

Staff Report to EPC

Planning Department

FILE: 11-5280-01/25

REPORT DATE: April 29, 2025

MEETING DATE:

May 13, 2025

TO: Engagement & Priorities Committee

FROM: Michelle Baski, Manager of Agriculture and Environment

SUBJECT: Climate Action Strategy Update

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW/APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT the Committee:

- A. Receive for information the report titled “Climate Action Strategy Update” as presented at the May 13, 2025 Engagement & Priorities Committee Meeting; OR
- B. Other.

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the Climate Action Strategy.

☒ Information Report

☐ Decision Report

☐ Direction Report

DISCUSSION

Background:

Council initiated the development of a Climate Action Strategy through approval of a Decision Package in November 2023. The Climate Action Strategy was then launched in the summer of 2024. An initial public Open House was held at the Farmers Market (on August 27, 2024) and three workshops were held: one initial workshop with Council Advisory Committee members from the Advisory Design Panel, Economic Development Advisory Committee, Community Support and Accessibility Committee and the Active Transportation Advisory Committee, and

other interested parties (on July 31, 2024) and two with City staff (on September 9, 2024 and October 7, 2024).

At the October 22, 2024 EPC meeting, Council participated in a working session on the Climate Action Strategy, considering six focus areas and potential actions to increase the City's resiliency and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (see Figure 1). A summary of the public engagement findings was provided to Council at this meeting, along with the local climate projections, hazard implications and emerging action items.



Figure 1 – Proposed themes and actions from October 22, 2024 EPC meeting

Another workshop with the originally invited members from the Council Advisory Committees and other interested parties, was held on November 4, 2024, to review the proposed actions and provide further input on the draft actions and opportunities to reduce emissions across six proposed themes (slightly revised from the above Figure 1), as follows:

1. Public Infrastructure and Corporate Responsibility;
2. Health, Wellbeing and Emergency Management;
3. Buildings and Development;
4. Transportation and Mobility;

5. Local Economy and Agriculture; and
6. Ecosystems and Green Spaces.

Additionally, in an effort to seek youth input on the Climate Action Strategy, the consultant provided a summary of the Climate Actions Strategy to two Social Justice Classes at Pitt Meadows Senior Secondary on April 1, 2025. Students were led through two group activities to have a discussion on identifying impacts to vulnerable population groups and seeking input on potential action items from a younger perspective. The students provided some recurring suggestions for student-led action items including:

- Reducing organic waste contamination from the waste stream (Goal 1C);
- Initiating a neighbourhood check-in program to check in on neighbours during extreme heat events (Goal 2B);
- Advocating for improved building efficiency (Goal 3A);
- Supporting active transportation (Goal 4A); and
- Increasing the tree canopy (Goal 6A).

These actions have been incorporated into the Climate Action Strategy, under the goals listed in brackets above.

The draft Climate Action Strategy (see Attachment A) is now being presented to Council for review and feedback, and the draft Strategy is also open for public comment through a second survey and Open House scheduled for May 21, 2025. A final strategy is intended to be presented to Council later this year (see Figure 2).

