



Saanich Climate Plan

Annual Report Card 2024



2024 Highlights



Mobility



20 km of bike routes with barrier curbs (curb plunks) installed



4 signalized locations with no-right-on-red restrictions added



160 km of speed limits lowered



The Locker bike valet service, offered by Capital Bike at four events in Saanich in 2024, parking a total of **255 bicycles**



29% increase in usage at Saanich's public EV chargers



24 multi-family buildings have completed EV Ready Plans, with **10 stratas** going on to install EV-Ready infrastructure in their buildings, for a **total of 764** EV-ready parking stalls installed since 2021



Buildings and Infrastructure



Over 100 households have participated in Saanich's Heat Pump Financing Program, with 60 oil and gas furnaces now replaced with the support of Saanich's interest free loans since program launch in 2022



528 residents participated in the Provincial program to receive free portable A/C units with BC Hydro



Completed Cordova Bay Integrated **Stormwater Management Plan**



Food and Materials



Pop-up Pocket Farm Markets permitted in a variety of public zones allowing producers to sell agricultural products directly to consumers



Roadside Farm Stands now permitted in urban zones



Updated Savour Saanich brochure guides local consumers to fresh local farms, food producers and regional farm markets



2 Saanich businesses accepted into the 2024 Circular Economy Accelerator Program



Ecosystems



Adopted an updated **Urban Forest Strategy** and **Biodiversity Conservation Strategy**



3,205 trees planted on District-owned lands by Parks staff



192 volunteers registered with **Pulling Together**, providing **15,310+ hours** to invasive species removal



Over 25 new **Pulling Together** volunteer restoration sites planted with native species



180-meter creek restoration at Gabo Creek



Community Well-being



Capital Regional District's **Extreme Heat Information Portal launched**, providing information and maps to help residents and municipal planners explore and understand the capital region's vulnerability and exposure to extreme heat



230 rechargeable lights and **200 packs of reflective stickers** handed out at the **CRD's Lets Get Visible pop-up event** to support trail and road safety



7 new Neighbour to Neighbour group projects completed



1,300 native tree seedlings provided to community members for planting



Leadership in District Operations



24 additional staff completed E-bike safety training, for a total of 103 staff trained through the program



2 new E-bikes and a new bike enclosure at the Municipal Hall



1 electric cargo van (Ford E-Transit T350) and 1 electric hatchback (Chevrolet Bolt) joined Saanich Fleet



3 new electric utility vehicles introduced at Cedar Hill Golf Course



Installed 6 new EV Chargers at the Saanich Operations Centre



The District received two Community Energy Association 2024 Climate & Energy Action Awards



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Introduction

The [Saanich Climate Plan](#), adopted in 2020, outlines a vision along with targets, objectives, strategies, and actions to protect our community, improve our quality of life, and reduce local and global risks associated with a changing climate. It looks at both mitigation (reducing our greenhouse gas [GHG] emissions) that drive climate change and adaptation (preparing for a changing climate) in the wider Saanich community as well as the District's operations. It contains 131 actions across 6 focus areas:

1. Mobility
2. Buildings and Infrastructure
3. Food and Materials
4. Ecosystems
5. Community Well-being
6. Leadership in District Operations

An important action in the plan is to report annually on our progress. This Report Card provides a summary of progress on:

- GHG emissions targets;
- Climate Plan objectives (i.e. the metrics and targets) for each Focus Area; and
- Climate Plan actions for each Focus Area.

In 2024, the District developed and updated Plans and Strategies that support the ongoing advancement of metrics within certain Focus Areas. For example, the new Biodiversity and Conservation Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy have supported the development of metrics related to ecosystems. A recent update to the District's Official Community Plan, creation of the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Regional Heat Map Project, and other work underway, including the Natural Assets Initiative, Stormwater Management Plans and an upcoming update to the Saanich Climate Plan, will support the development of metrics in other Focus Areas, particularly climate adaptation and climate resilience.

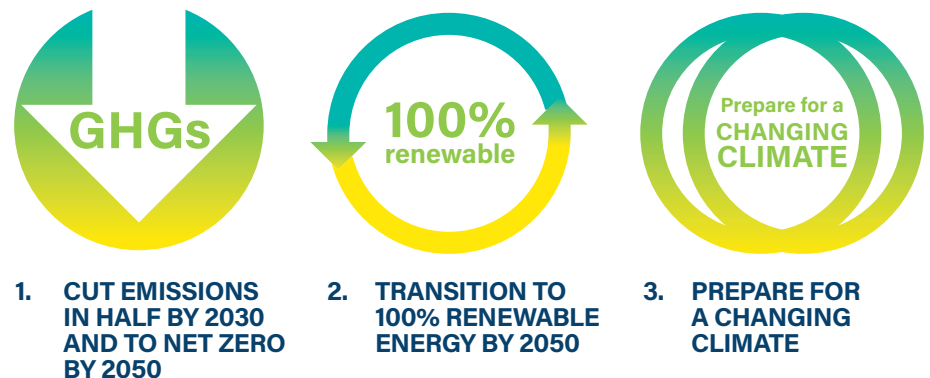
Obtaining recent data can be challenging, as data for several of the targets outlined in the Climate Plan are currently unavailable on an annual basis. Targets related to mobility rely on the regional Origin Destination Household Travel Survey and targets related to waste rely on regional waste composition studies, both conducted approximately every five years. Staff are working on data access and improvements

across several of the Climate Plan key focus areas. Where data is unavailable or metrics are in development, this is noted within the report. Data sources and methodologies are available upon request from sustainability@saanich.ca.

While the District has direct control over the implementation of our Climate Plan actions, we have shared influence over our community wide GHG emissions and the Climate Plan objectives, so it is clear that we cannot achieve this alone. Our collective success requires action from everyone, including the provincial government, the federal government, businesses, non-profits, community organizations, institutions, and residents.

We need to do this together.

Figure 1: Climate Plan Goals
Saanich Community-wide Climate Goals



District of Saanich Corporate Climate Goals



Progress on Community-Wide GHG Targets

Territorial Emissions Inventory

The latest Saanich community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory is for 2023 and outlined in Figure 2. The [full report](#) can be found on the [Progress Reports](#) page accessed through saanich.ca/climateplan. It follows the [Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories](#), accounting and reporting standard for cities (Basic+).

The majority of our territorial GHG emissions come from fossil fuels used for transportation (mainly gasoline and diesel) and buildings (mainly natural gas and, to a lesser extent, oil). In comparison to fossil fuels, approximately 98% of BC's electricity generation is renewable and the Provincial government and BC Hydro have committed to a 100% Clean Electricity Delivery Standard for electricity by 2030. Given this, Climate Plan actions focus heavily on electrification.

The latest territorial inventory shows the following:

- **Total community-wide emissions – 19% reduction from 2007 baseline**
 - » Decreased by 1.2% between 2022 and 2023 from 487,253 tCO₂e to 481,425 tCO₂e.
 - » This is an 18.9% decrease from a baseline of 593,359 tCO₂e in 2007.
- **Per capita emissions – 28% reduction from 2007 baseline**
 - » Decreased by 2% between 2022 and 2023, from 3.93 to 3.84 tCO₂e / person.
 - » This is a 28% decrease from a baseline of 5.33 tCO₂e /person in 2007.
- **Transportation Emissions – 28% reduction from 2007**
 - » Decreased by 1% between 2022 and 2023.
 - » This is a decrease of 28.2% from our 2007 baseline.
 - » By far the biggest source of emissions from transportation are from personal vehicles, with 24% of on-road transportation emissions from light duty vehicles and 64% from light duty trucks.

- » While there are some counterproductive trends such as growing adoption of larger, heavier vehicles, we are seeing decreases in vehicle kilometers travelled overall despite population growth, as well as a growth in electric vehicles and active transportation use.
- » The CRD's 2022 Origin Destination Study showed that a greater portion of the workforce continued to work from home for at least part of the work week, reducing emissions from the use of personal vehicles for commuting.
- » Additionally, we are seeing a significant increase in cycling trips as a percentage of total trips and a continued increase in electric vehicle adoption in the community.

- **Building Emissions – 6% reduction from 2007**

- » Decreased by 3.5% between 2022 and 2023.
- » This is a 6.2% decrease from our 2007 baseline.
- » Residential buildings are our largest source of building emissions (36%). They saw a 9% decrease between 2022 and 2023, including a 7% reduction in natural gas emissions.
- » Commercial and institutional buildings are our second largest source of building emissions (35%). They saw a decrease of 4% between 2022 and 2023, including a 6% reduction in natural gas emissions.
- » While this is positive news, unfortunately 2023 was 8% warmer by heating degree days (HDD) than 2022, which should have resulted in a greater decrease in natural gas use and building emissions than that experienced if all else remained the same.

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

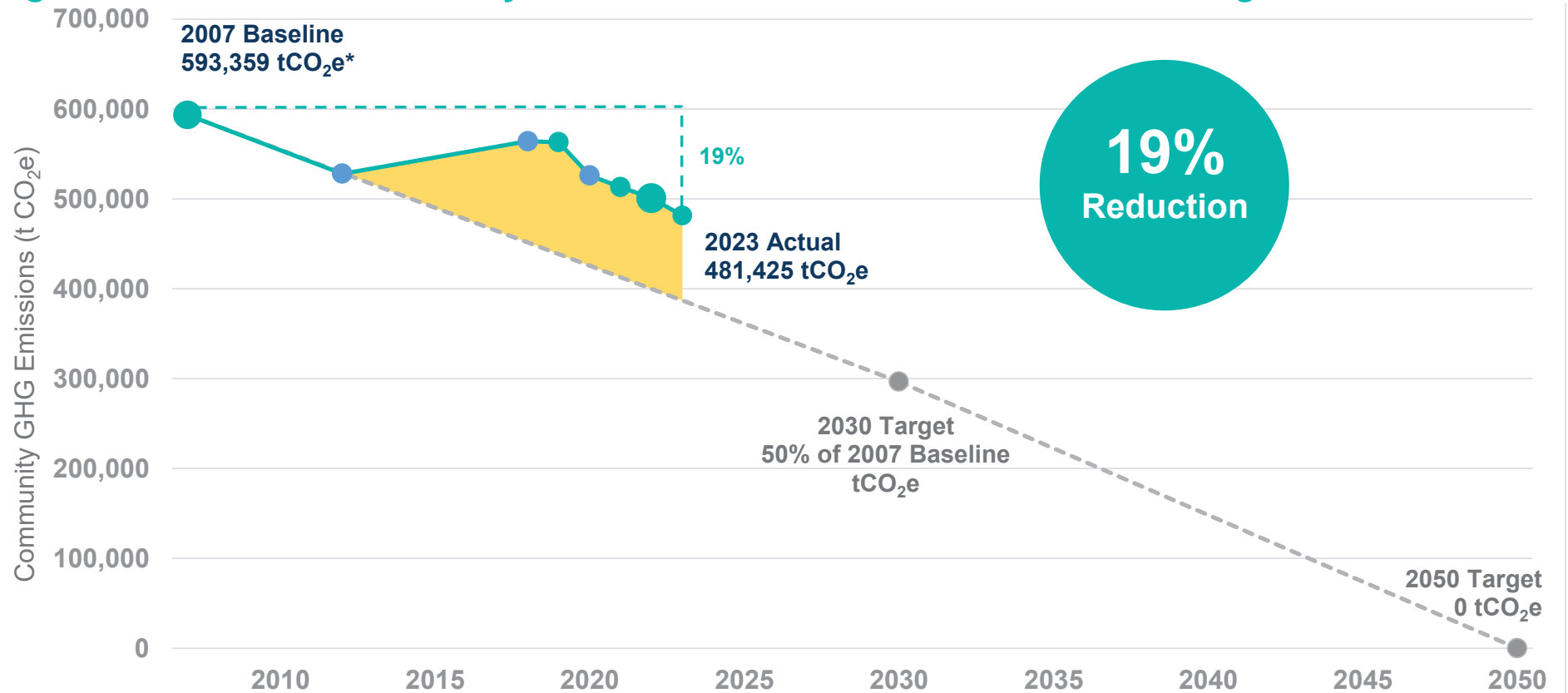
- **Waste emissions – 53% reduction from 2007 baseline**
 - » This continues to exceed our 2023 targets of a 50% reduction in emissions from our 2007 baseline, primarily due to widespread adoption of composting as well as landfill methane capture and the biological treatment of waste in addition to changes in emissions factors**.
 - » However, there was a 10% increase in waste emissions in 2023 compared to 2022. This increase was mainly due to a temporary decrease in the landfill gas collection efficiency at Hartland Landfill***, which is expected to resolve in 2025.

Multiple sources of data are used to inform the community-wide GHG inventory and no significant changes in data methodology or assumptions occurred between the 2022-2023 inventory. Data sources, quality and assumptions are outlined in the Community Inventory Report available [online](#).

** Emissions factors are used to estimate the amount of GHG emissions per unit of fuel. There are different emissions factors for different fuel types and other sources of GHGs and these are updated annually by the Province, available at https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/climate-change/cng/methodology/2023_pso_methodology_for_quantifying_greenhouse_gas_emissions.pdf.

*** The decrease in landfill gas collection efficiency is due to the construction of the Cell 4 linear system at Hartland Landfill, resulting in a delayed connection of 33 collection wells already installed in the upper lifts of Cell 3.

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



Biogenic emissions in 2023 were an additional 21,013 tCO₂(b). This is an increase of 10.4% from 2007 levels.

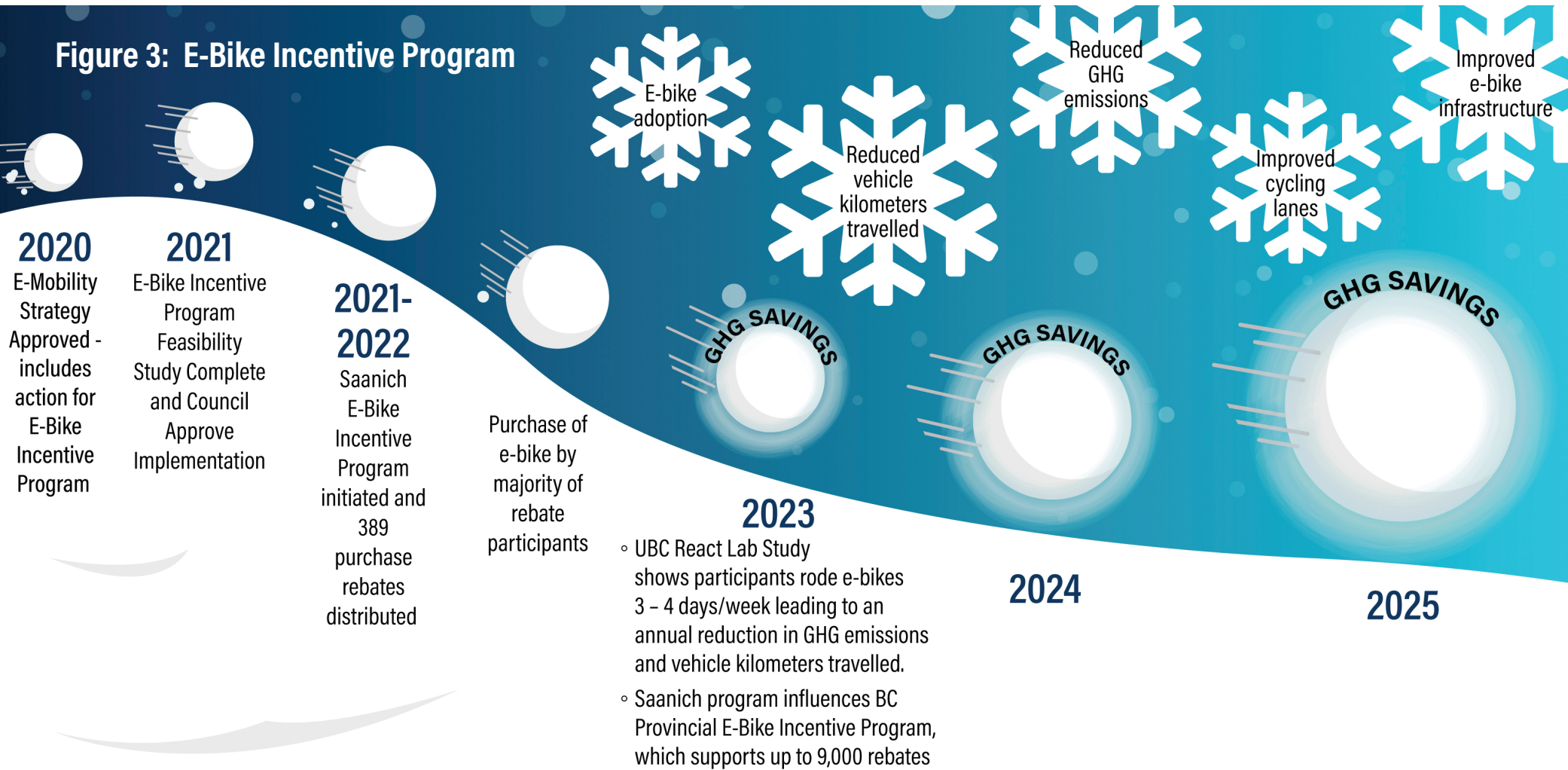
Progress is not Linear: the Snowball Effect

Seeing the results of individual Climate Plan actions takes time and resources and is often the culmination of years of collaboration between many stakeholders. The timeframe between initiating an action, implementing it, and then seeing the resulting GHG emission reductions varies between each action - some may take years to complete, and progress can be hindered by various obstacles along the way.

Actions are also interrelated or have a stacking effect – meaning that in order to reach considerable GHG emissions reductions, we may

need multiple types of actions to be implemented by different orders of government (and/or other organizations). For example, transportation emissions reductions rely on phased fossil fuel vehicle sales bans alongside incentives for early EV adoption, as well as investment in EV charging infrastructure to ensure the environment is ready for the increased number of EVs. In parallel, reducing emissions from transportation relies on planning for compact, complete communities to reduce the need for auto travel, while simultaneously investing in transit and active transportation infrastructure (new buses, bike/bus

Figure 3: E-Bike Incentive Program



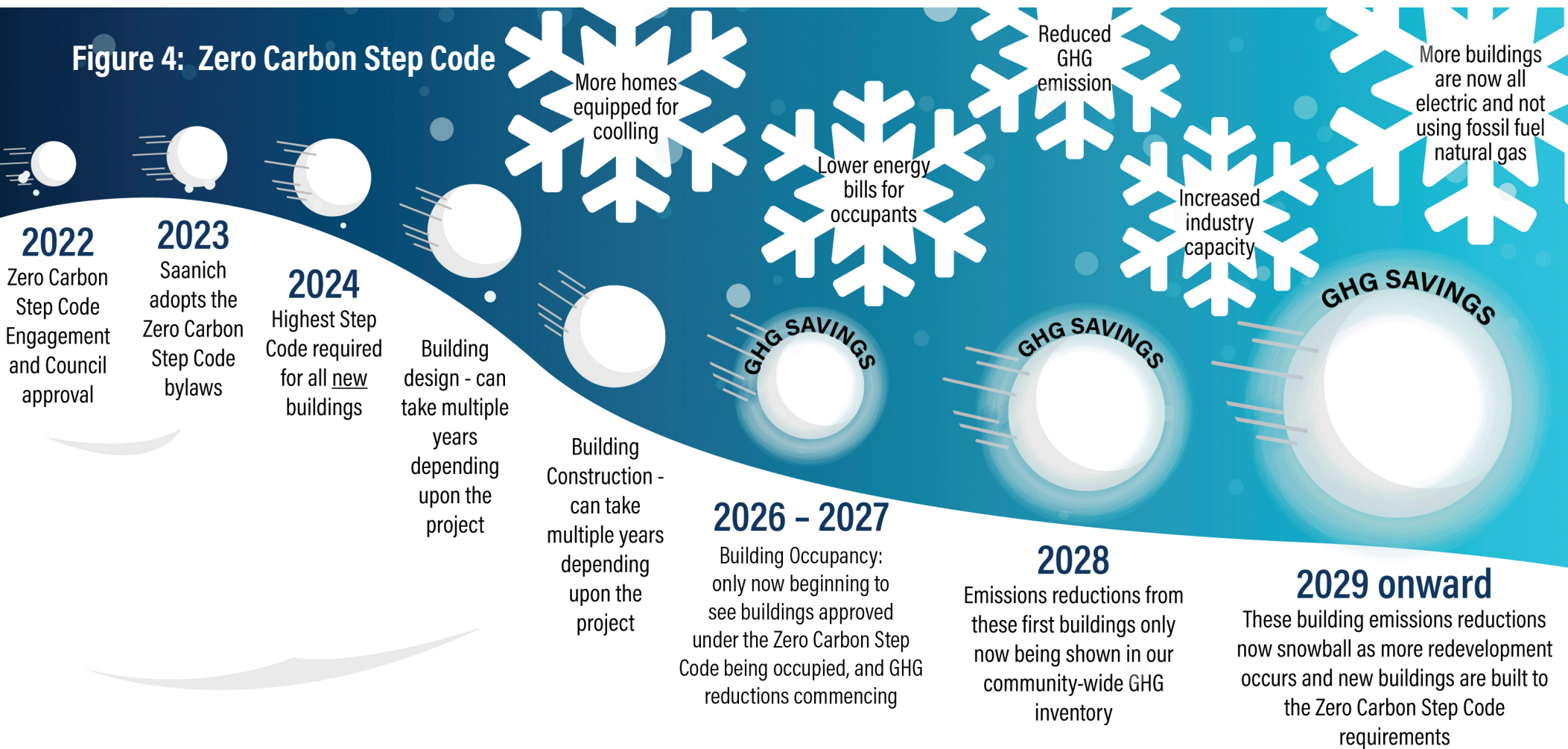
lanes, facilities, secure storage etc.) and incentives that support mode shift. There is no silver bullet; incentives, policy/legislation, infrastructure investments and education, with collaboration between all orders of government (and other organizations) are required to address the climate crisis.

