

2024 Climate Action Progress Report

Taking Action on the Climate Emergency

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The CRD conducts its business within the Territories of many First Nations, including but not limited to BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin), MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat), paaʔčiidʔatx (Pacheedaht), Spune'luxutth (Penelekut), Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay), Songhees, SṪÁUTW (Tsawout), T'Sou-ke, WJOŁEŁP (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.



Cover photos:

Front: Dallas Road Bikeway

Back: Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail

Organizational Overview

The Capital Regional District (CRD) delivers regional, sub-regional and local services to 13 municipalities and three electoral areas on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Governed by a 24-member Board of Directors, the CRD works collaboratively with First Nations and all levels of government to enable sustainable growth, foster community well-being, and develop cost-effective infrastructure, while continuing to provide core services to residents throughout the region.

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Overview

In 2021, the CRD renewed its Climate Action Strategy and committed to annually report on all climate action-related activities undertaken by the organization. This report summarizes all 2024 activities and other annual indicators identified in the CRD's Climate Action Strategy.

Regulations and Commitments

The CRD is required to take action to reduce corporate and community-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change under the following provincial regulations and commitments:

- **Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act** requires regional districts and local governments to include targets, policies and actions for the reduction of GHG emissions in Regional Growth Strategies and Official Community Plans. The Act also provides powers to local governments to support mitigation and adaptation through development permit areas, development cost charges and parking and building code requirements.
- **Landfill Gas Management Regulation** establishes province-wide criteria for landfill gas capture from municipal solid waste landfills. The regulation focuses on GHG emissions from landfills, with the objective of maximizing reductions of landfill gas emissions and identifying potential opportunities to increase landfill gas recovery. As manager of the Hartland Landfill, the CRD is responsible for adhering to this regulation.
- **Emergency and Disaster Management Act** was established in 2023, replacing the Emergency Program Act, with accompanying regulations still forthcoming. This new legislation aligns with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which includes a priority to better understand disaster risk. Regulations, which will stipulate specific requirements for local authorities, are forthcoming.
- **All local governments in the region, including the CRD, are signatories of the BC Climate Action Charter.** This includes a commitment to:
 - become carbon neutral in corporate operations.
 - measure and report on the community's GHG emissions profile.
 - work to create compact, complete and more energy-efficient communities.

CRD Climate Action & Adaptation Service

Under Bylaw No. 3510, the CRD established a climate action service in 2009 to act as a resource and facilitator for the CRD, local governments, citizens and organizations in the capital region on energy and climate issues. The service hosts two inter-municipal networks and works closely with local government staff, senior governments, utilities and other stakeholders to identify and advance climate action initiatives in collaboration. The Climate Action Service has five main focus areas:

- Provide support to local governments in developing and implementing climate action plans, programs and policies.
- Catalyze action through partnerships with public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations and community organizations and increase public awareness of climate change issues.
- Liaise with senior levels of government on climate change-related programs, policies and legislation that impact the capital region.
- Provide scientific information, data and indicators related to local and regional GHG emissions and projected climate impacts.
- Support the CRD in fulfilling its corporate climate objectives and support execution of climate-related Board priorities.

In 2024, the Climate Action service operated on a core budget of approximately \$1.8 million, which included five full-time employees, one four-year, full-time term position and one auxiliary position. The program's core budget is provided through an annual requisition from all the region's municipalities and electoral areas (approximately \$1.6 million), with supplemental funding from corporate services (approximately \$200,000). The service 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 funding for projects completed in 2024 or are currently underway.



Ogden Point Breakwater

Climate Action Strategy

Climate action is a long-standing CRD Board priority. Since 2009, the CRD has been committed to taking action to address climate change within its own operations, and at the regional level, to reduce emissions and prepare for climate impacts. This commitment was underlined by the Board's declaration of a climate emergency in early 2019. In answer to this declaration, the CRD developed an updated five-year Climate Action Strategy in 2021.

The Climate Action Strategy provides direction for how the CRD, under its service mandates, will show leadership on climate action, both for the CRD's corporate operations and for its community-focused services. The strategy coordinates with other CRD plans and strategies and supports the overarching Regional Growth Strategy (RGS).



CRD Building in Centennial Square

Climate Action Vision

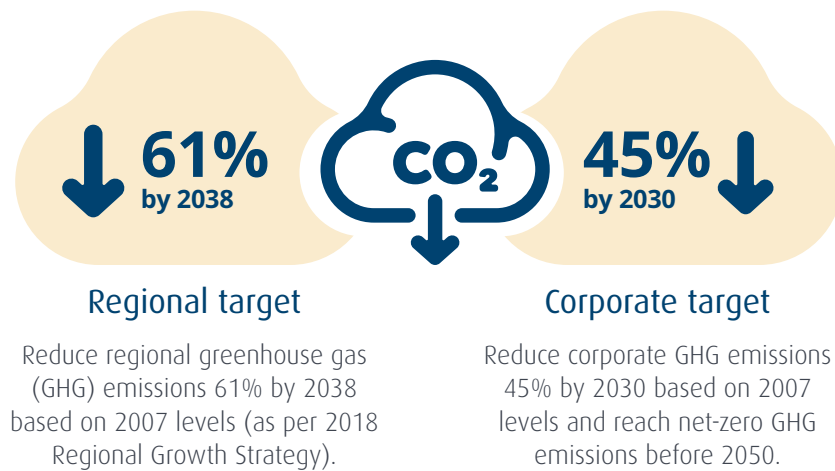
Through collective action, we eliminate emissions and foster healthy and resilient communities and natural areas now and in the future.

This vision recognizes that the CRD must act in concert with many partners to address the climate emergency, ensuring the region is minimizing its contribution to climate change while also preparing for the changes that have already begun. In this context, “we” is inclusive of all governments, First Nations, residents, businesses, institutions, organizations and residents.

In 2025, the CRD will renew this strategy to reflect current opportunities and priorities.

Targets and Goals

The CRD’s Climate Action Strategy outlines a pathway toward net-zero emissions by mid-century, in line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change modelled pathways to limit warming to a 1.5°C change this century. It also determined six goal areas where the CRD will focus its efforts.



Climate Action Strategy Goals



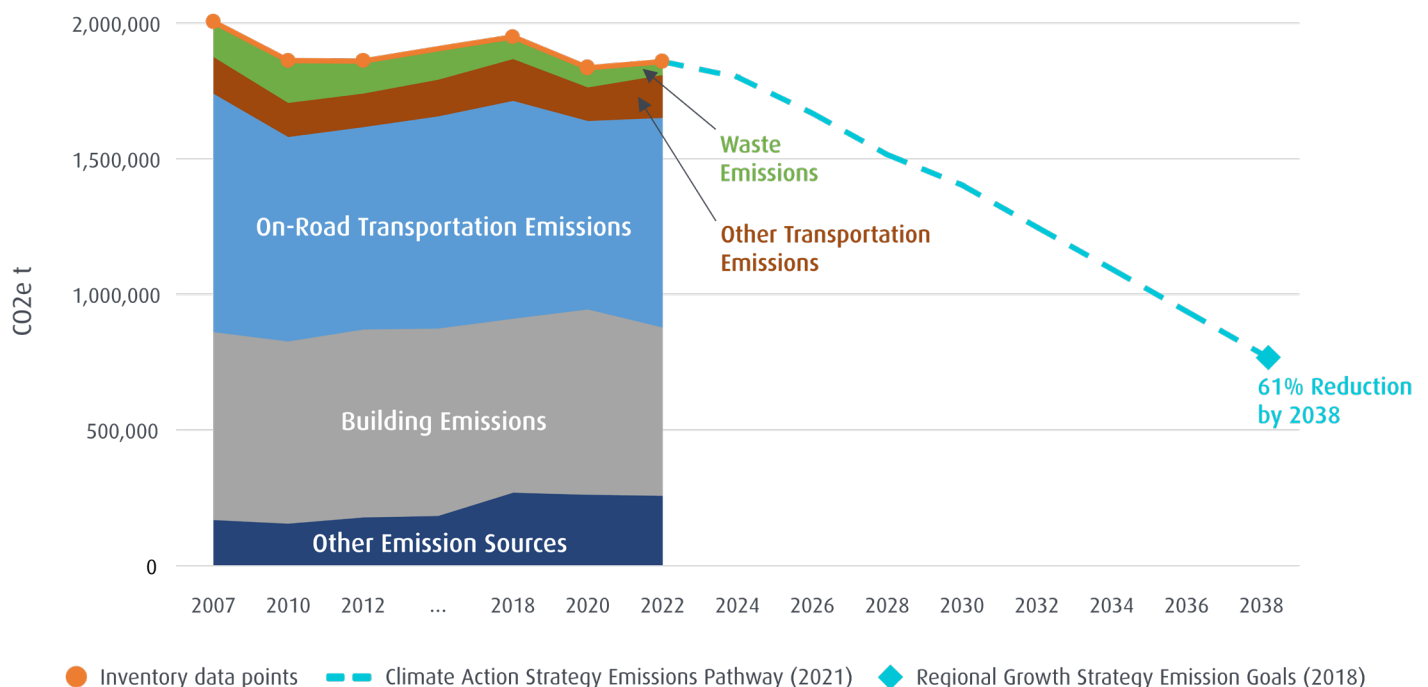
Tracking Our Emissions

Community Emissions

The CRD undertakes GHG accounting bi-annually to better understand the sources and trends of emissions within the capital region. The latest emissions inventory was completed for the 2022 calendar year, building on the 2018 and 2020 inventories. This followed the internationally recognized Global Protocol Community-Scale GHG Inventories BASIC+ Framework and included GHG emissions from stationary energy (e.g., buildings), transportation (e.g., commuter vehicles), waste (e.g., landfills), industrial processes and product use (IPPU) (e.g., chemical industry), and agriculture, forestry and other land use (e.g., fertilizer application).

