



# 2024 Climate Action Plan – Annual Report



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## INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the current achievements towards climate action for the Township of Esquimalt, with a focus on 2024 actions. It provides a local analysis of corporate action and community progress towards greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction. It also includes a statement on the Township's progress towards corporate adaptation and community climate change resilience.

### **The Global Situation in 2024**

The need for climate action continues to be critically urgent.

The World Meteorological Organization reported that 2024 was “the warmest year in the 175-year observational record” and “the first calendar year to be more than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial era” (<https://wmo.int/publication-series/state-of-global-climate-2024>). Carbon dioxide in the air is the most significant contributor to global warming. Levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere continue to increase, rising by 3.5 parts per million between 2023 and 2024, a new record increase for a single year (<https://wmo.int/news/media-centre/carbon-dioxide-levels-increase-record-amount-new-highs-2024>).

The rate of sea-level rise around the world has more than doubled since the start of the satellite record to 4.7 mm/year in the decade between 2015–2024, which amounts to 4.7 cm over a 10-year period. This critically affects the Township which is surrounded by the ocean.

### **An Urgent Need for Action Today**

Approximately half of BC's GHG emissions are under the direct or indirect control of municipal governments.

Without immediate GHG emissions reductions across all sectors and regions, it will be impossible to keep warming below 1.5°C. Transitioning to renewable energy sources is a critically important part of reducing emissions.

According to the United Nations:

“It has become increasingly critical to develop local climate plans where cities commit to strengthening their climate resilience, raising adaptive capacity, reducing their emissions, improving their disaster preparedness, upgrading response strategies, and adopting stronger adaptation and mitigation measures” (<https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/cities-have-key-role-play-tackling-climate-change-heres-why>).

The success of current emissions reduction efforts is crucial to preventing the worst future scenarios of the climate crisis. Adaptation to these impacts is essential as global temperatures will continue to increase and remain at threatening levels.

### **BC Climate Action Charter**

The Township of Esquimalt signed the BC Climate Action Charter in 2008, a voluntary agreement between the BC government, Union of BC Municipalities, and each local government signatory to take action on climate change. Under the Charter, local governments commit to:

- Becoming carbon neutral in their corporate operations
- Measuring and reporting their community's GHG emissions
- Creating complete, compact, more energy efficient communities

As part of this commitment, the Township completes the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) survey every year.

### **Official Community Plan Targets**

The Township set targets within the **Official Community Plan** for GHG reduction. These are outlined in section 13.3 of the OCP as follows:

- Take action to reduce community GHG emissions by at least 38 percent by 2030, compared to 2007 levels
- Strive for the ultimate objective of carbon neutrality by realizing zero net community GHG emissions by 2050

## **CLIMATE ACTION INITIATIVES**

On July 11, 2022, Council approved the Esquimalt **Climate Action Plan**, **Community Climate Mitigation Plan**, and the **Adaptation Planning Guide**. These plans provide objectives and strategies to guide Council and staff toward actions and projects that will ultimately achieve the Township's climate targets and provide greater resiliency for residents.

The **Community Climate Mitigation Plan** was written with guidance from the Community Energy Association, a respected climate action leading organization in BC. The community was engaged to choose climate actions that would be appropriate for Esquimalt to carve a pathway towards a low carbon future and meet emissions reduction targets. The strategies and actions are grouped into the seven Big Moves:

- 1) Retrofit Existing Buildings

- 2) Decarbonize New Buildings
- 3) Shift Beyond the Car
- 4) Electrify Passenger Transport
- 5) Decarbonize Commercial Transport
- 6) Close the Loop on Waste
- 7) Organizational Leadership

The Esquimalt **Adaptation Planning Guide** was developed in 2020 with the support of ICLEI Canada, a leading authority in the field of climate change adaptation and resilience for local governments. The guide provides six adaptation objectives to improve Esquimalt's resilience:

- Integrate Climate Change Thinking and Response
- Strengthen Infrastructure Resiliency
- Reduce Risk to Buildings and Property
- Protect Biodiversity and Enhance Ecosystem Functions
- Build Community Resilience
- Protect Public Health and Safety

The **Climate Action Plan** was created by staff in 2022 as a working document and contains the Big Moves, Objectives, Strategies, and Actions, plus further sub-actions that staff identified as steps toward completion of the larger actions.

Also adopted in 2022 was the **Active Transportation Network Plan** which provides direction to improving how people walk, ride, and roll within and through the Township. With transportation contributing 43 percent of community GHG emissions, improvements to climate-friendly transportation are essential to lowering community emissions and meeting local and global emission targets.

With these four documents as guidance, staff have been collaborating with regional partners to implement the strategies and actions, as a step to realizing climate objectives and targets.

## LGCAP and CARIP

From 2012 to 2021, the Township participated in the BC Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP), a conditional grant program that provided funding to local government Charter signatories in the amount of 100 percent of the carbon tax that they pay directly. Under CARIP, staff calculated the amount of carbon tax paid for corporate core business operations and submitted the amount to the province along with a report detailing the actions taken during the year to reduce GHG emissions.

In 2022 the province replaced CARIP with the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (LGCAP) that bases funding on population levels and participation in the program. Under LGCAP, staff calculate GHG emissions from core business operations, estimate the emissions produced by the Township's contracted services, and complete the LGCAP survey detailing mitigation and adaptation actions. The scope of contractor associated emissions that are counted are limited to regular services and do not include new construction, administration, governance, or stationary sources (buildings). Police services emissions are not included in the inventory; library services are included.