Figures 3 and 4 demonstrate how the timeline for emissions reductions can differ significantly among climate actions. For example, the GHG emissions savings from the Saanich E-bike Incentive Program were realized relatively quickly. Conversely, implementation of the Zero Carbon

Step Code is a longer-term endeavor, resulting in significant emissions savings but over a much longer period of time.

Understanding these time lags is crucial in setting realistic expectations and for planning sufficiently far ahead to meet our targets. It demonstrates the critical importance of continuing the course, of not being discouraged, and persisting with action implementation and ambitious policy adoption, even if the results are expected to occur in the longer term.

Figure 4: Zero Carbon Step Code

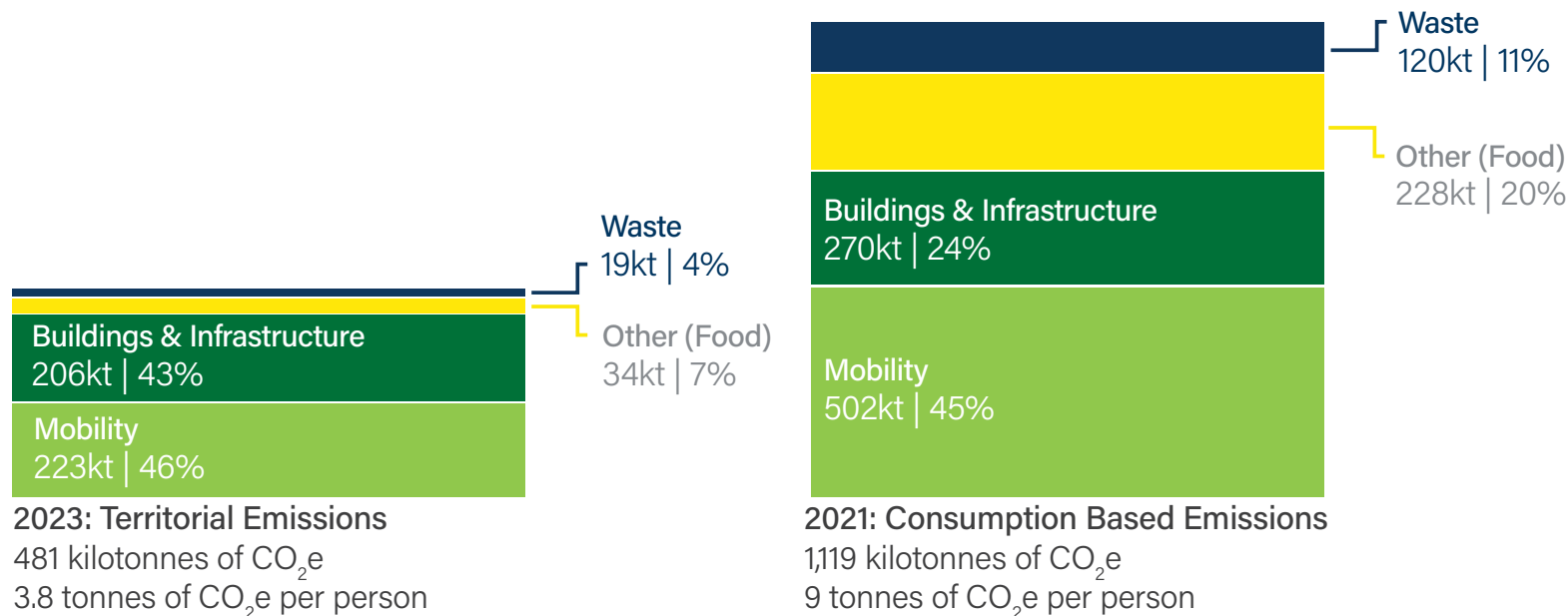


Consumption Based Emissions Inventory and One Planet Living

While the global standard for measuring city-wide climate impact is the territorial GHG emissions inventory (Figure 2), this does not provide a complete picture of our community's impact on global climate change. It assigns the climate impacts from producing the food and goods we consume to the producer community instead of Saanich. Most of the goods we consume in Saanich are produced in other regions and countries. In order to better understand the climate impact of our consumption, the Climate Plan also includes a Consumption Based Emissions Inventory (CBEI) and actions to reduce it. Saanich has completed two CBEIs, one released in 2018 using 2015 data and one released in 2023 using 2021 data. Both CBEIs show our consumption-based emissions are approximately double what we report in our territorial emissions inventory (Figure 5). The CBEI can be viewed at saanich.ca/ecofootprint. Total consumption-based emissions saw a slight increase between 2015 and 2021, although per capita emissions did drop slightly from 9.4 to 9.0 tCO₂e/person.

Climate change is not the only type of planetary overshoot we are experiencing. Due to unsustainable levels of consumption, global society today is demanding more in a year through consumption of energy and resources than nature can provide and polluting more than nature can assimilate – we are exceeding many planetary boundaries and are in a state of “ecological overshoot” rather than living within the carrying capacity of our one planet. We measure our impact in ecological “footprints” – the number of hectares per person of productive land on earth required to support our lifestyle. If everyone had lifestyles comparable to a Saanich resident, we would need approximately four earths to provide all of the natural resources necessary to support us. Reducing our climate impact is just one part of achieving [One Planet Living](#). To ensure we make decisions holistically while facing multiple social and ecological challenges, and to maximize co-benefits and minimize unintended consequences, we will continue to use One Planet Living Principles in climate action. More information on One Planet Living and the list of principles can be found at oneplanetbc.com.

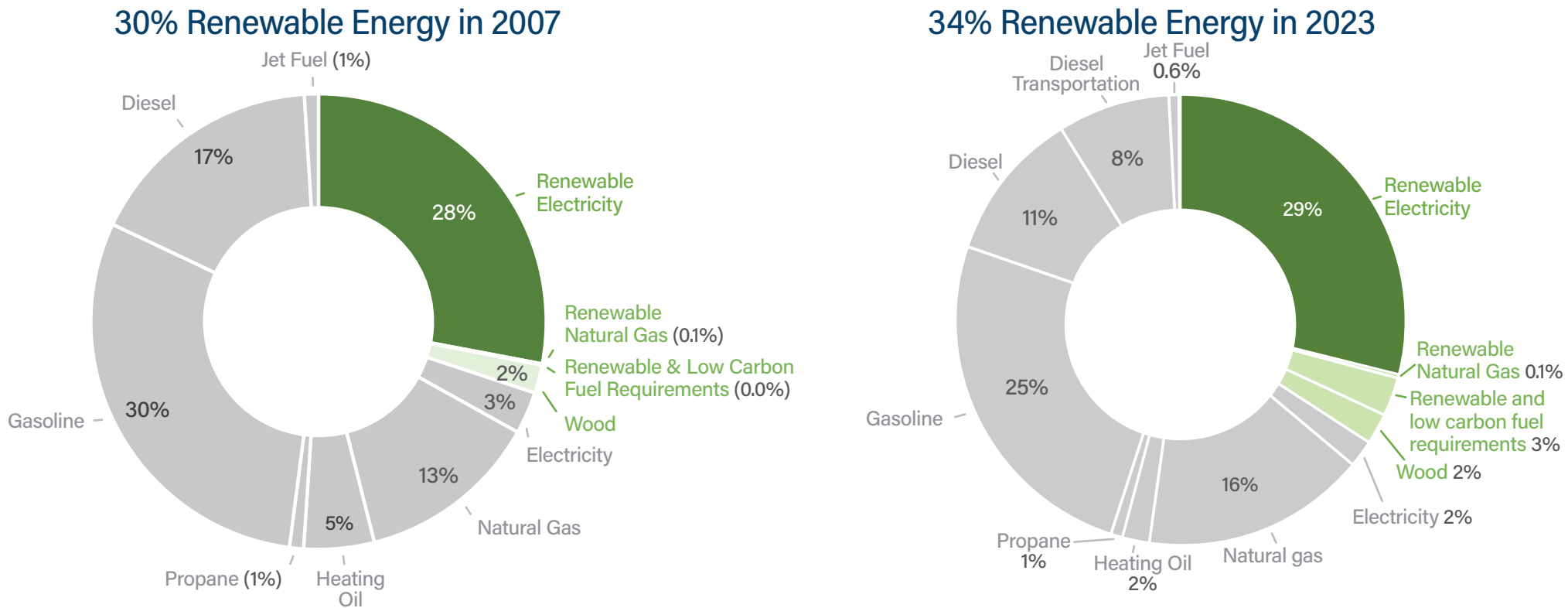
Figure 5: Saanich GHG Inventories: Territorial vs. Consumption Based Emissions



Renewable Energy Transition


















Fossil fuel combustion is driving climate change in Saanich and worldwide. In order to meet our climate targets, we must transition to 100% renewable energy. As shown in Figure 6 below, Saanich's current energy mix includes fossil and renewable energy sources. Our 2023 Community GHG inventory shows that 34% of the energy we use is currently renewable, with electricity being by far the largest source of renewable energy. This is a 4% increase since the 2007 baseline, reflecting a growing ratio of renewable energy being supplied and used compared to fossil energy options, and an increase in low carbon fuel requirements for gasoline and diesel sales in BC.

Figure 6: Renewable Energy as a Percentage of Total Energy Use



Progress on Objectives






























Table 1: Progress on Objectives

KEY FOCUS AREA	MEASURE OF SUCCESS (OBJECTIVE)	WHERE WE ARE AT	2030 TARGET	2050 TARGET	CURRENT YEAR STATUS
 Mobility	 % of all trips taken by walking and cycling	19%	22%	30%	●
	 % of trips taken by transit	7%	14%	20%	●
	 % of personal vehicles that are electric	4%	36%	100%	●
	 % of commercial vehicles that are electric	4.3%	-	50%	●
	 % of remaining transport fuel that is "biofuel"	13.3%	10%	100%	●
	 % of buses that are electric	0%	100%	100%	●
 Buildings and Infrastructure	 New buildings that achieve the higher steps of BC Energy Step Code	3%*	100% by 2025	100%	●
	 New buildings that are net-zero carbon (defined as all-electric space and hot water heating)	55%*	100% by 2030	100%	●
	 Embodied emissions are reported and lowered**	No data	100%	100%	●
	 % of residential oil heating systems replaced by heat pumps since 2017	39%*	100%	100%	●
	 Building space heating demands are reduced***	-0.3%	-12%	-24%	●
	 % of existing natural gas heating systems that are replaced by renewable energy systems	3.3%	40%	100%	●
	 Sufficient renewable energy sources are available to support required conversions from fossil fuel systems	Metrics to be developed			●
	 Buildings and infrastructure are designed or retrofitted for changing climate conditions, ecological functions and exposure to climate hazards	Metrics to be developed			●
	 Land use and development patterns minimize exposure to sea-level rise	Metrics to be developed			●



*Corrected since 2023 Climate Plan Report Card to include only buildings with occupancy permits instead of active applications.

** More information about embodied emissions can be found in the Saanich Climate Plan, available at saanich.ca/climate_plan.

*** The calculation and units associated with this objective and associated targets have been amended since the 2023 report to better explain the reduction in energy use.

KEY FOCUS AREA	MEASURE OF SUCCESS (OBJECTIVE)	WHERE WE ARE AT	2030 TARGET	2050 TARGET	CURRENT YEAR STATUS
 Food and Materials	 Saanich's consumption-based emissions related to food are reduced	4.6%	TBD	TBD	
	 0% of compostable organic waste and paper that is landfilled	19% organics 16% paper	0% 0%	0% 0%	
	 Agricultural land is protected: Hectares of land in Saanich within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)	1,781 ha*	TBD	TBD	
	 A greater proportion of food is grown and consumed locally: Hectares of land and % of total land that is actively farmed in Saanich	415 properties	TBD	TBD	
	 The majority of local farmers have the ability to adapt their production practices to a changing climate	Metrics to be developed			
 Ecosystems	 Ecosystem health and biodiversity are protected	Metrics to be developed			
	 The removal of carbon from the atmosphere by trees, plants, and ecosystems in Saanich is increased	Metrics to be developed			
	 Ecosystem services are maintained or enhanced	Metrics to be developed			
	 % tree canopy cover District Wide	43% (4,500 ha)	TBD	44% (by 2064)	
 Community Well-being	 Emergency and community health services are adequate to respond to the identified climate risks	Metrics to be developed			
	 Climate action benefits people in Saanich, helping to improve air quality and community health while supporting clean energy jobs and a diverse economy	Metrics to be developed			
 Leadership in District Operations	 The District of Saanich is a recognized leader in climate action: Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) report score	A- (2023)	A	A	
	 Reduction in GHG emissions from municipal operations compared to 2007 levels	29%	50% by 2025	100% by 2040	

*Corrected since 2023 Climate Plan Report Card due to updated Saanich GIS data

 On track to meet climate targets
  Not on track to meet climate targets but moving in the right direction
  Not on track to meet climate targets
  No metric or data available

Progress on Actions

The Climate Plan identifies a total of 131 actions to be implemented over the coming years, of which 120 were due to be initiated by 2024. Saanich staff have evaluated the status of those actions based on the descriptions in Table 3. Of the 120 actions due to be initiated by 2024, 103 (86%) are Ongoing, Achieved, or On Track and 17 (14%) are currently Behind Schedule or On Hold (Figure 7).

The next section provides a summary of progress on the Climate Plan Targets, Objectives and Actions for each Focus Area. Details on all actions are included in the Appendix and the progress on actions within each Focus Area are outlined in Figure 8. As stated in the introduction, these actions are under the District's control. However, we require action from everyone, in particular, higher levels of government, if we are to achieve our climate targets.

Figure 7: Progress on all 2020 - 2023 actions

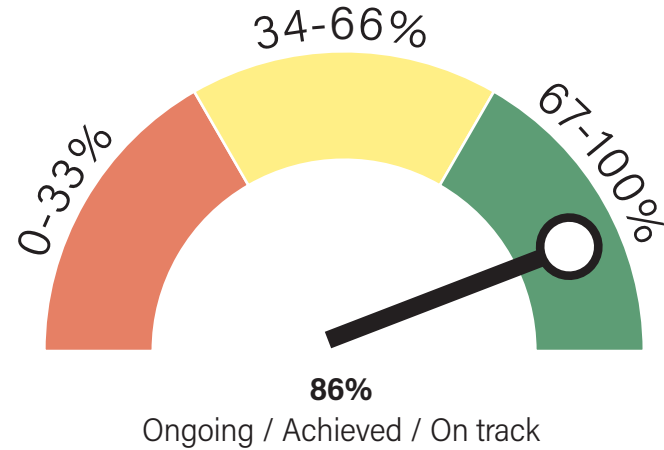


Figure 8: Progress on 2020-2023 actions for each focus area

Mobility	Buildings and Infrastructure	Food and Materials	Ecosystems	Community Well-being	Leadership in District Operations	E-mobility Strategy	Retrofit Strategy
71% of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	89% of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	100% of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	86% of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	100% of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	78% of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	79% of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track	80% of actions are Ongoing / Achieved / On track

Council approved seven First Priority Actions to shift away from business as usual and respond quickly and effectively to the Climate Emergency. These First Priority Actions include the following:

Table 2: First Priority Actions Status

First Priority Action	Climate Plan Action / Strategy	Status Update
1. Increase investment in active transportation to reduce both territorial and consumption-based emissions, improve air quality, and promote health and equity.	Action M1.1	Behind schedule
2. Accelerate personal transportation electrification by developing an electric mobility strategy for Saanich.	Action M3.1	Achieved
3. Convert all oil heating systems to renewable heating systems by 2030 or sooner.	Action B2.2	Behind schedule
4. Enhance support for efficiency and renewable energy upgrades in existing buildings to enable 40% of homes and businesses to switch to efficient and renewable energy systems by 2030.	Strategy B2	1 future action, the remainder Achieved (3), On Track (5), Ongoing (7)
5. Double the rate of planting trees to enhance urban forest for increased carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services.	Action E1.1	On track
6. Improve climate resilience of Saanich's infrastructure, such as our stormwater system, flood hazard planning, and engineering design specifications.	Strategy B5	1 future action, the remainder Achieved (1), On Track (2) or Ongoing (1)
7. Catalyze community actions by developing a supportive network and resources to encourage and sustain personal efforts.	Strategy C2	Achieved (1), On Track (1) or Ongoing (10)

Table 3: Action Reporting Status

Ongoing	The action has no completion timeline and requires continuous work on an annual basis.
Achieved	The action has been implemented.
Ahead of schedule	The action is underway and anticipated to be completed before the designated time frame.
On track	Work is progressing and the action is anticipated to be met in the designated time frame.
Behind schedule	Work has either not started or it progressed, but the pace of effort will need to increase before it can be considered on track to be completed in the designated timeframe.
On hold	The action is currently on hold and work is not proceeding.
Future action	The action has not yet started and is slated for development in the future.



Mobility and Electric Mobility



Final UBC study results found that the Saanich E-bike Incentive Pilot Program exceeded expectations for reducing car trips and GHG emissions among participants and was cost competitive with other climate transportation incentive programs in BC.

Mobility Summary

Transportation is the largest source of our community-wide Territorial GHG emissions. The latest 2023 community-wide GHG inventory shows a 28% reduction in Saanich's transportation GHG emissions since our 2007 baseline, which demonstrates significant progress towards our 2030 targets.

Regional transportation trends in the 2022 Origin Destination Household Travel study completed by the CRD show important shifts from previous surveys, including:

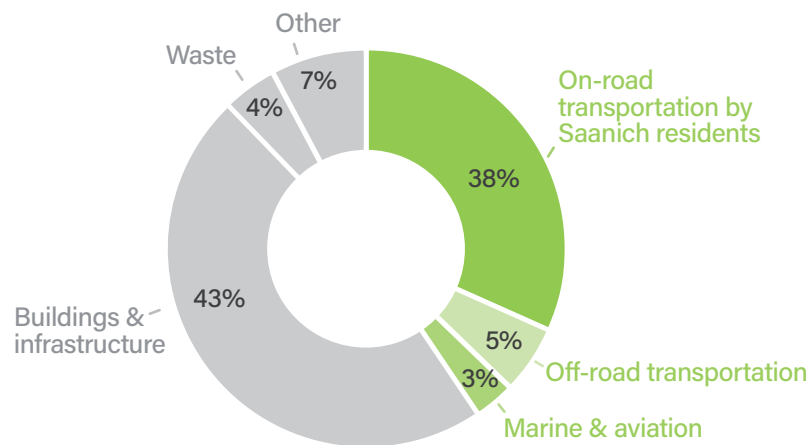
- A decrease in total personal trips, even amidst a growth in population;
- A rise in active transportation, with 26% of trips made by walking, cycling, and transit use, up from 23% in 2017;
- An increase in the number of electric vehicles (EVs) (639 new personal EVs and 121 new business EVs); and
- E-bikes were included for the first time, creating a baseline that can be used to show trends over time.

Land use

Land use is key to sustainable transportation and our GHG targets. Council adoption of the 2024 Updated Official Community Plan (OCP) commits to making Saanich a 15-minute community within the Urban Containment Boundary, where amenities that support daily living are within a 15-minute walk, significantly reducing the need for auto travel. The OCP supports increased density in our centres, villages and corridors. Along with new housing targets and implementation of the Province's small-scale, multi-unit housing standards, these changes will provide further opportunity for the development of compact, complete communities and land use changes that support cost-effective sustainable transportation and significantly reduced emissions.

Work also moved forward on several Centre, Corridor and Village (CCV) plans. The 2024 Draft Quadra McKenzie Plan prioritizes the development and implementation of safe, connected and convenient active transportation options within the Quadra McKenzie area and on the McKenzie and Quadra Corridors. Work also commenced on and update of the Shelbourne Valley Plan with initial

Figure 9: Transportation Emissions in Saanich Territorial GHG Inventory, 2023



community engagement underway, and the Tillicum Burnside Plan, with initial engagement expected in Spring 2025.

Active Transportation

Efforts to support active transportation in 2024 include Council adoption of the updated Active Transportation Plan and a new Road Safety Action Plan. Work on the implementation of both Plans was underway in 2024, which included the development of protected bike lanes, transit priority measures, speed limit reductions, no-right-on-red restrictions and other initiatives identified in the Plans. Additionally, Council adopted interim bylaw amendments to modernize parking standards; lowering parking minimums and applying parking maximums alongside Travel Demand Management (TDM) measures for residential projects greater than 12 units, which will work to support the implementation of more active transportation options and complete communities throughout the District.

The University of British Columbia (UBC) partnered with Saanich to complete the "Travel Behaviour and Greenhouse Gas Impacts of the Saanich E-Bike Incentive Program" study which found that the Saanich E-bike Incentive pilot project was effective in increasing e-bike adoption, spurring mode shift to active transportation, and reducing vehicle trips, vehicle kilometers travelled and travel-related GHG emissions.

Electric Vehicles

The growth in EV adoption continues, supported by the expanding public charging network and more access to at-home charging. Saanich continues to offer incentives for EV Ready Plans and electrical infrastructure upgrades to support at-home charging in existing multi-family buildings through top-ups to the CleanBC EV Charger Rebate Program. Since this program launched in 2021, uptake has grown considerably and we now have 24 EV Ready Plans for multi-unit residential buildings, with 10 having completed the retrofits (providing over 760 EV ready stalls) and more expected in 2025. Considerable groundwork was also laid in 2024 to expand the Saanich-owned EV charging network in partnership with the CRD, support the electrification of car share vehicles, and bring new DC Fast Chargers to the community



Sonya and Bob helped their strata complete an EV Ready Plan and install the electrical infrastructure so that all residents can easily plug in at their stall. The large strata complex in Cadboro Bay has 4 buildings and 71 units that benefited, with 142 stalls being made EV-ready. They received incentives from the Province and the District of Saanich through the Go Electric EV Charger Rebate Program, with the grants covering approximately 35% of the total project costs.

through a partnership with BC Hydro. Construction on these projects is anticipated in 2025/26.

Of the 38 actions in the Electric Mobility Strategy due to start by 2024, 30 (79%) are Ongoing, Achieved or On track, with 8 (21%) Behind Schedule. Of the 21 Mobility actions in the Climate Plan due to start by 2024, 15 (71%) are Ongoing, Achieved or On track and 6 (29%) are Behind Schedule or On hold. These delays are primarily related to inflation, budget constraints, and staff resource restrictions (see Appendix).

As part of the Quadra Mckenzie Plan update, a recent transportation and mobility study on Mckenzie Ave. shows that vehicle volumes/hour have remained constant compared to the past 20 years, despite population growth, with an 8% increase in cycling usage along the corridor.

Table 4: Progress on Mobility GHG Emissions Targets

Moving in the right direction

Baseline:	In 2007, Saanich's transportation emissions were	310,158	t CO ₂ e	Baseline
Latest measurement:	As of 2023, Saanich's transportation emissions were	222,710	t CO ₂ e	28% lower than baseline
Where we should be:	As of 2023, Saanich's transportation emissions should be	202,277	t CO ₂ e	35% lower than baseline
2030 target:	As of 2030, Saanich's transportation emissions should be	155,079	t CO ₂ e	50% lower than baseline

Table 5: Progress on Mobility Objectives

Objective	Where we were		Where we are at		2030 Target	2050 Target	Status
	Status	Year	Status	Year			
% of all trips taken by walking and cycling	16.3%	2017	19%	2022	22%	30%	●
% of trips taken by transit	8.7%	2017	7%	2022	14%	20%	●
% of personal vehicles that are electric	3.1%	2022	4%	2023	36%	100%	●
% of commercial vehicles that are electric	3.2%	2022	4.3%	2023	-	50%	●
% of remaining transport fuel that is biofuel	13.3%	2022	13.3%	2023	10%	100%	●
% of transit buses that are electric	0%	2022	0%	2023	100%	100%	●

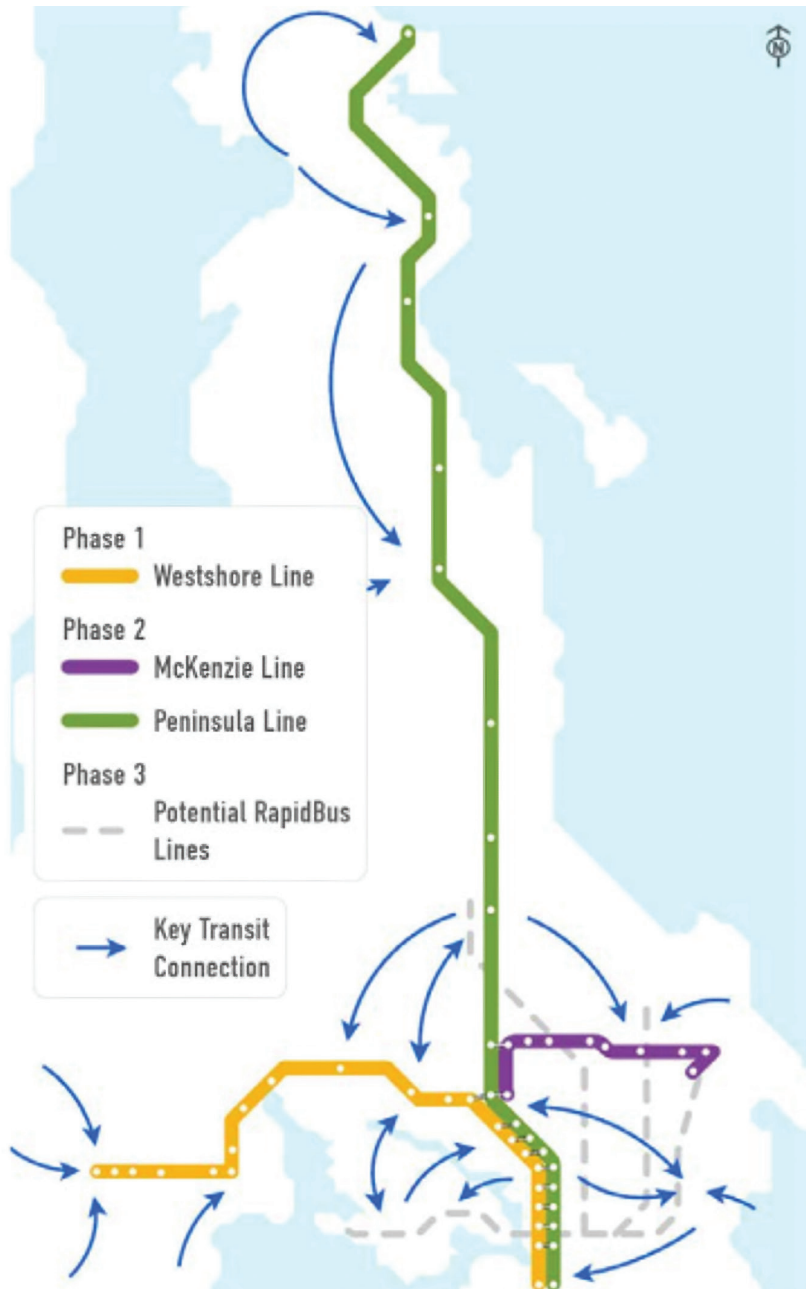
*Corrected since 2023 Climate Plan Report Card to include all biofuels.

Table 6: Progress on Electric Mobility Strategy Metrics

Metric	Where we were		Where we are at	
	Status	Year	Status	Year
EVs in Saanich by use				
• # of EVs for personal use (% of all vehicles registered for personal use)	2117 (3.1%)	2022	2,756 (4%)	2023
• # of EVs for business use (% of all vehicles registered for business use)	318 (3.2%)	2022	439 (4.3%)	2023
EVs in Saanich by vehicle class				
• # of passenger/light duty EVs (% of passenger vehicle registrations)	2,431 (3.7%)	2022	3,202 (4.8%)	2023
• # of Commercial/medium & heavy duty EVs (% of commercial vehicle registrations)	8 (0.1%)	2022	14 (0.1%)	2023
• # of "other" EVs/motorcycles & motorhomes (% of "other" vehicle registrations)	12 (0.3%)	2022	15 (0.4%)	2023
Municipally owned public EV charging station use				
• # of Saanich-owned public EV charging stations	34	2023	34	2024
• Total hours of use annually	36,585 hours*	2023	45,972 hours	2024
• Average daily hours of use per station in each calendar year	3 hours*	2023	3.7 hours	2024
• Total electricity use annually	167,950 kWh*	2023	216,232 kWh	2024
• Average daily electricity use per station in each calendar year	13.5 kWh/day*	2023	17.4 kWh/day	2024
Saanich-wide public EV charging network				
• # of level 2 public EV charging stations	120	2023	129	2024
• # of DCFC public EV charging stations (includes Tesla superchargers)	26*	2023	26	2024
Availability of at-home charging in multi-family buildings				
• # multi-family buildings or strata complexes that have installed EV Ready infrastructure for all units	5 in 2023 (9 cumulative)	2023	1 (10 cumulative)	2024
• # of parking stalls in existing multi-family buildings that have been retrofitted to become 100% EV Ready (all units)	390 (718 cumulative)	2023	46 (764 cumulative)	2024
Saanich fleet				
• # of Municipal Fleet vehicles electrified/renewable (% of municipal fleet)	33 (14%)	2023	34 (15%)**	2024
• # of Fire Fleet vehicles electrified/renewable (% of fire fleet)	3 (9%)	2023	4 (12%)	2024
• # of Police Fleet vehicles electrified/renewable (% of police fleet)	6 (6%)	2023	5 (6%)	2024

* Note, reporting on 2023 year EV charging station use and network corrected from the 2023 Climate Plan Report Card to exclude Saanich fleet hours and energy use.

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



The Magic of Rapid Transit!

RapidBus is the cornerstone to supporting sustainable growth in the region. It is a transit service that outperforms the personal automobile in terms of being CONNECTED, FREQUENT, FAST, and RELIABLE. This means it is able to significantly increase transit ridership, getting people out of cars and onto buses, supporting sustainable land use, climate and transportation goals and reducing congestion.

BC Transit has collaborated with municipal, regional, and provincial partners to develop the Victoria Regional RapidBus Implementation Strategy. This Strategy outlines the RapidBus lines in the region and the phases of implementation. The RapidBus system will connect urban centres in the region and access to gateways, offering frequent, high-capacity service that operates continuously throughout the day.

- Phase 1: Route 95 Langford/Downtown RapidBus (completed April 2023).
- Phase 2: Peninsula Corridor and McKenzie to UVic Corridor.
- Phase 3: Expand the RapidBus network to other parts of the Victoria region.

Since the Route 95 Langford/Downtown RapidBus launched in April, 2023, BC Transit has seen a continuous increase in ridership along this new West Shore-Downtown route. Route 95 Blink has been the top performer in the Victoria Regional Transit System, serving nearly 10,000 daily passengers on weekdays.

The RapidBus now offers increased service levels along the new West Shore-Downtown routes, ensuring a bus arrives approximately every 7.5 minutes during peak hours and every 10-15 minutes during off-peak hours. This service expansion builds upon previous initiatives to prioritize rapid transit in the region, including integrating bus lanes along Douglas Street and the Trans-Canada Highway.



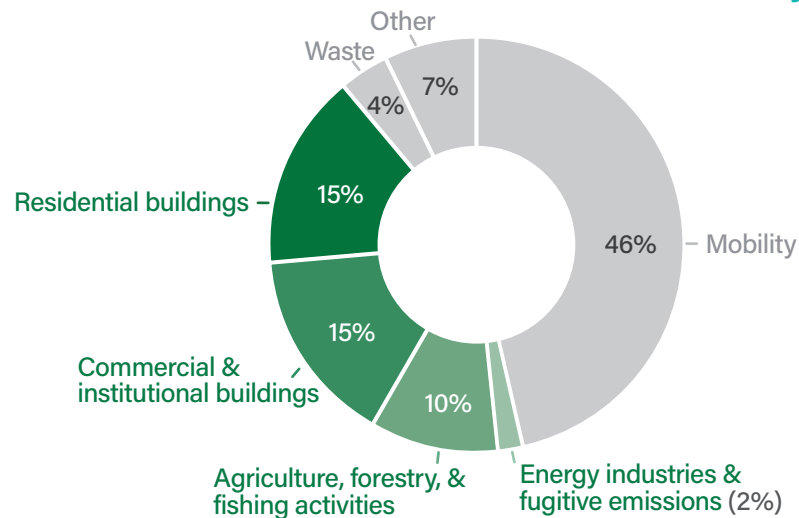
Buildings and Infrastructure

Buildings & Infrastructure Summary

Buildings are the second largest source of community-wide Territorial GHG emissions in Saanich and these emissions are mainly from fossil fuel 'natural' gas. The latest 2023 community-wide GHG inventory indicates that there has been a 6% reduction in Saanich's building and infrastructure GHG emissions since our 2007 baseline. Compared with the significant change in transportation emissions, this reduction in building emissions is clearly not on track to meet our 2030 targets, which should have seen a 35% reduction in emissions by 2023 if progress were linear.

Residential building emissions saw a 9% decrease between 2022 and 2023, some of this is attributed to the switch from oil to heat pumps, and there was a 7% reduction in natural gas emissions. Commercial and institutional buildings saw a 4% reduction in overall GHG emissions between 2022 and 2023, including a 6% reduction in natural gas emissions. Unfortunately, while this seems positive, 2023 was 8% warmer by heating degree days than 2022, meaning we should have seen an 8% reduction in natural gas emissions from buildings if all else remained the same. This actually indicates that natural gas use and associated emissions are continuing to increase in our community. Renewable natural gas (RNG) represents only approximately 1% of our community's natural gas consumption and is a limited resource that should be saved for hard to electrify sectors, such as industry. This clearly indicates the critical need to accelerate the electrification of our building stock, switching off fossil fuel 'natural' gas to renewably powered electric heat pumps.

Figure 10: Building and Infrastructure Emissions in Saanich Territorial GHG Inventory, 2022



Small-scale multi-unit housing (SSMUH) Zoning Bylaw changes came into effect June 2024. This rezoned approximately 25,000 lots within the Urban Containment Boundary previously limited to single-family homes or duplexes, to now permit houseplexes, garden suites and secondary suites. Houseplexes are a form of infill housing, sometimes referred to as "gentle density" or "missing middle housing". The need for more infill housing options in Saanich was identified in the 2021 Housing Strategy and restated in the 2024 Official Community Plan.

In 2024, FortisBC launched new heavily funded and advertised incentives for dual-fuel heating systems – these are incentives that provide a heat pump with natural gas ‘backup’ systems, but where the switch-over control points are designed for the natural gas system to continue to be used heavily for heating. These fossil fuel incentives negatively impact efforts to support the switch from fossil fuel natural gas to renewable energy heat pumps for heating and cooling, and result in extra costly and unnecessary infrastructure. This program demonstrates the importance of not only focusing on actions that support our targets, but also of the need to work collaboratively with the Province to ensure an equitable transition towards zero carbon, and advocate for their leadership in addressing conflicting interests. Provincial regulations, a BC Utilities Commission mandate that considers climate change and enables them the ability to evaluate applications through a climate impact lens, and an effective Provincial integrated energy framework that outlines the roadmap to zero carbon are needed.

Of the 40 Building Retrofit Strategy Actions that were due to start by 2024, 32 (80%) are Achieved, Ongoing or On Track and 8 (20%) are Behind Schedule. It should be noted that given the Building Retrofit Strategy was only adopted in 2023 (compared with the E-mobility Strategy that was adopted in 2020), there has been less time to see the impacts from actions implemented. Of the 37 Buildings & Infrastructure actions in the Climate Plan due to start by 2024, 33 (89%) are Achieved, Ongoing or On Track and 4 (11%) are Behind Schedule.

New Buildings

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

Code highest performance level and is being joined by many others in the region and across BC. This delivers on a key climate action and ensures that these new buildings do not become part of the future existing building stock that need energy retrofits. It should be noted that this unfortunately does not restrict buildings from having a natural gas connection for items that are not modelled as part of the building code such as stoves, dryers, pools, hot tubs, heated patios etc. Staff are monitoring the extent to which new buildings are fully electric and utilize heat pumps for highly efficient and affordable heating and cooling.

Existing Buildings

Saanich continues to be a leader in existing building retrofit initiatives launching the Climate Action Tax Exemption (CATE) Program in 2024, which aims to fill an incentive gap for commercial, multi-unit residential, and mixed-use buildings. This is the first program of its kind in BC and is intended to accelerate the number of larger buildings undertaking electrification retrofits in the community. Additionally, Saanich supported the launch of two retrofit concierge services for stratas and rental apartment buildings to address capacity and decision barriers in these sectors. The Strata Energy Advisor Program was launched in partnership with the Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC) and the City of Victoria in October 2024, providing participating strata councils with a Decarbonization Plan and assistance in adopting heat pumps and other energy-efficient upgrades. In addition, Saanich expanded Landlord BC’s Rental Apartment Retrofit Accelerator Program to the region in partnership with the City of Victoria.

The Heat Pump Financing program, which is helping provide interest-free loans for single family homes to upgrade to a heat pump had two intakes in 2024, and has had over 100 participants to date, including 60 completed projects. Council approved additional funding for the program’s revolving green fund in 2024, which continues to be supplemented by a Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) grant.

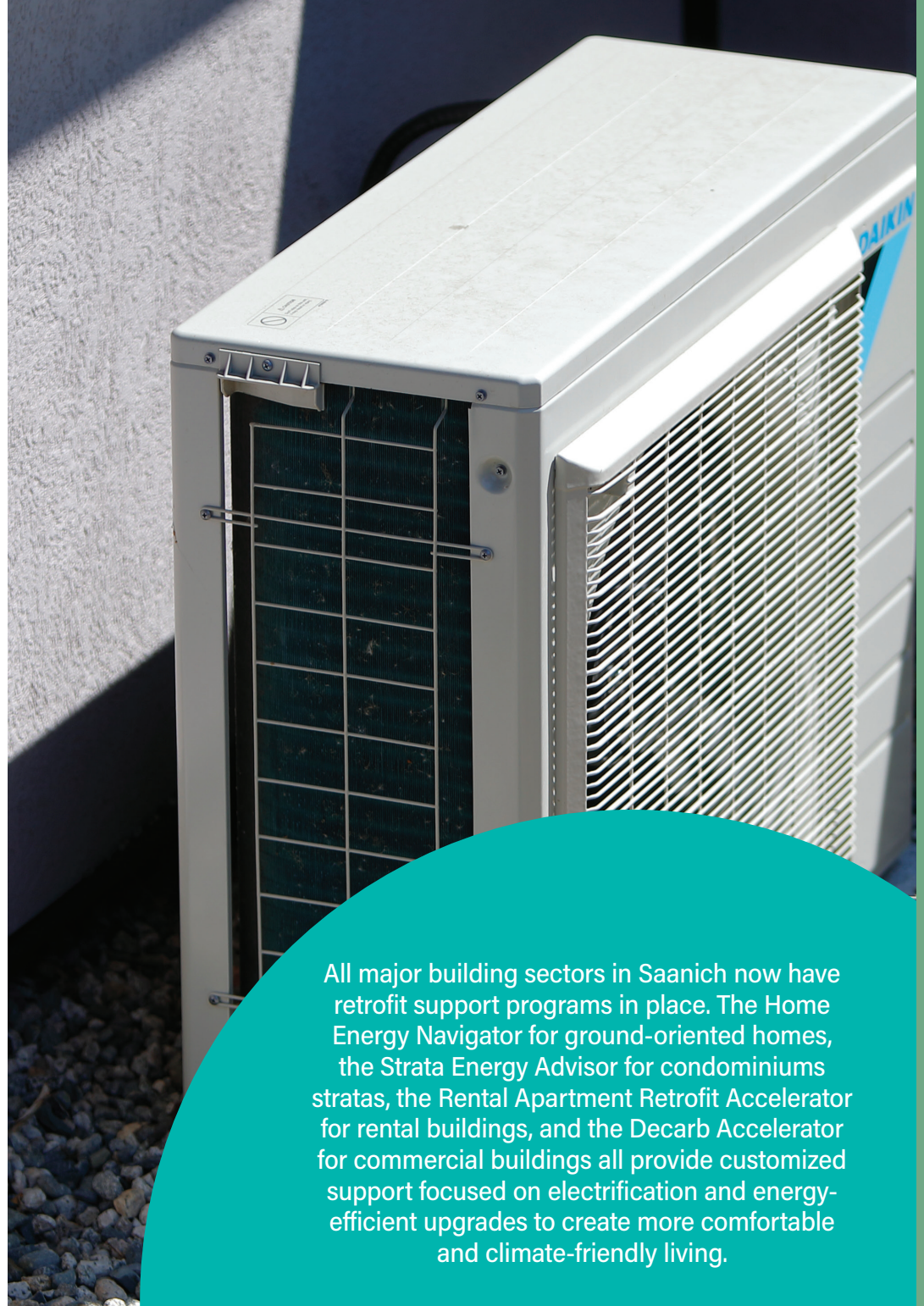
Saanich also partnered with the Province to pilot the new BC Home Energy Planner tool in 2024, which provides ground-oriented homes with a home energy rating and resources on how to make their home more climate-friendly. The tool will be rolled out across the province in 2025.

Infrastructure

This section of the Climate Plan considers the resilience of Saanich's infrastructure and assets to climate change. Work continued in 2024 to embed climate change within the Asset Management Program. This included a draft guidance document on integrating climate considerations throughout the lifecycle of the asset, a high-level natural assets inventory, and the development of a climate risk assessment tool using the Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (PIEVC) green protocol. PIEVC workshops will be undertaken for each asset type starting in 2025 to evaluate climate risks and identify the adaptation actions necessary to mitigate them. This will inform the updated Climate Plan and individual Asset Management Plans and risk registers. Specific considerations are being incorporated into condition and capacity assessments e.g. Climate Change IDF curves are being used in stormwater analytics.

Work also continued on Integrated Stormwater Management Plans (ISMP) in 2024, with Cordova Bay ISMP presented to Council in December 2024, the Douglas Creek ISMP model completed in 2024, and inland flood hazard mapping now underway for the Colquitz Creek. An updated timeline will be presented to Council as part of the Strategic Plan monitoring updates in early 2025.

A joint grant application for \$350,000 to support a Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy for the Gorge waterway was approved by UBCM as part of the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Disaster Risk Reduction - Climate Adaptation stream in Fall 2024. This work will commence in 2025 and is being led by the City of Victoria in partnership with the District of Saanich, the Town of View Royal, the Township of Esquimalt and the CRD.



All major building sectors in Saanich now have retrofit support programs in place. The Home Energy Navigator for ground-oriented homes, the Strata Energy Advisor for condominiums stratas, the Rental Apartment Retrofit Accelerator for rental buildings, and the Decarb Accelerator for commercial buildings all provide customized support focused on electrification and energy-efficient upgrades to create more comfortable and climate-friendly living.

