

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025**

SUBJECT Climate Action Strategy Renewal – Guiding Framework

ISSUE SUMMARY

To endorse the proposed Guiding Framework for the Capital Regional District's (CRD) renewed Climate Action Strategy including recommended changes from the June 18, 2025 Environmental Services Committee meeting to reinforce the CRD's greenhouse gas reduction commitments.

BACKGROUND

The Climate Action Strategy (CAS) (Appendix A) was adopted in 2021 following the Board's declaration of a climate emergency. The CAS includes a framework that identifies a vision, principles, goals and targets alongside a five-year action plan to guide initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapting to regional climate impacts.

At its June 18, 2025 meeting, the Environmental Services Committee reviewed proposed updates in the CAS Guiding Framework and directed staff to revise the language to more clearly reflect the CRD's commitment to reducing community-wide GHG emissions (i.e., climate mitigation).

Updates to the Proposed Guiding Framework

Staff revised the CAS Guiding Framework to incorporate the Committee's direction and ensure explicit reference to the Board's commitment to ambitious climate mitigation. The updated version (Appendix B) integrates input from the CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group (IMWG), the Inter-Municipal Task Force (Task Force) and the Committee itself, with emphasis on:

- Strengthening the equity and inclusion lens
- Highlighting climate adaptation and resilience
- Using plain language
- Leading by example with stronger corporate commitments
- Reinforcing accelerated climate mitigation

Next Steps

If endorsed, the updated Guiding Framework will guide the renewal of the CAS. The full updated CAS will be presented to the Board in early 2026.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the Capital Regional District Board endorse the updated Climate Action Strategy Guiding Framework: Proposed Vision, Principles, Goals and Targets for a Renewed Climate Action Strategy.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

The key driver of this initiative is to advance the Board's Climate Action and Environment, Board and Corporate Priorities.

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

Embedded through numerous services, climate action at the CRD has strong linkages with several strategic plans across the organization, including: 2023-2026 Board Priorities and Corporate Plan, the 2018 Regional Growth Strategy, the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan and Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plans, the 2022 Regional Water Supply Master Plan, the 2022-2032 Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan, the Solid Waste Management Plan and regional transportation priorities. Successful implementation of these plans alongside the strategy is integral to fulfilling the CRD's role in climate action.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Implications

The Guiding Framework includes a principle to "Strive for Climate Equity", which will be embedded in the updated CAS.

Financial Implications

Funding to implement the 2021 Climate Action Strategy and renew the strategy is included in the CRD's 2025-2028 Financial Plan. Financial implications associated with a renewed CAS will be presented to the Board following its development.

First Nations Implications

The Guiding Framework includes a principle to "Work Towards Reconciliation", which will be embedded in the updated CAS.

Intergovernmental Implications

The regional Climate Action and Adaptation service works directly with local government partners through the IMWG and Task Force to inform the renewed CAS.

Regional Growth Strategy Implications

Climate action and planning for climate impacts are essential to achieving the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) vision and goals. Integrating the RGS vision into the renewed CAS ensures alignment between the two, including the regional GHG emissions target. If the RGS is amended during the CAS timeline, staff will undertake a process to ensure the two remain aligned.

CONCLUSION

At its June 18, 2025 meeting, the Environmental Services Committee directed staff to revise the proposed Guiding Framework for the renewed Climate Action Strategy to reinforce the CRD's greenhouse gas reduction commitments. The updated Guiding Framework reflects this direction and is being brought forward for endorsement. Next steps will see the renewed Climate Action Strategy refine the CRD's role, update key initiatives, and provide a strategic roadmap for 2026-2030 to ensure continued progress on corporate and regional climate goals.

RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the Capital Regional District Board endorse the updated Climate Action Strategy Guiding Framework: Proposed Vision, Principles, Goals and Targets for a Renewed Climate Action Strategy.

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Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Climate Action Strategy (September 2021)

Appendix B: Climate Action Strategy Guiding Framework: Proposed Vision, Principles, Goals and Targets for a Renewed Climate Action Strategy (September 2025)