### **Carbon Tax and Sustainability Reserve Fund**

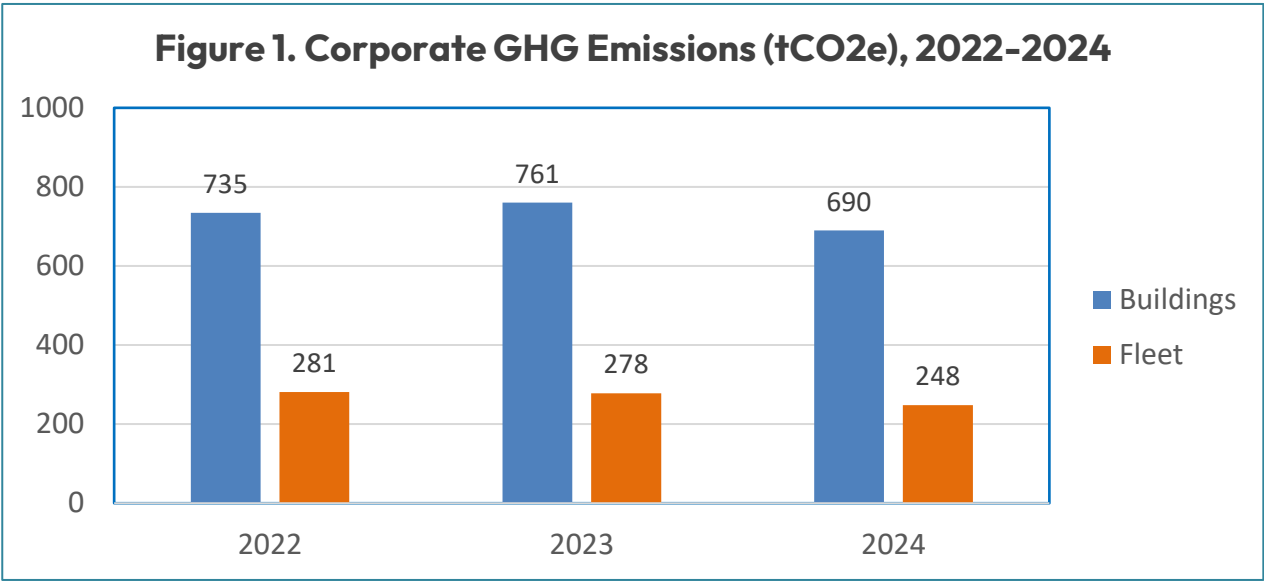
The Township has been depositing the carbon tax refund into the Sustainability Reserve Fund and using this funding for projects related to climate action. The funds must be used towards the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and/or climate preparedness and adaptation objectives.

## **CORPORATE GHG EMISSIONS INVENTORY**

Staff have calculated the Township's corporate GHG emissions annually from 2007. The inventory includes emissions produced by municipal buildings, infrastructure, fleet and tools, staff travel to conduct business, and includes the emissions attributed to the municipality's contractors. The data is obtained primarily from utility billing information and fuel purchases.

Esquimalt staff use the provincial methodology including the CleanBC scope and calculators. The scope and methodology have been refined over the years by the province and by staff, so figures from year to year are not fully comparable but they do provide an indication of where reductions have been made and where future improvements need to occur. This inventory is reported each July for the preceding year to the province and made public, as required under the Climate Action Charter.

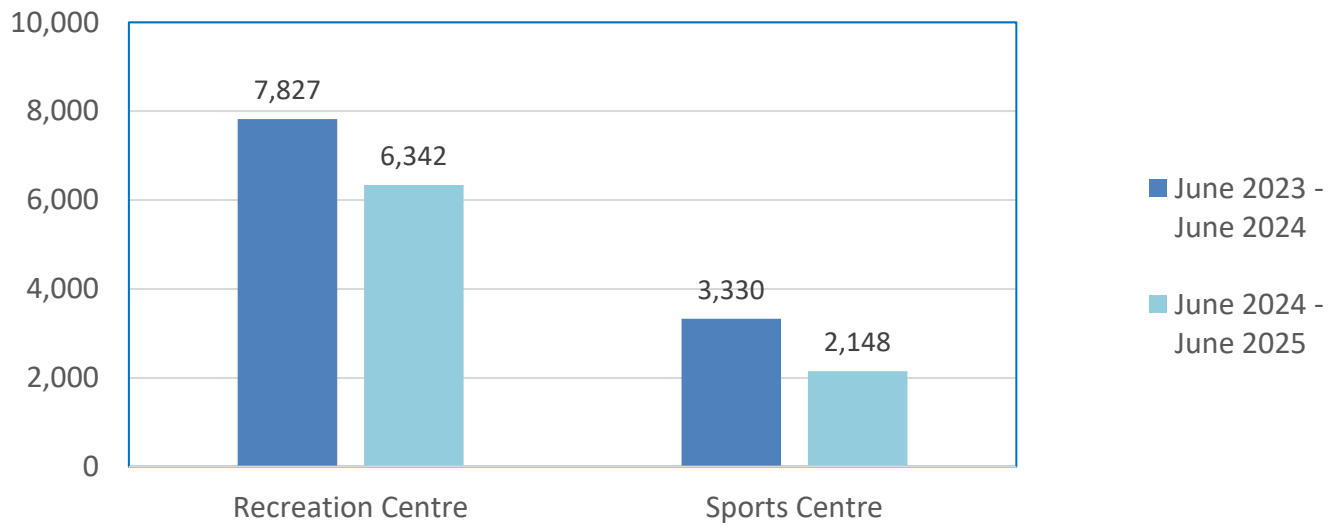
Figure 1 shows the stationary (buildings and infrastructure) and mobile (fleet) emissions for the corporation since 2022. Emissions declined significantly from 2023 to 2024 as the electrification of municipal buildings and fleet started to make a noticeable difference in GHG emissions. Building emissions declined by 9% between 2023 and 2024 while fleet emissions contracted by 11% over the same one-year period.



