



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

July 18th, 2022

Executive Summary

The **Sooke2030: Climate Action Plan** encompasses actions the District of Sooke can undertake to help reduce GHG emissions in district operations as well as within the community. It combines both mitigation and adaptation concerns within the same document, providing the Low Carbon Resilience lens that Council has determined is to be utilized for District planning and operations. The plan is strongly rooted in existing, mostly recent Sooke master plans. It provides clear direction for District action, both independently and in collaboration with other levels of government, non-profits, community groups and multiple other partners.

The actions recommended within Sooke2030 are intended specifically to advance the Council-approved 7% Solution, in which transportation and building emissions are identified as key areas for annual emissions tracking and reduction. This document further elaborates on 7% Solution strategies by focussing on five “How We Rethink” themes based on how the community moves, grows, builds, leads, and relates.

Sooke2030 utilizes a compellingly positive narrative framework (*Our Story*, pp. 5-8) designed to inspire everyone in Sooke to participate as best, and to the extent, they can in reducing community carbon. Unlike “climate catastrophe” approaches, this storytelling engagement strategy is intended to accelerate an already evolving cultural shift towards the consensus vision of a net-zero coastal town in which balanced human and natural systems foster community prosperity and well-being for this and future generations.

Shaped by public consultation, authored by District staff led by the Climate Action Coordinator with input from the District’s Climate Action Committee, Sooke2030 is written as a living guidance document. As such, it is meant to be reviewed on an annual basis to inform strategic planning and budget preparations. Councils now and in future may choose to reprioritize actions identified in this plan based on strategic planning and funding considerations.

Municipal actions are necessary, but insufficient on their own of course, to meet the climate challenge. Achieving a carbon neutral Sooke, as is the case in municipalities across Canada, requires that the federal and provincial governments follow through on key actions identified in the **Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change**, Canada’s **2030 Emissions Reduction Plan**, and the province’s **Clean BC Roadmap to 2030**.

Many of the actions within the Sooke2030: Climate Action Plan are led by the District of Sooke and are drawn from existing District master plans as well as the draft Official Community Plan. These actions are not currently underway at other levels of government, and municipal engagement is needed to achieve the goals these actions represent. Where actions are led by other levels of government, these partners have been identified accordingly, and the actions are included to ensure that the District of Sooke can prepare for any impacts such actions would have on the community and on operations.

To begin, 25 high-impact, District-led actions have been identified for consideration in the 2023-2027 financial planning process (see Appendix I). New priority actions may be identified for subsequent years as this plan undergoes regular reviews and considering progress, lessons learned, financial considerations, and new information and opportunities.

A main list of short, medium and longer-term recommended and ongoing actions (Appendix H) has been compiled from climate policy and science best practices, reports and plans from other levels of government, and existing District of Sooke municipal plans.

Much of this work will involve advocacy, engagement, and coordination to ensure Sooke is capitalizing on funding availability and is a participant in larger-scale programs. The District's primary partners in this document are intended to be the Capital Regional District, the Province of BC, and the Government of Canada. Others would include local community groups, the T'Sou-ke and Scia-new Nations, BC Transit, FireSafe BC, BC Hydro, School District #62, Sooke Food CHI, Plug-In BC, the Habitat Acquisition Trust and more.

In following the Low Carbon Resilience model, each action within this plan provides multiple co-benefits across Economic, Social, and Environmental indicators. Some actions included are key to building resilience and adapting to the changing climate while also providing additional carbon-reduction benefits. Others are primarily mitigation focused in that their goal is to reduce or avoid carbon emissions within our community.

Tracking of emissions for the District of Sooke is recommended to take place in conjunction with the CRD bi-annual regional emissions report. This report uses globally recommended protocols for city-based emissions. Improvement of the data included in this report is achievable through continued partnership and information sharing between the District of Sooke and the CRD. Furthermore, annual tracking on the project level to identify the effectiveness of carbon mitigation of each action is feasible via the GHG Protocol for Project Accounting¹.

Engaging in carbon accounting of this nature will assist the District of Sooke in understanding the impacts of each program, help guide future decision making, and will provide context for increasing or decreasing emissions observed in the CRD bi-annual report. Furthermore, project level carbon accounting can facilitate tracking of annual emissions reductions, as required by the 7% Solution. However, total GHG emissions within the District of Sooke may continue to rise as new residential development continues due to a lag between increasing population and decarbonization of lifestyle. Climate Change is a collective and global challenge that the District of Sooke has committed to addressing by signing the BC Climate Action Charter in 2008, and by announcing a Climate Emergency in 2019. While it may seem that Sooke's current emissions of over 50,000 tonnes of CO₂e are unimportant, the responsibility for dealing with these emissions lies with the District. This is a problem common to all municipalities, but with innovative thinking and committed action here in Sooke, we can become leaders in addressing the problem of getting civilization to a cleaner, greener net-zero planet by 2050.

¹ [Project Protocol | Greenhouse Gas Protocol \(ghgprotocol.org\)](https://ghgprotocol.org/)

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SOOKE2030: Our Story

We want to tackle climate change, and we have the imagination and skills to be able to do so, but we are stuck.

We just can't seem to build any momentum. Whenever we try to change things, we end up:

- Trapped by old habits and rules.
- Limited by time and money.
- Distracted by the news cycle.
- Overwhelmed by fear and uncertainty.

At the end of the day, it feels like we're spinning our wheels, while things get worse and worse around us.

But it doesn't have to be that way.

Instead of feeling stuck, we could break free of old ways of working and rethink the way we do things.

Picture a near future where it's easy to *shift priorities* to focus on what we value most, *get creative* to discover new possibilities and *empower everyone* to create a future-proof Sooke we love.

Think about what we could do with that kind of freedom.

- Develop a vibrant downtown core with good jobs, diverse housing, and enhanced affordability.
- Establish trails and transit options that make low carbon travel a breeze.
- Support green building strategies that save money while reducing emissions.
- Protect natural places like parks, forests, and the waterfront.
- Foster a caring culture that puts people and the planet first.
- Become a model for net-zero living.

The truth is there's never been a better time for us to build the life we want, right here in Sooke.

What's stopping us from making that happen?

- Fear. We're all on edge. We've been through so much in the last few years that uncertainty has everyone paralyzed. And it just feels too scary to make big decisions right now that could go sideways.
- Resources. It seems like there's just too much to do - and we never have enough time, money, or capacity to get ahead.
- Systems. Even when we do have the right resources, we often run into roadblocks created by old rules, processes and habits that make it difficult to do things differently.
- Confusion. We keep getting conflicting information that makes it tough to feel like we're making good decisions.

When you add all that up, it's no wonder we feel stuck.

What's the solution? Sooke2030 – a chance for us to *rethink the way we do things*.

Sooke2030 is more than just a climate action plan. It's an invitation to the people of Sooke to become part of something bigger.

- To make a bold commitment to take action to create the life we want.
- To break free of ways of thinking that hold us back and make a just transition to a healthy, vibrant future for all.

- To show other communities how one small town with a big heart can work together to be the change the world needs.

This made-in-Sooke strategy weaves together all the best ideas from our collective hard work in recent years, including the Official Community Plan², Transportation Master Plan³, Parks and Trails Master Plan⁴, the Community Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan⁵, and Sooke's Housing Needs⁶ reports.

Plus, it tackles some of our toughest and often invisible barriers to change – the systems, processes, habits, and cultures that stop us from challenging the status quo and working together to redefine success.

By focusing on the five key themes below, Sooke2030 shows us how we can cut our carbon emissions in half and get more of what we value most.

How we move. Our biggest struggle.

Over half of Sooke's working residents commute outside the District for their jobs. We also spend a lot of time in our cars, doing errands, driving to other neighbourhoods, and taking trips. That makes transportation the biggest source of greenhouse gasses in our community.

By rethinking how we move people, stuff, and waste, we can move towards a circular economy that makes low-carbon transportation easy and affordable.

This includes:

- Creating neighbourhoods where everything is within reach for everyone via multi-use trails, bike lanes and more frequent transit.
- Working with public and private partners to ramp up telecommuting and ride-shares.
- Investing in new infrastructure for electric cars and bikes.
- Transitioning District vehicles off fossil fuels.
- Streamlining access to waste, recycling, and composting.

How we grow. Our opportunity and challenge.

We're fortunate to live in a magnificent place. That means a lot of people want to visit and live here too. Sooke2030 shows us how to grow responsibly into a connected and complete community; to balance the development of our town and economy with strong protection of the character and natural spaces that make our corner of the world so special.

To do that, we'll continue to:

- Take stock of local lands, water, and forests to assess their true value.
- Focus commercial and residential growth on the town centre and waterfront to lessen sprawl and create more diverse, connected neighbourhoods.
- Invest in natural assets, parks, and green spaces to strengthen our resilience.
- Implement policies and bylaws for best practices in development and infrastructure.
- Develop low-carbon strategies for food security.

² https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Picture-Sooke-OCP-Updates-FINAL_v4-1.pdf

³ <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020.11.03-Sooke-transportationMP-Final-R2-SCREEN.pdf>

⁴ https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/FINAL-Sooke-PTMP_screen.pdf

⁵ <https://letstalk.sooke.ca/23959/widgets/102957/documents/73629>

⁶ <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/District-of-Sooke-Housing-Needs-Report.pdf>

- Protect the ALR and grow our urban canopy.
- Support innovative economic development to foster regenerative, local approaches to doing business.

How we build. Our concrete legacy for the future.

Our built environment does more than just shelter and support us. It affects the way Sooke's ecosystem works, influencing everything from water movement to temperature to natural migration patterns. Plus, buildings are the second-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the District.

Innovative technologies and construction techniques give us the power to build, renovate and retrofit our community today, to become a showcase of net-zero coastal living. All we must do is choose them. Sooke2030 paves the way for us to make our buildings and infrastructure cleaner and greener, by:

- Supporting new building codes and practices.
- Pursuing local, low-carbon energy sources.
- Retrofitting District facilities for efficiency and resilience.
- Accounting for and addressing emissions throughout building cycles.
- Embracing natural building techniques and protecting natural places.
- Exploring multi-use shared spaces.

How we lead. Our values in action.

We walk alongside the T'Sou-ke Nation as stewards of this truly magical place, grateful for thousands of years of their wise caretaking. Our collective choices going forward will define the quality of life for all living beings in the region.

Through values-based leadership, Sooke2030 helps us rethink the way we operate and work – the culture that defines us. It gives us permission to explore habits and assumptions that no longer serve us and make deliberate decisions to support a healthy and just community. That includes:

- A focus on low-carbon resilience in everyday operations.
- Commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion across the District.
- Options for flexible work.
- Shifts in perspective and culture to act on our values.
- Investment in our people so they can do their best work.
- Courage to make tough decisions that lead us toward a better future.

How we relate. Our deepest connections.

We're all here because we care - about the land, the wildlife, the water, and each other. But our relationships can be complex, deeply rooted in old stories and practices, often standing in the way of our dreams.

Sooke2030 surfaces and strengthens our relationships, helping us find common ground and clarity to achieve shared goals, by empowering us to:

- Learn with, about and from each other and the natural world.
- Rediscover how to be allies, collaborators and friends across governments, agencies, departments, and neighbourhoods.
- Address critical issues like reconciliation, climate justice, biodiversity, mental health and belonging.
- Create a caring and compassionate community we all want to call home.

Just imagine what we could achieve if we choose to rethink our path to 2030.

- Instead of worrying about uncertainty in the future – we could set a clear path to net-zero that invites us all to play a role.
- Instead of feeling stuck by barriers and red tape – we could create a culture of innovation and engagement that enables us all to do our best work.
- Instead of propping up old systems and habits that do more harm than good – we could shift our culture and practices to create a community that reflects our values.
- Instead of feeling depressed about how much there is to do and how terrible things are – we could renew and create traditions to celebrate what we're doing right.
- Instead of allowing additional sprawl – we could create our dream town, with a vibrant town core and shared waterfront.
- Instead of spending all our time and money driving everywhere – we could invest in trails and transit for active, clean mobility.
- Instead of neglecting the wild spaces that protect us from climate change – we could steward them with land and fire management plans that keep them healthy and strong.
- Instead of supporting a system of make-take-waste – we could develop a circular economy focused on regeneration, reuse, and redirection.
- Instead of waiting for others to fix things for us – we could act right now to build the strengths and relationships we need.
- Instead of continuing the harm caused by economic and social systems that privilege some over others, we could invest in creating a just and healthy future for all.

But making changes like this can be scary, especially when it means trying something we've never done before. As a community, how do we know we can do it?

Because it's in our nature.

Together, we've found innovative ways to build a new library, diverse housing, multi-use community spaces, new transportation corridors, trails and sidewalks, food gardens, an expanded medical centre, a new wastewater treatment plant, and millions of dollars of highway improvements.

We're fuelled by an incredibly engaged community of volunteers who are committed to caring for each other and our shared home.

Plus, we maintain strong relationships with visionary partners and allies that include the T'Sou-ke Nation, Capital Regional District and Province of British Columbia – as well as local businesses and social profit organizations.

The last few years have been tough on all of us. And no matter how hard we try to make change, we still feel stuck, mired in a mess of uncertainty, complexity, and bureaucracy.

But today's challenges pale when compared to the problems we'll face if we don't find a way to get ourselves in gear and moving. Wildfires, heatwaves, drought, flooding, storm surge and intense rainfall pose real and immediate dangers to our people, our businesses, and our homes.

While we debate whether to spend a dime or a dollar on our ideas, climate change is accelerating fast, bearing down on us like a train with no brakes, threatening to destroy our future.

Sooke's Climate Action Plan is not just another operational plan. It's a commitment by everyone – the District, citizens, businesses, community groups and partners – to do more than just address the impacts of climate change.

Sooke2030 is an invitation to become part of something bigger. To rethink the way we move, grow, build, lead and relate to co-create a thriving net-zero community that cares for its people and the planet.

If you're tired of feeling stuck and ready to future-proof our community, take the first step and lead the way to Sooke2030 today.

It's in our nature.

Territorial Acknowledgement

The District of Sooke is in the unceded traditional territories of the T'Sou-ke (pronounced: tsa-awk) First Nation and Sc'ianew (pronounced: CHEA-nuh) First Nations.

In the SENĆOŦEN (pronounced: sen-chaw-thin) language, T'Sou-ke refers to a species of Stickleback fish that lives in the mouth of the territory's major river (T'Sou-ke Nation, 2021). Early settlers anglicized T'Sou-ke to Sooke, which is now the name of the municipality, main road, river, and river basin.

The Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay) First Nations' ancestors spoke multiple languages, and their name means the "place of big fish" in the Klallam language (Sc'ianew First Nation, 2021). The settler Canadian government used residential schools and other colonial policies to eradicate Indigenous culture, and as such, the Klallam language is no longer spoken.

Since Time Immemorial, the lands comprising the District of Sooke have been connected to the health, wellness, traditions, languages, culture, and self-determination of the T'Sou-ke and Sc'ianew Nations. Their ancestors stewarded these lands and waters in relation with and an eye to future generations that we can only dream of now, given the challenges of settler-society-induced climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

Settler colonialism in these territories has disrupted the profound connections these Nations have with their territories through land theft and colonial policies intended to take children away from their families and enact cultural genocide.

As we undertake our work to create a Climate Action Plan for the District of Sooke, it is critical to recognize the immense harms that have occurred and continue to occur in this territory due to colonization. We commit to Truth and Reconciliation to the best of our ability in Sooke's Climate Action Plan.

It is important to acknowledge that in the drafting of climate policy in Canada, Indigenous peoples have not been consulted and included in policy development⁷. We aim to consult on a Nation-to-Nation basis with the peoples whose territories Sooke resides in and seek to include their priorities and guidance in Sooke's Climate Action Plan. Through its Memorandum of Understanding with the T'Sou-ke (co-created in 2007, reviewed and renewed in 2019), the District is committed to "mutually beneficial and ongoing discussions with regards to enhancing the economic, recreational, and environmental status of the

⁷ <https://www.indigenousclimateaction.com>

Sooke area through a positive and meaningful relationship.⁸ As such, this and future iterations of this living document will reflect evolving climate-action initiatives and priorities emerging from MOU discussions.

We also acknowledge the visionary climate leadership of the T'Sou-ke Nation in solar power, food security, aquaculture, land stewardship, and other initiatives to rebuild self-sufficiency and energy autonomy, a model for other communities in British Columbia, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike.

ReThink: It's in our Nature

The Climate Reality

Facing climate change is a frightening experience.

In March 2022 the UN Secretary General referred to the latest **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** report as “an atlas of human suffering”. According to the Canadian Climate Institute, climate-related impacts to infrastructure has cost billions of dollars over the last decade and could result in \$4.1-\$13.6 billion annually across Canada by the end of the century⁹. It is acknowledged globally that there is an absolute need to avoid global warming past 1.5 degrees Celsius to mitigate the worst impacts of **climate change**.

To prevent worsening climate impacts, the Federal Government of Canada made a commitment to reduce emissions by 40-45% from 2005 by 2030¹⁰, and committed to achieving **net-zero emissions** by 2050¹¹. Simply put, we have less than 8 years to make significant changes to how our society works to avoid increasingly dangerous warming, and a further twenty to solidify those changes.

Achieving the challenging goal of net-zero by 2050 requires collective action, meaning that we are relying on the Capital Regional District (CRD), the Province of British Columbia, the federal government, businesses, organizations, and all residents and visitors to our community to collaborate with us to make the necessary changes.

Net-zero by 2050 is not possible without everyone working in unison.

Our community may feel small and unlikely to have influence in the grand scheme of things. There is a strong temptation to ignore what is happening around us. We would love to have someone else manage it.

The bad news is that we do not have that luxury. No one does.

We have already experienced some recent examples of the type of impacts climate change can cause in Sooke, including the deadly **heat-dome** in the summer of 2021, and the torrential downpour and

⁸ https://fngovernance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/MOU-Tsouke_Nation.pdf

⁹ Under Water: The Costs of Climate Change for Canada's Infrastructure, [FINAL-ExecSumm-Infrastructure-Report.pdf \(climatechoices.ca\)](#), 2021

¹⁰ 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, Environment and Climate Change Canada, [Canada-2030-Emissions-Reduction-Plan-eng.pdf](#), 2022

¹¹ [Net-Zero Emissions by 2050 - Canada.ca](#), 2022

flooding of the **atmospheric river** that shut down roads in and out of our community. We are becoming more familiar with the impacts of **wildfire** in our province and on Vancouver Island, which results in poor air quality, increased costs, and property damage. BC's Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy identifies regional risk associated with ongoing climate change¹². Long-term concerns around **sea level rise** are also a risk factor for Sooke. As climate change continues, Sooke will experience:

- increased average temperatures,
- greater and more frequent rainfall,
- greater and more frequent droughts,
- higher intensity winds,
- and increased risk of wildfires.

The good news is that we have tools that we can use to actively reduce emissions in our community. We also have tools to adapt to the new reality that we are facing as the climate changes. **Sooke2030** is the first step in our commitment to achieving a net-zero community by 2050. This **Climate Action Plan** encompasses how Sooke will do its part to adapt and prepare for the climate change we are currently experiencing and what is still to come. The time to address climate change is much like planting a tree. The best time to do so was over 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.

The T'Sou-ke have shown us what responsible stewardship looks like and it is our responsibility and privilege to follow their example. Our current systems have consistently left out and left behind those most vulnerable.

It is our calling to stand up and act: for our community, our children, future generations, and the living world.

Sooke2030 highlights the tools and suggested policies and actions identified within a full range of Sooke based municipal plans as well as, plans from stakeholders within our community. It also provides additional recommendations based on science and policy expertise.

Background and legislative context for Sooke's Climate Action Plan

Since the municipality's incorporation, the District of Sooke, the T'Sou-ke Nation, the Capital Regional District, and a diverse range of citizens and community groups have been working to address climate change and improve Sooke's resilience to a changing climate.

As a signatory to **BC's Climate Action Charter**¹³, the District has committed to take actions "to become carbon neutral in its corporate operations and reduce District-wide emissions by creating a more complete, compact and energy efficient community." Sooke Council, along with all other CRD municipalities, consented to the creation of the **Capital Regional District's Climate Action Service** on July 28, 2008¹⁴. This Climate Action Service provides education and outreach for the whole region, and

¹² Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy, Province of British Columbia, [cpas_2021.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/climate-action/bc-climate-action-charter?keyword=bc&keyword=climate&keyword=action&keyword=charter)

¹³ BC's Climate Action Charter, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/climate-action/bc-climate-action-charter?keyword=bc&keyword=climate&keyword=action&keyword=charter>, 2008

¹⁴ District of Sooke Regular Council minutes, July 28, 2008, <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/minutes/historical/2008RegCouncilminutes.pdf>, pg. 88.

supports municipal action by engaging in the development and implementation of regional EV infrastructure, home efficiency rebates, carbon accounting, risk and adaptation studies, and more.

The **Sooke Sustainability Development Strategy** (SSDS, 2008) utilized the United Nations' "eight pillars of a sustainable community"¹⁵ model to "outline a way for the District of Sooke to move toward sustainable prosperity." Council decided to form a "Green Team" comprised of Council appointees and District staff in July 2009; and established a formal Climate Change Action Charter Committee in November of that year. Eleven years ago, at the Council meeting of Dec. 14, 2009, Council announced the intention to "develop a Climate Action Plan in conjunction with the T'Sou-ke Nation".

Rooted in a vision of reduced-carbon "Sooke Smart Growth" focusing on the town centre, the District's **2010 Official Community Plan**¹⁶ was approved with a comprehensive suite of complimentary climate-action policies and suggested actions. The District's first Agricultural Plan¹⁷ was adopted in 2012.

