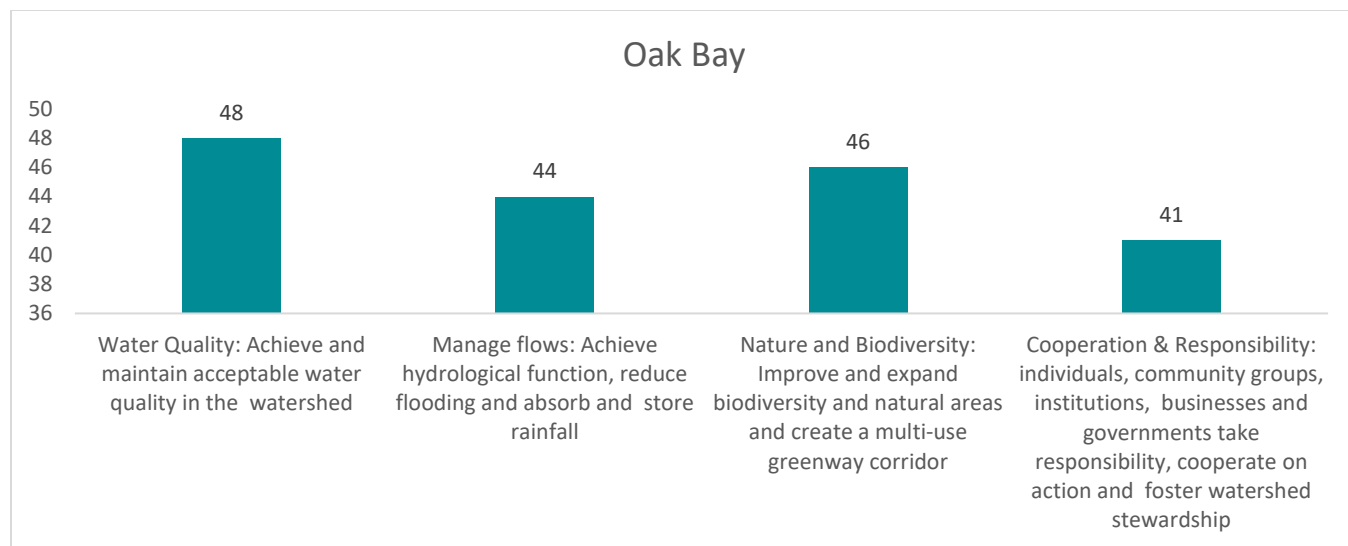
## 11. The Bowker Creek Blueprint is focused on the following goals, what is important to you?

Most participants said that all goals are important to them.



Here's how each municipality responded to Question 11, as shown in the charts below. Responses are numbers and not reflected as percentages.

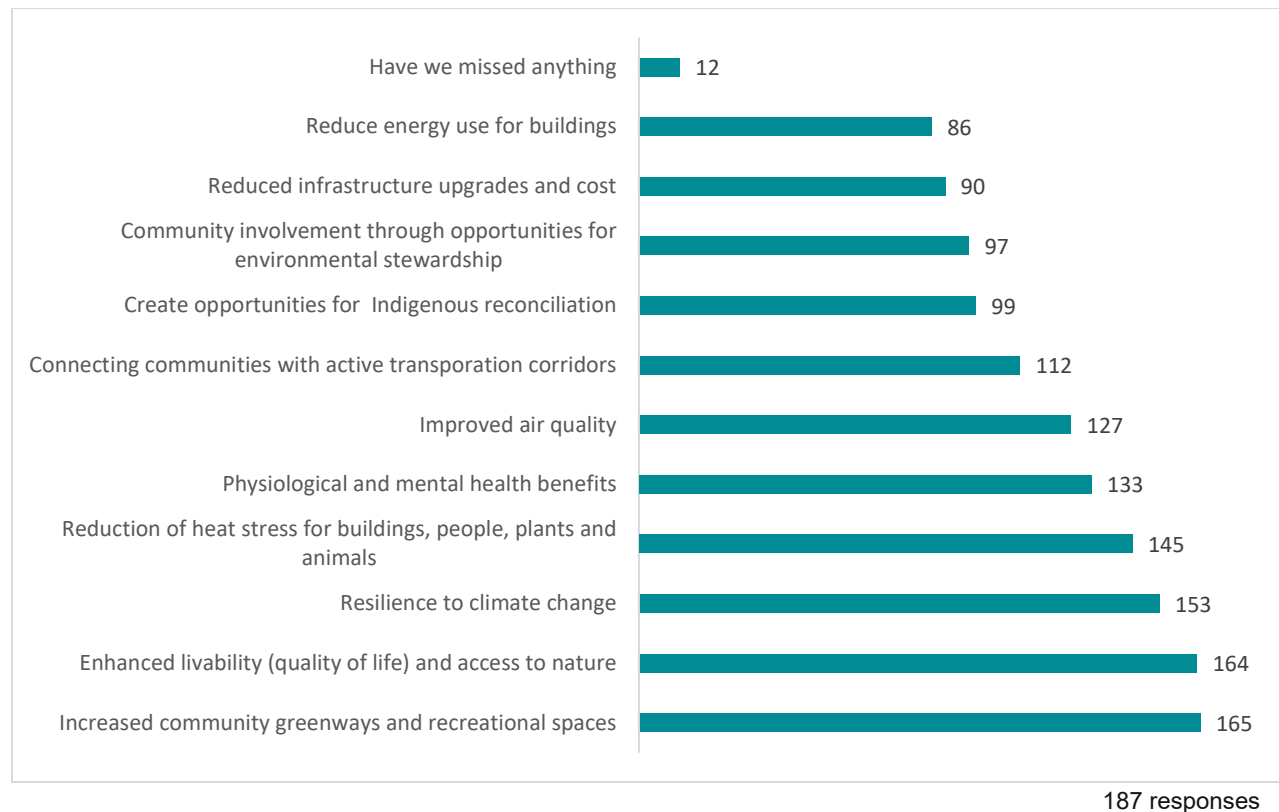




## 12. A healthy watershed can also achieve many other environmental, social and economic benefits; what is important to you?

Most participants shared that increased community greenways and recreational space was the most important co-benefit of a healthy watershed identified, followed immediately by enhanced livability (quality of life) and access to nature. Resilience to climate change was the third most valued co-benefit of a healthy watershed.





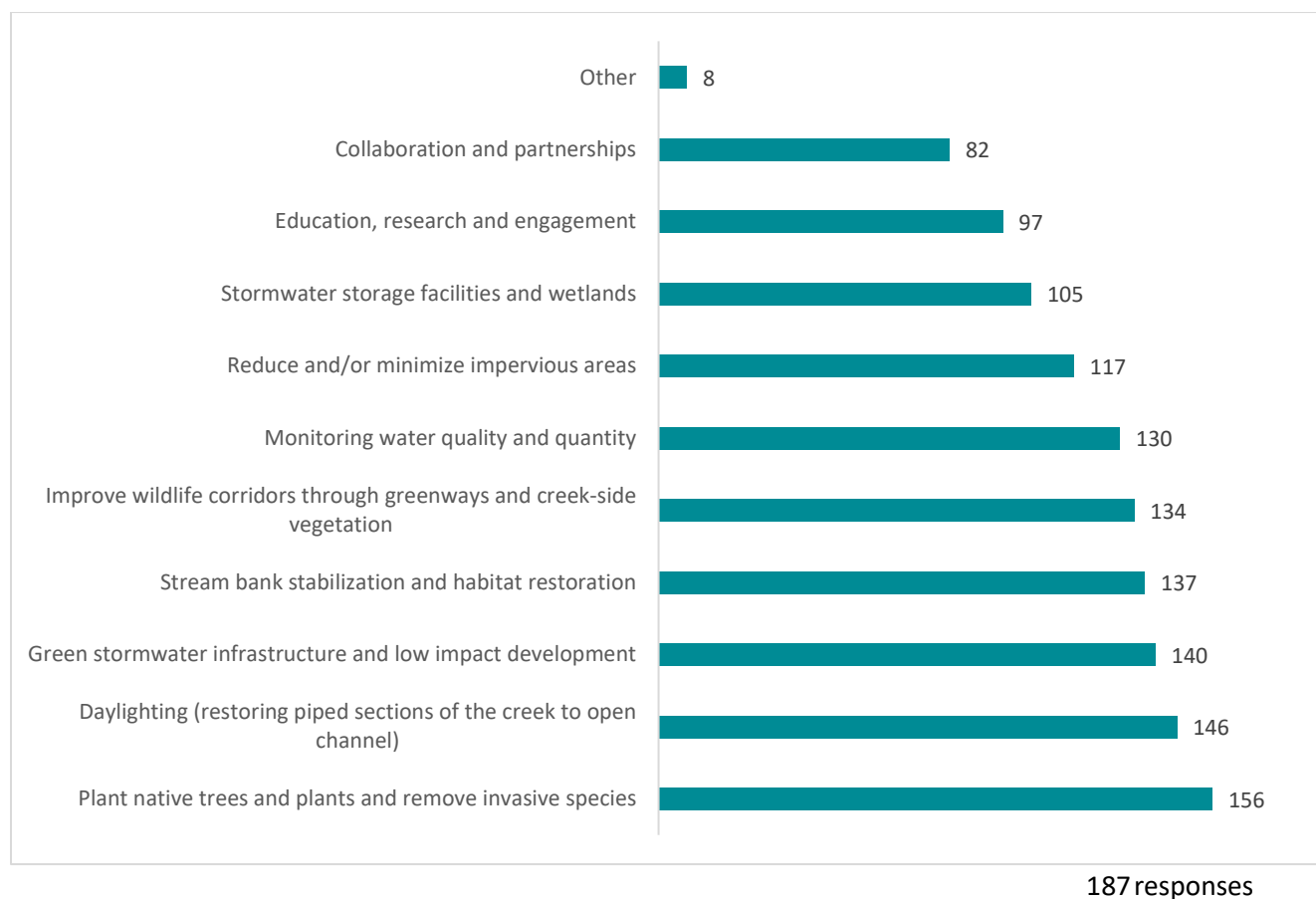
#### HAVE WE MISSED ANYTHING:

- **Salmon Restoration & Cultural Connection**
  - Restore Bowker Creek to support the return of salmon, aiming for pre-contact population levels.
  - Bring salmon into the heart of urban municipalities, reconnecting people with these iconic species.
- **Biodiversity & Habitat**
  - Create a biodiversity corridor linking ecosystems across and beyond the watershed.
  - Enhance habitat connectivity through daylighting and riparian restoration.
  - Support urban natural spaces for birds, insects, and other wildlife.
  - Increase and maintain local biodiversity to build ecological resilience.
  - Address invasive species in channelized areas to protect native life.
- **Ecological & Educational Value**
  - Develop wildlife migration corridors and educational opportunities.
  - Restore riparian zones for plants and animals, including fish.
- **Infrastructure & Policy**
  - Free Bowker Creek from Shelbourne Street to improve flow and habitat.
  - Reconsider past infrastructure—some wish to return to ditch systems for ecological benefit.

- Community & Development
  - Balance economic development and housing with creek health and ecosystem integrity.

**13. There are various approaches to achieve a healthy watershed, indicate which approaches are important to you.**

Most participants selected plant native trees and plants and remove invasive species, daylighting, and green stormwater infrastructure and low impact development.



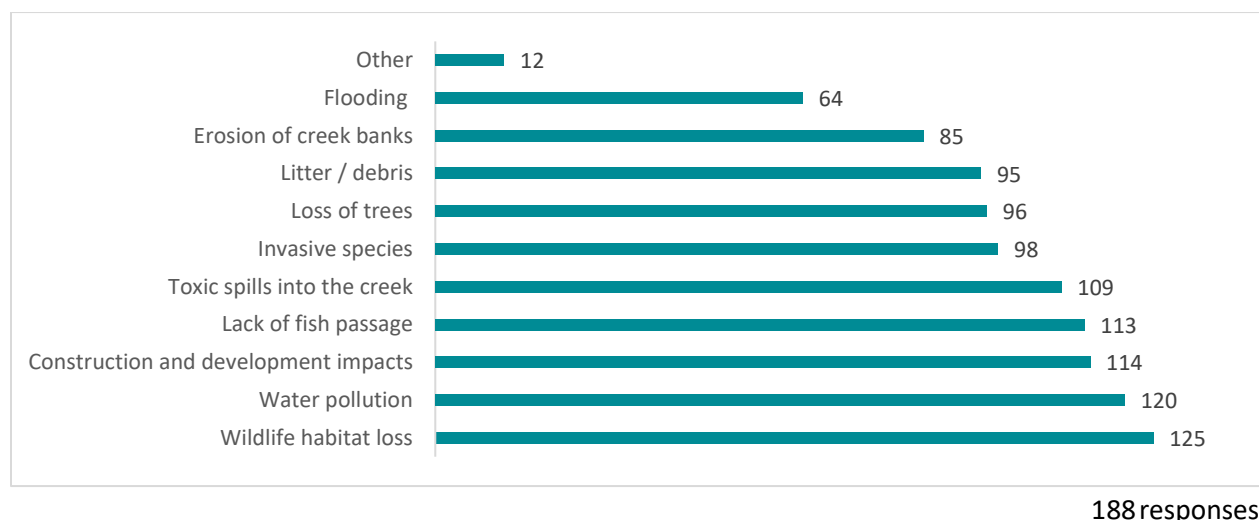
**OTHER:**

- Watershed Restoration Priorities
  - Flood mitigation in Newton and Kings Road is a top priority—daylighting is key.
  - Support restoring salmonid populations to drive improvements in water quality, flow, and habitat.
  - Emphasize wetland restoration for ecosystem diversity and resilience.
- Groundwater & Aquifer Protection
  - Prioritize care for the glacial drumlin aquifer under UVic and Gordon Head.

- Protect other glacial gravel zones like the south slope of Mt. Tolmie to ensure year-round cool water flow to Bowker Creek and beyond.
- Development Concerns
  - Oppose large-scale construction (e.g., 6-storey, 101-unit building on Richmond Rd) that threatens flood risk, tree cover, and neighbourhood character.
- Community & Cultural Engagement
  - Encourage arts-based watershed celebrations (e.g., water-themed parade on Shelbourne & McKenzie).
  - Explore ways to link creek restoration with reconciliation efforts.
- Vision & Values
  - Advocate for a return to natural drainage systems like ditches.
  - Support any approach that leads to less flood risk and greater ecological integrity.

#### 14. What are you most concerned about in Bowker Creek Watershed?

Most participants thought that wildlife habitat loss and water pollution were the greatest concern. Construction and development impacts were the third greatest concern.



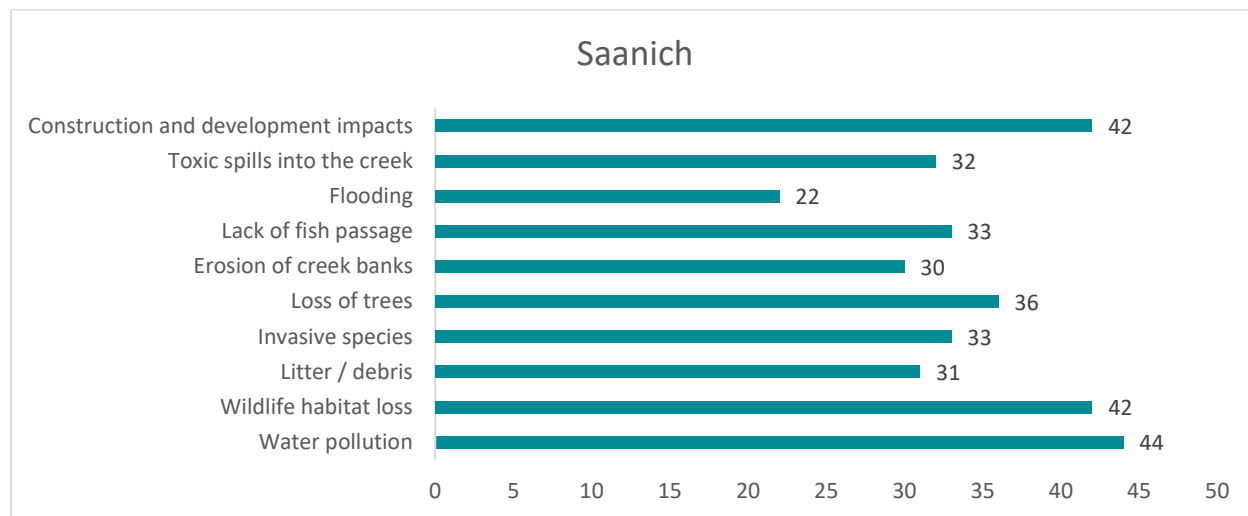
#### OTHER:

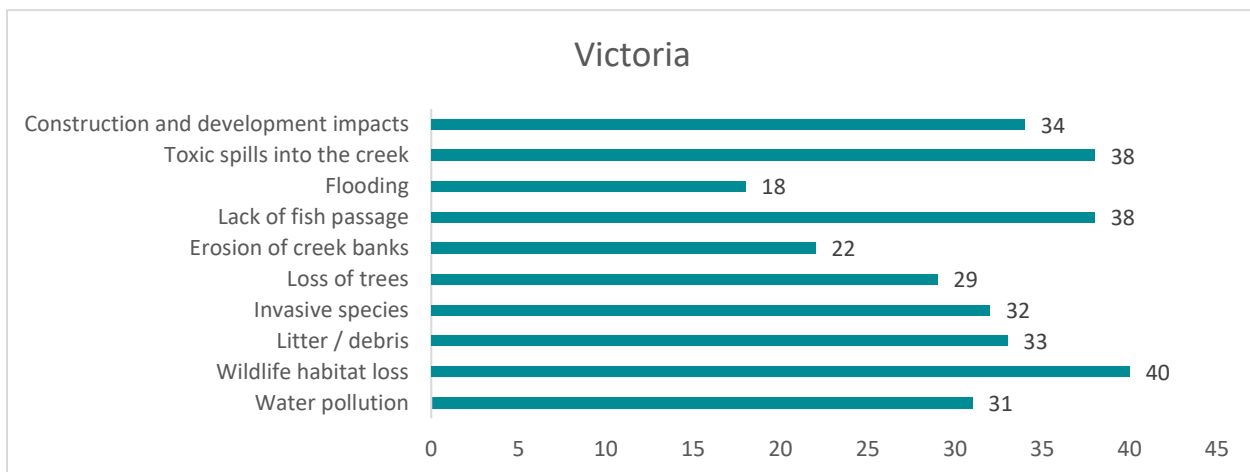
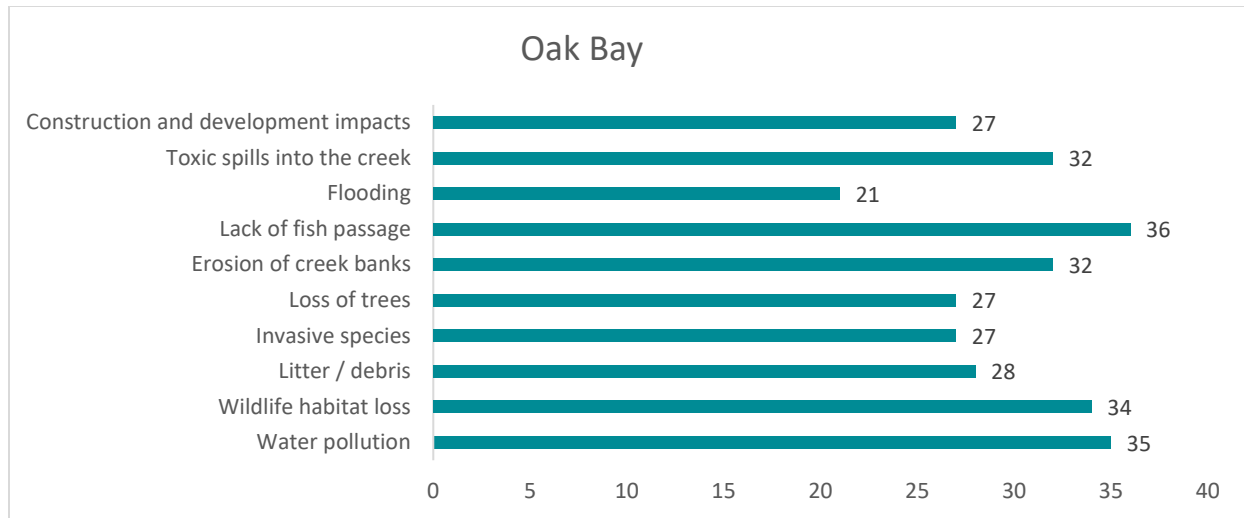
- Environmental & Public Health Concerns
  - Underground pipe access at Pearl and Townley is misused for hiking and camping; the area is being used as a latrine and dumping ground (e.g., microwave debris).
  - Rubber pellets from Oak Bay High's sports fields are entering the creek.
  - Graffiti and vandalism are ongoing issues.
  - Lack of daylighting contributes to neglect and misuse.
- Ecological Restoration Goals



- Hope for the survival and return of introduced salmon.
- Restore natural water flow and eliminate the “ditch mentality.”
- Address the rage-and-shrivel flow regime—even out seasonal flow to support a healthy stream ecosystem.
- **Land Use & Infrastructure**
  - Preserve public greenspace near the creek (e.g., Lansdowne South) for flood mitigation and stormwater detention.
  - Oppose development that threatens creek health, such as the proposed 6-storey building on Richmond Rd.
  - Call for maintenance of neglected open sections, especially in Saanich (Trent St & Pearl)
  - Question the lack of Low Impact Development measures in the Shelbourne Street Improvement Project.
- **Community Balance**
  - Concern about loss of dog-walking areas due to increased conservation efforts—seek balance between citizen needs and ecological protection.
- **Engagement & Reconciliation**
  - Support arts-based watershed celebrations, like closing Shelbourne and McKenzie for a water-themed parade.
  - Encourage BCI and stewardship groups to explore creek restoration as a pathway to reconciliation.

**Here’s how each municipality responded to Question 11, as shown in the charts below.**





## 15. Is there anything else you would like to share about Bowker Creek or the Bowker Creek watershed?

75 participants shared additional feedback. Below is a summary of the top themes.

### • Environment

- **Daylighting the Creek:** Many Participants expressed a strong desire to daylight Bowker Creek in areas where it is currently buried or channelized. They believe that uncovering these sections would restore the creek to a more natural state, improve the environment, and enhance the aesthetic appeal of the area.
- **Habitat Restoration:** There is a strong focus on implementing sustainable practices to restore natural habitats within the watershed. This includes creating green corridors, planting native vegetation, removing invasive species, and supporting local wildlife.
- **Flood Management:** Flooding remains a major concern, especially for long-term residents. Participants emphasized the need for hydrological studies, improved drainage systems, and climate-resilient infrastructure to manage stormwater and prevent damage.
- **Greenway Connectivity and Urban Integration:** Strong support exists for extending the Bowker Creek Greenway as a continuous “emerald necklace,” connecting Oak Bay to the Shelbourne Valley and regional trails. Interim connections using residential streets are encouraged, independent of daylighting timelines.

### • Governance and Planning

- **Protective Policy and Regulation:** Participants called for stronger environmental laws, better enforcement of existing plans (like the Bowker Creek Blueprint), and alignment of development projects with watershed goals.
- **Governance and Inter-Municipal Collaboration:** There is a call for coordinated action across jurisdictions, with the CRD encouraged to take a leadership role in funding and advancing restoration phases.
- **Housing, Development, and Community Amenities:** Participants expressed concern about how increased densification intersects with creek stewardship. There’s support for negotiating community benefits through development approvals and offering incentives for sustainable redevelopment.

### • Engagement and Awareness

- **Neighbourhood-Level Engagement:** Tailored outreach using signage, story maps, and local events.
- **Youth and School Engagement:** School-based stewardship programs and educational signage.
- **Volunteerism and Public Participation:** Encouraging residents to join conservation and planning efforts.
- **Awareness:** Suggestions include educational signage in high-traffic areas, brochures, online materials, and reframing Bowker Creek as an “inland waterfront” to boost public interest.