The proportion of mobile emissions to building emissions has increased over time with the increase in vehicles owned by the municipality, and the sale, demolition, or retrofitting of municipal buildings. The majority of building emissions are from the Recreation Centre which is open to the public 17 hours per day and the pool operates 24 hours per day. The Sports Centre is also a significant emitter with the ice and dehumidification systems running 24 hours a day during the ice season (September-April).

Figure 2 illustrates the proportion of GHG emissions from the operation of the Recreation Centre and the Sports Centre, based on natural gas usage, between 2023 and 2025. These two buildings represent around 80 percent of corporate building emissions. Emissions declined substantially due to the installation of new electrical boilers and a dehumidifier.

**Figure 2. Corporate Building GHG Emissions (GJ), 2023-2025**



## CORPORATE PROGRESS ON GHG REDUCTION

Reaching our Climate Action Charter commitments while providing an expected level of municipal service to a growing population is a challenge.

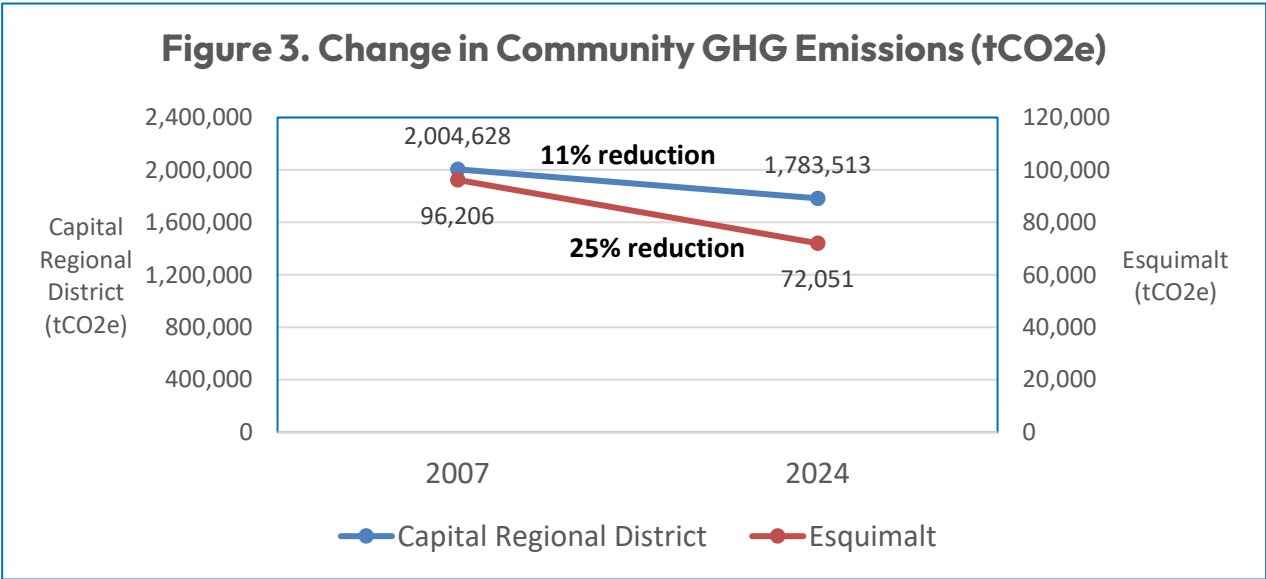
Substantial progress towards building energy efficiency has been made in the Township. In 2023, two new high-efficiency boilers replaced the 50-year-old boilers at the Recreation Centre. This was followed by the installation of a new electrical dehumidification system in 2024 at the Sports Centre to replace the gas powered dehumidifier. Staff also began working on a roadmap towards emissions reduction that will model the best future retrofits to reduce GHG emissions while maintaining/improving access to services for residents. More 2024 actions undertaken towards climate mitigation and adaptation can be viewed in the matrix found in 'Appendix A - Climate Action Plan 2024 report'.

Council endorsed a **Fleet Electrification Plan** in 2024 and this has led to a recent fall in emissions. An electric pick-up truck and electric charging stations were purchased in 2024 by the Parks & Recreation department. As electric vehicles become more readily and affordably available, the replacement of existing gasoline and diesel vehicles is expected to significantly impact overall corporate emissions.