The **Sooke Community Energy and Emissions Plan**¹⁸ from 2013 identified priorities in reducing community energy consumption and emissions through land-use planning, building and site planning, infrastructure (including waste management) and renewable energy supply. In adopting the CEEP, Council identified four areas of the plan for priority action:

- Promotion of home retrofits and demand-side management¹⁹ programs.
- Improved walking infrastructure.
- Organics diversion from Hartland Landfill.
- Urban containment (i.e., less sprawl, more OCP-directed town centre development)

On June 23, 2014, Council reaffirmed its Climate Action Charter commitment to achieving carbon neutrality in municipal operations²⁰. It also established the **Carbon Tax Rebate Reserve Fund**. This reserve collected Sooke's share of annual carbon tax rebates from the province's then newly established **Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program** (CARIP) for use in reducing carbon emissions in the District²¹.

Approximately 70% (2,618) of 3,755 Sooke voters were in favour of the November, 2014 referendum question "Should the District of Sooke join other municipalities in renewing and restating its opposition to the expansion of oil tanker traffic through Coastal BC waters?"²² Council made Sooke one of more

¹⁵ Sooke Sustainability Development Strategy <http://www.hplan.biz/innovation/sustainable-development/the-eight-pillars-of-a-sustainable-community/>, 2008

¹⁶ <https://sooke.civicweb.net/document/4044/>

¹⁷ Sooke Agricultural Plan, https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/plans/Agricultural_Plan.pdf, 2012

¹⁸ Sooke Community Energy and Emissions Plan, <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/Final-CEEP.pdf>, 2013

¹⁹ [Energy Utility Demand-side Management \(DSM\) - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/energy/utility-demand-side-management/dsm/)

²⁰ District of Sooke Regular Council Minutes, June 23rd, 2014, <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014-Reg-Council-Minutes.pdf> pg. 89

²¹ The CARIP program was discontinued in 2021 and replaced in spring 2022 by the BC Local Government Climate Action Program, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change/local-governments/local-government-climate-action-program>

²² <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/Declaration-Questions-Nov-17-14.pdf>

than 100 Canadian municipalities endorsing the Blue Dot Initiative's²³ **Declaration of the Right to a Healthy Environment** on Feb. 23, 2015²⁴. The declaration states that all people have the right to live in a healthy environment, including rights to breathe clean air, drink clean water, consume safe food, access nature, and participate in decision-making that will affect the environment. Mayor Tait proclaimed June 6, 2018²⁵ as "Build Green Day" in the District in recognizing the work of Built Green Canada²⁶ and Sooke's commitment "to sustainable growth and responsible stewardship of our natural environment."

The District of Sooke became the 162nd local government in the world to pass a **climate emergency declaration** at the Council meeting of April 8, 2019²⁷. As of April 2022, nearly 2100 local jurisdictions representing more than a billion citizens in 38 countries have declared emergencies²⁸. The Sooke motion read:

"THAT Council declare a climate emergency in the District of Sooke.

- The District of Sooke aspires to be carbon neutral by 2030
- That climate be a priority to Strategic Planning
- Reactivate the Climate Change Action Committee"

Environmental Leadership is cited as one of six "core values and guiding principles" in Council's **2019-22 Strategic Plan**²⁹ alongside Effective Governance, Community Well-Being and Safety, Community Vibrancy, Long-Term Thinking, and Effective and Consistent Communication. Goal #2 of the Strategic Plan's Action Plan is titled "*Demonstrate Leadership in Climate Action*" and features eighteen bullet points distilled into "now," "next" and "later" categories³⁰. This Climate Action Plan captures these actions in full.

In September 2019, Council approved Sooke membership in the **Partners for Climate Protection** program (PCP) established by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI Canada)³¹. The PCP provides a forum for local governments to share knowledge and experience in reducing GHG emissions. Its five-milestone framework involves completing a GHG inventory and forecast, setting a GHG reduction target, developing a local action plan,

²³ Declaration of the Right to a Healthy Environment, Blue Dot Initiative, <https://davidsuzuki.org/project/blue-dot-movement/>, 2015

²⁴ District of Sooke Regular Council Minutes, February 23, 2015, <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2015-Regular-Council-Minutes.pdf> pg. 24

²⁵ <https://sooke.ca/proclamation-june-6-is-built-green-day-in-the-disitrect-of-sooke/>

²⁶ <https://www.builtgreencanada.ca>

²⁷ District of Sooke Regular Council Minutes, April 8th, 2019, <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2019-Regular-and-Special-Minutes.pdf> pg. 104

²⁸ Climate Emergency Declaration, <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/climate-emergency-declarations-cover-15-million-citizens/>, 2022

²⁹ District of Sooke Council Strategic Plan, 2019-2022, <https://sooke.ca/city-hall/2019-strategic-plan/>

³⁰ District of Sooke Council Strategic Plan, 2019-2022, Appendix A, <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Appendix-A-Action-Plan-June-2020.pdf>

³¹ District of Sooke Regular Council minutes, September 2019, <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2019-Regular-and-Special-Minutes.pdf> pg. 244

implementing the plan, and monitoring progress while reporting results to the PCP³². Endorsing this plan results in the completion of Milestone 3, and implementing this plan will result in completion of Milestone 4. In subsequent carbon accounting years, the District of Sooke will be able to report the emissions inventory of both corporate actions as well as the community, resulting in completion of Milestone 5.

The 2019/20 Climate Action Committee presented its **Climate Action Workplan** to Council on June 22, 2020³³. Endorsed by Council that night, it included recommendations regarding transportation, food security, education and engagement, and sustainable development and land use.

Council endorsed the **Parks and Trails Master Plan** and the **Transportation Master Plan** on Oct. 13, 2020³⁴; both plans are fundamentally shaped by interrelated community development and climate action considerations. Two weeks later, Council requested that staff recommendations related to the CAC Workplan and consistent with Council's Strategic Plan be included in the 2021-2025 Five-Year Financial Plan. Council also amended the Workplan's "global goals" to read:

1. "Ensure a 'climate first' approach in all municipal decision-making and planning processes, including the Official Community Plan, and the inclusion of climate expertise on consulting teams
2. Provide a definition of "green lens/climate first" for use in all municipal decision-making and planning processes; and
3. Develop a comprehensive Sooke Climate Action Plan which will include mitigation and adaptation strategies."

The **Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy Report** was received by Council in January, 2021³⁵. The District's Community Economic Development, Planning and Land Use, and Climate Action committees were required to consider the following documents in undertaking their deliberations:

- Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment for British Columbia (BC Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy)³⁶
- Territorial Analysis and Survey of Local Government Priorities for Climate Action (Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities)³⁷.
- Modernizing BC's Emergency Management Legislation (BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General)³⁸.

³² [Partners for Climate Protection \(pcp-ppc.ca\)](https://www.pcp-ppc.ca/)

³³ District of Sooke Regular Council minutes, <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2020-Regular-and-Special-Council-Minutes.pdf> pg. 117

³⁴ District of Sooke Regular Council Minutes, October 13, 2020, <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2020-Regular-and-Special-Council-Minutes.pdf> pg. 194/195

³⁵ <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2021-Regular-and-Special-Minutes.pdf> pg. 5/6

³⁶ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change/adaptation/risk-assessment>

³⁷ https://www.vicccpl.com/uploads/4/2/9/6/42963935/vicc_report_master.pdf

³⁸ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/modernizing_bcs_emergencymanagement_legislation.pdf

The committees were also required to “consider the four pillars of the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** in their decision-making with a particular focus on mitigation and recovery initiatives³⁹.” On March 22, 2021, Council adopted the **Low Carbon Resilience (LCR)** co-benefits tool as the “green lens” for District planning, policy, and implementation processes⁴⁰. The LCR model was developed by the ACT – Adaptation to Climate Change Team at Simon Fraser University and initially tested in coordination with a dozen BC municipalities. Figure 1 illustrates the twenty-seven economic, environmental, and social co-benefits that are included within this framework.

The District’s **Community Economic Development (CED) Strategy and Action Plan**, adopted in early 2022, is an example of how LCR can inform, guide, and provide context for District strategies.

The 7% Solution and Citizen Mobilization

Following a recommendation by the 2021 edition of the Climate Action Committee, Council unanimously approved the following motion on April 26, 2021: “THAT Sooke’s emissions reduction targets be set as follows: a 50% cut from 2018 GHG emissions levels by 2030, or 7% per year.⁴¹” This is called the 7% Solution.

The CAC’s Education and Engagement working group began developing a storytelling strategy that would inspire behavioural change in multiple sectors of Sooke including public, private-sector and municipal⁴². Two goals were identified:

1. To develop messaging around climate change that engages Sooke citizens in lowering emissions and preparing for a new climate reality; and
2. To offer recommendations and resources to the District for implementing a five-year climate change communication and engagement plan.”




























Economic Co-Benefits		
 Supports green job creation	 Diversifies local economy	 Reduces costs/ increases savings
 Fosters innovation and green, clean industries	 Supports clean energy transition	 Promotes a circular economy
 Reduces risks to property values	 Reduces waste/ optimizes resources	 Avoids community damages and costs over time
Environmental Co-Benefits		
 Enhances biodiversity	 Supports habitat creation	 Improves water retention and absorption
 Enhances pollutant capture	 Improves air quality	 Reduces extreme temperatures
 Improves water quality	 Increases carbon sequestration/storage	 Promotes regional connectivity
Social Co-Benefits		
 Enhances human health and well-being	 Supports local food security	 Limits tax increases
 Improves climate awareness and access to data and information	 Improves community livability and vitality	 Enhances local autonomy
 Advances equity and social inclusion	 Reduces congestion	 Improves public safety, disaster preparedness and response

Figure 1 Low Carbon Resilience Co-Benefits

³⁹ <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework>

⁴⁰ <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2021-Regular-and-Special-Minutes.pdf> pg. 61

⁴¹ <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2021-Regular-and-Special-Minutes.pdf> pg. 90

⁴² District of Sooke Committee of the Whole Minutes, April 19, 2021, [Committee of the Whole - 19 Apr 2022 - Minutes - Pdf \(civicweb.net\)](#) pp. 106-109

The CAC's Data Working Group's 7% Solution recommendation called for effective, high-impact strategies to reduce overall community emissions by 7% each year through 2026⁴³. 7% per year from 2018 emissions levels would result in 50% emissions reduction by 2030, assuming Sooke's population did not grow with added development. The action focus was on Sooke's two primary sources of GHG emissions:

1. **Building Energy**, i.e., "encouraging deep retrofits of existing buildings – to replace fossil fuel use with electricity using heat pump technology;" and
2. **On-Road Transportation**, i.e., "helping commuters who drive an internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle to make a modal shift to a low/no-emission alternative, such as working from home or a local office, taking transit, or using an E-bike or electric vehicle."

The CAC also developed an initial Climate Action Plan framework for presentation at the Committee of the Whole meeting of July 19, 2021 and began populating it with content⁴⁴. This early draft was the inspiration for this Climate Action Plan.

On July 26, 2021, Council approved the CAC's 7% Solution strategy and requested that staff, with CAC support, create an implementation plan, prepare budget recommendations, and investigate funding sources to implement the strategy⁴⁵.

Assuming a static population, if the goals listed in the 7% Solution are achieved and scaled up to 2030, 100% of emissions from residential and 95% of emissions from commercial buildings will have been retrofitted to use zero emissions heating and hot water systems. Transportation emissions from commutes to and from Sooke would be reduced by 76% and emissions from travelling within Sooke would be reduced by 27%. Given the continued growth of the community and ongoing development that is occurring, additional strategies are required to ensure Sooke reduces annual emissions more than 7% per year to achieve a 50% reduction from 2018 levels by 2030.

The 7% Solution is intended as a management tool that would help plan actions, monitor progress and report on results. Prioritizing emissions from buildings and commutes to and from Sooke is essential to successfully reducing overall emissions in Sooke. **The actions outlined in this Climate Action Plan follow the recommendations of the 7% Solution and identify additional strategies** to reduce emissions annually by at least 7%. This annual reduction may require recalculation in the future to ensure that the target aligns with actual performance and other metrics.

Climate Action and Sooke2030

The District of Sooke's **2022 Official Community Plan (OCP)**, currently under review with Council, sets the context for this plan, along with numerous other District plans, policies, bylaws, and strategies⁴⁶.

⁴³ District of Sooke Committee of the Whole Minutes, April 19, 2021, [Committee of the Whole - 19 Apr 2022 - Minutes - Pdf \(civicweb.net\)](#), pp. 99-103

⁴⁴ District of Sooke Committee of the Whole Minutes, July 19, 2021, [Committee of the Whole - 19 Jul 2021 - Minutes - Pdf \(civicweb.net\)](#), pp. 6-10

⁴⁵ District of Sooke Regular Council Minutes, <https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2021-Regular-and-Special-Minutes.pdf>, pg. 171

⁴⁶ District of Sooke Draft 2022 Official Community Plan Section Review, [https://sooke.civicweb.net/document/69932/Section Review of Draft Official Community Plan.pdf?handle=D283F27D71524DEEB574BE0826FE5AE9](https://sooke.civicweb.net/document/69932/Section%20Review%20of%20Draft%20Official%20Community%20Plan.pdf?handle=D283F27D71524DEEB574BE0826FE5AE9), May 16, 2022.

Furthermore, this strategy is informed by global and local expertise, and it applies this expertise through a Sooke-focused perspective.

Our unique community requires unique solutions. So, this plan reflects not only the work done so far or currently underway by Sooke and various stakeholders, but also identifies key action items and recommendations for 2022-2030. This plan includes reference to work done by other municipalities, learning from our neighbours, and identifying measures that will help Sooke realize our goals. Throughout this document footnotes provide links and references to further reading.

Municipal actions are necessary, but insufficient on their own to meet the climate challenge. Achieving a carbon neutral Sooke requires that the federal and provincial governments follow through on key actions identified in the **Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change**⁴⁷, Canada's **2030 Emissions Reduction Plan**⁴⁸ and the province's **Clean BC Roadmap to 2030**⁴⁹.

British Columbia must continue to move toward zero carbon electricity. All businesses, organizations, and community members in Sooke must also make choices and investments that shift us away from our dependence on fossil fuels and reduce our emissions. There is a lot of work to do by all local, provincial, and federal levels of government in the next eight years, and continued efforts will be needed over the following 20 years to become carbon neutral by 2050.

This strategy outlines a carbon neutral scenario for the District of Sooke to achieve a 50% reduction in emissions from 2018 levels by 2030 - intensifying the goal stated in the 2022 Official Community Plan of 40-50% from 2007 levels by 2030 - and builds on the work already done by the Climate Action Committee on the 7% Solution.

In real terms, a 50% reduction from 2018 levels means going from 57,302 tCO₂e emitted per year to 28,651 tCO₂e per year. Additional measures will be required to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, and recalculation of this scenario to account for population growth is recommended to coincide with implementation planning. This scenario is likely to evolve and change as technology, policy and market economics evolve over the next decade but currently includes:

- Residents walk, cycle, use electric mobility devices, take transit, or drive an EV for 75% of trips to and from Sooke by 2030.
 - Move from 11% in 2020 to 75% in 2030.
 - This means over 200 residents in Sooke shift their mode of long-distance commuting away from fossil-fuel transportation per year, as outlined in the 7% Solution.
- Residents walk, cycle, use electric mobility devices, take transit, or drive an EV for 30% of trips within and around Sooke by 2030.

⁴⁷ Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/pan-canadian-framework.html>

⁴⁸ 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/climate-plan-overview/emissions-reduction-2030.html>

⁴⁹ Clean BC Roadmap to 2030, <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/climate-plan-overview/emissions-reduction-2030.html>

- Move from 10% in 2020 to 30% in 2030.
- 30% of passenger vehicles, and 10% of commercial vehicles are electric by 2030.
 - In 2018, there were 134 electric and 104 hybrid passenger vehicles registered in Sooke (out of 10,209 total vehicles).
 - In 2020, there were 248 electric and 120 hybrid vehicles registered in Sooke (out of 10,132 total vehicles).
 - As of 2020, there are no electric or hybrid commercial vehicles registered in Sooke.
 - In 2030, this would mean over 3,000 vehicles would be electric.
- All new heating and hot water systems generate zero emissions starting in 2024.
- All new buildings are net-zero energy ready and were built using low carbon building standards based on BC Step Code (using 80% less energy) by 2030.
- All new buildings use heat pumps or other forms of zero-emissions heating, and no new residential or commercial natural gas connections are made after 2024.
- 80% of existing residential fossil fuel heating and hot water systems are replaced with zero emission systems by 2030.
 - This means over 200 homeowners per year begin the process of retrofitting their homes to use zero emission heating and hot water systems.
- 100% of existing commercial fossil fuel heating and hot water systems are replaced with zero emission systems by 2030.
 - This means over 20 commercial building owners per year begin the process of retrofitting their buildings to use zero emissions heating and hot water systems.
- 95% of all construction and demolition waste material is diverted from landfill and reused in new construction and other projects by 2030.
- 100% of organic material is diverted from landfill and used to create compost and other products by 2030.

How We Move: Our Biggest Struggle

Sooke is a community with a highway running through it. This reality is the result of the combination of development patterns that prioritised single family homes over multi-use buildings and commercial infrastructure throughout Sooke's history as both a regional district and municipality. Those patterns resulted in the present problem of increasing traffic congestion, limited job opportunities, and a car-centric, emissions intensive lifestyle. Transportation is the biggest source of greenhouse gasses in our community.

---Quote box---

"When you have two people, and their life is commuting and working to keep body and soul together...there isn't as much mutual aid and sharing in a community where lives are taken up with work and commuting." –Green Resilience Project Participant

---Quote box---

"We do what we can but cannot give up our car as we live in Otter Point and there is no bus service and it is way too far to walk. We don't drive much but we do have to drive." – Sooke2030 Street Interview Participant

How We Move invites us to rethink how we move people, products, and waste. Through Sooke2030, we envision a future in which Sooke will benefit from:

1. An expanded network of active transportation trails, connecting all corners of our community for pedestrian, cycling, and other forms of active mobility.
2. An integrated electric vehicle charging network across the CRD and throughout Sooke to support electric transportation for residents and visitors.
3. New infrastructure for electric cars and bikes.
4. Transitioning District vehicles off fossil fuels.
5. Increased public transit that reduces the need to rely on private vehicles for all ages, incomes, and demographics.
6. Connected neighbourhoods where everything is within reach for everyone via multi-use trails, bike lanes, sidewalks, and more frequent transit.
7. Local co-working spaces, which will save residents time and money from not having to commute into work in other communities every day.
8. Services provided by public and private partners to ramp up telecommuting and ride-shares.
9. Streamlined access to waste, recycling, and composting services.

To achieve our GHG reduction target of 50% by 2030, Sooke must take collaborative action to achieve the following How We Move targets:

- Residents walk, cycle, use electric mobility devices, take transit, or drive an EV for 75% of trips to and from Sooke by 2030
 - Move from 11% in 2020 to 75% in 2030
- Residents walk, cycle, use electric mobility devices, take transit, or drive an EV for 30% of trips within and around Sooke by 2030
 - Move from 10% in 2020 to 30% in 2030.
- 30% of passenger vehicles, and 10% of commercial vehicles are electric by 2030.
 - In 2018, there were 134 electric and 104 hybrid passenger vehicles registered in Sooke (out of 10,209 total vehicles).
 - In 2020, there were 248 electric and 120 hybrid vehicles registered in Sooke (out of 10,132 total vehicles).
 - As of 2020, there are no electric or hybrid commercial vehicles registered in Sooke.
 - In 2030, this would mean over 3,000 vehicles would be electric.
- 95% of all construction and demolition waste material is diverted from landfill and reused in new construction and other projects by 2030.
- 100% of organic material is diverted from landfill and used to create compost and other products by 2030.

Achieving the goals of this Climate Action Plan will require **complete and accelerated implementation of the Transportation Master Plan, the Parks and Trails Master Plan, and the Community Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan**. Furthermore, subdivision and development standards must be revised to be in alignment with TMP and PTMP expectations to capture required corridor infrastructure and parks and trails infrastructure as development occurs. The projects identified in the TMP and PTMP will result in more complete infrastructure allowing our community to adopt a low carbon mobility culture more easily. As these infrastructure projects are undertaken, our community will also make

changes to our transportation culture, by encouraging modal shift, electric transportation, and public transportation. Several projects identified in the CED Action Plan relate to job creation and retention within Sooke, enabling more residents to live, work and play locally, reducing reliance on motor vehicles.

---Quote Box---

“If you’re commuting, not only are you doing a lot of shopping in Victoria, but you may not have time to do a lot of volunteering to help with solutions to climate change.” –Green Resilience Project Participant

---Quote Box---

“I like that more people are working from home now and a lot of people are walking dogs. I really like how quieter it is without all the traffic.” – Sooke2030 Street Interview Participant

The following 5 actions for “How We Move” have been identified as short-term priority actions for 2022-2027:

1. Develop a **Knowledge Worker Strategy and launch a Co-working Hub Pilot Program**⁵⁰, improving support and access for remote-work options in Sooke to reduce the need to commute to work.
2. Complete a feasibility study of an **e-mobility equitable financing/rebate program** to provide support in accessing e-bikes, e-vehicles, and other forms of e-mobility to reduce emissions from transportation.
3. Encourage a local **Zero Waste Pop-Up Service Pilot Program** to facilitate collection, repair, and reuse services to the community from 2022-2027 through existing extended producer responsibility programs to encourage a circular economy.
4. Focus on funding and implementing major **Transportation Master Plan capital projects** that are in direct alignment with achieving major climate action initiatives and improving infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists, e-mobility, and public transit to support modal shift.
5. Prioritize, accelerate, and fund implementation of major **Parks and Trails Master Plan capital projects**, increasing access to trails and parks to improve connectivity throughout Sooke to encourage modal shift.