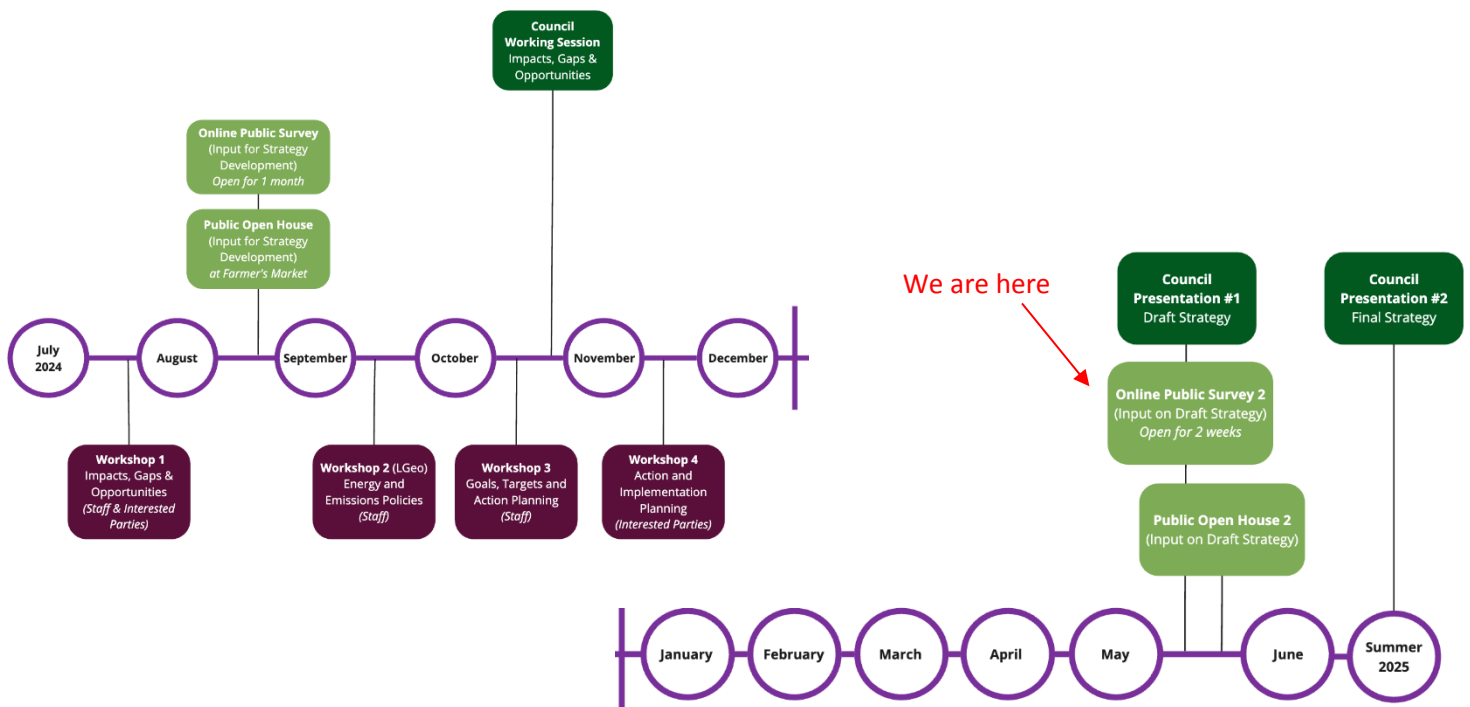


Figure 2 – Project Timeline

Relevant Policy, Bylaw or Legislation:

In addition to being supported by several principles within Council's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, there are numerous objectives within the OCP that support the preparation of a Climate Action Strategy. Objectives within the Climate and Energy chapter within the OCP that support the development of a Climate Action Plan include:

11.1 Prepare to address, mitigate, and adapt to the effects of climate change;

11.2 Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from city operations and buildings, and support broad-based community GHG emission reduction; and

11.3 Enhance carbon sequestration within the City's boundaries.

It is anticipated that several City policies and bylaws may need to be updated or adopted to achieve some of the goals within the Climate Action Strategy. For example, the *Flood Designation and Construction Control Bylaw* should be reviewed once the City's Drainage Model has been completed. Additionally, the *Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw* should be reviewed for the ability to support green infrastructure and to improve street tree canopy resiliency.

Analysis:

The Climate Action Strategy provides an overview of the projected climate changes for Pitt Meadows over the coming decades, and summarizes the projected impacts.

The most likely hazards that the City will experience as a result of climate change include: flooding; severe storms and landslides; extreme heat; wildfire and smoke; and drought and water shortage. A broad overview of the relative risk levels, ranging from low to high, for each hazard type is provided in Figure 3 below:

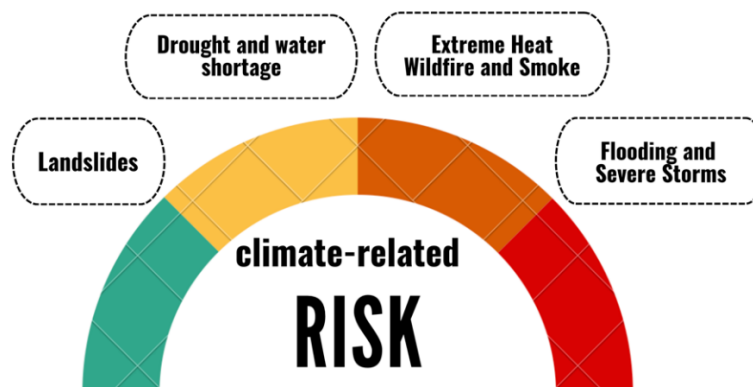


Figure 3 – Relative Risk Continuum for Climate Hazards in Pitt Meadows

The draft Climate Action Strategy identifies 14 goals and 26 associated action items within the six identified themes to strengthen the City’s resilience to climate hazards and reduce GHG emissions. The GHG reduction initiatives are intended to contribute to the regional targets of reducing emissions by 45% by 2030 (from 2010 levels), and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The recommended actions build on numerous ongoing initiatives and projects, as identified in the draft Strategy. Successful implementation of the Strategy will require collaboration with residents, businesses, industry and other government partners.