### • Ecological and Cultural

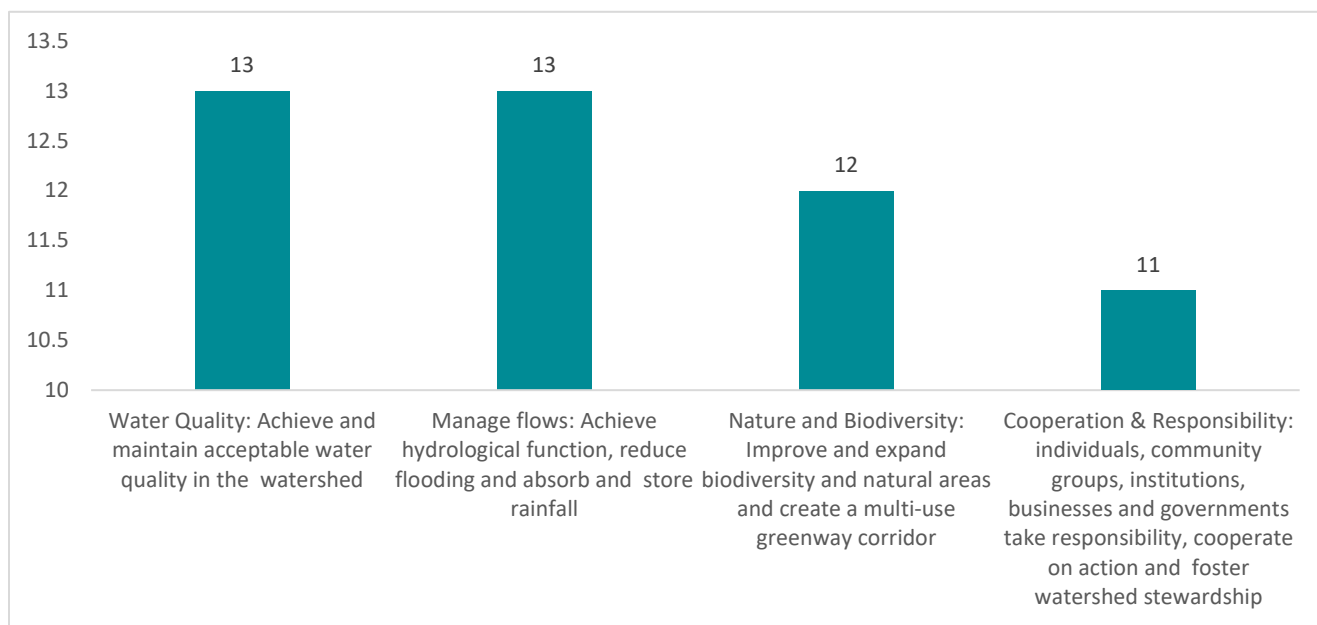


- **Wildlife and Habitat Protection:** Concerns include human and pet interference in sensitive areas, especially where salmon recovery is underway. Suggestions include signage to discourage feeding wildlife and protecting riparian zones.
- **Cultural Recognition and Indigenous Inclusion:** Participants recommended incorporating Indigenous place names and knowledge systems into signage and planning, especially where the creek crosses traditional territories.

## Open House

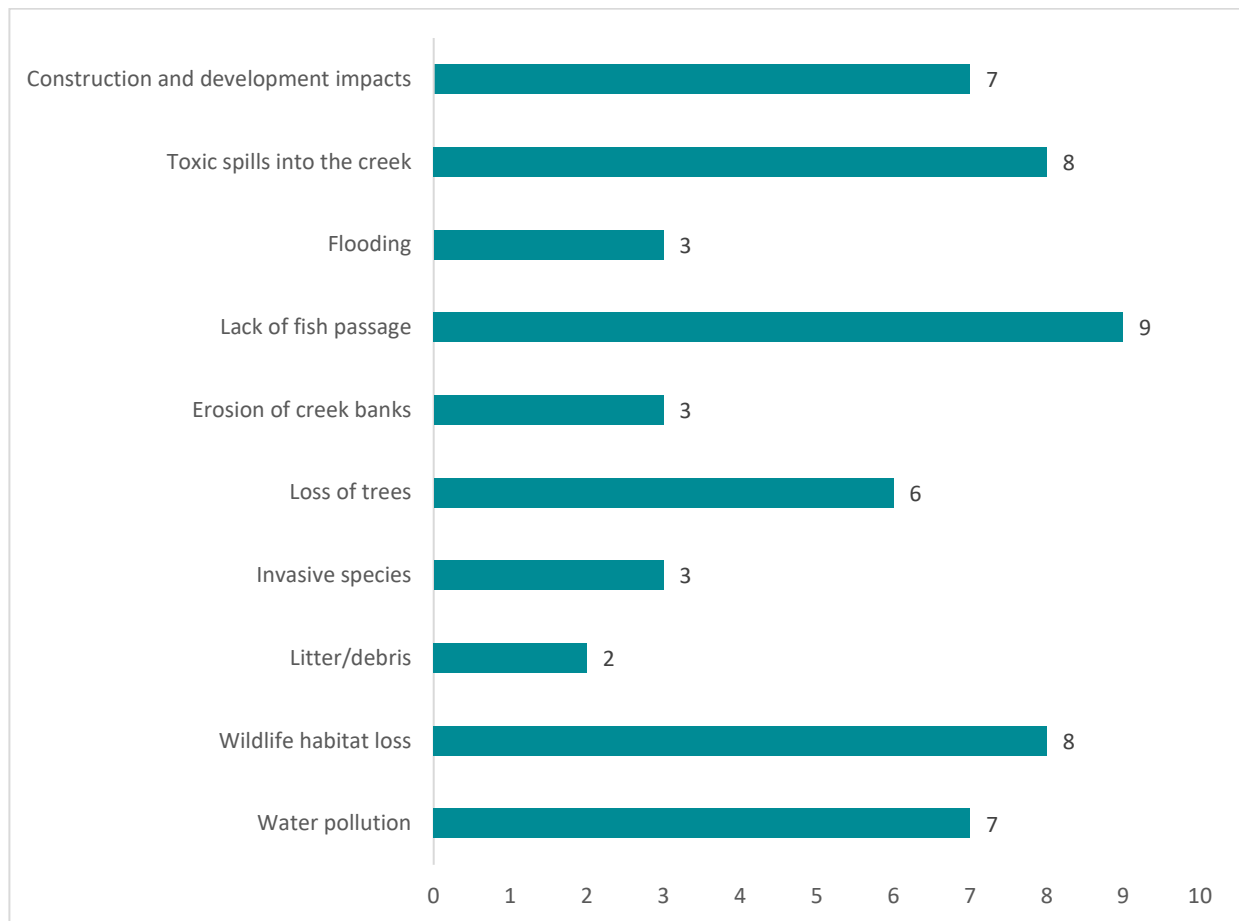
The following section provides an overview of what we heard from the number of participants who attended the open house and the number of participants who attended the online virtual session. Participants had the opportunity to speak with BCI members and respond to questions displayed on feedback boards, which mirrored those in the survey. Their responses are summarized below.

WHICH GOALS FOR BOWKER CREEK WERE IMPORTANT TO THEM.



36 Responses

## WHAT ARE YOU MOST CONCERNED ABOUT IN THE BOWKER CREEK WATERSHED?

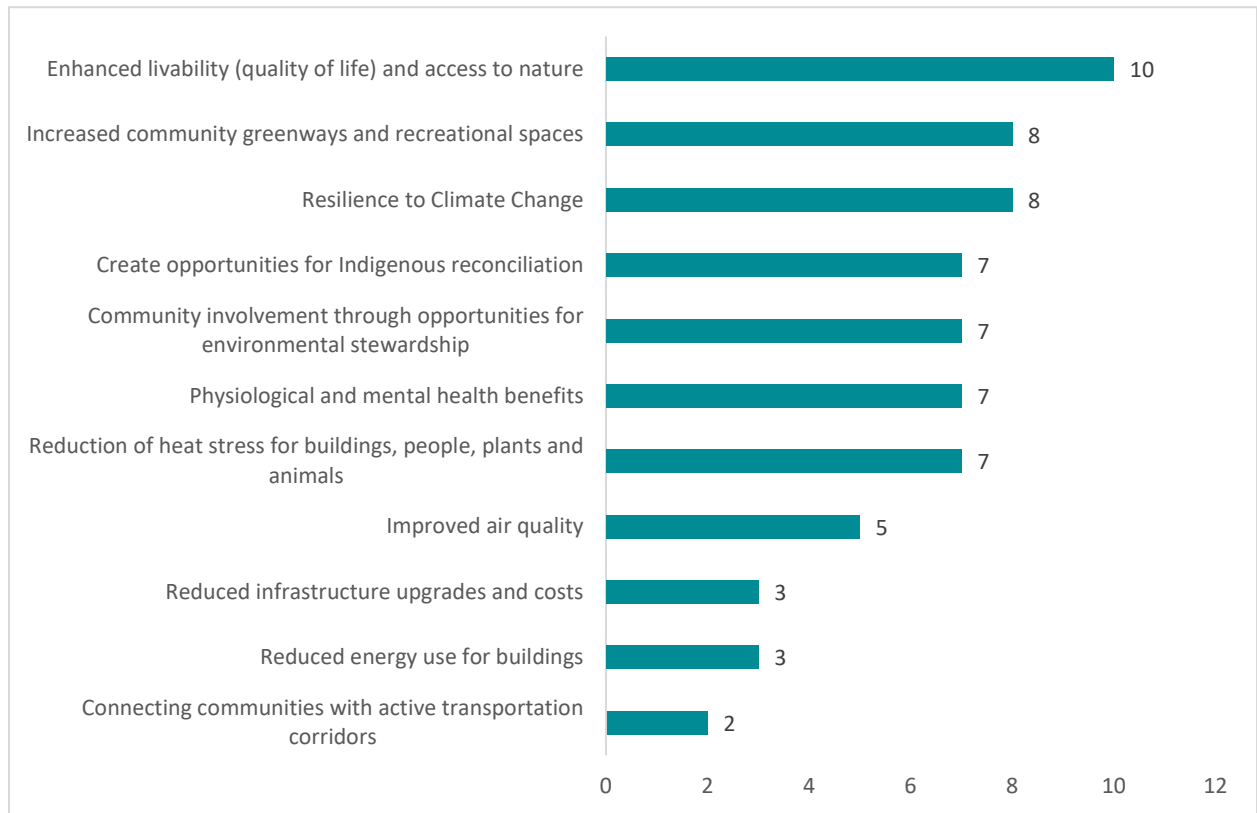


Participants could select more than one option

5 participants shared the following additional feedback:

- Pollution / shedding from artificial turf fields
- Invasive species
- Restoring moderate flow
- Engineering commitment
- Rising sea level

A HEALTHY WATERSHED CAN ACHIEVE OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS (CO-BENEFITS), WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?



Participants could select more than one option

5 participants shared the following additional feedback:

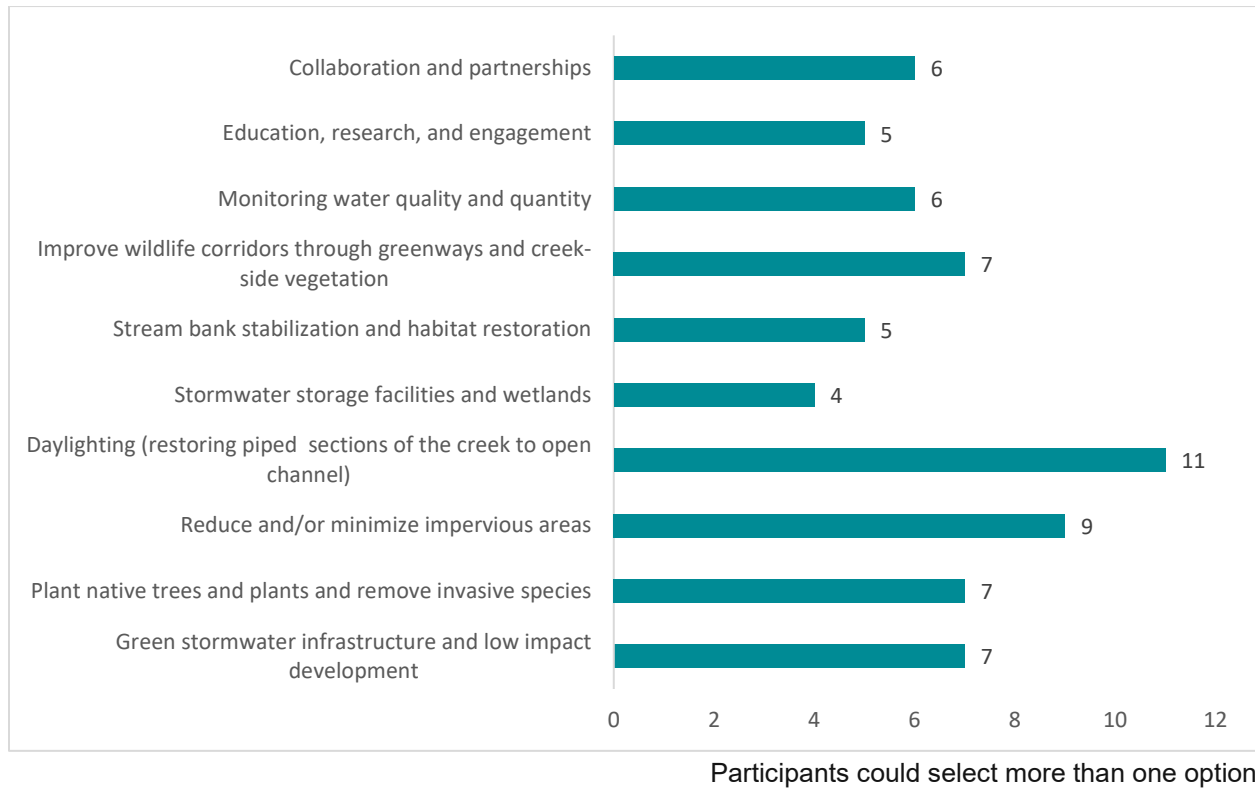
- Restoration of the Bowker Creek estuary
- Unregulated moorage in the estuary
- Bowker Creek empties into the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary
- Enhanced wildlife corridors
- Rainwater harvesting as a resource rather than a problem
- Fire resistance by daylighting
- Education opportunities using green outdoor classrooms

### Benefits of a healthy urban watershed





THERE ARE VARIOUS APPROACHES TO ACHIEVE A HEALTHY WATERSHED, INDICATE WHICH APPROACHES ARE IMIORTANT TO YOU.



5 participants shared the following additional feedback

- On tree appreciation day arrange planting parties in the municipalities in the watershed
- Care for the groundwater sources
- I think there is tremendous opportunity for youth to animate future visions for restoration using AI
- I'd prefer naturalized stream bed to "channel"
- A modest daylighting demonstration project to show what is possible

## MAPPING EXERCISE

Participants were asked to identify items on the map of the Bowker Creek Watershed to the project team. 26 participants shared information with the project team and identified on the map.

### Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure

- Beautiful area for people to walk
- I like that it is hidden – feels like a secret place
- Great walking path!
- Need more green spaces
- Expand park for community events
- Potential for more naturalized areas along creek
- More public art installations along creek

### Water Management & Environmental Education

- Flooding issues
- Improve drainage system
- Daylighting Bowker Creek would be amazing!
- Potential for educational signage about watershed
- Educational opportunities about local flora and fauna
- Water quality and managing flows are important

### Mobility & Transportation

- Add bike lanes along this route
- Increase public transportation options
- High traffic congestion during peak hours
- Install more streetlights for safety
- Repair potholes on main road



## Walking Tour

The following section reflects what we heard from a total of 53 participants during two walking tours on June 15, 2025 on the lower section of the watershed and June 17, 2025 on the upper section of the watershed.

### LOWER WATERSHED

- **Better management:** Strong community support for improving the management of urban creeks and watersheds.
- **Watershed awareness:** Recognition of how upland activities affect downstream conditions, with Bowker Creek playing a central role in stormwater management.
- **Salmon recovery:** Emphasis on upstream sediment control as critical to downstream salmon habitat restoration.
- **Indigenous history:** Interest in learning more about the Indigenous history of the watershed.
- **Flood mitigation:** Desire to reduce impermeable surfaces to help manage flooding.
- **Knowledge gaps:** Surprise at the number of technical studies already completed.
- **Greenway connectivity:** Need for progress on trail linkages in Oak Bay and Saanich.
- **Planning integration:** Desire for better alignment with current municipal and regional plans.
- **Public education:** Limited awareness of the creek's path and the watershed boundary.
- **Blueprint accountability:** Questions about how the goals and priorities of the Blueprint are being implemented and reflected in decisions.
- **Daylighting opportunities:** Interest in restoring creek visibility at Firefighters Park, Tennis Bubble, Cadboro Bay/Foul Bay Village, and Spirit Garden—concern for delays in implementing.
- **Open stream investment:** Support for investing in sections of the creek which are not culverted, especially in Saanich, which appear neglected.
- **Decision-making transparency:** Calls for clarity on how decisions are made and actions from the Blueprint are prioritized.

### UPPER WATERSHED

- **Better management:** Strong support for improving management of urban creeks and watersheds.
- **Community stewardship:** Appreciation for volunteer-led efforts like the Pulling Together team's work in Browning Park, seen as a model for community building.
- **Creek invisibility:** Many residents and decision-makers are unaware of the creek and watershed boundaries due to extensive underground sections.
- **Missed integration:** Concern that the Shelbourne Street Improvement Project lacks visible references to Bowker Creek—seen as a missed opportunity for integration.
- **Local knowledge:** Some residents demonstrated detailed awareness of watershed features (e.g., stormwater mains, wetlands).
- **Pollution concerns:** Frequent turbidity and pollution events likely linked to construction and development; questions raised about sediment control and accountability.

- **Greenway connectivity:** Bowker Creek Greenway is valued, with calls for completing upstream and downstream links—originally part of a 2006 Centennial Trails vision.
- **Blueprint application:** Uncertainty about how the Bowker Creek Blueprint is being used amid increasing land development and densification.
- **Planning alignment:** Ongoing community and local planning (e.g., Shelbourne Corridor Plan, Quadra-McKenzie Plan) prompts questions about responsibility for the alignment of these plans with the Blueprint.
- **Park expansion legacy:** Recognition of Saanich's past acquisition of residential properties to expand Browning Park; interest in securing more natural corridors with increased development and densification.
- **Regional trail links:** Desire to formalize greenway connections between Hillside Centre, Shelbourne/Cedar Hill Village, Shelbourne/McKenzie Centre, Lochside Trail, and UVic.
- **Daylighting decisions:** Interest in understanding how decisions are made about daylighting





**Capital Regional District**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force (IMTF)**

---

Friday, March 13, 2026

9:30 AM

Room 488/MS Teams

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Present: Councillor M. Gardiner (Victoria), Councillor D. Grove (Colwood), A. MacKenzie (View Royal), M. Wagner (Langford)

Electronic Participation: Councillor A. Baird (Highlands), Councillor S. Duck (Sidney), Councillor S. Gray (Metchosin)

Staff: M. Carolsfeld (Climate Action Coordinator), P. Enright (Manager, Climate Action Programs), M. Greeno (CRD Community Energy Specialist), A. Lavigueur (CRD E-Mobility Coordinator), M. Rowe (Climate Action Program Assistant, Recorder)

Regrets: Councillor A. Appleton (Oak Bay), Councillor M. Brame (Esquimalt), Director P. Brent (SGI EA), Councillor J. Brownoff (Saanich), Director G. Holman (SSI EA), Mayor P. Jones (North Saanich), Councillor S. Riddell (Central Saanich), Councillor T. St-Pierre (Sooke), Director A. Wickheim (JdF EA)

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am.

**1. Territorial Acknowledgement**

- P. Enright provided a Territorial Acknowledgment.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

- Agenda for the March 13, 2026, Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force meeting was approved.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

- Minutes from the December 12, 2025, Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force meeting were adopted.

**4. Climate Action Program Updates**

- P. Enright, M. Greeno, A. Lavigueur, M. Carolsfeld, and M. Rowe provided background information and updates for the CRD Climate Action Service, including:
  - Climate Action Strategy Renewal (intending to go to ESC in June 2026 and CRD Board in July), CleanBC advocacy (update to ESC and Board with CAS renewal), climate adaptation capacity-building (held workshop for elected officials on

February 27, 2026), launched Building Benchmarking program, electric mobility regional charging network (recently completed new chargers in Sooke, Colwood, Metchosin, and SSI), Low Carbon Fuel Standard Reporting service (first sale of LCFS credits, this helps offset maintenance costs of chargers), BCSEA Cool It! Climate Leadership Training program, SustainableCRD community e-newsletter, Spring-Summer environmental outreach (four Environmental Outreach Assistants starting in May).

Members advised that the CRD consider:

- A range of perspectives regarding the CRD's role in advocacy and regulatory authority. On one hand, there was concern about taking a heavy-handed approach or pursuing additional authority to mandate actions. On the other hand, members highlighted the CRD's limited jurisdiction and suggested that advocacy could help enable more effective climate action and implementation.
- Facilitating climate adaptation capacity-building workshops for elected officials again and earlier in the election term with new Board and Councils, e.g., early 2027.
- Approach to outreach and program resourcing for the benchmarking program. One Member requested information on the costs of running this program, staff time, and projected GHG emissions reductions and energy savings. Staff will follow up.

Actions:

- a) CRD staff to share full details of draft Climate Action Strategy renewal actions with the meeting minutes. Task Force members may provide feedback to Patrick Enright, Manager Climate Action Programs.
- b) CRD staff to include a recommendation on a CleanBC advocacy letter to ESC and CRD Board, along with CAS renewal. Staff will then share the letter with municipalities.
- c) CRD staff to follow up with details on benchmarking program costs, and projected GHG emissions reductions, and energy savings targets.
- d) CRD staff to share materials from the Climate Adaptation Fundamentals workshop with meeting minutes.

## 5. Task Force Terms of Reference

- P. Enright provided a review of the Task Force Terms of Reference.
  - Some overlap in memberships between Task Force, ESC, and Board. Members can bring items forward through these members.
  - Alternatively, items can be brought forward to ESC if the majority of Task Force members vote in favour of it.
  - Value of the Task Force is in sharing community priorities with both CRD staff and between member municipalities.

Action:

- e) CRD staff to re-share Terms of Reference with meeting minutes.

## 6. Municipal Roundtable – Open Discussion

- Attendees provided brief updates regarding current projects and areas of interest in their respective municipalities and electoral areas. Discussion related to perceived service gaps in regional waste management (textiles, large items, aerosol cans), Parks Master Plan equity tools, transportation and active transportation (planning and feasibility studies, and infrastructure upgrades), budget cutbacks on environmental and social

services, parks stewardship programs, community gardens, fleet electrification and charging infrastructure, community building and resilience initiatives, demolition and deconstruction bylaws, Urban Forest Strategies, Saanich Peninsula Environmental Coalition workshop (Bioregional Framework for the Peninsula), Westshore Bioregional Summit planning (aiming for 2027), biodiversity and natural asset plan, and an upcoming biodiversity open house.

Action:

- f) CRD staff to provide an update on upcoming outreach event attendance.

## 7. Other Items? Future Topics?

- Court cases and legalities - Natural Asset Management, balancing land development with protection of forests, wetlands, tree canopy, etc.
- Coordination and advocacy to other levels of government
- Food policy, opportunity for a regional council? Foodlands Access Service
- Transportation Governance

## 8. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

| New Actions                                                                                                                                                                                             | Responsibility | Timeline            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| CRD staff to share full details of draft Climate Action Strategy renewal actions with the meeting minutes. Task Force members may provide feedback to Patrick Enright, Manager Climate Action Programs. | Both           | ASAP                |
| CRD staff to include a recommendation on a CleanBC advocacy letter to ESC and CRD Board, along with CAS renewal. Staff will then share the letter with municipalities.                                  | Staff          | June-July           |
| CRD staff to follow up with details on benchmarking program costs, and projected GHG emissions reductions, and energy savings targets.                                                                  | Staff          | Before next meeting |
| CRD staff to share materials from the Climate Adaptation Fundamentals workshop with meeting minutes.                                                                                                    | Staff          | ASAP                |
| CRD staff to share Terms of Reference with meeting minutes.                                                                                                                                             | Staff          | ASAP                |
| CRD staff to provide an update on upcoming outreach event attendance.                                                                                                                                   | Staff          | Next meeting        |
| Past Actions                                                                                                                                                                                            | Responsibility | Timeline            |
| Members to provide future meeting topic requests to Manager, Climate Action Programs.                                                                                                                   | Task Force     | Ongoing             |
| CRD staff to attach the minutes from the previous meeting with future meeting invites, in addition to linking to the SharePoint collaboration site.                                                     | Staff          | Ongoing             |

# Capital Regional District

## Meeting Minutes

### Solid Waste Advisory Committee

---

Friday, April 10, 2026

CRD Boardroom  
625 Fisgard Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

PRESENT: F. Baker, B. Desjardins (Chair), M. Hauzer, M. Kurschner (EP), E. Latta, D. Monsour, J. Oakley, R. Pirie, C. Remington, P. Singh, J. Smith (EP), J. Stitt, D. Thran, H. Unger

STAFF: V. Landa (Recorder), A. Berthin (EP), A. Gilmour Ford, N. Roberts, M. Tromp Hoover

REGRETS:, T. Love, M. McCullough, J. Shaw, A. Sibley, M. Smith, S. Young Jr.