---Quote Box---

“People should carpool – no brainer. If people who worked in the same places like malls in Langford or in Victoria and carpooled, there would be less cars, less pollution and it would save them a lot of money.” –Sooke2030 Street Interview Participant

“I commute for work but yes, if there was a telecommuting centre, I would definitely stay in Sooke.” – Sooke 2030 Street Interview Participant

⁵⁰ See June, 2022 “Co-Working Opportunities In Sooke” report, pp. 7-10,
<https://sooke.civicweb.net/filepro/document/70481/Committee%20-%20Climate%20Action%20-%2001%20Jun%202022%20Agenda.pdf?widget=true>

Details and implementation notes on each of the above immediate actions are listed in Appendix I. A full list of identified actions that will assist the District of Sooke to rethink how we move can be found in Appendix H.

How We Grow: Our Opportunity and Challenge

To become a small net-zero town with a big heart, Sooke must prioritize a connected and complete community. We live in a remarkable place, and a lot of people want to live and visit here too. Sooke's population grew by 16% between 2016-2021⁵¹. To manage community growth in a holistic, low-carbon resilient way, we must rethink how we grow to balance the development of our town and economy with the needed protection of natural spaces that make Sooke special while protecting us from climate related impacts. Rethinking how we grow invests in the people of our community, recommending actions that increase skills and knowledge of residents, address food security concerns, and encourage a flourishing, low-carbon, circular economy that puts people and planet first.

--- Quote box ---

"Green space is sanity space." – Green Resilience Project Participant

--- Quote box ---

"Growth is happening so [let's] create a Sooke culture where there is less travel to Victoria. [Let's] give local businesses a better chance to stay in Sooke. If the businesses stay the people and the money stay." – Sooke2030 Street Interview Participant

How We Grow invites us to rethink how we feed our community, how we provide for our community through food and dignified work, and how we prioritize the use of land in our community. Through Sooke2030, we envision a future in which Sooke will benefit from:

- Increased low-carbon local and regional food infrastructure.
- A Low Carbon Resilient employment lands strategy to encourage growth of local, independent businesses and jobs.
- Continually improving LCR based analysis of land-use decisions such as rezoning and development projects to focus commercial and residential growth in the town centre to lessen sprawl and create a more diverse, connected community.
- Increased protection of the foreshore and nearshore natural boundaries, protecting the community from increased sea level rise associated impacts.
- Up-to-date assessments of local lands, water, and forests.
- Natural asset valuation of blue/green spaces
- Improved strategies to manage and collect rainwater.
- Urban forest growth and management strategies
- Increased investment in natural assets, parks, and green spaces to strengthen our resilience.
- Developed policies and bylaws for best practices in development and infrastructure.
- Developed low-carbon strategies for food security.

⁵¹ [Data table, Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population - Sooke, District municipality \(DM\) \[Census subdivision\], British Columbia](#)

- Increased protection of green spaces and the growth of our urban tree canopy through a tree management strategy.
- And increased support for innovative economic development to foster regenerative, local approaches to doing business.

---Quote box---

“There are things you can try to do to develop your city in a way that builds connections and community with people; I don’t think that’s being done.” – Green Resilience Project Participant

---Quote box---

“I think we should build apartments on land that is not a stable ecosystem, we should have store on the bottom and apartments on top to use less space. This can keep us from cutting all our forests down.” – EMCS Leadership class participant

To achieve our GHG reduction target of 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050, Sooke must take action to achieve the following How We Grow targets:

- Achieve a walkability score of 75 for Town Centre and Town Centre Waterfront areas of the community⁵².
- Increase urban tree canopy by 20% by 2030.
- Increase protected acres of parkland by 15% by 2030.
- Increase 20% food self-sufficiency by 2030 by creating favourable conditions for food production using regenerative practices, food education, and reskilling opportunities.

The goals of this Climate Action Plan align with and facilitate implementation of actions and priorities identified in the 2022 Official Community Plan currently under consideration by Council. Many actions identified in the 2022 OCP directly impact land use decisions through a climate lens and will help enable Sooke to become a Low Carbon Resilient community. Focus on environmental concerns is also consistent with the current 2010 Official Community Plan, providing a twelve-year history of ongoing environmentally minded land-use policy. Furthermore, actions identified in the Community Economic Development Action Plan such as completion of an Employment Lands Strategy will impact land-use decisions in a way that could over time reduce the carbon intensity of lifestyles in Sooke.

In addition to the actions in the 2022 OCP, the following 5 actions for “How We Grow” have been identified as short term, top priority actions for 2023-2027:

1. Develop and implement a **Green Building Rezoning Policy for rezoning applications that require developers to include comprehensive Low Carbon Resilience strategies** as a submission requirement for new residential and commercial development projects⁵³.

⁵² <https://www.walkscore.com>

⁵³ One example of how to proceed is the Resort Municipality of Whistler’s 2022 Green Building Policy update process: <https://www.whistler.ca/business/land-use-and-development/planning/green-building-policy>

2. Include **natural assets within the District’s asset management program** to financially account for ecological values, increase and protect the urban tree canopy and prioritize nature-based solutions in all capital projects⁵⁴.
3. Engage in a mapping exercise to prioritize parkland acquisition in ecologically significant areas, along waterfront, riparian areas, and existing wildlife corridors. Develop a **policy to prioritize parkland acquisition to protect carbon sinks and wildlife habitat** beyond what is already procured through parkland dedication in development acquisitions.
4. Develop **the local food security pilot project “Farm Hamlet Template”** to increase local farming knowledge, food production on local ALR land, and increase accessibility to housing for farm labourers⁵⁵.
5. Develop and implement a **Love Food Hate Waste Canada**⁵⁶ **educational program** to reduce food waste.
6. Develop and implement a **Wildland and Urban Interface Zone policy** using FireSmart principles and best practices to mitigate wildfire risk in neighbourhoods within that zone. This policy would consider wildfire prevention strategies and treatment areas, egress concerns and evacuation routes⁵⁷.

Details and implementation notes on each of the above immediate actions are listed in Appendix H. A full list of identified actions that will assist the District of Sooke to rethink how we grow can be found in Appendix G.

How We Build: Our Legacy for the Future

Our built environment impacts so much of our lives. In Sooke energy use in buildings represent the second largest sector of GHG emissions. Rethinking how we build invites us to change how we approach energy resilience, the building of homes, commercial spaces, and community structures, and how we prioritize nature-based building practices such as parks, rainwater ponds, and urban forests. It is the integration of the value of our natural assets into our building decisions. It is also the recognition of the long lifespans of infrastructure and buildings, many of which will still be part of our community for another 50 to 80 years.

---Quote Box---

“When it was scorching in the summer, we got a hotel room for a couple of days with air conditioning because we don’t have it at home.” – Green Resilience Project Youth Participant

---Quote Box---

⁵⁴ The Town of Gibsons, BC is acknowledged as a leader in Natural Asset Management best practices: <https://gibsons.ca/sustainability/natural-assets/>

⁵⁵ See March 28, 2022, Council agenda, pp. 91-210. <https://sooke.civicweb.net/filepro/document/68604/Regular%20Council%20-%2028%20Mar%202022%20Agenda.pdf?widget=true>

⁵⁶ <https://lovefoodhatewaste.ca>

⁵⁷ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/vegetation-and-fuel-management/fire-fuel-management/wui-risk-class-maps>

“We just put solar in and it is a cost-saving for sure; however cost is a barrier so lower costs would encourage more people.” – Sooke2030 Street Interview Participant

How We Build invites us to rethink how we retrofit existing buildings, build new ones, and prioritize nature-based solutions for the built environment. Through Sooke2030, our community will benefit from:

- Increased access to Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE⁵⁸) and income qualified financing and rebates for building retrofits to existing residential, commercial, and multi-unit residential buildings (MURBs).
- Accelerated implementation of the BC Energy Step Code and new building codes and practices for new buildings.
- Opportunities for local, low-carbon energy generation⁵⁹.
- Embracing natural building techniques and protecting natural places.
- Prioritization of multi-use shared spaces⁶⁰.

To achieve our GHG reduction target of 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050, Sooke must take action to achieve the following How We Build targets:

- All new residential and commercial buildings are net-zero energy ready based on the BC Energy Step Code (using 80% less energy) by 2028.
- All new residential and commercial buildings use heat pumps or other forms of zero-emissions heating and hot water systems.
- No new residential or commercial natural gas connections are made after 2024.
- 80% of existing residential fossil fuel heating and hot water systems are replaced with zero emission systems by 2030.
- 100% of existing commercial fossil fuel heating and hot water systems are replaced with zero emission systems by 2030.

Achieving the goals of this Climate Action Plan will require complete implementation of the 2022 Official Community Plan, including its recommendation for an accelerated BC Energy Step Code schedule formalized in revisions to Sooke’s Building Bylaw. Combined with educational and financial support opportunities, an accelerated Step Code with embedded low carbon building standards will help Sooke

⁵⁸ A British Columbia PACE Retrofit Financing Roadmap is in development by Dunskey consulting for BC’s Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. PACE briefing note from Help Cities Lead: https://www.helpcitieslead.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/HCL_BRIEFING_PACE-1.pdf

⁵⁹ Province of BC Community Clean Energy Solutions, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/electricity-alternative-energy/community-energy-solutions/what-can-you-do-as-a-community> + Funding guide: <https://communityclimatefunding.gov.bc.ca>

⁶⁰ The District of Sooke supports and participates in The Village Initiative, an SD #62-led working group that identifies gaps and seeks to better utilize existing school and public spaces.

achieve a built environment with low embodied carbon.

The following 5 actions for “How We Build” have been identified as top priority actions for 2022-2027:

1. Accelerate implementation of the **BC Energy Step Code** to include low carbon building standards for new residential buildings and to meet or exceed Step 4 (Step 3 for commercial buildings) by 2027. Align this acceleration with regional goals of Step Code adoption.
2. Create a **municipal/builder/developer green initiatives forum**, partnered with other public and private green technology producers, to help inform and educate developers and builders of new green initiatives within the construction industry⁶¹.
3. Develop and launch a pilot project for a **Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) and income qualified financing program** to provide financial assistance for green retrofits to existing buildings⁶².
4. Investigate options for **developing a bylaw that prohibits additional natural gas hook-ups in new development projects by 2024**. Consider building bylaw amendments that require zero-emissions heating systems to achieve this goal.
5. Develop and implement a **Wildfire Resistant Construction and Landscaping Bylaw** to improve wildfire resilience of Sooke⁶³. Such a bylaw would consider FireSafe construction materials, fire resistant plants and materials for landscaping within FireSafe ignition zones. Consultation with parks and environmental professionals are required to ensure native plantings and environmental values are retained.

Details and implementation notes on each of the above immediate actions are listed in Appendix I. A full list of identified actions that will assist the District of Sooke to rethink how we build can be found in Appendix H.

How We Lead: Our Values in Action

Just as we are asking Sooke residents to stand up and make changes, Staff and Council must lead by example in many areas identified in this document. Not only do our actions as a District matter to show our solidarity with our community, but also in many ways our actions can inspire and enable additional climate action by residents, businesses, community organizations and other stakeholders. Rethinking how we operate recommends changes to how the District of Sooke operates, provides services, and identifies best practices for rules and regulations that will inevitably inform many other areas in our community.

How We Lead invites us to rethink how we lead by example, communicate internally and with the public, and prioritize low carbon resilience in all municipal operations. Through Sooke2030, our community will benefit from:

- Decarbonization of municipal operations.
- Application of LCR lens and carbon accounting to capital projects.

⁶¹ One example of municipal engagement of this kind is the Township of Langley, BC Builder Forum series <https://www.tol.ca/at-your-service/sustainability/climate-action/climate-action-projects/builder-forum-series/>

⁶² See Stratford, PEI's "Switch Stratford" program, <https://pace-atlantic.org/switch-stratford/>

⁶³ See District of Squamish Bylaw No. 2834 (2021), <https://squamish.civicweb.net/document/211681/>

- Options for flexible work and incentives for active or public transportation commuting for employees.
- Increased diversity, equity, and inclusion across the District.
- A focus on low-carbon resilience in everyday operations.
- Social procurement strategies through the District's membership in the British Columbia Social Procurement Initiative (specific to building capital projects)⁶⁴
- Retrofitted District facilities for efficiency and resilience⁶⁵.
- Accounting for and addressing emissions throughout (municipal) building life cycles.
- Investment in our people so they can do their best work.

To achieve our municipal operations GHG reduction target of 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050, Sooke must take action to achieve the following How We Lead targets:

1. Reduce transportation emissions from municipal operations by 50% by 2030 by implementing fleet electrification and providing e-bikes as an option for short staff trips.
2. Achieve green business certification through Vancouver Island Green Business Collective⁶⁶ by increasing operational and building efficiency by 2027.
3. Increase efficiency of outdoor lighting by transitioning all remaining outdoor lights to LEDs by 2024.
4. Participate in a verified carbon offsetting program for remaining emissions resulting from municipal operations.

Achieving the goals of this Climate Action Plan will require investment in fleet electrification and building retrofits, training, and prioritization of low carbon resilience among all staff, and prioritization of staffing recommendations. Achieving our GHG reduction target for municipal operations will allow the District to lead by example in our community.

The following 5 actions have been identified as top priority actions for 2022-2027:

1. Develop an **internal carbon pricing policy to support internal decision-making**. Embed in specified corporate processes and procedures (e.g., net present value and lifecycle cost analyses). Pilot the new internal carbon pricing policy with select department(s).
2. Complete a **municipal fleet assessment and initiate a replacement policy** of municipal vehicles with zero-emissions alternatives. Prioritize zero-emission vehicles for all new vehicle acquisitions⁶⁷.
3. Align **procurement and vendor selection with the DOS corporate climate goals**, as part of the planned procurement policy update.
4. Complete **low carbon resilience and accessibility audits on all municipal facilities** and prioritize upgrades where feasible and highest risk.
5. Complete **annual corporate GHG reporting as required by LGCAP** and provide to the Council and departments as part of the annual report.

⁶⁴ British Columbia Social Procurement Initiative: <https://bcspi.ca>

⁶⁵ <https://toolkit.bc.ca/tool/civic-green-building-policy/>

⁶⁶ Vancouver Island Green Business Collective: www.vigbc.ca

⁶⁷ CleanBC Go Electric Fleets program support, <https://pluginbc.ca/go-electric-fleets/>

Details and implementation notes on each of the above immediate actions are listed in Appendix I. A full list of identified actions that will assist the District of Sooke to rethink how we lead can be found in Appendix H.

How We Relate: Our Deepest Connections

Climate change presents a massive challenge that we all must work together to surmount, and people may have barriers to overcome that may be stopping them from taking action to reduce emissions. As a community, Sooke is full of wonderful people who each have a love for this place between rainforest and sea, who each have their own gifts and strengths, and who each need help from each other to successfully create the future vision of Sooke. Rethinking how we relate invites us to examine how we work together to create a better Sooke through education and outreach, multi-stakeholder collaborations, and communication grounded in story.

How we relate encompasses not only how we communicate with each other, but also how we connect with and tend to our community members (human and otherwise), the land and the waters, as well as relationships to our past and future. It is an invitation to move from a mechanistic way of seeing the world, to a relational way of connecting, with an emphasis on reciprocity and systems. It addresses the need for continued listening and collaborative action on Truth and Reconciliation.

--Quote box--

“Humans always change the world and we do it with our greatest strength: we try to imagine what a better world might look like, and then we talk about it. To discuss alternate possibilities is a revolutionary act. When French peasants got the idea that they might have value as human beings, they met in the fields, the stores, the coffee shops, and talked about the possibility that they might have a worth like any aristocrat...This is our job then. To imagine a better world, to reach out to those dispossessed by our current rulers, and to seek new ideas about how to build a better world.”

—E. B. Klassen

---Quote box---

“[We should] have more people on Council and staff who are closer in age to the target demographic.” – EMCS Leadership class participant

This is an invitation to take steps toward a new Sooke, shaking off old systems that no longer serve our needs and safety, and turning towards holistic systems that allow each of us to grow and create a safe, resilient, and prosperous community for all.

How We Relate invites us to rethink how we communicate and connect with each other, nature, and our past and future through an engagement plan that emphasizes education and dialogue. Through Sooke2030, our community will benefit from:

1. Rediscovery of how to be allies, collaborators and friends across governments, agencies, departments, and neighbourhoods.
2. Improved inter-jurisdictional relationships with community, regional, First Nations, provincial, and federal stakeholders.

3. Investment in mental health and well-being to create the caring, compassionate, and accessible community we all want to call home.
4. Education opportunities to cultivate deep respect and understanding of relationships with the land, oceans and waterways, and wildlife that support, share, and are our community.
5. Education opportunities to develop futures and systems thinking about the ecosystems we share with many other living beings and the planetary climate system.
6. Access to comprehensive climate emergency education, including FireSmart and flood risk education

To achieve our GHG reduction target of 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050, Sooke must take action to achieve the following How We Relate targets:

- Review of all district policies and bylaws using a climate justice framework (See Appendix D).
- Virtual and in-person learning opportunities hosted by the District and its partners on a regular basis to improve community knowledge of ecosystems, climate change, Just Transition, and FireSmart.
- Focussed education opportunities on mobility shift, heat pumps, and other individual level opportunities for behaviour change that impacts carbon reduction.
- Development and full implementation of a community wellness matrix⁶⁸.

The following 4 actions have been identified as top priority actions for 2022-2027:

1. Consider establishing a Community Development Society⁶⁹ to increase capacity and support progress in education and communication toward a net-zero carbon Sooke using a community wellness metrics program and decision framework to explicitly monitor community well-being and low carbon resilience.
2. Acquire funding for and conduct a needs assessment for various audiences in leadership roles, such as staff at the District, then design a flexible professional development workshop which can inspire transformative leadership.
3. Acquire funding for and conduct a climate education needs assessment to design a fun and motivational workshop series for community members (e.g., local families, educators, retired professionals etc.) focused on developing personal/family climate plans and sustainable lifestyles.
4. Design a process to generate multi-household resilience plans through the creation of self-organizing neighbourhood pods who develop resilience plans throughout Sooke.

---Quote Box---

⁶⁸ Examples include: UN's Sustainable Development goals? <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> ... Dialog's Community Wellbeing Framework <https://dialogdesign.ca/community-wellbeing-framework/> ... Doughnut Economics <https://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/>

⁶⁹ Examples for such a society can be found here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/economic-development/support-organizations-community-partners/economic-development-organizations>
The District of Nanaimo is a local example of the society model: <https://www.investnanaimo.com>

“Those who want a future fighting climate change should be given opportunities early on.” –EMCS Leadership Class Participant

“[Youth] voices should be better broadcasted and given the opportunity to be heard.” –EMCS Leadership Class Participant

Details and implementation notes on each of the above immediate actions are listed in Appendix H. A full list of identified actions that will assist the District of Sooke to rethink how we move can be found in Appendix G.

Conclusion

The **Sooke2030 Climate Action Plan** is a comprehensive document reflecting both the gravity of the work ahead and the opportunities that come from this work. The climate crisis is impacting our community and will continue to do so, and Sooke2030 is our opportunity to rise to the challenge and work together to make the changes needed.

Sooke2030 is an invitation to **ReThink** the ways in which we currently move, grow, build, lead and relate, and reveal better ways of doing things to improve our community. Sooke2030 is a plan for the District of Sooke, and it is written in the context of existing municipal plans, upcoming programs and plans from other levels of government.

Using the Low Carbon Resilience framework, this plan presents actions, policies, programs, and proposed bylaws that will enable Sooke to achieve its climate targets. These recommendations are presented with the understanding that each action will result in multiple co-benefits, supporting not only environmental needs but also social and economic considerations.

By adopting the Sooke2030 Climate Action Plan, the District of Sooke commits to achieving our climate targets of 50% reduction of emissions from 2018 levels by 2030, and net-zero by 2050. The combination of the recommended actions in this document will help Sooke begin to achieve these goals, and **ongoing measurement and performance analysis will ensure that any gaps and additional requirements are identified and included in future iterations of this plan.**

Appendix A: Low Carbon Resilience

The Sooke2030 Climate Action Plan incorporates actions that address both **mitigation and adaptation** needs of the District of Sooke.

Mitigation is the act of reducing the harm of something and is used to describe actions that reduce overall GHG emissions from activities in the community. Actions that are mitigating in nature involve strategies such as reducing emissions from transportation through mode shift, retrofitting existing buildings to reduce emissions from heating and cooling, and reducing and eliminating the use of fossil fuels in other sectors.

Adaptation is the act of changing behaviour, infrastructure, or systems in preparation for a changing world, and is used to describe activities that increase Sooke’s resilience and prosperity in the face of climate change impacts that are underway and still to come. Adaptation strategies can include implementing climate resilient building codes to require all new buildings to include a heat pump to provide low-carbon heating and cooling, increased planting and protection of green spaces to help

reduce temperatures and increase mental health, and prioritization of natural solutions such as ditches and swales to increase rainwater absorption.

Both mitigation and adaptation considerations form the basis of the **low carbon resilience (LCR)** framework created by the FCM ICLEI program at Simon Fraser University called Action on Climate Team (ACT)⁷⁰. This framework considers three areas of ‘**co-benefits**’: economic, environmental, and social. The framework is used as a legend for policy makers to consider the intersecting benefits a single climate action may have in the community. For example, increasing public transit not only benefits the environment by reducing greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere, but also has the economic benefit of reducing costs to residents and the community through lowered fuel use, and social benefits of increased regional connectivity. Some actions will have a greater number or intensity of co-benefits than others, but the framework helps identify actions that address as many co-benefits as possible and invites us to re-think how we design actions if they do not already provide co-benefits. In Appendix G, readers will see icons beside each action that showcase the co-benefits these actions are predicted to offer our community.

The beauty of the LCR framework is that by considering mitigation, adaptation, and the co-benefits of actions, we can streamline resources and capacity by identifying actions that really knock it out of the park. We can prevent contradictions, avoid false trade-offs, and avoid decisions that would be maladaptive or emissions intense. Incorporating the LCR framework is intended to help Sooke achieve a low-vulnerability, low-emissions status. When applied to action development, implementation process, monitoring, and evaluation stages, the LCR framework allows us to address GHG emissions from adaptation actions, incorporate climate resilience into actions that focus on reducing emissions, and land on a synergistic application.