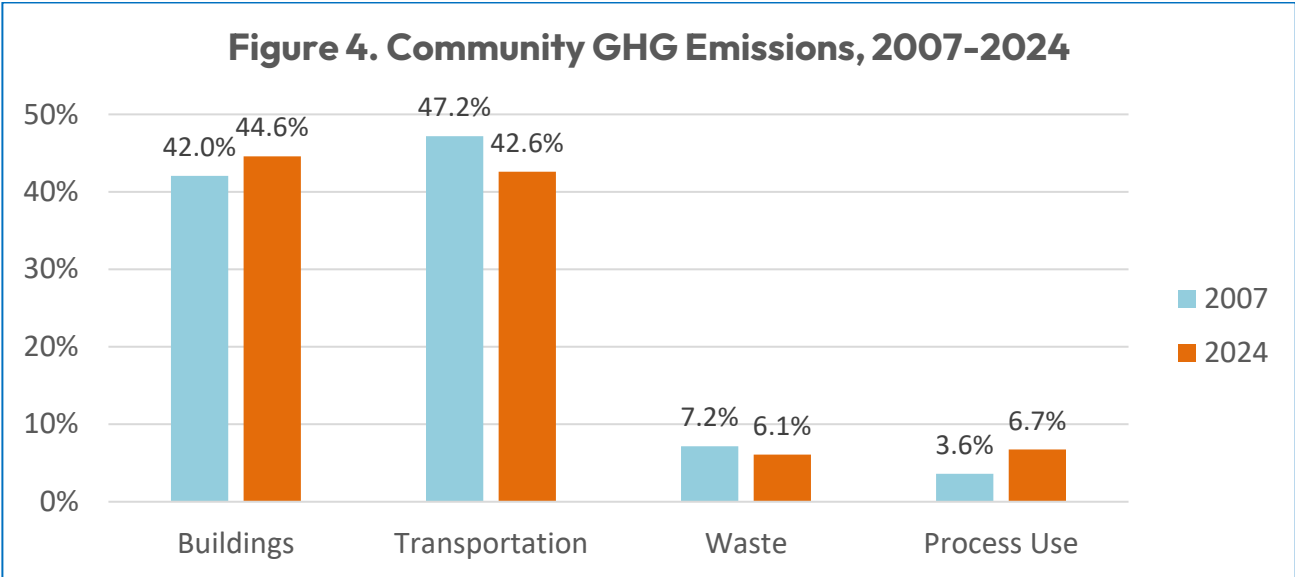
# COMMUNITY GHG EMISSIONS INVENTORY

The community GHG inventory is an estimate of the GHG emissions from all activities within the municipality. The community inventory includes direct emissions such as combustion of fossil fuels for heating buildings as well as transboundary emission sources generated by community activities. On-road transportation was calculated using fuel consumption and vehicle kilometres travelled data for vehicles registered within Township’s boundaries, although some of this travel is outside of Esquimalt. The Township’s solid waste figures were estimated on a per capita basis from CRD solid waste data.

The total amount of GHG emissions in Esquimalt fell by 25% from 2007 to 2024, from 96,206 to 72,051 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, which is a savings of 24,155 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, or roughly the weight of 2,000 school buses. This achievement compares favourably with progress made in the CRD, which represents all municipalities in Greater Victoria. Figure 3 shows that emissions fell at a faster rate in Esquimalt when compared with the CRD as a whole, where emissions only declined by 11% between 2007 and 2024.



The community’s emissions profile in 2024 showed that transportation accounts for about 43 percent of emissions and buildings produce about 45 percent of emissions (Figure 4). The remainder of GHG emissions are from waste (6%) and process use (7%), which mostly refers to refrigerant release from air conditioning systems. This profile is typical of many urban municipalities. Compared to 2007 figures, transportation has declined relative to emissions from buildings and process use.



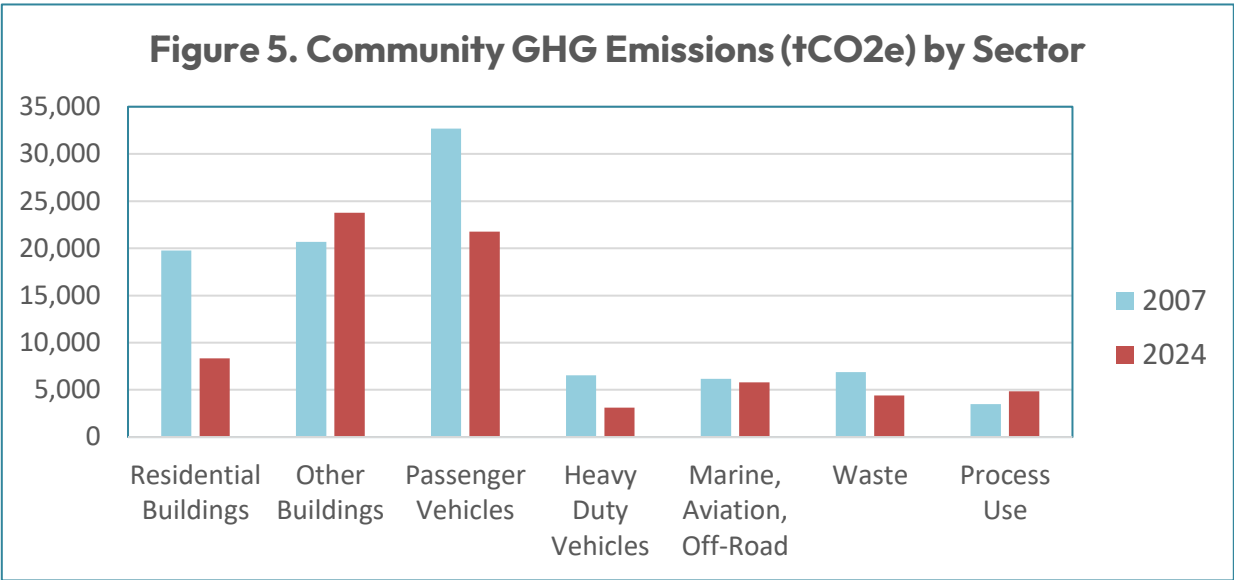
The community GHG inventory has been provided for the Township by the Capital Regional District (CRD) from 2018 to 2024 using the GPC Protocol BASIC or BASIC+ reporting requirements. The CRD region has historically relied (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) on the provincial Community Energy and Emissions Inventories (CEEI) to baseline and track community GHG emissions. However, there have been some limitations to the CEEI which has resulted in the use of GPC BASIC+ to prepare the CRD regional inventory. The BASIC+ protocol meets the reporting standard for local governments that have committed to the Global Covenant of Mayors - an agreement led by community networks to undertake a transparent and supportive approach to measure GHG emissions community-wide.