EP - Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 pm.

#### 1. Territorial Acknowledgement

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda for the April 10, 2026 Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting.

**MOVED by D. Monsour, SECONDED by R. Pirie**

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

#### 3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from the January 9, 2026 Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting.

**MOVED by F. Baker, SECONDED by M. Hauzer**

That the meeting minutes be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

#### 4. Chair's Remarks

- The chair noted that thanks to strong community participation, the CRD received a 2025 Leader in Sustainability Award for recycling 30,816 kilograms of batteries. This national award from Call2Recycle recognizes outstanding environmental leadership through the responsible management of end-of-life batteries and contributions to Canada's circular economy.



## 5. Presentations/Delegations

There were none.

## 6. Committee Business

### a. Staff Reports (for information)

- M. Tromp Hoover presented an overview of the Beyond Hartland 2050-Landfill Design Plan and Alternative Options staff report ([CRD Board, March 11, 2026](#)). The staff report and presentation are attached as Appendix A.
- N. Roberts presented an overview of the Model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw ([CRD Board, March 11, 2026](#)). The staff report and presentation are attached as Appendix B. Discussion centered around the proportion of construction demolition waste vs household waste that would be diverted from landfilling.
- M. Tromp Hoover provided a verbal update on the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities - Committee Solid Waste & Circular Economy Update ([February 11, 2026, CRD Board](#)). The staff report is attached as Appendix C.

### b. Actual and Projected Monthly Refuse Tonnages at Hartland Landfill (standing item)

The tonnage graphs are posted via this link: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/data/hartland-landfill-tonnage>.

## 7. New Business

There was no new business.

## 8. Next Meeting

The next Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting will be June 5, 2026.

## 9. Closing Comments

- D. Monsour raised the issue of **clear garbage bags** as a potential policy tool to reduce inappropriate disposal. Staff confirmed this is an identified action in the current Solid Waste Management Plan and is under investigation.

## 10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 13:20pm.

**MOVED by D. Monsour, SECONDED by D. Thran**  
That the Solid Waste Advisory Committee be adjourned.  
**CARRIED**

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026**

---

**SUBJECT**     **Beyond Hartland 2050 – Landfill Design Plan and Alternative Options**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To seek Board endorsement of short-term research and planning initiatives that will inform the development of the Capital Regional District's 2030 Solid Waste Management Plan and enable the CRD to responsibly manage the region's solid waste beyond 2050.

**BACKGROUND**

BC's *Environmental Management Act* requires the Capital Regional District (CRD) to provide a safe, secure and sustainable disposal option for regional solid waste in perpetuity. With the opening of Cell 4 in January 2025, Hartland Landfill secured approximately 25 more years of landfilling capacity to meet the region's waste disposal needs.

By 2050, either the final build-out of the landfill will need to be largely underway or the CRD must have implemented a viable alternative solution for managing the region's solid waste. Given the complexity and planning horizon required for either option, investigative work should begin in 2026 to ensure regional options for waste management are sustained beyond 2050.

*Solid Waste Management Plan Direction*

All regional districts in BC are required by the Province to create and maintain a comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) that guides their waste reduction, recycling and disposal initiatives. Commissioning a final (Phase 3) design plan for the landfill aligns with strategy 15C of the CRD's 2021 SWMP, which requires the CRD to "develop design options that maximize the disposal capacity of Hartland Landfill to 2100 and beyond". At the same time, strategy 15D of the SWMP directs the CRD to "conduct research, investigate and report out on emerging waste management technologies (including alternatives to landfilling such as integrated resource management and gasification)".

Given the scale of any future capital project and the regulatory requirements involved, the region's preferred option for waste disposal beyond 2050 must be included with substantial detail in the CRD's next SWMP, scheduled to be updated by 2030. Ministerial approval of the 2030 SWMP will give staff necessary direction and adequate time to pursue the subsequent regulatory steps that will be needed to implement any future waste disposal option.

*Expansion of Hartland Landfill*

As outlined in the CRD's 2021 SWMP, an additional 24 hectares of landfill property adjacent to the current Phase 2 footprint could be developed as Phase 3, extending the life of Hartland Landfill to approximately 2100. Drilling and blasting activities in this potential new landfilling area would need to begin in approximately 2037 unless significantly more waste is diverted or a viable alternative to landfilling is implemented. Although the estimated Phase 3 footprint resides within Hartland Landfill's property boundary, additional regulatory documents related to the inclusion of this Phase 3 footprint within the site's operating area will need to be updated pending Board direction on future landfilling.

### *Additional Options*

In addition to commissioning a conceptual design plan that extends the lifespan of Hartland Landfill to 2100, staff will develop a comprehensive options analysis that considers a broader range of future waste disposal options available to the region, including but not limited to:

- Siting a new sanitary landfill elsewhere in the region
- Building a thermal processing facility for solid waste, either at Hartland Landfill or offsite
- Pursuing emerging waste technology options
- Exporting waste to out-of-region landfills

This work will include a robust analysis of these residuals management options using criteria that include, but are not limited to:

- Environmental impact
- Technology readiness
- Economic feasibility, including development and operational costs
- Regulatory requirements and considerations
- Timeline to implement
- Region-specific considerations (e.g., material bans and other bylaws)

### **NEXT STEPS**

The results of this essential technical work will provide a shortlist of future waste disposal options for Board consideration and endorsement in 2027. These options will then be included in the wide-ranging consultation activities required to develop the CRD's 2030 SWMP, beginning as early as 2028. Staff anticipate that the extensive nature of SWMP engagement will satisfy the consultation requirements associated with subsequent regulatory components of this project.

### *Planning Approach*

The timeline to develop the CRD's 2030 SWMP is anticipated as follows:

| <b>Milestone</b> |                                                                      | <b>2026</b> | <b>2027</b> | <b>2028</b> | <b>2029</b> | <b>2030</b> |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1.               | Hartland 2100 Design Plan and options analysis                       | Q2-Q4       | Q1          |             |             |             |
| 2.               | 2021 SWMP assessment and 2030 SWMP pre-planning                      | Q4          | Q1          |             |             |             |
| 3.               | <u>Report back to Board on Design Plan and options analysis</u>      |             | <u>Q2</u>   |             |             |             |
| 4.               | SWMP 2030 goals and target development and report back               |             | Q3-Q4       |             |             |             |
| 5.               | SWMP 2030 Phase I engagement: goals and targets                      |             |             | Q1          |             |             |
| 6.               | Report back to Board on Phase I engagement results; draft plan       |             |             | Q3          |             |             |
| 7.               | SWMP 2030 Phase II engagement: strategies and actions                |             |             | Q4          | Q1          |             |
| 8.               | CRD Board approval of 2030 SWMP; submission to Province for approval |             |             |             | Q3          |             |
| 9.               | Begin regulatory updates and amendments, if required                 |             |             |             |             | Q2          |

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### *Alternative 1*

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

- 1) That staff commission a conceptual design plan to build out Phase 3 of Hartland Landfill in alignment with Strategy 15 of the 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan;
- 2) That staff develop a comprehensive options analysis that outlines and evaluates a broad set of future waste disposal alternatives to landfilling at the Hartland site;
- 3) That staff include timely information on these planning activities in the scope of ongoing government-to-government conversations with First Nations who have identified solid waste management as a topic of interest; and
- 4) That staff present the results of the above activities to the Board in 2027, including a shortlist of options to inform early development of the CRD's 2030 Solid Waste Management Plan.

### *Alternative 2*

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies*

Initiating planning activities related to both the final build-out of Hartland Landfill and the evaluation of emergent waste management technologies aligns with Strategy 15 of the CRD's 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan to "Enhance Hartland Disposal Capacity."

### *Financial Implications*

The funding required for this technical work has been included in the Environmental Resource Management division's 2026 operating budget that was provisionally approved in October 2025. The results of these planning projects will support 10-year budget forecasting activities for capital expenditures related to Hartland Landfill and for resources to support the subsequent regulatory activities required for any future disposal option. This work will also support ongoing analysis of potential revenue sources for this service beyond tipping fees.

### *First Nations Implications*

Solid waste management planning has been identified as a topic of key interest for several First Nations that the CRD has formalized Memorandums of Understanding and Protocol Agreements with. Sharing information related to these research and planning activities over the next five years will provide opportunities to collaborate and to receive ongoing input throughout the development process for the CRD's next SWMP.

### *Intergovernmental Implications*

Provincial legislation requires the CRD to provide a safe and sustainable disposal option for regional solid waste in perpetuity. This obligation was reiterated as a component of the Minister's 2021 SWMP approval letter in July 2023. Initiating planning and technology evaluation activities now creates an opportunity for potential collaboration with neighboring regional districts that are facing similar timelines to determine future waste disposal plans.



### *Service Delivery Implications*

The CRD endeavors to operate and develop Hartland Landfill in a manner that recognizes the interests of the community while continuing to provide an essential regional service. Developing a formal Phase 3/Hartland 2100 design plan in 2026 ensures that staff will have adequate time to complete the regulatory requirements and amendments to enable service delivery ahead of potential Phase 3 construction work that would be designed by 2038 and commence no later than 2039, pending Board direction on future landfilling activities.

### **CONCLUSION**

With the opening of Cell 4 in January 2025, Hartland Landfill has secured approximately 25 more years of landfilling capacity to meet the region's current waste disposal needs. By 2050, either the final (Phase 3) build-out of Hartland Landfill will need to be substantially underway or the Capital Regional District (CRD) must have implemented an alternative solution for managing the region's solid waste in perpetuity. Given the scale of any future capital project and the regulatory requirements involved in either building out the final footprint of the current landfill or pursuing a new processing technology, investigative work should begin in 2026 to inform the upcoming 2030 update of the CRD's Solid Waste Management Plan.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

- 1) That staff commission a conceptual design plan to build out Phase 3 of Hartland Landfill in alignment with Strategy 15 of the 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan;
- 2) That staff develop a comprehensive options analysis that outlines and evaluates a broad set of future waste disposal alternatives to landfilling at the Hartland site;
- 3) That staff include timely information on these planning activities in the scope of ongoing government-to-government conversations with First Nations who have identified solid waste management as a topic of interest; and
- 4) That staff present the results of the above activities to the Board in 2027, including a shortlist of options to inform early development of the CRD's 2030 Solid Waste Management Plan.

|               |                                                                                  |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Submitted by: | Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management                    |
| Concurrence:  | Stephen May, P.Eng., Senior Manager, Corporate Capital Project Delivery Services |
| Concurrence:  | Luisa Jones, MBA, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services    |
| Concurrence:  | Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer                      |

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan (July 2023)

Appendix B: 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan Approval Letter (July 13, 2023)

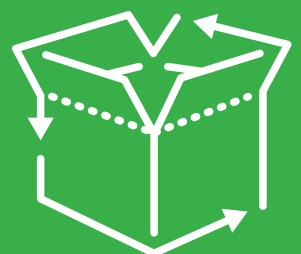
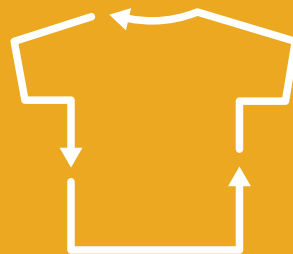
Presentation: Beyond Hartland 2050 - Landfill Design Plan and Alternative Options



Capital Regional District

# 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan

Approved by Ministry of Environment: July 2023



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## Glossary

|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Advisory Committee</b>                   | The Solid Waste Advisory Committee (see description below)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Disposal</b>                             | Landfilling                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Diversion</b>                            | Activities that divert waste materials away from disposal as garbage to alternatives such as recycling or composting. Does not include combustion of garbage to produce energy.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Circular Economy</b>                     | An economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources. Circular systems employ reuse, sharing, repair, refurbishment, remanufacturing and recycling to create a closed-loop system, minimizing the use of resource inputs and the creation of waste, pollution and carbon emissions                                                  |
| <b>Controlled Waste</b>                     | Selected waste materials that are not suitable for disposal on the active face of the landfill because of specific health and safety or environmental concerns associated with the physical or chemical properties of the waste. Items that are considered controlled waste include animal feces, sewage contaminated grit, catch basin waste and dead animals. |
| <b>CRD</b>                                  | Capital Regional District                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>CR&amp;D</b>                             | Construction, renovation and demolition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>EPR</b>                                  | Extended producer responsibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>(Waste) Generation</b>                   | The sum of all materials discarded that require management as solid waste, including garbage, recycling and composting. Does not include organic waste composted at home.                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>ICI</b>                                  | Industrial, commercial and institutional (does not include heavy industry)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Ministry of Environment</b>              | BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>MSW</b>                                  | Based on BC's Environmental Management Act, municipal solid waste (MSW) is refuse that originates from residential, commercial, institutional, demolition, land clearing or construction sources, or refuse specified by a Ministry of Environment director to be included in a waste management plan                                                           |
| <b>Organic Waste / Organics</b>             | Generally refers to kitchen scraps, food waste, yard and garden waste.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Plan</b>                                 | CRD's Solid Waste Management Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Producer Responsibility Organization</b> | A "producer responsibility organization" (PRO), is usually a not-for-profit organization or an industry association, that is designated by a producer or producers to act on their behalf to administer an extended producer responsibility or product stewardship program (e.g., Encorp Pacific, Product Care Association, Recycle BC)                         |
| <b>Recycle BC</b>                           | Formerly MMBC (Multi-Material BC), the producer responsibility organization established to manage the residential packaging and paper products EPR program                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Residuals / Residual Waste</b>     | Residual waste refers to discarded materials that are not diverted to reuse, recycling or composting and therefore require disposal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>SWMP</b>                           | Solid Waste Management Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Solid Waste Advisory Committee</b> | A multi-stakeholder committee established to advise the CRD, and to provide input on matters related to solid waste management upon request by the CRD, including the development and implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Transfer Station</b>               | A site at which municipal solid waste or recyclable material is received from the general public and is sorted, compacted, consolidated or rearranged and stored for subsequent transfer off-site for further processing or final disposal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Zero Waste</b>                     | Zero waste is a philosophy and aspirational goal that envisions a point where nothing is wasted. It eliminates traditional concepts of managing waste materials and instead focuses on design for environment. It is intended as an approach to pursuing sustainability through circular economy and is aligned with the Pollution Prevention Hierarchy, seeking to move materials up the hierarchy from residual management through recovery, recycling, reuse and ultimately reduction. |

## 1 Introduction

In British Columbia, regional districts develop solid waste management plans under the provincial Environmental Management Act that are high-level long term visions of how the regional district would like to manage its solid waste in accordance with the Pollution Prevention Hierarchy. This Plan should ideally be renewed approximately every ten years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the regional district, as well as current market conditions, technologies and regulations.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) initiated a process to update its 1995 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) to identify goals and strategies for the next ten years. The SWMP update process considered existing solid waste management policies and programs; identified and evaluated options for reduction, diversion and residual management; and addressed system financing.

This draft document represents an update of the CRD's 1995 SWMP, and once approved by the Province (along with any approval conditions), becomes a regulatory document for solid waste management in the CRD, and serves to guide solid waste management related activities and policy development. In conjunction with regulations and operational certificates that may apply, this Plan regulates the operation of sites and facilities that make up the region's waste management system.

### 1.1 Guiding Principles

The principles guiding the development and implementation of this Plan are a slightly modified version of those recommended in the BC Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning, and were prepared by the CRD's Solid Waste Advisory Committee in June 2018 to enhance their clarity, and were subsequently approved by the CRD Board in October 2018. The guiding principles are:

1. Promote zero waste approaches and influence others in support of a circular economy;
2. Promote the first 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle);
3. Maximize beneficial use of waste materials and manage residuals appropriately;
4. Support polluter-pay and user-pay approaches and manage incentives to maximize positive behaviour outcomes;
5. Prevent organics, recyclables and household hazardous waste from going into the garbage wherever practical;
6. Collaborate with other jurisdictions wherever practical;
7. Develop collaborative partnerships with interested parties, both within and outside of the CRD, to achieve regional targets set in plans; and
8. Level the playing field within regions for private and public solid waste management facilities.

### 1.2 Plan Goals

The Province's guidelines for solid waste management planning require solid waste management plans to have goals and targets. Goals are the long-term aims to be achieved as an outcome of the plan. A goal may be achieved within the timeframe of this Plan, but a goal may also be aspirational; something for the CRD to strive for beyond the timeframe of this Plan. Targets (see section 1.3), on the other hand, are a way of measuring the plan's progress and have clear timelines.

The goals for this Plan are:

1. To surpass the provincial per capita waste disposal target and aspire to achieve a disposal rate of 125 kg/capita/year;
2. To extend the life of Hartland Landfill to the year 2100 and beyond;
3. To have informed citizens that participate effectively in proper waste management practices; and
4. To ensure that the CRD's solid waste services are financially sustainable.

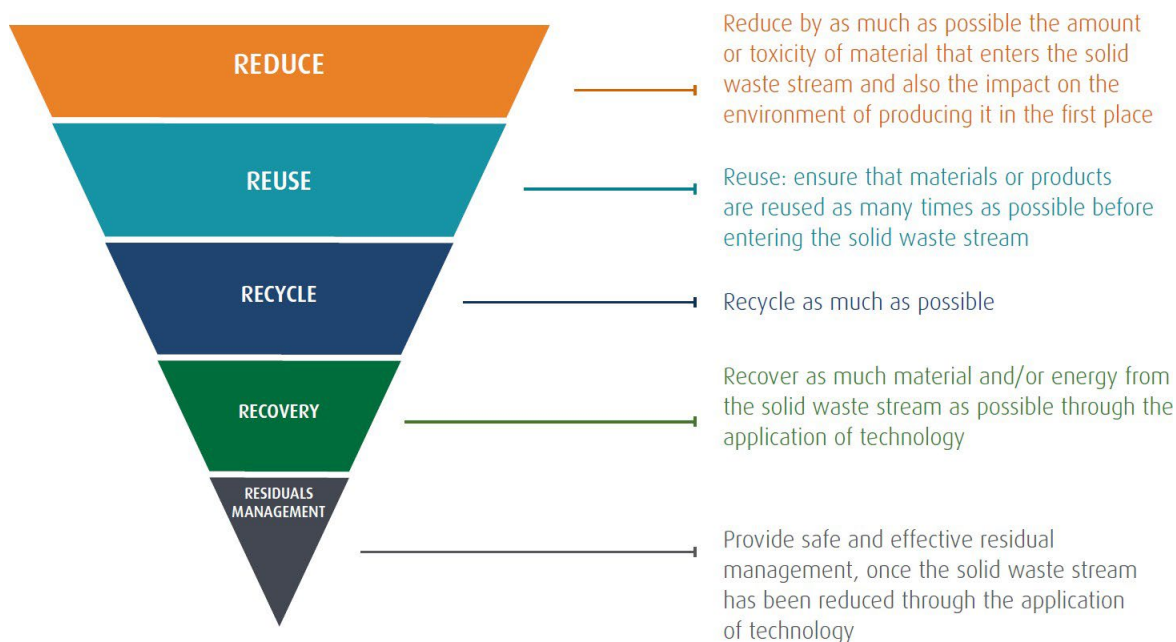
These goals were established by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee in 2018 based on a review of the Existing System Report, and a discussion of the challenges and opportunities presented by the current system. The first goal associated with reducing the amount of waste disposed was refined in 2020 based on further input from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee to include an aspirational disposal target of 125 kg per capita.

### 1.3 Pollution Prevention Hierarchy

This Plan adopts the 5R Pollution Prevention Hierarchy (see Figure 1-1). Strategies to address each tier in the hierarchy are laid out in Section 5. Implementation of these strategies over the Plan's 10-year timeframe is expected to contribute to the provincial disposal rate target of 350 kg per person (per capita), and result in achievement of the following regional targets. These targets are discussed further in Section 8.

1. By the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of this Plan, the CRD's per capita disposal rate will be 340 kg or less.
2. By the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> year of this Plan, the CRD's per capita disposal rate will be 285 kg or less.
3. By the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> + year of this Plan, the CRD's per capita disposal rate will be 250 kg or less.

**Figure 1-1: 5R Pollution Prevention Hierarchy**





## 1.4 Climate Change and the Solid Waste Management Plan

What we consume and how we dispose of it contributes to climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions are generated from the management of waste in the region—primarily from decomposing garbage, especially organic waste like food scraps and wood, but also from transportation and management.

We can reduce our collective emissions by decreasing the amount of waste we produce, and by managing Hartland Landfill in a sustainable manner. By finding beneficial ways to use our waste materials, we can also displace other sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the region.

In 2019, the CRD Board identified Climate Action & Environmental Stewardship as a priority for the region and approved a motion to declare a climate emergency. The goals and guiding principles of this Plan build upon the 5R Pollution Prevention Hierarchy, focusing first on strategies that promote zero waste and support a circular economy to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with producing materials that eventually become waste. This Plan also considers strategies to beneficially use waste as a resource and to manage the residual waste stream to minimize fugitive emissions.

Greenhouse gas emissions associated with the 5<sup>th</sup> R – residuals management, are generated from the disposal of residual waste in the region—primarily from decomposing garbage, especially organic waste like food scraps and wood, but also from transportation and management.

What we consume, the production of new products and extraction of raw materials and how we manage items at end-of-life all contribute to climate change. We can reduce our collective emissions by decreasing the amount of waste we produce, and managing Hartland Landfill in a sustainable manner. By finding beneficial ways to use our waste materials, we can also displace other sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the region.

### 1.4.1 Hartland Landfill's Contribution to Greenhouse Gas Emissions

When organic matter decomposes within the landfill, it produces gas which is mainly made up of carbon dioxide and methane, a very potent greenhouse gas. Landfills are typically one of the largest contributors of greenhouse gas emissions in the community. In 2020, the CRD completed a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory based on a recognized global standard (called the GPC Basic+) to measure emissions generated locally from buildings, transportation and waste. Total regional emissions are approximately 1.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents. Waste contributes approximately 5% of the region's greenhouse gas emissions, with Hartland Landfill accounting for the majority<sup>1</sup>.

The CRD is actively working to improve landfill gas collection efficiency and produce renewable natural gas using captured methane from the historical waste decomposing in the landfill in addition to minimizing any fugitive emissions. Strategy 14, 'Optimize Landfill Gas Management', will support and accelerate this work.

## 1.5 Alignment with Other CRD Strategies and Plans

The SWMP is aligned with several other CRD strategies and plans. Figure 1-2 shows each of these strategies and plans and how they are linked with this Plan.

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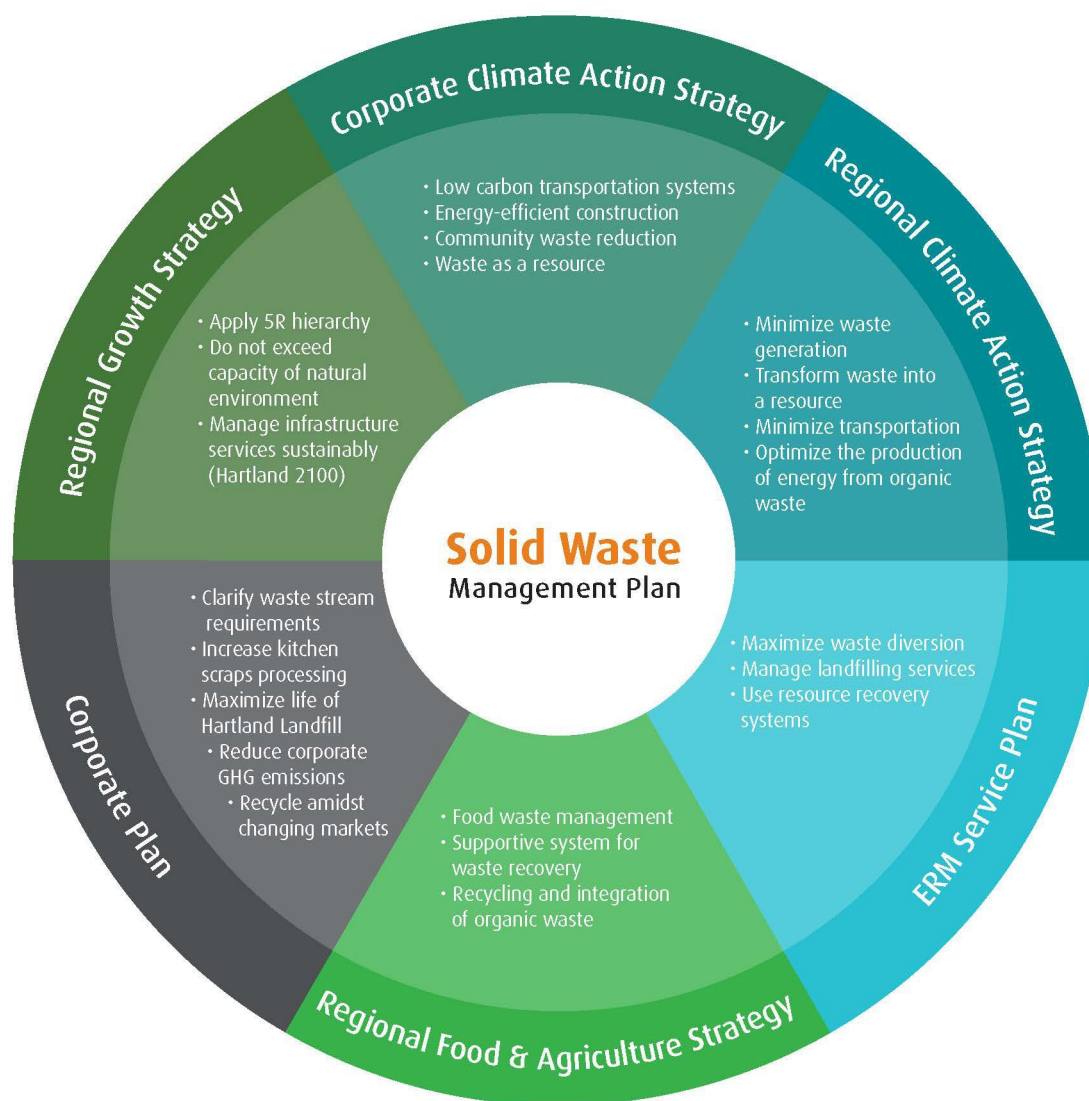
<sup>1</sup> Source: Capital Regional District 2018, GPC BASIC+ Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report (Stantec, August 2020).