Appendix B: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

(Additional graphs to be inserted during final formatting of document)

The District of Sooke is a municipality in the Capital Regional District (CRD). The CRD collects data on and analyzes the regional GHG emissions from all thirteen municipalities every two years. The most recent reports covered 2018 and 2020. The regional report mirrors the methodology of the province, and therefore uses 2007 as a baseline year from which to calculate emissions reduction targets.

The CRD regional reports use the Global Protocol for Community Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories (GPC Protocol) methodology for carbon accounting⁷¹. This methodology is globally recommended for communities of all sizes and ensures that carbon emissions are accounted for in the same way across Canada and around the globe.

Adjustments to the baseline were made for the CRD’s 2020 report to account for changing emissions intensity factors of the electricity grid and availability of new data. Recalculating baseline emissions is a normal process in carbon accounting when new data or methodology becomes available, and impacts each year included in the report. As such, the figures in Sooke’s Climate Action Plan refer to the most

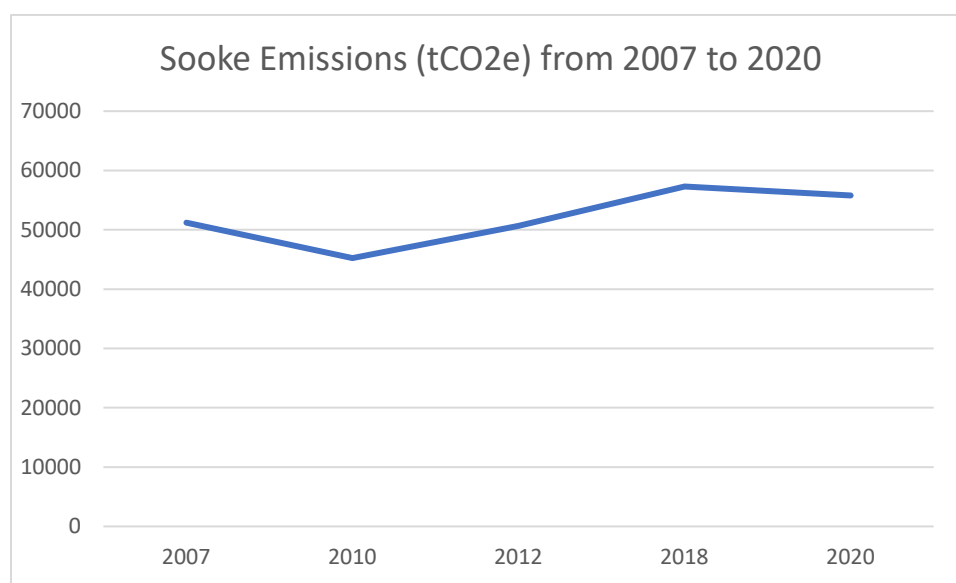
⁷⁰ [Low Carbon Resilience | ACT - Action on Climate Team \(act-adapt.org\)](https://act-adapt.org/)

⁷¹ [GHG Protocol for Cities | Greenhouse Gas Protocol](#)

up-to-date data available from the CRD regional emissions reports⁷². For a list of limitations and assumptions included in the regional report, refer to the methodology document provided by the CRD⁷³.

In 2007, our community emitted 51,194 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). In 2018, based on the updated calculations provided in the CRD report, Sooke was responsible for 57,302 tCO₂e. In 2020, total emissions amounted to 55,790 tCO₂e. This means that as of 2020, Sooke was up 9% from 2007 emissions levels. The CRD report noted that 2020 numbers would have been higher if not for the pandemic (which resulted in changing transportation and building emission profiles as more residents stayed home instead of commuting to work).

In recognizing that Sooke's population has grown more than 100 percent since 2007, the CRD notes that per-capita emissions in the District have declined by more than 25% from 5.0 tonnes to 3.7 tonnes per person in 2020⁷⁴ **(comparative bar graph)**.



However, to reduce our overall emissions, all sectors of our community as well as regional, provincial, and federal actors must take swift action. If no further action to reduce emissions is taken, emissions from Sooke will continue to rise to an estimated 99,210 tCO₂e by 2030 **(line graph showing BAU scenario)**. In real terms, a 50% reduction from 2018 levels means going from 57,302 tCO₂e emitted per year to 28,651 tCO₂e per year. **(line graph or bar graph)**

⁷² Capital Region District – Municipalities and Electoral Areas 2007 Base Year and 2020 Reporting Year Energy & GHG Emissions Inventory, [Microsoft Word - crd_ghg_member_summary_fnl_rpt_20211029_1](#)

⁷³ Capital Regional District 2020 GPC BASIC+ Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory Report [rpt \(crd.bc.ca\)](#)

⁷⁴ Capital Region CO₂e Emissions Per Capita, Appendix C, https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/crd-document-library/committeedocuments/capitalregionaldistrictboard/20220209/2022-02-09agendapkgrb.pdf?sfvrsn=70571bcd_4

In 2018 the main sources of emissions in Sooke were on-road transportation (51.7%) and residential buildings (18.3%). Other sources of emissions include (pie chart):

- Industrial processes and product use (8.0%)
- Commercial and Institutional Buildings (5.9%)
- Other stationary energy (5.1%)
- Waste (3.9%)
- Other off-road transportation (3.4%)
- Waterbourne navigation and Aviation (3.4%)
- Livestock and Aggregate sources (0.2%)

In 2020 the main sources of emissions in Sooke continue to be on-road transportation (46.4%), and residential buildings (23.6%). Other sources of emissions are (pie chart):

- Industrial processes and product use (8.2%)
- Commercial and Institutional Buildings (6.8%)
- Other stationary energy (5.4%)
- Waste (3.8%)
- Other off-road transportation (3.3%)
- Waterbourne navigation and Aviation (2.2%)
- Livestock and Aggregate sources (0.3%)

In 2020, municipal operations generated 118 tCO₂e from services directly delivered and an additional 27 tCO₂e from contract services. These emissions resulted primarily from fuel use in the municipal fleet (56.8%), water and sewage (20.3%), solid waste (8.5%), streetlights (7.6%), and buildings (6.8%) (pie chart). The District of Sooke has adopted the target of a 50% reduction from 2020 levels by 2030 for municipal operations emissions.

In 2021 municipal operations generated 121 tCO₂e from Services Directly Delivered, with an additional 38tCO₂e for contracted services. Including emissions from contracted services is required by LGCAP reporting.

For a complete detailed report of community emissions and associated scope of activity, refer to the CRD Regional Emissions Inventory for 2020⁷⁵.

The District of Sooke is one of 400+ Canadian local governments registered with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program. The PCP uses a reporting protocol specific to the program but is compatible with the GPC Protocol. At the time of writing Sooke2030, the District had successfully completed Milestone 1 and 2 of the five-step PCP Milestone Program. Upon submission of this strategy, Sooke will complete Milestone 3 and begin Milestone 4: Implementation.

⁷⁵ Capital Regional District 2020 GPC BASIC+ Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory Report https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/climate-action-pdf/reports/2020-crd-ghg-inventorystudy.pdf?sfvrsn=5b16ebcd_2

As the region grows, Sooke will continue to see increasing demand as a place to live, work, visit and play, and accordingly must adjust to meet this demand while minimizing its impact on the environment and considering future climate. Sooke is the second-fastest growing community in the Capital Region District (CRD) in terms of population, growing by 16% between 2016-2021. The CRD Regional Growth Strategy includes a population projection of 24,700 for Sooke by 2038⁷⁶ (Line chart showing population growth patterns and projections). Based on an estimated annual growth rate of 2.9%, the District's Official Community Plan utilizes Colliers International calculations in targeting a Sooke population of 25,792 by 2050.

The Sooke2030: Climate Action Plan identifies how the District of Sooke will manage growth in a manner that supports the community's vision and priorities, while minimizing GHG emissions and increasing low carbon resilience.

Emissions from longer-range commutes and existing buildings were identified as areas of opportunity for de-carbonization in the 7% Solution, adopted by Council on July 26, 2021⁷⁷. The overwhelming majority of emissions in our community and from municipal operations in Sooke result from transportation. This trend is not surprising, given the presence and resulting car-centric culture of Highway 14 bisecting our community. As evidenced in the Housing Needs Report (2019), over 71% of working age adults in Sooke commute outside of the community for work. Furthermore, car use is by far the most common choice of transportation for trips within our community, and active transportation within Sooke is not yet common aside for recreational purposes (insert illustrative graph detailing types of transport modes used by residents). The Parks and Trails Master Plan⁷⁸ outlines a multitude of planned projects to improve upon existing trail and multi-use path networks, connecting all corners of Sooke in a way that provides residents and visitors the option to travel without the use of a car.

The second largest chunk of Sooke's emissions results from buildings. Emissions from residential buildings result primarily from electricity, heating, and cooling. Our community therefore has a large opportunity to fuel-switch from oil and gas to electric heating, retrofitting existing buildings to improve building envelopes, and ensuring new buildings meet or exceed higher levels in the BC Energy Step Code. Preventing additional gas connections for both new residential and commercial buildings by 2024 will help Sooke avoid additional emissions from use of gas as heating and cooking energy and the resulting leakages that occur from gas infrastructure. Prioritizing our actions to collectively reduce emissions from transportation and buildings over the next five years will help Sooke achieve our emissions reduction targets.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a comprehensive and strategic approach to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, prepare and adapt to the impacts of climate change, and ensure the long-

⁷⁶ CRD Regional Growth Strategy, https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/crd-document-library/bylaws/regionalgrowthstrategy/4017--capital-regional-district-regional-growth-strategy-bylaw-no-1-2016.pdf?sfvrsn=ecb611ca_4

⁷⁷ District of Sooke Regular Council Minutes, Jul 26, 2021, [Regular Council - 26 Jul 2021 - Minutes - Pdf \(civicweb.net\)](#) pg. 6/7 of 14

⁷⁸ District of Sooke Parks and Trails Master Plan, https://sooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/FINAL-Sooke-PTMP_screen.pdf, 2020

term liveability and vitality of Sooke. The actions outlined within provide a road map for the District of Sooke and participating stakeholders to reach our goal: that of a small net-zero town with a big heart.

It is essential that we reduce our emissions globally to mitigate the exponential impacts of climate change. The challenge with achieving these goals with a growing population remains. Yet by prioritizing and funding applied action plans such as the one outline in this strategy, we can decarbonize our way of life in this community, ensuring that whoever chooses to live here can contribute to Sooke2030.

Appendix C: Risks and Vulnerabilities

The impacts of climate change on Sooke are being felt in ways that are unique to our terrain, location, and regional connectivity. Hotter and drier summers are accompanied by wetter, more intense winters. Some impacts of climate change may have positive attributes however the negative risks will result in increased costs to adapt our community and way of life if not proactively anticipated. As listed in the provincial Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy⁷⁹ the main impacts of climate change that currently are and will be felt by our province are:

1. Increased wildfire
2. Longer growing season
3. Drought
4. Heat stress
5. Water scarcity
6. Decline of traditional foods
7. Coastal flooding
8. Storm surges
9. Evacuation, relocation
10. Loss of marine species
11. Impacts on fishing, coastal communities
12. Flood risk
13. Extreme storm events
14. Infrastructure damage
15. Shifting ecosystems
16. Significant impacts to cultural sites.

In 2021, British Columbia experienced one of the driest and most active wildfire seasons on record. The changing climate, higher temperatures and drought conditions are all leading causes of aggressive fire behaviour and longer wildfire seasons. Communities in this province are experiencing a serious and sustained increase in extreme wildfire behaviour in what we call the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zone. The WUI zone is the transition between infrastructure and the natural environment. Sooke is within the Wildland Urban Interface zone meaning our community is at a greater risk of a devastating wildfire.

The wildfire risk on the coast is on the rise as we are experiencing long standing drought-stricken systems in our coastal areas. Our coastal regions have been known to deploy additional fire-fighting

⁷⁹ BC Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy, [cpas_2021.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/soc/comm/commdev/commdev/2021/cpas_2021.pdf)

teams and resources to the rest of BC during wildfire season. Emergency response organizations expect this will change and there will be an even greater reliance on out-of-province resources.

In addition to wildfire, Sooke is at considerable risk of experiencing increasing frequency and intensity of heat waves, droughts, seasonal water scarcity, flooding, and intense rainfall. As a coastal community, sea level rise, ocean warming and associated storm surges are also of significant risk, particularly as our waterfront areas are highly populated.

Sooke's Climate Action Plan is a commitment not only to reduce our GHG emissions but also to prepare and adapt to present and future impacts of climate change. The LCR framework this plan is built on does not separate mitigation from adaptation, instead recognizing that the two are interconnected. Throughout this document actions that increase our community resilience and provide co-benefits that improve the long-term liveability of Sooke have been listed alongside actions that reduce GHG emissions. Throughout this document are actions that increase community resilience while providing co-benefits which improve Sooke's long-term liveability. Adaptation actions which may result in GHG emission reduction are also to be pursued.

Adaptation Priorities

Fire Security

Risks and Vulnerabilities

The District of Sooke has identified several vulnerabilities related to fire: a severe wildfire season and/or loss of forest resources. Fires starting suddenly which lead to evacuations and widespread smoke is the most immediate risk in Sooke. High volumes of woody debris can result in more intense wildfires than otherwise would be seen. In the windy conditions that are common in the region, wildfires can escalate rapidly and overwhelm emergency services. Through use of active fire management and FireSafe principles, Sooke can reduce the risk of intense wildfires in our community.

Achievements to Date

The District of Sooke's Emergency Program and Sooke Fire Rescue are key to planning and adapting to climate change. The **Emergency Management Program** trains municipal staff and Sooke volunteers to provide emergency management in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. **Sooke Fire Rescue** provides firefighting and suppression, rescue, pre-fire planning, response to hazardous materials spills, fire investigation, public education, and training. FireSmart programs to date are under the requirements of the grant received, additional programs could be considered with additional funding and resources.

- The Fire Chief and many career staff have received Local FireSmart Representative training. With our FireSmart Coordinator taking the lead, career staff can support the cause of FireSmart and assist when necessary. Sooke Fire Rescue has secured another grant to continue the FireSmart Coordinator's position for 2022/23.
- In April 2021, the District provided information to citizens about a local emergency notification app: [Alertable](#). The free app gives Sooke-specific emergency-related notifications by phone, text, or email.

- Emergency Support Services (ESS) volunteers receive training and hold meetings the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm (except for July, August, and December). Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings. For more information, email essd@sooke.ca
- Emergency Preparedness presentations are available for free to Sooke community groups, families, businesses, stratas, schools, etc. Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP⁸⁰) presentations are available to groups of at least six neighbours who are interested in planning, preparing for, and sharing resources during emergencies.
- Improvements to the Backyard Burning Regulation in 2021 have reduced emissions and particulate matter from backyard burning⁸¹. These improvements have narrowed the allowable time window for backyard burning by two months (November to April), and burning is only allowable when the venting index is good.
- Purchase of one hybrid truck for multi-purpose use.
- Ongoing purchase of electric tools such as chainsaws, fans, etc. when tool replacements are needed.

Plans in Progress

- Updating Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment in 2022 to identify four hazards in Sooke through Emergency Management British Columbia⁸².
- Ongoing participation in Regional Emergency Management Partnership (REMP)⁸³ and Local Government Emergency Planning Committee (LGEPC).
- New and updated *Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan*.
- Updated Interface Development Permit areas.
- A review of severe weather protocols for vulnerable people and locations.
- Ongoing development and implementation of the Master Fire Plan⁸⁴.
- Review of evacuation route plan to include experience impacts of 2021 flooding events.

Ongoing Actions

- GIS analysis and site visits by the FireSmart Coordinator to reduce the risk of wildfire hazards on private property.
- FireSmart introductory sessions with targeted audiences in the District of Sooke.
- Distribution of FireSmart principles and practices documents at community events⁸⁵.
- Release of new Tsunami inundation zone modelling mapping zone for the community.

Priority Strategies

- Increase public awareness and engagement regarding FireSmart, air quality, emergency preparedness, etc.
- Development of an annual emergency program, goals, events, resources, communications, etc.

⁸⁰ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/embc/preparedbc/preparedbc-guides/preparedbc_neighbourhood_guide.pdf

⁸¹ <https://sooke.ca/district-services/departments/firerescue-services/burning-regulations-2/>

⁸² <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management>

⁸³ <https://www.crd.bc.ca/service/fire-and-emergency-programs/emergency-management/regional-emergency-management-partnership>

⁸⁴ [Fire Master Plan Presentation \(civicweb.net\)](#)

⁸⁵ <https://firesmartbc.ca/resource-types/guides-manuals/>

- In high-risk areas, create buffer area between buildings and forest by education about home ignition zones.
- Require building design and retrofit measures to reduce impact of forest fires, including wildland sprinkler systems.
- Update Interface Hazard Development Permit Area
- Retrofit community facilities to increase cooling and air filtration capabilities.
- Work with Island Health to help vulnerable populations to develop adaptation strategies.
- Consider woodstove replacement program and woodburning bylaw to reduce particulate matter on poor venting index days⁸⁶.

Resources and Links

- [Prepare Yourself](#): The Guide for Emergency Preparedness in the Capital Region
- [Emergency Management BC \(EMBC\)](#): Emergency Preparedness, Response & Recovery in BC
- [PreparedBC](#): British Columbia's one-stop shop for disaster readiness information – prepare and download helpful guides
- Get [FireSmart](#) (your home and property) and gather valuable preparedness resources for individuals, families, pets, and businesses.

Adaptation Priority: Extreme Weather

Risks and Vulnerabilities

The District of Sooke has identified heat waves as an immediate risk, with the vulnerability of a rise in sickness and possibility of death from sun stroke and dehydration. The 2021 heat dome event triggered the mass die-off of an estimated one billion sea creatures across the Salish Sea⁸⁷.

In times of extreme rain, the vulnerabilities are flooding and landslides, which pose a threat of damage to homes and buildings. With overwhelming impacts, there is the possibility of loss of emergency control and system breakdown.

In times of extreme wind, falling trees can strike buildings and powerlines. This disrupts power service, road access and public safety.

Action Ideas for Extreme Heat

- There is an urgent need to establish cool zones in public places⁸⁸. To date, there is only one public space that is air conditioned and that is SEAPARC. At least one other public space should be air conditioned, the Community Hall.
- Require residential building design and retrofit measures to reduce impacts of heat waves, including heat pump installation.
- Require new construction to have a green, solar, or white roof. Each of these options serve to reduce the “heat island” effect.

⁸⁶ <https://betterhomesbc.ca/rebates/wood-stove-exchange-programs/>

⁸⁷ Heat dome primed B.C. coastlines to resemble subtropical East Asia, says researcher, Stefan Labbé, Times Colonist, April 29, 2022, <https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/heat-dome-primed-bc-coastlines-to-resemble-subtropical-east-asia-says-researcher-5316143>

⁸⁸ <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/find-a-cooling-centre-near-you/>

- Prioritize maintenance of existing tree canopy to protect buildings from direct exposure to the sun.
- Develop a phone tree to provide regular check-ins with vulnerable populations during heat events.

Action Ideas for Extreme Rain

- Develop strategies to preserve and enhance permeability and stormwater management.
- Advocate for the incorporation of climate adaptation considerations into the BC Building Code
- Consider a rainwater collection system requirement in new developments
- Include climate change considerations in the corporate asset management system, including necessary retrofits.
- Update engineering design specifications to account for future climate projections.
- Ensure that emergency services are well planned and fully supported with community engagement, especially through the extension of neighbourhood pod leadership.
- Take action to preserve bogs. Bogs slow movement, store volume, and filter water.
- Follow principles of biomimicry when designing drainage. Ditches are better than pipes and can filter, slow and store water.
- Require rainwater collection and storage for all new development.

Action Ideas for Extreme Wind

- The District is considering monitoring risk areas and strategies for damage control.

Adaptation Priority: Ocean Changes

Risks and Vulnerabilities

The District of Sooke has identified the risk of coastal storm surge and longer-term sea-level rise as risks for Sooke. In particular, the Whiffen Spit and Kaltasin areas are vulnerable to storm surges and sea level rise⁸⁹.

Action Ideas

- Increase sea-level rise knowledge and adaptation capacity in the community.
- The District will examine the challenges and identify ways to protect the harbour area.
- Develop a plan to open Long Spit (Whiffen Spit) on a regular occurrence to allow natural cleaning and renewal of the harbour and basin.

Adaptation Priority: Food Security

Persistent and Emerging Issues

Agriculture and food systems are integral to individuals and collectively as a community. Food choices have a significant impact on the environment and on climate change. The latest IPCC report estimates that 21–37% of total global GHG emissions come from the food system (Mbow, 2019). This includes GHG emissions from land-clearing and agriculture production, as well as the storage, transport, processing, waste, retail, and consumption of food. Becoming food self-sufficient not only lowers GHG

⁸⁹ <https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/data/climate-change/coastal-flood-inundation-mapping-project>

emissions but also allows Sooke to become a more united and resilient community under climate change pressures.

Achievements to Date and Plans in Process

Provincial:

Funded by the UBCM Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program grant, the Sooke Region Communities Health Network's report [Putting Healthy Food on Our Tables, Sooke Region Food Security Report](#) was released in May 2021. It provides actionable items at the local level to reduce poverty, promote community inclusion and make Sooke a food secure community.