The territorial 2022 inventory indicated the capital region emits approximately 1.86 million tonnes of CO₂e annually. This represents a 7% reduction from 2007 levels and a decline in per capita GHG emissions (t CO₂e/capita) of 25%. Emissions increased by 1% compared to the 2020 inventory. This slight increase was expected and largely due to increased transportation-related emissions associated with COVID-19 pandemic recovery and the return to in-person activities. On-road transportation and the built environment remain the main sources of regional emissions, together accounting for approximately 75% of all emissions in 2022.

Capital Region Emissions (2007 to 2022) and 2038 RGS Emissions Goal



To achieve the CRD's regional GHG emission reduction target of 61% reduction by 2038, the region, and all key players, including senior levels of government, local governments, residents, businesses, industry and organizations, must continue to advance key initiatives, including:

- increase uptake of transit, walking, cycling and other modes of active transportation.
- accelerate adoption of zero-emissions vehicles.
- retrofit existing buildings, improving energy efficiency and converting fossil fuel heating systems to electric.
- transition to construction of net-zero energy-ready new buildings.

Corporate Emissions

In 2024, CRD operations generated 2,865 tonnes of CO₂e, with 1,154 tonnes associated with vehicle and equipment use and 1,711 tonnes coming from facilities and infrastructure. Emissions associated with Hartland Landfill, Capital Region Housing Corporation and Capital Regional Hospital District are not included in this total, as they are excluded from the provincial reporting framework. This represents a 3.0% decrease from 2023 and a 4.7% decrease from the baseline level of emissions from 2007.

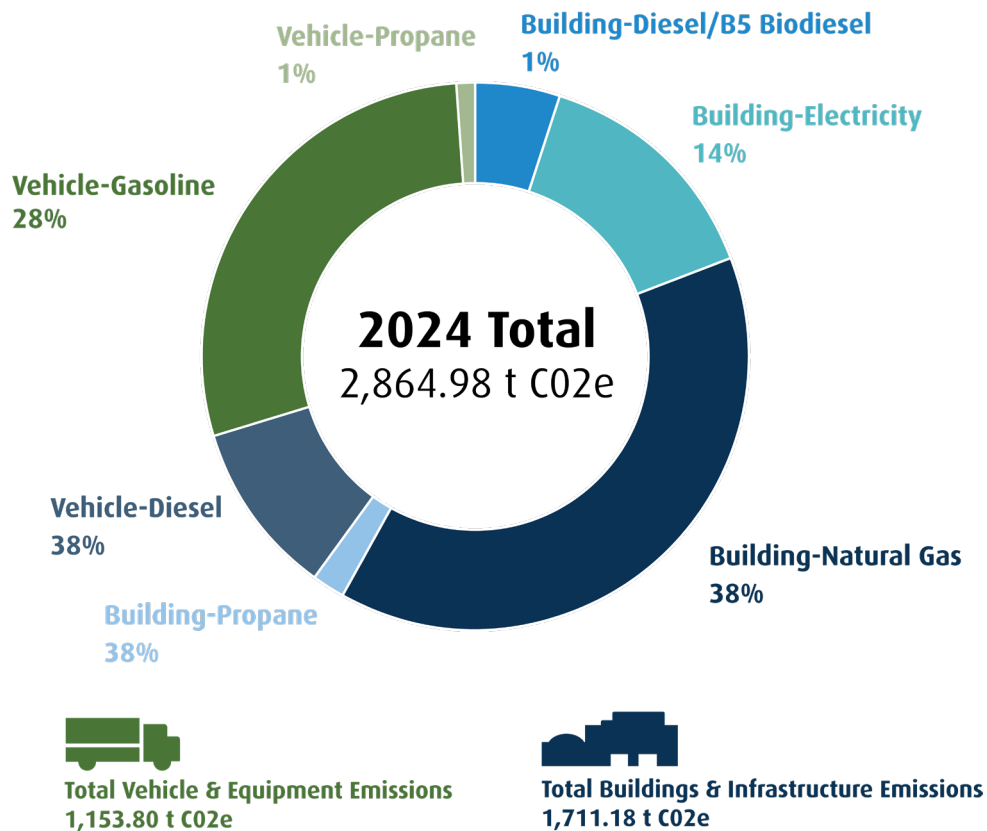
Emissions from fleet use decreased by 8.7% in 2024 compared to 2023. This is a result of the increased use and additional procurement of several electrical vehicles and the use of e-bikes in CRD operations.

Overall emissions from facilities increased by 1.1% in 2024 compared to 2023. This increase was across numerous facilities, particularly the recreation centres. An increase in fuel for back-up generators for power outages was also observed.



Capital Regional District Fisgard entrance.

Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2024



Expanding infrastructure, increased facility operations and a larger service fleet are necessary to meet the needs of a growing population but have added pressure to CRD's corporate greenhouse gas reduction targets over the years. As such, improvements in energy efficiency, innovative operational strategies, and electrification will continue to be prioritized to achieve climate goals.

Increasing Service Levels Since 2020

- 
 • Added 237 new employees, a 23% increase*
- 
 • Added three major facilities†, resulting in an additional 17% in facility emissions in 2023
- 
 • Fleet size grew by 27% and fleet use increased by 17% (365,000 km)

* 2019 used as baseline year due to impact of COVID-19 on 2020 staffing levels

† McLoughlin Point Wastewater Treatment Plant, Salt Spring Island Multi-Space (SIMS) and McCallum Pump Station

Figure 1: Statistics indicating increasing CRD service levels and greenhouse gas reduction progress.

In fall 2024, staff presented to the Board an updated corporate emissions reduction pathway based on “planned actions” that are scheduled for implementation and meet corporate GHG targets. This scenario has not yet incorporated the EV Fleet Ready Plan scheduled for completion in early 2025. 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 Leisure Complex
- Electrical efficiency projects at multiple sites
- Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant connection to the district energy shared system
- CRD Fisgard HQ decarbonization

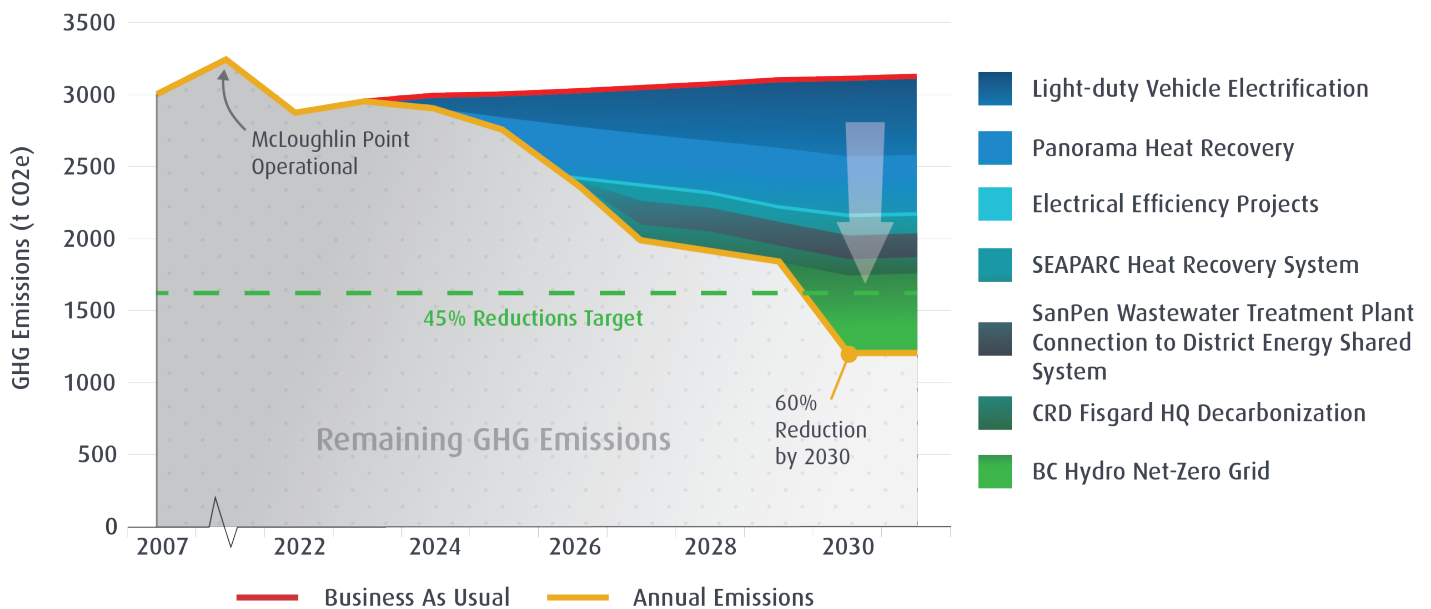


Figure 2: CRD corporate GHG emission reduction pathway based on planned actions by 2030.

Adapting to Climate Impacts

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. Climate change is already impacting the capital region, and its effects will intensify in the coming decades. 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 fall, winter and spring, with longer lasting and more frequent extreme rainfall events.
- Increased likelihood of variability of climate within and between years.
- Sea level rise.

Climate adaptation is closely tied to disaster risk reduction, requiring both immediate responses to current extreme weather events and long-term planning to address future warming expected in the mid to late century.

The CRD plays a key leadership role in coordinating adaptation efforts by leveraging data, managing critical infrastructure and services, and supporting municipalities, electoral areas and regional interest holders. The CRD provides essential services that support climate resilience, including maintaining drinking water and wastewater systems, regional planning, regional parks, harbors, watersheds, invasive species programs, and emergency management coordination. To strengthen climate resilience, the CRD is integrating adaptation measures across its operations, as outlined in its Climate Action Strategy and other strategic plans.