## 1.6 Alignment with Provincial Targets

The Province has two solid waste performance targets:

1. Lower the provincial municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal rate to 350 kg per capita; and
2. 75% of BC's population covered by organic waste disposal restrictions.

The CRD supports these two provincial goals through its current solid waste management system, which prohibits the disposal of both kitchen scraps and yard waste at Hartland Landfill, and through this SWMP which presents strategies that aim to reduce the per capita disposal rate to even less than 350 kg per capita.



**Figure 1-2 Alignment with CRD Strategies and Plans**

## 2 Plan History and Development

The CRD's first SWMP was approved by the Province in 1989. It was updated in 1991, and again in 1995. Since 1995, eight amendments have been added to the Plan and most of the original goals have been achieved. The eight amendments are listed in Table 2-1.

**Table 2-1: Plan Amendments**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Amendment 1 (2005)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| To allow the Capital Regional District (CRD) to regulate composting in the CRD through the adoption of a regulatory bylaw under Section 25 (3) of the <i>Environmental Management Act</i> .                                                                                       |
| <b>Amendment 2 (2001)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| To allow the Capital Regional District (CRD) to regulate transfer stations on Salt Spring Island through the adoption of a regulatory bylaw.                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Amendment 3 (2004)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| To modify the legal description of Hartland Landfill to include additional land that was acquired as a buffer strip.                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Amendment 4 (2004)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Add a new Section 16.0 that outlines the CRD's public review process for solid waste related matters.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Amendment 5 (2004)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Establishes procedures for resolving conflicts associated with the Hartland Landfill.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Amendment 6 (2007)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Include the Highwest Waste Management Facility in the Solid Waste Management Plan and set operating requirements (replaces Section 10.1.28 in the Plan). This section includes cessation of burning at the site by the end of 2009.                                               |
| <b>Amendment 7 (2007)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Replace Section 15.1 of the Plan with "Funding for all Hartland Capital Works will be borrowed through loan authorization bylaws or cash flow generated from solid waste operations in accordance with the CRD <i>Solid Waste Disposal Local Services Establishment Bylaws</i> ." |
| <b>Amendment 8 (2013)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| To allow the siting, construction and operation of a biosolids treatment and resource recovery facility at Hartland Landfill for treatment, processing, storage and beneficial utilization of screenings and waste sludge.                                                        |

### 2.1 Process to Update the Plan

In March 2011, the CRD Board passed a motion to undertake a process to update the CRD's 1995 SWMP. In 2012, the CRD embarked on the process to create a new plan that would reflect the changes that have been made since 1995, including the eight plan amendments and changes to the solid waste management system, such as the significant expansion of Extended Producer Responsibility as a means of managing solid waste. Updating the Plan would also allow for consideration of future options for solid waste management in the CRD within the current context and to create an updated vision.

In 2012, a Public and Technical Advisory Committee was formed to provide input into the development of an updated plan. This committee reviewed several reports prepared by consultants, including a 2012 Existing System Report and technical memorandum outlining options for consideration in the new plan.

The planning process, however, was put on hold in 2015 to investigate integrated resource management opportunities. In November 2017, the Board approved restarting the process to update the SWMP.

The process to update the SWMP was restarted in 2018, with the preparation of an updated Existing System Report and the establishment of new multi-stakeholder committee, with a mandate of being an advisory committee to the CRD's Environmental Services Committee for the SWMP update process. This new committee is called the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and it also serves as an advisory body on current solid waste management initiatives in the CRD referred to it by the Environmental Services Committee. This committee will also be the Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee upon completion of the SWMP update process. Terms of Reference for the Solid Waste Advisory Committee are included as Schedule A.

The members of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee represent a diversity of backgrounds, interests and geographical locations and includes technical and non-technical members.

**Table 2-2: Composition of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee**

| <b>Representation</b>                                                       | <b>Number of Members</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Regional district director (member of Environmental Services Committee)     | 1                        |
| Municipal engineering staff who are involved in solid waste collection      | 2                        |
| Electoral Area representative                                               | 1                        |
| First Nations                                                               | 2                        |
| Environmental organizations                                                 | 1                        |
| Business groups                                                             | 1                        |
| Non-profit group with an interest in solid waste (e.g., reuse organization) | 1                        |
| Large waste generators (industrial, commercial, institutional)              | 2                        |
| Owners/operators of private waste management facilities                     | 2                        |
| Private sector industry collection service providers                        | 2                        |
| Composting industry representative                                          | 1                        |
| Product stewardship agency                                                  | 1                        |
| Community representative (representing Prospect Lake/Hartland area)         | 1                        |
| Public representatives, at large                                            | 3                        |
| Willis Point community representative                                       | 1                        |
| District of Highlands representative                                        | 1                        |
| Solid Waste Technology representative                                       | 1                        |



In October 2018, the Board approved the guiding principles, objectives and goals developed by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for the new plan. In September 2019, the Board reviewed the Solid Waste Advisory Committee's proposed strategies, actions and targets for the updated SWMP, and directed that these be taken out for public consultation.

The first phase of public consultation took place between October 18, 2019 and December 1, 2019, and included a media launch event, public open houses, stakeholder meetings and extensive social media outreach. A dedicated web page was created where people could sign up for project updates, review background information and submit their feedback through a survey. Overall, there was a high level of support for all plan elements. Some actions—particularly those associated with ensuring Hartland Landfill is used as effectively and efficiently as possible—generated important questions from the community.

The results of the consultation and an initial draft Plan were presented to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee in the summer of 2020. As a result of consultation, and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee's input, the draft Plan was modified to improve clarity and the waste minimization goal was strengthened, however no changes were made to the draft Plan's strategies and actions.

### 3 Plan Area

The CRD is the regional government for 13 municipalities and three electoral areas, covering an area of 2,341 sq. km on the southern tip of Vancouver Island. A map showing the administrative boundaries of the CRD is provided in Figure 3-1.

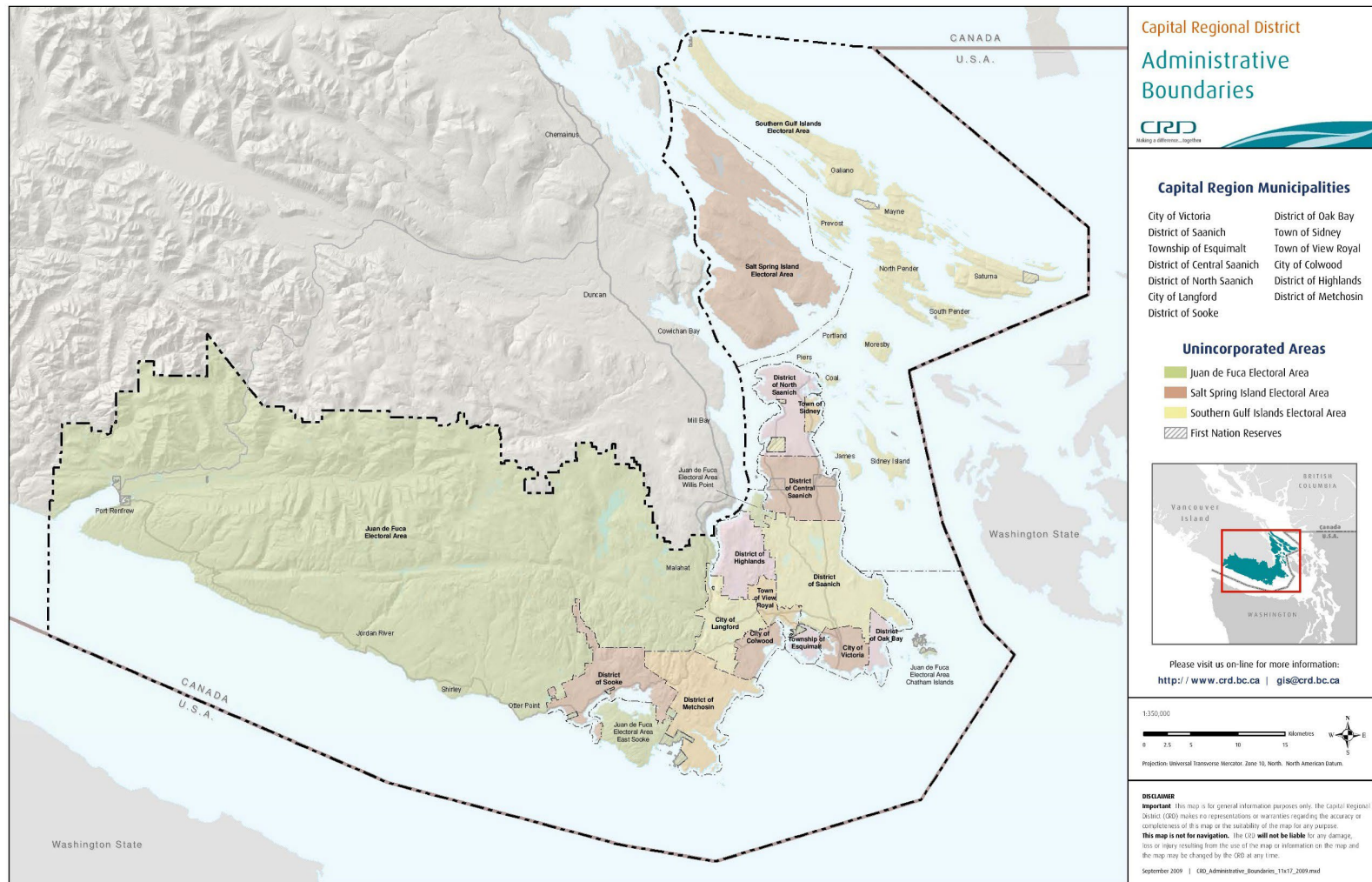
Member municipalities include:

- District of Central Saanich
- City of Colwood
- Town of Esquimalt
- District of Highlands
- City of Langford
- District of Metchosin
- District of North Saanich
- District of Oak Bay
- District of Saanich
- Town of Sidney
- District of Sooke
- City of Victoria
- Town of View Royal

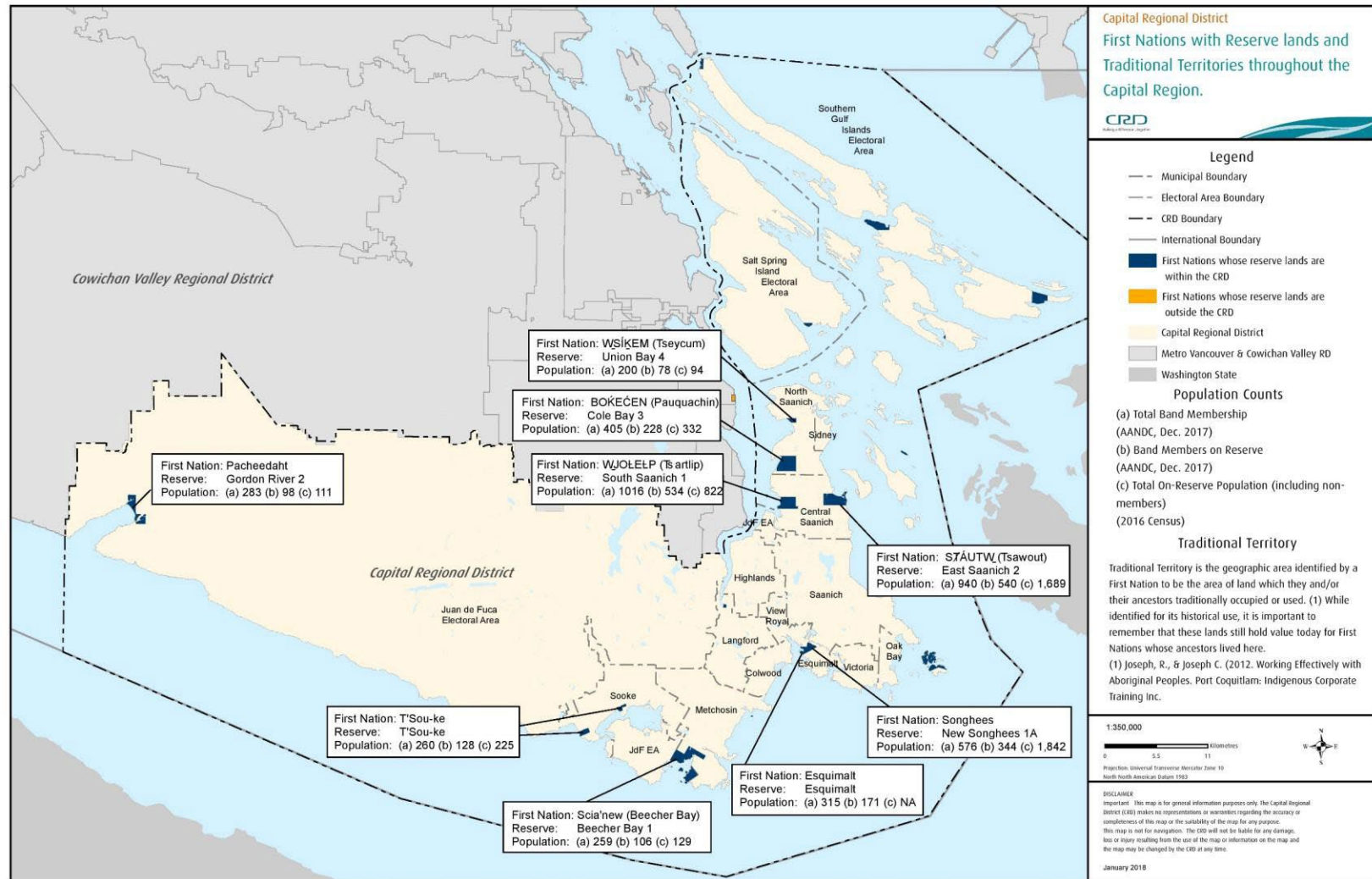
Unincorporated areas are organized into electoral areas. The three electoral areas in the CRD are:

- Salt Spring Island Electoral Area;
- Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area, which includes Galiano Island, North Pender Island, South Pender Island, Saturna Island, Mayne Island, and smaller islands in the vicinity; and
- Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, which includes the areas of East Sooke, Jordan River, Malahat, Otter Point, Port Renfrew, Shirley, Willis Point, and inland rural areas.

First Nations communities located within the region include: Beecher Bay, Esquimalt, Malahat, Pacheedaht, Pauquachin, Penelakut, Songhees, Tsartlip, Tsawout, Tseycum and T'Sou-ke Bands. Each of these Bands has reserve lands within the boundaries of the CRD as shown in Figure 3-2.



**Figure 3-1: Map of Capital Regional District**



**Figure 3-2: First Nations Reserves in the Region**

### 3.1 Population

As shown in Table 3-1, the population of the CRD in 2019 was estimated at 418,414, including persons living on First Nations Reserves. Table 3-2 provides population projections to 2030, as supplied by BC Stats. Based on these estimates, the population of the region is expected to grow by 10% over the next decade

**Table 3-1: Population, By Area (2019 estimate)<sup>2</sup>**

| Area                                 | 2019<br>Population | % of CRD total |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>CAPITAL REGION</b>                | <b>418,414</b>     |                |
| Central Saanich                      | 18,089             | 4%             |
| Colwood                              | 18,867             | 5%             |
| Esquimalt                            | 18,716             | 5%             |
| Highlands                            | 2,481              | 1%             |
| Langford                             | 42,653             | 10%            |
| Metchosin                            | 5,168              | 1%             |
| North Saanich                        | 11,876             | 3%             |
| Oak Bay                              | 18,568             | 4%             |
| Saanich                              | 122,173            | 29%            |
| Sidney                               | 12,235             | 3%             |
| Sooke                                | 14,657             | 4%             |
| Victoria                             | 94,005             | 22%            |
| View Royal                           | 11,567             | 3%             |
| <b>Unincorporated Areas</b>          |                    |                |
| Juan De Fuca Electoral Area          | 5,427              | 1%             |
| Salt Spring Island Electoral Area    | 11,247             | 3%             |
| Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area | 5,072              | 1%             |
| First Nation Reserves                | 5,613              | 1%             |

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<sup>2</sup> CRD website: [https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/regional-planning-pdf/population/population-pdfs/2019\\_populationestimate.pdf?674c4fcc\\_2](https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/regional-planning-pdf/population/population-pdfs/2019_populationestimate.pdf?674c4fcc_2)



**Table 3-2: Capital Region Population Projections<sup>3</sup>**

| Year | Population Projection |
|------|-----------------------|
| 2020 | 421,613               |
| 2021 | 426,029               |
| 2022 | 430,530               |
| 2023 | 435,114               |
| 2024 | 439,761               |
| 2025 | 444,330               |
| 2026 | 448,825               |
| 2027 | 453,249               |
| 2028 | 457,563               |
| 2029 | 461,765               |
| 2030 | 465,850               |

### 3.2 Housing

Table 3-3 provides a breakdown of the housing types in the region, based on 2016 Census data and building permits for residential structures.

**Table 3-3: Housing in the Capital Region<sup>4</sup>**

|                                                 | #       | %     |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Single Detached Houses                          | 70,630  | 41.5% |
| Semi Detached Houses (includes flats, duplexes) | 32,375  | 19.0% |
| Row Houses                                      | 10,380  | 6.1%  |
| Apartments (all types)                          | 54,775  | 32.2% |
| Mobile Homes                                    | 1,990   | 1.2%  |
| Total                                           | 170,150 | 100%  |

### 3.3 Economic Data

The CRD has a well-diversified economy. A large public sector comprised of the provincial government offices and military installations, as well as universities and colleges are the key drivers of this area's economy.

The area also has a growing technology and health services sector, along with a vibrant tourism industry. Retirement living and residential expansion continue to shape the demographics of this community.

<sup>3</sup> Source: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/people-population-community/population/population-estimates>

<sup>4</sup> Data provided by the CRD. Does not include housing on First Nation Reserves.

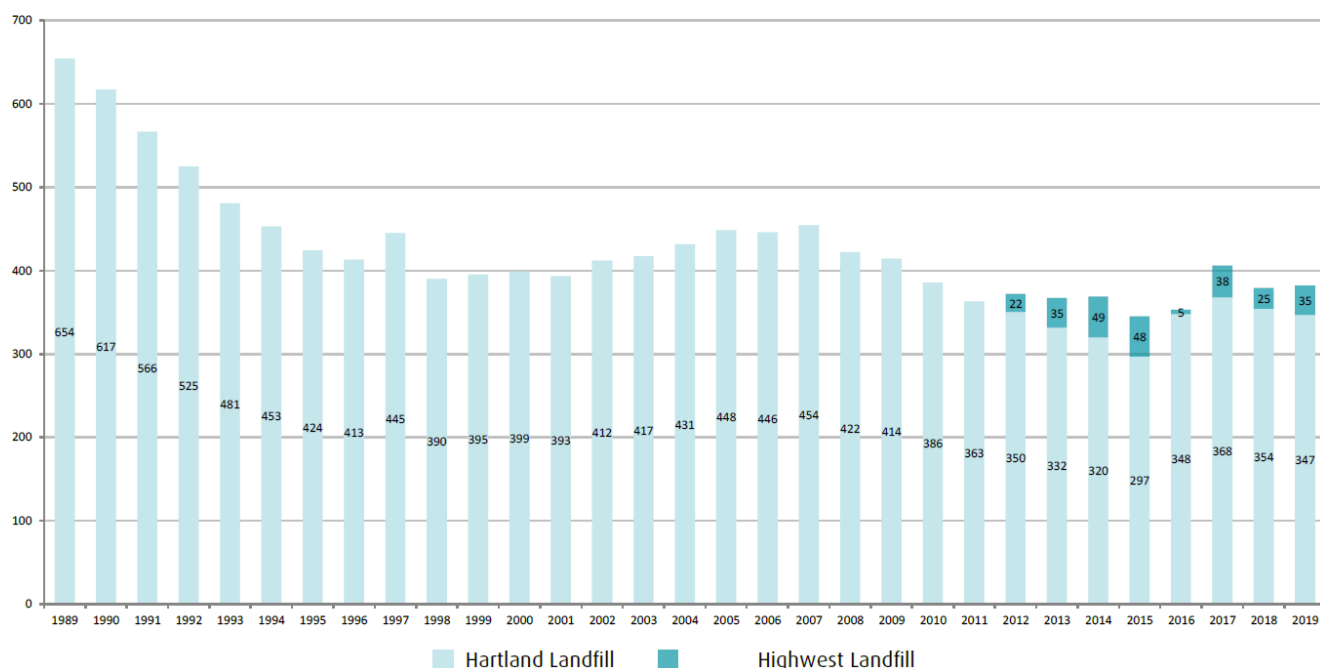
Based on the 2016 census, the main employment sectors in the region are health care (13% of employment), public administration (12%), retail (11%), accommodation and food services (9%), and professional, scientific and technical services (8%).<sup>5</sup>

## 4 Existing System Overview

The following is a high-level overview of the current system for solid waste management in the region. A more detailed description is provided in the report *Existing Solid Waste Management System (2018)* which can be found on the CRD's website (<https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/recycling-waste-pdf/2018existingreport.pdf>).

### 4.1 Disposal Data and Trends

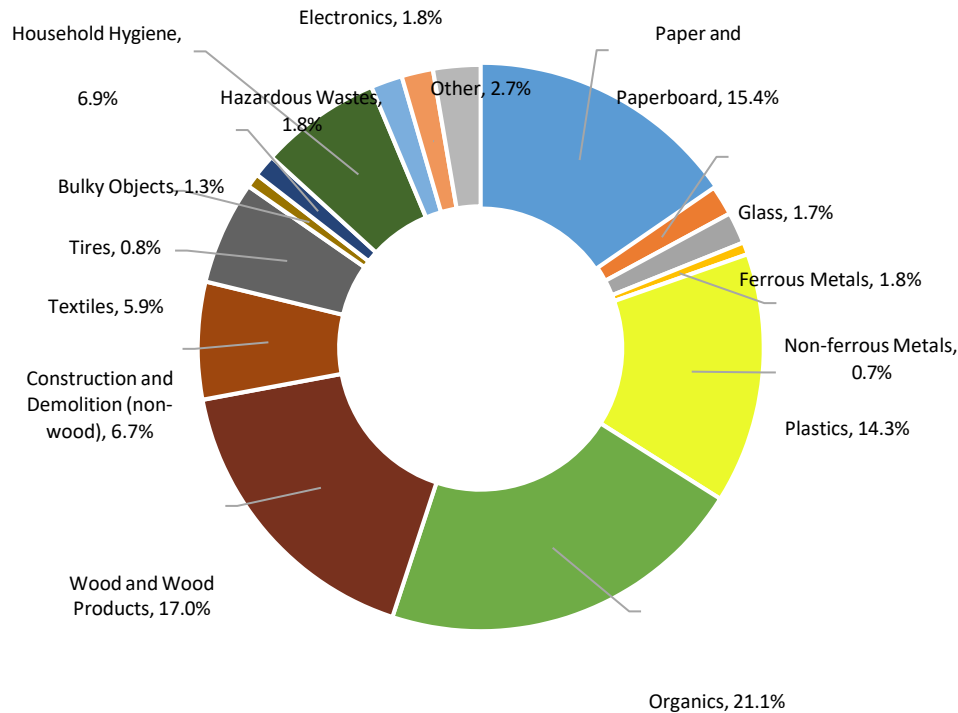
Figure 4-1 shows how per capita disposal in the capital region has changed over the past two decades, incorporating the quantities of waste disposed at Hartland Landfill and the privately owned Highest Landfill. In 2019, the per capita disposal rate was 382 kg per capita, a reduction of 43% since 1989.