Emerging Goals and Actions

The goals and actions of the Climate Action Strategy can be found within Section 4 of the attached draft Climate Action Strategy. For ease of reference, a summary table is provided below (see Table 1).

Public Infrastructure and Corporate Responsibility
Goal 1A Increase the climate-resilience of City infrastructure, facilities and operations
Goal 1B Accelerate corporate emission reductions
Goal 1C Reduce waste going to landfills and transition to a circular economy
Health, Well-being and Emergency Preparedness
Goal 2A Enhance climate resilience in emergency preparedness
Goal 2B Enhance public awareness and readiness for climate-related emergencies
Buildings and Properties
Goal 3A Strengthen the climate resilience of buildings and properties
Goal 3B Support and increase energy efficiency, electrification and low emission in new and existing buildings
Goal 3C Support district or renewable energy systems in new development
Transportation and Mobility
Goal 4A Promote and expand sustainable and active transportation options
Goal 4B Support the adoption of efficient and zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs)
Local Economy and Agriculture
Goal 5A Enhance agricultural resilience and adaptability, and reduce fossil fuel reliance
Goal 5B Enhance local businesses' climate resilience and adaptability
Ecosystems and Green Spaces
Goal 6A Enhance urban green space resilience
Goal 6B Preserve and enhance natural environments and parks

Table 1 – Summary of Goals from the Climate Action Strategy

Each goal has an indicator to monitor how the City is progressing in reducing its GHG emissions and increasing its resiliency, with some suggested targets, as listed within the Strategy. Some actions are expected to be implemented in the short-term (within two years), medium-term (between two to five years), and longer-term (more than five years). Implementation timelines will be informed by the prioritization outlined in the Strategy (see “Putting the Strategy into Action” section), including the availability of staff and financial resources.

Next Steps

This report is intended to provide a summary of the emerging goals and actions of the Climate Action Strategy and to provide Council an opportunity to provide additional direction and feedback.

A second public survey is currently open until May 27, 2025 and feedback from that survey and the Open House will inform the final Climate Action Strategy, anticipated to be presented later this year for Council consideration of endorsement.

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Principled Governance | <input type="checkbox"/> Balanced Economic Prosperity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Spirit & Wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Pride | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | | |

Environmental/Climate Stewardship Proactively prepare and plan for a growing probability of extreme weather by incorporating climate change adaptation measures.

Natural Environment Conserve and enhance our natural assets for the benefit of current and future generations.

Investments Proactively plan for infrastructure and invest tax dollars to ensure the long-term viability and resiliency.

Active Transportation Encourage active modes and alternate forms of transportation that support a livable, healthy and environmentally responsible community.

Preparedness Advocate for dike infrastructure upgrades and strengthen partnerships with external agencies and senior levels of governments to ensure the community is protected and safe.

Emergency Preparedness Ensure the City is prepared and able to respond to small and major catastrophic events, whether manmade or natural disasters.

WORKPLAN IMPLICATIONS

- ☒ Already accounted for in department workplan / no adjustments required
☐ Emergent issue / will require deferral of other priority(ies)
☐ Other

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- ☒ None ☐ Budget Previously Approved ☐ Referral to Business Planning
☐ Other
-

There are no financial implications with this report. It is anticipated that the Climate Action Strategy can be completed within existing budget allocations, though additional resources may be required to support the implementation of the Strategy (if endorsed by Council). Further analysis is required to better understand the potential resource implications associated with the implementation of the Climate Action Strategy, noting that some actions, or implementation timelines, may need to be refined based on available resources. It is anticipated that further details will be provided when the final Strategy is presented to Council.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

☒ Inform ☒ Consult ☒ Involve ☐ Collaborate ☐ Empower

The public has been engaged as part of this project and additional opportunities for public feedback are proposed.

KATZIE FIRST NATION CONSIDERATIONS

Referral ☒ Yes ☐ No

The q̓ic̓əy̓ (Katzie) First Nation have been invited to participate in the consultation on the Climate Action Strategy and will continue to be updated and invited to participate on the draft strategy. No comments have been received to date.

SIGN-OFFS

Written by:

Michelle Baski,
Manager of Agriculture & Environment

Reviewed by:

Patrick Ward,
Director of Planning & Development

ATTACHMENT:

A. Draft Pitt Meadows Climate Action Strategy