

Climate Action Advisory Committee – Climate Action Plan Priority Areas

The following seven priority areas from the City of Vernon Climate Action Plan were selected by the Climate Action Advisory Committee at its Committee Meeting on November 23, 2022. The seven selected priority areas are listed in the order in which they appear in the Climate Action Plan and are recommended for inclusion in Council's 2023 – 2026 Strategic Plan.

1. Health & Well-Being – Goal 1, Action 2

- Develop a program to facilitate social connection, information sharing, climate awareness, and climate response activities amongst City residents at the neighbourhood scale
 - **Supporting Action 1:** Utilize the City's communications channels to provide climate and emergency related information (for example, heat response, clean air locations, and food supply)

2. Governance – Goal 1, Action 1

- Embed considerations from the Climate Action Plan into all existing and new policy and bylaws.
 - **Supporting Action 1:** Embed the Visions from each focus area of the Climate Action Plan into the Council Strategic Plan, including reviewing progress annually and updating every five years.
 - **Supporting Action 2:** Develop a policy and decision-making framework to incorporate greenhouse gas emission reduction and preparing for climate change in municipal decision-making.
 - **Supporting Action 3:** Update City procurement policy to ensure contractors and suppliers are specifically required to consider incorporating climate change and greenhouse gas emissions in the delivery of products and services.
 - **Supporting Action 4:** Update the Council report template to integrate consideration and evaluation of the impact of recommendations on Climate Action Plan objectives.
 - **Supporting Action 5:** Integrate Climate Action Plan objectives into new and existing policies and bylaws where it makes sense.

3. Governance – Goal 3, Action 1

- Develop and fund a Climate-Ready Community Communications and Outreach Strategy.
 - **Supporting Action 1:** Develop a communications and outreach strategy; host engagement and education events; develop tool for community engagement.
 - **Supporting Action 2:** Update and enhance the website and engagevernon.ca with relevant climate-related materials for residents and businesses.
 - **Supporting Action 3:** Define the implementation role of the Climate Ambassadors Program and provide ongoing administrative and programming supports.
 - **Supporting Action 4:** Continue to work with local teachers and schools on local based curriculum on climate change.
 - **Supporting Action 5:** Encourage and support neighbourhood based actions.

4. Land Use & Transportation – Goal 1, Action 1

- During the review and update of the Official Community Plan beginning in 2022, integrate all climate risk and vulnerability analyses and emissions data, and objectives, actions and targets from this Climate Action Plan (CAP).
 - **Supporting Action 1:** Explore additional tools to encourage density and infill redevelopment within existing neighborhood centers. Evaluate and improve existing tools where needed (e.g. reduced Development Cost Charges, Revitalization Tax Exemption bylaws).
 - **Supporting Action 2:** Investigate reducing parking requirements for transit-friendly developments or implementing parking maximums in the Zoning Bylaw in designated neighbourhood centers.
 - **Supporting Action 3:** Ensure that metrics are incorporated into the OCP and are quantifiable and reflect the objectives of the Climate Action Plan.

5. Land Use & Transportation – Goal 2, Action 1

- Continue to implement the Master Transportation Plan, and update as needed, concurrently with the OCP to integrate and prioritize active transportation investments with the goals of the CAP.
 - **Supporting Action 1:** Update the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan to align with the visions and targets in the Climate Action Plan, including a monitoring system to measure, evaluate and refine the Active Transportation Network.
 - **Supporting Action 2:** Accelerate the construction of active transportation infrastructure by increasing the annual investment in projects by a minimum of 25% over current levels.
 - **Supporting Action 3:** Revise zoning requirements to require and support the development of end of trip active transportation facilities (e.g. showers, bike lockers, storage, charging stations).
 - **Supporting Action 4:** Continue to conduct public education campaigns to increase awareness and uptake of active transportation and alternative transportation options.
 - **Supporting Action 5:** Develop design standards for active transportation networks in the Official Community Plan that ensure the experience of active transportation is pleasant and comfortable (e.g. shade trees, benches, bike charging facilities).

6. Buildings & Real Estate – Goal 2, Action 1

- Develop a building retrofit program to support residents to be more resilient to climate change, reduce energy investments over time, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by improving building efficiency and installing low-carbon energy systems.
 - **Supporting Action 1:** Promote existing energy efficiency incentive programs.
 - **Supporting Action 2:** Create a retrofit program targeting residential homes; identify and promote climate ready building standards (e.g. building materials, ambient air quality, comfort, energy efficiency).
 - **Supporting Action 3:** Work to expand the retrofit program to multi-family buildings and commercial/ industrial buildings.
 - **Supporting Action 4:** Monitor development of the Province’s upcoming “retrofit Step Code” (expected in 2024).

- **Supporting Action 5:** Lobby the Provincial Government to enact enabling legislation for a PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program, or similar, to allow commercial and residential property owners to borrow and finance funds for energy efficient upgrades (including retrofits, new construction and EV charging infrastructure).
- **Supporting Action 6:** Explore financing and funding models to incentivize the installation of air source heat pumps and other low carbon heating and cooling systems for buildings.
- **Supporting Action 7:** Provide low barrier public and small business friendly information to provide support regarding building energy retrofits and program access.

7. Agriculture & Food Security – Goal 1, Action 1

- Explore the role of the City of Vernon in supporting the food/agriculture system.
 - **Supporting Action 1:** Investigate options to support small-scale gardening and local food production, particularly in high density neighbourhoods.
 - **Supporting Action 2:** Develop policies and programs to permit and facilitate food gardens on public and private lands, including unused public lands.
 - **Supporting Action 3:** Investigate options to support a resilient local food system.