Table 7: Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure GHG Emissions Targets

- Not on Track

Baseline:	In 2007, Saanich's building and infrastructure emissions were	219,876	t CO ₂ e	Baseline
Latest measurement:	As of 2023, Saanich's building and infrastructure emissions were	206,348	t CO ₂ e	28% lower than baseline
Where we should be:	As of 2023, Saanich's building and infrastructure emissions should be	143,397	t CO ₂ e	35% lower than baseline
2030 target:	As of 2030, Saanich's building and infrastructure emissions should be	109,938	t CO ₂ e	50% lower than baseline

Table 8: Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Objectives

Objective	Where we were		Where we are at		2030 Target	2050 Target	Status
	Status	Year	Status	Year			
New buildings that achieve the higher steps of BC Energy Step Code	3%*	2023	3%	2024	100% by 2025	100%	●
New buildings that are net-zero carbon (defined as all-electric space and hot water heating)	43%*	2023	55%	2024	100%	100%	●
New Part 9 buildings that installed a heat pump and can provide cooling	56%	2023	73%	2024	100%	100%	●
Residential oil heating systems replaced by heat pumps annually (cumulative % removed since 2017)	408 (38%)**	2023	36 (39%)**	2024	100%	100%	●
Residential natural gas heating systems replaced by heat pumps annually (cumulative % removed since 2017)	264 (3.2%)**	2023	22 (3.3%)**	2024	40%	100%	●
Total natural gas connections (Residential)	16,867	2022	17,046***	2023	8,789	TBD	●
Total natural gas consumption (Residential)	917,866 GJ***	2022	858,724 GJ***	2023	TBD	TBD	●
Total natural gas connections (Commercial)	961***	2022	953	2023	558	0	●
Total natural gas consumption (Commercial)	894,838 GJ	2022	843,545 GJ	2023	TBD	TBD	●
Building space heating demands are reduced	3,129 TJ (+4.3%)**	2022	2,999 TJ (-0.3%)	2023	2,640 TJ (-12)	2,290 TJ (-24%)	●
Renewable Natural Gas use in buildings (as a % of all natural gas used)	1%	2022	1%	2023	-	100%	●
Sufficient renewable energy sources are available to support required conversions from fossil fuel systems					Metrics in development		●
Embodied emissions are reported and lowered					Metrics in development		●
Buildings and infrastructure are designed or retrofitted for changing climate conditions, support ecological functions and reduce exposure to climate hazards					Metrics in development		●
Land use and development patterns minimize exposure to sea-level rise					Metrics in development		●

*Corrected since 2023 Climate Plan Report Card to include only buildings with occupancy permits instead of active applications.

**Has been updated to include missing data from CleanBC in the last report card and still awaiting final updated data for 2024.

***Corrected since 2023 Climate Plan Report Card due to updated FortisBC data.



Food and Materials



Food and Materials Summary

The community-wide territorial GHG inventory includes emissions from solid waste, compost and waste water, Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU), and Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU). There is limited local data available on Product Use emissions, so national data is used, which shows a considerable increase since our baseline. In comparison, there has been a 53% reduction in Saanich's waste emissions since our 2007 baseline, primarily due to the Greener Garbage program, landfill methane capture, the biological treatment of waste and changes in emissions factors. There was a 10% increase in waste emissions in 2023 compared to 2022. This increase was mainly due to a temporary decrease in the landfill gas collection efficiency at Hartland Landfill, which is expected to be resolved in 2025.

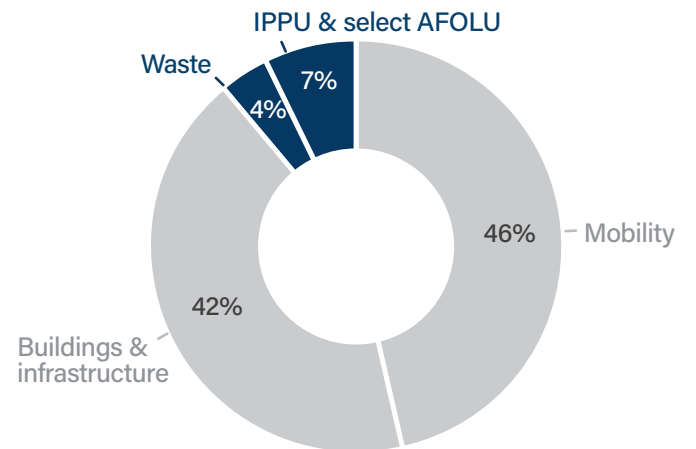
Hartland Landfill saw a significant decrease in per capita waste entering the landfill from 405kg/person in 2022 to 382kg/person in 2023. While this progress is positive, it should be noted that the amount of waste going to landfill is still far from the regional waste targets. On this front, Council approved the Terms of Reference for a Zero Waste Strategy in May 2024 and work is underway, with the first phase of engagement garnering nearly 900 survey responses. The Strategy is due to be completed mid-2025 and will inform the updated Climate Plan, which will also include a consumption-based emissions target and more focused action on lighter living.

Of the 11 Food and Materials actions due to be initiated by 2024, all (100%) are Ongoing, On Track or Achieved, with none Behind Schedule. This is mainly due to the refocus of a Senior Planner position in early 2024 from climate adaptation to zero waste and consumption.

The GHG emissions from food and materials become much more significant when we consider our consumption-based emissions inventory (CBEI), with food accounting for 20% of our total CBEI. Most of the emissions from food relate to their production (91%) with only a minimal amount (9%) from their transportation. This demonstrates the critical need to encourage the switch from high emissions intensity foods such as meat and dairy to a more plant-based diet, while reducing the amount of food wasted.

In 2024, Saanich worked with local company reFUSE to offer waste removal services at major events. Each event using this service had garbage, compost and recycling totes for waste sorting on-site. To ensure waste was disposed of properly, the events office worked with the sustainability team to book *The Diverters*. They staffed each garbage area and advised event patrons which bin their waste could go into to avoid contamination.

Figure 11: Food and Materials Emissions in Saanich Territorial GHG Inventory, 2022



In 2024, staff focused on leading by example on this front, providing plant-based ice cream options at the Strawberry Festival for the first time and a 100% vegetarian Earth Day food menu. The Greener by Default pilot is ongoing with staff champions in multiple departments purchasing meals and snacks that are majority low-carbon plant-based options.

Local food production also plays a key role in climate resilience and is heavily impacted by climate change. Progress is underway in implementing the Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Plan, with all Phase 1 priority actions either underway or completed, and a number of Phase 2 and 3 priority actions initiated.

In 2024, for the first time, Saanich offered locally-made vegan 'nice cream' at the Saanich Strawberry Festival in addition to dairy ice cream. The vegan vanilla nice cream was extremely well received and sold out by end of day. In 2025, the Saanich events office plans to expand the number of vegan nice cream tubs offered. Food accounts for 19% of our consumption-based GHG emissions. Reducing our consumption of meat and dairy and switching to low-carbon, plant-based (vegan) foods is a key strategy to reduce these emissions.

Earth Day Festival 2024 - Going Zero Waste!

This year, the District of Saanich celebrated Earth Day on Saturday, April 20th. The event was a great success with about 2,000 people in attendance throughout the course of the day. While the event has always emphasized low impact, ecofriendly festivities, this was the first year the festival provided only low-carbon food (i.e., vegan and vegetarian options) as well as going zero waste. To help the event go waste free, a local non-profit organization and social enterprise called The Diverters Foundation was hired. They helped direct people to put their waste into the appropriate bins and sorted and diverted waste appropriately. Vendors were also asked to consider providing sustainable SWAG items (e.g., no single-use items) and event organizers encouraged folks to bring their own reusable water bottles, mugs, and even cutlery.

Above: Amount of landfill waste produced at Earth Day



Table 9: Progress on Waste GHG Emissions Targets

- Ahead of Targets

Baseline:	In 2007, Saanich's emissions from waste were	40,134	t CO ₂ e	Baseline
Latest measurement:	As of 2023, Saanich's emissions from waste were	18,717	t CO ₂ e	53% lower than baseline*
Where we should be:	As of 2023, Saanich's emissions from waste should be	26,174	t CO ₂ e	35% lower than baseline
2030 target:	As of 2030, Saanich's emissions from waste should be	20,067	t CO ₂ e	50% lower than baseline

* Note: although waste emissions reductions appear to be ahead of schedule, these savings were mainly achieved before the Climate Plan modelled pathway was completed

Table 10: Progress on Food and Materials Objectives

Objective	Where we were		Where we are at		2030 Target	2050 Target	Status
	Status	Year	Status	Year			
Saanich's consumption-based emissions related to food are reduced	217,856	2015	227,963	2021	TBD	TBD	●
Saanich's consumption-based emissions related to consumables and waste	94,056	2015	119,474	2021	TBD	TBD	●
Amount of waste landfilled per person per year	405 kg/person/year*	2022	382 kg/person/year	2023	250 kg/person/year	125 kg/person/year	●
0% compostable organic waste is landfilled	21%	2016	19%	2022	0%	0%	●
0% compostable paper is landfilled	15%	2016	16%	2022	0%	0%	●
Agricultural land is protected: Hectares of land in Saanich within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)	1,781 ha*	2023	1,781 ha	2024	TBD	TBD	●
A greater proportion of food is grown and consumed locally: Hectares of land and % of total land that is actively farmed in Saanich	408 properties	2022	415 properties	2024	TBD	TBD	●
The majority of local farmers have the ability to adapt their production practices to a changing climate	Metrics to be developed						●

*Corrected since 2023 Climate Plan Report Card due to updated Hartland Landfill data

*Corrected since 2023 Climate Plan Report Card due to updated Saanich GIS data



Ecosystems

Ecosystems Summary

Ecosystems and natural areas can be both sinks and sources of GHG emissions and contribute towards our territorial emissions inventory through the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) category, dependent upon land use changes over time. Actions such as tree planting and ecosystem restoration may increase carbon sequestration, while events such as wildfires and tree removal could release emissions. These emissions and sequestrations are a relatively small part of our overall community GHG inventory due to the large impact of fossil fuel burning for transportation and building energy.

Beyond carbon sequestration, ecosystems and natural areas deliver a suite of other critical values and services, including stormwater management, erosion control, water quality improvement, air filtration, cooling, pollination and habitat. Natural areas also provide rich co-benefits for the community, including recreation and physical and mental health and well-being. They are also impacted by climate changes such as hotter summers and droughts, which reduce their ability to provide these services to the community.

2024 saw the completion and Council approval of several key ecosystem documents, including the updated Urban Forest Strategy and Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. These critical strategies outline the actions needed to achieve our biodiversity goals and urban forest canopy cover targets over the next forty years, contributing greatly to the climate resiliency of our community. Many of the actions require resources and funding to be effectively implemented, with several requests included in the 2025 budget. Grant applications will also support this work and 2024 saw a successful application to the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation stream, securing \$396,865 for a tree planting and rain garden demonstration project on and surrounding Tillicum Elementary School in partnership with the Greater Victoria School District.

Several key projects that protect, enhance and expand our natural areas were completed in 2024, supported by staff, partners and volunteers. This included the planting of 3,205 trees and creation of a new one-hectare native Trembling Aspen grove at Cuthbert Holmes Park with over 600 trees as well as a new riparian area with five flood zones to manage flood risk and improve fish habitat. Saanich's first (preliminary) Natural Assets Inventory was completed in 2024, which will support the development of a Natural Asset Management Plan starting in 2025. A GIS analyst and mapping coordinator was hired in 2024 to collect detailed tree information. Over the past year, volunteers with Saanich Parks, Recreation and Community Services provided more than 19,000 hours, which included volunteering at Saanich's Earth Day Festival and removing

In 2024, Saanich Parks received funding from the Fraser Basin Council to boost Saanich's urban forest and biodiversity. The research project will provide the District with recommendations on conservation funding options, incentive programs and voluntary private land conservation and stewardship programs. A portion of the funding will support a collaborative pilot project with Habitat Acquisition Trust that will provide residents in a specific geographic area with support to enhance backyard stewardship and boost local biodiversity.

invasive plants in more than 45 parks through the Pulling Together Program. The District also received a one time grant to expand its Pulling Together Program to partner with organizations serving diverse populations. Other initiatives were undertaken in 2024 with more info found in the Appendix and online at [Parks, Recreation & Community Services | District of Saanich](#).

Of the 14 Ecosystem actions due to start by 2024, 12 (86%) are Ongoing, Achieved or On track, and 2 (14%) are Behind Schedule. With the completion of the Urban Forest Strategy and Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, new metrics were developed to measure progress on ecosystem objectives for the 2024 report card (Table 11). Additional metrics are likely to be included in the updated Climate Plan.

Saanich Parks hosted Braefoot Biodiversity Day on May 22, with opportunities for community members and local schools to explore the plants and animals of Saanich parks, participate in a bioblitz, and tour a restoration site! Over 400 community members took part in the event.



Table 11: Progress on Ecosystems Objectives

Objective	Where we were		Where we are at		2030 Target	2050 Target
	Status	Year	Status	Year		
Ecosystem health and biodiversity are protected			Metrics to be developed			
The removal of carbon from the atmosphere by trees, plants, and ecosystems in Saanich is increased			Metrics to be developed			
Ecosystem services are maintained or enhanced			Metrics to be developed			
% tree canopy cover District Wide			43% (4,500 ha)	2024	2030	44% (by 2064)
% of Impervious Surfaces District Wide			43%	2019	TBD	TBD



Community Well-being



Photo credit: Power To Be

Power To Be's Landscaping and Restoration Employment Program teaches tangible skills in landscaping horticulture, food systems, flora and fauna and habitat restoration. In 2024, the program continued with education and land stewardship, built a green house and an accessible garden, and partnered with 2 organizations to band 213 birds of 30 species.

Community Well-being Summary

A key part of the Saanich Climate Plan is to support people and organizations in Saanich being resilient to climate changes and empowered to take climate action. Several actions were undertaken in 2024 to empower the public and support climate preparedness, including the Neighbour to Neighbour (N2N) program, Emergency Preparedness program, Natural Intelligence program, One Planet Saanich, BCSEA CoolIt! program and presentations to community groups and educational institutions.

Actions have been undertaken to protect community members during extreme heat events - 2024 saw the completion of the CRD-led Extreme Heat Vulnerability Mapping Project, which includes an Extreme Heat Information Portal and Regional Heat Map database that allows residents to explore and understand areas susceptible to heat vulnerability in the region. The Province has enabled a layer on the Emergency BC map for local authorities to show their cooling centres and hours, and the District began to offer recreation centres as heat relief facilities during regular business hours. Additionally, in 2024 a number of Saanich households received free portable air conditioners through a program offered by BC Hydro. The BC Heat Alert Response System (HARS) continues to ensure a coordinated response between provincial and municipal emergency staff, health authorities and others during extreme heat events.

The University of Victoria, in collaboration with the Greater Victoria 2030 District continue to make progress on the development of the Resiliency Opportunity Assessment and Response (ROAR) tool to help building owners understand their climate risks and plan for strategies that improve resilience. The tool is anticipated to be completed in 2025.

Since climate change impacts people differently depending on many factors, climate equity is important for community well-being. The District adopted its first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan in 2023 and continued to apply an equity lens to District initiatives in 2024. The 2024 Climate Plan Targeted Update Terms of Reference includes a specific focus on engagement with groups who are disproportionately impacted by climate change in Saanich.

Of the 19 Community Wellbeing actions due to be initiated by 2024, all (100%) are Ongoing, On track or Achieved, with none Behind Schedule. Metrics are expected to be developed to monitor and report on outcomes as part of the updated Climate Plan through 2025.

The N2N program supports neighbourhood groups coming together to care for nature, improve emergency preparedness, and take climate action. The N2N initiative saw seven neighbourhood group projects completed this year, including ecological restoration, a hummingbird helper program, emergency preparedness planning, and a Greener Homes Tour. Four additional projects are underway, and space is available for new applicants in 2025.

Table 12: Progress on Community Well-being Objectives

Objective	Where we were		Where we are at		2030 Target	2050 Target
	Status	Year	Status	Year		
Emergency and community health services are adequate to respond to identified climate risks						Metrics to be developed
Climate Action benefits people in Saanich, helping to improve air quality and community health while supporting clean energy jobs and a diverse economy						Metrics to be developed



The Going Greener Homes Tour included a walking tour of green initiatives that neighbours in the Quadra Cedar Hill neighbourhood undertook to make their homes more climate sustainable and lessen their carbon footprint. The five sites focused on either solar arrays, heat pumps, energy conservation, heat loss prevention and evaluation, e-bikes, electric vehicles (EVs) and urban food farming.



Leadership in District Operations



Two major building retrofit projects are underway at the Cedar Hill and Pearkes Rec Centers that will significantly reduce GHG emissions, save energy, improve comfort and accessibility, and provide climate resiliency through cooling. Key themes include efficient electrification with heat pumps, capturing and re-using waste heat, LED lighting, and enhanced building controls. These projects were developed as part of the overall Building Retrofit Strategy to support our climate goals and together they leverage \$5.4 million in external grant funding. The projects are estimated to achieve approximately \$68,000 in energy savings combined.

Leadership in District Operations Summary

The 2024 corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory shows a 2% reduction in Saanich's GHG emissions from the previous year and a 29% reduction since our 2007 baseline (Figure 10 and Table 13). In order to lead by example, Saanich set more ambitious targets for our own corporate operations, aiming to achieve a 50% reduction in GHG emissions in 2025 compared with the 2007 baseline. It is important to note that progress is not linear, and several projects were completed and initiated in 2024 that will result in future GHG reductions but will not yet be seen in the 2024 inventory. The aim is to meet our 2025 and 2040 targets and compensate for the emissions overshoot shown in areas of yellow on Figure 12.

Building emissions saw an 18% decrease over the last year, with key GHG reductions due to the transition from fossil fuel 'natural' gas in Saanich Commonwealth Place to biomass, alongside ongoing building retrofits at the G.R. Pearkes and Cedar Hill recreation centres. Fleet emissions saw a 10% increase, although the consumption of fleet fuel was consistent with past years, the increase comes from a temporary delay in delivery of renewable diesel. The renewable diesel deliveries have now resumed, which is expected to bring overall fleet emissions down for the 2025 reporting year.

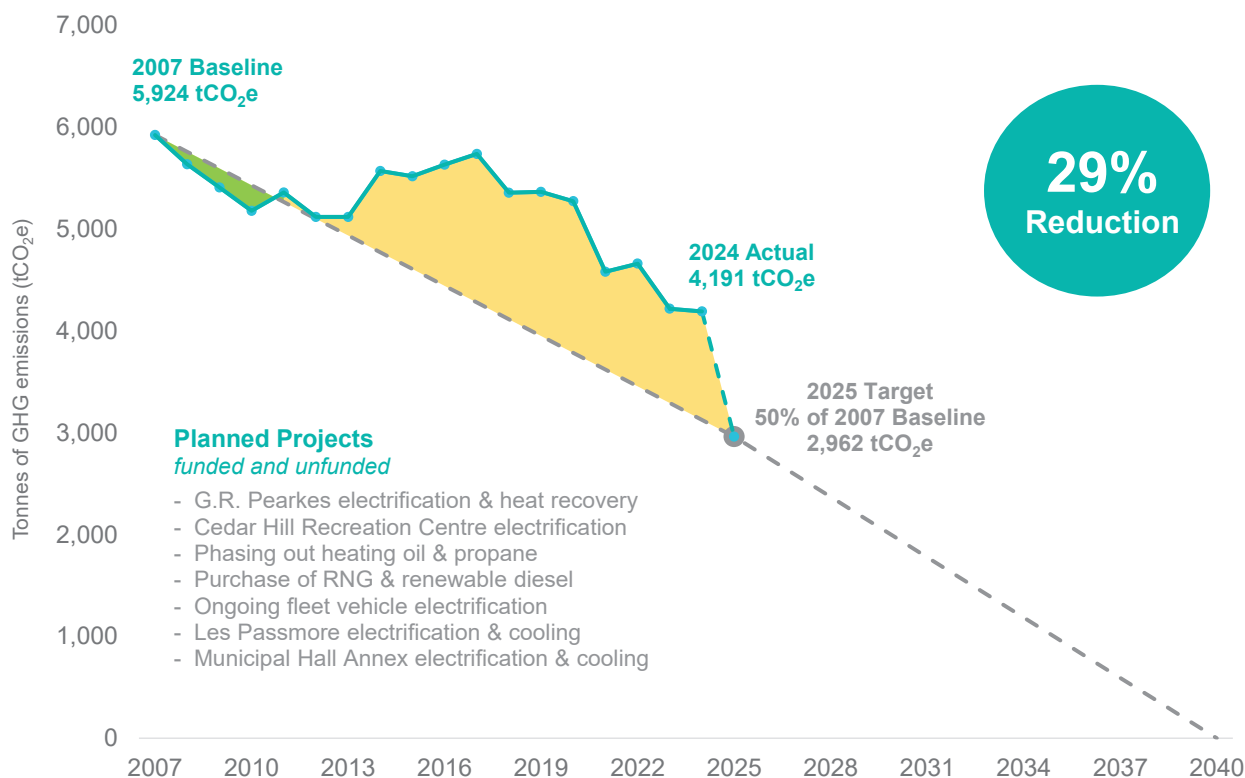
Fleet electrification progressed in 2024 with development of the draft Zero Emissions Fleet Strategy, which will be presented to Council in 2025. Implementation of the Strategy will be critical for supporting medium- and heavy-duty fleet electrification pilots. Work is underway to deliver both short- and long- term EV charging infrastructure at the Saanich Operations Centre to support fleet electrification, with grant applications submitted in 2024. The ability to pilot electric garbage trucks and fire engines will be subject to grant outcomes and annual resource requests. The e-bike pool fleet program also expanded in 2024 with two new e-bikes and a new enclosure at the Municipal Hall, for a total of 6 fleet e-bikes at 3 work sites and 103 staff trained.