Climate adaptation at the CRD must remain flexible and responsive to ongoing legislative changes—such as updates to British Columbia's Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)—as well as evolving science, increasing regional impacts, and new funding and partnership opportunities.



CRD Headquarters green second floor courtyard.

While many adaptation measures are already embedded in CRD operations, there are opportunities to strengthen these efforts in the coming years. The CRD will continue to advance key climate adaptation initiatives to better respond to and prepare for a changing climate:

- Strengthen inclusion of climate adaptation considerations in governance, strategic and service planning.
- Complete infrastructure upgrades to address climate hazards.
- Lead and support the development of quality data, mapping, and monitoring products for the region.
- Undertake and update climate risk assessments, as required.
- Support coordination through inter-municipal and inter-agency working groups.
- Integration of new EDMA regulations into CRD emergency response plans and planning documents.

Progress on the CRD's Five-Year Action Plan

The CRD's Climate Action Strategy established six key goal areas, 56 actions and 127 sub-actions that will be undertaken by several different services across the organization between 2021 and 2025. The strategy also outlined several indicators to help measure success and to track important trends.

The following sections are intended to provide a high-level, easy-to-understand overview of the CRD's performance and progress related to climate action, and to summarize progress made in the 2024 year for each goal area.

More information, including details on the scoring methodology and actions within each goal area, is contained in Appendix A: Climate Action Report Card.



2024 Overall Action Plan Progress

On Track

The Climate Action Strategy identifies 127 actions with specific timelines across the organization. Scores are based on the current status of each action within their goal areas.



Corporate Actions

Opportunity for Improvement



Community-Focused Actions

On Track

Goal Area



Goal 1: Climate-Focused Decision Making



Goal 2: Sustainable Land Use, Planning and Preparedness



Goal 3: Low-Carbon Mobility



Goal 4: Low-Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure



Goal 5: Resilient and Abundant Nature, Ecosystems and Food Systems



Goal 6: Minimized Waste

Legend: Action Status



On Track: 75% or greater of yearly target progress



Opportunity for Improvement: 50% - 75% of yearly target progress



Attention Required: less than 50% of yearly target progress



Future Action

Legend: Indicators*



Direction of arrow indicates **current trend direction**



Indicator is trending in the **desired direction**



Indicator is trending in the **wrong direction**



Indicator is intended to provide **contextual information**

*While indicators are not considered in the calculation of the action status, they provide context and track long-term progress.



Climate-Focused Decision Making

Goal 1: Climate action priorities are integrated at all levels of decision making across the organization.



Overall Action Status
On Track

To provide its wide range of services, the CRD maintains and operates vehicles, equipment, buildings, facilities, infrastructure, landfills, trails and parks. Decisions made in each service area can have implications for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated or sequestered by CRD assets over time, as well as how prepared these assets are for the changing climate. The CRD has also identified the need to improve the organizational understanding of Indigenous knowledge, laws and perspectives in relation to climate solutions.



The majority of sub-actions in this goal area are well progressed, resulting in an overall action status of *on track*.

Goal Progress Summary

- Developed an evaluation framework to assess climate action impacts in corporate strategic planning, service planning and annual reporting, reviewing over 120 initiatives to date.
- Embedded climate considerations into capital planning, with ongoing work to refine next steps.
- Piloted carbon price policy in key projects like the Hartland Renewable Natural Gas project and incorporated it into all energy audits conducted in 2024.
- Delivered multiple staff training opportunities, including Climate 101 (general primer) and Climate 201 (embedding a climate lens in work). Maintained a Climate Action SharePoint hub for capacity building.

CRD Roles

Operational decision making

This goal contains

15
sub-actions



CRD Fisgard Boardroom

- Conducted annual corporate GHG reporting.
- Collaborated with First Nations on shoreline restoration projects to protect ecological and cultural values, while integrating Indigenous knowledge and governance structures into regional park management.

Indicators



Annual CRD Corporate GHG emissions

- 2,865 t CO₂e (3.1% decrease compared to 2023)



CRD staff e-bike training session in Centennial Square



Sustainable Land Use, Planning and Preparedness

Goal 2: Support the region on its pathway to livable, affordable and low-carbon communities that are prepared for climate change.



Overall Action Status
On Track

How land use is managed has a strong influence on regional emissions, by affecting how far residents must travel to daily amenities, school and work, and what mode of travel is used, as well as affecting how much land can be protected as carbon sinks. The 2018 Regional Growth Strategy sets a regional vision and high-level policies for growth management. The key provision is to contain 95% of growth in designated areas and to concentrate growth in a way that is connected. In addition to land use, planning and preparedness efforts across the region are important to increase the resilience of the region by increasing our ability to cope with hazardous or emergency events and other impacts that result from a changing climate.



The majority of sub-actions in this goal area are well progressed, resulting in an overall action status of *on track*.

Goal Progress Summary

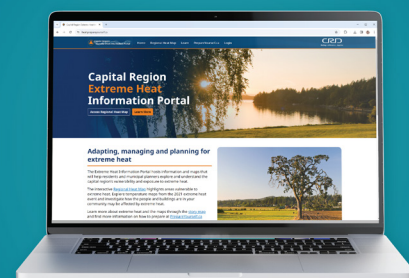
- Advanced the public-facing emergency dashboard and expanded the Public Alert Notification System (PANS) for real-time weather and public safety updates.
- Launched the Capital Region Extreme Heat Information Portal and shared findings with local partners, interest holders and First Nations. Hosted and presented at multiple workshops to improve understanding of heat vulnerability.
- Completed updated regional downscaled climate projections and provided capacity-building workshops for municipal staff.
- Initiated analysis of projects and policies to close the emissions reduction gap before 2038.

CRD Roles

Regional planning
Juan de Fuca land use planning
Emergency management in electoral areas
Inter-municipal coordination
Data management

This goal contains

24
sub-actions



Capital Region Extreme Heat Information Portal

- Successfully applied for a grant for a coordinated regional climate adaptation capacity-building project, set for completion in 2025-2026.
- Continued discussions on regional mobility hub feasibility and initiated the Growth and Mobility Study to inform a potential Regional Growth Strategy update in 2026.
- Continued work on the FireSmart program.
- Advanced annual drought and wildfire response planning and improved coordination of extreme heat, flood and drought awareness among emergency management stakeholders.
- Continued to facilitate and administer several inter-municipal networks that serve to coordinate regional climate action, set priorities and disseminate resources, including the Climate Action Task Force and Climate Action Working Group, Development Planning Advisory Commission, Transportation Working Group, Local Government Emergency Program Advisory Committee, the Regional Emergency Management Partnership and the Healthy and Safe Environments Community Health Network.

Indicators



Regional GHG emissions

- 1.86 million tonnes of CO₂e in 2022 (1% increase compared to 2020)



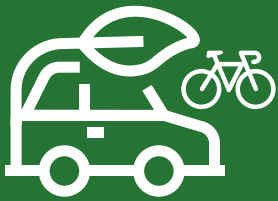
Number of net new dwelling units in areas where more than 43% walk/bike/bus to work*

- Currently, the region is not meeting the desired trend

* Progress on this indicator is reported in the Regional Growth Strategy Indicator Report.



Old Man Lake Wildfire



Low-Carbon Mobility

Goal 3: Rapidly reduce corporate fleet emissions. Support, endorse and encourage active, public and zero-emission transportation options across the region.



Overall Action Status
On Track

On-road transportation is the region's largest source of GHG emissions. Not only do vehicles release significant emissions, but they also lead to increased traffic congestion in peak periods. Shifting from a vehicle focus to a low-carbon mobility focus means improving the options to get more people walking, biking and taking transit. For trips that use a vehicle, rapidly switching to electric vehicles (EVs) will require building out charging infrastructure throughout the region, making sure chargers are accessible to those who live in all types of homes and at key locations across the region. The CRD owns and operates a fleet of approximately 300 vehicles to provide its many services across the region and must reduce its GHG emissions by transition to EVs and utilizing low emission fuels.



The majority of sub-actions in this goal area are well progressed, resulting in an overall action status of *on track*.

Goal Progress Summary

- Updated the corporate Green Fleet Policy to strengthen and accelerate vehicle electrification efforts for CRD corporate fleet.
- Accessed BC Hydro grant funding to initiate phase 2 of EV Ready Fleet Planning to advance understanding of fleet electrification charging needs for over 10 CRD work sites.
- Secured grant funding from the federal and provincial Investing in Canadian Infrastructure Program and Clean BC Communities Fund and installed 11 public electric vehicle chargers at 8 municipal sites and facilitated grant funding for 136 additional public chargers on behalf of the City of Victoria; advanced planning and procurement for remaining sites.
- Completed installation of 2 publicly available EV chargers at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park – Beaver Beach.

CRD Roles

CRD fleet
CRD infrastructure
(Regional trail system and EV charging)
Regional planning
Electoral area transportation
Data management
Community programs

This goal contains

31
sub-actions



Ford Lightning charging at Integrated Water Services.

- Collaborated with BC Hydro and municipal partners as per a Memorandum of Understanding to advance key priorities related to EV charging infrastructure and policies across the region, resulting in the identification of over a dozen potential public fast-charging sites, detailed design for multiple locations with planned construction in 2025, and one site fully installed in 2024.
- Continued Ready Step Roll - Sustainable School Commute Planning program with three schools in the 2023/24 cohort and five schools in the 2024/25 cohort, working along side their respective local governments and other partners. Hosted 11 Let's Get Visible events in 2024 on the regional trails to promote road and trail safety.
- Continued to participate in various technical and working groups to support transit access and infrastructure.
- Progressed efforts toward establishing a Regional Transportation Service and held a Transportation Governance Workshop with elected officials and staff across the region and consulted municipalities and electoral areas on its establishment.
- Advanced planning for the Regional Trails Widening and Lighting Project.
- Continued to implement the Gulf Islands Trails Plan, with phase 1 of the first regional trail in the Gulf Islands (Mayne Island Regional Trail) complete.