Furthermore, the BC Ministry of Agriculture invested \$1 million in a Food Security Distribution Centre Warehouse in Esquimalt which includes two commercial kitchens with the necessary infrastructure and systems to sell to institutional organizations (grocery stores) to strengthen food security on the Island⁹⁰. Local food producers in Sooke have access to this warehouse facility. The Ministry defines its "Food Hubs" as "shared-use food and beverage processing facilities that offer food and agriculture businesses access to commercial processing space, equipment, expertise, and resources to support business development and growth."⁹¹

Regional:

[CRFAIR](#) is an organization that promotes healthy and sustainable food systems in the Capital Region of Vancouver Island. In 2020 it launched the [South Island Farm Hub](#), a project of the Victoria Community Food Hubs Society that was created as a reaction to the disruption of global supply chains during the pandemic to increase our local food capacity and infrastructure. Sooke is part of this Farm Hub network and in 2020 ALM Organic Farm in Sooke sold around 1,800 lbs of food to the Sooke Food Bank and EMCS Culinary Program. The Farm Bucks program subsidized the cost to the community members by 50% while offering a wholesale option for farmers without effecting their price margins.

Local:

[The Sooke Country Market](#) is part of the BC Association of Farmers' Markets and partakes in the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program⁹². The Sooke Family Resource Society administers the coupons for low-income families in Sooke. The [Sooke Night Market](#) is held in the grounds of the Sooke Region Museum weekly during the summer months. Local farms have their own programs and events with their privately owned agricultural and food processing infrastructure. Some of the local farms in the Sooke region are:

- [ALM Farms](#)
- [Barefoot Farm](#)
- [Bountiful Bay Farm & Nursery](#)
- [Brass Bell Farm](#)
- [Cast Iron Farm](#)
- [Croaking Frog Farm](#)

⁹⁰ Food Security Distribution Centre Warehouse, Victoria Community Food Hub, <https://www.victoriacommunityfoodhub.com>

⁹¹ BC Food Hub Network, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/growbc-feedbc-buybc/feed-bc-and-the-bc-food-hub-network/bc-food-hub-network>

⁹² BC Farmers Market Coupon Program, <https://bcfarmersmarket.org/coupon-program/how-it-works/>

- Cross Point Farm
- Finny's Farm
- [French Beach Farmer](#)
- [From the Ground Up Farmstead](#)
- [Full Circle Seeds](#)
- [Inish Oge Farm](#)
- [Ladybug Garden and Greenhouse](#)
- [Livin' the Dream Farm](#)
- [Metchosin Farm](#)
- [Mrs. Lewers Farmhouse](#)
- [Red Earth Farm](#)
- [Silver Cloud Farm](#)
- [The Greener Side Farm](#)
- Three Sisters Farm
- [Woodside Farm](#)

[Sooke Region Food CHI](#) hosts such annual events as Sooke Seedy Saturday, Apple Fest, and the fruit tree glean program. It has also partnered with the [Food Eco District](#) to launch the Sooke Backyard Food Program that helps vulnerable families in Sooke grow their own food through the donation of gardening supplies and by connecting new gardeners to the Sooke Garden Club⁹³.

The [Sunriver Community Garden Association](#) (SCGA) manages <https://www.sookefoodchi.ca/> a 2.5-acre site with allotment gardens and a community orchard. SCGA has a [Growing for Sooke](#) project that donates approx. 1500 lbs of organic produce to the Sooke Food Bank and Sooke Meals on Wheels on a yearly basis. Grace Gardens at the [Sooke Baptist Church](#) also grows substantial quantities of fresh fruit and vegetables for the food bank.

[Sooke Food Bank Society](#) provides one hamper per month to those in need and [Meals on Wheels](#) provides meals to Seniors who are unable to provide meals for themselves.

[Edward Milne Community School](#) (EMCS) has a [Culinary Arts program](#) and their own school garden where they teach students farm to table principles using local ingredients whenever possible. The community school has received grants from the Farm to School BC Network and Farm to Cafeteria Canada aimed to increase the food literacy of students. Launched in September 2021, the EMCS [Eco Academy](#) program has a strong focus on food systems, as well as a summer small garden learning work experience program. The EMCS Society employs a [Garden Coordinator](#) dedicated to establishing student-run food garden micro-sites at schools throughout Sooke School District #62.

The key objective of the [Sooke Region Farmland Trust Society](#) is to save local farmland from development and, most importantly, return it to productive use by seeding the possibilities for a new generation of farmers.

There is an established tradition in Sooke of local restaurants purchasing ingredients from local farmers.

⁹³ <https://www.sookegardenclub.ca>

Priority Strategy

Increase 20% food self-sufficiency by 2030 and 50% by 2050 by creating favourable conditions for food production using regenerative practices that help reduce GHG and remove CO₂ from the atmosphere, while giving people access to healthy and nutritious food.

Guiding principles

1. **Food self-sufficiency with local resilient agricultural and food systems** that can manage climate volatility and interruptions in the global production of food.
2. **Low Carbon Local and Regional Food System**
 - uses less fossil fuel and releases less methane and nitrous oxide than the current global food system.
 - Carbon sinks that remove CO₂ from the atmosphere and stores it in the soil, including community composting to reduce food waste, agroforestry, and new practices such as biochar.
 - daily food choices, shifting dietary habits towards local and regional food purchased in season, including animal protein.
3. **Legacy** – increase resilience through crop and seed selection, soil health, biodiverse crops, appropriate infrastructure for processing and storage of food and seeds and back-up power supply (where feasible renewable energy).
4. **Food Accessibility** – all people and groups should have healthy, affordable food within walkable distance; this is the general meaning of food security; but we are also talking about food security as community self-sufficiency in uncertain times. Local regenerative agriculture, community gardens, home gardens and sustainable wild food harvesting should be an integral part of a future low-carbon local food system.

Recommended Actions

1. Calculate a percentage **baseline of food production** in the Sooke region to measure how much local food production is increasing on a yearly basis:
 - Number of home gardens (via community survey and Sooke Garden Club)
 - Number of community gardens
 - Number of farm gate sale locations
 - Farmer's markets – either pounds of food sold, or area of land cultivated.
 - Grocery stores – how much regional buying is occurring?
2. Implement the Agriculture and Food Security Plans as recommended in the following documents and in the District of Sooke Official Community Plan:
 - [Putting Healthy Food on Our Tables, Sooke Region Food Security Report](#)
 - [Community Roots an Agricultural Plan for Sooke](#)
 - [District of Sooke Official Community Plan](#) Section 4.6 pg. 97-103

3. Create a **Sooke Region Food Policy Council**⁹⁴ with the involvement of both the District of Sooke and the CRD that feeds into the District's work plan as well as its Committees, including OCP, Economic Development and Land Use.

Funding Opportunities

- IAF's [New Local Government Partnership Program \(LGPP\)](#) provides funding to help regional districts and municipalities develop, update, and implement agricultural planning tools. The program will provide up to \$40,000 per recipient in non-repayable, cost-shared funding. These funds should be used to implement the recommendations in the Agriculture and Food Security Plans mentioned earlier.

Appendix D: Climate Justice in Sooke

Climate change has been called the “greatest threat to human health of the 21st century”⁹⁵. Heatwaves, wildfires, sea-level rise, and changes in food production, amongst other effects, will significantly impact human health and wellness from respiratory disease to heat-related death to the mental health impacts of displacement and loss.

These impacts have been and will continue to be felt unequally across populations. In BC and elsewhere in the world, health impacts from climate change will put groups of people already socially disadvantaged and overburdened at a further disadvantage concerning their health⁹⁶. Further, people disproportionately impacted by climate change may have identities (e.g., socio-class and gender) that interact on multiple levels contributing to exclusion, inequity, injustice, and compounded climate impacts.

Empowering those historically excluded from the policy process is central to climate change decision-making⁹⁷. While Indigenous peoples have been mentioned repeatedly in climate policy in Canada, they are excluded from decision-making tables where plans were made, for example the Federal Climate Policy documents: the Pan-Canadian Framework for Climate Change and A Healthy Environment, A Healthy Economy.

According to Indigenous Climate Action (2021) promises made but not yet actualized within Canadian policy development, including climate policy⁹⁸:

⁹⁴ One among other BC examples is the Comox Valley Food Council <https://lushvalley.org/cvfpc/about/>

⁹⁵ Climate Change is the 21st Century's Greatest Threat to Human Health, Melissa Lem and Alan Ruddiman, 2019, <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2019/08/19/opinion/climate-change-21st-centurys-greatest-threat-human-health>

⁹⁶ Nurse and Nurse Practitioners of BC, 2019; United Nations

⁹⁷ The British Columbia Council for International Cooperation guidebook Climate Justice Toolkit for Municipalities (2021) <https://www.bccic.ca/climate-justice-policy-toolkit-for-municipalities/>

⁹⁸ Dr. Jen Gobby, Rebecca Sinclair, and Rachel Ivey, [New ICA Report: Critique of Federal Climate Policy Plans — Indigenous Climate Action](#), Indigenous Climate Action, 2021

- Indigenous self-determination and “free, informed, and prior consent” as defined by the United Nations
- Calls to Action emanating from the Truth & Reconciliation Commission⁹⁹, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples¹⁰⁰, and the report of Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women and Girls¹⁰¹; each of these documents state intentions to work in real partnership with Indigenous communities
- Commitments to build Nation to Nation relationships

Throughout this strategy, action items that highlight the need to support and celebrate the Nation-led stewardship and conservation of the T’Sou-ke and Scia’new First Nations have been included. The District of Sooke is grateful to currently maintain a good relationship with the T’Sou-ke Nation through an ongoing Memorandum of Understanding that involves regular meetings of the two local governments to coordinate and discuss cooperative work.

Climate justice includes distribution or distributive justice, i.e., the fair and equitable distribution of resources, benefits, and burdens (VERiS, 2020). It provides recognition of systemic racism, histories of present-day settler colonialism, and privilege in the context of community, policy, and planning; and it goes beyond tokenism to fuller participation with equity-seeking groups. A just and equitable community is an essential value for people in Sooke, shared through community feedback and prioritized in the draft OCP.

To be an equitable community, we need to address significant social challenges and inequities, some of which are listed here:

- Historical and ongoing impacts of colonization in Sooke
- An ageing population
- Inadequate jobs with a liveable wage for people who live in Sooke resulting in a 70% commuter rate (Urbanics, 2019)
- Affordability as an issue for most people; although Sooke is a middle-class community, there is a growing wealth gap across the province (BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, 2016)
- A substantial lack of housing options, very tight rental market, and increasing housing insecurity
- Food insecurity
- Mental health: Sooke has higher rates of depression than other communities in BC (Provincial Health Services Authority, 2019)

To address climate change effectively, policies and solutions need to centre the voices, needs and leadership of the people most impacted in the District of Sooke. Social challenges and inequities need to be addressed if policy is to be just and effective. Without a social justice and equity perspective, climate policies risk exacerbating existing inequities. For example, the **Climate Justice Project**¹⁰² notes that high-income families are responsible for a disproportionate share of emissions. But low-income families cannot afford electric cars or heat pumps even with proposed rebates. Low-income individuals and

⁹⁹ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls_to_action_english2.pdf

¹⁰⁰ <https://data2.archives.ca/e/e448/e011188230-01.pdf>

¹⁰¹ <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca>

¹⁰² Climate Justice Project, <https://policyalternatives.ca/projects/climate-justice-project>

families may be adversely affected by a carbon tax, higher electricity bills, and other pricing measures. These dynamics occur on the local stage as well as the global.

Throughout the Sooke2030 Climate Action Plan, key action items encouraging climate justice and embedding intersectionality into each focus area have been included and the Intersectionality-Based Policy Analysis (IBPA) Framework¹⁰³ was used to apply an intersectional lens. The intersectional approach attends to many forms of power relations, including race, gender, and class. The IBPA Framework pays close attention to the complex contexts and root causes of the social problems that the given policies aim to address.

During the implementation of the Climate Action Plan, the following questions must be asked of each action:

- How have communities of colour and low-income populations in Sooke been under-served by programs and investments and under-represented in decision-making on climate policy?
- How are our strategies to reduce carbon emissions also helping to remedy disparities in social and health equity?
- Whose voices and perspectives are represented in Sooke's climate policy?
- Whose voices and perspectives are missing?
- Who is benefiting from climate action, and who is not?
- Does Sooke's climate policy reinforce settler colonial structures and relations?
- Does the climate policy ignore and erase Indigenous perspectives, knowledges, and approaches?
- How does Sooke's climate policy uphold commitments to reconciliation, Nation-to-Nation relations, and UNDRIP?
- How can implementation of local climate change programs and measures be more effectively tracked to measure equity outcomes, based on available data?
- How can local climate change programs and investments be more effectively targeted to disadvantaged communities?
- How would new jobs or economic opportunities related to local implementation be equitably distributed, and could the outcomes be measured?

Furthermore, a key action item identified as essential to the development and implementation of this strategy is the formation of a **Climate Justice Advisory Group**. This group includes members of marginalized groups within our community and sought input on the proposed actions within the strategy to ensure that a diverse and inclusive analysis was done of each action. Recognition of the necessary conditions needed to participate require that this engagement be ongoing and iterative, reducing the burden of participation on members of the advisory group and ensuring that this working document and the implementation framework proposed is held accountable throughout the longevity of the plan. *(The formation of a Climate Justice Advisory Group is included as an action item in the "How We Relate" section of this document.)*

¹⁰³ Intersectionality-Based Policy Analysis Framework, <http://summit.sfu.ca/item/14765>

Appendix E: Sooke Climate Engagement Strategy

Purpose

The purpose of the **Climate Engagement Strategy** is to offer a transformative community-based education program plan as well as communications principles and goals that are in support of the Sooke Climate Action Plan and the Sooke2030 goals. The plan is comprised of two distinct elements: education and communication.

Overarching Goal

The overarching goal of this engagement strategy is to foster a **cultural shift** toward ways of moving, ways of building, ways of growing, ways of leading, and ways of relating that assist us in creating a net-zero coastal town while also fostering local prosperity and wellbeing. Such a cultural shift is the long-term vision for creating a society that is not only net-zero in carbon emissions but is predicated on harmonizing human systems within natural systems.

Shifting the Model of Community Engagement

This strategy proposes a change in the dominant model of community engagement. First, current models of education and communication focus on information deficit models, where it is expected that new knowledge will change individual behaviour. Rather, this engagement model will work on a **capacity-building** model that builds on existing understandings, capacities, and achievements.

Second, current communication models are often outdated and do not build on solid research. Rather, this engagement model builds on **evidence-based** research, particularly that communication (and education) must be responsive to people's values, beliefs, and worldviews.

Third, much of current climate education is catastrophe education—education that utilizes fear to incite change. The typical goal is individual behaviour change. Rather, we are proposing a model of climate education that, while building on conventional climate science, focusses on **new ways of thinking** as well as ways of doing things to address climate change while building resilience to oncoming impacts. As much as possible, it is working with groups of learners to facilitate collective change at a systems level.

Core Principles of Engagement

1. **Relationality:** The dominant way of seeing the world is mechanistic, in that we consider the Earth to be dead or passive matter and the universe as objects moving in machine-like precision. In this view, humans interact with the world to “improve” and manage it for human interests. Relationality builds from quantum physics and living systems biology to see the world as living at all levels in an intricate web of energy and information connections. This New Science now tells us that humans are made entirely of relationship, embedded in a matrix of relations. Such an understanding is profoundly transformative.
2. **Contextuality:** The dominant way of programming is often a universal one-size fits-all approach. A contextual approach is responsive to community history and character and the interests and

concerns of different learning groups. It is also place-based education in learning *about, in, and for* the Sooke ecosystem in which the learning takes place, as a form of ecoliteracy.

3. **Respectful Relations and Wellbeing:** Long standing and still current social norms privilege power and aggression over collective wellbeing and respectful relations. The educational and communications process should exemplify respectful relations and foster alternative ideas about wellbeing that is not monetary, status, or power oriented. Engaging learners in service-based learning helps exemplify respectful relations.
4. **Systems Thinking:** Much of current thinking is linear or cause-effect and reduces thinking to individual components, whether a social system, ecosystem, or human body. Systems-thinking is seeing a system's wholeness and integrity as well as the component parts, their coherent structure and purpose, how they relate at different levels, feedback loops and how systems change. In human systems, it is understanding one's own assumptions, the different perspectives of others, and roles for each. This is based on living systems science.
5. **Learner-Centered Process:** Educators are typically considered those who deliver content. This engagement strategy is built upon active learning where the learning is based on learner needs and interests, the learning is participatory not content delivery, and it is collaborative among small groups of learners and facilitators where their inquiries, experiences, and learning discoveries shape the process.

Differentiating Communication and Education

Climate communication is a shared process of “educating, informing, warning, persuading, mobilizing and solving” the problem of climate change¹⁰⁴ Communication is contextual and relational, meaning it happens between people, organizations and institutions, and the world around them.

Climate education is defined here as an in-depth, face-to-face (when public health guidelines permit) transformative engagement with a learning group, with the aim of identifying root causes of climate change as well as envisioning a just human living system that better harmonizes with natural systems. The structure of the learning anticipates the world in which we wish to live. What makes learning transformative is addressing existing assumptions, values, beliefs, and worldviews with the goal of catalyzing new meanings and cultural norms.

Sooke2030 Climate Education Program
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Purpose

To help reach the goals of the Sooke2030 Climate Action Plan, a Climate Education Program would entail a transformative learning process that helps us rethink our current assumptions, identify the thinking

¹⁰⁴ Yale Program on Climate Communication, np. <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu>

and habits that are life-depleting and those that are life-giving, and determine priority actions for enhancing our quality of life while reducing emissions. In such a creative process, we create the world we want to live in, in better balance with the planet. It empowers us to make the changes we need to future-proof Sooke.

Education Goals

The following goals blend both the content and process of learning.

1. Through transformative learning, to move from a mechanistic way of seeing the world to a **relational way of seeing the world**.
2. Through **storytelling and experiential engagement with the living world**, experience, and practice respectful relations with the web of life here in Sooke, appreciating human and nonhuman differences and learning from many beings.
3. To illustrate a **systems way of thinking** to resolve local issues and design regenerative practices for innovative solutions.
4. To offer **green business education and training opportunities** that can supply some of the innovative entrepreneurs needed in Sooke.
5. To engage and **nourish dense webs of human connection** in Sooke through learning that fosters social justice, reconciliation, community creativity, and co-evolves a caring, healthy community that is a model for net-zero living.
6. To **develop futures literacy**, particularly adaptive capacities, within the District of Sooke. Learning develops the capacity to improve how individuals and communities understand the role of the future in their vision and actions. As UNESCO (2022) indicates, “being futures literate empowers the imagination, enhances our ability to prepare, recover and invent as changes occur.”¹⁰⁵

Top Priority Education Actions

1. Establish a **Climate Education Working Group** that collaborates with the *Climate Change Coordinator* and the municipality in overseeing program planning and monitoring education/communication progress toward a net-zero carbon Sooke.
2. Investigate and acquire **funding** for initial climate education program design for professional development learning as well as neighbourhood education.
3. The Climate Education Working Group carries out a **needs assessment** in term of the learning interests and needs of local groups, and establishes indices for impact, perhaps through the wellbeing index.
4. The Climate Education Working Group designs and pilots a flexible **professional development workshop series** which can inspire transformative leadership among a range of learner groups (from the municipality and Council to schoolteachers to business owners to the service sector)

¹⁰⁵ Future Literacy, UNESCO, <https://en.unesco.org/futuresliteracy>

and build their capacity for relational and systems thinking, ecoliteracy, futures literacy, as well as addressing carbon emissions in their line of work. Once piloted and revised, an RFP would be issued for a community collaborator to host these workshops on a regular basis or offer a train the trainer session to generate a pool of facilitators to offer these workshops in association with the Society.

5. The Climate Education Group partners with Emergency Support Services to generating more **self-organizing neighbourhood pods** throughout Sooke for learning and action related to FireSmart and related climate risk education¹⁰⁶. Through kitchen table learning groups, these pods learn reliable information regarding wildfire and other climate risks then **develop personal and neighbourhood safety and resilience plans**. Processes and materials would address climate risks for that neighbourhood as well as for individual households, purchase of needed safety materials, and development of emergency plans.

Other Recommended Education Actions:

6. Carry out a **needs assessment for green skilled labour** in Sooke, from heat pump assessments to retrofitting and deconstruction. The Climate Education Society partners and collaborates with CED committee, WorkLink, and local colleges to offer the most relevant training.
7. Collaborate with CED committee to offer a regular **green business information/incubator conference** that attracts green skilled young people to Sooke.
8. Develop one-off workshops and powerful activities for **monthly intergenerational learning opportunities**, such as Deep Time Walks¹⁰⁷, forest interpretation, seasonal ceremonies, ocean health interpretation and research, watershed interpretation, as well as opportunities for citizen science in protection of the local living world. Partner with First Nation leaders, Sooke Lifelong Learning, Edward Milne Community Society, Wild Wise Sooke, The Charters River Salmon Interpretive Centre¹⁰⁸ and other local organizations interested in and capable of doing relevant ecoliteracy and cultural transformation work for these educational offerings. Contact local facilitators to offer workshops on **old skills**, from foraging and food preservation to darning and sewing, as well as **new skills** for reducing food waste, conserving fresh water, permaculture, and regenerative agriculture; partner with Sooke Region Lifelong Learning, Sooke Region Food CHI, Sooke Region Community Health Network, community gardens, and local food producers.
9. Design a series of **K-12 school presentations and field trips** that support teachers in offering positive and activating climate messages to children and youth. Where possible, ensure offerings relate to curricular goals as well as foster ecological literacy, wonder, and deep connectedness to the natural world while building a sense of responsibility and futures literacy.

¹⁰⁶ District of Sooke Emergency Support Services, <https://sooke.ca/district-services/departments/protective-services/emergency-support-services/>

¹⁰⁷ Deep Time Walks <https://www.deeptimewalk.org>

¹⁰⁸ The Charters River Salmon Interpretive Centre <https://salmonforsooke.ca/charters-river-salmon-interpretive-centre/>

10. Design a fun and motivational **summer family workshop series** available for community members as well as for visitors as part of “edutourism.” This workshop would aim to assist families in developing personal/family climate plans in line with Sooke goals, while increasing quality of life. They would track and assess existing activities and habits both at work and home in relation to carbon emissions, learn about low/no carbon alternatives, and develop a plan while building capacity in climate communication, skills, values, and funding access for household changes. Establish mechanisms for monitoring progress.

Appendix F: What We Heard – Edward Milne Community School Youth Engagement

During the development process of the Sooke2030 Climate Action Plan students from the leadership class at Edward Milne Community School participated in an engagement session to discuss youth perspectives on the five “How We Rethink” sections of the document. EMCS staff, District staff and a Climate Action Committee volunteer provided a brief overview of the draft plan to the students, and asked participants to discuss ideas, concerns, and questions they had on the following questions:

1. What are you most concerned about locally relating to climate change?
2. What are you most concerned about globally relating to climate change?
3. How do you think youth can be involved in climate change planning?
4. What ideas, concerns and questions do you have relating to How We Move?
5. What ideas, concerns and questions do you have relating to How We Grow?
6. What ideas, concerns and questions do you have relating to How We Build?
7. What ideas, concerns and questions do you have relating to How We Lead?
8. What ideas, concerns and questions do you have relating to How We Relate?

Responses were written on post-it notes and transcribed in this report anonymously. Students were encouraged to add check marks next to entries that they agreed with, so checkmarks (✓) have been included to indicate consensus among the group.

What are you most concerned about locally relating to climate change?

- A. Big tsunamis. ✓
- B. Over population. ✓✓
- C. Sea life protection e.g., whales, algae.
- D. Ocean Pollution. ✓✓✓
- E. Logging (old growth specifically needs to be protected). ✓✓✓✓✓✓
- F. Natural disasters caused by the climate: forest fires, flooding, storms, heatwaves, etc. ✓

What are you most concerned about globally relating to climate change?

- A. Death of the environment and living things. ✓
- B. Rising sea levels and losing sea-side houses, communities, and cities. ✓✓
- C. The rich are contributing the most to climate change, but the poor are suffering for it.
- D. Overconsumption and major waste. ✓
- E. Fire, we should not have fire seasons. ✓
- F. Air quality and quality of life.

- G. Bad storms and natural disasters.
- H. Losing all our animals.

How do you think youth can be involved in climate change planning?

- A. Voices should be better broadcasted and given the opportunity to be heard. ✓✓
- B. Carpool.
- C. Bike to school.
- D. Add better education around climate change.
- E. Those who want a future fighting climate change should be given opportunities early on. ✓

What ideas, concerns and questions do you have relating to How We Move?

- A. Reduce life's obligations like school and work (move these things slowly online).
- B. Encourage walking and biking.
- C. Electric busses and trains, school busses, taxis.
- D. Car pooling [should be] encouraged because less cars on the road.
- E. Better infrastructure for pedestrians and people with disabilities to move around.
- F. How do we make batteries? We have to dig and refine vast amounts of rare earth materials, emitting tons of GHGs.
- G. Let "N" drivers drive more than a singular person (carpooling)
- H. Free bus passes for students/everyone ✓✓✓
- I. More safe bike lanes.
- J. More than 50% of students ride school busses everyday, there, and back, 5 days a week.
Transferring to electric busses would greatly reduce emissions.
- K. Do not need to fly around the world for meetings. Just host online.

What ideas, concerns and questions do you have relating to How We Grow?

- A. Expand and support forest stuff. ✓✓✓
- B. Having more buildings like the library that are made for all different groups of people.
- C. No big box stores but expand local resources. ✓✓
- D. More counselling, as the community grows, create more opportunities for people to reach out for support. ✓✓✓
- E. I think we should build apartments on land that is not a stable ecosystem, we should have store on the bottom and apartments on top to use less space. This can keep us from cutting all our forests down.
- F. The community should move towards a greener town. The Mayor and Council should put more money into creation eco groves around the community. These would provide help for the environment and improve the appearance of the town as a whole.
- G. Focus on community gardens. ✓
- H. Less people. ✓✓

What ideas, concerns and questions do you have relating to How We Build?

- A. Taller buildings, apartments. ✓
- B. Biodiversity in yards.
- C. Space between houses, yards and green spaces, public green spaces
- D. Better houses and housing materials last longer.

- E. Encourage people to buy older homes.
- F. Tax credit for installing heat pumps.
- G. Roof top Gardens. ✓
- H. Do not build on farmland, we need it. ✓
- I. Use more sustainable and/or recycled products and materials to build.
- J. Collect H2O to sustain lawns and gardens, do not use water from reservoirs all the time.
- K. Build with solar panels when financially possible.
- L. Anticipate e-bikes, plan for bike lanes being needed further down the line as we build.

What ideas, concerns and questions do you have relating to How We Relate?

- A. Showing people that using [single use] plastic is not worth it. Using bags that are reusable is important and easy for our community. ✓
- B. Have more people on Council and staff who are closer in age to the target demographic.
- C. Youth ambassadors to Council from EMCS. ✓
- D. Frequently discuss possible climate action plans with the community and businesses to discover what works well for everyone.
- E. Encourage buying locally.
- F. Talk to friends to encourage gardening and sustainable purchasing practices. ✓

Appendix G: What can I do? Action ideas for the Sooke Individual

How You Move

In Sooke, the number one source of carbon and most impactful way to reduce your carbon footprint is to move away from fossil fuel-based transportation. Here are ten ways you can act right now to rethink how you move:

1. Map out your route to a regular destination such as work, school, or the grocery store. Next time you go choose to walk, bike, scoot, or take transit to and from this destination. Start with doing this once a week and then build up from there. When you are ready, make the change to taking that route every time you visit that destination.
2. Learn about e-bikes and take a test ride at a local bike shop. When you are ready to purchase an e-bike, consider the provincial Scrap-It rebate program to get a \$750 rebate on your purchase¹⁰⁹.
3. If you are a parent or student at a local school, talk to your school's administration and district administration about school bus access. Increasing the availability and accessibility of school bussing can help reduce school drop-off related congestion and therefore reduce carbon emissions from driving to and from school.
4. If you work at an office-based job and commute by fossil-fueled vehicle outside of Sooke, talk with your employer about facilitating flexible work options in which you can work from home or a co-working hub a few days a week.
5. Ask around at your office to see if any of your colleagues live in the Sooke region. If so, could two or three of you commute together to save money on gas, reduce your emissions from driving, and reduce congestion on Highway 14?

¹⁰⁹ <https://scrapit.ca>

6. Read up on BC Transit's Sooke Local Area Transit Plan ¹¹⁰ and get to know the upcoming bus routes that are going to be installed in the next five years. Will your home be on a local bus route? If so, where will you be able to get on the bus instead of by car.
7. When you are ready to get a new (or new-to-you) vehicle, ask your car dealer about e-vehicle options and take them for a test drive. Remember that there may be a waitlist for the e-vehicle of your choice, so consider signing up for yours a few months before you need to switch.
8. Familiarize yourself with the [CleanBC Go Electric – Government of British Columbia](#) website that details how you can receive up to \$8,000 worth of provincial and federal rebates when you purchase your first electric vehicle.
9. If you already own an e-bike or e-vehicle, share your story with neighbours, friends, family, and colleagues. Share what you love about it and what lessons you have learned. Offer to let them test drive or test ride it and show them how to plug it in to charge.
10. Do your part to reduce waste and move toward a circular economy by reviewing the information on recyclable materials in the CRD on their website: [Blue Box Program | CRD](#). Take it a step further by taking your small appliances and other items in need of repair to a local repair café hosted by Zero Waste Sooke¹¹¹.

How You Grow

As a resident of Sooke, you have a role to play in how our community invests in the natural and built infrastructure of our community. By participating in some of the actions listed below, you will steward and protect natural green spaces in our community, improve food security, and ensure that any new development is less harmful to the environment. In doing so, you will help to ensure that the town you live in is complete, connected, and encourages and supports low carbon living for everyone.

1. Refamiliarize yourself with the green spaces near your home and/or workplace. Where is the nearest tree? Is there a stream nearby? Consider how you can support the health of these plants and ecosystems by removing litter and invasive species, learning about FireSmart principles¹¹² to improve their health and increase your safety, and proactively plan to plant trees and plants that will help provide shade in the summer and suck up carbon dioxide from the air around you.
2. Become a steward of a local park. If you see broom bush, spurge laurel (daphne), or another invasive plant species in a park¹¹³, or if you see litter, remove it, and safely dispose of it. This will help the ecosystem to be more resilient in coming years.
3. Experiment with growing some of your own food and/or pollinator friendly plants. Even a couple of containers on an enclosed deck can provide valuable learning opportunities and delicious vegetables and fruit.
4. Avoid mowing your lawn until the end of May each year to allow for dandelions and other flowers to grow. These flowers are great for bees and other pollinators and are often one of the first food sources of year.
5. Be a responsible dog owner and keep them on a leash and under control in parks and trails. It is safer for your dog, better for the ecosystem, and protects important bird and shoreline habitat.

¹¹⁰ <https://www.bctransit.com/documents/1529710177752>

¹¹¹ <https://zerowastesooke.ca>

¹¹² <https://homeowners-manual.firesmartbc.ca>

¹¹³ <https://www.crd.bc.ca/education/concerns/invasive-species>

6. Get to know your neighbours and/or join a local neighbourhood pod to learn about emergency procedures, coordinate group home energy rebates, and more to improve the resiliency of your neighbourhood.
7. If you are in the market to rent or to buy, consider the walkability¹¹⁴ of the neighbourhood of your new home. While there are many factors to consider when moving to a new home, walkability and use of diverse housing types is one way to reduce the impact of any developed area on the surrounding ecosystem.
8. If you have a property with some natural spaces, consider contacting local environmental groups such as Habitat Acquisition Trust¹¹⁵ to learn how to improve the health of the land you own, supporting local wildlife and native plants.
9. Take a visit to a local farm¹¹⁶ or farmers market¹¹⁷ and chat with those that grow food locally. While much of our food on Vancouver Island comes from elsewhere, there are opportunities to choose locally grown food, which often has a lower carbon footprint, is fresher, and has the added benefit of learning where your food comes from.

How You Build

Buildings are the second largest source of emissions in Sooke, and as a resident here you have an impact on how buildings are built, used, and demolished. You can help reduce emissions from buildings and improve their resiliency in the face of climate change by participating in the following actions.

1. Improve the heating and cooling efficiency of your home. This can start with actions like reversing the ceiling fan to circulate warm air better during the winter, installing heavy curtains or window film to insulate your home more, installing a programmable thermostat to reduce energy use when you are not at home or asleep, and much more.
2. If you are a homeowner or property owner ready to replace your fossil fuel heating system, prepare to install an electric heat pump. Heat pumps are 3-4 times more efficient than gas furnaces or electric baseboards, and they also provide cooling during increasingly hot summers.
3. Familiarize yourself with the services provided by energy coaches working with CleanBC Better Homes. The [website](#) and phone service help you navigate provincial and federal rebate applications, find local certified contractors, and answer your questions about home energy efficiency.
4. If you are demolishing or renovating a space, ask your contractor to “unbuild” the existing structure rather than demolishing it. Unbuilding is a process of carefully removing construction materials from a home to ensure they are reusable and recyclable. This process can divert up to 95% of materials in some homes.

¹¹⁴ <https://www.walkscore.com/CA-BC/Sooke>

¹¹⁵ <https://hat.bc.ca>

¹¹⁶ <https://www.sookefoodchi.ca/food-listing-1>

¹¹⁷ <https://www.sookefoodchi.ca/markets-1>

5. If you have a gas stove, consider replacing it with an electric induction stove. Not only are induction stoves equally as fast as gas stoves at heating up your food, but they also do not leak any methane emissions in your home, improving the air quality and reducing emissions.
6. Consider collecting rainwater to use for watering your garden or containers on your deck. As our climate continues to change, summers will be hotter and drier, necessitating careful use of water.
7. If you are in the market to rent or own a home, ask about the energy efficiency of the homes you are looking at. As the BC Energy Step Code comes into force, efficiency ratings of new homes will be more common, providing you with additional information of how much it will cost to heat and cool your home, as well as how large of a carbon footprint there will be.
8. If you have a woodburning stove, look at FireSmart resources on how to improve the efficiency of your woodstove. By ensuring your firewood is dry and cured, your chimney is recently serviced, and your fires burn hot and efficiently, you can reduce the amount of pollution that results.
9. Looking for a way to upgrade your skills? Interested in a career change? Consider training to become a Home Energy Assessor and train up to help homeowners prepare to retrofit their homes¹¹⁸.
10. Prioritize reused and recycled materials in your home renovation projects. High-quality lumber and finishings is becoming more available as older homes are being deconstructed. By making use of this material, you can save money and help divert valuable materials from landfill.

How You Lead

The District of Sooke is committed to addressing our municipal operations and making changes to meet our emissions goals as an organization. By committing to the action identified in the How We Lead section of this Climate Action Plan, we are walking the talk and ensuring that we provide an example for how to be a low carbon resilient organization. How You Lead can also be in your own business or organization, in your family, or in your group of friends. You can lead as a community member and engage with our public process to hold the District accountable. By choosing to lead, you help those around you imagine a new way of being in our community.

1. Sign up to the District of Sooke e-newsletter to keep abreast of current climate opportunities available locally¹¹⁹.
2. Engage your colleagues in conversations around how climate change impacts your work. Consider how every job can be a climate job. What methods can you employ in your work to engage in climate work?
3. Consider a green business assessment of your company, identifying opportunities to reduce emissions, increase efficiencies, and reimagine ways of doing business that benefit both your bottom line and the environment¹²⁰.

¹¹⁸ <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy-efficiency/homes/professional-opportunities/become-registered-energuide-rating-system-energy-advisor/20566>

¹¹⁹ [Subscribe to E-Newsletters \(sooke.ca\)](https://www.sooke.ca/subscribe-to-e-newsletters)

¹²⁰ <https://www.vigbc.ca>

4. Communicate with your representatives on Council, the BC legislature and in Parliament. Email them, call, or send a letter letting them know of your concerns and interests in climate action issues. Remember, they work for you and all community members.
5. Consider how you can lead by example in a way that matters to you. Are you a keen cyclist? Do you get a kick out of recycling? Have you already installed solar panels or a heat pump? Do you always use a reusable coffee cup? Do you regularly choose plant-based options for lunch at work? Often, our actions speak louder than our words. Those that observe our actions are more likely to consider making similar changes in their own life.
6. Take part in eco-campaigns like bike-to-work week¹²¹, climate strikes¹²², or Meatless Mondays¹²³. These challenges are a terrific way to try new behaviours, to lead by example for your peers, and to challenge outdated ways of thinking.

How You Relate

Relationships are the foundation of how we learn. By working together, commiserating together¹²⁴, rethinking together, we can create amazing change throughout our community and personal lives.

1. Consider joining or starting a community group, working together provides opportunity to improve mental health and creates more opportunity for collaborative change.
2. Ask yourself what outdated ways of thinking or behaviours you may have that result in behaviours that have a higher impact on the earth than necessary.
3. Identify whether there is a neighbourhood group in your area that meets to discuss climate issues and prepare for their impacts. These groups are a fantastic way to prepare for flooding, wildfire, and other emergencies, and can also provide opportunities such as group purchase rebates for home retrofits.
4. Discuss climate change and actions that can be taken with your family and friends. Engaging in meaningful conversation on these topics can help to improve mental health, help combat apathy, and encourage behaviour change.

Appendix H: Master List of Recommended Actions

The recommended implementation framework outlines activities that impact Sooke's ability to achieve its climate action goals, including the twenty-five prioritized actions for 2022-2027. This implementation framework draws action and policy items from the Official Community Plan, the Parks and Trails Master Plan, the Transportation Master Plan and the Community Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan. It is informed by climate action plans from other levels of government (the Capital Regional District

¹²¹ <https://gobybikebc.ca/greater-victoria/>

¹²² <https://fridaysforfuture.org>

¹²³ <https://www.mondaycampaigns.org/meatless-monday>

¹²⁴ https://landscapepartnership.org/maps-data/climate-context/cc-resources/ClimateSciPDFs/Five%20Stages%20of%20Climate%20Grief.pdf/index_html

¹²⁵and the Province of BC's CleanBC¹²⁶ strategy notably included) that will provide expertise, service, and funding support, as well as the work of local community groups.

The top twenty-five prioritized actions for 2022-2027 reflect key strategies required to achieve Sooke's goal of reducing carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 or at least 7% per year. **It is recommended that the District of Sooke review and update this implementation framework every year** during strategic priority and work planning meetings to ensure that actions continue to be prioritized according to the level of adaptation and mitigation they provide to the community. Ongoing data tracking in collaboration with the CRD to measure both project level and community wide emissions is required to provide accountability and ensure the District is striving to reduce GHG emission by at least 7% per year. This annual target may need recalculation on a regular basis pending actual progress and other metrics.

Actions and Policy details¹²⁷

Each action is described with a low, medium, high, or very high anticipated budget:

- (\$) Low = \$0-\$50,000
- (\$\$) Medium = \$50,000-\$500,000
- (\$\$\$) High = \$500,000-\$1,000,000
- (\$\$\$\$) Very high = over \$1,000,000
- N/A = assumed the action can be completed with existing staff capacity and operating budgets.

A timeline estimate for each action and policy development is included:

- Ongoing = 2022-2050
- Short term = 2022-2027
- Medium term = 2028-2035
- Long-term = 2036-2050

The status of each action can be defined as underway, planned, or complete. Underway means the strategy is already underway in 2022 staff work plans, with estimated completion date as indicated in the implementation table.

A metric to convey high-level human resource considerations has also been included to highlight additional staff resources that may be needed to sufficiently fulfill the actions identified in each section.



This metric is meant to be an estimate to provide context for work planning and budgeting purposes, not a firm requirement.

¹²⁵ <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/climate-action>

¹²⁶ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change>

¹²⁷ The action and policy details framework are modeled on the example of the [LCR Climate Action Plan from Port Moody](#)




























= 1 Full Time Equivalent



= 0.5 Full Time Equivalent

Exact start dates for actions and policy development will be determined by staff and Council subject to funding and availability of capacity. Lead department and status for each action are also included.

LCR Icons identifying co-benefits of each action have been included. Refer to the icon legend:

Economic Co-Benefits		
 Supports green job creation	 Diversifies local economy	 Reduces costs/ increases savings
 Fosters innovation and green, clean industries	 Supports clean energy transition	 Promotes a circular economy
 Reduces risks to property values	 Reduces waste/ optimizes resources	 Avoids community damages and costs over time
Environmental Co-Benefits		
 Enhances biodiversity	 Supports habitat creation	 Improves water retention and absorption
 Enhances pollutant capture	 Improves air quality	 Reduces extreme temperatures
 Improves water quality	 Increases carbon sequestration/storage	 Promotes regional connectivity
Social Co-Benefits		
 Enhances human health and well-being	 Supports local food security	 Limits tax increases
 Improves climate awareness and access to data and information	 Improves community livability and vitality	 Enhances local autonomy
 Advances equity and social inclusion	 Reduces congestion	 Improves public safety, disaster preparedness and response

A more detailed cost analysis and implementation schedules for each action and policy development is outside the scope of this Climate Action Plan. Completion of an implementation action plan is required to successfully complete Milestone 4 of the Partners for Climate Protection Milestone program.

Appendix H provides short term priority actions to include in such an implementation action plan for 2023-2027. Additional actions may be included should the implementation plan time frame be extended to 2030. It is recommended that the District complete a yearly Climate Implementation report to be submitted to Council for review and approval as part of the yearly budget preparation processes.

Actions from existing municipal plans






































Many actions included in Sooke's Climate Action Plan require accelerated and complete implementation of key strategies in existing municipal plans, such as the Official Community Plan, the Parks and Trails Master Plan, the Transportation Master Plan, and the Community Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan. Therefore, where these key strategies exist, they have been included and identified by using the section or action numbers from their respective plans. Note that only strategies that relate to the five focus areas of change and have an impact on Sooke's ability to achieve our climate action goals have been included. In subsequent implementation schedules and updates to the Climate Action Plan, it is recommended that specific actions are prioritized from each municipal plan and included.













