

- N. Collaborate with the Capital Regional District, Province, Crown Corporations (i.e., BC Hydro), and private service providers (Fortis BC, Telus, Shaw, etc) that provide or operate key infrastructure in the Town, such as roads, communications, gas, electricity, to identify and map the location of these assets, to be able to identify and understand the risks from natural hazards. Key stakeholders include the Capital Regional District, Ministry of Transportation and Transit, BC Hydro, and Fortis BC, Telus, and Shaw.
- O. Continue to promote and educate residents on the use of West Shore Alert to notify residents of natural hazards such as flooding, tsunamis, landslides, wildfires, earthquakes, and major storm events.

11.0 Climate Action and Sustainability

11.1 CONTEXT

The impacts of climate change are evident in View Royal through previously unprecedented events that are occurring more frequently, such as poor air quality due to wildfire smoke, extreme heat, and rising sea levels. These impacts underscore the need for proactive adaptation and mitigation. As a signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter, the Town is committed to becoming a carbon-neutral and climate-resilient community.

View Royal can contribute significantly to adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change. Municipal decisions regarding land use, development, transportation, infrastructure, and waste management significantly impact greenhouse gas emissions and working to reduce emissions. Additional key actions include supporting the construction of green buildings, supporting the shift to low-carbon heating systems (e.g. heat pumps), and encouraging building retrofits that support lower energy consumption.

Climate change is intertwined with all aspects of a community, making it a prominent theme throughout this OCP. This section outlines the objectives and policies that guide View Royal's efforts in climate change adaptation, mitigation, awareness, and sustainability.

The following OCP Goals may be achieved through the policy direction provided in this section:

- Community Safety & Security
- Climate Action and Resilience
- Regional Partnerships

11.2 OBJECTIVES

11.2.1 NET-ZERO EMISSIONS

Advocate to senior levels of government and collaborate with neighbouring municipalities and community members to achieve a net-zero emissions level by 2050.

11.2.2 CLIMATE CONSCIOUS DECISION MAKING

Acknowledge the role that municipal decisions have in impacting and shaping local and regional climates and consider decision-making through a climate conscious approach. Allocate resources accordingly to undertake initiatives to adapt to the changing climate and mitigate risks.

11.2.3 COASTAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

Continue to develop an understanding and approach to respond to the unique challenges that View Royal faces as a coastal community and the impacts of coastal flooding and sea-level rise due to climate change and global warming.

11.2.4 CLIMATE CONSCIOUS DEVELOPMENT

Approach development through a low-carbon climate lens that prioritizes sustainable development and reduces greenhouse gas emissions related to transportation and the built-form.

11.2.5 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Acknowledge the strong link between community health, well-being, and climate change and ensure that View Royal is prepared to mitigate any potential negative impacts on public health resulting from this linkage.

11.2.6 PARTNERSHIPS

Pursue constructive, impactful, and collaborative partnerships with the Capital Regional District, other local governments and First Nations in the region, senior levels of government, community groups, and other agencies to pursue comprehensively action related to all facets of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.



11.3 POLICIES

11.3.1 TAKING ACTION

- A. Continue the Town's commitment as a signatory to the 2007 BC Climate Charter.
- B. Continue to understand the impacts and effects of climate change in recognition of the Town's declaration of a climate emergency and identify opportunities to develop climate actions in strategic plans to work towards carbon neutrality.