**Figure 4-1: CRD Disposal (1989 – 2018)**

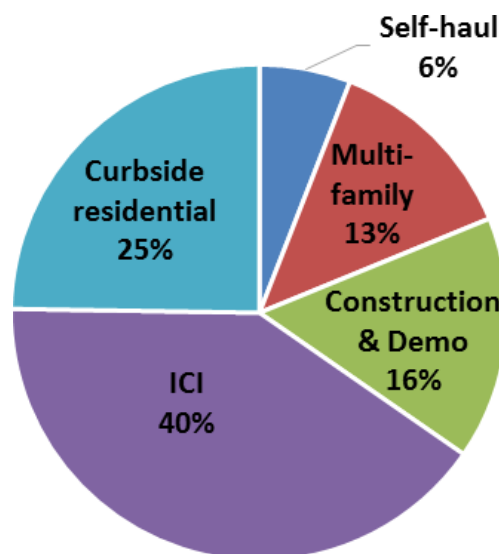
<sup>5</sup> Source: 2016 Census Profile Statistics Canada

Figure 4-2 shows the estimated composition, by weight, of the waste landfilled at Hartland in 2016 (the last time a waste composition study was conducted at the site). The largest component of the garbage arriving at Hartland Landfill was compostable organics (21.1%), followed by wood and wood products (17.0%), paper (15.4%), and plastic (14.3%).



**Figure 4-2: Estimated Composition of All Waste Landfilled at Hartland (By Weight), 2016**

Figure 4-3 shows the proportion of waste sent to Hartland Landfill in 2019 from each sector. As shown, 41% comes from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICI) activities, while 38% comes from residences (curbside residential plus multi-family).



**Figure 4-3: Sectors Contributing to Waste Disposed at Hartland (2019)**

## 4.2 Existing System Description

This section provides an overview of the components that currently make up the system for managing solid waste in the region.

### 4.2.1 Solid Waste Management Facilities

Figure 4-4 is a map showing the location of solid waste management facilities operating in the region as of 2020; including CRD-operated sites (shown in yellow), private waste management operations such as recyclers, recycling depots and transfer stations (in red), non-profit second-hand stores (in green), municipal recycling and yard waste depots (in blue), and Gulf Island recycling depots (in purple).

The region is home to two landfills authorized by the Province of BC: Hartland and Highwest. Both landfills have Operating Certificates issued by the Ministry of Environment that define the activities permitted at these sites. The Highwest Landfill is expected to permanently close in 2021 (see next section for additional details). Additional information on these two facilities can be found in Section 4.3.1.

### Future Facilities

This Plan anticipates the potential addition of an organic waste processing facility located at the Hartland site. Additional information on this potential facility can be found in Sections 5.2 and 6.





**Figure 4-4: Map of Solid Waste Facilities**

## 4.2.2 Solid Waste Disposal

### 4.2.2.1 Hartland Landfill

The CRD became responsible for solid waste disposal for the region in 1973 when, at the request of the CRD Board, the Province of BC established solid waste disposal as a regional function of the CRD.

In 1975, the CRD acquired the Hartland Landfill site, which had been operating as a private facility since the 1950s. The facility continued to be managed by a private operator under contract to the CRD until 1985, when the CRD assumed direct operation of the site.

Lands surplus to the needs of the landfill operation were subsequently transferred to CRD Parks for public use. This included 210 hectares in 1994, and another 40 hectares in 2003. These areas formed a large portion of the land conserved within Mount Work Regional Park. An additional 29 hectares of land adjacent to the current landfill footprint was temporarily leased to CRD Parks until 2019.

Hartland Landfill is located 14 km northwest of Victoria and is the only sanitary landfill in the capital region. The 125-hectare site is owned by the CRD and operated by a combination of CRD staff and contractors. The landfill is operated under Operational Certificate # PR12659 issued under the Environmental Management Act and follows a detailed Operating Plan based on the Operational Certificate. Figure 4-5 shows the current property boundary of Hartland Landfill. In 2013, the CRD acquired additional land to the east of the site to increase the buffer around the landfill. Additional land acquisitions to further increase the buffer are under consideration, and may be acquired during the lifespan of this SWMP. Additional buffer land acquisitions would be consolidated into a single parcel of land. The acquisition of any additional lands are to increase the buffer lands and operational flexibility at Hartland and not to expand the area for landfilling.

In 2013, the Minister of Environment approved Amendment No. 8 of the current SWMP that allows the siting of a biosolids treatment facility at Hartland. A Residuals Treatment Facility has been constructed at Hartland North.

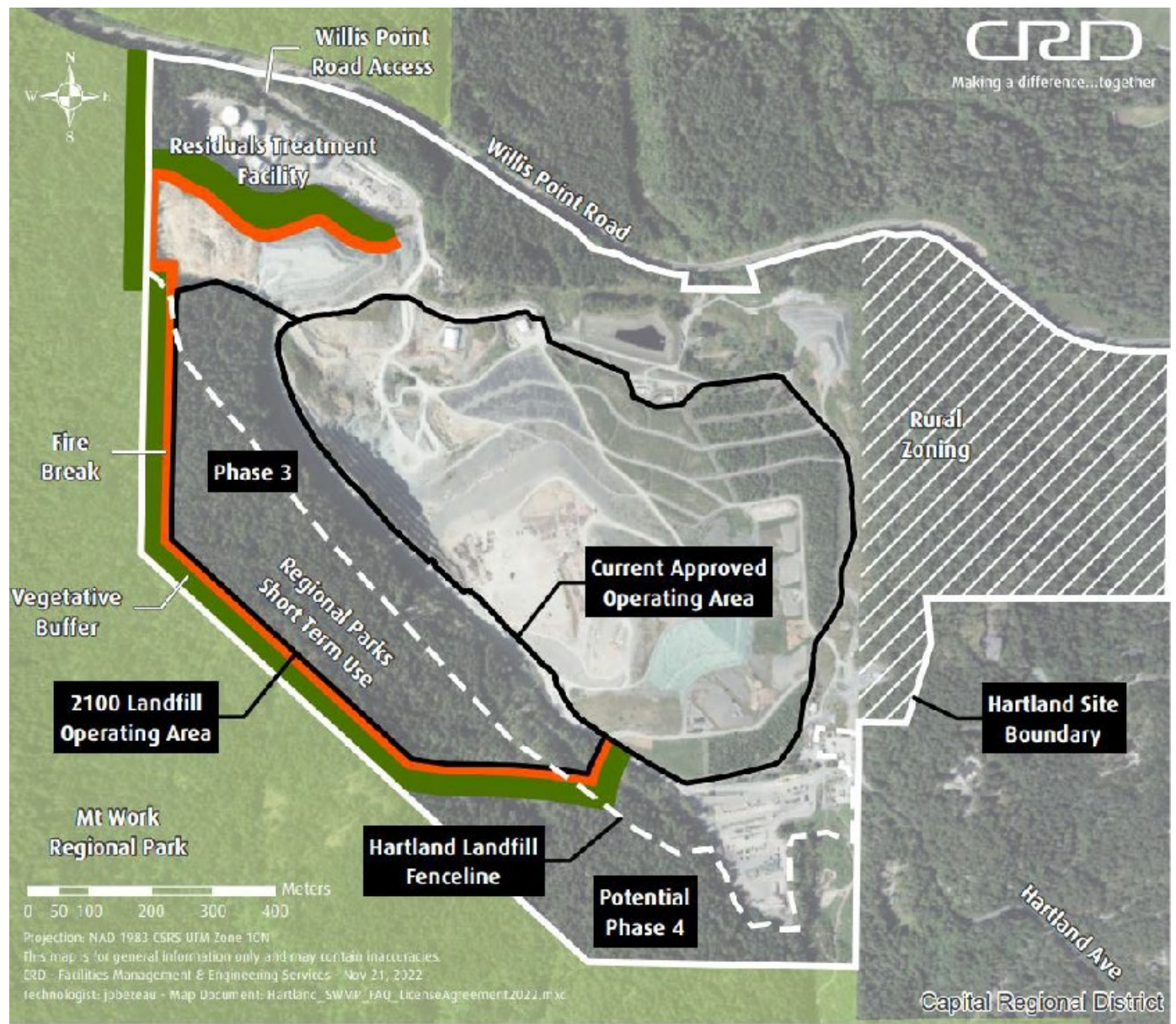
The Hartland Landfill site is a multi-purpose facility that currently includes the following waste management functions:

- Disposal and landfill service for residential and non-residential customers;
- Disposal facility for controlled waste;
- Public drop-off depot for:
  - Recyclable materials;
  - Extended producer responsibility materials
  - Household hazardous waste materials;
  - Reusable goods;
  - Yard and garden material;
- Kitchen scraps transfer station;
- Leachate collection, treatment and disposal;
- Landfill gas collection, processing, conversion utilization and sale;
- Administration and weigh scale facilities; and
- Other solid waste disposal and diversion initiatives as approved by the CRD Board.



Over the years, the CRD has sought to ensure the conservation of landfill space. The practice of banning the disposal of specific wastes at Hartland Landfill, when viable recycling alternatives are in place, has been used by the CRD since 1991. Current landfill bans include drywall (implemented in 1991), cardboard, directories, large appliances, tires (1993), scrap metal, fill, aggregate, concrete, asphalt, rubble and clean soil (1995), paper fibres (1998), yard and garden waste (2006), EPR materials (current and future) designated under BC's Recycling Regulation (2011), and kitchen scraps (2015).

The waste diversion and disposal services and policies at Hartland will continue to evolve as needed based on available recycling markets, changes to provincial regulations like BC's Recycling Regulation, and community need.



**Figure 4-5: Hartland Landfill Boundaries**

#### *4.2.2.1.1 Phase 1 and Phase 2 History*

Phase 1 is the original part of Hartland Landfill that was completely closed by 1998. This area was filled with approximately 4.5 million cubic metres of garbage. It is permanently covered with a specially designed durable plastic liner and soil cap.

The Final Closure design for Phase 1 was completed in 2010, which included a final cover complete with a new wetland sedimentation pond in addition to gas, leachate and road upgrades. More than 22,000 native trees and bushes have been planted over the Phase 1 area.

Phase 2 refers to the current active filling area which was officially opened on April 30, 1997. It consists of a system of liners, drains and collection pipes to provide for long-term engineered, environmentally secure waste disposal.

Phase 2 is designed to accept approximately 10.3 million cubic metres of solid waste. The most recent final closure was of the north face of Phase 2, Cell 1 in 2011. In 2016, progressive closure of the East and South Faces of Phase 2, Cell 2 was put in place and construction and initial filling of a new landfill cell (Phase 2, Cell 3) began.

#### *4.2.2.1.2 Hartland Landfill Infrastructure*

In addition to the landfill itself, the site has other infrastructure that supports its operation. This includes a staffed scale house that weighs all incoming and outgoing vehicles, and an automatic scale for account holders. Weighing of vehicles allows the CRD to track the quantity of the waste received at the facility and to charge fees based on the weight of waste deposited at the site. Material collected at the depot and transfer station for subsequent transportation off site is also tracked using the scale system.

Other infrastructure is associated with pollution control and includes leachate and landfill gas management infrastructure, which are described below.

#### *4.2.2.1.3 Gas Management*

As garbage decomposes in the landfill, landfill gas is generated. Landfill gas is primarily methane but also includes other organic compounds. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas – 20 to 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide. To minimize greenhouse gas impacts, reduce odours associated with landfill gas and reduce risk of fires associated with the buildup of methane, active collection and management of the landfill gas is a critical part of managing Hartland Landfill.

Landfill gas has been collected at Hartland for about 20 years. Prior to 2004, the collected gas was flared off and thermally destroyed. Since 2004, the gas is used for generation of electricity and only the excess gas above the generator's capacity is flared. The generator typically produces enough energy to power 1,600 homes annually. In 2013, the CRD purchased their private sector partner's portion of the power project which gives the CRD full control over the landfill gas.

A site specific Landfill Gas Management Plan was approved in 2012, which detailed a strategy for capturing landfill gas and meeting BC Ministry of Environment collection targets. The Plan includes installation, operation and maintenance of collection infrastructure and routine reporting. This has resulted in landfill gas collection increasing by nearly 40% since 2000, and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 50% since 2010. Collection infrastructure continues to be installed in accordance with the Landfill Gas Management Plan. Strategy 14 of this Plan seeks to optimize and maximize landfill gas collection for beneficial use.



#### 4.2.2.1.4 *Leachate Management*

Water that has filtered through garbage is called leachate. To minimize the leachate generation area, impermeable covers are installed as cover on the landfill and perimeter ditches are lined to divert more clean surface water away from the landfill. The leachate generated in the landfill is collected, contained and conveyed via a micro-tunnel to two leachate storage lagoons. The leachate is tested on a once-a-month basis and managed through the sanitary sewer system.

#### 4.2.2.1.5 *Monitoring*

An environmental monitoring, assessment and management program to identify potential impacts of landfill operations on groundwater, surface water and air, is in place in accordance with BC Ministry of requirements. With over 40 years of engineered controls and continuous improvement, groundwater and surface water quality at Hartland Landfill has improved. Monitoring stations include a series of test wells both on and off the landfill site.

The 2016 landfill gas collection efficiencies were within estimated ranges in the Landfill Gas Management Plan, working effectively and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from closed areas of the landfill. New gas wells installed in Phase 2 as part of the long-term gas management plan resulted in gas infrastructure improvements.

The progressive closure of the East and South Faces of Phase 2, Cell 2 that occurred in 2016 significantly reduced the total leachate generation area of the landfill.

The newly constructed Phase 2 Cell 3 area included installation of new leachate containment with gravity flow conveyance piping that discharges into the upper leachate lagoon. Groundwater quality monitoring data obtained in 2016 indicated that landfill leachate is effectively contained and controlled on site.

Leachate quality monitoring, done at the point that it is discharged to the sewer system, confirms that leachate discharged from the site is in compliance with the CRD's Sewer Use Bylaw which regulates discharges to the sanitary sewer. Surface water monitoring in 2016 indicated that nearby surface water bodies are not impacted by leachate.

#### 4.2.2.1.6 *Estimated Lifespan*

Based on current estimates and assuming no major changes to the volume of waste being disposed of in the near-term, Phase 2 of Hartland Landfill is expected to reach capacity around 2045.

Provincial legislation requires the CRD to provide a safe, secure and sustainable disposal option for regional solid waste in perpetuity. With this responsibility in mind, an additional 24 hectares of landfill property adjacent to the current Phase 2 footprint could be developed (Phase 3) to extend the life of Hartland Landfill to 2100 and beyond. The Phase 3 footprint resides entirely within the current Hartland operating area boundary.

Some of this undeveloped landfill property was temporarily leased to CRD Parks until 2019, and is currently used for recreation by visitors to the adjacent Mount Work Regional Park, including hikers and mountain bikers. When regional demand requires the landfill to develop further, the recreational users of this portion of landfill property will be impacted by the loss of these temporary trails (see section 4.2.2.1.7 for details). This area comprises approximately 18 hectares.

The vision for Hartland 2100 is to keep the landfill's footprint as small as possible. This property will need to be developed for future landfilling starting in approximately 2030, unless significantly more waste is diverted, or a new technology for managing waste becomes available and economically feasible for the

CRD. With this planning horizon in mind, development of a Hartland 2100 design concept has been included in this Solid Waste Management Plan in Section 5.3, but its implementation will be phased in over the next 10 years in alignment with evolving regional demand and the landfill's Operational Certificate requirements. CRD staff will review and report out on regional demand as it relates to Hartland Landfill capacity as part of its annual progress report on this Solid Waste Management Plan.

Future development of landfill property, including the removal of second-growth trees, would be offset by the reforestation program already in place for all closed areas of the landfill, including 20 acres of reforested land now that will have grown to 50 acres by 2040. The Hartland 2100 design concept will also include a progressive reforestation plan that will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions generated by the landfill through carbon sequestration.

#### **4.2.2.1.7 Community Benefits and Engagement**

Based on current population growth and waste trends, the CRD anticipates needing to permanently close the existing biking trails on undeveloped Hartland Landfill property before the landfill reaches capacity in 2045. As CRD staff review and report out on regional demand as it relates to Hartland Landfill capacity and work towards phasing-in implementation of the Hartland 2100 design concept, staff will collaborate with the mountain biking community on alternative options.

There are also residents who live near Hartland Landfill, share the use of transportation routes in the area with landfill-bound traffic and feel impacted by the landfill's location. The CRD endeavours to operate and develop the landfill in a manner that recognizes the interests of the community (recreational and residential), while continuing to provide an essential regional service. The CRD has engaged and will continue to engage with these communities to ensure that their perspectives continue to be understood and that the ongoing development the Hartland site is done with these interests in mind.

#### **4.2.2.2 Highest Landfill**

In addition to the Hartland Landfill, there is the privately owned and operated Highwest Landfill located at 1943 Millstream Road in the District of Highlands. This landfill receives construction and demolition waste and non-hazardous/non-putrescible ICI waste for disposal. This facility is expected to permanently close in 2021 once it reaches capacity. Highwest operates under an Operational Certificate #100193 issued by the Province of BC.

#### **4.2.3 Transfer Stations**

The CRD owns and operates a transfer station in Port Renfrew where garbage is received from local residents and transferred to Hartland Landfill. Source separated recyclables and kitchen scraps are also accepted at the site for recycling.

Additionally, there are several private transfer stations in operation in the CRD. Many of these sites offer recycling services as well.

Transfer stations on Salt Spring Island are subject to *Capital Regional District Bylaw 2810, a Bylaw to Regulate the Operation of Transfer Stations on Salt Spring Island* which requires all transfer stations to hold a license. This bylaw was put in place to ensure that all transfer stations on Salt Spring Island are operated at a standard that ensures the protection of environmental and community health.

#### 4.2.4 Solid Waste Collection

Collection of residential and commercial garbage and kitchen scraps is conducted by the private sector, with the exception of single-family dwelling collection service offered by six of the region's municipalities.

The private sector also collects recycling from multi-family buildings, commercial buildings and institutions, and garbage and recycling from construction / demolition sites.

The CRD provides region-wide residential recycling service through a combination of single-family dwelling curbside collection and depot collection programs under contract to Recycle BC.

#### 4.2.5 Streetscape Waste Management

Litter and recycling collection in public spaces such as urban streetscapes is a municipal service, as well as a responsibility of Recycle BC. Streetscape recycling is part of the Recycle BC's EPR program for packaging and printed paper. Encorp also provides streetscape recycling containers for beverage containers.

#### 4.2.6 Reduce and Reuse

There are a broad range of rental and repair services throughout the region plus many opportunities for reuse of goods through private and non-profit retailers, online platforms (e.g., Used Victoria, Kijiji) and informal activities (e.g., garage sales, rummage sales). The CRD supports reuse through two main mechanisms:

- **Diversion Funding for Non-Profit Organizations:** Since 1992, the CRD has provided funding to non-profit organizations involved in recycling clothing and used household goods. The funding assists with their garbage disposal costs at Hartland, in recognition that some donated used goods are unusable and destined for the landfill. Ten organizations participated in the program in 2019.
- **Hartland Reusable Materials Program:** The CRD partners with five organizations for the management of donated items received in the Hartland depot. Goods such as textiles, household items, some building materials and bicycles are redistributed through a variety of networks operated by these non-profit associations.

#### 4.2.7 Communications, Outreach and Education Programs

Environmental education is of paramount importance to the CRD's waste reduction strategies. The CRD provides a number of communications, education and outreach programs to support the 5R hierarchy and promote resident awareness and participation in waste reduction and disposal services, including:

- **School Outreach Programs:** Curriculum-linked educational workshops and tours for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.
- **Hartland Learning Centre:** Located at Hartland Landfill, this recycled building is the venue for school and community workshops, as well as the starting point for tours. Tours are provided to school groups, community groups, members of the public and technical groups.
- **Community Outreach and Events:** Displays are set up at fairs, festivals, community gatherings and other community events or locations. The displays often focus on ways to reduce and divert waste,

proper sorting techniques for recyclable materials or more specific topics such as how to prepare demolition waste and dispose of asbestos.

- **MyRecyclopedia.ca:** A comprehensive online listing of items including local recycling listings and tips on how to reduce and reuse.
- **Infoline:** This dedicated phone line and email address allows the CRD to respond to inquiries about waste reduction, waste management, recycling and Hartland Landfill.
- **Ready, Set, Sort!:** An online waste sorting game where residents can test their knowledge about local recycling opportunities.
- **CRD website:** The CRD's website has a range of information associated with the 5Rs and CRD's solid waste services.
- **Compost Education Centre:** Through a contract with the CRD, the centre offers organic waste diversion presentations, workshops, and educational demonstrations at on-site gardens and throughout the community.
- **Public Education Campaigns:** The CRD develops and implements a number of seasonal, multi-media public education campaigns to promote and provide information on a range of waste management subjects. In 2019, those subjects included:
  - ♦ end markets for recyclable materials
  - ♦ household hazardous waste
  - ♦ safe renovation waste disposal
  - ♦ avoidable food waste reduction
  - ♦ illegal dumping prevention
  - ♦ holiday season waste reduction
  - ♦ abandoned boat reporting and prevention

In addition to the above activities undertaken by the CRD, municipalities with waste management services, waste management companies, EPR organizations and many environment-oriented non-profit organizations provide their own communication and education services.

#### 4.2.8 Recycling Depots

There are public and privately operated depots located throughout the region accepting recyclables of many types, kitchen scraps, yard waste, EPR products, and household hazardous waste. Some of these depots also receive garbage.

The public drop-off depot at Hartland receives garbage, reusable goods, recyclables and household hazardous waste. This area is intended for residential quantities and limits vehicle size to 5,500 kg gross vehicle weight.

Residents on Salt Spring Island and the Southern Gulf Islands are provided recycling services through drop-off programs set up at depots in their communities. The CRD, under agreement with Recycle BC, partners with local on-island non-profit associations for recycling services for residential packaging and paper products at these depots. In addition to receiving packaging and paper products, most depots offer additional services such as scrap metal, electronics recycling and other recycling.



#### 4.2.9 Extended Producer Responsibility

British Columbia's industry-led product stewardship programs require producers of designated products to take extended producer responsibility for the life-cycle management of their products, including collection and recycling.

The BC Recycling Regulation, under authority of the Environmental Management Act, sets out the requirements for product stewardship in BC. The region is served by all of BC's EPR programs through a broad range of take-back programs and service providers, including depots and retailers. The CRD participates directly in EPR by acting as a collector for the following EPR programs at Hartland depot:

- Beverage Containers
- Electronics, Electrical Products, Batteries, Smoke Detectors and Lighting Products
- Lead-Acid Batteries
- Paints, Solvents, Flammable Liquids, Gasoline and Pesticides
- Residential Packaging and Paper Products
- Tires
- Used Lubricating Oil, Filters and Containers and Antifreeze

#### 4.2.10 Household Hazardous Waste Management

Most household hazardous waste (HHW) in the CRD is collected through EPR programs, including those provided at the Hartland depot.

Since not all HHW is currently covered by EPR programs, the CRD accepts both EPR and non-EPR household hazardous waste materials at the Hartland depot. This program will remain available as long as there is a need for the service.

The CRD will continue to encourage the province to expand the list of household hazardous waste products covered by EPR so that the cost of managing all household hazardous waste is ultimately borne by the producers and consumers of these products.

#### 4.2.11 Organics Management

##### **Regional Kitchen Scraps Strategy**

In January 2015, a landfill ban on kitchen scraps was implemented, saving a valuable resource, conserving landfill space and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from Hartland Landfill. Collected kitchen scraps are currently processed at composting facilities in outside of the capital region.

##### **Compost Facilities Bylaw**

The CRD Board adopted the regional composting bylaw in December 2005. The bylaw regulates the operation of composting facilities in the region to protect public health and the environment. In 2019, there were no facilities licensed under the bylaw in the region.

