

## Climate Action Strategy Guiding Framework: Proposed Vision, Principles, Goals and Targets for a Renewed Climate Action Strategy

### Vision Statement

The purpose of the climate action vision statement is to define the Capital Regional District's (CRD) long-term aspirations. It is meant to serve as a clear and compelling direction and create a shared sense of purpose. Engagement with the CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group (IMWG) and elected official members of the CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force (Task Force) suggested that the 2021 Climate Action Strategy vision statement needed to be made more compelling. Staff are recommending that the CRD Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) vision be adopted for the updated Climate Action Strategy. This would harmonize the Climate Action vision with the CRD's major planning document, align the vision with CRD's official emission reduction goal, and activate a more compelling vision.

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

The RGS vision is directly linked to the CRD's official emission reduction goal of reducing emissions by 61% below 2007 levels, and the proposed vision statement directs the organization towards accelerating climate mitigation. The continued effort to accelerate climate mitigation and direction from the ESC to reinforce the CRD's greenhouse gas reduction commitments is reflected in the proposed update below.

VISION STATEMENT	
2021 CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY	SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 PROPOSED UPDATE
Through collective action, we eliminate emissions and foster healthy and resilient communities and natural areas now and in the future.	In 2038, Capital Regional District residents enjoy a healthy and rewarding quality of life. We have a vital economy, livable communities and steward our environment and natural resources with care. Our choices reflect our commitment to collective action on climate change.

## Guiding Principles

The 2021 Climate Action Strategy has six principles that were identified and crafted with input from multiple levels of interest holders during the development of the strategy. The principles are intended to guide the organizations' work under each goal area. Through engagement with internal subject matter experts and participants in the IMWG and Task Force, use of plain language to improve accessibility of each guiding principle was recommended. At the June 18, 2025 ESC meeting, staff received feedback that explicit reference to climate mitigation was absent from some principles. As such, staff are recommending the following proposed updates to the principle statements.

Redline text shows changes made following ESC direction at the June 18, 2025 meeting.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES	
2021 CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY	SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 PROPOSED UPDATE
<b>LEADERSHIP</b> The CRD takes bold action to rapidly eliminate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from corporate operations, prepares CRD assets for the changing climate, and integrates climate action across the CRD's local and regional services.	<b>LEAD</b> Act boldly as an organization <u>to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions</u> and lead by example.
<b>URGENCY</b> Actions to mitigate the impacts of climate change are swift and substantial to respond to the climate emergency.	<b>EVIDENCE BASED DECISIONS</b> Base decisions on the best available evidence to ensure <u>actions reduce greenhouse gas emissions or increase resilience</u> , are responsible, and can be adjusted as needed.
<b>COLLABORATION</b> Collaborative and collective action among municipal, provincial, federal and First Nations governments, businesses, organizations and residents is critical to advance climate action.	<b>COLLABORATE AND LISTEN</b> Work together across the region and seek to understand what the community needs.
<b>FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS</b> Actions support Indigenous-led climate solutions that are grounded in Indigenous self-determination, shared prosperity and respect Indigenous relationships with the land, water and all beings.	<b>WORK TOWARDS RECONCILIATION</b> Further CRD's work towards reconciliation by supporting Indigenous-led climate solutions that are grounded in Indigenous self-determination and shared prosperity, and respecting Indigenous relationships with the land, water, and all beings.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES	
2021 CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY	SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 PROPOSED UPDATE
<b>EQUITY</b> Actions are inclusive and accessible to residents across the region, and particularly support those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.	<b>STRIVE FOR CLIMATE EQUITY</b> Apply an equity, diversity and inclusion lens to climate action so that actions are inclusive and accessible to residents across the region, and particularly support those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
<b>CO-BENEFITS</b> Actions maximize co-benefits, including reducing GHG emissions, increasing resilience, improving affordability, expanding economic opportunities, improving health and well-being, advancing reconciliation, and more.	<b>CO-BENEFITS</b> Maximize win-wins <u>for greenhouse gas reduction</u> , including energy efficiency, resilience, affordability, health and well-being, and biodiversity.

## Goal Areas

The CRD's 2021 Climate Action Strategy identified six goal areas as focal points for its initiatives. Actions are grouped within each goal area accordingly. Updates have been made to the 2021 Climate Action Strategy goals, based on feedback during engagement with the IMWG and Task Force, resulting in the following recommended language for inclusion in the updated Climate Action Strategy. Based on the June 18, 2025 ESC feedback, explicit reference to mitigation was added to the Low-Carbon and Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure goal statement. Other goal statements are consistent with the proposed updates presented at the June 18, 2025 ESC meeting.

Redline text shows changes made following ESC direction at the June 18, 2025 meeting.

GOAL AREAS	
2021 CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY	SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 PROPOSED UPDATE
<b>CLIMATE-FOCUSED DECISION MAKING</b> Climate action priorities are integrated at all levels of decision making across the organization.	<b>CLIMATE-FOCUSED DECISIONS</b> Climate action is integrated at all levels of decision making across the organization.
<b>SUSTAINABLE LAND USE, PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS</b> Support the region on its pathway to livable, affordable and low-carbon communities that are prepared for climate change.	<b>SUSTAINABLE AND PREPARED COMMUNITIES</b> Support the region's transition to low-carbon, affordable, and climate-ready communities.
<b>LOW CARBON MOBILITY</b> Rapidly reduce corporate fleet emissions. Support and encourage active, public and zero-emission transportation options across the region.	<b>LOW CARBON MOBILITY</b> Rapidly reduce vehicle <u>greenhouse gas</u> emissions and support more options for active and public transportation across the region.
<b>LOW-CARBON AND RESILIENT BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b> Accelerate energy efficiency, emission reductions and enhanced resilience in CRD buildings and infrastructure. Support and encourage the same for all buildings and infrastructure across the region.	<b>LOW-CARBON AND RESILIENT BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b> Accelerate energy efficiency, <u>greenhouse gas emission reductions</u> , and prepare buildings and infrastructure for climate impacts.
<b>RESILIENT AND ABUNDANT NATURE, ECOSYSTEMS AND FOOD SYSTEMS</b> Protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health and nature's capacity to store carbon and adapt to climate change. Support the ongoing ability of natural systems to sustain life.	<b>RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS AND FOODLANDS</b> Enhance natural spaces to sustain life, improve water quality, and support climate adaptation.
<b>MINIMIZE WASTE</b> Waste generation and the resulting emissions are minimized, and remaining waste is transformed into a resource. Follow the 5R pollution prevention hierarchy.	<b>WASTE REDUCTION</b> Reduce waste and landfill <u>greenhouse gas</u> emissions. Transform remaining waste into a resource.

## Emission Reduction Targets

The emission reduction targets included in the 2021 Climate Action Strategy are divided into two targets: one for regional emissions and another for corporate emissions. The regional emissions target is 61% by 2038, as defined by the 2018 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). This target will be reviewed in forthcoming revisions to the RGS, but in the meantime, staff propose that it remains unchanged from the existing RGS as part of the updated Climate Action Strategy.

The corporate target of 45% by 2030 and net-zero by 2050 is guided by the principles of the strategy and is based on global best practices as advised by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

As part of the Climate Action Strategy update, staff will consider developing sub-targets for corporate emissions to account for growing service impacts. The targets for the renewed Climate Action Strategy (2025-2030) remain unchanged:

