

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025**

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**SUBJECT**     **Climate Action Strategy – 2024 Progress Report**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To present the Capital Regional District's (CRD) 2024 Climate Action Progress Report, which identifies progress towards the CRD's Climate Action Strategy.

**BACKGROUND**

The CRD has a long-standing commitment to climate action and continues to prioritize efforts to address climate change both within its own operations and across the region. Since signing the BC Climate Action Charter in 2007, the CRD has taken significant steps, including:

- Establishing a regional climate action service in 2009
- Integrating climate action targets and goals into the Regional Growth Strategy in 2018
- Declaring a climate emergency in 2019

In 2021, the Board approved an updated CRD Climate Action Strategy and a five-year action plan. This Strategy outlines how the CRD, within its service mandates, will demonstrate leadership on climate action. The CRD is committed to reporting on progress annually.

**Methodology**

The 2024 Climate Action Progress Report summarizes corporate and community-focused climate actions undertaken in 2024 by CRD services. Appendix A includes a report card that compiles self-reported progress metrics from divisions responsible for implementing each action. Using these metrics, staff assigned a 'status' to each level of the Strategy. Statuses are determined as follows:

- **On Track:** 75%-100% of the yearly target for the action were progressed as envisioned.
- **Opportunity for Improvement:** 50%-75% of the yearly target for the action(s) were progressed as envisioned.
- **Attention Required:** <50% of the yearly target for the action(s) were progressed as envisioned.

This systematic evaluation helps identify where additional focus or effort is needed to advance targeted actions, achieve intended outcomes and meet climate action goals.

**Results**

The overall status for the 2024 year was calculated as 'on track'. The averaged status for all corporate actions and all community-focused actions were each calculated as 'on track'. Goal area statuses are listed as follows:

- **On Track:**
  - Goal 1: Climate-Focused Decision Making
  - Goal 2: Sustainable Land Use, Planning and Preparedness
  - Goal 3: Low-Carbon Mobility
  - Goal 6: Minimized Waste
- **Opportunities for Improvement:**
  - Goal 4: Low-Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure
  - Goal 5: Resilient and Abundant Nature, Ecosystems and Food Systems

Both goal 4 and goal 5 have faced challenges primarily due to funding delays, impacting progress toward their respective targets.

#### Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The CRD completes an annual corporate emissions inventory. Emissions associated with Hartland Landfill and the Capital Region Housing Corporation are not included, as they are excluded from the provincial reporting framework. The results of the 2024 corporate inventory indicate:

- CRD operations generated 2,865 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions, a 3.1% decrease from 2023 and a 4.7% decrease from the baseline level of emissions from 2007.
- Emissions from buildings, facilities and infrastructure increased by 1.1% to 1,711 tonnes.
- Emissions from vehicle travel decreased by 8.7% to 1,154 tonnes.

As the Climate Action Service reported to the Environmental Services Committee on September 25, 2024 ([Update on Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Targets](#)), significant corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions are expected from 2026 onwards. Planned initiatives that are scheduled for implementation between now and 2030 indicate that the CRD is on track to meet or exceed corporate GHG emissions reduction targets by 2030, assuming new buildings are not added to the portfolio. This includes continued light-duty vehicle electrification, heat recovery projects at multiple recreation centers and more.

#### Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The CRD completes regional and local government GHG inventories every two years, following the internationally recognized Global Protocol Community-Scale GHG Inventories BASIC+ Framework. The Climate Action Service is scheduled to complete a new regional emissions inventory by fall 2025 for inclusion in the renewed Climate Action Strategy. The inventory completed for the 2022 year and presented to the Board in October 2023, indicated:

- The capital region emits approximately 1.86 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually.
- This represents a 7% reduction from 2007 levels and a decline in per capita GHG emissions (t CO<sub>2</sub>e/capita) of 25%.
- Emissions increased by 1% compared to the 2020 inventory.

#### Climate Change Impacts

Regardless of GHG emission reductions today, the capital region will continue to experience the

impacts of climate change both now and in the future. Many CRD services already incorporate climate adaptation as a significant part of their work, helping to build resilience across the region. The CRD and regional partners must continue to reduce vulnerabilities in our communities by enhancing our ability to anticipate, respond to, and recover from both extreme weather events and the more gradual shifts brought on by climate change.

### **CRD Climate Action & Adaptation Service**

Under Bylaw No. 3510, the CRD established a Climate Action service in 2009 with a regional collaboration mandate to directly support the organization and local governments in reaching mitigation and adaptation targets, policies and actions. The service hosts two inter-municipal networks and closely works with local government staff, senior governments, utilities and other stakeholders to identify other climate action opportunities and advance initiatives in collaboration. These initiatives are embedded in the Climate Action Strategy.

The service's core budget comes from an annual requisition across all regional municipalities and electoral areas, with additional funding from corporate services and external grants. In 2024, the service:

- Operated on a ~\$1.9M annual budget, supporting five, full-time employees and one four-year, full-time term position.
- Secured an additional ~\$3.2M in external grant funding for projects completed in 2024 or currently in progress.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Capital Regional District's (CRD) Climate Action Strategy guides its leadership on climate action within its service mandates, covering both corporate operations and community-focused services. The 2024 Climate Action Progress Report details actions taken to advance the Strategy, Board priorities, and other commitments. In 2024, the CRD made progress on multiple initiatives and identified areas needing increased focus. The overall status was 'on track' (75-100% of yearly targets met). The CRD remains committed to accelerating key actions, reducing corporate emissions, preparing for climate impacts, and collaborating with partners to achieve regional goals.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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### **ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: 2024 Climate Action Progress Report