##### **Yard and Garden Material Landfill Restriction**

In 2006, a yard and garden material landfill ban came into effect. A number of private facilities in the area accept the region's yard and garden material.

In 2019, 1,142 tonnes of source-separated yard and garden material was received at Hartland where it was ground and beneficially used on-site. The landfill ban excludes invasive, infectious and noxious plants

which are received at Hartland as garbage or controlled waste at a discounted tipping fee in an effort to reduce their proliferation.

#### 4.2.12 Illegal Dumping Mitigation

The CRD's aims to mitigate illegal dumping through the following on-going measures:

- Communication campaigns that target specific illegal dumping behaviours;
- Funding to non-profit associations to conduct clean-up events in public places;
- Funding for the removal of abandoned boats and marine debris;
- Support of non-profit organizations involved in recycling clothing and used household goods;
- Funding towards the disposal and recycling of unusable materials received as donations;
- Provision of safe disposal of abandoned hazardous materials; and
- A web page on illegal dumping on the CRD website that provides information on how to reduce illegal dumping and abandonment.

#### 4.2.13 Participants in the Solid Waste Management System

There are many participants in the solid waste management system, as described in Table 4-1.

**Table 4-1: Participants in the Solid Waste Management System**

| Who                        | Roles in Solid Waste Management                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BC Ministry of Environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulates municipal solid waste management through the Environmental Management Act</li> <li>• Establishes provincial targets for management of solid waste in BC</li> <li>• Approves regional solid waste management plans</li> <li>• Authorizes discharges to the environment through permits and operational certificates</li> <li>• Enforces provincial regulations and the conditions set out in discharge permits and operational certificates</li> <li>• Mandates EPR in BC through the Recycling Regulation</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Capital Regional District  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operates the Hartland Landfill site and the Port Renfrew transfer station</li> <li>• Provides residential recycling services through a combination of curbside and depot collection (through a contract with Recycle BC)</li> <li>• Prepares the regional solid waste management plan (SWMP)</li> <li>• Works with municipalities and First Nations to implement the SWMP</li> <li>• Regulates the operation of composting facilities through the Compost Facility Bylaw</li> <li>• Regulates the operation of transfer stations on Salt Spring Island through the Salt Spring Island Transfer Station Bylaw</li> <li>• Reports annual municipal solid waste disposal rate to ministry</li> <li>• Provides education and outreach</li> <li>• Monitors the implementation of the SWMP through the Solid Waste Advisory Committee</li> </ul> |
| Municipalities             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May provide various curbside collection or drop-off services to residents</li> <li>• Litter collection, streetscape sanitation and waste collection services for public spaces</li> <li>• Provides education and outreach associated with local solid waste services</li> <li>• Municipal waste management planning, which may include zero waste planning</li> <li>• Liaises with the regional district with regards to solid waste services and issues</li> <li>• Participates in the development and implementation of the SWMP</li> <li>• May undertake local zero waste initiatives</li> <li>• Provides land use zoning approval for a variety of solid waste and recycling facilities in their municipality</li> </ul>                                                                                                               |

| Who                                                                             | Roles in Solid Waste Management                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| First Nations                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May provide curbside collection of garbage and kitchen scraps to residents</li> <li>• Provides education and outreach associated with the local solid waste services</li> <li>• Liaises with the regional district on items of mutual interest</li> <li>• May participate in the development and implementation of the SWMP</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Producer Responsibility Organizations                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides collection services for stewarded products</li> <li>• Provides education/promotion to increase product recovery</li> <li>• Provides deposit refunds to consumers (where applicable)</li> <li>• Monitors and reports on diversion/recovery rates to the Province</li> <li>• Participates in the development and implementation of the SWMP</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Private sector involved in waste management (e.g., haulers, facility operators) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides garbage and recycling collection services to municipalities, businesses, residents, institutions, and construction/ demolition projects</li> <li>• May operate private facilities such as bottle depots, recycling depots, transfer stations and composting facilities</li> <li>• May be regulated by Provincial government</li> <li>• Liaises with waste generators (customers) to minimize contamination of waste streams</li> <li>• Complies with CRD requirements for source separation of controlled waste</li> <li>• Participates in the development and implementation of the SWMP</li> </ul> |
| Waste generators (residents and businesses)                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participates in municipal and regional solid waste management programs and services</li> <li>• Is informed regarding source separation requirements, disposal restrictions and options to minimize waste sent to disposal</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Non-profit organizations                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide recycling depot services on Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands</li> <li>• Receive reusable goods for sale in thrift stores and distribution in social support programs</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

#### 4.2.14 Bylaws

The CRD has the following bylaws in place for the purposes of managing solid waste:

**Bylaw 1903, Solid Waste Disposal Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 1991** establishes a local service to allow the CRD to acquire, construct, establish, maintain, operate and regulate:

- transfer depots and facilities for receiving collected waste for packing, processing, loading and transporting the waste to disposal grounds;
- facilities for collecting, processing, storing, marketing and disposing of recyclable waste;
- facilities for composting waste;
- facilities for collection, storage and disposal of hazardous, biomedical or special waste;
- facilities for carrying out resource recovery from waste; and
- waste disposal grounds and facilities.

The above bylaw has been amended twice since 1991:

- **Bylaw 2564 To Amend Bylaw No. 1903 “Solid Waste Disposal Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 1991”** to establish the service of the regulation, storage and management of municipal solid waste and recyclable material, including the regulation of facilities and commercial vehicles used in relation to these matters
- **Bylaw 3900 To Amend Bylaw 1903 "Solid Waste Disposal Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 1991"** to include facilities for carrying out resource recovery from recyclable material, and the generation of energy from landfill gas.

**Bylaw 3881, The Hartland Landfill Tipping Fee and Regulation Bylaw** lists items that are banned from disposal at Hartland Landfill and established tipping fees for garbage and recyclables.

**Bylaw 2810, a Bylaw to Regulate the Operation of Transfer Stations on Salt Spring Island** requires all transfer stations on Salt Spring Island to hold a license. This bylaw was put in place to ensure that all transfer stations on the island are operated at a level that ensures the protection of environmental and community health.

**Bylaw 2736, a Bylaw to Regulate the Operation of Composting Facilities** ensures that composting operations do not contaminate ground or surface water, or generate unacceptable levels of nuisance odour, vectors, litter or dust, and to protect the public from composting operations which violate the requirements of the bylaw. The CRD bylaw supplements existing provincial regulations under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation.

The bylaw sets out four classes of licenses, as follows:

- Class 1: composting general organic matter on an impermeable surface or in-vessel (this type of facility is exempt from licensing unless the facility generates leachate or creates nuisance odours, vectors, litter or dust).
- Class 2: composting biosolids with general organic matter on an impermeable surface or in-vessel.
- Class 3: composting restricted organic matter.
- Provisional: operations not using proven technology to compost restricted organic matter.

**Bylaw 2290, a Bylaw for the purpose of establishing regulations for the use of recycling containers and the collection of recyclable material** within the Capital Regional District.

In addition to the above, municipalities may have bylaw provisions associated with the waste management services they provide, in addition to littering, open burning, zero waste and the location of waste management facilities.



## 5 Strategies and Actions

This section outlines the strategies to be implemented to achieve the Plan's goals and the specific actions to be undertaken as part of each strategy. Figure 5-1 provides a graphical summary of the four goals of this Plan and the associated strategies.

| Goals                                                                                   |                                                         |                                                   |                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Have informed citizens who participate effectively in proper waste management practices | Surpass the provincial per capita waste disposal target | Extend the life of Hartland Landfill to 2100 plus | Ensure that the CRD's solid waste services are financially sustainable |

| Strategies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| REDUCTION & REUSE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | RECYCLING                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | RECOVERY & RESIDUALS MANAGEMENT                                                                                                        |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue and Enhance Education Programs</li> <li>2. Encourage Waste Prevention</li> <li>3. Support Reduction of Avoidable Food Waste</li> <li>4. Support Reuse Activities in the Region</li> <li>5. Support Local Governments in Working Towards Zero Waste and a Circular Economy</li> <li>6. Continue and Enhance Policy Development</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Increase Residential Diversion</li> <li>8. Increase Multi-Family Diversion</li> <li>9. Increase Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Diversion</li> <li>10. Support Existing and New Extended Producer Responsibility Programs</li> <li>11. Increase Organics Diversion and Processing Capacity</li> <li>12. Increase Construction, Renovation, and Demolition Material Diversion</li> <li>13. Encourage Proper Public Space Waste Management Activities</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14. Optimize Landfill Gas Management</li> <li>15. Enhance Hartland Disposal Capacity</li> </ol> |

**Figure 5-1: Plan Goals and Strategies**

The selection of the Plan's strategies and actions were based on feedback from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and an evaluation of each strategy for:

- Technical Feasibility and Effectiveness;
- Environmental Impact and Benefits;
- Social Impact;
- Effect on Waste Disposal; and
- Cost Considerations.

These actions are deliberately broad in scope to enable a wide range of current, emerging and future activities related to each program area. This Plan is intended as a guiding document and does not encompass operational details or articulate every ongoing program or activity undertaken by the CRD. The guiding principles, goals, targets and strategies outlined in this Plan provide the policy framework to guide CRD's programming around solid waste. Activity progress will be reported annually through a detailed plan monitoring report.

Implementation of the actions outlined in this Plan will require collaboration with many participants in the solid waste system.

This Plan does not preclude municipalities, First Nations, local businesses, institutions or non-profit organizations of undertaking their own initiatives, except for where those initiatives require inclusion in the regional Plan

## **5.1 Reduction and Reuse**

### **Strategy #1: Continue and Enhance Education Programs**

#### **Actions:**

- A. Ensure ongoing, up-to-date promotion and education resources to enable effective participation in CRD programs and initiatives.
- B. Incorporate behaviour change components wherever possible; using a variety of education and communication strategies and tools.
- C. Expand and prioritize education programs for the multi-family and ICI sectors.
- D. Enhance K-12 school program to include concepts of zero waste and the circular economy.
- E. Collaborate with stakeholders on education campaigns (in partnership with First Nations communities, municipalities and product stewards).
- F. Continue supporting environmental stewardship recognition.
- G. Continue to engage residents on solid waste matters using the appropriate level of consultation.

### **Strategy #2: Encourage Waste Prevention**

#### **Actions:**

- A. Promote less consumption and advocate for consumer responsibility.
- B. Establish a community-based waste reduction grant program.
- C. Support municipal, provincial and federal single-use item reduction efforts.
- D. Promote sustainable and/or packaging-free purchasing options.
- E. Advocate provincially and federally to limit or eliminate the manufacturing, distribution and/or sale of single use items and non-recyclable materials.
- F. Advocate provincially and federally for sustainable product and packaging design.

### **Strategy #3: Support Reduction of Avoidable Food Waste**

#### **Actions:**

- A. Continue to support residential food waste reduction through education campaigns and composting promotion.
- B. Continue to encourage the donation of edible food and support food recovery organizations.
- C. Advocate for regulations that support avoiding food waste.

### **Strategy #4: Support Reuse Activities in the Region**

#### **Actions:**

- A. Continue to provide funding for non-profit reuse organizations to help offset costs for managing unusable donated items.
- B. Continue to support and promote donations to reuse establishments.
- C. Support reuse, renting and sharing programs (e.g., tool libraries, repair cafes and centres, sewing hubs, etc.) and other materials exchange activities.
- D. Investigate the possibility of a free store at Hartland or other facilities.

## **Strategy #5: Support Local Governments in Working towards Zero Waste and a Circular Economy**

### **Actions:**

- A. Develop model language for bylaws, best practices, official community plans, and economic development strategies for use by local governments using research and collaboration to guide this process (in partnership with municipalities and potentially other regional districts).
- B. Work with local governments to identify the need for solid waste facilities and zoning for waste management activities. To be done in partnership with member municipalities.
- C. Use policy tools to enable local recycling infrastructure.
- D. Investigate 'pay-as-you-throw' principles to use as tools to incent less waste disposal.
- E. Investigate use of clear bags for garbage or recyclables collection to encourage proper recycling of materials, where practicable and enforceable (e.g., at events).

## **Strategy #6: Continue and Enhance Policy Development**

### **Actions:**

- A. Develop model procurement policies for use by local governments, non-profits, etc. To be done in partnership with member municipalities and other interested organizations.
- B. Continue to expand material bans when viable alternatives exist.
- C. Investigate licensing waste management facilities in the region to encourage transparency, consistency, and a requirement that all facilities protect public health and the environment.
- D. Investigate regulatory mechanisms to manage municipal solid waste and recyclable materials in the region.
- E. Investigate options for managing debris from extreme weather (e.g., community chipping days, special burning allowances in electoral areas).

## **5.2 Recycling**

### **Strategy # 7: Increase Residential Diversion**

#### **Actions:**

- A. Continue to promote residential diversion of recyclable materials (including organics), ensuring that education campaigns strive to minimize contamination in these streams.
- B. Collaborate with municipal and private sector service providers to support depot diversion efforts in the region for non-curb-side materials.
- C. Encourage local processing and markets for residential recyclables.
- D. Develop tools, such as a guide, to support event recycling.

### **Strategy # 8: Increase Multi-Family Diversion**

#### **Actions:**

- A. Allocate resources to support multi-family recycling, for example, by developing standardized education materials.
- B. Work with local governments and private sector service providers to develop multi-family waste source separation requirements.
- C. Develop policy guide and recommendations for recycling, composting and garbage space and access in multi-family developments.
- D. Collaborate with stakeholders (e.g., private haulers who service multi-family buildings or multi-family property managers) to implement support for multi-family recycling.

### Strategy # 9: Increase Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Diversion

#### Actions:

- A. Allocate resources to increase ICI diversion, for example, a business waste reduction liaison.
- B. Advocate to expand the packaging and paper product EPR program to the ICI sector.
- C. Create a business waste reduction toolkit, including education about how to apply circular economy principles.
- D. Encourage municipalities to require waste management plans with business licenses.
- E. Develop policy guide for ICI waste management space and access requirements.
- F. Work with local governments and private sector service providers to develop ICI waste source separation requirements.
- G. Investigate shifting disposal ban enforcement to the ICI generator, rather than hauler.

### Strategy #10: Support Existing and New Extended Producer Responsibility Programs

#### Actions:

- A. Advocate to the province to expand EPR programs.
- B. Collaborate with stewards to increase consumer awareness about EPR programs.
- C. Advocate for increased return-to-retailer opportunities.
- D. Advocate federally to standardize EPR programs across Canada.

### Strategy #11: Increase Organics Diversion and Processing Capacity

#### Actions:

- A. Continue to promote organics waste material diversion.
- B. Continue to utilize and monitor existing private sector organics processing capacity and seek to develop a facility at the Hartland Landfill site in the future should needed processing capacity not be found to be sufficiently available to meet the region's requirements. (Additional information on the process to develop this facility is in Section 6).
- C. Support compost markets by purchasing back materials.
- D. Collaborate with service providers and users (e.g., local businesses) to develop guidelines for use of compostable products and packaging.

### Strategy #12: Increase Construction, Renovation and Demolition (CR&D) Material Diversion

#### Actions:

- A. Develop a comprehensive CR&D strategy, including characterization of materials, best practices, and pilot projects.
- B. Develop educational tools to support CR&D material diversion (e.g., create an industry toolkit, a deconstruction guide, and/or guidelines for diverting and utilizing reused materials).
- C. Promote green building standards.
- D. Continue collaboration with local governments to develop and use policy tools (e.g., construction permits, building codes) to maximize diversion and to align management plans.
- E. Investigate beneficial uses of CR&D waste, including a clean wood waste landfill ban.
- F. Investigate banning or surcharging mixed CR&D loads at the landfill to encourage source separation.
- G. Further develop programs for managing hazardous materials (e.g., asbestos).



### Strategy #13: Encourage Proper Public Space Waste Management Activities

#### Actions:

- A. Develop educational materials to prevent and reduce litter and abandoned materials in our neighbourhoods and public spaces.
- B. Continue promoting alternatives to abandoned materials and illegal dumping by educating about proper management and disposal
- C. Collaborate with stakeholders, including local governments and private sector facilities, to develop a regional approach to prevention of illegal dumping.
- D. Investigate developing regionally-aligned litter bylaws. To be done in partnership with member municipalities.
- E. Develop and pilot methodologies to 'observe, record, and report' on abandoned materials and illegal dumping incidents throughout the region.
- F. Investigate options for large bulky item disposal, e.g., free drop-off days or large item pick-up days

### 5.3 Recovery and Residuals Management

### Strategy #14: Optimize Landfill Gas Management

#### Actions:

- A. Continue to maximize and optimize the capture of landfill gas for beneficial use.<sup>6</sup>
- B. Investigate collaboration opportunities with educational institutions to research new beneficial uses and technologies.

### Strategy #15: Enhance Hartland Disposal Capacity

#### Actions:

- A. Review Hartland tipping fee structure and ban enforcement levels, subject to recycling market conditions
- B. Continue to operate Hartland Landfill using best practices.
- C. Develop design options that maximize the disposal capacity of Hartland Landfill to 2100 and beyond. (Note: See section 4.2.2.1.6 for details. Design and aggregate management options could extend landfill life significantly.)
- D. Continue to conduct research, investigate and report out on emerging waste management technologies (including alternatives to landfilling such as integrated resource management and gasification).

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<sup>6</sup> On April 22, 2020, the CRD announced approval in principle of an agreement where FortisBC will purchase renewable natural gas (RNG) generated from Hartland Landfill for beneficial use in its natural gas distribution system. The CRD and FortisBC are currently working together on a supply contract that will be submitted to the British Columbia Utilities Commission for approval. If approved by the commission, the CRD will continue to be responsible for the ownership and operation of the Hartland Landfill, the landfill gas collection system and the upgrade facility. The project is expected to reduce the region's greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 264,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent over the 25-year project life.

## 6 Organic Processing Facility Decision Process

Strategy #11 includes an action to continue to utilize and monitor existing private sector organics processing capacity, and seek to develop a facility at the Hartland site in the future should needed processing capacity not be found to be sufficiently available to meet the region's needs. This section provides additional detail on the history of organic material management and potential future management options.

The CRD implemented a kitchen scraps disposal ban at Hartland Landfill in 2015. In recognition of a lack of sufficient local processing capacity, the CRD expanded the kitchen scraps transfer area at Hartland to receive additional volumes of kitchen scraps collected within the region. Kitchen scraps are received from municipal and private sector split packer and single stream collection vehicles, loaded for efficient transport and hauled for processing at facilities on southern Vancouver Island.

The CRD intends to continue to provide the community with receiving and transport services for kitchen scraps through the transfer facility at Hartland while monitoring in-region and on-island processing capacity.

In response to a need to secure additional processing capacity for the community, a facility at Hartland may also be pursued in an effort to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the current transportation and processing model.

## 7 Implementation Schedule

In the short-term (the first 3 years of the plan's implementation), the focus will be on the actions that target the reduction and diversion of CR&D waste and organic materials. Also in the short-term, the actions associated single-family, multi-family, and ICI diversion will be implemented.

In the medium-term (4-5 years), the focus will be on continuing and improving the single-family, multi-family, and ICI programs.

In the long-term (full plan implementation), all programs will be refined to maintain and/or improve diversion levels. Additionally, new EPR programs are anticipated to be implemented within the timeframe of this Plan; in particular, the Plan anticipates the introduction of EPR for ICI-generated paper and packaging and textiles.

Schedule C provides a detailed planned implementation schedule for the Solid Waste Management Plan from 2021 to 2030.

## 8 Plan Targets

The targets established for this Plan are focused on reducing the amount of waste landfilled on a per capita basis. The CRD has set a goal of exceeding the provincial target for per capita waste disposal. At the time of preparing this Plan, the provincial target is 350 kg per capita. The per capita disposal targets proposed for the CRD are based on the strategies and actions described in Section 5 and are presented below in Table 8-1.

**Table 8-1: Plan Targets**

|                                        | Short Term Goal (3 years)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Medium Term Goal (5 years)                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Long Term Goal (10+ years)                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Targeted Sectors/ Materials</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction, Renovation, and Demolition waste</li> <li>Organic waste from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single-family</li> <li>Multi-family</li> <li>Industrial, Commercial and Institutional</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recyclables and organic waste from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single-family</li> <li>Multi-family</li> <li>Industrial, Commercial and Institutional</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extended producer responsibility for Industrial, commercial and institutional - generated paper and packaging and textiles</li> <li>Refine programs to increase performance for all sectors</li> </ul> |
| <b>Disposal Target (kg per capita)</b> | <b>340<sup>1</sup></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>285</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>250<sup>2</sup></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

1. This target is aggressive and assumes that disposal bans for CR&D materials would be implemented.

2. This target is aggressive and assumes that new EPR programs will be implemented by the Ministry in the long-term timeframe.

## 9 Financing

The strategies and actions outlined in this Solid Waste Management Plan are intended to decrease community waste generation from 380kg per capita down to 250kg per capita over the 10-year planning horizon.

In 2019, all costs associated with solid waste disposal and diversion programs in the CRD were funded through tipping and user fee revenues at Hartland Landfill, collection contract revenues, sale of electricity and sale of recyclables. The costs of the CRD's solid waste services, including the funding of reserves, was \$27,646,550.

The annual incremental cost to deliver the strategies and actions identified in the Solid Waste Management Plan is \$320,000 to \$345,000 per year as shown in Table 9-1. This is an increase of approximately 1% per year.

**Table 9-1: New Costs Associated with Solid Waste Management Plan Strategies and Actions**

| Strategy     |                                                                     | Annual Cost                  |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1            | Continue and Enhance Education Programs                             | \$100,000                    |
| 2            | Encourage Waste Prevention                                          | \$50,000                     |
| 7            | Increase Residential Diversion                                      | \$25,000 (for 2 years)       |
| 8            | Increase Multi-Family Diversion                                     | \$50,000                     |
| 9            | Increase Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Diversion         | \$50,000                     |
| 12           | Increase Construction, Renovation and Demolition Material Diversion | \$50,000                     |
| 13           | Enhance Public Space Waste Management                               | \$20,000                     |
| <b>Total</b> |                                                                     | <b>\$320,000 - \$345,000</b> |

The 10-year operating and capital projections for the CRD's solid waste services, including the proposed SWMP investments and resulting tonnage reductions, can be funded by tipping fees, program revenues, reserve balances and other projected revenues (including renewable natural gas), without the need for tax requisition or external debt. Schedule D shows the estimated financial impact of the projected expenditures and decreasing per capita disposal.

## 10 Plan Flexibility

Due to changing circumstances and priorities that may evolve over time, and with the input of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and interested parties, all major actions identified in the Plan will be reviewed for appropriateness before implementation. This will generally occur on an annual basis. The Plan's implementation schedule will be flexible enough to reflect the availability of technologies that may arise over time, as well as the potential changes in regional issues and priorities. In addition, it will also take into account the financial priorities of member municipalities and other partners, the availability of funding to undertake actions listed in this Plan, and the availability of contractors and service providers.

The Plan is a "living document" that may be amended to reflect new considerations, technologies and issues as they arise.

An amendment of this Plan would be required if there were major changes to the solid waste management system of the following nature:

- a. The opening (or changes to the location or status) of a site or facility that is *not* already identified in this *Plan* and requires an authorization under BC's Environmental Management Act; or any other facility that could have an adverse impact to human health or the environment, as determined by the BC Environmental Management Act;
- b. Waste import / export options which would significantly impact the CRD's or neighbouring regional district's solid waste systems, or not conform to provincial legislation, goals and/or waste reduction targets;
- c. Significant changes to the *Plan's* disposal targets or reductions in programs supporting the first 3Rs;
- d. A change in the boundary of the *Plan*, which would significantly change the amount of solid waste to be managed under the *Plan* or significantly change the population of the *Plan* area;
- e. The addition, deletion or revision of policies or strategies related to the conditions outlined in the Minister's approval letter; and
- f. Major financial changes that warrant seeking elector assent.

If a Plan amendment becomes necessary, the CRD would need to undergo a public consultation process and submit an amended plan to the Minister of Environment for approval, along with a detailed consultation report.

## 11 Plan Monitoring and Measurement

The implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan will be monitored to determine its on-going effectiveness. As part of this monitoring, CRD staff will review and report out on regional demand as it relates to Hartland Landfill capacity. Annual measurement and monitoring allows for course corrections to be made in a timely manner, and to consider strengthening plan targets.

The following monitoring and measurement actions will be undertaken.



