

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026**

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**SUBJECT**     **Climate Action Strategy – 2025 Progress Report**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To present the Capital Regional District's (CRD) 2025 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; and
- 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 the progress of this Strategy annually.

A renewed Climate Action Strategy for 2026-2030 is currently under development and will be presented for Board consideration in early Summer 2026.

**CRD Climate Action and 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 is funded from an annual requisition across all regional municipalities and electoral areas, with additional funding from corporate services and external grants. In 2025, the service:

- operated on a core annual budget of approximately \$1.8 million, which includes five full-time employees, one full-time term position, and one temporary full-time position; and
- secured an additional ~\$3.2 million in external grant funding for projects completed in 2025 or currently in progress.

## PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

The CRD climate action progress in 2025 included the following highlights:

- launched the **Climate Adaptation Capacity Building** Initiative for elected officials and public-sector staff, training a regional cohort in climate adaptation, including development of a regional climate adaptation roadmap
- completed or launched **efficiency upgrades** to the Goldstream UV water treatment facility, Panorama Recreation Centre and the SEAPARC Recreation Centre, saving approximately \$120,000, 1,100,000 kWh of electricity, and 512 tonnes of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions per year once completed (18% of CRD 2024 corporate emissions)
- **installed 17 public EV chargers** with a total of 164 public EV chargers installed since the program launch
- collaborated with the District of Saanich and the City of Victoria to create harmonized **energy and carbon emission reporting bylaws for large buildings**, and put contracts in place to launch and support a regional building benchmarking program in 2026
- Supported hundreds of **home heat pump and energy efficiency retrofits** through the CRD's Home Energy Navigator program, eliminating hundreds of tonnes of GHG emissions and making homes more resilient to extreme heat
- hosted the CRD's first Climate Community Gathering bringing together **volunteer climate action groups** from across the region and provided 118 Cool It! climate action leadership workshops training thousands of secondary students across the region in climate leadership
- completed construction of the Biogas Upgrading Facility (BUF) for **Renewable Natural Gas (RNG)** at Hartland Landfill, which now feeds renewable natural gas into the Fortis BC network. The BUF is estimated to result in up to 475,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided over 25 years - equivalent to the lifetime emissions of about 105,000 Canadian homes

## 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 2025 corporate inventory indicate:

- CRD operations generated 3,432 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions, a 20% increase from 2024 and a 14% increase from the baseline level of emissions from 2007.
- emissions from buildings, facilities and infrastructure increased by 36% to 2,328 tonnes. This is primarily due to the emission factor for electricity used from the BC Hydro grid increasing by approximately threefold in 2025 compared to 2024. If the BC Hydro emissions factor had stayed the same as 2024, emissions from buildings, facilities and infrastructure would have decreased by 7.5%, and emissions from total CRD operations would have decreased by 6.5% compared to 2024. Emissions from fleet vehicle travel decreased by 4% to 1,104 tonnes.

While the emissions factor of BC Hydro's integrated grid electricity changes from year to year, staff expect any increases to be temporary. The Clean Energy Act requires that electricity supplied to BC's integrated grid be 100% renewable by 2030, and BC Hydro has made significant investments to bring new renewable energy online in the coming years to meet this objective.

### 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 and Adaptation Service completed the 2024 regional emissions inventory and reported to the Environmental Services Committee on November 19, 2025. The report indicated that:

- the capital region emits approximately 1.8 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually;
- an 11% reduction from 2007 levels and a decline in per capita GHG emissions (t CO<sub>2</sub>e/capita) of 30%; and
- emissions decreased by 1% compared to the 2022 inventory.

Staff have also created a digital dashboard, to be launched online in the first half of 2026, making the data more accessible than ever for the public to compare municipal GHG emissions in the capital region.

### 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. Updates to the 2026 Climate Action Strategy will include multiple climate adaptation actions to advance this work over the next five years.

### Climate Action Report Card

The 2025 Climate Action Progress Report summarizes corporate and community-focused climate actions undertaken in 2025 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. The status of each goal area is defined 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 year 2025 was calculated as 'on track'. The average status for all corporate actions and all community-focused actions was 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 4: Low-Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure
- Goal 5: Resilient and Abundant Nature, Ecosystems and Food Systems
- Goal 6: Minimized Waste

These statuses indicate substantial progress in all actions identified within the 2021 Climate Action Strategy. Staff are preparing an updated 2026 Climate Action Strategy describing next steps in all goal areas, scheduled to come to the Board in summer 2026.

*Financial Implications*

The Climate Action program had a total 2025 operating budget of approximately \$3.3 million, including \$1.0 million in grant-funded capital. As of year-end 2025, the service held total reserves of approximately \$1.5 million, including \$1.4 million in operating reserves and \$68,000 in equipment replacement reserves.

**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 2025 Climate Action Progress Report details actions taken to advance the Strategy, Board priorities, and other commitments. In 2025, 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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**ATTACHMENTS**

- Appendix A: 2025 Climate Action Progress Report (April 2026)
- Presentation: 2025 Climate Action Progress Report