Building upgrades and the transition from fossil fuels to electrification continued in 2024 with electrification and heat recovery upgrades at G. R. Pearkes Recreation Centre and Cedar Hill Recreation Centre. Both projects are supported by considerable grants (CleanBC Communities Fund and Infrastructure Canada's Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program) and are expected to be completed in 2025. Decarbonization feasibility studies are underway for the remaining building propane site at Cedar Hill Golf Course. Additional funding and grants will be required in order to implement the projects necessary to meet our corporate climate targets.

Fourteen of the 18 Leadership in District Operations climate actions (78%) identified to start by 2024 are On track, Ongoing or Achieved, with 4 (22%) Behind Schedule or On Hold. Additional staff and resources are needed to advance this work in 2025, subject to budget approval.

As shown in Table 14, the District's international climate reporting and benchmarking score through CDP remained at an A- (2023 score), as a 2024 score has not yet been released. The A- score is due to our climate targets not including a Global Fair Share* component. This will be addressed in the upcoming Climate Plan update, set to commence in 2025. As shown in Figure 13, the District's energy usage was 54% renewable in 2024, up from 43% renewable energy in the 2007 baseline year.

Figure 12: District of Saanich Corporate GHG Emissions



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

Table 13: Progress on Leadership in District Operations Targets

Moving in the right direction

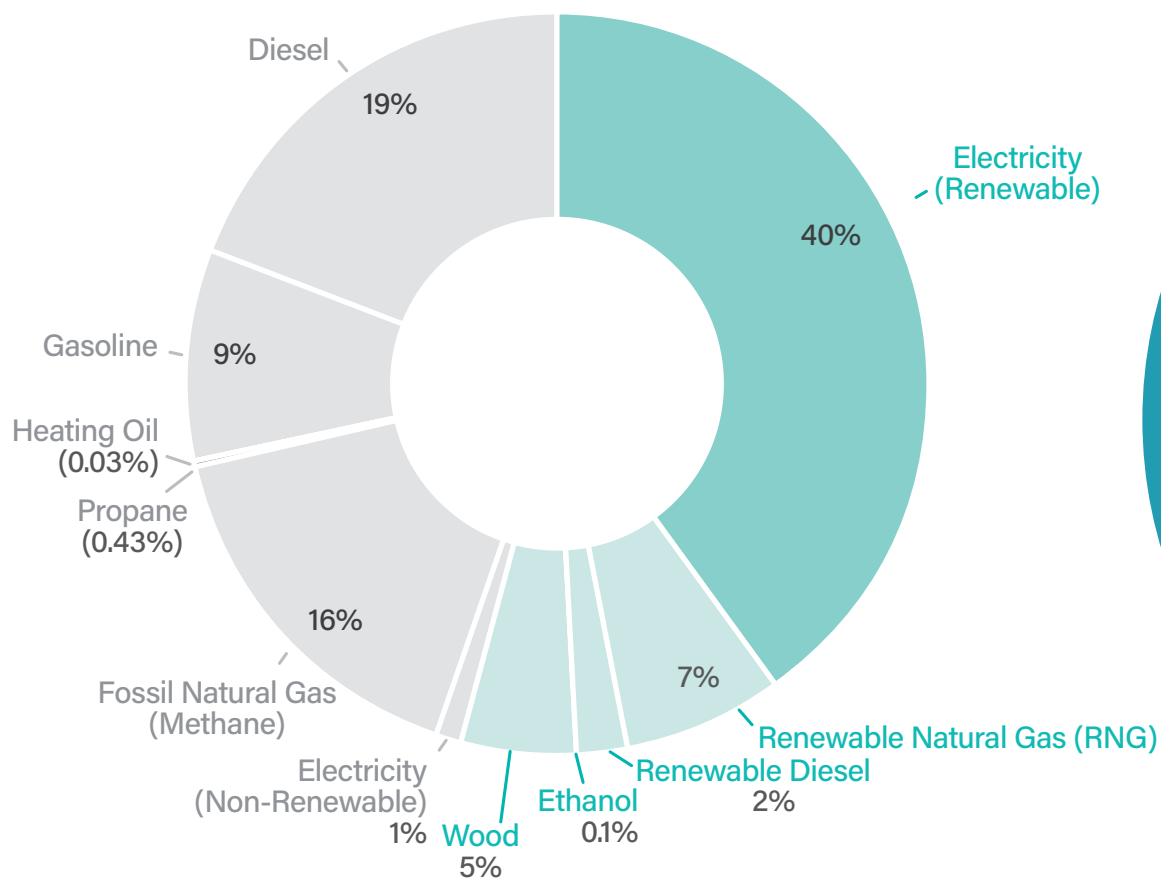
Baseline:	In 2007, Saanich's corporate emissions were	5,924*	t CO ₂ e	Baseline
Latest measurement:	As of 2024, Saanich's corporate emissions were	4,191	t CO ₂ e	29% lower than baseline
Where we should be:	As of 2024, Saanich's corporate emissions should be	3,127	t CO ₂ e	47% lower than baseline
2025 target:	As of 2025, Saanich's corporate emissions should be	2,962	t CO ₂ e	50% lower than baseline

*Updated for new electricity emissions factors

Table 14: Progress on Leadership in District Operations Objectives

Objective	Where we were		Where we are at		2030 Target	2050 Target	Status
	Status	Year	Status	Year			
The District of Saanich is a recognized leader in climate action: CDP report score	A	2022	A-	2023	A	A	●

Figure 13: Renewable and Fossil Energy 2024



Saanich Community Services has switched to using battery-powered generators at Saanich events. Silent and emissions-free, these generators can supply enough power to do everything from power up a point of sale system to amplifying live music on stage for the entirety of the event. In 2024, Saanich Parks purchased two more generators, bringing the District to a total of four battery-powered generators of varying sizes and capacities to fit just about any event operational need. For the first time, the Saanich events office spent \$0 on gas-powered generator rentals and relied exclusively on clean power.

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



In 2022, Fleet Services took the initiative to begin ordering Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) in a refillable 1000L tote, thereby eliminating the need to purchase the fluid in small 10L containers. DEF is a liquid used to reduce the amount of air pollution created by a diesel engine and is used on all Fleet Services diesel vehicles.

Prior to the switch, Fleet Services would order large skids of individually packaged DEF containers and staff would spend several hours a week driving and hauling the DEF from their storage area, breaking down individual cardboard boxes, and hauling the empty jugs to recycling. The switch to purchasing bulk DEF (which is now filled by a supplier) has resulted in freeing-up **10-15hrs/month of staff time**.

Fleet Services uses approximately 1000L/month of DEF, so the bulk refills have also eliminated the use of 100 jugs a month. Since the start of the program, they have saved over **2300 plastic jugs and cardboard boxes!** As buying bulk is also cheaper, this simple shift has **reduced costs by 33%**, resulting in annual **savings of \$6000**.

Left: Fleet services staff member showcasing the DEF tote.

Since 2016 the electrical team has been working to upgrade streetlights across the District replacing over 9250 aging High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights with higher efficiency Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights. The team has recently completed the initiative which has resulted in a decrease to our monthly BC Hydro Bill from \$55k to \$34k.



In 2024, the District saw many fleet vehicle cost savings. Fuel costs have been eliminated with each internal combustion fleet vehicle switched to an EV and the District has seen 30-40% cost savings for EV fleet vehicle maintenance compared to internal combustion vehicle use. In addition, the Garbage Truck Route Optimization Project has shown initial fuel savings of approximately 10%, or \$35,000 savings per year.



Conclusions and Next Steps

Conclusions and Next Steps

This is our fifth year of reporting on Climate Plan implementation since its adoption in 2020. Most of the actions (92%) were due to have commenced by 2024 and a significant proportion (86%) have been achieved, are ongoing or on track. Year on year we continue to see a decrease in our GHG emissions with community-wide territorial emissions now 19% below our 2007 baseline and corporate emissions now 29% below our 2007 baseline.

The incredible progress seen to date is a testament to the work of the District, our partners, other levels of government and the wider community. Many of these actions are a first of their kind and show great leadership, with successes recognized through multiple awards in 2024. We expect we will achieve or come close to our 2025 corporate emissions reduction target and while Saanich is not yet on track to meet its 2030 community-wide GHG targets, it is important to note that progress is not linear. The impact of many of the strong actions and policies put in place by Saanich over the last five years are only beginning to be seen now and will impact our GHG emissions in coming years.

These actions are having an impact, but it is critically important to stay the course, to persist with climate action and ambitious policy adoption, funding and supporting change; in addition to advocating to other orders of government to do likewise, while challenging counter measures by fossil fuel industries and other actors. This is increasingly important as we continue to experience record-breaking extreme weather events, with the past few years being the hottest on record, and the latest regional climate projections report outlining an even greater increase in extreme weather events in the coming years.

With many of our 2020 Climate Plan actions now implemented and the considerable changes that have occurred in the last five years, an update to the Climate Plan is underway. This will build upon the work undertaken since 2020 and address a number of climate adaptation and consumption-based emissions actions in the Plan that were very general in nature and required additional work to further develop. The updated Plan is expected to be completed by the beginning of 2026, and we will continue to implement the existing actions in parallel, making further progress towards our goals and targets throughout 2025.





Appendix: Progress on Individual Actions



Progress on Mobility Actions

Ongoing	The action has no completion timeline and requires continuous work on an annual basis.
Achieved	The action has been implemented.
Ahead of schedule	The action is underway and anticipated to be completed before the designated time frame.
On track	Work is progressing and the action is anticipated to be met in the designated time frame.
Behind schedule	Work has either not started or it progressed, but the pace of effort will need to increase before it can be considered on track to be completed in the designated timeframe.
On hold	The action is currently on hold and work is not proceeding.
Future action	The action has not yet started and is slated for development in the future.

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy M1: Invest in active transportation</i>						
M1.1	Accelerate the implementation of the Active Transportation Plan	●		2020	Behind schedule	The updated Active Transportation Plan was approved by Council in January 2024. This outlines transportation infrastructure projects to be completed by 2030, 2040, and 2050. Cost inflation continues to challenge the implementation timelines and funding options were explored throughout 2024. A report was presented to Council in early 2025
M1.2	Pilot an electric bicycle incentive program	●		2020	Achieved	The results of the UBC study on the Saanich pilot were released in 2024, showing that e-bikes reduced vehicle travel more than non-electric bikes in the control group, and that the incentive program resulted in cost-effective GHG reductions in line with other climate transportation rebates in BC while also delivering affordability and health co-benefits.
M1.3	Expand the Active School Travel planning program	●		2020	Behind schedule	All Saanich schools have now completed the Ready, step, Roll: Sustainable School Commute Plans. While walking and cycling skills workshops have not specifically been delivered for children and caregivers as outlined in this action, Saanich continues to partner with the CRD and School Districts to support the implementation of the action plans. Funding remains a key constraint in implementing this action.

Mobility

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Mobility Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
M1.4	Improve bike parking at existing buildings	●		2020	Behind schedule	Work is underway on Zoning Bylaw updates related to bicycle parking requirements, expected to be presented to Council in 2025. Saanich continues to advocate to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for a Provincial program that supports the retrofit of bike parking at existing commercial and multi-unit residential buildings. Saanich staff will explore this program in late 2025, resource dependent.
M1.5	Explore integration between transit and other shared mobility providers	●		2022-2024	Achieved	BC Transit's online handyDART Free Product store launched, providing handyDART transit riders a convenient new way to purchase and obtain fare products, with free to door product delivery. The next phase of BC Transit's UMO Project is expected in 2025, which will allow riders to pay for transit with debit, credit and mobile wallets. This considerably increases ease of use, helping the intent of this action.
M1.6	Support bike shares and other shared mobility services	●		2020	Achieved	Saanich has updated relevant bylaws to enable bike shares and is participating in the Provincial pilot on other micro e-mobility devices that are not yet included in the BC Motor Vehicle Act (MVA). The Provincial pilot was expanded to encompass e-kick scooters in 2024. Shared vehicle services such as Modo and Evo are currently operating in Saanich, offering residents additional options to live car-free or car-lite lifestyles. There have been some enquiries regarding shared e-kick scooter programs.
M1.7	Support lower speed limits on residential streets	●		Underway	On track	Implementation of the Speed Limit Establishment Policy, which was approved by Council in July 2022, continued in 2024. The program is now in Phase 3 with speeds reduced on over 160kms of roadways in Saanich. The next phase will be focused on more residential streets.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Mobility Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION	TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy M2: Prioritize transit-supportive policies and practices</i>							
M2.1	Work with partners (VRTC, BC Transit) to accelerate service level improvement and increase transit mode share	●			Underway	Ongoing	<p>The 2024/25 budget request for expanded service that was approved by the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (VRTC) was not approved by the Province (match funding is required). Therefore expansion hours were not implemented in 2024 as expected. However, the VRTC has approved the following expansions to be implemented in the 2025/26 fiscal year; but again, this expansion remains subject to Provincial funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025/26: 30,000 hours, 12 buses • 2026/27: 40,000 hours, 16 buses • 2027/28: 50,000 hours, 20 buses <p>Investment priorities include: Addressing passenger comfort and service reliability challenges, RapidBus and Frequent Transit Network Service improvements, development of the crosstown network on Admirals/ McKenzie, simplifying and improving transit service on the Quadra corridor, improvements to airport and Peninsula service, improvements to Sooke and other West Shore routes and introductory coverage service in rapidly developing communities. A third conventional transit facility is being planned, and a new handyDART facility will be complete in early 2025. Both will be 100% electric fleet ready. However, it should be noted that future expansion of service is highly dependent upon the third transit facility, which will be several years out.</p>

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Mobility Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
M2.2	Support increased residential density along public transit routes	●		2021-2022	Ongoing	The updated OCP was approved and came into effect in early 2024. It accommodates most new development in Primary Growth Areas (i.e., Centres, Villages, and Primary Corridors), supported by frequent transit service, recognizing the importance of this approach to achieving climate targets. The Quadra McKenzie Plan is drafted with a targeted completion date of mid-2025. The Shelbourne Valley Plan is being updated with a targeted completion date of late-2025 and the Tillicum Burnside Plan is in progress and expected to be completed in mid-2026.
M2.3	Make transit travel time-competitive	●		2021-2022	Ongoing	Saanich, the Victoria Regional Transit Commission, BC Transit and the Province are collaborating on the implementation of Rapid Bus Service along multiple key corridors in the region, including the Westshore, McKenzie and Peninsula lines. Route 95 Langford/Downtown RapidBus successfully launched in April 2023 and has seen significant growth in transit ridership throughout 2024. Work is underway on the Peninsula and McKenzie RapidBus lines.
M2.4	Investigate and consider updating off-street parking requirements to support a mode shift towards active transportation	●		2021-2022	On track	In November, Council adopted interim amendments to the Zoning Bylaw that will help modernize parking standards, support sustainable transportation options and expedite housing starts. Updates to the bike parking section of the Zoning Bylaw have been drafted with engagement expected in early 2025. The comprehensive off-street parking updates project will commence in 2025.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Mobility Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
M2.5	Advocate for increased funding for transit service expansion and improvement	●		2020-2022	Behind schedule	BC Transit and the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (VRTC) are progressing strategic plans for future transit facility investment options that support the transition to battery electric buses and a future transit fleet of up to 600 buses. The plan includes short-term recommendations for enhancements to both the Victoria and Langford Transit Centres and up to two new additional transit operating centres for future growth. Planning is underway to advance design and a business case to secure funding for a third conventional transit facility in Saanich that supports medium-term service expansion and electrification of the bus fleet.
M2.6	Advocate for climate-informed ride hailing regulations	●		2020-2022	On hold	The period to comment on provincial ride hailing legislation has passed. This action will be reviewed as part of the updated Climate Plan.
M2.7	Work with BC Transit to incorporate latest best practices and new technology needs	●		2022-2024	Ongoing	Saanich promotes innovations from BC Transit, including NextRide and Umo, to residents through their communication channels. Saanich has also been working with BC Transit to share their marketing campaigns, aimed at getting more people on transit, on District of Saanich social media channels.
M2.8	Develop policies and resources for parking management and enforcement	●		2024-2029	Future action	Future action.
<i>Strategy M3: Accelerate electric and renewable mobility</i>						
M3.1	Create a community-wide Electric Mobility Strategy	●		Underway	Achieved	Electric Mobility Strategy adopted by Council in November 2020. See E-Mobility Strategy Actions for progress on implementation.
M3.2	Require EV-ready infrastructure for new development	●		Underway	Achieved	EV-Ready Infrastructure Requirement adopted by Council and came into effect September 1, 2020. Work is underway to improve monitoring and evaluation of the requirement