Indicators



Regional EV Infrastructure Roadmap implementation

- Level 2 ports: 81% (627 installed)
- DCFC ports: 42% (56 installed)



Regional GHG emissions from transportation

- 930,656 t CO2e in 2022 (14% increase compared to 2020) *(No new data for 2024, updated regional inventory scheduled for 2025)*



Annual EV ICBC registrations (region fleet size)

- 13,558 total EV and PHEV vehicle registrations, 4.6% of total registrations (0.9% increase compared to 2023)



Annual CRD corporate fleet GHG emissions

- 1,154 t CO2e (8.7% decrease compared to 2023)



Number of corporate EVs purchased*

- 8 EVs purchased (53 total in fleet)



Low-Carbon and Resilient Buildings Infrastructure

Goal 4: Accelerate energy efficiency, emission reductions and enhanced resilience in CRD buildings and infrastructure. Support and encourage the same for all buildings and infrastructure across the region.



Overall Action Status

Opportunity for Improvement

A large portion of regional GHGs come from energy used in buildings across the capital region, almost all of which is from fossil fuels for space heating and hot water. Shifting from relying on fossil fuels for space heating and hot water and improving the energy efficiency of our buildings are key to achieving GHG reduction targets and can support resiliency measures. As the climate changes, it is increasingly important to prepare buildings and infrastructure. The capacity of infrastructure to be resilient to climate impacts must be considered, such as increased stormwater flows, power interruptions, poor air quality and heat waves.

CRD Roles

CRD buildings and infrastructure

Building inspection in electoral areas

Data management

Community programs



Although many actions are well-progressed in this goal area and progress has been made on all actions in 2024, staff indicate that updated project timelines for corporate carbon reduction projects and assessment of CRD infrastructure for climate risk were required in previous years due to funding constraints, resulting in an overall status of opportunity for improvement for this goal area. Foundational energy studies and conceptual designs for key facilities have been completed and retrofit projects will be completed in future years.

This goal contains

30

sub-actions over the next five years

Goal Progress Summary

- Completed additional detailed studies for Panorama Recreation Centre, SEAPARC Leisure Complex and Rainbow Recreation Centre to further GHG-reduction projects at these facilities.
- Initiated work on energy studies for Parks Headquarters and SIMS.
- Completed energy audits and conceptual HVAC design for the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Thermal imaging cameras released in libraries in the capital region in 2024.

- Reviewed all 350 corporate sites for rooftop solar potential, identifying top 10 sites to be considered for future installation.
- Completed the design and installation of dehumidification systems for Panorama Recreation, reducing the facility's emissions by 26%.
- Implemented the Home Energy Navigator program, which saw 321 registrants, providing approximately 240 home consultations, and supported 163 heat pump retrofits since the program's inception.
- Continued supporting the BC Sustainable Energy Association to deliver Cool it! climate action workshops for students in the region, delivering 104 workshops (35 funded by the CRD and 69 additional workshops funded by municipalities).
- Successfully launched new thermal imaging camera kits and refreshed Climate Action To Go Kits in partnership with local public libraries.
- With the District of Saanich and the City of Victoria, continued to support consultations and development of a model bylaw for creating mandatory energy and carbon emission reporting requirements for existing large Part 3 buildings; developed a covered buildings list to inform bylaw approach and shared with local governments.
- Continued to support municipalities in their considerations and adoptions of the Zero Carbon Step Code (ZCSC) and the transition to mandatory BC Energy Step Code requirements.
- Conducted water use audits of 5 secondary schools to help identify where they can improve efficiency of water use.
- Advanced multiple initiatives to incorporate climate impacts in risk assessments and infrastructure upgrades in the Greater Victoria Supply Area (GVWSA), including factoring climate projections into bridge designs and climate and stream flow inputs in the reservoir management model.

Indicators



Regional Energy Retrofit Program implementation

- 700 participants signed up as of December 2023



Regional GHG emissions from buildings

- 619,054 t CO₂e in 2022 (10% decrease compared to 2020) *(no new data for 2024, updated regional inventory scheduled for 2025)*



Annual CRD corporate facilities GHG emissions

- 1,711 t CO₂e (1.1% increase compared to 2023)



Resilient and Abundant Nature, Ecosystems and Food Systems

Goal 5: Protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health and nature's capacity to store carbon and adapt to climate change. Support the ongoing ability of natural systems to sustain life.



Overall Action Status

Opportunity for Improvement

Green spaces, blue spaces and parks provide important services to store carbon in vegetation and soils, while at the same time providing ecological services that support the region's resilience to climate change. As temperatures in the region rise, natural areas can also serve to reduce the need for energy-intensive air conditioning and provide accessible areas of respite for all residents. Monitoring ecological changes over time and sharing this across all levels of government, including First Nations, as well as community organizations and citizens, can increase our collective understanding of the impacts of these changes and inform how the region can collectively respond to support the health of our ecosystems.



Although many efforts are being made in this goal area, staff indicate *opportunities for improvement* or delays in identifying and implementing adaptation strategies and data collection on biodiversity.

Goal Progress Summary

- Progressed development of the Regional Parks Stewardship Plan to guide management and acquisition decisions that build resiliency in regional parks and trails under a changing climate.
- Progressed updates to the Regional Parks Land Acquisition Strategy, which provides direction on the selection of land for regional park purposes that reflect the values identified in the Strategic Plan, including climate considerations.

CRD Roles

Stewardship of CRD lands

Land acquisition

Community and inter-municipal coordination

Education and outreach

Regional planning

Data management

This goal contains

19
sub-actions



Invasive species Scotch Broom removal.

- Undertook several initiatives to better assess and understand climate change impacts relating to ecosystem health and water supply in the GVWSA, including: annual forest health review with updated orthophoto data, expanded monitoring of forest defoliating insects, research projects on red alder bark beetle and Douglas-fir beetle, improved reservoir water inflow and hydrology monitoring, thinning and juvenile spacing initiatives to reduce wildfire risk, and updates to inventory of GVWSA ecosystems to support climate vulnerability analysis.
- Provided various regional and local ecological data sets to support planning and policy efforts, including the completion of intertidal and subtidal inventories of the core area harbours.
- Continued to chair and coordinate the Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership.
- Advanced work on a proposed Regional Foodlands Trust, progressing to Alternative Approvals Process, with ultimate approval in early 2025.

Indicators



Hectares of regional park land*

- 13,350 ha (an additional 21.28 ha was acquired in 2024)



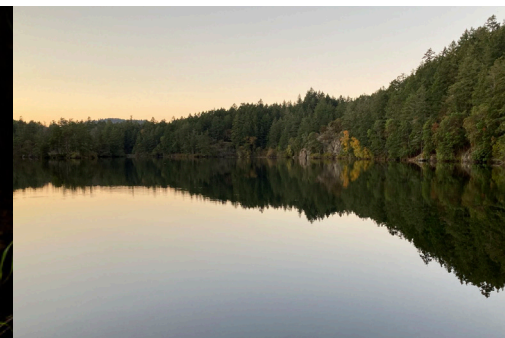
Number of volunteer stewardship hours

- 6,699 hours by 711 volunteers

**Progress on this indicator is reported in the Regional Growth Strategy Indicator Report*



CRD Watershed Tour



Thetis Lake Park



Minimized Waste

Goal 6: Waste generation and the resulting emissions are minimized and remaining waste is transformed into a resource. Follow the 5R pollution prevention hierarchy.



Overall Action Status

Opportunity for Improvement

Product use and the disposal of waste contribute to GHG emissions in the region. About 2.7% of regional GHG emissions are associated with waste—and the majority of this comes from decomposing organic waste that was added to Hartland Landfill over the last several decades (e.g., food scraps and construction wood waste). The most effective way to reduce future emissions from the landfill is to follow the 5R hierarchy – focusing first on decreasing the amount of waste produced, and then on decreasing the GHG emissions from the remaining waste.



The majority of sub-actions in this goal area are well progressed, resulting in an overall action status of *on track*.

Goal Progress Summary

- Commenced Material Diversion Transfer Station operations at Hartland Landfill, processing clean and treated wood and asphalt shingles for reuse, recycling, or energy recovery, diverting approximately 9,600 tonnes of waste.
- Standardized waste disposal and recycling education for 40 apartments and condos (2,730 units) across seven municipalities as part of the Multi-family Dwelling Waste Diversion Project. Installed 512 signs and distributed over 2,700 educational materials.
- Initiated Kitchen Scraps Transfer Relocation Project, which in the first year resulted in 13,463 tonnes of kitchen scraps processed.
- Approved the Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy, focusing on advanced thermal processing, additional combustion and non-agricultural land application.

CRD Roles

Solid waste management
Liquid waste management
Education and outreach

This goal contains

8

sub-actions over the
next five years



Hartland Landfill Education

- Continued the curbside Blue Box Collection Program for the collection of recyclables from single-family homes, using a contractor that operates 23 CNG trucks in their curbside program fleet. Electric trucks have been ordered, with expected delivery date in 2025.
- Supported 24 projects with approximately \$70,000 in funds through the Rethink Waste Community Grant.
- Between the Hartland Landfill Public Tours, Hartland Landfill Technical Tours, 3Rs K-12 program, and attending community events, the CRD connected with 4,631 residents. New this year, the CRD introduced a downtown Victoria pickup option for public landfill tours to improve accessibility and partnered with the Compost Education Centre to host two Composting Basics Workshops in conjunction with landfill tours.

