



Climate Action Advisory Committee - Staff Liaison Update - May 28, 2025

The following table provides a status update of the City of Vernon climate action outreach initiatives from the 2025 Climate Action Community Outreach Strategy. Following the table is a brief update on the recruitment process for the new climate action program coordinator position at the City.

The column on the right in the table below includes the specific priority goals or actions from the Climate Action Plan (CAP) to demonstrate progress in achieving the priority CAP areas that were included in the 2023-2026 Council Strategic Plan. Note that the wording of goals/actions have been shortened to reduce word count in the table.

The following two goals from the CAP priorities in the Council Strategy Plan are generally being implemented with the roll out of the outreach strategy (i.e., the goals are applicable to all of the outreach programs to some degree):

- Develop a program to facilitate social connection, information sharing, climate awareness, and climate response activities amongst City residents at the neighbourhood scale.
- Develop and fund a climate-ready community communications and outreach strategy.

2025 Program Updates:

Focus Areas	Community Outreach Programs		Status update	2023-2026 CAP priority goal / action
Low-carbon transportation	1	Provide equitable e-bike rebates to reduce purchase price	The 2025 intake period for the BC E-Bike Rebate Program is open. The province's contractor is working through the existing waitlist, distributing provincial funding initially. The City funding (for at least 40 additional rebates) will be distributed after the provincial funding for Vernon is delivered. People can add their name to the waiting list at the link above. It is likely to take several months for the province to go through the waitlist.	Prioritize active transportation

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	2	Coordinate GoByBike Week events to promote cycling	GoByBike Week runs provincially from May 31 – June 6, but in Vernon we have extended the timing of the events, launching a day early at the Polson Artisan Night Market with a Bike Market & Parade (May 30) and the wrap-up event is on June 8 to align with other complimentary events. There are fun events planned nearly every day of the week! Please consider riding and joining the celebration events. You can log the KMs you ride for chances to win big prizes. Register online and find event details here: Vernon GoByBike Week .	Prioritize active transportation
	3	Deliver the shared electric bike and kick scooter program	New service provider for 2025: https://www.bird.co/ The program is now live. During GoByBike Week, the Youth Climate Corp BC crew is hosting daily group rides, featuring e-bike training and trials, which will include access to Bird's shared e-bikes. See the GoByBike link above for the group ride details.	Prioritize active transportation
	4	Promote and incentivize public transit	We will integrate transit information into our outreach communications at events this summer and are considering developing new promo materials (e.g., video on active transportation and transit systems with Youth Climate Corps)	Conduct campaigns to increase uptake of alternative transportation.
Low-carbon building	5	Provide building energy retrofit rebates to lower costs	The CleanBC Municipal Rebate Top-ups launched in Vernon January, 2025, but the program has been changed and is only accessible to Vernon residents until the end of May. CleanBC is now focusing on other rebate programs, such as the Energy Savings Program - Better Homes BC . There may be opportunities for City of Vernon funding to be distributed through other CleanBC rebate programs, but this has not been confirmed. Regardless, we will be promoting all CleanBC building energy retrofit rebates through our outreach and communications.	Promote energy efficiency incentive programs
	6	Coaching services for homeowners to simplify building energy retrofits	The contract for homeowner energy retrofits coaching services has been awarded to the Community Energy Association (CEA). They will be delivering their 'Retrofit Assist' program in Vernon	Develop a building retrofit program to

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			starting next month through to December (with potential to extend the contract, if there is demand). CEA will create a specific landing page for Vernon their Retrofit Assist website and start promoting the program locally in June.	support residents
	7	Collaborate with building industry stakeholders to enhance capacity around low-carbon building solutions	We are researching existing industry collaboration initiatives in BC to inform our plan for Vernon. There may be potential to work with CEA on this and combine it with the timing of the Retrofit Assist program. We are exploring this with CEA.	Develop a building retrofit program to support residents
Community resiliency	8	Deliver community workshops for residents to learn simple, effective ways to adapt to severe weather events	We will re-run the 'Build Your Own Home Air Filter Workshop' in early summer. We are researching other climate resiliency workshops ideas to inform our plan for Vernon. Youth Climate Corps BC might help design/deliver these, but we have not had the time to plan any details yet.	Develop a program to facilitate connection, information sharing, climate awareness, and response activities...
	9	Deliver FireSmart assessments, workshops, and recourses	Ongoing. Lead by the FireSmart team in the fire department. The Climate team will collaborate with FS team and integrate FS information and resources to our community event booths. Website: FireSmart City of Vernon	Develop a program to facilitate connection, information sharing, climate awareness, and response activities...
Youth climate careers	10	Support high school Climate Action Ripple Effect (CARE) education program.	CARE was launched in high schools on February 26 and projects are underway with community mentors. The CARE Community Expo is scheduled for May 29, 2025 at the Curling Rink (9:30am-2pm). There will be at least 175 exhibits and the City will have	Work with teachers and schools on climate change

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			several booths, featuring Climate Action, FireSmart, OCP/TP engagement, and Parks. CAAC members are encouraged to come to the Expo to see firsthand what youth are passionate about when it comes to climate action. More info here: CARE 2025 Expo poster .	curriculum
	11	Sponsor youth climate employment opportunities with Youth Climate Corp BC.	The five YCCBC positions have been filled and the full crew started on May 20. They will be supporting climate action outreach through September.	Develop and fund a climate-ready community communications and outreach strategy.
Green business planning	12	Coordinate coaching services for businesses / non-profits to enhance green business practices	We are considering supporting the two coaching and certification programs that are already established in the Vernon area with local businesses (i.e., GreenStep and Biosphere Reserve). We are still negotiating details with these two organizations. Both certification programs follow the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework and their program criteria has been reviewed by multiple third-parties to ensure they meet rigorous international sustainability standards, such as the Global Sustainable Tourism Council and the International Network of Sustainable Tourism standards.	Fund climate-ready community communications and outreach; Provide small business information to support building energy retrofits.
Community tree canopy	13	Enhance the City's existing Tree Voucher program to increase planting of shade trees.	The voucher amount was increased from \$25 to \$75 and the marketing plan was enhanced this year (e.g., the program was renamed 'Trees for Tomorrow'). The program launched on Earth Day (April 22) and all 200 vouchers were claimed in less than two days.	Develop climate response activities and support local agriculture.
Organic waste composting	14	Promote residential curbside composting, the community compost drop-off bin, and yard	Ongoing program promotion. We will integrate composting information and messaging into our climate action outreach initiatives, where relevant. For example, we will have compost info at our booths at community events and we might offer a	Encourage and support neighbourhood based action.

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		waste composting.	home composting workshop in the summer. Website: Residential Organics City of Vernon	
Community Sustainability Grant	15	Continue to offer up to \$2000 in funding for residents, community groups, and non-profits to develop community sustainability projects.	The spring intake for the Sustainability Grant is May 21-June 25, 2025. This program is not funded by the provincial Local Government Climate Action Program grant; it is funded by the Long Range Planning and Sustainability Department budget. Due to department budgeting challenges, the total annual budget for the grants this year is \$12,000, so we are aiming to deliver at least 3 grants in the spring intake and 3 for the fall intake. Website: Grant Opportunities City of Vernon	Facilitate climate awareness and response activities.
Ambassador Program	16	Activate the Climate Action Ambassador Program and re-engage past volunteers to champion climate action in the community.	The Climate Ambassador program formed during the creation of the Climate Action Plan to engage the community in the planning process. It is a group of volunteers that received training to speak on climate change with their peers and actively listen to gather input. The program slowed during the COVID-19 pandemic, but has recently reconvened. Two meetings have been held with past Ambassadors and the next meeting on June 24 (6-8pm) will be open to new members to expand the network. CAAC members are encouraged to attend the Ambassador meetings, when possible (although this is not required under the CAAC terms of reference).	Define the role of the Climate Ambassadors program and provide ongoing supports.

2025 staff update:

The City is hiring a full-time, temporary (2-year) climate action coordinator to support the implementation of the Climate Action Community Outreach Strategy. Interviews have been completed and an pre-offer has been made. Reference checks and negotiations are underway.