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Mobility Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
M3.3	Support EV infrastructure retrofits in existing buildings	●		Underway	Ongoing	Saanich continues to provide top-up incentives for EV Ready Plans and electrical infrastructure upgrades in existing Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs) through the CleanBC Go Electric Charger Rebate Program.
M3.4	Expand public EV charging network	●		Underway	Achieved	Saanich continues to expand the public EV charging network, with more installations planned to be complete in early 2025 (see E-Mobility Strategy PN1). This action is marked as 'Achieved', despite ongoing expansion of the network, given Saanich has exceeded the target of doubling the number of public EV charging stations by 2025.
M3.5	Optimize the use of public EV charging stations	●		Underway	Achieved	EV charger Management Plan, associated Bylaws and User Fee implemented Jan 1, 2021. Staff will be exploring potential amendments to the hourly EV charging fees in 2025.
M3.6	Support "Right to Charge" legislation	●		2020	On track	In 2023, the Province introduced amendments to the Strata Property Act to make it easier for strata owners to request EV charging in their building. The changes include lowering the voting threshold required for EV charging decisions, requiring most stratas to complete an electrical planning report, and outlining the requirements when strata councils are considering an owner's request to install charging. Staff will continue to advocate for Right to Charge legislation in rental buildings.
M3.7	Work with organizations in Saanich to reduce emissions from fleets	●		2022-2024	Ongoing	Direct support to external organizations on fleet electrification was limited in 2024 due to staff capacity constraints and other higher priority actions. Saanich continues to work on its own fleet electrification efforts, and share the successes and data to support the uptake by other organizations.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on E-Mobility Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Electric Bikes</i>						
EB.1	Accelerate the implementation of the Active Transportation Plan	●		2020-2025	Behind schedule	See Climate Plan Action M1.1.
EB.2	Plan compact, complete communities and focus density in nodes and corridors	●		2020-2025	On track	See Climate Plan Action M2.2.
EB.3	Identify and plan for infrastructure to ensure the safety and security of e-bike riders and others	●		2020-2025	On track	<p>The CRD plans to widen and light sections of the Galloping Goose and Lochside regional trails with a 6.5m separated use pathway design, which will support e-bike riders and others. In August 2023, the CRD Board approved acceleration of this program with funding and Provincial grant support. Phase A will begin in 2025, and will include 5.3km of the Galloping Goose and 1.3km of the Lochside Regional Trail and the renewal of the Brett, the Selkirk and the Swan Lake trestles.</p> <p>Saanich continues to advocate for a Provincial program that supports the retrofit of bike parking at existing commercial and multi-unit residential buildings. Saanich staff will explore this program in late 2025, resource dependent.</p>
EB.4	Advocate to the provincial and federal governments for an e-bike incentive program not linked to Scrap-It	●		2020-2022	Ongoing	In 2023, the Province launched the highly successful BC Electric Bike Rebate Program, informed by the Saanich e-bike incentive pilot. Results of the UBC Study on the Saanich Pilot were published in 2024 and clearly demonstrated significant positive impacts. Based on this, Saanich submitted a UBCM resolution encouraging the Province to provide additional future intakes of the BC E-Bike Rebate Program.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on E-Mobility Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
EB.5	Provide 'top-up' incentives to augment provincial/ federal e-bike incentive programs	●		2020-2022	Ongoing	Saanich provided additional funds to the 2023 BC Electric Bike Rebate Program, allowing more Saanich residents to access incentives through the provincial program. Saanich continues to advocate for additional intakes of the Provincial Program and would provide top-ups for future intakes.
EB.6	Pilot an e-bike incentive/trial program	●		2020-2022	Achieved	See Climate Plan Action M1.2.
EB.7	Increase awareness of e-bikes through a comprehensive communications campaign	●		2020-2023	Ongoing	Saanich promoted the Provincially funded e-bike safety skills courses including an online safety skills course.
EB.8	Support lower speed limits on residential streets	●		2020-2023	On track	See Climate Plan action M1.7.
EB.9	Review and update the Zoning Bylaw to consider amendments that support e-bikes	●		2021-2023	Behind schedule	Interim Work is underway on Zoning Bylaw updates related to bicycle parking requirements, expected to be presented to Council in 2025. The draft updates consider non-standard and electric bicycles, have been informed by recent data on e-bikes and non-standard bicycle counts and are aligned with the 2019 Provincial Active Transportation Guidelines (currently being updated).
EB.10	Advocate to BC Transit and the CRD to update their infrastructure design guidelines to support e-bikes	●		2021-2023	Ongoing	In meetings with BC Transit and the CRD, Engineering continues to advocate for consideration of facilities to support multi-modal trips.
EB.11	Develop policies and infrastructure to support other kinds of e-mobility in collaboration with the Province and regional partners	●		2021-2023	Ongoing	Saanich joined the Provincial Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project that will run from April 5, 2024 to April 5, 2028. The results of the pilot project will help determine the safety of electric kick scooters and whether they should be permanently allowed in BC.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on E-Mobility Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Electric Vehicles</i>					
EV.1	Advocate to provincial and federal governments to maintain EV incentive programs	●	2020-2025	Ongoing	Saanich continues to advocate to the Province on importance of EV incentives and provides feedback on existing programs, as needed. There were no program gaps or funding shortfalls for EVs or charging infrastructure in 2024.
EV.2	Increase awareness of EVs through a comprehensive communications campaign	●	2020-2023	Ongoing	Saanich continues to provide education and awareness to the community on the benefits and incentives available for EVs, including through utility bill inserts, social media, and in-person events.
EV.3	Explore E-mobility requirements and incentives for business licenses and fees	●	2021-2022	Behind schedule	This action is behind schedule due to limited staff capacity and other higher priority actions.
EV.4	Encourage and support regional organizations to convert their fleets to Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs)	●	2020-2025	Ongoing	See Climate Plan Action M3.7.
EV.5	Support car sharing organizations to electrify their fleet	●	2021-2023	On track	A licence to provide car share vehicles exclusive access to EV charging stations is nearly finalized. Installation of EV charging stations for car share vehicles was delayed but is planned to be completed by spring 2025.
EV.6	Advocate that higher levels of government work to remove barriers to EV adoption	●	2021-2024	Ongoing	In 2024, BC Hydro introduced an optional time-of-day rate, which is conducive to overnight EV charging at lower rates. While Measurement Canada has enabled kWh billing, the certification process for EV charger manufacturers is still in progress and timelines for implementation in Saanich are uncertain.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on E-Mobility Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
EV.7	Explore the potential for EVs to act as backup power supply	●		2021-2025	On track	A collaborative project with other municipalities across the province resulted in a homeowner fact sheet and report about common myths as well as strategies to improve resilience during a power outage in an all-electric home. The report includes a summary of the current opportunities and limitations of Vehicle-to-Home (V2H) charging.
<i>Home and Workplace Charging</i>						
H+W.1	Monitor Saanich EV Infrastructure Requirements for New Developments and share knowledge regionally	●		2020-2025	Ongoing	Work is underway to embed metrics related to the EV Ready Requirement into the Tempest Digitization process for easier evaluation and reporting. In addition, a collaborative project with municipalities across the province is underway to evaluate the success and any issues with EV Ready Requirements from both the permitting and end-user perspectives (e.g. strata owners, strata councils, building managers, and municipal planning and inspections staff)
H+W.2	Advocate for Right to Charge legislation	●		2020-2021	Ongoing	See Climate Plan Action M3.6.
H+W.3	Create guidelines for 100% EV-ready feasibility studies in existing Multi-Unit Residential Buildings	●		2020-2021	Achieved	Parameters for EV Ready Plans were created for provincial incentives in late 2020.
H+W.4	Promote incentives for EV charging infrastructure	●		2020-2023	Ongoing	Saanich continues to promote available EV charging infrastructure incentives through multiple channels, including webpage, social media, utility bill mail outs and newsletters, and at in-person events.
H+W.5	Provide 'top-up' incentives to augment provincial/ federal EV charging infrastructure incentives for existing Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs) as required	●		2021-2022	Achieved	Saanich was the first local government in BC to offer this, with agreements finalized in Fall 2021. Saanich continues to offer a \$100/stall top-up for EV Ready infrastructure that provides all units in a Multi-Unit Residential Building (MURB) with an EV-Ready parking stall.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on E-Mobility Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
H+W.6	Explore the need for and provide incentives for EV charging infrastructure feasibility studies in existing Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs) if required	●		2021-2022	Achieved	Saanich was the first local government in BC to offer this, with agreements finalized in Fall 2021. Saanich continues to offer a \$1,000 top-up for EV Ready Plans that outline the design and cost for installing EV Ready infrastructure for all units in a Multi-Unit Residential Building (MURB).
H+W.7	Provide EV charging infrastructure education for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs)	●		2020-2021	Ongoing	Saanich continues to promote resources and materials for EV charging infrastructure on our website and through key partners, such as the Vancouver Island Strata Owners Association (VISOA), CRD, Plug In BC, BC Hydro and others.
H+W.8	Identify and address potential policy barriers to EV infrastructure in existing buildings	●		2021-2023	Behind schedule	The Bylaw review and recommendations report identified updates to Bylaw No.4050 relating to enforcing minimum standards of maintenance and repair for EV stations in existing buildings. However, bylaw updates have not been completed due to limited staff resources and other higher priority items. This action may be completed in 2025, resource dependent.
H+W.9	Support off-site EV charging for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs)	●		2021-2023	Ongoing	Saanich is currently working with the CRD to install on street charging in three multi-family neighbourhoods in Saanich. The project has experienced some delays, but construction is expected to be completed in summer 2025.
H+W.10	Support workplace EV charging	●		2021-2023	Behind schedule	This action is behind schedule due to limited staff resources and other higher priority items.
H+W.11	Support dedicated EV charging access for car shares near Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs)	●		2022-2023	Behind schedule	A car share licence for dedicated access to on-street charging is close to being finalized. Installation of the car share dedicated chargers has experienced some delays, but is expected to be complete in summer 2025. Moreover, staff are now securing EV charging (on- or off-street) for car share vehicles that are committed as part of new developments.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on E-Mobility Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
H+W12	Explore various financial approaches to overcome the capital cost barrier to EV charging	●	2022-2023	On track	Information on how Stratas can claim Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) credits as a potential revenue source is shared on the Saanich website. There is some exploratory work underway with external partners, looking at how to support more affordable access to the LCFS credit market for stratas who are looking to sell their credits.
Public Charging					
PN.1	Identify priority areas in Saanich for the provision of additional public EV charging stations	●	2021-2022	Achieved	Sites for public Level 2 charging stations have been identified for installations out to 2030. Saanich is currently working with the CRD to install up to 30 new charging stations through grant funding, with a focus on on-street charging that is serving existing multi-family neighbourhoods. The first of these chargers will be installed in 2025.
PN.2	Work with BC Hydro and the provincial and federal governments to install more DC fast charging stations in Saanich	●	2020-2022	On track	Saanich staff have been working with BC Hydro on the site design and agreement for the installation of DC Fast Chargers (DCFC) and Level 2 charging stations at G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre. These stations would be owned and operated by BC Hydro.
PN.3	Explore how to encourage private sector investment in new EV charging infrastructure	●	2021-2025	On track	Staff are working to leverage the EV charging that is being provided by new developments to support car share vehicles (see H+W11) and expand the charging installation to include some public charging. Some gas stations and other private entities are starting to also provide EV charging, which supports the expansion of the public EV charging network.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on E-Mobility Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
PN.4	Embed EV charging considerations in Saanich planning processes	●		2021-2023	Ongoing	Support for electric mobility and zero emissions vehicles was embedded in the updated OCP, guiding overall planning decisions for the District. The forthcoming Zero Emissions Fleet Strategy is helping to inform facility EV infrastructure needs for existing and redeveloped sites. Saanich continues to work with BC Hydro to better integrate land use and planning with electrical distribution planning and other processes through the Local Level Electrification Planning Analytics (LLEPA) pilot.
<i>Saanich Leadership</i>						
Lead 1	Develop a fleet strategy to reduce corporate emissions	●		2020-2021	Behind schedule	See Climate Plan action L3.1.
Lead 2	Convert all light-duty fleet vehicles to zero emissions vehicles	●		2020-2025	Ongoing	See Climate Plan action L3.2.
Lead 3	Develop an e-bike fleet program	●		2020-2022	Ongoing	See Climate Plan Action L3.3.
Lead 4	Implement a Climate Friendly Commuter Program and improve bike parking at all Saanich facilities	●		2020-2022	Behind schedule	See Climate Plan Action L2.1.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy B1: Require efficient, net-zero carbon new construction</i>					
B1.1	Identify and remove municipal barriers to high-performance buildings	●	2020	Behind schedule	See Retrofit Strategy Action PR4.
B1.2	Accelerate adoption of net-zero carbon new construction	●	2020	Achieved	Council adopted the Zero Carbon Step Code in 2023, including the schedule for new construction to comply with increasingly stringent GHG limits. The highest step of the Zero Carbon Step Code (EL4) came into effect for Part 3 buildings in 2024 (Part 9 buildings came into effect in 2023).
B1.3	Require new construction to achieve upper steps of the BC Energy Step Code by 2025	●	2021-2022	On track	With the accelerated adoption of the Zero Carbon Step Code, Saanich has now aligned with the Provincial timeline for higher steps of the BC Energy Step Code. This is expected to move to the upper steps for energy performance by 2027 and the highest step by 2032.
B1.4	Support building industry capacity development	●	Underway	Ongoing	Partners across the Province continue to deliver industry capacity building efforts, particularly in support of Step Code adoption for new construction. Case studies, a Local Government Best Practices Guide, trainings, and other resources were delivered by key organizations, including the Province, Technical Safety BC, Building Officials' Association of BC, Canada Green Building Council, and others.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B1.5	Encourage the adoption of low-carbon materials in new construction	●		2021-2022	Behind schedule	Due to staff capacity constraints, this action was not prioritized in 2024.
B1.6	Advocate for GHG performance metrics in the BC Building Code	●		2020-2021	Achieved	The Province introduced the BC Zero Carbon Step Code in May 2023, which incorporates GHG intensity into the BC Building Code and allows for early adoption by local governments. Saanich adopted the highest level (EL4/Zero Carbon) for new Part 9 buildings in Nov 1, 2023, and for Part 3 buildings in July/Nov 2024 (see Action B1.3)
B1.7	Require energy benchmarking for new Part 3 buildings	●		2021-2022	Achieved	Mandatory energy benchmarking is now in effect for new Part 3 buildings, as part of the Zero Carbon Step Code compliance mechanism. Saanich Council also endorsed the development of a mandatory Energy and Emissions Reporting Requirement (i.e. benchmarking) for existing buildings, which will be brought forward in 2025 (see Retrofit Strategy Action PR2).
Strategy B2: 🌟 Accelerate efficiency and renewable energy upgrades in existing buildings						
B2.1	Launch a Home Energy Retrofit Municipal Financing pilot project	●		Underway	On track	See Retrofit Strategy Action IN2.
B2.2	Phase out oil heating by 2030	●		2020	Behind schedule	See Retrofit Strategy Action PR1.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B2.3	Carry out effective communications campaigns to promote conversion to renewable energy systems	●		2020	Ongoing	Saanich continues to provide communications materials, through utility bill inserts, presentations, on-hold messages, program promotions, social media campaigns etc. Disinformation and lobbying by the oil and gas industry make it challenging for residents to make informed decisions on how to take effective action. Heavily funded and advertised natural gas rebates were launched in 2024 that are expected to negatively impact the switch from fossil fuel natural gas to renewable electricity. These are currently advertised on the Provincial CleanBC Rebate webpages.
B2.4	Explore regulatory power to require efficiency and renewable energy upgrades	●		2020	Ongoing	The implementation of the Zero Carbon Step Code has enabled Saanich to regulate most emissions in new construction (excludes stoves and appliances etc.). The Building Retrofit Strategy identified regulatory actions necessary to support GHG reductions in existing buildings, including Mandatory Energy and Carbon Reporting (see action PR2), phasing out oil heating (see action PR1), and the early adoption of the Province's Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard (see action PR8), which is currently in development.
B2.5	Increase top-up rebates for conversion from fossil fuel to renewable energy systems	●		Underway	On track	Saanich provides a top-up to the CleanBC Better Homes program for electrical service upgrades, as this supports electrification of both homes and vehicles. Multi-family buildings can access Saanich's Climate Action Tax Exemption Program and CleanBC incentives for electrification retrofits. However, heavily funded and advertised natural gas rebates launched in 2024 are expected to have a negative impact on the switch from fossil fuel natural gas to renewable electricity.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B2.6	Develop a comprehensive building retrofit strategy	●	2020-2022	Achieved	The Building Retrofit Strategy was adopted by Council in July 2023.
B2.7	Work with partners to support skills development	●	2021-2022	Ongoing	See Building Retrofit Strategy Action PRC 1.
B2.8	Advocate for long-term, effective rebate programs	●	2020	Ongoing	Saanich continues to advocate to the Province and Federal Governments the need for long term, consistent, sizable and well-resourced climate rebates. In 2024, the Province launched the Multi-Unit Residential Building Offers, and rebranded the CleanBC Income Qualified Program to become the Energy Savings Program, with higher income thresholds. However, heavily funded and advertised natural gas rebates are expected to have a considerable negative impact on the switch from fossil fuel natural gas to renewable electricity. Saanich continues to develop programs to fill the gaps, including the Strata Energy Advisor Program and the Rental Apartment Retrofit Accelerator, which launched in 2024.
B2.9	Advocate for provincial support on property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing	●	2020	Ongoing	Given alternative Provincial priorities, no further action was taken in 2024.
B2.10	Work with industry partners to support renewable energy retrofits	●	Underway	Ongoing	Staff continue to work with diverse partners to develop and operate programs that support retrofits in different building sectors. 2024 was significant in that all major building typologies now have a concierge program to support them through the journey: the Strata Energy Advisor Program, the Rental Apartment Retrofit Accelerator program, BOMA's Commercial Building Decarb Accelerator, and the Home Energy Navigator are all now in market.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B2.11	Develop incentive tools to encourage commercial and Multi-Unit Residential Buildings to undertake deep energy retrofits	●		2020	Achieved	Saanich's innovative Climate Action Tax Exemption Program was launched in 2024. The program offers up to a 10-year municipal property tax exemption equal to 100% of project costs for residential buildings and up to a 3-year exemption equal to 50-80% of project costs for commercial buildings. This is the first program of its kind in BC and is intended to accelerate the number of larger buildings undertaking electrification retrofits in the community.
B2.12	Work with the Province to prevent fuel switching from low-carbon to high-carbon energy sources	●		2020	Ongoing	New heavily funded and advertised natural gas incentives for dual-fuel heating systems are negatively impacting this action.
B2.13	Participate in retrofit code development	●		2020	On track	See Building Retrofit Strategy Action PR 11. The Alterations Code currently being contemplated by the Province and Federal Governments is related to energy performance only, and is not at this point addressing GHG emissions. Much deeper GHG reductions will be delivered through the Province's Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard, when it comes into legislation (See PR 8)
B2.14	Introduce voluntary energy benchmarking for existing buildings	●		2024-2029	Achieved	Continued to support and participate in Building Benchmark BC, a voluntary program enabling building owners/managers to benchmark their energy use and GHGs against similar buildings. Saanich will be introducing mandatory Energy and Carbon Emissions Reporting in 2025 (see Retrofit Strategy Action PR2)

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B2.15	Advocate for home energy labelling and disclosure	●	2024-2029	Ahead of schedule	Saanich has been participating in the development of the Province's Home Energy Planner (previously called the Virtual Home Energy Rating System), which will provide a virtual energy label for all homes across BC and facilitate access to existing rebates and programs. In 2024, Saanich was a pilot community, testing the tool and providing feedback on its usability and outputs. Staff will continue to support the iteration of the tool, which is expected to roll out across BC in 2025.
B2.16	Support mandatory recommissioning for existing Part 3 buildings	●	2024-2029	Future action	Future action.
B2.17	Support mandatory energy and emissions benchmarking for existing Part 3 buildings	●	2024-2029	On track	In 2024, Saanich collaborated with the CRD and the City of Victoria to develop a proposed Energy and Carbon Emissions (ECE) Reporting Requirement, and engage with industry to refine the proposal. Saanich Council endorsed the proposed ECE Requirement and staff will bring back a bylaw to enact the program in early 2025.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy B3: Increase energy resilience and renewable energy supply</i>						
B3.1	Support development of local Renewable Natural Gas production	●		Underway	Ongoing	RNG is a valuable but limited renewable resource that should be reserved for hard to electrify sectors. Saanich continues to support local generation with development of an RNG facility at Hartland Landfill. Saanich purchases RNG for use in existing large buildings as a back-up fuel only where needed, with priority placed on electrification and energy efficiency.
B3.2	Support the Province and utilities to produce sufficient renewable energy	●		2021-2022	Ongoing	BC Hydro issued a Call for Power in 2024 and awarded nine wind energy projects with electricity purchase agreements. This will increase BC Hydro's current supply by 8% and generate between \$5-6billion in private capital spending throughout the province. The cost of wind has dropped significantly over the last decade, meaning this growth is affordable and helps diversify the renewable energy mix. Eight of the nine projects will have 51% equity ownership by First Nations. In addition, Saanich continues to advocate to the Province, alongside other local governments, for an integrated energy framework and detailed plan that will deliver against CleanBC goals and our climate targets
B3.3	Develop a renewable energy guide for residents	●	●	2024-2029	Future action	
B3.4	Work with the province and utilities to incentivize local renewable energy production	●	●	2024-2029	On track	In 2024, BC Hydro introduced new incentives for solar and battery back up, which Saanich is promoting.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy B4: Transition towards a climate-ready building stock</i>						
B4.1	Develop strategies to preserve and enhance permeability and stormwater management		●	2021-2022	Ongoing	Work continues on storm water management plan requirements for development projects through the update to the Subdivision Bylaw and Schedule H - Engineering specifications. All drainage models are being developed, including analysis of impermeable surfaces at the neighbourhood level. In 2024 a drainage assessment of the Shelbourne was completed and found that impermeable surface has marginally decreased as a result of recent projects.
B4.2	Develop a "programmed roof" policy	●	●	2021-2022	Ongoing	Guidelines that support beneficial use of roof space for green roofs and garden spaces were included as part of the updated Development Permit Area (DPA) Guidelines approved by Council in late 2023 and came into effect as an appendix to the OCP Bylaw in early 2024.
B4.3	Advocate for the incorporation of climate adaptation considerations into the BC Building Code		●	2020	Ongoing	In March 2024, the BC Building code was updated and now requires all new buildings to provide one living space that is designed not to exceed 26°C. Staff are monitoring the impact this has on new development, particularly given the lack of requirement to use future climate files in modelling. Staff continue to advocate for cooling requirements in existing buildings and for future climate projections to be reflected in cooling requirements.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B4.4	Encourage building design or retrofit measures to reduce impacts from heat waves and poor air quality events	●	2022-2024	Ongoing	In early 2024 the CRD launched the Capital Region Extreme Heat Information Portal and Heat Map, supported by the District. This will help residents and municipal planners understand the capital region's vulnerability and exposure to extreme heat. The District continues to provide ongoing communications to the public about the cooling and air quality benefits of heat pumps. Guidelines that encourage building design to reduce impact from heat waves and poor air quality events were included as part of the updated Development Permit Area (DPA) Guidelines in early 2024.
B4.5	Consider a rainwater collection system requirement in new development		2024-2029	Future action	Future action.
B4.6	Encourage the implementation of engineered greywater systems		2024-2029	Future action	Future action.
Strategy B5: 🌟 Increase the resilience of Saanich's infrastructure and assets					
B5.1	Include climate change considerations in the corporate asset management system	●	2021-2022	On track	In 2024, a guidance document for Staff on integrating climate considerations throughout the lifecycle of was drafted and a climate risk assessment methodology using the PIEVC protocol was developed to support the integration of climate change into asset management plans. Specific considerations are being incorporated into condition and capacity assessments e.g. Climate Change IDF curves are being used in stormwater analytics.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
B5.2	Update engineering design specifications to account for future climate projections	●	2021-2022	On track	No further specification updates have been undertaken in 2024. While a climate change adjusted IDF (Intensity-Duration-Frequency) curve is actively being used in District drainage system planning, further context and engineering specifications are required prior to these being available for implementation with development applications. This will form part of the Subdivision Servicing Bylaw update expected to go to Council in June 2025.
B5.3	Conduct flood hazard planning	●	Underway	Ongoing	Work on the Integrated Stormwater Management Plans continued in 2024 with inland flood hazard mapping now underway for the Colquitz Creek (see Action B5.4). This will be completed in April 2025 and used to inform flood construction level bylaw updates. Regional collaboration on a UBCM grant application for a Gorge Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy was successful, with \$350,000 in funding secured. This work will commence in 2025.
B5.4	Accelerate the completion of a stormwater master plan with climate change considerations	●	2021-2022	Behind schedule	Cordova Bay ISMP (Integrated Stormwater Management Plan) was presented to Council for information in December 2024. The Douglas Creek ISMP model was also completed in 2024 and the Schedule is being developed. Staff are prioritizing the development of stormwater models at this time to support development applications. Work on the model for Colquitz Creek has commenced. However, the model for Boundary Streams is unlikely to start in 2025 due to resource constraints. Therefore, this action continues to be 'Behind Schedule'. An updated timeline will be presented to Council as part of the Strategic Plan monitoring updates in early 2025.
B5.5	Investigate on-site stormwater management practices on private lands	●	2024-2029	Future action	Future Action.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Buildings and Infrastructure Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy B6: Prepare for long-term sea-level rise</i>					
B6.1	Complete sea-level rise mapping	●	Underway	On track	Regional Coastal Flood Inundation Mapping project completed in 2020 with updates in 2021. This work was used to support a successful grant application for a Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy for the Gorge waterway in 2024 and will be used for a public awareness campaign due to commence in 2025.
B6.2	Increase sea-level rise knowledge and adaptation capacity in the community	●	2022-2024	On track	A grant application for \$350,000 to support a Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy for the Gorge waterway was approved by UBCM as part of the Provincial Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Disaster in Fall 2024. This work will commence in 2025 and is being led by the City of Victoria in partnership with the District of Saanich, the Town of View Royal, the Township of Esquimalt and the CRD. The first phase includes a public communications campaign to raise awareness of sea level rise and adaptation capacity.
B6.3	Develop a Coastal Adaptation Strategy	●	2022-2024	On track	See B6.2