Indicators



CRD's per capita disposal rate

- 338 kg/per capita (decrease of 11.6% and decrease of 44 kg/capita compared to 2023)



Landfill Gas Efficiency*

- Achieved a 50% gas collection efficiency based on UBCi model in 2024

**Please refer to the Solid Waste Management Plan Progress Reports for additional information.*



Hartland Landfill and the Landfill Gas Plant



Wood diversion at Hartland Landfill

Looking Ahead – 2025

The CRD will continue to show a leadership role, support inter-municipal collaborative efforts, pursue strategic partnerships and external funding sources, and respond to opportunities, as local and senior levels of governments advance their efforts. Some activities planned for 2025 include:

- **Climate Action Strategy Renewal:** Revise and reaffirm priorities for climate action both corporately and community wide. This renewal will entail action planning to more clearly articulate climate mitigation and adaptation focused work throughout the organization for the next 5 years.
- **Transportation Service:** Complete AAP and final approvals to establish new Transportation Service. Initiate update to the Regional Transportation Plan.
- **EV Infrastructure Roadmap:** Continue leveraging grant funding from the federal and provincial Investing in Canadian Infrastructure Program and Clean BC Communities Fund to install over 400 Level 2 chargers and 20 Direct Current Fast Chargers, in partnership with City of Victoria and other municipalities at over 80 sites.
- **Regional GHG inventory:** Develop an inventory for the 2024 year for the region and each local government. Results will be shared in late 2025.
- **Climate Adaptation Capacity Building Initiative:** Provide targeted workshops, training and a regional cohort to build understanding and technical proficiency in climate adaptation topics.
- **Building Benchmarking:** Continue advancing work with City of Victoria and the District of Saanich to develop a benchmarking support program. The program will support local governments to promote and expand voluntary and mandatory energy and carbon emissions data reporting for large buildings.
- **Climate Risk and Emergency Management:** Advance integration of climate risk and adaptation into emergency management, as per new *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.
- **Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship Service:** Begin service planning starting in early 2025 post successful AAP and final approvals. This service will conduct research, collect and monitor biodiversity data, manage ecological stressors and invasive species, collaborate with partners to protect and restore key habitats, and develop public outreach and stewardship initiatives to enhance ecological conservation.



Galloping Goose Trail, Victoria BC

Appendix A: Climate Action Report Card

This Climate Action Report Card is intended to provide a high-level, easy-to-understand overview of the CRD's climate performance and progress.

Methodology

The Climate Action Strategy defines specific actions to guide CRD efforts over the lifespan of the strategy. These include 56 “umbrella” actions broken down into 127 sub-actions, with specific timelines and responsible divisions.

The Climate Action Report Card compiles the self-reported quantitative progress metrics from services for each of the 127 sub-actions. By averaging the progress of respective sub-actions, the report card measures the current ‘action status’ for several informative categories, such as overall climate action status, corporate and community-focused actions, and the six goal areas of the strategy.

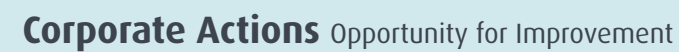
The report card uses a math-based system to produce a percent grade by comparing reported progress with expected progress based on the action timelines established in the strategy. For ongoing actions with no timeline, percentages are based on self-reported levels of progress satisfaction by the responsible service. Each action status score is accompanied by qualitative progress updates that summarize any actions taken or barriers encountered during the reporting year. For clarity, percentages are converted to three coloured status indicators: on track, opportunity for improvement, and attention required. In addition, several broader corporate and regional indicators are included. These are not considered in the evaluation of the action statuses.

For more information on timing, divisions involved, and sub-actions, please see Appendix C in the Climate Action Strategy.

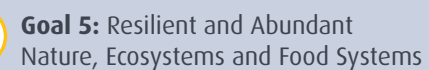
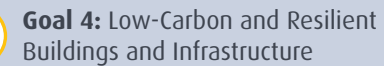
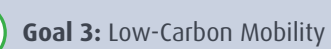
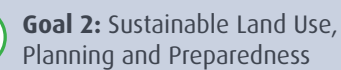
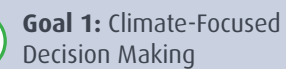
2024 Overall Action Plan Progress

On Track

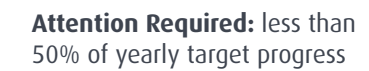
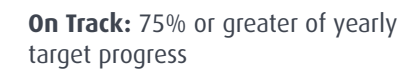
The climate action strategy identifies 127 actions with specific timelines across the organization. Scores are based on the current status of each action within their goal areas.



Goal Areas:










Legend: Action Status



Legend: Indicators*



*While indicators are not considered in the calculation of the action status, they provide context and track long-term progress.

Status	Action	Update
Progress on Actions		
<div><p>Climate-Focused Decision Making</p><p>Goal 1: Climate action priorities are integrated at all levels of decision making across the organization.</p><div><p>Overall Action Status</p><p>On Track</p></div></div>	<div>1-1 Integrate and standardize the climate lens framework across processes</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed an initial framework to evaluate declared climate action impacts of new initiatives as part of corporate strategic planning service planning, and annual reporting, with over 120 initiatives reviewed and advanced to date.• Advanced asset management planning by embedding climate considerations into capital planning. Ongoing work needed to refine next steps.• Strengthened procurement policies and procedures with new Legal Services and policy review staff, introducing tools like the Low Value Routine Procurement Toolkit and contract drafting resources. “Best value” purchasing continues to prioritize climate-first decisions.• Complete annual corporate GHG reporting.
	<div>1-2 Develop internal carbon pricing policies and procedures</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed in 2023.• Piloted carbon price policy with large projects, such as the Hartland Renewable Natural Gas project, included in all building energy audits, and new fleet analysis.
	<div>1-3 Identify internal funding sources for climate action</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued and utilized the Climate Action Reserve Fund (CARF).• Embedded key climate projects in 2025 capital planning process.• Sourced additional incentives and grant funds from Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), BC Hydro and Fortis BC.
	<div>1-4 Support staff capacity building and coordination</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided a variety of staff training sessions, including: a Lunch & Learn, Climate 101, a general primer available to all staff and offered regularly; and Climate 201, to guide staff on embedding a climate lens in their work.• Maintained an internal Climate Action SharePoint hub for staff capacity building.• Presented onboarding materials for the Peninsula Recreation Commission and the Sooke and Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Commission (SEAPARC).• Hosted Climate Action Fleet and Facilities Working Group quarterly meetings, and quarterly meetings between Regional Parks and Regional Planning and Climate staff.
	<div>1-5 Investigate how Indigenous knowledge can inform climate action at CRD</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnered with First Nations on shoreline restoration efforts to protect ecological and cultural values in the face of increasing storms and continued learning about Indigenous-led approaches to shoreline restoration. Collaborated with First Nations to incorporate Indigenous knowledge and governance structures into management approaches in regional parks.• Additional activities described in actions below.

Additional Action Plan Indicators



- 2,865 t CO₂e (3.1% decrease compared to 2023)






Sustainable Land Use, Planning and Preparedness



**Goal 2: Support the region
on its pathway to livable,
affordable and low-carbon
communities that are prepared
for climate change.**



Overall Action Status
On Track

Status	Action	Update
Progress on Actions		
	2-1 Incorporate climate hazards and vulnerabilities into corporate CRD emergency response plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progressed the communication plan for the public facing emergency dashboard - a tool to provide centralized information related to emergencies, including climate-related issues and responses.• Enhanced climate emergency preparedness through organizational notifications and the Public Alert Notification System (PANS) for real-time extreme weather and public safety updates.
	2-2 Monitor Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewed Regional Context statements, as needed, through an established process in which municipal climate policies are reviewed in relation to Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) goals.• Completed the annual RGS Indicator Report.
	2-3 Integrate climate impacts into Juan de Fuca land use plans and policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued working on the Port Renfrew Official Community Plan (OCP) with Pacheedaht First Nation.• Will be considered during the Port Renfrew and Willis Point OCP update in 2025.
	2-4 Collect and share pertinent energy, emissions, climate projections and vulnerability data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launched the Capital Region Extreme Heat Information Portal and published the final report, sharing findings with local governments, stakeholders and First Nations. Presented at several conferences, workshops and meetings to advance local government understanding of heat vulnerability data in the region.• Completed the updated regional downscaled climate projections based on updated global models and hosted capacity-building workshops for municipal staff to advance understanding of climate projections.
	2-5 Identify innovative actions to close the regional 2030 emissions reduction gap	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initiated the analysis of several potential major projects that would contribute to closing the emissions reduction gap ahead of 2038 targets.
	2-6 Coordinate regional climate action, collaboration and capacity building among local governments and interested First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participated in advancing project planning for a sub-regional coastal adaptation plan with local governments for the Gorge Waterway.• Successfully applied for a \$144,423 grant to support a coordinated regional climate adaptation capacity building project, scoped with municipal partners. Project to be completed 2025-2026.• Continued to facilitate and administer several inter-municipal networks that serve to coordinate regional climate action, set priorities and disseminate resources, including the CRD Inter-Municipal Climate Action Task Force, CRD Inter-Municipal Climate Action Working Group, Development Planning Advisory Commission, Transportation Working Group, Local Government Emergency Program Advisory Committee, the Regional Emergency Management Partnership and the Healthy and Safe Environments Community Health Network.• Produced and distributed a monthly local government climate action e-newsletter.• Continued to chair and increased frequency Local Government Emergency Programs Advisory Committee (LGEPAC) meetings from quarterly to bi-monthly. Continued to resource and support Regional Emergency Management Partnership (REMP).• Completed the Community Health Network's (CHN) Healthy and Safe Environments summary report of the extreme heat and health research and action planning session, applied for additional funding to research how BIPOC communities are utilizing food security projects to build community resilience in the face of climate change, recorded podcast episodes for knowledge translation of our extreme heat and health research (to be launched summer 2025), began conducting research into barriers to use of emergency response infrastructure (funded by the Province of BC).• Continued discussions regarding feasibility of mobility hub development in key locations across the region in partnership with Ministry of Transportation and Transit.• Initiated the Growth and Mobility study that will inform the decision as to whether to initiate an RGS update in 2026. Continued work toward the establishment of a Regional Transportation Service.