Collaboration with stakeholders














Where possible, key stakeholders have been identified that the District will collaborate with to achieve success. In the development of the Climate Action Plan, several stakeholders were engaged to inform them of the contents of this plan and discuss feasibility. Many of the actions identified in this plan reflect existing climate action plans from these stakeholders and as such promote collaboration across sectors and levels of government. Ongoing engagement with additional stakeholders will take place throughout the lifetime of this strategy. These stakeholders include but are not limited to:












- Capital Regional District (CRD – including SEAPARC and Sooke Region Museum)
- Sooke School District 62 (SD62)
- Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL)
- Sooke Community Association (SCA)
- Sooke Fire Department (SFD)
- BC Transit (BCT)
- Clean BC (CBC)
- Transition Sooke (TS)
- Wild Wise Sooke (WWS)
- Service Clubs (Lions, Rotary, Masons)
- Edward Milne Community School Society
- Sooke Bike Club
- Sooke Garden Club
- Sooke Region Communities Health Network
- Sooke Homelessness Coalition
- Sooke Region Food CHI
- Sooke Farmland Trust Society
- Sooke Region Volunteer Centre
- Sooke Multi-Belief Initiative (SMBI)
- Sooke Family Resource Society (SFRS)
- Zero Waste Sooke


































a. How We Move





























Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Co-Benefits
Administration and Council	1. Advocate for provincial 4-day work week/flexible work policy	Province	Ongoing	Planned	  
	2. Advocate for improved transit pass system with BC Transit.	BC Transit	Ongoing	Underway	     
	3. Collaborate with BC Transit to provide ridership incentives during launch of new local transit routes.	BC Transit	Short Term	Planned	  
	4. Advocate for improved regional, provincial and federal remote work policies	Province	Ongoing	Underway	     
	5. Advocate for equitable access to low carbon forms of mobility	Province	Ongoing	Planned	     
	6. Advocate for improved extended producer responsibility mandates at the provincial and federal level.	Province, CRD	Ongoing	Planned	   
	7. Advocate for right to repair at provincial and federal level.	Province, CRD	Ongoing	Planned	   
	8. Collaborate with and support T'Sou-ke led initiatives around mobility, circular economy, waste management and other initiatives related to this focus area.	T'Sou-ke	Ongoing	Planned	    

	9. Engage with large employers in CRD to encourage carpooling, transit ridership, remote work opportunities and active transportation of employees living in Sooke.	Province of BC, CRD, Hospitals, Forces, etc.	Short Term	Planned	  
	10. Engage with car/bike share programs to encourage implementation in Sooke	Car/Bike share providers	Short Term	Planned	  
	11. Host e-mobility showcase at yearly Earth Day celebrations	Plug-in BC	Short Term	Planned	
	12. Support CRD in the development, delivery, and support of new regional education programs focused on active, public, and zero-emission transportation, including electric vehicles and e-bikes.	CRD	Short Term	Underway	  
	13. Explore opportunities for providing “Bike Rodeo” style cycling skills education for all ages.	SEAPARC	Medium Term	Planned	
Anticipated Budget	\$\$	Human Resources			




Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Icons
Finance and GIS	1. Monitor provincial e-bike incentive programs and consider providing an equity-based top-up incentive to increase uptake of electric bicycles.	Province	Short Term	Underway	  
	2. Consider developing an EV and e-bike low interest financing program to increase equitable e-mobility access.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	  
	3. Complete feasibility study of e-mobility equitable financing/rebate program to provide support in accessing e-bikes, e-vehicles, and other forms of e-mobility to reduce emissions from transportation.	n/a	Short Term	Underway	  
	4. Consider offering memberships in car share organizations in destination communities for transit commuters.	n/a	Medium Term	Planned	  
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			





























Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Icons
Planning and Development	1. Develop a Knowledge Worker Strategy and Launch Co-working Hub Pilot Program to provide workspace in Sooke for residents who may otherwise have to commute to work. a. Submit RFEOI for coworking hub. b. Engage with Ministry of Citizen Services on provision of provincial employee coworking hub in Sooke Region.	n/a	Short Term	Underway	       
	2. Complete a micro-mobility feasibility assessment and apply for the provincial Micro-mobility Pilot program.	MOTI	Long Term	Planned	 
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			

Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Icons
Operations	1. Focus on funding and implementing major PTMP and TMP capital projects that are in alignment with achieving major climate action initiatives and improving infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists, e-mobility, and public transit to support modal shift.	MOTI, BC Transit, CRD, BC Hydro	Ongoing	Underway	      
	2. Prioritize, accelerate, and fund implementation of Section 4: Walking and Rolling of TMP which is in alignment with achieving major TMP capital and achieving climate action goals.	MOTI, BC Transit, CRD, BC Hydro	Ongoing	Underway	     
	3. Prioritize, accelerate, and fund implementation of TMP Section 5: Cycling , which is in alignment with achieving major TMP capital and achieving climate action goals.	MOTI, BC Transit, CRD, BC Hydro	Ongoing	Underway	   
	4. Prioritize, accelerate, and fund implementation of TMP section 6: Public Transit , which is in alignment with achieving major TMP capital and achieving climate action goals.	MOTI, BC Transit, CRD, BC Hydro	Ongoing	Underway	   
	5. Prioritize, accelerate, and fund implementation of TMP Section 7: Complete Streets , which is in alignment with achieving major TMP capital and achieving climate action goals.	MOTI, BC Transit, CRD, BC Hydro	Ongoing	Underway	   
	6. Prioritize, accelerate, and fund implementation of TMP Section 8: New Mobility and Integration , which is in alignment with achieving major TMP capital and achieving climate action goals.	MOTI, BC Transit, CRD, BC Hydro	Ongoing	Underway	   
	7. Prioritize, accelerate, and fund implementation of PTMP Section 4: Trails , increasing access to	MOTI, BC Transit, CRD,	Ongoing	Underway	   






	trails and parks to improve connectivity throughout Sooke to encourage modal shift.	BC Hydro			 
	8. Prioritize the acquisition of parkland to facilitate key active transportation connections throughout Sooke.	Province, CRD, T'Sou-ke, Sci'a-new	Ongoing	Planned	       
	9. Collaboratively work with the Ministry of Transportation on existing MoU objectives and update accordingly to realize shared multi-modal objectives for Highway 14 , the Grant Road Connector, and associated municipal streets.	MOTI	Ongoing	Underway	   
	10. Develop a Local Zero Waste Pop-Up Service Pilot Program to provide collection, repair, and reuse services and education opportunities to the community.	CRD, EPR programs, Zero Waste Sooke	Short Term	Planned	    
	11. Collaborate with SD62 to identify alternative pick-up/drop-off solutions to reduce traffic congestion related to school operations.	SD62, MOTI	Medium Term	Planned	 
	12. Collaborate with CRD to implement the regional Solid Waste Management Plan with zero-waste focus	CRD	Ongoing	Underway	  
Anticipated Budget	\$\$\$\$	Human Resources	   		



b. How We Grow



Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Icons
Administration and Council	1. Develop and implement a Love Food Hate	n/a	Short term	Planned	  



	Waste Canada¹²⁸ educational program to reduce food waste				
	2. Calculate a percentage baseline of food production in the Sooke region to measure how much local food production is increasing on a yearly basis.	SRCHN	Short Term	Planned	
	3. Explore options for partnerships in the acquisition and management of a community forest with the Capital Regional District (CRD) and the T'Sou-ke Nation.	CRD, T'Sou-ke	Short Term	Planned	          
	4. Collaborate with the CRD, Habitat Acquisition Trust, The Land Conservancy, and other conservancy groups to prioritize the acquisition and protection of existing sensitive ecosystems and restorations of lost or degraded ecosystems.	CRD, HAT, TLC	Ongoing	Planned	       
	5. Collaborate with local community organizations and the CRD to promote existing community kitchen facilities, develop new spaces, identify opportunities for a regional Food Hub , and implement an action plan to provide services for local food storage, processing, and education.	CRD, local community groups	Ongoing	Planned	   
	6. Advocate for sustainable fishing and marine harvesting in the Sooke Basin and surrounding waters.	DFO, T'Sou-ke	Ongoing	Underway	   


¹²⁸ <https://lovefoodhatewaste.ca>








	7. Promote and provide support for local food education opportunities and events with Sooke FoodCHI, Sooke Region Communities Health Network, community gardens and local food producers.	Sooke FoodCHI, SRCHN, local community groups	Ongoing	Underway	
	8. Promote educational tools and opportunities for conservation of fresh water for residential, agricultural, and industrial purposes.	606 Water Group, CRD	Ongoing	Underway	
	9. Explore options regarding seaweed aquaculture, eelgrass restoration, and other blue carbon initiatives to improve the Sooke Harbour and Basin ecosystems and increase drawdown of carbon.	n/a	Medium Term	Planned	
	1. Develop a proposal for the local food security pilot project "Farm Hamlet Template" to increase local farming knowledge, food production on local ALR land, and increase accessibility to housing for farm labourers.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			


Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Icons
Finance and GIS	1. Develop a parks and land bequeathment policy to allow for private landowners to bequeath greenspaces as parkland.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	
	2. Consider developing a residential rainwater collection financing or rebate program to support equitable access to rainwater	CRD	Medium Term	Planned	




















	harvesting infrastructure.				
	3. Include natural assets within the District's asset management program to financially account for ecological values, increase and protect the urban tree canopy and prioritize nature-based solutions in all capital projects.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			

Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Icons
Fire and Emergency Services	1. Develop and implement a Wildland and Urban Interface Zone policy using FireSmart principles and best practices to mitigate wildfire risk in neighbourhoods within that zone. This policy would consider wildfire prevention strategies and treatment areas, egress concerns and evacuation routes.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			








Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Icons
Planning and Development	2. Implement the General Land-use Policy Suite from the 2022 Official Community Plan, prioritizing the prohibition of urban sprawl, promotion of complete neighbourhoods, and protection of existing sensitive ecosystems and restoration of lost or degraded ecosystem functions.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	





					
	3. Develop and implement a Green Building Rezoning Policy for rezoning applications that require developers to include comprehensive Low Carbon Resilience strategies as a submission requirement for new residential and commercial development projects.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	
	4. Require use of FireSmart principles in development applications.	FireSmart BC	Short Term	Planned	
	5. Implement the Agriculture and Food Security Plans as recommended in the following documents: a. Putting Healthy Food on Our Tables, Sooke Region Food Security Report b. Community Roots an Agricultural Plan for Sooke	n/a	Medium Term	Planned	
	6. Collaborate with the CRD Food and Agriculture Task Force in implementation of the Food and Agriculture Strategy	CRD	Ongoing	Planned	
	7. Consider a rainwater collection system requirement in new commercial developments for use in irrigation of landscaping features.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			








Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Icons
Operations	1. Engage in a mapping exercise to prioritize parkland acquisition in ecologically significant areas, along waterfront, riparian areas, and	n/a	Short Term	Underway	

	existing wildlife corridors. Develop a policy to prioritize parkland acquisition to protect carbon sinks and wildlife habitat beyond what is already procured through parkland dedication in development acquisitions.				
	2. Where requested, work with T'Sou-ke and Sci'a-new Nations in watershed protection, ecosystem restoration and invasive species management.	T'Sou-ke, Sci'a-new	Ongoing	Underway	   
	3. Invite and support T'Sou-ke and Sci'a-new participation in park planning, acquisition, and protection of places.	T'Sou-ke, Sci'a-new	Ongoing	Underway	   
	4. Explore opportunities around land acquisition of community forest, parkland, and protected spaces through right of first refusal to purchase forested land.	T'Sou-ke, Sci'a-new, Province, CRD	Medium Term	Planned	        
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			




a. How We Build




Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR icons
Administration and Council	1. Investigate options for developing a bylaw that prohibits additional natural gas hook-ups in new development projects by 2024. Consider building bylaw amendments that	n/a	Short Term	Planned	      

	require zero-emissions heating systems to achieve this goal.				
	2. Create a municipal/builder/developer green initiatives forum , partnered with other public and private green technology producers, to help inform and educate developers and builders of new green initiatives within the construction industry.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	
	3. Evaluate the business case for installing renewable power at corporate sites , including wastewater locations.	n/a	Medium Term	Planned	
	4. Continue facilitating Public Engagement Strategy and Wayfinding Service for existing financial incentives for heat pumps and zero emission transportation in Sooke.	Community Energy Association, CRD	Ongoing	Underway	
	5. Continue promoting education on demand side management for electricity and natural gas use to encourage efficient and reduced use of both energy sources.	Clean BC Energy Coach Service, CRD	Ongoing	Underway	
	6. Submit RFP for local energy assessment companies to collaborate on capacity building in the Sooke Region.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	
	7. Complete a local energy generation feasibility study on how the district could generate or partner with organizations to produce renewable energy.	n/a	Medium Term	Planned	
	8. Advocate at the provincial and federal levels for increased authority, financing tools, benchmarking, and other policies essential for achieving zero emissions	UBCM	Ongoing	Planned	

	buildings.				
	9. Advocate for the incorporation of climate adaptation considerations into the BC Building Code.	UBCM	Ongoing	Planned	
	10. Advocate for detailed implementation of a federal low-cost loan program that integrates and builds on available energy audits and grants.	UBCM	Ongoing	Planned	
	11. Advocate for increased low-income retrofit programs, to increase the number of low-income households that benefit from energy retrofits.	UBCM	Ongoing	Planned	
	12. Collaborate with CRD to develop Net-Zero Energy Pathway Feasibility Study, installation of an Energy Recovery System, replacement of fuel oil burners, and removal of underground fuel tanks at SEAPARC.	CRD	Short Term	Planned	
	13. Participate in the Building Benchmark BC program.	n/a	Medium Term	Planned	
	14. Participate in the provincial local government step code peer network ¹²⁹ .	n/a	Short Term	Planned	
	15. Engage with province to understand, support, and encourage carbon pollution and energy efficiency standards to be introduced for new and existing buildings in 2024, with zero-carbon new construction	Province	Short Term	Planned	

¹²⁹ <https://energystepcode.ca/for-local-governments/>







	by 2030.				
	16. Promote CRD Regional Energy Retrofit Program ¹³⁰ when it becomes available.	CRD	Short Term	Planned	
	17. Promote federal EnerGuide home renovation grants and financing programs to encourage affordability of transition to low carbon energy systems in buildings ¹³¹ .	Federal Government	Short Term	Underway	
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			












Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR icons
Finance	1. Develop and launch a pilot project for a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) and income qualified financing program to provide financial assistance for green retrofits to existing buildings.	n/a	Short term	Planned	
	2. Consider offering a new District rebate, or a free energy home audit to participants.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			


Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Icons
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¹³⁰ https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/default-document-library/appendix-a-crd-residential-energy-retrofit-program---business-case-report.pdf?sfvrsn=95823ccd_0

¹³¹ <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy-efficiency/homes/canada-greener-homes-grant/start-your-energy-efficient-retrofits/plan-document-and-complete-your-home-retrofits/eligible-grants-for-my-home-retrofit/23504>

Fire and Emergency Services	Develop and implement a Wildfire Resistant Construction and Landscaping Bylaw to improve wildfire resilience of Sooke. Such a bylaw would consider FireSafe construction materials, fire resistant plants and materials for landscaping.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	    
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			


















Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR icons
Planning and Development	1. Accelerate implementation of the BC Energy Step Code to include low carbon building standards for new residential buildings and to meet or exceed Step 4 (Step 3 for commercial buildings) by 2027/8. Align this acceleration with regional goals of Step Code adoption.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	   
	2. Apply a climate risk lens to a review of existing hazard mapping and associated Development Permit Areas.	n/a	Ongoing	Underway	
	3. Update the Building and Zoning bylaws to remove hurdles for alternative housing options such as cooperatives, co-housing, and maker hoods.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	
	4. Update Building Bylaw to reflect increased need for permeable surfaces to manage rainwater runoff.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	 
	5. Update Building Bylaw to require all new buildings to include air treatment systems for poor air quality from pollution and	n/a	Short Term	Planned	  

	smoke.				
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			


Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR icons
Operations	1. Achieve net-zero emissions for municipal buildings by upgrading existing buildings to higher energy efficiency standards and low carbon energy systems.	n/a	Medium Term	Underway	  
	2. Use a holistic decision-making approach that accounts for full lifecycle costs when making infrastructure investments.	n/a	Ongoing	Underway	
	3. Consider installation of rainwater harvesting facilities on municipal hall as part of upcoming building renovations.	n/a	Medium Term	Planned	 
	4. Include climate change considerations in the corporate asset management system , including necessary retrofits.	n/a	Short term	Planned	
	5. Update engineering design specifications to account for future climate projections.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	 
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			








b. How We Lead

Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time	Status	LCR icons
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			Frame		
Administration	1. Complete annual corporate GHG reporting and provide to Council and DOS departments.	Partners for Climate Protection	Ongoing	Underway	
	2. Participate in regional and local government Global Protocol Community-Scale Basic+ GHG inventories every two years	CRD	Ongoing	Underway	
	3. Consider endorsing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty ¹³² .	n/a	Short Term	Planned	   
	4. Complete annual energy audits of corporate facilities to support reduction of energy use.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	 
	5. Complete low carbon resilience audits on all municipal facilities and prioritize upgrades where feasible and highest risk	n/a	Short Term	Planned	
	6. Complete a municipal fleet assessment and initiate replacement policy of municipal vehicles with zero-emissions alternatives.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	   
	7. Develop a staff climate action outreach program to encourage sustainable behaviour.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	 
	8. Maintain an ongoing staff climate action working group to share knowledge and continually evaluate best opportunities for	n/a	Ongoing	Underway	 



¹³² <https://fossilfuel treaty.org>



	climate action initiatives.				
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			








Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Icons
Finance	1. Integrate climate budgets, carbon price, and adaptation costs in the municipal budget process	n/a	Short Term	Planned	
	2. Identify innovative sources of funding to support climate action programs, including internal carbon fee.	n/a	Ongoing	Underway	
	3. Expand the Community Grants program criteria to include GHG-reduction community resilience projects created by neighbours willing to work together	n/a	Medium Term	Planned	 
	4. Develop an internal carbon pricing policy to support internal decision making. Embed specified corporate processes and procedures (e.g., net present value and lifecycle cost analyses). Pilot the new internal carbon pricing policy with select department(s).	n/a	Short Term	Planned	
	5. Align procurement and vendor selection with the DOS corporate climate goals , as part of the planned social procurement policy update	n/a	Short Term	Underway	
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			

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Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Icons
Fire and Emergency Services	6. Advise on wildfire and other emergency event resilience for infrastructure , municipal buildings, and parks capital projects to further embed emergency planning as a community priority.	n/a	Ongoing	Planned	
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			

Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Icons
Planning and Development	1. Integrate low carbon resilience assessment into rezoning and development referral processes , and the capital project planning process	n/a	Ongoing	Underway	
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			











Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Icons
Operations	1. Develop and implement a corporate Green Building Policy that prioritizes energy efficiency, electrification, and resiliency for municipal capital projects.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	 

	2. Require priority use of low-carbon building materials in all capital projects when available.	n/a	Ongoing	Planned	 
	3. Review existing subdivision, building, development, and rezoning bylaws with a low carbon resilience lens.	n/a	Ongoing	Underway	
	4. Integrate GHG emissions and climate risks into capital project planning ; work with select services to develop Sustainable Service Delivery Plans ¹³³ .	n/a	Short Term	Planned	
	5. Identify, site, and request RFP for an emergency shelter approved building with cooling capacity and back-up off-grid power generation.	n/a	Medium Term	Planned	 
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			

c. How We Relate

Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Icons
Administration	1. Explore establishing a Climate Education Working Group as part of a Sooke Community Development Society to build community capacity for climate education.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	 
	2. Acquire funding to conduct Climate Education Needs Assessments for District	n/a	Short Term	Planned	 







¹³³ <https://www.assetmanagementbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Asset-Management-for-Sustainable-Service-Delivery-A-BC-Framework-.pdf>

	leadership and the community				
	3. Continue to strengthen relationships with T'Sou-ke and other Indigenous communities through initiatives and processes to advance and support reconciliation.	T'Sou-ke, Sci'a-new	Ongoing	Underway	 
	4. Apply an equity lens to planning decisions and resource allocation.	n/a	Ongoing	Planned	
	5. Consider pursuing the development of a sustainable community equity tool via Community Capital¹³⁴ or similar framework.	n/a	Short Term	Planned	  
	6. Provide "welcome to your watershed" educational kits to new residents living near Demamiel Creek or Sooke River ¹³⁵ .	n/a	Medium Term	Planned	
	7. Consider creating an EMCS Youth Climate Ambassador program to provide work experience and engagement opportunities for youth.	SD62, EMCS Society	Medium Term	Planned	 
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			

Lead Department	Action	Collaborators	Time Frame	Status	LCR Icons
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¹³⁴ [Mark Roseland - Resource & Environmental Management - Simon Fraser University \(sfu.ca\)](https://www.sfu.ca/~roseland/)

¹³⁵ Langley, BC-area example: https://docs2.cer-rec.gc.ca/ll-eng/llisapi.dll/fetch/2000/90464/90552/548311/956726/2392873/2450810/2478643/2788019/Welcome_to_your_watershed_%2D_A4Q6I7.pdf?nodeid=2788791&vernum=-2

Fire and Emergency Services	1. Expand neighbourhood pod capacity and resources through provision of online resources, physical space to gather, and other resources as needed.	n/a	Medium Term	Planned	  
	2. Promote FireSmart education opportunities , including home assessments for residents to improve fire resilience of their home and surrounding space.	FireSmart	Short Term	Underway	 
Anticipated Budget	\$	Human Resources			

Appendix I: Immediate actions for 2022-2027

Appendix H provides a main list of actions that have been identified via analysis of current and upcoming climate action strategies from multiple levels of government, community stakeholders, and scientific research. Some of the actions in Appendix H may not yet be actionable by the District of Sooke and have therefore been identified as medium-term or long-term actions to be planned for in future iterations of this Climate Action Plan.

The twenty-five actions below have been identified as short-term priorities from the lens of carbon emissions reduction and capacity building for the District of Sooke to achieve its adopted climate targets and to avoid new sources of emissions. **Should Council endorse the following priority actions, Staff can be directed to provide a detailed implementation plan to further identify financial impacts, staffing considerations, and legal implications of each action.** Some of these actions represent the first steps of larger ongoing projects that may require additional planning in future iterations of the Climate Action Plan.

Given the iterative nature of this living guidance document, it is recommended that these short-term priorities are revisited and updated on an ongoing basis, aligning with yearly budget planning procedures, strategic priority development, and work planning for staff. It is understood that future versions of this plan may identify alternative priorities based on the main list in Appendix H or new best practices that are communicated from climate science and other levels of government.