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy 1a: Municipal Policy and Regulation</i>						
PR.1	Require the removal of oil heating systems by 2030	●	●	2023-2025	Behind schedule	The project to develop a strategy for phasing out oil heating has been initiated in partnership with the CRD, and received grant funding. This was delayed due to limited staff capacity, however procurement is now underway with a draft pathway to be developed by spring 2025.
PR.2	Implement Mandatory Building Energy Benchmarking and Disclosure for large Part 3 buildings	●	●	2023-2025	On track	Staff collaborated with City of Victoria and CRD throughout 2024 to develop a proposed Energy and Carbon Emissions (ECE) Reporting requirement, with input from industry stakeholders. This was approved by Council in November, with bylaw adoption planned for early 2025. 2026 will be the first reporting year for the largest buildings in Saanich.
PR.3	Implement a fuel source declaration for building owners, if needed	●	●	2024-2026	On track	In 2024, Saanich was one of the pilot communities for the Provincial Home Energy Planner (previously called the Virtual Home Energy Rating System). Staff will continue to provide feedback to the Province, and monitor the efficacy of this tool before determining if a fuel source declaration is needed.
PR.4	Remove policy barriers to retrofits and high performance buildings	●	●	2023	Behind schedule	A Bylaw review and recommendations report identified amendments to the Building Bylaw, Zoning Bylaw, Noise Bylaw, and the Standards of Maintenance Bylaw to support high performance buildings. While proposed Zoning Bylaw amendments have been drafted, they may now be encompassed at a later date as part of a more comprehensive bylaw review.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
PR.5	Develop policy on the use of alternative renewable energy sources to guide development of programs, policies and regulations	●	●	2024-2026	Behind schedule	This action has not been moved forward due to limited staff capacity in 2024 and other higher priority actions.
PR.6	Develop policies or tools to minimize the carbon impact of redevelopment	●		2025-2026	Future action	Future action
PR.7	Investigate options to leverage business licensing to support retrofit objectives	●		2024-2025	Behind schedule	This action has not been moved forward due to limited staff capacity in 2024 and other higher priority actions.
<i>Strategy 1b: Municipal Policy and Regulation (Provincially Enabled)</i>						
PR.8	Support the Province's Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard, and implement the early adoption pathway for local governments	●	●	2023-2027	Behind schedule	Staff provided feedback through the Province's engagement activities on the Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard (HEES) in early 2024. This work has since been on hold due to the Provincial Election.
PR.9	Advocate for the timely implementation of property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing legislation and programs	●	●	2023 until legislation is enacted	Ongoing	See Climate Plan Action B2.9
PR.10	Advocate that the BC Building Code and Alterations Code address overheating and air quality issues in buildings		●	2024 until adopted	Ongoing	See action PR.11 below for updates on the Alterations Code. However, an indoor temperature limit was introduced to the BC Building Code in 2024 to reduce overheating in new construction. Staff are monitoring the impact this has on the installation of heat pumps in new development.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
PR.11	Assess the impact of forthcoming Alterations Code when it is enabled by the Province to determine value of implementation	●	2024-2025	On track	The Province has indicated it is intending to align its Alteration Code with the National Model Codes, for which there has been engagement throughout 2024. See Climate Plan Action B2.13 for expected limitations of these changes. There is a potential for some code changes to be included in the Province's 2025 updates. The changes will provide more clarity and guidance on what building alterations will trigger energy-related upgrades. The Province is also working on a bulletin to clarify how the Step Code applies to Alterations.
PR.12	Seek municipal authority to implement a Carbon Performance Standard for existing buildings, as needed	●	2026-2030	Future action	Future action

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy 2: Advocacy for Provincial Policy and Regulation</i>					
AD.1	Advocate for effective design and implementation of the Province's GHG emissions cap for Natural Gas Utilities	●	2023 until adopted	Ongoing	Staff continue to seek strong provincial policy through networks such as the Local Government Retrofit Peer Network, Help Cities Lead and the BC Hydro Community Energy Manager Network.
AD.2	Advocate that the Province reform the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) mandate and that the Province and utilities adopt an aligned energy plan	●	2024 until adopted	Ongoing	In 2024, the Province released their Clean Energy Strategy ("Powering Our Future"), which outlined how BC will "ensure oil and gas sector projects fit within BC's climate commitments". The Strategy lacked sufficient local government engagement and omits any direction on the energy mix needed to achieve 2030 and 2050 targets. Staff continue to advocate for an independent net-zero pathways assessment and a Province-wide Integrated Low-Carbon Resource Plan through networks such as Help Cities Lead.
AD.3	Advocate for effective design and implementation of Province's labelling program and time-of-listing labelling requirement	●	2023 until adopted	Ongoing	In 2024, Saanich worked with the Province to be one of the pilot communities for the Home Energy Planner (previously called the Virtual Home Energy Rating System). Staff will continue to provide feedback to the Province on the functionality and application of the tool, including that it be leveraged to support time-of-listing energy labelling of all homes.
AD.4	Advocate for better access to building energy, emissions and program participation data	●	2023 until provided	Ongoing	Staff continue to both advocate and collaborate with partners to improve access to building level energy data. Activities include working with BC Hydro to improve systems for data sharing. The Energy and Carbon Emissions (ECE) Reporting Requirement that was approved by Council will vastly improve the data available for buildings over 10,000 sq.ft.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
AD.5	Advocate and support BC Hydro in removing barriers to electrification	●	●	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	In 2024 BC Hydro introduced new incentives for solar and battery back up and adopted their optional time-of-use rates, which support electrification. BC Hydro also concluded engagement and are seeking amendments to its Distribution Extension Policy with the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC), which will support electrification by reducing high upfront costs for customers that trigger new upstream infrastructure. Saanich continues to work with BC Hydro to better integrate land use and planning with electrical distribution planning and other processes through the Local Level Electrification Planning Analytics (LLEPA) pilot.
AD.6	Address current gaps in incentives through advocacy and/or development of local programs	●	●	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Saanich continues to provide feedback and advocate for Provincial and Federal policies and programs necessary to meet our climate targets. In 2024, Saanich launched several programs to address gaps, including a Climate Action Tax Exemption (CATE) program for commercial and multi-family buildings, and concierge services for stratas (Strata Energy Advisor) and rental apartments (Rental Apartment Retrofit Accelerator - RARA).
AD.7	Advocate for legislation that upholds the rights of renters and strata owners to add passive or mechanical cooling and air filtration in their suites		●	2025 (until adopted)	Future action	Future action.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
AD.8	Advocate that strata depreciation reports be required to consider the forthcoming Highest Efficiency Equipment Standards in their assessments	●	●	2025 (until adopted)	Future action	In 2023, the Province introduced legislation that requires strata corporations with 5 or more strata lots to complete an electrical planning report by December 31, 2026 (in the CRD). This is foundational for stratas in planning for electrification, including meeting the Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard or any future cooling requirements. BC Hydro and others are working with the Province to ensure the scope of the planning reports is well defined.
<i>Strategy 3: Municipal Incentives and Supports</i>						
IN.1	Launch a Strata Energy Advisor Program in collaboration with regional partners	●		2023-2024	Achieved	The Strata Energy Advisor Program launched in October 2024 and provides participating buildings with a Decarbonization Plan and assistance in navigating the retrofit and strata decision-making journey. This is being delivered by the Zero-Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC). A minimum of 6 electrification retrofits and 21 decarbonization plans are intended to be delivered within the first 3 years of the program.
IN.2	Scale up the Heat Pump Financing (PACE) Program for Part 9 homes, and seek program financing from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) or other sources when Provincially enabled			2023	Achieved	The Heat Pump Financing program was expanded to include all fossil fuel to heat pump conversions in 2023. In 2024, Council continued the program investment with an additional \$150,000 to the revolving green fund. To date, 60 participants have replaced their oil, natural gas or propane heating system with a heat pump. Further program refinements are being considered for 2025 and additional funding is being sought.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
IN.3	Implement a low-income direct install program for fossil fuel to heat pump conversions, subject to the findings of a feasibility study	●	●	2023-2024	Behind schedule	While funding for the feasibility study was secured from BC Hydro in 2023, this project was delayed given limited staff resources. This project will commence in 2025.
IN.4	Incentivize electrification through a Revitalization Tax Exemption (RTE) program for Part 3 Buildings	●	●	2023	Achieved	The Climate Action Tax Exemption (CATE) program launched in 2024. With new retrofit programs now in place to support the planning, decision-making and implementation processes (e.g. the Strata Energy Advisor Program), Saanich is now in better place to widely promote the CATE Program, which will be a focus in 2025.
IN.5	Support ongoing implementation and expansion of the Home Energy Navigator	●	●	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	The Home Energy Navigator continues to provide concierge services and supports for residents undertaking retrofits in the capital region (part 9 homes). The program had over 339 registrations in 2024, with over 187 consultations performed. A "Neighbourhood Offer" is piloting a more detailed energy audit process that provides homeowners with a Retrofit Roadmap and bundled retrofit options to see if that model helps increase the depth and speed of retrofits.
IN.6	Deepen commercial building supports through the Greater Victoria 2030 District and other opportunities	●	●	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Saanich continues to support BOMA BC and the Greater Victoria 2030 District. A successful open house and recruitment campaign brought on new property managers and buildings in 2024. Participating buildings continue to be on track or have already achieved their 50% energy and GHG reduction commitments by 2030 and have adopted net zero by 2040 targets. In 2024, BOMA launched the Decarb Accelerator, a retrofit support program in partnership with the Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC), which is available to 2030 District participants.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
IN.7	Develop and deliver resources, supports and outreach materials on key topics for tailored audiences	●	●	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Resources continue to be developed to support different audiences on different topics, as needed. A Homeowners Guide to Improving Resilience in an All-Electric Home was completed in collaboration with other municipalities across the province in 2024. Backgrounders are being developed on a variety of topics to support informed engagement on the Climate Plan Update in early 2025.
IN.8	Support demonstration projects to showcase successful implementation of electrification and/or resilience projects	●	●	2024 (ongoing)	Ongoing	In 2024, several case studies of electrification upgrades in large buildings across the province were developed and are being shared through Building Benchmark BC (BBBC) and the Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC). Saanich also featured its own electrification and accessibility projects at the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre as part of a 2030 District member meeting and tour in 2024.
IN.9	Provide top-up incentive funding that maximizes program uptake and fuel switching and addresses program gaps	●	●	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	In 2024, Saanich reinstated its top-up funding to the CleanBC program, but narrowed the focus to funding for electrical service upgrades, recognizing there was a gap in the provincial incentives available and given its dual function in supporting both EV adoption and building electrification. In addition, the new Strata Energy Advisor Program is designed to allow smaller multi-family buildings and a wider range of upgrades in Saanich than what is available through ZEIC's provincial program, to address program gaps.
IN.10	Explore opportunities to support or partner on localized, community-based renewable energy generation	●		2025 (ongoing)	Future action	Future action.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
IN.11	Facilitate climate empowerment programs that support community members to take action in their buildings	●	●	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	<p>New programs launched in 2024 including the Strata Energy Advisor, the Rental Apartment Retrofit Accelerator, and the Saanich Climate Action Tax Exemption Program.</p> <p>Continued programs included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Energy Navigator • Neighbour to Neighbour Resilience Initiative; • Saanich Residents' Climate Action Guidebook; • One Planet Saanich; • Building Benchmark BC • Greater Victoria District 2030
IN.12	Increase participation in Building Benchmark BC to bridge towards and build capacity for a mandatory program	●	●	2023-2025	On track	The number of Saanich buildings participating in Building Benchmark BC increased from 86 in 2023 to over 100 buildings in 2024. The voluntary program will be transitioning to a mandatory Energy and Carbon Emissions (ECE) Reporting Requirement in 2025/26, following approval by Council on the recommended requirement in 2024.
IN.13	Develop and disseminate broad public education materials and campaigns to improve climate literacy	●	●	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Climate-Friendly Homes and Make the Switch heat pump testimonial videos were promoted in 2024, as well as continued efforts to improve climate literacy through various outreach channels such as newsletters, social media, utility bill inserts and more.
IN.14	Develop a public dashboard for climate risk, energy and emissions	●	●	2026-2027	Future action	Future action

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy 4: Research, Partnerships and Collaboration</i>						
RPC.1	Pursue partnerships and opportunities to increase industry capacity	●	●	2024 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Staff continue to work with industry partners such as the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) to support building owners and property managers through programs such as the Greater Victoria 2030 District.
RPC.2	Support implementation of the Province's forthcoming home energy labelling program and requirements	●	●	2024-2025	On track	Staff continue to participate on the Advisory committee for the Province's Home Energy Planner tool (previously called the Virtual Home Energy Rating System), and provide input on its development. In 2024, Saanich was one of the first communities to pilot the tool, and helped to recruit residents to test it and provide feedback. The Home Energy Planner is anticipated to roll out across the Province in 2025.
RPC.3	Collaborate with the Provincial and Federal Governments, utilities and other actors to maximize program integration		●	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Staff continue to seek opportunities for program integration. In 2024, this included the launch of the local Saanich/Victoria Strata Energy Advisor (SEA) program to be a seamless integration with a Province-wide SEA program delivered by the Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC), that was launching in the same timeframe. Efforts were also made to better integrate the Heat Pump Financing Program with participant supports provided by the Home Energy Navigator.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
RPC.4	Complete community-wide and building scale heat mapping		●	2023-2024	Achieved	The CRD-led Extreme Heat Vulnerability Mapping Project was completed in 2024 with input from local governments including Saanich. This created a spatial database on three key indices to determine regional vulnerability to extreme heat. An Extreme Heat Information Regional Heat Map is now publicly available and has already been used to inform grant applications and land use planning. Further work to interpret and utilize the data will be undertaken in 2025.
RPC.5	Pilot Low-Carbon Resilience Audits in Part 3 buildings		●	2023-2024	Behind schedule	The University of Victoria, in collaboration with the Greater Victoria 2030 District continue to progress on the development of the Resiliency Opportunity Assessment and Response (ROAR) tool to help building owners understand their climate risks and plan for strategies that improve resilience. The tool is anticipated to be completed in 2025.
RPC.6	Partner with health authorities to support access to cooling as a lifesaving intervention		●	2024 (ongoing)	Behind schedule	Due to staff capacity constraints this action was not progressed in 2024.
RPC.7	Collaborate with partners across BC to research, develop and implement large scale, transformative solutions to address retrofit barriers	●	●	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	In 2024, this included working with the Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC, CRD and City of Victoria amongst others,) to support roll out of several retrofit support programs, including the Energy and Emissions Reporting Requirement, the Climate Action Tax Exemption (CATE), the local Rental Apartment Retrofit Accelerator (RARA) and Strata Energy Advisor (SEA) Programs.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Building Retrofit Strategy Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy 5: Demonstrating Leadership</i>						
LD.1	Upgrade all existing District facilities to be Zero Carbon and 100% renewably fueled, prioritizing electrification first	●		2023-2040	Ongoing	See Climate Plan Action L4.2
LD.2	Upgrade District facilities to incorporate cooling and air filtration		●	2023-2027	Ongoing	See Climate Plan Action C1.2
LD.3	Design all new District facilities to be Zero Carbon and 100% renewably fueled, prioritizing electrification first. Incorporate cooling and air filtration	●	●	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Fire Hall 2 redevelopment will be zero carbon and incorporate mass timber low carbon materials, EV charging infrastructure, and solar PV, among other low carbon resilient measures. A draft update to the District Municipal Green Building Policy has been completed and in review. Early work on the redevelopment of the Saanich Operations Centre (SOC) is aligned with this climate action.
LD.4	Increase on-site renewable energy generation at District facilities and sites, including innovative solutions for energy back-up and storage	●	●	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Opportunities for renewable energy and storage solutions are being investigated with two battery energy storage feasibility studies completed. These will require resources (supported by grant applications) to implement.
LD.5	Showcase District facility retrofits and share learnings with industry	●	●	2023 (ongoing)	Ongoing	Saanich continues to participate in District 2030 and Building Benchmark BC to showcase District energy efficiency and GHG reductions.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Food and Materials Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy F1: Reduce the climate impact of food production and consumption</i>						
F1.1	Reduce carbon emissions from local food production	●	●	2021-2022	Ongoing	The District promotes the IAF Environmental Farm Plan and Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) Programs to provide funding and resources to improve and enhance environmental stewardship practices and sustainable farm operations. In 2024, Saanich connected interested producers to resources, grants and workshops offered through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food including the 2024 Extreme Weather Preparedness for Agriculture Grant Program, drought and water management resources and workshops, the Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program (KTTP) program, and more. In 2024, Saanich supported the South Vancouver Island Farmers Institute (SIFI) in hosting the Farmer to Farmer (F2F) Conference. SIFI and F2F host a number of workshops throughout the year to increase the capacity, resilience and sustainability of farm businesses. Saanich worked with Synergy Foundation to contact local farm businesses to inform producers about the Circular Economy Accelerator program to assist farm businesses in reducing waste and improving operational efficiencies.
F1.2	Encourage residents to choose low-carbon foods and reduce food waste	●	●	Underway	Ongoing	Continued to promote low carbon food choices through the Saanich Carbon Calculator and the Residents' Climate Action Guidebook. Also see Action L5.1 for information on municipal purchasing and events.
F1.3	Encourage food service establishments to reduce carbon emissions from their operations	●		2022-2024	On track	This action has been partly encompassed in the Zero Waste Strategy Terms of Reference and specific actions are expected to be identified in the draft.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Food and Materials Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
Strategy F2: Move towards "lighter living" in Saanich					
F2.1	Reduce single-use plastics		Underway	On track	While the Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw came into effect in 2021, work on the reduction of other single use plastics items will be addressed in the Zero Waste Strategy which is due to be completed mid-2025.
F2.2	Develop and implement a Zero Waste Strategy	●	2022-2024	Ongoing	A Terms of Reference for the Zero Waste Strategy was approved in May, 2024 and work is underway. Consultants are hired and the first phase of engagement resulted in nearly 900 survey responses. The Strategy is due to be completed mid-2025.
F2.3	Work towards zero waste for large public events	●	2022-2024	Ongoing	Some zero waste event initiatives were undertaken in 2024; e.g., corporate zero waste events and Saanich's Earth Day event. Further work and actions will be incorporated into the Zero Waste Strategy.
F2.4	Work with partners on circular economy initiatives	●	2022-2024	Ongoing	Saanich partnered with the Synergy Foundation on a Circular Economy Accelerator Program that was initiated in fall 2024. This provides spots for 14 Saanich businesses to participate in circular economy audits and receive a recommendations report in 2024-2025. Saanich continues to provide sponsorship for the annual Synergy Ecostar Awards. In 2024, Saanich hired the Diverters for key festivals to help in public education and waste diversion.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Food and Materials Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
F2.5	Mobilize residents and businesses towards "lighter living"	●	2020-2022	Ongoing	Saanich continues to support the One Planet Saanich initiative and provide educational presentations and materials such as the Saanich Carbon Calculator and Saanich Residents' Climate Action Guidebook which include support for reducing the impact of food and consumer goods. In Spring 2024, Saanich provided input to and supported the launch of the BCIT One Planet Kahoot Quiz - helping participants test their knowledge and identify ways to reduce their personal carbon and ecological footprint.
F2.6	Advocate for expansion of extended producer responsibility programs	●	2024-2029	Future action	Future action. Expected to be included in the upcoming Zero Waste Strategy.
F2.7	Improve monitoring of and compliance with a recyclable materials ban	●	2024-2029	Future action	Future action. Expected to be included in the upcoming Zero Waste Strategy.
Strategy F3: Improve the resilience and self-sufficiency of the local food system					
F3.1	Accelerate the implementation of Agriculture and Food Security Plan (AFSP)	●	2021-2022	Ongoing	The Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Plan Phase 1: 12 actions complete; 4 actions in progress. Phase 2: 6 actions complete; 7 actions in progress; 2 actions to be initiated; Phase 3: 1 action complete; 2 actions in progress; 12 actions to be initiated.
F3.2	Support an Agricultural Adaptation Strategy for Vancouver Island	●	2021-2022	Achieved	Completed in 2020, the BC Agriculture and Climate Change Regional Adaptation Strategy for Vancouver Island includes regionally specific strategies and actions which can inform future District initiatives.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Food and Materials Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
F3.3	Increase capacity for local food production	●	●	2022-2024	Ongoing	The District of Saanich has been working with the CRD on the development of the Foodlands Access Program. In September 2024, the CRD Board supported Bylaw 4602 Regional Foodlands Access Program and voted to proceed to elector approval. A pilot location has been chosen for this initiative. A Regional Foodlands Access Service will support new and young farmers by facilitating affordable access to productive farmland. In 2024 Council approved a zoning bylaw amendment to permit roadside stands in urban areas for residents to sell food produced on their property. Staff have also been working on a Equitable Land Access initiative to provide land access to equity deserving groups in the District.
F3.4	Increase adoption of water-wise agricultural practices		●	2024-2029	Future action	Future Action

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Ecosystems Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION	TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy E1: Enable natural systems to thrive and adapt</i>							
E1.1	Double the rate of planting trees to enhance the urban forest	●	●		2020	On track	<p>Lack of available planting spaces is a major barrier to growing the District's urban forest. So while this action is currently on track, it will be difficult to accomplish in future years without additional resources and strong interdepartmental collaboration. Lack of available planting spaces is a major barrier to growing the District's urban forest.</p> <p>In 2024, 3,205 trees were planted on District owned lands by Parks staff, keeping this action on track to meet the 10,000 trees planted by 2025 target (on top of the 9,195 trees planted in 2020-23).</p> <p>In addition, 1,300 native tree seedlings and 101 native trees were provided to community members to plant at various events including Earth Day and National Tree Day.</p>