	Status	Action	Update
		2-7 Incorporate regional climate projections into electoral area emergency planning and enhance FireSmart efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiated Climate Adaptation Risk Assessment work that will feed into Electoral Areas' Emergency Operations Work Plans once complete. Secured two years of confirmed FireSmart funding and have program coordinators. Improvements and continued efforts to the program are secured through to mid-2026 (via UBCM, CRI stream). Continued to pursue other grants to enhance FireSmart activities at a regional and local level. Continued exploring collaborative efforts with Transition Salt Spring Society to enhance program delivery on Salt Spring Island. Advanced planning for drought and wildfire response in Electoral Areas is redone annually, so this is an ongoing action.
		2-8 Coordinate with emergency management stakeholders on planning and public outreach activities related to climate risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to work to coordinate extreme heat, flood and drought awareness among emergency management stakeholders and partners in the region. Launched public dashboard on heat vulnerability.
		2-9 Investigate Transition Salt Spring Island 2.0 Climate Plan implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocated funds from the provincial Local Government Climate Action Program to award a contract to Transition Salt Spring Society to provide education programming and community engagement to reduce emissions.

Regional Climate Progress Indicators and Trends		
	Regional GHG emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.86 million tonnes of CO2e (1% increase compared to 2020) No new date for 2024; next regional inventory scheduled for fall 2025.
	Number of net new dwelling units in areas where more than 42% walk/bike/bus to work*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, the region is not meeting the desired trend In 2024, this target was updated from 45% to 42% to reflect the decrease in BC Transit's mode-share target from 15% to 12%.

*Progress on this indicator is reported in the Regional Growth Strategy Indicator Report.








Low-Carbon Mobility










Goal 3: Rapidly reduce corporate fleet emissions. Support, endorse and encourage active, public and zero-emission transportation options across the region.



Overall Action Status
On Track

Status	Action	Update
Progress on Actions		
	3-1 Administer and track the new Green Fleet Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued to advance Green Fleet Policy implementation, accelerating vehicle electrification with strong support from Corporate Fleet and Climate Action.
	3-2 Develop electric vehicle (EV) adoption and right-sizing plan for the corporate fleet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued monitoring market availability of electric vehicles (EVs).Investigated opportunities for telematics and fuel purchase management software to assist in fleet right sizing, identifying pilot project opportunities to be conducted in 2025.
	3-3 Develop EV infrastructure plan for the corporate fleet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Initiated phase 2 of an EV Ready Fleet Plan to advance understanding of fleet electrification and charging needs, with completion date scheduled for Q1 2025.Charging needs for current electric fleet has been met; additional charging infrastructure needed is identified during fleet replacement capital planning process.
	3-4 Investigate the feasibility of bio-based diesel supply and storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Investigated, with limited opportunities for fixed storage capacity.
	3-5 Develop a region-wide approach to transportation demand management and safety policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued Traffic Safety Commission work on safety education and initiatives on impairment, distracted driving, high impact collision zones, and active transportation.Completed several Let's Get Visible events across the region.Held a Transportation Governance Workshop with staff and elected officials across the region.Integrated Traffic Demand Management and safety policy as a function of the Transportation Service Establishment Bylaw.
	3-6 Collect and distribute transportation planning data regionally	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued collection, analysis and distribution of transportation data through traffic count program, volunteer bike program, permanent bike counter program, and the addition of short duration automated bike count pilot using cameras to do volume counts in locations throughout the region. Data is routinely utilized to inform decision making at a local, regional, provincial and national level.
	3-7 Accelerate infrastructure improvements that support active transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Supported Board transportation advocacy, including working toward the establishment of a Regional Transportation Service.Participated in Go by Bike Week celebration stations in spring and fall, with a display table to educate and support active transportation and regional trail etiquette (Cruise with Courtesy campaign).Continued implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan, which will be updated following the establishment of the Regional Transportation Service.Completed construction of phase 1 of the Mayne Island Regional Trail (2.3km), identified as the priority within the Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan.Initiated the development of a Feasibility Study for the construction of a new regional trail on Salt Spring Island.Accelerated the Regional Trails Widening & Lighting Project, commencing construction on Selkirk Phase 1 below-deck repairs; anticipated completion in spring 2025.Initiated work on the CRD Multi-Use Trails Safety Enhancement Study. Coordination with municipal and provincial partners is underway to schedule construction activities and plan for detours that minimize disruption to trail users. Engagement with special interest groups and First Nations, in partnership with the Province, was also initiated.

Status	Action	Update
	3-8 Lead and support regional education programs focused on zero-emission mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintained current portfolio of education programs, including Charge Your Ride, on the CRD website; provided outreach materials to community groups, as requested. Continued Ready Step Roll - Sustainable School Commute Planning Program with three schools in the 2023/24 cohort and five schools in the 2024/25 cohort, working along side their respective local governments and other partners. Hosted 11 let's Get Visible events in 2024 on regional trails to promote road and trail safety.
	3-9 Support acceleration of transit improvements and increased service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed staff report on the climate impacts of Mass Transit, with a focus on connecting downtown to Westshore through Bus Mass Transit (BMT). Continued participation in numerous technical and working groups to support delivery of BMT in region. Continued supporting MOTT on mobility hub redevelopment of provincially-owned land efforts as mixed-use mobility hubs. Increased the number of park and rides in suburban areas. Local area transit plans for each. Consulted with all municipalities and electoral areas on the establishment of a Regional Transportation Service. Staff reports supported Board discussions around planning for long-term transportation alternatives. Continued participation in discussions around the Island Rail Corridor. Expressed interest to BC Transit for rural buses, submitted rezoning application for one of the CRD lots to be rezoned for electric bus charging.
	3-10 Support a public electric vehicle charging network and encourage uptake of zero-emission vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborated with BC Hydro to identify ideal sites for installation of public fast chargers throughout the region. Continued ongoing delivery of educational and support materials via website and by request. Continued participation in the Community Energy Association's EV Peer Network. Developed user fee bylaw for CRD's public chargers; advanced development of a corporate use policy. Continued coordination of Regional Public EV Charger Program. Accessed grant funding from the federal and provincial Investing in Canadian Infrastructure Program and Clean BC Communities Fund and installed 11 public electric vehicle chargers at 8 municipal sites and facilitated grant funding for 136 additional public chargers on behalf of the City of Victoria; advanced planning and procurement for remaining sites. Completed the installation of 2 publicly available EV chargers at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park - Beaver Beach. Designed two publicly accessible EV chargers for Witty's Lagoon Regional Park, with construction anticipated to be completed in 2025. Continued monitoring funding opportunities.
	3-11 Implement Regional EV Charging Roadmap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued work to meet Roadmap targets. Continued implementation of Regional Public EV Charger Program, contracting stage with partners and service providers; significant installation progress made by project partner (Victoria). Continued the expansion of DCFC banks in the region through a BC Hydro MOU partnership, reaching the detailed design stage at multiple locations, with one site fully installed, and many others in the investigation stage.
	3-12 Improve internet access on Southern Gulf Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entering into partnership agreement with City West for Connected Coast last mile fibre to the homes on Galiano and Saturna Islands. Received a grant from the Rural Economic Diversification Infrastructure Program, which enabled the CRD's community contribution to last mile on Galiano and Saturna. Negotiating final agreement with City West for Connected Coast Partnership.

Additional Action Plan Indicators		Regional Climate Progress Indicators and Trends	
	Regional EV Infrastructure Roadmap implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 2 ports: 81% (627 installed) DCFC ports: 42% (56 installed) 		Percentage of total trips made by walking, cycling and transit in the Growth Management Planning Area* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress is being made toward the target. The overall active transportation mode share has increased due to a sizeable increase in cycling trips and a steady increase in walking. There is no data update for this year, as the Origin Destination Household Travel Survey will not be updated until 2027.
	Percentage of the Regional Trail Network completed* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 97.5% 		Annual EV ICBC registrations (region fleet size) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13,558 total EV and PHEV vehicle registrations, 4.6% of total registrations (0.9% increase compared to 2023)
	Annual CRD corporate fleet GHG emissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,154 t CO2e (8.7% decrease compared to 2021) 		Victoria Transit Region fuel sales <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 data for this indicator was unavailable at the time of reporting
	Number of corporate EVs purchased <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 new EVs acquired (total 53 in fleet) 		Regional GHG emissions from transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 data for this indicator was unavailable at the time of reporting
	Number of CRD fleet EV chargers installed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 54 (79 to date) No new fleet chargers installed in 2024. 		

*Progress on these indicators is reported in the Regional Growth Strategy Indicator Report. In 2023, the Percentage of the Regional Trail Network completed indicator was revised to better align with the Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032 and so cannot be compared to what has been reported in previous years.



Low-Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure








Goal 4: Accelerate energy efficiency, emission reductions and enhanced resilience in CRD buildings and infrastructure. Support and encourage the same for all buildings and infrastructure across the region.



