

## Climate Action Plan Update

### Recommendation:

- 1) THAT Council receive the report titled “Climate Action Plan Update” dated March 11, 2025, for Information; and**
- 2) THAT Council provide input on the key considerations, draft bold moves and actions noted in the report.**

### **Report Purpose and Summary Statement:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with update on progress to develop the Maple Ridge Climate Action Plan and to seek input on key items for consideration noted in the staff report. Input from Council will inform a final phase of community engagement and subsequent content of the draft Climate Action Plan.

### **Previous Council Action:**

Council received an information update on the progress on the climate action plan and provided input at a workshop on July 23, 2024. Council received an information update on the findings from greenhouse gas emissions, and climate risk modelling on October 22, 2024.

### **Financial Impact:**

The development of the climate action plan is being funded in its entirety from Local Government Climate Actions Program and Union of BC Municipalities grant funding. While there are no financial impacts from this report, implementation of the action plan will be associated with resource allocations to be brought forward in future reports.

### **Strategic Alignment:**

Climate Leadership & Environmental Stewardship

### **Climate Impact:**

The outcomes and deliverables of the Climate Action Plan will influence community and corporate greenhouse gas and climate risk impact reduction and prevention actions.

### **Communications:**

The climate action plan development planned 3 phases of engagement. Phases 1 and 2 were completed in 2024. Phase 3 focused on input related to the proposed climate actions and is scheduled for March 2025.

## Climate Action Plan Update

### BACKGROUND:

The draft climate action plan adopts a low carbon resilience approach that integrates both adaptation and mitigation strategies into municipal and community planning. This approach ensures that decisions are made to reduce emissions while strengthening the community's ability to withstand the impacts of climate change. It also considers how climate actions intersect with other community priorities, such as health, equity, biodiversity, natural systems, and economic development, so that these actions deliver multiple benefits beyond just climate resilience.

The work developing the climate action plan began in February 2024 and will be completed in May 2025. The project contains the following elements:

Deliverable Task		Status
1	A Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory that identifies GHG emissions and sources in the community from buildings (residential, commercial, institutional), transportation, and waste as well as municipal (City of Maple Ridge) emissions.	Complete
2	A climate risk assessment to identify risks and determine vulnerabilities in the community from climate hazards including wildfire, heat, flooding, extreme rain.	Complete
3	Conducting an extreme temperature (heat) risks mapping analysis to find community vulnerability and identify responses.	Complete
4	Examine multi-hazards and map the vulnerability and risks of climate change and impacts to the local economy, social and cultural practices, and the environment to inform response.	Complete
5	Determine draft 'Bold Move' priorities and actions that can address climate action (mitigation and adaptation) and build more resiliency in the community to climate impacts.	Complete
6	Three rounds of public engagement: Phase 1 was completed in August 2024. Phase 2 was completed in December 2024. Phase 3 will be undertaken in March 2025.	Ongoing

7	Develop the action-oriented climate action plan for Maple Ridge to inspire action and advance community benefits while addressing the climate challenges that Maple Ridge faces.	In progress
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## **ANALYSIS:**

The climate action plan recognizes and builds upon existing municipal plans and actions underway that contribute to a livable, healthy community and thriving economy, while addressing climate leadership and environmental stewardship (e.g., Green Infrastructure Management Strategy, Urban Forestry Management Plan, Strategic Transportation Plan, Official Community Plan, and Integrated Stormwater Management Plans). In total, there are 104 existing actions already underway related to these plans that align well with fifty-seven (57) proposed new actions in Attachment A. This report has been brought forward to Council for input on the proposed bold moves and actions within the Climate Action Plan and this will inform the final phase of public engagement.

### **Community Climate Emissions Impact**

The City's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions target is a 45% reduction of 2010 emissions in 2030 and net zero emissions in 2050. These targets have been adopted into the Official Community Plan.