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Ecosystems Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION	TIMELINE	STATUS	UPDATE	COMMENTS
E1.2	Increase stewardship tools for private land owners	●	●	●	2020	Ongoing		<p>In 2024 Parks launched the Good Neighbours: Saanich Biodiversity Partners pilot project in partnership with the Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) with federal grant support. Residents from approximately 200 properties located in Saanich’s Biodiversity Habitat Network were invited to participate in the pilot, which will encourage biodiversity stewardship on private lands through such measures as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individualized on-site stewardship consultations • Site reports with goals, recommended actions, and resources • Hands-on training in effective stewardship techniques; and • Experiential stewardship workshops and walks. <p>Future funding will be required to continue this program- a resource request has been put forward in the 2025 budget. The updated Urban Forest Strategy, approved in 2024, identifies actions that further support this climate plan action</p>
E1.3	Implement “Natural Intelligence” parks program	●	●	●	Underway	Ongoing		<p>The NI program continues to be promoted through Saanich channels, including promotional videos on the Saanich website. In addition, the updated Urban Forest Strategy and the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy were both approved by Council in 2024. They include key priorities to develop an outreach and education plan (expected to be completed in 2025) and enhance community stewardship.</p>
E1.4	Develop an operational approach to tree retention and replacement during development	●	●	●	2020	Ongoing		<p>Staff are working on an approach through the updated Official Community Plan and collaboration with partners like BC Hydro to mitigate tree loss and maximize retention where conflicts with utilities exist.</p>

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Ecosystems Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION	TIMELINE	STATUS	UPDATE	COMMENTS
E1.5	Protect and expand the urban forest	●	●	2020		Ongoing		The updated Urban Forest Strategy was approved by Council in September 2024. It includes a 44% overall canopy cover target of, outlining key actions to protect and enhance our urban forest such as revising our planning and design processes to consider trees earlier in the process, developing and implementing a tree planting plan for our public lands, connecting and enhancing Saanich's natural forests, and exploring tree planting and voluntary stewardship programs on private lands and incentives for property owners to retain high-value trees. The Strategy included an updated canopy cover analysis and a commitment to regular monitoring. Resource requests for implementation are included in the 2025 budget.
E1.6	Develop and implement a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy		●	2020-2022		On track		The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy was approved by Council in June 2024. Resource requests for implementation are included in the 2025 budget.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Ecosystems Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION	TIMELINE	STATUS	UPDATE	COMMENTS
E1.7	Expand, connect and restore natural areas		●	2021-2022		Ongoing		<p>Multiple projects on Saanich land were completed/ongoing in 2024, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing restoration of land in Cuthbert Holmes Park along the Colquitz River including removal of invasive species and planting of native trees, shrubs and plants. • A 180m section of Gabo Creek was restored to improve freshwater health and habitats and spawning areas for native fish in partnership with, Peninsula Streams Society. • Layritz and Vic Derman Parks restoration projects continued with funding from MoTI and included planting of native trees, shrubs and plants. • Garry Oak ecosystem restoration as part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration project (2021-2030). • Hundreds of meters of fencing were installed to protect sensitive ecosystems in Saanich Parks, including two ephemeral ponds in PKOLS. • Over 25 new Pulling Together volunteer restoration sites were planted with native species.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Ecosystems Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION	TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
E1.8	Partner with school districts on environmental education	●	●	Underway		Ongoing	<p>Saanich Parks continued to support local schools through place-based hands-on experiences connected with community-based ecosystem restoration and environmental education. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting 9 schools, in many cases, in collaborating with Pulling Together volunteers. 1,083 volunteer hours by school youth stewardship. Collaborating with the SD 61 Indigenous Education Department to support ecosystem restoration experiences for local children and youth including a successful grant application for tree planting and rain gardens at Tillicum Elementary.
E1.9	Explore carbon dioxide removal measures with partners	●		2020		Ongoing	<p>An new canopy cover analysis was completed in 2023 as part of the State of Urban Forest report and a commitment made to regularly monitor and report on this metric in the update Urban Forest Strategy approved by Council in September 2024. This data will support a more accurate understanding of land use changes and GHG sinks and stores over time.</p>

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Ecosystems Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
E1.10	Prevent planting and spread of invasive plants	● 2021-2022	Behind schedule	<p>Despite considerable efforts, this action remains behind schedule as more resources are required to keep up with the growing spread of high-risk invasive species, and the demand by the community to engage in invasive species management and ecological restoration. Updates for 2024 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saanich Parks, the CRD, the Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP), and the province continue to work on management of high priority invasive species with the management of over 25 priority invasive plant species on 1,500 sites on public and private property in 2024. • The Pulling Together program had 192 registered volunteers plus hundreds of drop-in volunteers in natural area parks, with 15,310+ volunteer hours recorded in 2024 towards invasive species management. • Parks and Engineering staff reviewed and are updating the Boulevard Regulation Bylaw, acceptable plant list, to ensure no known invasive plants are being accepted on boulevards. An update to the Invasive Species Strategy is expected in 2025, budget dependent.
E1.11	Improve monitoring of ecosystem health	● 2022-2024	On track	<p>A new baseline was established in the State of the Environment and State of the Urban Forest reports that supported the development of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) and updated Urban Forest Strategy, both approved by Council in 2024. The regular monitoring and reporting on ecosystem health is a key action within the BCS. A resource request has been put forward in 2025 to develop a framework required for monitoring and reporting on the BCS.</p>

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Ecosystems Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
E1.12	Develop principles for assisted migration		●	2022-2024	Ongoing	Assisted Migration is defined and referenced within the updated Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) with corresponding actions outlined at the operational level. Additional resources will be required to implement this item.
E1.13	Improve compliance with new bylaws and policies		●	2022-2024	Future action	This action is likely to be reviewed and reframed in the updated Climate Plan to align with priority actions in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Updated Urban Forest Strategy.
Strategy E2: Protect and manage natural assets as critical infrastructure						
E2.1	Evaluate services provided by natural assets	●	●	2021-2022	Ongoing	Council approved the updated Urban Forest Strategy in September 2024, which provides qualitative and some limited quantitative information on the ecosystem services provided by trees. A Natural Assets Inventory (preliminary information) was completed in 2024, which will support the development of a Natural Asset Management Plan starting in 2025. A full time GIS analyst and mapping coordinator was hired in 2024 to collect detailed tree inventory information and this work is underway.
E2.2	Develop a strategy to maintain services provided by natural assets	●	●	2021-2022	Behind schedule	Urban Forest Strategy, approved by Council in September 2024 includes Strategy 1.3 Connect and enhance natural forests. This includes Action 2. Develop and implement a 5-year plan for natural forest restoration on public lands that considers sites acquired for restoration/biodiversity objectives through land acquisition programs. However, this action is not currently funded and will require resources moving forwards to be considered 'On Track'.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Community Well-being Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy C1: Ensure emergency and community health services keep pace with climate change</i>						
C1.1	Retrofit municipal facilities to increase cooling and air filtration capabilities	●		2020-2022	Ongoing	Studies were completed in 2024 for HVAC upgrades at the Municipal Hall that could add cooling and air filtration capabilities for increased resilience in the future, funding dependent. Active cooling is also planned as part of future upgrades (funding dependent) for additional areas of Saanich Commonwealth Place and potentially other facilities.
C1.2	Undertake urban heat mapping	●		2022-2024	Achieved	The Capital Region Extreme Heat Information Portal was completed and launched in early 2024. This hosts information and maps that will help residents and municipal planners explore and understand the capital region's vulnerability and exposure to extreme heat. This has been used to inform land use plan development and successful grant applications.
C1.3	Work with partners to ensure coordinated response during severe weather events	●		2022-2024	Ongoing	Recreation centres provided relief from extreme heat during hours of operation, supported by public messaging and communications. Misting stations were added to kids summer camps in 2024. Conversations around extreme cold weather response are underway. Saanich saw 528 residents participate in the Provincial program for the distribution of portable A/C units with BC Hydro.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Community Well-being Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
C1.4	Update Wildfire Protection Plan and Interface Fire Hazard Development Permit Area	● 2022-2024	Achieved	The Saanich Community Wildfire Protection Plan was updated in 2021 and includes 27 recommendations. The Interface Fire Hazard Development Permit Area (DPA) guidelines were reviewed as part of the larger DPA project update that was approved by Council in early 2024.
C1.5	Develop Saanich-specific wildfire prevention materials	● 2022-2024	Ongoing	Saanich-specific wildfire prevention presentations commenced in 2024 and were delivered by members of the Fire Prevention Division - these will continue in 2025. Wildfire prevention promotional materials were delivered to the community over the summer at various public education talks as well as at community engagement events (music in the park, Gorge tillicum Canada Day, Cadboro Bay Days).
C1.6	Work with service providers to vulnerable populations to develop adaptation strategies	● 2024-2029	Ongoing	The Extreme Heat Information Portal and map were launched. Partnership with Victoria Friendship Centre to provide information to Elders. "Welcome Day to Newcomers" at Commonwealth event for information sharing. Handouts or information session for youth programs (climate education/workshops).
C1.7	Work with partners to minimize impacts from vector-borne diseases	● 2024-2029	Future action	Future action.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Community Well-being Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
C1.8	Review severe weather protocols for vulnerable populations		●	2024-2029	Ongoing	In 2024, the Salvation Army Housing and Support Services Division continued to fill the role of Extreme Weather Response Plan (EWP) Coordinator in collaboration with BC Housing, local governments and non-governmental organizations included shelter providers. Saanich Emergency Program and Police receive correspondence from the EWP Coordinator any time criteria is met to activate seasonal shelters. Saanich Police conduct proactive check-ins with vulnerable persons and enhance park patrols during extreme weather events. Police have access to shelter information and connect those who are in need with appropriate services including medical and transportation services. Direction was provided by Council in late 2024 to explore options for enhancing our cold weather response.
<i>Strategy C2: Empower Saanich residents and businesses to take climate action</i>						
C2.1	Implement a tangible and hands-on neighborhood-level program	●	●	2020	Ongoing	The Neighbour to Neighbour (N2N) program was offered for a third year with funding from the Saanich Community Grants program with 10 projects now funded to date. It supports residents to connect with existing programs from Sustainability, Emergency, and Parks, including the Natural Intelligence and Naturescaping programs.
C2.2	Host an annual climate fair	●	●	2020	Ongoing	The 2024 Saanich Earth Day festival included activities for kids, talented performers, many eco-friendly organizations, and hosted a pedal-powered stage for the second year running with solar powered battery packs instead of diesel generators. 2024 was the first time the festival had all vegetarian food options from local food truck companies and was also Saanich's first zero waste event, with education and diversion support from The Diverters.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Community Well-being Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
C2.3	Provide educational programming and workshops	●	●	2020	Ongoing	Multiple educational programs are delivered by Saanich and partners that support climate action. These include the Neighbour to Neighbour Program, Natural Intelligence program, the new Good Neighbours: Saanich Biodiversity Partners pilot project, One Planet Saanich, presentations to community groups and educational institutions, E-bike courses and awareness raising, BCSEA CoolIt! Climate Leadership program and Ready Step Roll program with the CRD, among others.
C2.4	Carry out a communications campaign on urgent climate action	●	●	2020	Ongoing	The climate communications campaign is updated annually and includes multiple measures to highlight the urgency of climate change and priority actions and support for residents. Multiple channels are used including newspapers, social media, newsletters, posters, radio ads, videos at movie theatres, and more. Partnerships with the CRD and City of Victoria help to amplify common messages.
C2.5	Host a Community Climate Collaborative	●	●	2020	Ongoing	The intent of this action is being addressed through focused collaborations on specific climate topics e.g. through collaboration with community and business members in One Planet Saanich, District 2030, collaboration with Synergy and others, and the Sustainability & Climate Action Advisory Committee. Additional needs will be reviewed as part of the updated Climate Plan throughout 2025.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Community Well-being Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
C2.6	Develop an equity tool	●	●	2020	Ongoing	The Sustainability Division is participating in updates to the District's social procurement processes. The Terms of Reference for the Climate Plan Update include a specific focus on engagement with groups who are disproportionately impacted by climate change in Saanich.
C2.7	Develop a Saanich climate information webpage	●	●	2020	Ongoing	Extensive online resources are available and regularly updated at www.saanich.ca/sustainability . Information updates this year include resources on power outage resilience and links to the new CRD Extreme Heat Information Portal.
C2.8	Seek opportunities to work with neighboring First Nations	●	●	2020	Behind schedule	While collaboration with First Nations on climate related specific initiatives has been more limited to date valuable cross-corporate action has been undertaken throughout 2024. Saanich launched an Indigenous Relations learning curriculum for staff to further our commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. A new Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation staff position was created and expected to be filled in early 2025. The District continues to support the Lekwungen-led September 30th powwow, host the Indigenous Musical Festival (historically Indigenous IYKAT), amplify Orange Shirt day communications, and promote Lekwungen walking tours to staff and residents. 2024 also included a first-ever partnership with the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria to host an exhibition of artwork by local Métis artists, historical displays, as well as their community Christmas potluck and Métis fashion show.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Community Well-being Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
C2.9	Explore a bulk-purchase program	●	●	2022-2024	On track	The terms of reference for a feasibility study for a direct install heat pump program was developed in 2024, with an RFQ expected to be issued for consultant support in early 2025. This study will consider the opportunity for bulk purchase of heat pumps for installation in income-qualified households across Saanich.
C2.10	Develop a community grants program	●	●	2024-2029	Achieved	The Neighbour to Neighbour (N2N) Resilience Initiative offered \$500 grants and workshops to neighbourhood groups. A total of 10 neighbourhood projects have been accepted to date into the grant program.
C2.11	Collaborate with researchers and post-secondary institutions	●	●	2024-2029	Ongoing	There were multiple collaborations with post-secondary institutions and students in 2024 including working with partners at UBC to present the findings of the Saanich E-bike Incentive study, working with students from Royal Roads University to support the Zero Waste Strategy engagement and development of the corporate climate risk assessment methodology, and support to UVic for a grant application for a climate risk assessment. Saanich continues to be a partner with UVic and other participating universities in the Accelerating Community Energy Transformations (ACET) program.
C2.12	Work with the arts community	●	●	2024-2029	Ongoing	The development of Fire Hall 2 will include a site specific art commission, with the call for art issued in 2024 and including a request for Indigenous candidates. Municipal Hall Indigenous site specific art commissions are in development. Budget has been allocated in the Tillicum Green Infrastructure project, to incorporate First Nation art and signage that raises awareness of climate risks, inspires climate action and communicates the value of Indigenous knowledge of natural systems and sustainable practices.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Leadership in District Operations Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy L1: Integrate climate action into Saanich processes and decision-making</i>						
L1.1	Establish a new Climate Action Reserve Fund	●	●	2020	Achieved	Climate Action Reserve Fund established, and annual funding committed. Provincial climate action funding delivered in 2024 through the Local Government Climate Action Program.
L1.2	Include a climate alignment scorecard in reports to Council for development projects	●	●	2020	On hold	An update of the existing Sustainability Statement Guidelines was finalized and reviewed by a cross-departmental team in 2022. However, this action is on hold and will be considered as part of implementation of the development process review and updated Climate Plan to ensure alignment, and need.
L1.3	Establish a carbon price policy	●		2020	Behind schedule	This work was not prioritized in 2024 and this action is likely to be reviewed regarding it's value in the updated Climate Plan.
L1.4	Create a climate leadership group	●	●	2020	Achieved	Internal Climate Working Group continues to support implementation, monitoring and reporting. Key members of this group also participate in other cross-departmental programs that are critical for climate action e.g. asset management and risk.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Leadership in District Operations Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
L1.5	Develop a risk register and monitoring platform	●		2020	On track	Work on developing a Climate Risk Register has commenced and will be informed by an updated detailed Climate Risk Assessment using the PIEVC methodology. This Risk assessment will be incorporated into the asset management work and used to inform the Climate Plan update in 2025. An FCM grant application has been submitted to support this work.
<i>Strategy L2: Become a climate friendly employer</i>						
L2.1	Implement a Climate Friendly Commuter Program	●		2020	Ongoing	This project is now moving forward with dedicated budget, staff time, the establishment of a project charter and working group, and approval from the Senior Leadership Team. This project is expected to be delivered in 2025.
L2.2	Implement a training and capacity building program	●	●	2020	Ongoing	Staff have completed several climate-related training events including Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (PIEVC) training through the Climate Risk Institute, building controls and automation training and training in LED lighting. A broader training and capacity program would likely be considered in the coming years with additional staff resources.
L2.3	Recognize innovation, successes and leadership	●	●	Underway	Ongoing	Saanich climate actions have been highlighted in many different channels including Buzz and Spotlight periodicals, Saanich News and other media, Planning West magazine, Building Benchmark BC, various external organization e-newsletters, and awards presented at UBCM amongst others.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

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Low Priority

Progress on Leadership in District Operations Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy L3: Transition to an efficient, renewably powered fleet</i>						
L3.1	Develop a fleet strategy to reduce corporate emissions	●		2020	Behind Schedule	While this project had been delayed due to limited staff resources, the Zero Emissions Fleet Strategy is now drafted and due to be presented to council in mid 2025 and will inform future budgets and asset management plans. The project will deliver a pathway to a Zero Emissions municipal, fire, and police Fleet by 2040, setting interim 2030 targets and identifying the infrastructure requirements and associated costs.
L3.2	Convert all light-duty vehicles to zero-emissions vehicles	●		Underway	Ongoing	All municipal fleet cars were fully electric as of 2022. However, fossil fuel light duty vehicles remain for the Police and Fire fleets. Saanich saw 1 electric cargo van (Ford E-Transit T350) and 1 hatchback (Chevrolet Bolt) delivered in 2024. 6 new Level 2 EV chargers were installed at the Saanich Operations Centre. This will enable continued adoption of electric vehicles to reduce GHG emissions. The Zero Emission Fleet Strategy will support further acceleration of EV adoption.
L3.3	Develop an e-bike fleet program	●		2020	Achieved	The e-bike pool fleet was expanded again with two new e-bikes and a new enclosure at the Municipal Hall, for a total of 6 fleet e-bikes at 3 work sites. 24 additional staff completed e-bike safety training in 2024, for a total of 103 staff trained throughout the program. Staff training will continue to be an ongoing action and the need for additional pool fleet e-bikes and locations will be monitored over time.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

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Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Leadership in District Operations Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
L3.4	Review industry readiness to support medium- and heavy-duty fleet conversion pilot projects	●		2022-2024	Behind schedule	Implementation of the Zero Emissions Fleet Strategy (due to be finalized in 2025) will be critical for supporting medium- and heavy-duty fleet electrification pilots. Work is underway to deliver both short- and long- term (via the SOC redevelopment) EV charging infrastructure and grant applications have been submitted. The electric fire engines will be subject to future resource requests and availability and practicality to implement.
<i>Strategy L4: Transition to efficient and renewably-powered municipal buildings</i>						
L4.1	Transition to highly efficient and renewably-powered municipal facilities	●		Underway	Ongoing	The biomass boiler was installed at Saanich Commonwealth Place (SCP) and commissioned in 2024 and remaining retrofits that form part of this project are underway. Opportunities for renewable energy and storage solutions are being investigated with two battery energy storage feasibility studies completed. These will require resources (likely supported by successful grant applications) to implement. Key projects in the corporate Building Retrofit Strategy are advancing, including energy retrofits at Pearkes and Cedar Hill Rec Centre.
L4.2	Pilot low-carbon materials in municipal new construction	●		Underway	Ongoing	Fire Hall #2 redevelopment project is in construction and will demonstrate low carbon mass timber structure.
L4.3	Showcase efficient and renewably-powered municipal buildings	●		Underway	Ongoing	Saanich participates in Building Benchmark BC and in District 2030 to track and report on the energy performance of our buildings. Staff continue to showcase any progress and innovative facility work in our sustainability webpages, social media, awards, energy manager networks etc.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

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Low Priority

Progress on Leadership in District Operations Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy L5: Reduce waste and GHG emissions from goods and services</i>						
L5.1	Model a low-carbon diet through corporate catering	●		2020	Ongoing	The Greener by Default pilot is ongoing with staff champions in multiple departments purchasing meals and snacks that are majority low-carbon plant-based options, while still preserving flexibility for different dietary preferences. 2024 highlights included having a plant-based ice cream options at the Strawberry Festival for the first time, and a 100% vegetarian Earth Day food menu.
L5.2	Develop a corporate Zero Waste Strategy	●		2024-2029	Ongoing	The new Senior Sustainability Planner (Zero Waste & Embodied Emissions) started in January 2024 and has led the early development of the Zero Waste Strategy, with the Terms of Reference approved by Council and first phase of engagement and analysis complete.
L5.3	Update Saanich Sustainable Procurement Guidelines	●		2024-2029	Ongoing	Work has begun with the Purchasing Division to review and update the Saanich Sustainable Procurement Guidelines with updated polices and tools expected in 2025.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Progress on Leadership in District Operations Actions

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ADAPTATION	INITIATION TIMELINE	STATUS UPDATE	COMMENTS
<i>Strategy L6: Measure and Report on progress</i>					
ME.1	Publish annual report card		2020	Ongoing	2024 marks the fifth Climate Plan Report Card since the updated Climate Plan was approved in 2020.
ME.2	Measure resilience		2020-2021	Behind schedule	The development of resiliency metrics will be supported by the completion of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, the updated Urban Forest Strategy and the Capital Region Extreme Heat Vulnerability Map in 2024. It is anticipated that these metrics will be developed for the updated Climate Plan due to be complete in 2026.
ME.3	Measure community GHG emissions		2022-2024	Ongoing	An updated Territorial GHG Emissions inventory, Consumption Based Emissions Inventory and Ecological Footprint were completed in 2023 and were used to update this Climate Plan Report Card and the Official Community Plan. They will form the foundation of the updated Climate Plan due to commence in 2024.
ME.4	Update Climate Risk Assessment		2024-2029	On track	Staff undertook training in the PIEVC protocol in early 2024 and developed a methodology and process for undertaking a climate risk assessment specific to corporate assets that will not only support an update to the Climate Plan but also inform development of asset management plans and departmental risk registers. An early strategic draft assessment was completed with workshops planned for 2025 with divisional subject matter experts.
ME.5	Update the Climate Plan		2024-2029	On track	The Terms of Reference for the updated Climate Plan was approved by Council in November 2024. A grant application has been submitted to FCM to support the work which has commenced and will be undertaken throughout 2025.

Implementation Priority:



First Priority

High Priority

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Low Priority



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