1. **Plan Monitoring:** Monitoring progress on the Plan's implementation will be undertaken by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee on an annual basis. This will maintain the linkage between the development of the plan and its implementation. The terms of reference for the Solid Waste Advisory Committee are included in this Plan as Schedule A.
2. **Annual Reporting:** On an annual basis, CRD staff will continue to prepare and publicize an Environmental Resource Management Progress Report that describes the CRD's current solid waste management activities and provides several metrics including the amount of waste landfilled per capita. This report will include the status of the Plan's implementation and progress toward the Plan's targets. Additionally, the report will identify any challenges or opportunities that are affecting (or have the potential to affect) the Plan's implementation. This report will be provided to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Board. It will also be promoted publicly through a range of CRD communications channels.
3. **BC Disposal Calculator:** the CRD will continue to compile data annually on all of the municipal solid waste disposal activities in the regional district for reporting to the BC Ministry of Environment's on-line disposal calculator.
4. **Interim Assessment / Plan Update:** As per the BC Guidelines for Solid Waste Management Planning, five years into the implementation of the Plan, the CRD intends to carry out a review of the plan's implementation and effectiveness. The CRD also intends to undertake a Plan renewal after ten years.
5. **Waste Composition Study:** The CRD has been undertaking waste composition studies approximately every 5 years since 1990. The CRD will continue to undertake these studies to provide valuable insight into how the Plan's implementation is affecting what is landfilled. This information will also help to inform the preparation of the Interim Assessment and next Plan renewal.

## 12 Inter-Regional District Cooperation

The CRD recognizes the value of collaborating with other regional districts with an aim to improve cost-efficiencies of providing solid waste services, and also to learn from each other through sharing ideas and experiences. To this end, the CRD are members of the following organizations:

- Coast Waste Management Association
- Recycling Council of BC
- Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Solid Waste Management Committee
- BC Product Stewardship Council
- Solid Waste Association of North America

Additionally, the CRD has partnered with the Cowichan Valley Regional District and the Regional District of Nanaimo to undertake solid waste technical studies of mutual interest.

During the implementation of this Plan, the CRD will continue to participate in the above organizations as a means of collaborating with other BC regional districts, and particularly to work on solid waste solutions for Vancouver Island.

### 13 Plan Amendments

This Plan represents the current understanding and approach to the solid waste management challenges being faced by the CRD. The Plan is a “living document” that may be amended to reflect new considerations, technologies and issues as they arise.

The need for a plan amendment will be triggered by major changes to the solid waste management system which would include:

- a. The opening of a site or facility that requires an authorization under the Environmental Management Act that is not currently recognized in this Plan;
- b. Any other facility that could have an adverse impact to human health or the environment, as determined by the BC Environmental Management Act;
- c. Waste import / export options which would significantly impact the regional district's or neighbouring solid waste systems, or not conform to provincial legislation, goals and / or targets; and
- d. Major financial changes that warrant seeking elector assent.

When a plan amendment becomes necessary, the CRD will undergo a public consultation process and submit an amended plan to the Minister of Environment for approval, along with a detailed consultation report.

### 14 Dispute Resolution

Although consultation efforts may prevent or minimize conflicts, at times, disputes may arise during development or implementation of the Plan. To this end, a dispute resolution procedure has been included to address complaints or concerns that occur during plan development or implementation.

This dispute resolution procedure, included as Schedule B, may apply to the following types of conflicts that could arise during plan implementation:

- Administrative decisions made by the regional district such as:
  - The issuance of a license
  - Interpretation of a statement, bylaw, policy or provision in the Plan
- Any other matter not related to a proposed change to the wording of the Plan or an operating certificate

## **Schedule A: Solid Waste Advisory Committee Terms of Reference**

### **PREAMBLE**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Solid Waste Advisory Committee is an Advisory Committee established by the CRD Environmental Services Committee to provide input on solid waste management matters and meet the requirements of the Ministry of Environment's Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning for an advisory committee on the development and implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP).

The Committee's official name is to be: Solid Waste Advisory Committee

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

The mandate of the Committee includes advising the Environmental Services Committee regarding the following:

- a. providing input on major solid waste management matters
- b. serving as the advisory committee to the Steering Committee (Environmental Services Committee) on the development of Revision 3 of the SWMP
- c. acting as Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee for the new SWMP, once approved

### **2.0 ESTABLISHMENT AND AUTHORITY**

- a. The Environmental Services Committee will:
  - appoint the committee members for up to a three-year term
  - act as the Steering Committee for Revision 3 of the SWMP
  - appoint a member as the liaison between the advisory committee and the Environmental Services/Steering Committee
- b. The Committee will report its input to the Environmental Services Committee for consideration. The CRD Board is the final decision-making authority.

### **3.0 COMPOSITION**

The Committee shall consist of members representing a diversity of background, interests and geographical location, representing a balance between technical and non-technical members and industry and public members, as follows:

| Representation                                                              | Number of Members |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Regional district director (member of Environmental Services Committee)     | 1                 |
| Municipal engineering staff who are involved in solid waste collection      | 2                 |
| Electoral Area representative                                               | 1                 |
| First Nations                                                               | 2                 |
| Environmental organizations                                                 | 1                 |
| Business groups                                                             | 1                 |
| Non-profit group with an interest in solid waste (e.g., reuse organization) | 1                 |
| Large waste generators (industrial, commercial, institutional)              | 2                 |
| Owners/operators of private waste management facilities                     | 2                 |
| Private sector industry collection service providers                        | 2                 |
| Composting industry representative                                          | 1                 |
| Product stewardship agency                                                  | 1                 |
| Community representative (representing Prospect Lake/Hartland area)         | 1                 |
| Public representatives, at large                                            | 3                 |
| Willis Point representative                                                 | 1                 |
| District of Highlands representative                                        | 1                 |
| Solid Waste Technology representative                                       | 1                 |

## 4.0 PROCEDURES

- The CRD Board Procedures Bylaw will apply.
- Member from Environmental Services Committee shall be Chair of Solid Waste Advisory Committee.
- The committee shall meet at the call of the Chair and have special meetings, as required.
- The agenda will be finalized in consultation between staff and the Chair.
- A quorum is a majority of the committee membership and is required to conduct committee business.

## 5.0 RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

- The Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management, will lead the coordination and allocation of resources to the Committee.
- Minutes and agendas are prepared and distributed by the Environmental Resource Management division.



## Schedule B: Plan Dispute Resolution Procedures

Disputes will be settled using the following procedure:

|                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Negotiation</b>                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parties involved in the dispute shall make every effort to resolve the dispute on their own through non-facilitated communication. If necessary, the parties will provide each other with a written summary of their position and any relevant supporting documentation.</li> <li>Parties may agree to make use of a facilitator.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b><i>If this is unsuccessful, then:</i></b>                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Environmental Services Committee</b>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parties involved in the dispute will have opportunity to speak to the Committee.</li> <li>Committee will review, consider and provide recommendations to the Board. Committee may refer to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b><i>Then:</i></b>                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>CRD Board</b>                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board will receive recommendations from the Committee and settle the dispute; or, recommend mediation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b><i>If the board is unable to settle the dispute, then:</i></b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Mediation</b>                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A neutral, impartial third-party facilitator who is acceptable to all the parties to the dispute will be selected. Using appropriate mediation techniques, the facilitator will attempt to develop a solution which satisfies all parties. The facilitator has no decision-making authority. If the parties cannot agree on a mediator, the matter shall be referred to the BC Mediation Roster Society or equivalent roster organization for selection of a mediator.</li> <li>All efforts will be made to reach an agreement through mediation.</li> <li>Costs for mediation will be shared by the parties in dispute.</li> </ul> |
| <b><i>If this is unsuccessful, then:</i></b>                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Independent Arbitrator</b>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the dispute cannot be resolved by a mediator, the matter will be referred to arbitration and the dispute will be arbitrated in accordance with any applicable legislation. A neutral, impartial third-party arbitrator who is acceptable to all the parties to the dispute will be selected. The arbitrator hears each party's evidence and arguments and renders a final, binding decision.</li> <li>Costs for arbitration shall be apportioned at the discretion of the arbitrator.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                 |

Further to the above, the following principles will be followed if and when the dispute resolution process is invoked:

- i. The parties will make all reasonable efforts to attempt to resolve the dispute in an amicable manner without outside intervention
- ii. Disputes will be attempted to be resolved as early and at the lowest administrative level as possible; every effort will be made to avoid disputes requiring a formal resolution process
- iii. The formal process is not intended to deal with inconsequential or frivolous disputes

- iv. The cost of mediation or adjudication will be shared by the parties to the dispute
- v. Information or data related to the dispute will be shared by the parties
- vi. Rules of confidentiality and freedom of information will apply

## Schedule C: Implementation Schedule

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
|  | Ongoing               |
|  | Planning/Design Phase |
|  | Implementation Phase  |

Implementation Schedule is subject to revision based on annual review and Board direction.

Actions listed have been condensed in this schedule for readability, full descriptions can be found in Section 5.

| Plan Strategies & Actions                                                                                             | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Reduction and Reuse</b>                                                                                            |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>Strategy #1: Continue and Enhance Education Programs</b> (medium-term, 5 year goal)                                |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A. Ensure ongoing, up-to-date promotion and education resources                                                       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| B. Incorporate behaviour change components wherever possible                                                          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| C. Expand and prioritize education programs for the multi-family and industrial, commercial and institutional sectors |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| D. Enhance K-12 school program to include concepts of zero waste and the circular economy                             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| E. Collaborate with stakeholders on education campaigns                                                               |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| F. Continue supporting environmental stewardship recognition                                                          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| G. Continue to engage residents on solid waste matters                                                                |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>Strategy #2: Encourage Waste Prevention</b> (medium term, 5 year goal)                                             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A. Promote less consumption and advocate for consumer responsibility                                                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| B. Establish a community-based waste reduction grant program                                                          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| C. Support municipal, provincial and federal single-use item reduction efforts                                        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| D. Promote sustainable and/or packaging-free purchasing options                                                       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| E. Advocate to limit or eliminate manufacturing, distribution and/or sale of single use and non-recyclable materials  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| F. Advocate provincially and federally for sustainable product design                                                 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |

| Plan Strategies & Actions                                                                                                     | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Strategy #3: Support Reduction of Avoidable Food Waste</b> (short-term, 3 year goal)                                       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A. Continue to support residential food waste reduction                                                                       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| B. Continue to encourage the donation of edible food and support of food recovery organizations                               |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| C. Advocate for regulations that support avoiding food waste                                                                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>Strategy #4: Support Reuse Activities in the Region</b> (medium term, 5 year goal)                                         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A. Continue to provide funding for non-profit recycling organizations for managing unusable donations                         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| B. Continue to support and promote donations to reuse establishments                                                          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| C. Support reuse, renting and sharing programs                                                                                |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| D. Investigate the possibility of a free store at Hartland or other facilities                                                |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>Strategy #5: Support Local Governments in Working towards Zero Waste and a Circular Economy</b> (medium term, 5 year goal) |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A. Develop model language for use by local governments                                                                        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| B. Work with local governments to identify need for solid waste facilities/zoning for activities                              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| C. Use policy tools to enable local recycling infrastructure                                                                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| D. Investigate 'pay-as-you-throw' principles                                                                                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| E. Investigate use of clear bags for garbage/recyclables collection                                                           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>Strategy #6: Continue and Enhance Policy Development</b> (medium term, 5 year goal)                                        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A. Develop model procurement policies for use by local governments, non-profits, etc.                                         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| B. Continue to expand material bans when viable alternatives exist                                                            |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| C. Investigate licensing waste management facilities in the region                                                            |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| D. Investigate regulatory mechanisms to manage municipal solid waste and recyclable materials in the region                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| E. Investigate options for managing debris from extreme weather                                                               |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |



| Plan Strategies & Actions                                                                                                                             | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Recycling</b>                                                                                                                                      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>Strategy # 7: Increase Residential Diversion</b> (medium term, 5 year goal)                                                                        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A. Continue to promote residential diversion of recyclable and organic materials                                                                      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| B. Support depot diversion efforts for non-curbside materials                                                                                         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| C. Encourage local processing and markets for residential recyclables                                                                                 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| D. Develop tools to support event recycling                                                                                                           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>Strategy #8: Increase Multi-Family Diversion</b> (medium term, 5 year goal)                                                                        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A. Allocate resources to support multi-family recycling                                                                                               |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| B. Develop multi-family waste source separation requirements                                                                                          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| C. Develop policy guide and recommendations for waste management in multi-family developments                                                         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| D. Implement support for multi-family recycling                                                                                                       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>Strategy #9: Increase Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Diversion</b> (medium term, 5 year goal)                                            |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A. Allocate resources to increase ICI diversion                                                                                                       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| B. Advocate to expand the packaging and paper product extended producer responsibility program to the industrial, commercial and institutional sector |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| C. Create a business waste reduction toolkit, including education about circular economy principles                                                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| D. Encourage municipalities to require waste management plans with business licenses                                                                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| E. Develop policy guide for industrial, commercial and institutional waste management space and access requirements                                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| F. Develop industrial, commercial and institutional waste source separation requirements                                                              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| G. Investigate shifting disposal ban enforcement to industrial, commercial and institutional generator, rather than hauler                            |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |

| Plan Strategies & Actions                                                                                                | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Strategy #10: Support Existing and New Extended Producer Responsibility Programs</b> (medium term, 5 year goal)       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A. Advocate to the province to expand extended producer responsibility programs                                          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| B. Increase consumer awareness about extended producer responsibility programs.                                          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| C. Advocate for increased return-to-retailer opportunities                                                               |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| D. Advocate federally to standardize extended producer responsibility programs across Canada                             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>Strategy #11: Increase Organics Diversion and Processing Capacity</b> (short term, 3 year goal)                       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A. Continue to promote organic waste material diversion                                                                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| B. Continue to utilize and monitor existing processing capacity                                                          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| C. Support compost markets by purchasing back materials                                                                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| D. Develop guidelines for use of compostable products and packaging                                                      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>Strategy #12: Increase Construction, Renovation &amp; Demolition Material Diversion</b> (short term , 3 year goal)    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A. Develop a comprehensive construction, renovation & demolition strategy                                                |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| B. Develop educational tools to support construction, renovation & demolition material diversion                         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| C. Promote green building standards                                                                                      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| D. Develop and use policy tools to maximize diversion and to align management plans                                      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| E. Investigate beneficial uses of construction, renovation & demolition waste, including a clean wood waste landfill ban |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| F. Investigate banning or surcharging mixed construction, renovation & demolition loads at the landfill                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| G. Further develop programs for managing hazardous materials (like asbestos)                                             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>Strategy #13: Encourage Proper Public Space Waste Management Activities</b> (med term, 5 year)                        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A. Develop educational materials to prevent and reduce litter and abandoned materials                                    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |

| <b>Plan Strategies &amp; Actions</b>                                                                                | <b>2021</b> | <b>2022</b> | <b>2023</b> | <b>2024</b> | <b>2025</b> | <b>2026</b> | <b>2027</b> | <b>2028</b> | <b>2029</b> | <b>2030</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| B. Continue promoting alternatives to abandoned materials and illegal dumping activity                              |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| C. Develop a regional approach to prevention of illegal dumping                                                     |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| D. Investigate developing regionally-aligned litter bylaws                                                          |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| E. Develop and pilot methodologies to 'observe, record and report' abandoned material and illegal dumping incidents |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| F. Investigate options for large bulky item disposal                                                                |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| <b>Recovery and Residuals Management</b>                                                                            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| <b>Strategy #14: Optimize Landfill Gas Management</b>                                                               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| A. Continue to maximize and optimize the capture of landfill gas for beneficial use                                 |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| B. Investigate collaboration opportunities with educational institutions                                            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| <b>Strategy #15: Enhance Hartland Disposal Capacity</b>                                                             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| A. Review Hartland tipping fee structure and ban enforcement levels                                                 |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| B. Continue to operate Hartland Landfill using best practices                                                       |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| C. Develop design options to maximize disposal capacity of Hartland Landfill to until 2100 and beyond               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| D. Continue to conduct research and investigate and report out on emerging waste management technologies            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |

## Schedule D: Estimated Financial Impact

| ERM Budget Implications Arising From Achieving 250 kg Per Capita Disposal Rate by 2030 |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                                                                        | 2021                | 2022                | 2023                | 2024                | 2025                | 2026                | 2027                | 2028                | 2029                | 2030                |
| <b>Total Revenue</b> <sup>1, 2, 4</sup>                                                | <b>\$24,413,500</b> | <b>\$24,472,500</b> | <b>\$24,182,090</b> | <b>\$27,322,276</b> | <b>\$27,163,064</b> | <b>\$27,004,459</b> | <b>\$26,736,469</b> | <b>\$26,469,099</b> | <b>\$26,202,355</b> | <b>\$25,881,243</b> |
| Total Expenditures <sup>3</sup>                                                        | \$25,462,000        | \$24,453,000        | \$24,178,000        | \$31,403,000        | \$27,403,000        | \$27,403,000        | \$27,403,000        | \$28,087,000        | \$28,275,000        | \$28,742,000        |
| <b>Net Annual Surplus/Deficit</b>                                                      | <b>-\$1,048,500</b> | <b>\$19,500</b>     | <b>\$4,090</b>      | <b>-\$4,080,724</b> | <b>-\$239,936</b>   | <b>-\$398,541</b>   | <b>-\$666,531</b>   | <b>-\$1,617,901</b> | <b>-\$2,072,645</b> | <b>-\$2,860,757</b> |
| Combined Reserve Fund Balance <sup>3, 4</sup>                                          | \$49,671,000        | \$34,824,000        | \$19,671,000        | \$15,590,276        | \$15,350,340        | \$14,951,799        | \$14,285,268        | \$12,667,366        | \$10,594,721        | \$7,733,964         |
| <b>Per Capita Disposal Rate</b>                                                        | <b>316</b>          | <b>313</b>          | <b>310</b>          | <b>302</b>          | <b>295</b>          | <b>287</b>          | <b>278</b>          | <b>269</b>          | <b>260</b>          | <b>250</b>          |

<sup>1</sup> General refuse tipping fee is \$110 per tonne

<sup>2</sup> Controlled waste and asbestos tipping fees are \$157 per tonne

<sup>3</sup> From CRD Finance and includes Sustainability, Equipment, Capital, Closure and Air Space reserve funds (2021 budget doc - Sept 2020).

<sup>4</sup> The Hartland renewable natural gas project significantly impacts reserve balances to fund construction (2022-2023) and increases revenues starting in 2024





Reference: 381659

*July 13, 2023*

Colin Plant, Chair  
and Directors  
Capital Regional District  
625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000  
Victoria BC V8W 2S6

Sent via email: [crdchair@crd.bc.ca](mailto:crdchair@crd.bc.ca)

Dear Chair Plant and Directors:

Thank you for the letters of August 10, 2021, and February 10, 2023, regarding the Capital Regional District (CRD) Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP).

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) staff have reviewed the CRD SWMP and advise it is consistent with the ENV Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning. ENV staff also advise that a major SWMP target includes reducing the annual per person municipal solid waste disposal rate to 250 kg after 10 years. This would surpass the 350 kg long-term provincial target and could extend the life of Hartland landfill to 2100 and beyond. Reducing waste requiring disposal will help to ensure waste disposal service continuity while keeping the landfill footprint as small as possible.

I am satisfied that there has been adequate public review and consultation with respect to the development, amendment and final content of the SWMP. I also understand that the CRD has committed to continuing engagement with First Nations and stakeholders, particularly recreational users, and communities around Hartland landfill, during SWMP implementation.

...2

Pursuant to Section 24(5) of the *Environmental Management Act*, I hereby approve the Capital Regional District Solid Waste Management Plan that was attached to the letter of February 10, 2023, with the following condition:

1. Any disposal of waste at sites or facilities covered by this waste management plan must be in compliance with a valid and subsisting operational certificate issued under section 28(1) or permit issued under section 14, of the *Environmental Management Act*, and no introduction of waste into the environment is authorized at the site or facility except in accordance with a valid and subsisting operational certificate or permit.

As necessary, please submit applications for new and/or amended operational certificates or permits for sites or facilities covered by this waste management plan. Requirements will be specified by the site-specific operational certificate or permit. For clarity, in accordance with the *Environmental Management Act*, a valid form of authorization also includes an approval, order or a regulation.

In closing, I commend the CRD for developing the SWMP with its strong focus on reducing the annual per person municipal solid waste disposal rate.

Sincerely,



George Heyman  
Minister

cc: Cassandra Caunce, Director, Regional Operations Branch, Environmental Protection Division, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Glenn Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection, CRD  
Larisa Hutcheson, General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services, CRD  
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD  
Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management, CRD

The background image shows a large-scale landfill operation. In the foreground, there are large piles of dark, granular material, likely waste or soil, with some construction equipment visible. The middle ground shows a dirt road or path winding through the site. In the background, there are dense evergreen forests covering rolling hills under a cloudy sky. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color.

# Beyond Hartland 2050: Landfill Design Plan & Alternative Options

Environmental Services Committee  
January 21, 2026



# Agenda

1. Background
  - Regulatory
  - Hartland Landfill capacity
  - Solid Waste Management Plan
2. Alternative options and criteria
3. Recommended next steps





# Background

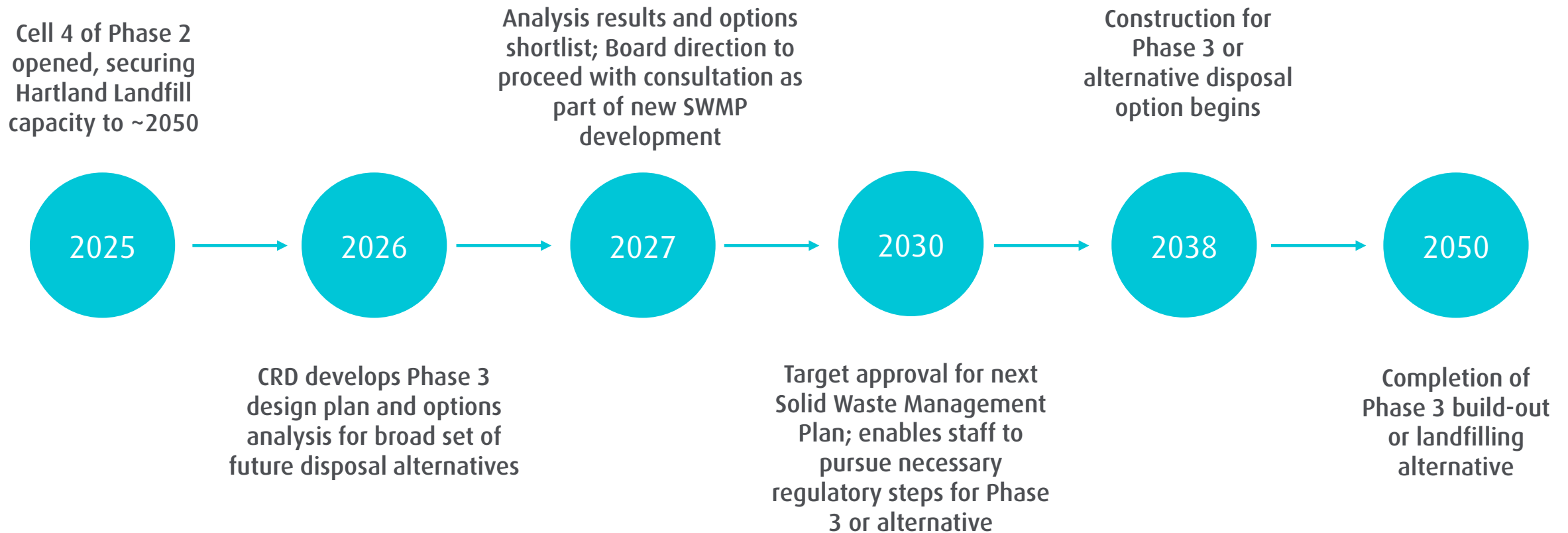
## Regulatory

- In BC, regional districts are responsible for managing solid waste residuals
- The CRD must provide a safe, secure and sustainable option for regional solid waste in perpetuity



# Background

## Hartland Landfill capacity





# Recovery and Residuals Management

Once material has been reduced, and technology has been applied to recover as much energy as possible, residuals management provides a safe and effective way to manage materials that don't have a next and best use.