Overall Action Status
Opportunity for Improvement

Status	Action	Update
Progress on Actions		
	4-1 Develop and implement a corporate Green Building Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Green Building Policy fully finalized and implemented in 2023. Continued implementation as part of Field Operations Centre design.
	4-2 Develop and implement a Strategic Energy Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitored Strategic Energy Management Plan (updated in 2023 with a two-year renewal cycle).
	4-3 Conduct energy studies for CRD facilities to identify priority emission reduction and energy efficiency projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completed feasibility study to connect District Energy System from Saanich Peninsula Wastewater treatment plant.Conducted energy studies for Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant, SEAPARC and Rainbow Road Recreation. Progressed work on energy studies for Parks Headquarters and SIMS.Energy audits and conceptual HVAC design completed for Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant and supporting pump stations.Reviewed all 350 corporate sites for rooftop solar; identified top 10 sites to consider for future installation.
	4-4 Complete identified high impact retrofits to CRD facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HVAC conceptual designs for Fisgard Headquarters completed in 2024.Began Alternative Approvals Process to attain loan funding to complete Energy Recovery System project at SEAPARC.Replacement of fuel oil burners in SEAPARC included as part of conceptual design underway for heat recovery project.Completed the design and installation of dehumidification systems for the arenas at Panorama Recreation, reducing the facility's emissions by approximately 26%. Full heat recovery project design is complete and has moved to procurement phase.
	4-5 Pursue climate-friendly development and retrofits for CHRC and CRHD facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Integrated energy reduction strategies into new construction designs, aligning with BC Housing Design Guidelines and Energy Performance targets.Sought grant funding to enhance energy efficiency and reduce GHG emissions in housing facilities.Applied for FCM Sustainable Affordable Housing Grants for three projects targeting Step Code 4 and Net Zero Ready performance, contingent on funding.Adhered to the Hospital District's 10-year capital plan, supporting Island Health's energy guidelines.Partnered with Island Health to fund health infrastructure projects following GHG reduction policies.Conducted Building Envelope Condition Assessments for CRHC properties, identifying a \$10.7M capital funding gap over five years, limiting maintenance efforts.
	4-6 Consider climate impacts in risk assessments and infrastructure upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Incorporated climate and stream flow inputs in reservoir management model.Reviewed risks to the water supply system on an annual basis; wildfire identified again as a high consequence, moderate likelihood risk.Worked with UVic to carry out modelling of potential climate change effects on forests within the GVWSA and how mechanical thinning would mitigate forest mortality and associated forest fuel increase.Participated in the development of a model to improve dam safety in a changing climate via managing reservoir levels.Drainage structure management program factors in climate change projections in a holistic system that factors in inventory, maintenance, and is very climate resilient. Progress on implementation to update infrastructure continues at a moderate pace. Reviewed current drainage structure sizing standards based on latest CRD climate projections.Climate projections factored into bridge designs.Obtained more detailed Digital Elevation Model and Surface Model to enhance modelling of watershed hydrology in drainage structure catchments.
	4-7 Implement a Regional Energy Retrofit Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued to implement the Home Energy Navigator program, which saw 321 registrants.Promoted the program through in-person outreach, summer door knocking campaigns, tax inserts of local government partners, digital and newspaper advertising.Piloted a new enhanced energy assessment in 2024 with some success.Evaluated the option for financing component in 2024. However, that option was not pursued in 2024, as residents continue to access a federal 0% loan.

Status	Action	Update
	4-8 Develop, deliver and support building-related energy, emissions and water education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued supporting the BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA) to deliver Cool it! climate action workshops for students in the region that help to build knowledge and encourage them to reduce carbon pollution at home through a 4-week take-home challenge. The program delivered 104 workshops in the region, 35 funded by the CRD and 69 additional workshops funded by municipalities. Successfully launched new thermal imaging camera kits and refreshed Climate Action To Go Kits in partnership with local public libraries. Hired a one-year auxiliary communications officer to begin developing a community mobilization program and enhance climate education resources. To understand how the CRD can best support community climate action, 22 community groups engaged were interviewed, along with local government staff and elected officials. ICI water conservation program funded water use audits of 5 secondary schools to help identify where they can easily improve the efficiency of the water use in their buildings and provide a return-on-investment to help justify the cost of upgrades. The reports also calculated GHG reductions due to hot water use. A total of 9,500 m³ and 3.97 tCO2e of potential annual savings were identified. Follow-ups will occur in April of 2025 and in 2026 to assess the success of the recommendations.
	4-9 Support acceleration of regional building energy benchmarking and local government regulation approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborated with Saanich and Victoria on mandatory energy and emission reporting consultation. Developed a covered buildings list in 2024, which will form the basis for potential bylaw enforcement of interested local governments. Delivery of a regional benchmarking program planned to start implementation in late 2025. Participated in provincial policy engagements on the Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard, which is a provincial policy that would set a minimum of 100% efficiency for all home heating equipment.
	4-10 Coordinate high-performance building policy support and capacity-building activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to participate in the numerous peer networks in 2024, including the Step Code Local Government Peer network. Continued to support the adoption of the Zero Carbon Step Code among member municipalities. Initiated a policy and modelling review project to help member municipalities understand the emission implications for adopting the Zero Carbon Step Code and other potential policy measures. Delivered pamphlets promoting the step code approach to building and the home energy navigator to municipal permits offices. Initiated planning for a building-focused intermunicipal workshop, which took place in early 2025.
	4-11 Collect and share data and research on building energy use and emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided energy and emission data in support of the Saanich and Victoria 2023 GHG inventories; supported onboarding of new staff in several municipalities on data and metrics. Utilized the intermunicipal working group on climate action to share knowledge about regional best practices. Continued to participate in an embodied carbon peer network.
	4-12 Promote green infrastructure and improved stormwater management approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Stormwater outreach programs (LiveGreen Summer) regularly promote the use of rain gardens, flow-through planters, healthy organic topsoil, and converting impervious areas to drought-tolerant landscapes through residential outreach campaigns. Online workshops on rainwater harvesting and building a rain garden area offered in the spring and fall. Worked with Tsawout First Nation in the early stages of progress towards a service agreement for CRD Stormwater Source Control Bylaw staff to enforce Tsawout stormwater bylaws. This agreement is planned to be developed in 2025. Planned a Green Infrastructure Workshop and started work with a consultant to develop a half-day workshop for municipal staff and professionals to use the CRD's Green Infrastructure Guidelines. The workshop is scheduled for Q1 2025.
	4-13 Understand climate impacts on groundwater resources in Juan de Fuca Electoral Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured funding for potential groundwater study of Aquifer 606, with RFP scheduled to go out in 2025.
	4-14 Investigate regional renewable energy and storage potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed a solar PV assessment of all corporate sites, identifying top 10 sites and providing high-level designs for future consideration. CRD continues to seek collaboration to further explore regional mapping of renewal energy potential in the region.

Additional Action Plan Indicators			Regional Climate Progress Indicators and Trends		
	Annual CRD corporate facilities GHG Emissions	• 1,552 t CO2e (8.7% decrease compared to 2023)		Regional Energy Retrofit Program implementation	• 321 participants registered as of December 2023
	Number of critical emissions reduction projects completed	• 0*		Annual FortisBC natural gas consumption numbers	• 7,164,449 GJ in 2023 (3% decrease compared to 2022)
	Number of site energy audits completed	• 11 (increase of 3 since 2023)		Annual FortisBC natural gas connections	• 61,535 in 2023 (2% increase compared to 2022)
				Regional GHG emissions from buildings	• 2024 data for this indicator was unavailable at the time of reporting

*Studies have been undertaken that will direct capital projects in coming years.



Resilient and Abundant Nature, Ecosystems and Food Systems

Goal 5: Protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health and nature's capacity to store carbon and adapt to climate change. Support the ongoing ability of natural systems to sustain life.



Overall Action Status
Opportunity for Improvement

Status	Action	Update
Progress on Actions		
	5-1 Integrate climate considerations into regional parks strategic and management planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progressed updates to the Regional Parks Land Acquisition Strategy, which provides direction on the selection of land for regional park purposes that reflect the values identified in the Strategic Plan, including climate considerations and incorporating self-determination, rights and feedback from First Nations.• Continued to develop the Stewardship Plan to guide management and acquisition decisions that build resiliency in regional parks and trails under a changing climate.• Engaged with First Nations and incorporated climate action and resiliency considerations into Interim Management Guidelines (IMGs) for two regional parks and one managed property.• Collaborated with Sc'ianew First Nation and T'Sou-ke First Nation on the protection of culturally significant sites, including Restoration of 0.15 hectares at Devonian Regional Park with elders, volunteers and staff, planting 120 trees and 100 shrubs.• Continued to collaborate with T'Sou-ke First Nation and The Land Conservancy (TLC) on restoration projects at Ayum Creek Regional Park.• Supported Mayne Island Conservancy Society in conservation initiatives at St. John Point Regional Park.• Continued to work cooperatively with the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council and designates on the development of the Mount Work Regional Park Management Plan.• Initiated a Cultural Use and Safety Policy to clarify Indigenous rights to cultural access and enhance safety in regional parks.
	5-2 Monitor ecosystem health in the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area (GVWSA) and investigate expanding regionally	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted the annual forest health review, using 2023 orthophoto data to update forest mapping.• Completed 2024 forest health overview flights and ground checks as an early warning system for forest health issues.• Expanded monitoring of forest defoliating insects to track ecosystem changes.• Red alder bark beetle research project (concluded in 2024) confirmed the expanding presence of bark bee-tle due to climate change.• Ongoing Douglas-fir beetle research project assessing climate change risks to forest health.• Assisted federal research on mountain pine beetle on Vancouver Island.• Developed a research project on the resilience of red alder in a changing climate.• Improved the implementation of the hydrology program mandate by hiring a hydrology technician and expanding hydrology monitoring stations in the Sooke Water Supply Area to improve reservoir water inflow monitoring.• Initiated a project to align water quality sampling with streamflow monitoring, strengthening the understanding of water quality/streamflow relationships for the Sooke Lake Reservoir.• Enhanced the extent, quality and frequency of hydrology monitoring to better assess climate vulnerability.• Ongoing work to update mapping systems of the GVWSA for climate risk assessment.• Updated the inventory of GVWSA ecosystems to support climate vulnerability analysis.
	5-3 Undertake climate adaptation initiatives to increase the resilience of the GVWSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thinning and juvenile spacing initiatives were completed to reduce wildfire risk and enhance forest resilience.• Conducted modelling with UVIC, simulating forest growth, mortality and composition under two climate change scenarios to compare thinned vs. un-thinned stands and to guide future management.• Juvenile spacing project completed in the Leech Water Supply Area, the first such project since the 1990s.• Progressed Goldstream Water Supply Area assessments to identify future forest management opportunities.• Completed LiDAR-derived Enhanced Forest Inventory to guide forest management decisions and prioritize areas for intervention.
	5-4 Provide regional and local ecological data to support planning and policy efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General ecological inventory data from provincial and federal databases have been compiled as a first step to determine usefulness of such an inventory for a comprehensive regional biodiversity inventory.• Detailed intertidal and subtidal ecological inventories for Victoria Harbour, Portage Inlet, Gorge Waterway, Esquimalt Lagoon, and parts of Esquimalt Harbour have been completed.• Work on ecological ratings progressed and neared completion; plans to upload the new inventories to the Harbours Atlas for public access by 2025.• Confirmed interest from Tsartlip First Nation, District of Saanich, City of Victoria and Saanich Peninsula municipalities for expanding the inventory up the peninsula coastline, to be considered under the new Regional Biodiversity Service, once operational.• Tree cover and impervious cover layers are publicly available on CRD Maps, and raw data is available for download. Most municipalities in the region have accessed the data, with several using it for biodiversity and urban forest projects.• CRD continues to work with a consultant to review and refine flow discharge curves for the six flow stations maintained by CRD; project completion anticipated in 2025. Flow data is used by various parties, including District of Saanich, to determine base flow levels necessary to support fish populations and to inform the development of municipal stormwater management plans.