### COMMUNITY GHG EMISSIONS PROGRESS

Figure 5 illustrates the change in GHG emissions for each sector from 2007 to 2024. The greatest emissions reductions are from residential buildings (-11,420 tCO<sub>2</sub>e), largely due to the adoption of electric heat pumps and reduced fuel oil and natural gas usage. Passenger vehicles also saw major savings (-10,930 tCO<sub>2</sub>e), which can be attributed to the adoption of electric vehicles as well as improvements in active transportation infrastructure leading to more cycling and walking. Heavy duty vehicles and waste also saw substantial reductions in emissions (-3,409 and -2,488 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, respectively), largely due to the implementation of the recycling program.

Growth in emissions was identified in two sectors. In the Other Buildings category, commercial and industrial operations substantially increased their use of natural gas and diesel fuel. The

increase in the Process Use category is largely due to the growing adoption of air conditioning systems.



The Township has taken several actions to reduce GHG emissions in the community. The latest actions can be found in ‘Appendix A - Climate Action Plan 2024 report’. Previous actions can be found in the **Climate Action Plan**, adopted by Council in 2022.

## ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

Despite recent and widespread global mitigation efforts, it is acknowledged that we are experiencing and will continue to experience serious climate change impacts. Proactively planning for and changing the way we build our systems is prudent from both a financial perspective (avoided cost) as well as a social and environmental lens.

Climate trends depict a steady rise in both seasonal and annual temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and an increase in the frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme weather. These changes generally mean hotter and drier summers, more frequent and intense heat waves and rainfall events, increased wind levels and storms, and sea level rise.

In 2020, the Township through the Together for Climate Project developed a climate change **Adaptation Planning Guide**. The purpose of the guide was to mainstream adaptation actions into municipal operations and to reduce the risks climate change posed to the community’s physical, economic, social, and ecological systems. This involved:

- Identifying locally relevant climate change impacts
- Completing organizational vulnerability and risk assessments
- Establishing long-term adaptation vision and goals
- Identifying relevant adaptation actions
- Developing an implementation action plan

This process resulted in a list of 26 potential impacts from climate change. The following six objectives were identified through a series of workshops:

- Integrate climate change thinking and response
- Strengthen infrastructure resiliency
- Reduce risk to buildings and property
- Protect biodiversity and enhance ecosystem functions
- Build community resilience
- Protect public health and safety

The actions are designed to be implementable within the Township, address the priority impacts of climate change and extreme weather, and involve non-municipal partners in their planning and implementation. The actions were incorporated into the **Climate Action Plan** with staff identifying further sub-actions that could make the implementation more feasible. Recent progress on the actions can found in 'Appendix A - Climate Action Plan 2024 report'.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024 - 3 BIG MOVES

A few actions taken in 2024 deserve special mention for their potential long-term impact:

### 1. **BC Energy Step Code adoption:**

- Esquimalt Council adopted the BC Energy Step Code and the new Zero Carbon Step Code in 2023.
- Beginning in 2024, proposed buildings had to show they will be able to operate with near zero carbon emissions.

### 2. **Active Transportation Network Plan implementation:**

- Speed limits were reduced across the municipality to 40 km/h on major roads and 30 km/h on all other roads to improve safety for everyone.
- The Lampson-Tillicum corridor was reconstructed with 2 km of new separated bike lanes, improved crosswalks with pedestrian activated flashing beacons, and sidewalk improvements.
- Public engagement meetings were held on the future of active transportation improvements to Esquimalt Road.
- Traffic calming in the Rockheights neighbourhood incorporated new speed humps.
- The entrance to Saxe Point Park was beautified with a new street mural and a shorter crosswalk for pedestrians.

### 3. **Electrification of buildings and vehicles:**

- The Archie Browning Sports Centre installed a new electrical dehumidification system to replace the gas powered dehumidifier which has already resulted in significant savings in emissions.
- Two new high efficiency boilers at the Recreation Centre installed in 2023 began operation and resulted in substantial emissions savings.
- The Parks & Recreation department purchased an electric pick-up truck and electric charging stations to provide the vehicle with power.
- The Fire department purchased a hybrid command truck, the first electric hybrid in the Fire fleet.

## CONCLUSION

The urgency to mitigate global warming and adapt to increasingly unpredictable climate impacts cannot be overstated.

Significant progress has been made in Esquimalt, with GHG emissions having fallen by 25 percent between 2007 and 2024. The Township, like many municipalities, is implementing climate action where every project and purchase is evaluated for its impact among competing priorities. Many actions marked ongoing in the **Climate Action Plan** are multi-year initiatives that will expand and change, enabling future actions to be identified and implemented. With diligent progress towards Council's climate targets, we remain hopeful that the youth of today will have all the opportunities that were available to older generations.

# APPENDIX A - CLIMATE ACTION PLAN - 2024 REPORT

Appendix A contains action implementation tables for 2024 annual climate reporting. This report reflects actions from the **Climate Action Plan** and were expected to be completed in 2024 or are ongoing.

| Lead or Supporting Division |                                         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Council                     | Township of Esquimalt Council           |
| CS                          | Corporate Services                      |
| CM                          | Communications                          |
| CRD                         | Capital Regional District (external)    |
| DS                          | Development Services                    |
| EP                          | Engineering & Public Works              |
| FN                          | Financial Services                      |
| FR                          | Fire and Emergency & Resilience Program |
| PR                          | Parks & Recreation Services             |

| Financial Resources |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| \$                  | < \$50,000            |
| \$                  | \$50,000 - \$100,000  |
| \$                  | \$100,000 - \$250,000 |
| \$                  | \$250,000 - \$500,000 |
| \$                  | > \$500,000           |