11.3.2 REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- A. Achieve or exceed the provincial targets for community-wide GHG emissions including a 45% reduction in emissions below 2007 levels by 2030 and a 100% reduction in emissions below 2007 levels by 2050.
- B. Explore opportunities to collaborate with other municipalities in the Capital Regional District, senior levels of government, public agencies, and organizations to reduce GHG emissions through initiatives related to land use, building energy efficiency and transportation planning, infrastructure design, water and energy conservation, solid waste management, and green procurements.
- C. Advocate to senior levels of government to support View Royal in meeting the Town's climate goals and targets, as well as its natural hazard (e.g. flooding, wildfire) mitigation and response objectives. This support may include legislation, policy, programs, and data that provides the Town with the funding and resources necessary to address the climate emergency.
- D. Explore the creation of a Corporate Energy and Emissions Strategy for the Town that identifies opportunities for reducing GHG emissions caused by Town operations, transport, facilities, and waste management.
- E. Investigate opportunities to transition the Town's fleet of vehicles to electric and low emission vehicles.
- F. Consider the adoption of a "buy-clean" procurement policy that prioritizes the purchasing of low- and no-carbon materials and products for the Town.
- G. Continue to consider options for diverting organic waste from landfills, as guided by the Community Climate Action Strategy.

11.3.3 BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- A. Explore options to incorporate sustainability considerations into the Town's Development Permit Area guidelines, Building Bylaw, and Zoning Bylaw, such as enhanced landscaping requirements to improve tree canopy coverage, more broadly permitting urban agriculture to advance food security goals, and increasing requirements for bike parking, amongst others.
- B. Continue to support enhanced energy efficiency and low carbon heating in new buildings by requiring new development to meet or exceed the requirements of the BC Energy and Zero Carbon Step Codes.

*The **BC Energy and Zero Carbon Step Codes** are provincially-legislated measures that aim to achieve zero carbon and net-zero energy ready buildings.*

- C. Encourage new development to exceed the requirements of the BC Energy and Zero Carbon Step Codes.
- D. Determine the viability of reusing building demolition materials for construction purposes.
- E. Consider adoption of policies and programs to encourage decarbonization of existing buildings, such as supporting deep energy retrofits and fuel switching.

11.3.4 INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

- A. Identify opportunities to involve youth in climate change planning and action by collaborating with local youth organizations and schools.
- B. Support climate change education at View Royal Schools to increase awareness and promote future sustainability.

11.3.5 CLIMATE ADAPTATION

- A. Continue to work with neighbouring municipalities, the Capital Regional District, and Songhees and Xwsepsem Nations on the development and implementation of strategies to mitigate the impacts caused by climactic events, such as sea-level rise, increased wildfire risk, altered seasonal temperatures and precipitation, air pollution, and waterborne contaminants.
- B. Consider the development of new regulations and policies to protect and enhance the safety of the public during natural hazard events, that may be a result of climate change.
- C. Continue to develop and implement strategies to mitigate wildfire risk in View Royal by:
 - i) implementing recommendations from the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan
 - ii) maintaining the View Royal FireSmart Program
 - iii) integrating FireSmart principles into the Town's bylaws and policies

- iv) applying a Wildfire Interface Hazard Development Permit Area to the Wildfire Urban Interface areas of the community where wildfire risk is high and incorporate FireSmart principles within the guidelines accordingly.
- D. Prepare and maintain an Emergency Management Plan for the community to prepare for, prevent, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the effects of natural disasters, hazards, and climate change.
- E. Explore opportunities to create a Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy with the Songhees and Xwsepsem Nations to integrate traditional knowledge into climate action policy and decision-making, identify local and regional climate action, and partner on the implementation of these actions together.
- F. Contemplate a review and update to the Community Heat Resilience Plan to enhance the Town's preparedness for extreme heat events.
- G. Consider the development of a Comprehensive Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan to guide the long-term resilience of View Royal through:
 - i) Identifying assets, infrastructure, and populations vulnerable to sea level rise.
 - ii) Evaluating adaptation options across physical, ecological, and policy domains.
 - iii) Prioritizing actions based on risk, feasibility, and community values; and
 - iv) Establishing timelines and funding strategies for implementation.
- H. Integrate the findings of the Coastal Hazard Mapping and Risk Assessment Report into Town regulations and policy to proactively address the risk of sea level rise and coastal flooding in View Royal.