Status		Action	Update
		5-5 Coordinate regional invasive species program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CRD continues to coordinate the Capital Region Invasive Species partnership and coordinates the development and support implementation of the Early Detection Rapid Response program. Membership and participation by municipal and First Nations staff continues to increase.• Several training sessions and capacity-building workshops were delivered in 2024.• Update to the regional list of priority invasive species began in 2024 and will be completed by July 2025.• Ongoing collaboration and support to T’Souke Nation and other stakeholders in dealing with Knotweed infestation on Sooke River.
		5-6 Support regional forest and urban tree programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes to the 2 Billion Trees program remove the need for a regional application, as individual municipalities are now submitting their own applications to the revised Growing Canadas Community Canopy administered by FCM.• Considerations for coordinated planning to increase canopy and sequestration potential is being considered as part of the next update to the Land Cover (urban forests and impervious cover), and through the new Biodiversity service.
		5-7 Support Indigenous-led monitoring and restoration programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborating closely with First Nation cultural workers and Guardians regarding the conservation and protection of heritage sites across all service areas. Working with First Nations on the management of cultural and ecological values within regional parks and community parks, including ecological restoration.• Signed an agreement with the Malahat Nation to enable their Guardians to conduct environmental monitoring in the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area.• Efforts were made to involve Songhees Nation, Esquimalt Nation, and the four W̱SÁNEĆ Nations in the update of the Bowker Creek Blueprint.• CRD staff are assisting T’Souke Nation and the District of Sooke with managing an outbreak of Knotweed in the Sooke River.• CRD staff are liaising with Tsartlip Nation regarding an outbreak of hogweed on their reserve lands.• Through the CRDs involvement in the GreenShores Local Government Working group, staff at several First Nations have been supported to take Level 1 and Level 2 training at no cost to build capacity with the Nations.• CRD collaborated with Tsawout First Nation in the early stages of progress towards a service agreement for CRD Stormwater Source Control Bylaw staff to enforce Tsawout stormwater bylaws. This agreement is planned to be developed in 2025.
		5-8 Support local food and agriculture planning and programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional Foodlands Access Service Bylaw was drafted and sent for approval in Q1 2025.• Worked on increasing partnerships with various agricultural entities and groups with interest in the Regional Foodlands project.• Through the Goose Management service, CRD has partnered with four First Nations in the region to support First Nation-led harvest of Canada Geese. The meat from the harvested birds is shared amongst the participating First Nations communities.• Continued distributing food and agriculture educational materials, as requested.
		5-9 Integrate climate impacts and solutions into environmental education and outreach campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate adaptation and resilience messaging has been fully integrated into multiple outreach programs, including water conservation, integrated watershed management, backyard biodiversity, stormwater management and invasive species awareness campaigns.• Establish cross-divisional communications working group to share opportunities moving forward.• Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) Water Use Assessments conducted with high schools in the region included a list of recommended actions and return on investment calculations to reduce water consumption, lower emissions and cut costs.• Piloted Species at Risk Program and Invasive Species Awareness and Removal Program for grades 4-5; both programs are action-oriented, encouraging students to positively impact local ecosystems (230 participants).• Co-led Regional Parks and Climate Action professional Development Workshop for teachers.• Seven “Point Duty” programs delivered on Regional Trails, covering trail etiquette and benefits of active transportation (340 people engaged).• Participation in two Go By Bike Week events to promote sustainable transportation on Regional Trails (488 people engaged).• Co-hosted International Trails Day event with Trans Canada Trail staff, educating the public on trail stewardship, etiquette and active transportation (66 attendees).
Additional Action Plan Indicators			Regional Climate Progress Indicators and Trends
	Hectares of regional park land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No new land acquisitions in 2024.• 13,350 ha total, 21.28 ha acquired in 2023.	 Percentage of Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt acquired* <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This indicator has been replaced in the Regional Growth Strategy Indicator Report by Total Regional Park land acquired
	Number of volunteer stewardship hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6,600 hours by 711 volunteers	 Hectares of farmland in the Growth Management Planning Area <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This indicator has been replaced in the Regional Growth Strategy Indicator Report with Farm operating revenues in the Growth Management Planning Area due to census data being unavailable



Minimized Waste

Goal 6: Waste generation and the resulting emissions are minimized and remaining waste is transformed into a resource. Follow the 5R pollution prevention hierarchy.



Overall Action Status
Opportunity for Improvement

Status Action Update

Progress on Actions



6-1 Implement the Solid Waste Management Plan

- Commenced Material Diversion Transfer Station operations at Hartland Landfill, processing clean and treated wood and asphalt shingles for reuse, recycling or energy recovery, diverting approximately 9,600 tonnes of waste.
- Processed and utilized 10,867 tonnes of select waste materials onsite as per ENV guidelines, reducing reliance on virgin materials.
- Transitioned to a new contractor for single-family home recycling collection, effective January 2nd, 2024. Contractor utilizes 23 CNG trucks and plans to integrate electric trucks in future fleet operations.
- Provided consolidation, transfer and processing services for 13,463 tonnes of kitchen scraps from municipalities and private providers.
- Continued enforcement of landfill bans on yard and garden materials. Processed 1,300 tonnes of yard and garden material at Hartland Depot.
- CRD Board approved increased budget for the 2024 Kitchen Scraps Transfer Station Relocation Project. Contractor procured for construction, with hauling and processing contracts awarded for 2025-2030.
- CRD Board approved the Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy, focusing on advanced thermal processing, additional combustion and non-agricultural land application.
- Refer to 2024 Solid Waste Management Plan Progress Report for more information.



6-2 Develop and deliver education programs to promote a circular economy, zero waste and the 3 Rs

- Provided \$70,300 in funding to support 24 community-led waste reduction projects under the Rethink Waste Community Grant.
- Standardized waste disposal and recycling education for 40 multi-family buildings (2,730 units) across seven municipalities, as part of the Multi-family Dwelling Waste Diversion Project. Installed 512 signs and distributed over 2,700 educational materials.
- Continued to deliver education workshops and landfill tours. Responded to 23,365 public inquiries via phone and email.
- Continued participation in the Coast Waste Management Association (CWMA) Communications/Educators Working Group.
- Continued sponsorship of the EcoStar Awards.
- Promoted food waste prevention through the Love Food Hate Waste Campaign, featuring movie theatre ads, social media and print/digital media.
- Developed a new circular economy lesson plan for schools.
- Investigated options for soft and flexible plastic collection for multi-family and single-family homes.
- Provided funding to the Compost Education Centre (CEC) for waste diversion and composting programs; partnered with the CEC to deliver two Composting Basics Workshops in conjunction with public landfill tours to 55 residents.



6-3 Support education and engagement on waste management to be delivered by and for First Nations communities

- Continued regular meetings with WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council and the Capital Regional District Solid Waste Working Group.
- Worked with the Pacheedaht First Nation to decommission a temporary waste and recyclables transfer station on their lands in 2024.
- Ongoing collaboration to develop a long-term solid waste and recyclables management strategy for the broader Port Renfrew community.



6-4 Continue to maximize and optimize the capture of landfill gas for beneficial use

- Collection efficiency of Landfill Gas calculated at 43% (ENV model) and 50% (UBCi model) in 2024.
- Continued operation of the old flare system during Biogas Upgrading Facility commissioning and gas-to-electricity facility decommissioning. Installed a new enclosed flare in 2024 to support gas destruction.
- Biogas Upgrading Facility for Renewal Natural Gas construction continued, with projected 450,000 tonnes CO2e reduction over 25 years – a 73% improvement from 2019 estimates. Facility expected to be operational in 2025.
- Continued annual landfill gas collection infrastructure installations and implemented strategies to enhance gas collection and reduce fugitive emissions.



6-5 Consider climate change impacts in liquid waste management

- Continued development of the renewed Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan and Saanich Peninsula Liquid Waste Management Plan. Staff are working to engage First Nations and integrate climate change considerations into the plan updates.

Regional Climate Progress Indicators and Trends



CRD's per capita disposal rate

- 338 kg/per capita (decrease of 11.6% and decrease of 44 kg/capita compared to 2023).



Landfill Gas collection efficiency*

- Achieved a 50% gas collection efficiency based on UBCi model.

*Please refer to the Solid Waste Management Plan Progress Reports for additional information.



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