# Mitigation Actions – The Seven Big Moves

## Objective (BIG MOVE) 1: Retrofit Existing Buildings

| EXISTING BUILDINGS 1: Improve Energy Efficiency and Enable Fuel Switching                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                | Adaptation co-benefit | Lead | Supporting | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 1.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Encourage and enable deep energy retrofits.                    | X                     | DS   | CM         | \$\$\$              | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued collaborating with CRD, municipal partners, and other levels of government to support incentives</li> <li>Two new high efficiency gas boilers at the Recreation Centre replacing were installed in 2023 and entered operation in 2024</li> </ul>                                                |                                                                |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| 2.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Encourage and enable building electrification or renewable gas | X                     | DS   | CM         | \$\$                | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installed electric desiccant for the Archie Browning Sports Centre to replace gas desiccant</li> <li>Installed a new electrical dehumidification system at the Archie Browning Sports Centre to replace the gas powered dehumidifier</li> <li>Transitioning to electric equipment as available</li> </ul> |                                                                |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |

| EXISTING BUILDINGS 3: Build Industry Capacity and Increase Demand                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                          |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          | Adaptation co-benefit | Lead | Supporting | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 3.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Establish a long-term marketing campaign | X                     | CM   | DS         | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used website/social media pages to promote Home Energy Navigator program to encourage low-carbon heating</li> <li>Provided brochures at municipal hall front counter and included in property tax mailouts</li> </ul> |                                          |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| 3.2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Build industry capacity                  | X                     | DS   | CRD, CM    | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborated with CRD and province to promote educational opportunities for building owners, managers, construction, development, and inspection professions</li> </ul>                                               |                                          |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |

Objective (BIG MOVE) 2: Decarbonize New Buildings

| Strategy 1: Prioritize a low carbon approach                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                               |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                               | Adaptation co-benefit | Lead | Supporting | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 1.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Encourage low carbon heating in new buildings | X                     | DS   | CRD        | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continued collaborating with CRD, municipal partners, and other levels of government to support incentives using the Home Energy Navigator program</li></ul> |                                               |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |

## Objective (BIG MOVE) 3: Shift Beyond the Car

| Strategy 2: Increase walking, cycling, and other forms of zero emission mobility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                   |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                   | Adaptation co-benefit | Lead | Supporting | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 2.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Enable active transportation through plans and policies                           |                       | EP   | DS         | \$\$                | Moderate      | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented the <b>Active Transportation Network Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted public engagement on active transportation improvements to Esquimalt Road</li> <li>Continued Parking Bylaw update</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                   |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| 2.2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Build safe routes for walking, cycling, and other forms of zero emission mobility |                       | EP   | DS, PR     | \$\$\$              | Moderate      | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented the <b>Active Transportation Network Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced speed limits across the municipality to 40 km/h on major roads and 30 km/h on all other roads to improve safety for everyone</li> <li>Reconstructed the Lampson-Tillicum corridor with 2 km of separated bike lanes, improved crosswalks with pedestrian activated flashing beacons, and sidewalk improvements</li> <li>Conducted public engagement on the future of active transportation improvements to Esquimalt Road</li> <li>Incorporated new traffic calming speed humps in the Rockheights neighbourhood</li> <li>Beautified the entrance to Saxe Point Park with a new street mural and a shorter crosswalk for pedestrians</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |                                                                                   |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                 |                       |      |             |                     |               |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| 2.3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Develop and deliver an active transportation outreach strategy  |                       | CM   | DS, EP      | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborated with CRD and municipal partners to support education and promotion of active transportation including Go By Bike Week</li> <li>Include cycling and walking maps in new resident information packages and have available at municipal hall front counter</li> </ul> |                                                                 |                       |      |             |                     |               |         |
| 2.5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Promote micro e-mobility & on-demand services                   |                       | CM   | DS, EP      | \$\$                | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EV car sharing is being implemented through development applications</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                 |                       |      |             |                     |               |         |
| <b>Strategy 3: Promote transit ridership and support a zero-emissions transit network</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                 |                       |      |             |                     |               |         |
| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                 | Adaptation co-benefit | Lead | Supporting  | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 3.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Collaborate with transit providers to promote transit ridership |                       | DS   | CRD, CM, EP | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worked with BC Transit on their new Regional Corridor Strategy project</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                 |                       |      |             |                     |               |         |

## Objective (BIG MOVE) 4: Electrify Passenger Transport

| Strategy 1: Enable charging “on-the-go”                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                     |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                     | Adaptation co-benefit | Lead | Supporting | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 1.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Design, fund, and build a public EV charging network                |                       | EP   | DS, PR     | \$\$                | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installed two electric charging stations for Parks &amp; Recreation to provide for new electric vehicles</li> </ul>                                     |                                                                     |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| Strategy 2: Enable charging at home and work                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                     |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| 2.2                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Enable EV charging in existing residential and commercial buildings |                       | DS   | CM         | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worked with the CRD on securing grants for an enhanced regional electric vehicle charging network</li> </ul>                                            |                                                                     |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| Strategy 3: Encourage EVs through outreach and supportive policies                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                     |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| 3.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Develop and deliver an EV outreach strategy                         |                       | DS   | CM, PR, EP | \$                  | Low           | 2023    |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website provides links to available grant opportunities</li> <li>Development services staff assist building owners to find grant information</li> </ul> |                                                                     |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |

## Objective (BIG MOVE) 5: Decarbonize Commercial Transport

| Strategy 2: Lead by example by transitioning municipal fleet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                          |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Action                                                                   | Adaptation co-benefit | Lead | Supporting | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 2.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Update corporate policies to prioritize low carbon options when feasible |                       | All  | CS         | \$\$\$              | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchased an electric pick-up truck for Parks &amp; Recreation</li> <li>Purchased a hybrid command truck for Fire, the first electric hybrid in the Fire fleet</li> <li>Council endorsed a <b>Fleet Electrification Plan</b> in 2024</li> </ul> |                                                                          |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |

## Objective (BIG MOVE) 7: Organizational Leadership

### 7.1 Leading by Example

| Strategy 1: Shift Beyond the Car                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                       |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                       | Adaptation co-benefit | Lead | Supporting | Financial resources | Time Involved | Timing  |
| 1.2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Participate in Go By Bike Week                                                        |                       | CM   | All        | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued the relationship with regional Go By Bike chapter and provided in-kind location space (Archie Browning parking lot) and event promotion</li> <li>Engaged a staff committee to collaborate on a staff participation campaign</li> </ul> |                                                                                       |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| Strategy 2: Electrify Passenger Transportation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                       |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                       | Adaptation co-benefit | Lead | Supporting | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 2.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Invest in EVs for light-duty fleet                                                    |                       | EP   | PR, FR     | \$\$                | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchased an electric pick-up truck for Parks &amp; Recreation</li> <li>Purchased a hybrid command truck for Fire, the first electric hybrid in the Fire fleet</li> </ul>                                                                        |                                                                                       |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| 2.3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Develop a vehicle purchasing policy that prioritizes low carbon options when feasible |                       | EP   | CS, DS, PR | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council endorsed a <b>Fleet Electrification Plan</b> in 2024</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                       |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |

| Strategy 3: Decarbonize New Buildings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                |   |    |            |    |     |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|------------|----|-----|---------|
| 3.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Adopt a high-performance building policy for all new civic buildings that includes energy and GHG metrics, optimized siting and orientation, and other green building features | X | CS | EP, DS, PR | \$ | Low | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OCP policy and guidelines support energy efficient, low GHG construction</li> <li>Gorge Park pavilion met this strategy; solar panels are online and reducing hydro needs</li> <li>The new Public Safety Building (under construction) complies with this strategy</li> <li><b>GHG Reduction Strategy</b> underway</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                |   |    |            |    |     |         |

## 7.2 Integration Across the Organization

| Strategy 1: Incorporate - Embed climate action into other planning documents such as the OCP, bylaws and policies, and departmental/master plans. Incorporate into other documents and processes                                                                                                  |                                                                                            |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                            | Adaptation co-benefit | Lead | Supporting | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 1.4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Identify which departments and staff are responsible for implementing aspects of this plan | X                     | DS   | All        | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fulfilled Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) requirements to obtain yearly Provincial funding</li> <li>Facilitated a Council climate action workshop and prepared a greenhouse gas reduction roadmap</li> </ul> |                                                                                            |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |

| Strategy 2: Budget - Embed climate action into the budgeting process                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                             |                       |        |            |                     |               |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                             | Adaptation co-benefit | Lead   | Supporting | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 2.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Update Budgeting process and criteria to increase priority to climate action                | X                     | CS, FN | All        | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Top of mind in budgeting process</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                             |                       |        |            |                     |               |         |
| Strategy 4: Convene - Host regular meetings to discuss implementation with internal and/or external stakeholders                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                             |                       |        |            |                     |               |         |
| 4.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Formalize the internal staff climate action working group                                   | X                     | DS     | CM, PR, EP | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal Climate Action Working Group met 6 times in 2024</li> </ul>                                                                                                           |                                                                                             |                       |        |            |                     |               |         |
| Strategy 5: Report regularly to Council on progress and accomplishments. (Annual reporting is recommended)                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                             |                       |        |            |                     |               |         |
| 5.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Develop an annual progress report that ties to specific strategies and targets in this plan | X                     | All    | CM         | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created target to include in 2024 Annual Report</li> <li>Fulfilled Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) requirements to obtain yearly Provincial funding</li> </ul> |                                                                                             |                       |        |            |                     |               |         |

**Strategy 6: Renew - Prepare for climate plan renewal approximately every five years**

|     |                                                                                                                                                                          |   |    |     |    |     |         |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|-----|----|-----|---------|
| 6.1 | Set out a renewal schedule that includes annual progress reporting, updates every 2 years to monitor and incorporate new opportunities, and a full renewal every 5 years | X | DS | All | \$ | Low | Ongoing |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|-----|----|-----|---------|

**Actions taken in 2024:**

- Internal Climate Action Working Group met 6 times in 2024
- Prepared and presented the **Climate Action Plan** Annual Report to Council

# Adaptation Actions

## Objective 2: Strengthen Infrastructure Resiliency

| Strategy 2.1: Ensure infrastructure is designed and maintained for up-to-date climate projections                                                   |                                                                                        |                       |      |                                       |                     |               |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Action                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                        | Mitigation co-benefit | Lead | Supporting                            | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 2.1a                                                                                                                                                | Identify infrastructure most at risk for extreme weather impacts                       |                       | EP   | PR, IT, CRD                           | \$\$\$              | Moderate      | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a <b>Sewer Asset Management Plan</b> underway</li> </ul>        |                                                                                        |                       |      |                                       |                     |               |         |
| 2.1b                                                                                                                                                | Continually upgrade stormwater and sanitary systems to prevent inflow and infiltration |                       | EP   | Contractors & private property owners | \$\$\$\$\$          | High          | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCTV inspection program on storm and sanitary sewer mains continued</li> </ul> |                                                                                        |                       |      |                                       |                     |               |         |

### Objective 3: Reduce Risk to Buildings and Property

| Strategy 3.1: Prepare building stock for effects of more severe weather                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                            |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Action                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                            | Mitigation co-benefit | Lead | Supporting | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 3.1a                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Encourage residents and building owners to maintain and upgrade their buildings to be more resilient to extreme weather events such as wind and rainstorms | X                     | DS   | EP, CM, DS | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued to encourage developers of new buildings to use resilient materials through the Development Permit process</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                            |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |

## Objective 4: Protect Biodiversity and Enhance Ecosystem Functions

| Strategy 4.1: Protect and expand the existing urban forest                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                             |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                             | Mitigation co-benefit | Lead | Supporting | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 4.1a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Explore new ways of ensuring tree protection for new developments                                                           | X                     | PR   | DS, EP     | \$\$                | Moderate      | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued to encourage developers to keep existing trees and plant new trees through the Development Permit process</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                             |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| 4.1b                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Continue to implement the recommendations of the Esquimalt Urban Forest Management Plan                                     | X                     | PR   | DS         | \$\$                | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Urban Forest Management Plan</b> is referred to regularly by staff</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                             |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| 4.1c                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Expand boulevard tree and Parks planting and watering program to double the number of trees planted and maintained per year | X                     | PR   | EP         | \$\$                | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planted at least 80 trees per year on boulevards and watered for a target of five years from time of planting</li> <li>Increased the number of park trees planted over the previous year</li> </ul>                                                                                      |                                                                                                                             |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| Strategy 4.4: Prevent the spread of invasive species                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                             |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| 4.4b                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Be proactive in managing emerging invasive species threats as they appear                                                   |                       | CRD  | PR         | \$\$                | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attended Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership-Intergovernmental Working Group (CRISP - IWG) – Leads in identifying and providing education, tools, and contractors (is chaired and coordinated by the CRD)</li> <li>Proactively manage invasive species as they appear</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                             |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |

| Strategy 4.5: Encourage community stewardship within natural areas in the Township                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                               |                       |      |             |                     |               |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                               | Mitigation co-benefit | Lead | Supporting  | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 4.5a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Collaborate with the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, ENGOs, and community groups for ecological restoration                   | X                     | PR   | CS, CM      | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued to work with GV Green team (recruits volunteers) and Earth Day activities with schools and residents</li> <li>Continued working with Gorge Waterway Action society and World Fisheries trust in nature house, nature walks, restoration events, interns</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                               |                       |      |             |                     |               |         |
| Strategy 4.6: Manage water quality runoff to reduce potential for algae blooms                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                               |                       |      |             |                     |               |         |
| 4.6a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Work together with other local government and the CRD to reduce the factors that could cause poor water quality in the Gorge. | X                     | EP   | CM, CRD, DS | \$\$                | Moderate      | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with CRD Source Control Program</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                               |                       |      |             |                     |               |         |

## Objective 5: Build Community Resilience

| Strategy 5.1: Empower and engage with Esquimalt residents and businesses on ways they can adapt to climate change and reduce their reliance on outside support and emergency responders during crises                                                                  |                                                                 |                       |        |            |                     |               |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                 | Mitigation co-benefit | Lead   | Supporting | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 5.1a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Encourage community social connectedness                        |                       | DS, PR | CM         | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage emergency preparedness education on social media</li> </ul>                                                                                                                             |                                                                 |                       |        |            |                     |               |         |
| 5.1b                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Look for opportunities to increase access to locally grown food | X                     | PR     | DS, EP, CM | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with Esquimalt Farmer's Market society and Esquimalt Community Gardens Society</li> <li>Work with CRD and neighbouring municipalities to support regional initiatives</li> </ul> |                                                                 |                       |        |            |                     |               |         |

## Objective 6: Protect Public Health and Safety

| Strategy 6.1: Ensure all residents have access to outdoor areas for cooling during extreme heat events                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                          |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                          | Mitigation co-benefit | Lead | Supporting | Financial resources | Time involved | Timing  |
| 6.1b                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Set goals for parkland per capita or within 15-minute walk of residential development                    |                       | PR   | DS         | \$\$\$\$\$          | Moderate      | 2023    |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created public map of available public buildings with climate control and water fountains</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                          |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| Strategy 6.2: Ensure new residential buildings are climate ready                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                          |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| 6.2a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Encourage the use of passive design techniques in new residential developments                           | X                     | DS   | Council    | \$                  | Low           | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council implemented the BC Energy Step Code and the new Zero Carbon Step Code</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                          |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |
| 6.2b                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Encourage deep home retrofits of existing buildings to improve both efficiency and comfort for residents | X                     | DS   | CM         | \$                  | Moderate      | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue working with CRD, municipal partners, other levels of government to support incentives</li> <li>Link to retrofit resources off Esquimalt website and include reference to retrofit options in materials for new residents or businesses and/or property tax information mailout</li> </ul> |                                                                                                          |                       |      |            |                     |               |         |

| Strategy 6.4: Support efforts to reduce urban air pollution                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                      |   |    |            |      |          |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|------------|------|----------|---------|
| 6.4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Advocate and support low emission transportation modes including active and public transportation as well as vehicle electrification | X | DS | EP, CM, PR | \$\$ | Moderate | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented the <b>Active Transportation Network Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developers of new buildings are encouraged to provide electric bike charging, bike parking for all sizes of bikes, transit passes for new owners, car sharing</li> <li>Continue with Transportation Demand Management initiatives to reduce parking needs</li> <li>Completed the <b>Integrated Parking Strategy</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                      |   |    |            |      |          |         |
| Strategy 6.5: Reduce potential habitat for vectors that cause disease                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                      |   |    |            |      |          |         |
| 6.5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Utilize best management practices for vector borne disease prevention in municipally owned infrastructure                            |   | EP | FR, PR     | \$   | Low      | Ongoing |
| <b>Actions taken in 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued maintenance of municipal infrastructure</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                      |   |    |            |      |          |         |