Sources of GHG emissions in the community in 2010 and 2022 have been identified and future emissions to 2030 and 2050 have been forecasted. Based on data modelling and climate risk assessments, existing regulation and action by senior levels of government and existing actions underway by the City will not be sufficient for the community to meet the target for 45% emissions reduction by 2030.

When examined in the context of new actions proposed for the draft climate action plan, modelling shows that the community would reach the target of 45% reduction in emissions by 2035 and significant reductions would accrue beyond that target up to 2050. Attachment B includes data on the specific modelling completed as part of the analysis that informed the draft actions in the climate action plan.

### **Community Climate Risks**

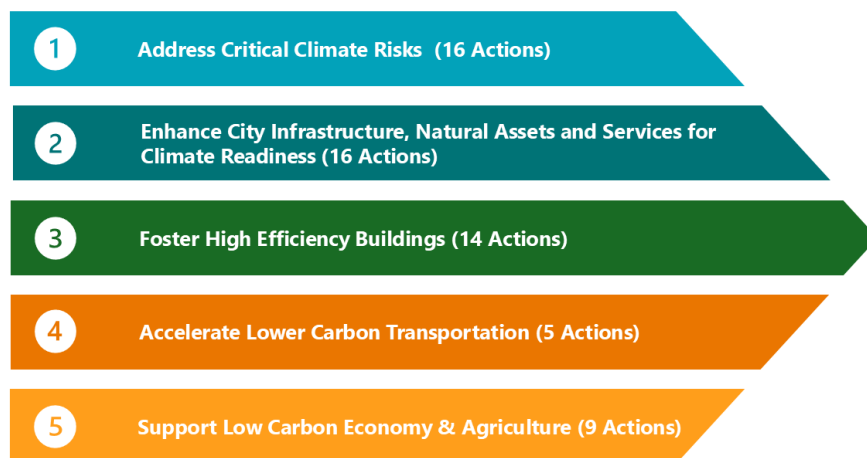
Maple Ridge's draft climate action plan includes a comprehensive climate risk assessment, which identified key climate hazards such as extreme heat, wildfire, flooding, and poor air quality. These hazards were identified using a combination of provincial, regional, and City-specific data. The assessment revealed that most hazards, including extreme weather events and water shortages, are expected to intensify as climate change progresses.

This data-driven approach informs the city's efforts to integrate resilience measures into its planning, ensuring that community decision-making addresses these growing risks and strengthens the city's ability to adapt to climate impacts. Attachment B includes a summary of specific climate hazard risks identified for Maple Ridge that informed the actions outlined in the draft climate action plan.

### Proposed Climate Actions

The draft climate action plan brings together the risk modelling, greenhouse gas emissions data and other analysis to determine the most impactful actions that will help reduce our vulnerability and risks to climate change (known as "adaptation") and reduce our contributions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) that result in climate change (known as "mitigation").

The Climate Action Plan groups actions under 5 Bold Moves. The actions work to address climate change in Maple Ridge either directly through initiatives and projects within the control of the City or indirectly through advocacy and partnerships with other levels of government, local organizations, business, academics, utilities, and other groups. Figure 1 outlines the bold moves and shows the number of actions identified under each bold move.



**Figure 1. Bold Moves within the Climate Action Plan**

Attachment A provides a summary of the actions under each bold move, grouped by whether they are something within the City's sphere of control or whether they represent an action on which the City could advocate and partner with other organizations or levels of government. While many city departments will collaborate on the actions the list in attachment A shows the proposed lead department responsible for each action. The list also includes an early estimate for the resource intensity for that action and the estimated timeframe to complete.

## **BOLD MOVE 1: ADDRESS CRITICAL CLIMATE SAFETY RISKS**

This bold move puts climate resilience at the forefront of Maple Ridge's climate action plan, reaffirming the City's commitment to safeguarding its residents, infrastructure, environment, and services. By focusing on adaptive and proactive measures, we aim to build a resilient future that can withstand the escalating impacts of climate change. The fifteen (15) actions grouped in this bold move are grounded in climate hazard risk assessments completed for Maple Ridge and will mitigate possible impacts from these risks.