## 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan direction:

- Strategy 15C: "Develop design options that maximize the disposal capacity of Hartland Landfill to 2100 and beyond"
- Strategy 15D: "Conduct research, investigate and report out on emerging waste management technologies (including alternatives to landfilling such as integrated resource management and gasification)"



# Alternatives to Phase 3



- a) Siting a new landfill elsewhere in the region
- b) Building a thermal processing facility (at Hartland or off-site)
- c) Pursuing emerging waste technology options
- d) Exporting waste to out-of-region landfills

## Evaluation criteria:

- 1) Environmental impact
- 2) Technology readiness
- 3) Economic feasibility
- 4) Regulatory requirements
- 5) Timeline to implement
- 6) Region-specific considerations



# Planning approach



|    | Milestone                                                            | 2026  | 2027      | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|------|------|------|
| 1. | Hartland 2100 Design Plan and options analysis                       | Q2-Q4 | Q1        |      |      |      |
| 2. | 2021 SWMP assessment and 2030 SWMP pre-planning                      | Q4    | Q1        |      |      |      |
| 3. | <u>Report back to Board on Design Plan and options analysis</u>      |       | <u>Q2</u> |      |      |      |
| 4. | SWMP 2030 goals and target development and report back               |       | Q3-Q4     |      |      |      |
| 5. | SWMP 2030 Phase I engagement: goals and targets                      |       |           | Q1   |      |      |
| 6. | Report back to Board on Phase I engagement results; draft plan       |       |           | Q3   |      |      |
| 7. | SWMP 2030 Phase II engagement: strategies and actions                |       |           | Q4   | Q1   |      |
| 8. | CRD Board approval of 2030 SWMP; submission to Province for approval |       |           |      | Q3   |      |
| 9. | Begin regulatory updates and amendments, if required                 |       |           |      |      | Q2   |

# Recommendations



1. That staff commission a conceptual design plan to build out Phase 3 of Hartland Landfill in alignment with Strategy 15 of the 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan;
2. That staff develop a comprehensive options analysis that outlines and evaluates a broad set of future waste disposal alternatives to landfilling at the Hartland site;
3. That staff include timely information on these planning activities in the scope of ongoing government-to-government conversations who have identified solid waste management as a topic of interest; and
4. That staff present the results of the above activities to the Board in 2027, including a shortlist of options to inform early development of the CRD's 2030 Solid Waste Management Plan.



# Thank you

rsmith@crd.bc.ca | 250.360.3080



Capital Regional District



CRDVictoria



crd.ca

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

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**SUBJECT**     **Model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To present for Capital Regional District (CRD) Board endorsement a model bylaw for deconstruction and demolition waste that will serve as a resource for municipalities in the capital region.

**BACKGROUND**

At its March 2025 meeting, the CRD Board directed staff to develop a model demolition waste and deconstruction bylaw for municipalities in the region, using the City of Victoria's existing bylaw as a foundation.

**Regional Direction and Data**

Promoting the reuse of materials that would otherwise be sent for landfill disposal is one of the guiding principles of the region's 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). Further, Strategy 5A of the SWMP requires the CRD to "develop model language for bylaws, best practices, official community plans and economic development strategies for use by local governments using research and collaboration to guide this process [of working towards a circular economy]."

The CRD's 2022 Hartland Landfill Waste Composition Study identified construction and demolition material as 13.3% of the overall waste stream, with another 18.9% of landfilled waste identified as wood and wood products. Compared to 2016 data, non-wood construction and demolition materials had increased by 29 kg/capita (6.6%) in 2022, while wood and wood products had increased by 15 kg/capita (1.9%).

**Existing Waste Diversion Policies**

In September 2022, the City of Victoria implemented its Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw to reduce the large volume of wood waste from house demolitions by establishing minimum wood-salvage targets, encouraging the construction industry to deconstruct or relocate homes rather than demolish them. This bylaw requires any person applying for a demolition permit to remove a structure built prior to 1960 to submit a refundable waste management fee of \$19,500. The permit holder is then given a unique salvage target based on the square footage of the structure and, if the target salvage rate is achieved, their waste management fee is refunded.

Compliance with the City of Victoria bylaw ensures that wood from demolition work is kept intact for reuse. To date, the City of Victoria's bylaw has diverted more than 80 tonnes of wood for reuse and, due to the nature of the deconstruction process, has in many cases also preserved other reusable elements of these buildings, including windows, cabinets and doors.

The CRD Board's direction to ban wood and asphalt shingles from landfill disposal in 2024 further supported the economic case for material salvage and recycling, improving permit holder compliance with the City of Victoria's bylaw.



### Proposed Model Bylaw

The CRD's proposed model bylaw (Appendix A) is based on the City of Victoria's existing regulation, with some minor modifications to facilitate implementation by municipalities that may have different ticketing frameworks and operating fees.

If amended and adopted by additional municipalities, the resulting increase in deconstruction and house moving activities (versus traditional demolition) will divert a range of construction and demolition materials from landfill disposal in support of the region's SWMP goal to reduce the region's landfilled waste to 250 kg per capita by 2031.

### **NEXT STEPS**

If endorsed by the Board, staff will present this model bylaw to municipal colleagues at an upcoming Local Government Waste Reduction Working Group meeting. This working group is comprised of solid waste planning and operations staff representatives from municipalities across the region. Following this presentation, staff will distribute this staff report and the accompanying model bylaw to all working group members for review and consideration.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### *Alternative 1*

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That this model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw be distributed to staff at municipalities in the capital region for consideration and independent review.

#### *Alternative 2*

That this report be referred back to staff for more information.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### *Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies*

A guiding principle of the 2021 SWMP is to promote the reuse of materials that would otherwise be landfilled. By incentivizing house moving and deconstruction, materials from house demolitions, including salvageable wood, are kept intact and can be reused.

The development and circulation of this model bylaw aligns with Strategy 5A in the SWMP, which directs staff to support local governments in working towards shared zero waste goals and a circular economy by developing model language for bylaws.

### **CONCLUSION**

Construction and demolition materials have been identified as a significant proportion of the waste currently being disposed of at Hartland Landfill. The City of Victoria implemented a bylaw to address the volume of waste generated by house demolitions in 2022 and, following CRD Board direction in 2025, a model bylaw based on the City's regulation has been drafted as a resource for other municipalities in the region. Pending further Board direction, staff will share this model bylaw with local government staff for consideration and potential implementation in their respective municipalities.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:  
That this model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw be distributed to staff at municipalities in the capital region for consideration and independent review.

|               |                                                                               |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Submitted by: | Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management                 |
| Concurrence:  | Luisa Jones, MBA, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services |
| Concurrence:  | Kristen Morley, J.D., Corporate Officer & General Manager, Corporate Services |
| Concurrence:  | Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer                   |

**ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: Model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw

*Model* DEMOLITION WASTE AND DECONSTRUCTION BYLAW  
BYLAW NO. [XX]

This Model Bylaw is for reference purposes only. It is recommended that prior to using the Model Bylaw, or any portions, that legal review and advice is obtained.

Acknowledgment: The template for this Model Bylaw is the City of Victoria Bylaw No. 22-062: Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw.



## DEMOLITION WASTE AND DECONSTRUCTION BYLAW

### A BYLAW OF [MUNICIPALITY]

The purposes of this Bylaw are to regulate, prohibit, and impose requirements to ensure that waste and reusable materials resulting from demolition work are managed in a manner that enhances and protects the wellbeing of the community and to ensure the efficient use of waste disposal and recycling services.

#### Contents

|    |                                      |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 1  | Title                                |
| 2  | Definitions                          |
| 3  | Waste Management Fee and Fee Refund  |
| 4  | Signage                              |
| 5  | Prohibition                          |
| 6  | Inspections                          |
| 7  | Offences                             |
| 8  | Penalties                            |
| 9  | Severability                         |
| 10 | Definitions in Relation to this Part |
| 11 | Repeal of Transition Provision       |
| 12 | Commencement                         |

Under its statutory powers, including sections [ ] of the [municipality's *Charter*], the [Council of the Corporation or equivalent] of [municipality] in an open meeting assembled enacts the following provisions:

#### PART 1 - INTERPRETATION

##### Title

- 1 This Bylaw may be cited as the "Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw".

##### Definitions

- 2 In this bylaw:

The following words have the same meaning ascribed to these terms in Division A, section 1.4 of the BC Building Code: basement, first storey, floor area, storey;

"above-ground floor area" means the sum of the floor area of each storey including the first storey and any upper storeys, but excluding the basement;

"Building Bylaw" means the [municipality's *Building Regulation Bylaw*] No. [XX];

"building official" has the same meaning ascribed to this term in the [municipality's *Building Regulation Bylaw*];

"Director" means the [municipality's Director of Engineering and Public Works or

equivalent] or their designated representative;

“rate adjustment” means a formula to calculate the reduced salvaging rate under section 3(4), as follows: salvaging rate minus kilograms of damaged or post-1960 wood divided by above-ground floor area, using a conversion of 1.4 kilograms per board foot;

“recycling” means the process of collecting, sorting, cleaning, treating and reconstituting materials that would otherwise be waste, and converting them into material that can be used for new products, and includes storage for such purpose;

“reuse” means further or repeated use of wood originating from work, and includes storage for such purpose but does not include recycling;

“salvaging” or “salvaged” means the removal of wood originating from work such that the materials are protected from damage and kept intact for:

- i. reuse;
- ii. sale or donation to a business or organization that resells or builds products using salvaged wood; or
- iii. donation to a charitable organization that reuses or sells for reuse salvaged wood and is registered under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) or a non-profit organization to which section 149 of the *Income Tax Act* applies;

“salvaging rate” means the amount of wood required to be salvaged, as specified in Column 1, Table 1, Schedule C, in order to be eligible for a waste management fee refund;

“single family dwelling” or the equivalent term in the municipality] has the same meaning ascribed to this term in the [Zoning Bylaw or equivalent in the municipality];

“two-family dwelling” or the equivalent term in the municipality] has the same meaning ascribed to this term in the [Zoning Bylaw or equivalent in the municipality];

“waste management fee” means the fee amount specified in section 3(1)(b);

“waste management fee refund” means the partial or complete refund of a waste management fee calculated in accordance with Schedules A and C;

“wood” includes dimensional lumber from studs, joists, beams, posts, blocking, headers, sheathing, rafters and flooring with a moisture content of 20% or less and suitable for salvaging, but excludes particle board and medium-density fiberboard material;

“work” means activities that require a building permit under the [municipality’s Building Regulation Bylaw]; that includes the complete or near- complete removal of a structure through demolition, deconstruction, disassembly, or relocation of a:

- i. [single-family dwelling or the equivalent term in the municipality] constructed prior to 1960; or
- ii. [two-family dwelling or the equivalent term in the municipality] constructed prior to 1960;

"Zoning Bylaw" means the [Zoning Bylaw No. XX or equivalent in the municipality].

## PART 2 - REGULATIONS

### Waste Management Fee and Fee Refund

- 3 (1) A person who carries out or causes to carry out work must submit to the [municipality]:
  - (a) a non-refundable administration fee of [\$500, or an amount deemed appropriate based on the administrative costs within your municipality] at the time of submitting an application for a building permit for work;
  - (b) a waste management fee of \$19,500 at the time of submitting an application for a building permit for work;
  - (c) a report within 90 days of completion of the work in the form prescribed in Schedule A; and
  - (d) supporting documentation listed in Schedule B attached with the report in subsection (c).
- (2) Notwithstanding [NTD: Applicable section for permit fee] of the [Building Bylaw or equivalent in the municipality], a person is not required to submit a separate building permit application fee for the work in addition to the fee under subsection (1) of this bylaw.
- (3) The holder of the building permit for work who has fulfilled the requirements under subsection (1) and met the salvaging rates to the satisfaction of the Director, is eligible for a waste management fee refund.
- (4) Where, prior to submitting a building permit application for the work, the amount of wood available for salvaging was damaged by natural disaster, fire, water, insect infestation, or other causes or was added to a structure after 1960, then:
  - (a) the person may apply for a reduced salvaging rate by submitting supporting documentation listed in section iii., Schedule B, to the satisfaction of the Director; and
  - (b) the Director shall reduce the salvaging rate by applying the rate adjustment where, in the opinion of the Director, the criteria in this subsection (4) have been met.
- (5) No fee refund shall be issued under this part where the building permit for the work has expired pursuant to the [Building Bylaw or equivalent].

## Signage

- 4 A person who carries out or causes to carry out work must post and provide proof of signage on the site of the work in accordance with Schedule D of this bylaw within 10 days of receiving a building permit for the work and maintain such signage on site for the duration of the work.

## Prohibition

- 5 No person shall knowingly submit false or misleading information to a building official in relation to any waste management fee refund application or related documentation pursuant to this bylaw.

## PART 3 – GENERAL

### Inspections

- 6 (1) The Director, a [municipality] employee authorized by the Director, or bylaw officer may enter on or into property in accordance with [section XX, *Community Charter or equivalent in the municipality*], to inspect and determine whether all regulations, prohibitions, and requirements of this bylaw are being met.
- (2) A person must not prevent, obstruct, or attempt to prevent or obstruct, an entry authorized under subsection (1).

### Offences

[We advise municipalities that have ticketing bylaws or that have opted into the bylaw notice adjudication system to consider whether to make the model bylaw subject to ticketing and to the bylaw notice adjudication system]

- 7 (1) A person commits an offence and is subject to the penalties imposed by this bylaw and the [*Offence Act or equivalent in the municipality*] if that person:
- (a) contravenes a provision of this bylaw,
  - (b) consents to, allows, or permits an act or thing to be done contrary to this bylaw, or
  - (c) neglects or refrains from doing anything required by a provision of this bylaw.
- (2) Each day that a contravention of a provision of this bylaw continues is a separate offence.

## Penalties

- 8 A person found guilty of an offence under this bylaw is subject to a fine of not less than [\$100.00 or as deemed appropriate] and not more than [\$50,000.00 or as deemed appropriate] for every instance that an offence occurs or each day that it continues.

## Severability

- 9 If any provision or part of this Bylaw is declared by any court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or inoperative, in whole or in part, or inoperative in particular circumstances, it shall be severed from the bylaw and the balance of the bylaw, or its application in any circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue to be in full force and effect.

## Consequential Amendments to Ticket Bylaw and Bylaw Notice Adjudication Bylaw

- 10 [NTD We advise any municipalities that make the bylaw subject to ticketing under ticketing bylaws or the Bylaw Notice Adjudication System to make consequential amendments to their ticketing bylaws as appropriate.]

## PART 4 - TRANSITION, REPEAL, COMMENCEMENT

### Definitions in Relation to this Part

- 11 In this Part:

“development permit” means a permit issued under section 490 of the *Local Government Act*;

“multiple dwelling” or the equivalent term in the municipality] has the same meaning ascribed to this term in the [Zoning Regulation Bylaw No. XX or equivalent in the municipality].

### Transition Provision

- 12 Section 3(1) does not apply if the person has an approved development permit to construct a [multiple dwelling or the equivalent term in the municipality] on the same site as an existing [single family dwelling or the equivalent term in the municipality] or [two family dwelling or the equivalent term in the municipality].

### Repeal of Transition Provision

- 13 Sections 11 and 12 of this bylaw are repealed.

### Commencement

- 14 This bylaw comes into force on [Date], except:
- (a) section 3(1)(b), which comes into force on [aforementioned date plus 12 months];
  - (b) section 13, which comes into force on [date in Section 14 (a) plus 21 months].



READ A SECOND TIME the [XX] day of [Month] 202[X]

READ A THIRD TIME the [XX] day of [Month] 202[X]

ADOPTED on the [XX] day of [Month] 202[X]

**“First Name Last Name”**  
[MUNICIPAL CLERK or equivalent]

**“First Name Last Name”**  
[MAYOR or equivalent]

SAMPLE

**SCHEDULE A**  
**MATERIAL SALVAGE AND DISPOSAL REPORT**

**Table 1: Project Information**

|                                                                                                                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Project address                                                                                                                       |  |
| Building permit number                                                                                                                |  |
| Person or contractor who carried out the salvage                                                                                      |  |
| Demolition or deconstruction completion date                                                                                          |  |
| House relocated for use at another location ( <i>check if applicable</i> ): <input type="checkbox"/>                                  |  |
| Reporting in ( <i>please check one</i> ):    Mass (kg or tonnes) <input type="checkbox"/> Volume (board ft.) <input type="checkbox"/> |  |

**Table 2: Wood Salvaged for Reuse, Sale or Donation—if reporting in mass (kg or tonnes)**

| Load of wood                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Name of entity receiving material or describe how material is being reused* | Date on receipt | Scale | Scale location | Net weight (kg or tonnes) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                             |                 |       |                |                           |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                             |                 |       |                |                           |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                             |                 |       |                |                           |
| ...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                             |                 |       |                |                           |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                             |                 |       |                |                           |
| <b>Salvage rate achieved</b><br><div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <u>Total tonnes salvaged for reuse, sale or donation</u><br/>             Above ground square metres           </div> <div style="text-align: center;">             x    1,000 kg<br/>             1 tonne           </div> <div style="text-align: center;">             =    <u>          </u> kg<br/>             square metres           </div> </div> |                                                                             |                 |       |                |                           |

**[\*See definitions of “wood”, “reuse” and “salvaging” for acceptable wood, reuse activities or sale or donation entities]**

Table 3: Wood Salvaged for Reuse, Sale or Donation—if reporting in volume (board feet)

| Species                                                                                                                                                  | Thickness (inches) | Width (inches) | Length (feet) | Quantity | Total linear feet<br>= length x quantity | Board feet<br>= (thickness in inches x width in inches x linear feet) / 12 | Name entity receiving material or describe how material is being reused* |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|----------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                          |                    |                |               |          |                                          |                                                                            |                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                          |                    |                |               |          |                                          |                                                                            |                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                          |                    |                |               |          |                                          |                                                                            |                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                          |                    |                |               |          |                                          |                                                                            |                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                          |                    |                |               |          | Total board feet:                        |                                                                            |                                                                          |
| Salvage rate achieved                                                                                                                                    |                    |                |               |          |                                          |                                                                            |                                                                          |
| $\frac{\text{Total board feet salvaged for reuse, sale or donation}}{\text{Above ground square metres}} = \frac{\text{board feet}}{\text{square metre}}$ |                    |                |               |          |                                          |                                                                            |                                                                          |

[\*See definitions of “wood”, “reuse” and “salvaging” for acceptable wood, reuse activities or sale or donation entities]

Table 4: Salvaged Plywood (if applicable)

| Quantity | Thickness (inches) | Width (feet) | Height (feet) | Name of entity receiving material |
|----------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
|          |                    |              |               |                                   |
|          |                    |              |               |                                   |
|          |                    |              |               |                                   |

Table 5: Materials Sent for Disposal or Recycling

| Load of mixed waste or other material sent to disposal | Material Disposed |               |          |                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|----------------------------|
|                                                        | Date              | Material type | Facility | Metric tonnes or kilograms |
| 1                                                      |                   |               |          |                            |
| 2                                                      |                   |               |          |                            |
| 3                                                      |                   |               |          |                            |
| ...                                                    |                   |               |          |                            |
| Total:                                                 |                   |               |          |                            |

**SCHEDULE B  
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**i. Wood salvaged for reuse, sale, or donation:**

- Receipts for sale/donation of wood salvaged for reuse indicating contractor, business or organization name, quantity of wood and date\*, or
- For wood stored for future reuse: address(es) of storage location(s) and contact information for site manager(s) at storage location(s), and
- Scale receipts for each load of wood sold, donated, or stored, indicating scale location, quantity of wood in kilograms or metric tonnes, and date
- A photo of each load of wood

OR, if the house as constructed was relocated for reuse:

- Documentation to demonstrate the move and the site to which the house was relocated

*[\* See definition of “reuse” and “salvaging” for acceptable reuse activities or sale or donation entities]*

**ii. Mixed waste or other material sent for disposal or recycling:**

- Disposal or recycling facility tipping receipts indicating facility name, date, material type and quantity by load

**iii. Evidence of damage to salvageable wood, or additions or alterations after 1960, if applicable:**

- Quantity in board feet of wood that is damaged or was added after 1960
- Written description of the cause of damage (e.g., fire, water, insect infestation), or additions or alterations made after 1960)
- Building plans with dimensions indicating impacted area(s)
- Building permits for alterations and additions made after 1960 if applicable
- Photos clearly showing damaged wood in situ and the impacted area(s) within the structure, or areas that were added or altered after 1960, prior to demolition or deconstruction;
- Other information that in the Director’s opinion, is reasonably necessary for assessing the scope of damage, or additions after 1960.

**SCHEDULE C**  
**WASTE MANAGEMENT FEE REFUND**

**Table 1: Fee Refund**

| <b>Column 1 – Salvaging rate: Amount of wood salvaged per unit of above-ground floor area</b> | <b>Column 2 - Amount of waste management fee refund</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| More than or equal to 40 kg or 28.3 board feet per square metre                               | 100%                                                    |
| 30 kg or 21.2 board feet to 39 kg or 27.5 board feet per square metre                         | 75%                                                     |
| Less than 30 kg or 21.2 board feet per square metre                                           | 0%                                                      |



**SCHEDULE D**  
**Sign Posting Procedures**

1. The owner or owner's agent shall post the sign or signs in a prominent location, clearly visible from the street, and on the site that is subject to the work.
2. The owner or owner's agent shall provide proof of the posted signage to the [municipality] within 10 days of receiving a building permit for the work.
3. The [municipality] shall prepare the sign for the owner to use for the duration of the work. The sign must be returned to [municipality] within 10 days of the completion of the work. If the sign is damaged, lost or discarded, the owner is required to pay for the replacement of the sign.

The [municipality] reserves the right to request that the sign be removed from the site at any time during the work or for the period the demolition permit is active.

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026**

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**SUBJECT**     **Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities – Committee on Solid Waste and Circular Economy Update**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To provide an update on current and future advocacy activities that will be coordinated by the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities' Committee on Solid Waste and Circular Economy (VICC-CSWCE).

**BACKGROUND**

As a member of the VICC-CSWCE, the Capital Regional District (CRD) collaborates with seven other regional districts to share information and data, discuss solutions for common challenges and present cohesive input and advocacy to other levels of government on matters related to responsible waste management.

While staff from the eight participating regional districts meet regularly, the VICC-CSWCE also includes elected officials that meet annually to share progress reports from each region and to discuss shared challenges, opportunities and areas where an expert unified voice could be leveraged to assist other levels of government and non-governmental organizations in developing effective waste management programs and policies.

**2025 Progress Summary**

Over the past year, the VICC-CSWCE drafted several successful Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) resolutions that were endorsed in September 2025, including:

- the development of a provincial disaster debris response plan
- the development of a provincial circular economy strategy
- actions to conserve BC's remaining landfill capacity
- sustainable funding support to help regional districts and landfill owners comply with landfill gas regulations
- a call to remove the requirement for regional districts to get Provincial approval on policies included in approved Solid Waste Management Plans

The VICC-CSWCE also issued a media release on the Province's unexpected decision to pivot from their previous commitment to create an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for mattresses and their foundations, leading to a coordinated effort that saw the majority of committee members call for the Province to include mattresses in the next update of BC's *Recycling Regulation* via reports to their respective Boards, letters to the Minister of Environment and Parks and associated media activities.

**Key Issues**

Building on this effective advocacy work, the VICC-CSWCE identified the following priorities as key areas for collaboration throughout 2026:

- managing financial pressures to maintain service affordability
- addressing slow progress and gaps in the Province's *Recycling Regulation* and associated EPR programs
- expanding recycling opportunities and regulations in the industrial, commercial and institutional sector
- providing effective services for remote and rural communities
- increasing overall waste diversion rates across material streams
- reducing contamination in organics collection programs
- addressing the vulnerability of waste export systems and markets

### **Future Advocacy**

The VICC-CSWCE approved these issues as priority areas for its advocacy efforts throughout 2026, directing the committee's executive to take action through direct conversation with the Minister of Environment and Parks and ministry staff, future UBCM resolutions, press releases and coordinated reporting and letter-writing from participating regional districts as appropriate.

Ongoing advocacy support from the CRD aligns with several strategies in the CRD's current Solid Waste Management Plan, including:

- Strategy 2E to "Advocate provincially and federally to limit or eliminate the manufacturing, distribution and/or sale of single use items and non-recyclable materials."
- Strategy 2F to "Advocate provincially and federally for sustainable product and packaging design."
- Strategy 3C to "Advocate for regulations that support avoiding food waste."
- Strategy 10A to "Advocate to the Province to expand EPR programs."
- Strategy 10C to "Advocate for increased return-to-retailer opportunities."

### **CONCLUSION**

As a member of the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities' Committee on Solid Waste and Circular Economy, the Capital Regional District (CRD) collaborates with seven other regional districts to share information, work together on common challenges and advocate to other levels of government on matters related to responsible waste management. In 2025, this committee took substantial action to advance several solutions for consideration by the Province. This advocacy work will continue in 2026 to address several issues of relevance to the CRD, including reducing contamination, expanding extended producer responsibility programs to non-residential sectors and providing effective services in rural and remote communities.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

|               |                                                                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Submitted by: | Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management                  |
| Concurrence:  | Rory Tooke, Acting General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services |
| Concurrence:  | Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer                    |