How We Move Actions

1. Develop a Knowledge Worker Strategy and Launch Co-working Hub Pilot Program, improving support and access for remote-work options in Sooke to reduce the need to commute to work¹³⁶.	
Significance	Knowledge workers (residents employed in jobs that can be done remotely) can be supported in working from home and/or at co-working hubs. This action can reduce transportation emissions by increasing the number of people able to work remotely instead of commuting long distances to other CRD municipalities. Work to date has included a feasibility report on Co-working Hub Opportunities in Sooke, recommending Council advocacy with the Provincial department for Citizen Services to promote a provincial employee co-working hub as well as a request for expression of interest to identify an appropriate partner to run a pilot project of a co-working hub in Sooke.
Lead Department/Division	Planning/Administration
Collaborators	Province of BC, CRD, WorkLink BC, local co-working hub service

¹³⁶ [Co-working Hub Opportunities in Sooke \(civicweb.net\)](https://civicweb.net)

	providers
Estimated Initiation year	2022
Estimated completion	2025
Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Underway

2. Complete a feasibility study of an e-mobility equitable financing/rebate program to provide support in accessing e-bikes, e-vehicles, and other forms of e-mobility to reduce transportation emissions.	
Significance	Increasing equitable access to forms of e-mobility through financing and rebates may help Sooke residents reduce the carbon intensity of transportation. A feasibility study would investigate community needs, identify program models, and propose next steps to ensure that equitable access to e-mobility is improved throughout Sooke.
Lead Department/Division	Administration/Finance
Collaborators	n/a
Estimated Initiation year	2022
Estimated completion	2023
Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Planned

3. Encourage a Local Zero Waste Pop-Up Service Pilot Program to facilitate collection, repair, and reuse services to the community from 2023-2027 through existing extended producer responsibility programs.	
Significance	Diverting waste from landfills, encouraging reuse and repair of items, and ensuring safe and efficient collection of difficult-to-manage recyclables would help Sooke reduce emissions from the regional landfill. The pilot program would include providing regular pop-up event dates for EPR service providers, repair and reuse services, and Recycle BC to residents in Sooke and the surrounding areas.
Lead Department/Division	Operations

Collaborators	Recycle BC, Electro Recycle, CRD, Zero Waste Sooke
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2027
Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Planned

4. Prioritize, accelerate, and fund implementation of the Parks and Trails Master Plan, increasing access to trails and parks to improve connectivity throughout Sooke to encourage modal shift.	
Significance	Safe and multi-use trail connectivity directly impacts the ability of people to get around without the use of a car. By prioritizing access to trails and parks to improve connectivity throughout Sooke, more trips can be safely and easily made without using fossil fuel burning transportation. Actions identified in PTMP sub-section 4: Trails identify key trail corridor priorities to improve connectivity throughout Sooke. See PTMP for additional details.
Lead Department/Division	Operations
Collaborators	CRD
Initiation year	2021
Estimated completion	2030
Estimated Financial Implications	\$\$\$\$
Status	Underway

5. Focus on funding and implementing major TMP capital projects that are in alignment with achieving major climate action initiatives that support modal shift by improving infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists, e-mobility, and public transit.	
Significance	The Transportation Master Plan details needed infrastructure to support modal shift, improve public transit, prioritize transit-oriented development, and e-mobility of diverse types in Sooke. Actions identified in TMP sub-sections 4: Walking and Rolling; 5: Cycling; 6: Public Transit; 7: Complete Streets; and 8: New Mobility and Integration impact residents' ability to use low carbon modes of transportation, including active transportation, throughout the

	District. See TMP for additional details.
Lead Department/Division	Operations
Collaborators	BC Transit, CRD Parks, MOTI
Initiation year	2021
Estimated completion	2030
Estimated Financial Implications	\$\$\$\$
Status	Underway

How We Grow Actions

6. Develop and implement a Green Building Rezoning Policy for rezoning applications that requires developers to include comprehensive Low Carbon Resilience strategies as a submission requirement for new residential and commercial development projects.	
Significance	Developing this policy will make explicit current staff practice of analyzing development applications using the LCR framework and make clear to rezoning applicants District expectations regarding green building, rezoning, and land-use changes. This policy will refer directly to the 2022 OCP development permit areas and should include a requirement for developers to include comprehensive Low Carbon Resilience strategies in proposals for new development projects.
Lead Department/Division	Planning and Development
Collaborators	n/a
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2024
Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Planned

7. Include natural assets within the District's asset management program to financially account for ecological values, increase and protect the urban tree canopy and prioritize nature-based solutions in all capital projects.	
Significance	Natural asset management prioritizes use of nature-based solutions in capital projects, helps protect green spaces and increase the health

	and resilience of those spaces. These practices can increase the drawdown of carbon, improving carbon sinks.
Lead Department/Division	Operations
Collaborators	n/a
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2025
Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Planned

8. Engage in a mapping exercise to prioritize parkland acquisition in ecologically significant areas, along waterfront, riparian areas, and existing wildlife corridors. Develop a policy to prioritize parkland acquisition to protect carbon sinks and wildlife habitat beyond what is already procured through parkland dedication in development acquisitions.	
Significance	Acquiring parkland with the express purpose to protect wildlife corridors, ecologically significant areas, and carbon sinks is a powerful tool for the District of Sooke to ensure future generations of our community can benefit from healthier ecosystems and wildlife. Although current development procedures result in some parkland acquisition, development of a policy to improve upon this process and a mapping exercise to inform priorities for parkland acquisition would ensure the best use of District resources. Engagement and collaboration with T'Sou-ke, Scia-new, the provincial government and CRD would increase the impact of this action.
Lead Department/Division	Operations
Collaborators	T'Sou-ke, Scia-new, Province, CRD
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2027
Estimated Financial Implications	\$\$
Status	Planned

9. Develop the local food security pilot project "Farm Hamlet Template" to increase local farming knowledge, food production on local ALR land, and increase accessibility to housing
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for farm labourers.	
Significance	Land zoned and protected under the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) provides an opportunity for the community to increase food resilience and significantly shorten the food supply chain. By increasing the amount of food grown locally, this project has additional benefits in providing education opportunities for residents to learn where their food comes from, how to reduce food waste, and how to grow their own food. Furthermore, this program could serve as an example on how to further protect such ALR land from other forms of development.
Lead Department/Division	Administration/Planning and Development
Collaborators	Agricultural Land Commission
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2027
Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Planned

10. Develop and implement a Love Food Hate Waste educational Canada program to reduce food waste.	
Significance	Love Food Hate Waste is a Canada-wide educational program that engages the public in understanding how to reduce their own food waste, and how to advocate for less food waste from grocery stores. Food waste is a large source of methane emissions. Reducing methane emissions is an opportunity to reduce the short-term impact of emissions on climate change.
Lead Department/Division	Administration
Collaborators	Sooke Region Food CHI, Zero Waste Sooke, EMCS Society Food Garden Coordinator
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2030
Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Planned

11. Develop and implement Wildland and Urban Interface Zone policy using FireSmart principles and best practices to mitigate wildfire risk in neighbourhoods within that zone. This policy would consider wildfire prevention strategies and treatment areas, egress concerns and evacuation routes.	
Significance	Wildfire has been identified as the number one risk Sooke faces relating to climate change. As a community with a substantial Wildland and Urban Interface Zone, Sooke should engage in active forest and wildfire management to reduce this risk. Such as policy could reduce the risk of an unmanageable wildfire.
Lead Department/Division	Fire and Emergency Services
Collaborators	REMP, FireSmart
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2027
Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Planned

How We Build Actions

12. Accelerate implementation of the BC Energy Step Code to include low carbon building standards for new residential buildings and align Step Code acceleration with regional goals.	
Significance	Including low carbon building standards in the BC Energy Step Code enables the industry to address embodied carbon from new buildings as well as increasing the efficiency of the overall building. Sooke has a significant amount of residential construction underway and is likely to see more over the next 8-10 years. Implementing the accelerated BC Energy Step Code with low carbon building standards would align with regional actions, ensuring that the industry has consistent regulations across the Capital Regional District.
Lead Department/Division	Operations/Planning and Development
Collaborators	CRD, Province
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2030
Estimated Financial Implications	n/a

Status	Planned
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13. Create a municipal/builder/developer green initiatives forum, partnered with other public and private green technology producers, to help inform and educate developers and builders of new green initiatives within the construction industry.	
Significance	Capacity building and training on green building initiatives is a concern to the construction community in Sooke. By creating a forum like opportunity to engage the local industry on these subjects, the District can provide support to construction professionals in the transition to a low-carbon building environment. Resources and training opportunities are available provincially and regionally, however providing a local focus to these resources will help ensure that Sooke supports workers in gaining the necessary skills for this changing landscape.
Lead Department/Division	Operations
Collaborators	n/a
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2030
Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Planned

14. Develop and launch a pilot project for a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) income qualified financing program to provide financial assistance for green retrofits of existing buildings.	
Significance	A PACE financing program provides an equitable opportunity for homeowners to engage in home energy retrofits at a lower up-front cost than currently available rebate programs. Sooke can learn from the 2022 pilot project launched by Central Saanich and provide a similar program for residents in Sooke ¹³⁷ . This kind of program would allow participants to receive low to zero percent financing on a portion of the cost of a home energy retrofit. They would then pay the loan back on their property taxes each year over a period determined by the program. Including income qualified financing for a portion of the program would be an additional opportunity to ensure those that need

¹³⁷ [Oil to Heat Pump Financing Program | District of Saanich](#)

	the financial assistance the most are able to receive it.
Lead Department/Division	Finance, Administration
Collaborators	CRD, Province
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2025
Estimated Financial Implications	\$\$
Status	Planned

15. Investigate options for developing a bylaw that prohibits additional natural gas hook-ups in new development projects by 2024. Consider building bylaw amendments that require zero-emissions heating systems and Step Code efficiency leniency to achieve this goal.	
Significance	Natural Gas is a major source of methane and carbon emissions in British Columbia, both via leaks in the pipeline infrastructure, as well as in how it is used in buildings. While efforts are being made to improve the efficiency and lower the emissions intensity of the fuel, Sooke has an opportunity to avoid adding additional sources of demand for natural gas by prohibiting additional hook-ups in new development projects by 2024. Furthermore, as the costs of natural gas increases annually with the provincial carbon tax, such a bylaw would ensure monetary savings for future homeowners in Sooke. Options to consider may include amendments to the building bylaw that require zero-emissions heating systems and/or allowing Step Code leniency for homes that install zero-emissions heating systems and requiring homes with fossil fuel heating systems to meet higher levels of Step Code.
Lead Department/Division	Planning and Development
Collaborators	FortisBC, BC Hydro, Province
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2024
Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Planned

16. Develop and implement a Wildfire Resistant Construction and Landscaping Bylaw to improve wildfire resilience of Sooke. Such a bylaw would consider FireSafe construction materials, fire resistant plants and materials for landscaping.	
Significance	A Wildfire Resistant Construction and Landscaping Bylaw is an opportunity for Sooke to mitigate the risk of wildfire, which has been identified as the number one climate risk in Sooke. The details of such a bylaw would be determined with consultation with FireSafe and environmental ecosystem professionals, with due consultation with the building sector. Such as bylaw could provide significant savings to the community with a reduced intensity of a wildfire event.
Lead Department/Division	Fire and Emergency Services
Collaborators	FireSafe BC
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2025
Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Planned

How We Lead Actions

17. Develop an internal carbon pricing policy to support internal decision making. Embed specified corporate processes and procedures (e.g., net present value and lifecycle cost analyses). Pilot the new internal carbon pricing policy with select department(s).	
Significance	As the CRD begins to develop an internal carbon pricing policy, Sooke can learn from and adopt a similar policy to support internal decision making. An internal carbon pricing policy allows Sooke to consider the embedded and ongoing carbon costs of procurement and capital project decisions. This would provide additional information to Council and senior administration in project deliberations and ensure that ongoing pollution impacts are accounted for in financial reports. This policy would ensure that options that are less carbon intensive and more efficient are considered despite potentially higher costs.
Lead Department/Division	Finance
Collaborators	n/a
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2024

Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Planned

18. Complete a municipal fleet assessment and initiate replacement policy of municipal vehicles with zero-emissions alternatives. Prioritize zero-emissions vehicles for new vehicle procurement.	
Significance	Sooke's municipal fleet primarily consists of light-duty and medium-duty trucks. A municipal fleet assessment would ascertain an appropriate timeline and projected costs of a zero-emissions replacement policy over the next 8-10 years. Engaging in such a policy would reduce emissions from municipal operations.
Lead Department/Division	Administration
Collaborators	n/a
Initiation year	2022
Estimated completion	2030
Estimated Financial Implications	\$\$\$
Status	Planned

19. Align procurement and vendor selection with the DOS corporate climate goals, as part of the planned procurement policy update.	
Significance	The District of Sooke has considerable influence in how it procures and selects vendors for municipal operations. By implementing the Social Procurement policy as described by the province ¹³⁸ , and by ensuring that climate considerations and carbon costs are considered in procurement decisions, the District can influence vendors and product providers to engage in lower carbon intensity business practices.
Lead Department/Division	Finance
Collaborators	n/a
Initiation year	2022

¹³⁸ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/bc-procurement-resources/policy-and-strategies/strategies-and-initiatives/social-purchasing>

Estimated completion	2024
Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Underway

20. Complete low carbon resilience and accessibility audits on all municipal facilities and prioritize upgrades where feasible and highest risk.	
Significance	The District of Sooke can lead by example by engaging in energy efficient upgrades to all facilities to reduce emissions from municipal operations.
Lead Department/Division	Operations/Planning and Development
Collaborators	n/a
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2035
Estimated Financial Implications	\$\$\$\$
Status	Planned

21. Complete annual corporate GHG reporting and provide to the Council and departments.	
Significance	Ongoing engagement and tracking of corporate GHG reporting are essential to receive provincial Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) funding ¹³⁹ .
Lead Department/Division	Administration
Collaborators	Partners for Climate Protection, CRD
Initiation year	2021
Estimated completion	Ongoing
Estimated Financial Implications	n/a
Status	Underway

¹³⁹ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change/local-governments/local-government-climate-action-program>

How We Relate Actions

22. Consider establishing a Community Development Society with climate education expertise to increase capacity and support progress in education/communication toward a net-zero carbon Sooke using a community wellness metrics program and decision framework to explicitly monitor community well-being and low carbon resilience.	
Significance	Climate action requires transformative approaches to how we understand ourselves in relation to the world. An arm's length Community Development Society working in coordination with District staff would provide volunteer expertise and feedback on District climate action strategies to assess the degree to which relational, systems thinking is being pursued and enacted. It would develop metrics and a decision framework to explicitly monitor community well-being and low carbon resilience. This group, comprised of local climate and communication experts, would approach climate action from a holistic perspective that begins with understanding the role of relationships, in line with the engagement plan outlined in Appendix E.
Lead Department/Division	Administration/Council
Initiation year	2022
Estimated completion	2027
Estimated Financial Implications	\$\$
Status	Planned

23. Acquire funding for and conduct a needs assessment for various audiences in leadership roles, such as staff at the District, then design a flexible professional development workshop which can inspire transformative leadership.	
Significance	Acquire funding for a needs assessment for audiences in a leadership role (such as staff at the District). Designing flexible professional development workshops would follow with the goal of inspiring transformative leadership in municipal staff, teachers, business owners, and others in the community. These thought leaders would create capacity for systems thinking, biomimicry, and other innovative projects. As a step towards transformative education shaped by holistic and relational approaches to connected climate action, a leadership needs assessment will identify Sooke's leadership strengths, resources, and areas for improvement to enable targeted education and shared participation before the education strategies and efforts

	are implemented. This will facilitate efficient, necessary skills development and aid in securing future funding for workshops and engagement efforts.
Lead Department/Division	Administration/Council
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2024
Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Planned

24. Acquire funding for and conduct a climate education needs assessment to design a fun and motivational workshop series for community members (e.g., local families, educators, retired professionals etc.) focused on developing personal/family climate plans and sustainable lifestyles.

Significance	Funding needs to be acquired to conduct a needs assessment and design of a motivational community workshop series which would help community members accelerate their own adaptation and resilience strategies. Tools to track carbon emissions related to individual family activities should be provided, while teaching about low or no carbon alternatives. Included would be assistance in developing personal adaptation plans. Transformative education shaped by a relational, whole-systems approach connected to climate action is required. See Appendix E for more information on transformative education. A needs assessment will identify Sooke's strengths, resources, and areas for improvement to enable targeted education and shared participation while reducing unnecessary education. The assessment would also aid in securing future funding for continued engagement and workshops.
Lead Department/Division	Administration
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2024
Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Planned

25. Design a process to generate multi-household resilience plans through the creation of self-

organizing neighbourhood pods who develop resilience plans throughout Sooke.	
Significance	Acquire funding to design a process to generate self-organizing neighbourhood pods that would develop localized resilience plans throughout Sooke. Processes and materials would address climate risks for that area as well as elements for building household and neighbourhood resilience strategies, establishing mechanisms for monitoring progress, and identifying a regular pool of facilitators. Partner with Emergency Services.
Lead Department/Division	Fire and Emergency Services
Initiation year	2023
Estimated completion	2024
Estimated Financial Implications	\$
Status	Planned

Appendix J: Glossary of Terms

- 7% Solution:** Following a recommendation by the Climate Action Committee, Council unanimously approved the following motion on April 26, 2021: “THAT Sooke’s emissions reduction targets be set as follows: a 50% cut from 2018 GHG emissions levels by 2030, or 7% per year.” The resulting 7% Solution strategy identified transportation emissions and heating emissions from existing buildings as two key areas of opportunity to reduce emissions in Sooke.
- Adaptation:** Humans adapt to climate change by reducing their vulnerability to its impacts. This involves actions such as moving to higher ground to avoid rising sea levels, planting different crops that will thrive under new climate conditions, or using new building technologies that will withstand extreme weather events. It is a change in structure, function, or behaviour by which a species or individual improves the chance of survival in a specific environment.
- Atmospheric river:** An atmospheric river (AR) is a narrow corridor or filament of concentrated moisture in the atmosphere. The atmospheric river event in November 2021 resulted in record-breaking rain and flooding throughout British Columbia.
- BC’s Climate Action Charter:** A voluntary agreement between the B.C. government, the Union of B.C. Municipalities, and each local government signatory to act on climate change. The Charter was launched at the 2007 UBCM convention. Under the Charter, local government signatories commit to:
 - Becoming carbon neutral in their corporate operations
 - Measuring and reporting their community's greenhouse gas emissions
 - Creating complete, compact, more energy efficient communities
- Carbon neutral:** Making no net release of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, especially through offsetting emissions by planting trees or other activities that draw carbon out of the atmosphere or avoid additional emissions.

6. **Climate Change:** A change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced using fossil fuels.
7. **Climate Justice:** The idea that the rich countries of the world must take responsibility for climate change and the damage it causes, and help poorer countries and people because they have not caused most of the problem and are the worst affected
8. **Economic, Environmental and Social Co-Benefits:** Are aligned with the low carbon resilience working model, defined as “an integrated climate action planning and decision-making approach that ‘layers on top’ of existing sustainability visions, plans, and decision frameworks to help organizations embed climate preparedness and sustainability throughout policy, planning, and decision making. It brings into focus the multiple considerations and trade-offs of policies, investments, projects, and decisions made today while acknowledging their legacies for tomorrow.” (ACT Team at SFU).
9. **Equity-seeking groups:** Persons “who have been historically disadvantaged and/or systematically marginalized by multiple systems of oppression. They face significant barriers to equal access, opportunities, and resources” (Social Planning Toronto, nd).
10. **Greenhouse Gas (GHG):** A gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation, e.g., carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbons.
11. **Heat-dome:** A weather phenomenon in which an area experiences stifling heat when a system of high pressure pushes very warm air downward and keeps it trapped as if in a bubble.
12. **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change:** An intergovernmental body of the United Nations responsible for advancing knowledge on human-induced climate change. It was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and later endorsed by United Nations General Assembly. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, it is composed of 195 member states.
13. **Just Transition Economy:** The principle of just transition is that a healthy economy and a clean environment can and should co-exist. The process for achieving this vision should be a fair one that should not cost workers or community residents their health, environment, jobs, or economic assets.
14. **Low Carbon Resilience:** Low Carbon Resilience (LCR) is a green lens that balances the co-benefits of environmental, economic, and social determinants and aligns with Sustainable Development Goals.
15. **Mitigation:** The action of reducing the severity, seriousness, or painfulness of something. When used in context of climate change and GHG emissions, mitigating refers to the act of preventing further damage by preventing or avoiding adding more emissions to the atmosphere.
16. **Net-zero:** A target of completely negating the amount of greenhouse gases produced by human activity, to be achieved by reducing emissions and implementing methods of absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere
17. **Partners for Climate Protection Program:** Run by ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI Canada) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the PCP program helps municipalities go through a five-step Milestone Framework to reduce emissions.
18. **Sea level rise:** An increase in the level of the world’s oceans because of global warming.
19. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** A collection of seventeen interlinked global goals designed to be a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all”. The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly (UN-GA) and are intended to be achieved by 2030.

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Climate Action Committee 2021/22

Bernie Klassen, Chair; Steve Unger, Co-Chair; Anna Russell, Co-Chair; Beatrice Gentili-Hittos; Dr. Shandell Houlden; Alysha Tylynn Jones; Dr. Elizabeth Lange; Jessica Prieto; Cassandra Schostek; Michael Tacon; and Jeff Bateman, Council appointee. District staff liaison: Jessica Boquist, Maia Carolsfeld, Sue Welke and Chandra Fobel. Consultants: Margaret Critchlow and Denise Withers.

Climate Action Committee 2019/20

Roland Alcock; Diane Bernard; Susan Clarke; Catherine Keogan; Andrew Moore; Eric Nolan; Jeffrey Robinson; Christina Schlattner; Kyle Topelko; Adrienne Wass; and Tony St-Pierre, Chair and Council appointee. District staff liaison: Patty Rear, Laura Hooper. Consultant: Jackie Larkin.

Climate Change Action Committee 2015/16

Andrew Moore (representing the T'Sou-ke Nation), Council appointee Ebony Logins, Jeff Bateman (Chair, representing Transition Sooke and Zero Waste Sooke), Michael Tacon, and Mark Ziegler and Nitya Harris. District staff liaison: Laura Hooper, Steve Sorensen, Katherine Lesyshen, Bonnie Sprinkling and Brent Blackhall.

Climate Change Action Charter Committee 2010/11

Councillor Maja Tait; Councillor Bev Berger; and District of Sooke staff liaison Laura Byrne, Sue-Lin Tarnowski, Gerald Christie, Bonnie Sprinkling and Steve Sorensen.

Mayor and Council, 2019-22

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