## **BOLD MOVE 2: ENHANCE CITY INFRASTRUCTURE, NATURAL ASSETS AND SERVICES FOR CLIMATE READINESS**

There are fifteen (15) actions under bold move two that focus directly on three key areas: stewardship of the city's natural assets; ensuring the infrastructure is sufficient to meet the current and future needs of the community while remaining resilient to climate challenges; and taking action to ensure city services are climate ready. This includes right sizing resource allocation in key service areas and making capital allocation decisions to prioritize infrastructure investments that support climate readiness.

## **BOLD MOVE 3: FOSTER HIGH EFFICIENCY BUILDINGS**

The thirteen (13) actions focused on fostering the development of high efficiency buildings recognize the City's multiple roles as a regulator, an advocate, and as a regional partner. These actions are targeted at updating regulations for new buildings – such as the adoption of the Zero Carbon Step Code, and rezoning requirements - as well as encouraging high efficiency retrofits through a new strategy. As well, this bold move encourages the City to play a strong role in stimulating adoption of technology and increasing awareness among the community for high efficiency in their homes, offices and other buildings.

## **BOLD MOVE 4: ACCELERATE LOWER-CARBON TRANSPORTATION**

Five (5) key actions that support the adoption and use of lower carbon transportation are included in this bold move. This includes advocacy to the Province, BC Transit and TransLink regarding continued enhancement of public transportation (such as the Bus Rapid Transit Project) and prioritizing access to active transportation such as e-bikes and e-scooters to provide greater choices for residents.

In addition to transportation specific actions, this bold move recognizes the importance of planting trees along key transportation routes to mitigate the negative health impacts of urban heat islands and supports heat respite zones for community members.

## BOLD MOVE 5: SUPPORT A LOW-CARBON RESILIENT ECONOMY & AGRICULTURE

Many of the nine (9) actions under this bold move focus on economic development activities to stimulate business development from low-carbon businesses investing in Maple Ridge, and from supports for agricultural businesses to modernize and introduce lower carbon and more efficient equipment into their operations.

This move will also inform updates to the City's agricultural plan to recognize the multiple benefits from lower carbon agriculture in the community.

### Summary

Fifty-seven (57) new climate actions have been identified that can prepare the city for climate risks, reduce the impacts of these events, and increase community safety and wellbeing. The proposed actions will also reduce emissions, advance co-benefits (e.g., human health outcomes), have high support in the community, and are relatively easy to implement. Cost impacts and considerations (resource intensity) have also informed the selection of the proposed actions as outlined in Attachment A.

Actions have been broken down into direct actions the City of Maple Ridge can undertake (within City control) and actions that the City of Maple Ridge can advocate for or partner with others to undertake. The implementation of these actions ranges from within 2 years (near – term) to within 10 years (longer-term). Figure 2 shows the distribution of actions over time based on the whether they fit within the City's sphere of control or influence.



**Figure 2. Proposed Actions over time and by sphere of control or influence.**

## KEY ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

The City Leadership Team reviewed the proposed bold moves and actions on February 27, 2025, and noted the following items that would benefit from Council consideration and input.

1. The draft actions are currently scheduled to occur in three groups – within two years, within five years and within ten years. Actions are ‘front-end loaded’ into the first five years of the plan. This will likely create resource pressures for these new initiatives to be advanced in parallel with the 104 existing initiatives. It should be noted that this scheduling was done in part to ensure that the City meets the emissions reduction targets included in the Official Community Plan by 2050 delays will impact achievement of the targets within that timeframe. Council may want to consider if thirty-five (35) actions within the first two years is overly ambitious.
2. Undertaking 57 new actions, although many are linked to existing workplans, will require additional investments by the City not currently anticipated in the financial plan or the capital plan allocations. This report is not seeking specific funding approvals; however, Council should note that some of the actions in Attachment A show higher levels of resource intensity. More analysis is required to specify costs for these actions, and Council will have an opportunity to decide on funding for each item as these are brought forward. Feedback is sought on Council’s level of comfort with including the actions that will require greater investments in the future.
3. While staff have considered the links to existing resource commitments (staff and financial resources) in making recommendations on the actions, some of the proposed moves and actions may create the need for future discussion about the prioritization of the work previously approved by Council. Council may wish to provide input on the balance of new initiatives versus those previously determined to be a priority. Council could direct staff to narrow the scope of initiatives, or it could suggest some are not initiated until a later timeframe to balance competing priorities, or future adjustments to priorities could be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer.
4. Staff have worked to focus on actions within the City’s sphere of control. However, twenty-five (25) draft actions identified in Attachment A are only within the city’s sphere of influence or interest, and not within the City’s control. Council may wish to provide feedback on redressing this balance to focus effort more on items within the City’s control. This is especially pertinent given the challenges being experienced with influencing Metro Vancouver and other issues taking the attention of other levels of government at present.

## **Public Engagement**

Three phases of public engagement are involved in finalizing the Climate Action Plan. Phase 1 was completed in August 2024, with a focus on establishing a baseline of what hazards the community had identified, actions being taken at an individual level, and recommendations for support that the City could provide.

Phase 2 was completed in December 2024. This phase targeted engagement with the broader public on the goals and preliminary proposed climate actions for feedback and input. Target engagement with key community interest-holders was undertaken to identify actions where co-benefits would impact their operations or clients, create opportunities for the partnerships to enable actions where the City only maintains a sphere of influence or interest (but not direct control), and identify barriers for climate action at a community organization perspective. Responses from the first two phases of the public engagement include the lived experiences of our community members and have been reflected in the proposed actions identified for the climate action plan.

Phase 3 will begin in March 2025 with an emphasis on engaging the broader public on the draft proposed actions for the climate action plan. The draft climate action plan would then be updated as needed based on community feedback and would be brought to Council for review and endorsement.

## **Sustainability and Climate Impact**

The actions proposed in the plan have multiple benefits for the community including:

- improving the health and safety of residents
- reducing greenhouse gas
- reducing the exposure and risks of climate impacts such as high temperature, wildfire, poor air quality, flooding, and extreme rain (atmospheric rivers)
- avoiding future costs of climate impacts
- increasing energy efficiency
- improving liveability of the community
- protecting natural assets and enhancing ecosystems and
- fostering innovation.

The actions have been developed with a focus on equity for all community members to ensure proactive stewardship of our natural assets for current and future generations. Further, these actions are vital for the community to meet the target for emissions reduction adopted in the Official Community Plan.

## **Strategic Alignment**

The development of the comprehensive climate action plan is a critical component on the path to reduce community and corporate GHG emissions, adapt to climate change and protect our natural environment as identified by Council under the strategic priority of Climate Leadership & Environmental Stewardship.



## **Financial Impact**

The development of the Climate Action Plan and associated research projects have been funded from the Local Government Climate Actions Program Funding and Union of BC Municipalities grant funding.

There are no immediate financial impacts related to this report. Future reports will detail anticipated costs associated with implementation of the Climate Action Plan once specific actions have been finalized.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Council is being updated on the progress to develop the Maple Ridge Climate Action Plan to inform the actions proposed under the draft plan. Council will receive the draft Climate Action Plan for review and endorsement in April 2024 following the final phase of community engagement.

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**Attachments:** Attachment A - Proposed Climate Actions by Bold Move  
Attachment B – Modelling of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Hazard Risks  
Attachment C – Potential Partners on Actions

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Climate Action Plan Update .docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Attachment A - Proposed Climate Actions by Bold Move.pdf</li><li>- Attachment B – Modelling of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Hazard Risks.pdf</li><li>- Attachment C - Potential Partners on Actions.pdf</li></ul>
Final Approval Date:	Mar 6, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Zvi Lifshiz, Director Strategic Development, Communications & Public Engagement

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