



CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ENERGY

Climate Mitigation is primarily focused on: reducing energy demand through community design, green buildings, vehicle efficiency and reduced trip distance; reduction of waste heat through more efficient building design or recapture; and renewable heat and energy sources, such as solar and wind.

CURRENT TRENDS

- GHG Emission Targets for the RDCK were set at 15% below 2007 levels by 2020 (actual achieved 10.6%) and by 25% by 2030 and 42% by 2050
- RDCK programs to date include the following:
 - RDCK SCEEP Report (2016)
 - Wood Stove Exchange Program
 - Resource Recovery Plan
 - Kootenay Energy Diet
 - Accelerate Kootenays
 - Regional Energy Efficiency Program (Retro-fit Program and Energy Step Code)
 - Sustainability Checklist for Building (Commercial and Residential)
 - Zero Waste Campaign
 - 100% Renewable Energy Plan (2020)
 - Biofuel Business Cade (2020)
 - Kootenay Clean Energy Transition Pilot
 - Annual RDCK State of Climate Action (2019)

- There is a need to promote energy efficiency programs for existing and new construction – anecdotal evidence suggests that there could be limited energy supply to support growth in the area
- Resource Recovery Plan includes new recycling standards (curbside recycling in Area I) and organics diversion



Photo: Accelerate Kootenays

- Community halls in Area I have been retro-fitted to save on energy costs
- RDCK has committed to transitioning toward renewable energy by 2050 in collaboration with West Kootenay Eco-society – transportation, heating and cooling of buildings, waste management and electrical usage.

CONSIDERATIONS

Energy performance in land use planning includes: the clustering of development to reduce sprawl, energy performance standards or new construction and subdivision design, development permit areas, improved transportation options such as transit and active transportation routes, transit oriented development, green infrastructure and supporting green technology and training.

WHAT DOES THE CURRENT OCP SAY?

Demonstrate leadership in energy conservation, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reductions and to work towards carbon neutrality.

Foster the development of renewable energy supply options.

Reduce energy consumption and encourage energy efficiency in planning, design and construction of neighborhoods and buildings.

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage energy efficiency in planning, design and construction of neighbourhoods and buildings.

Locate developments where services and amenities are available and efficiently utilized.

Ensure future settlement patterns reduce dependency on private automobiles and encourage other forms of transportation such as walking, cycling and transit.

OPPORTUNITIES

- RDCK working closely with BC Transit to improve on rural services including enhanced bus stops and route delivery
- Opportunity to enhance trail networks and existing transportation routes to encourage active transportation
- Opportunity to work with utilities and other levels of government on energy saving incentives and rebates
- Look to Smart Growth principles in future land use designations.
- Collaborate on regional programs

CHALLENGES

- Managing multiple jurisdictions to address community connectivity and active transportation between rural communities
- Settlement patterns in the area are historic and established
- Green building and design is difficult to incorporate into existing housing stock – there is an over abundance of single family dwellings that are considered in need of repair and maintenance
- Electronic vehicle use is constrained by price and availability of AWD options

RESOURCES

RDCK SCEEP Report (2016)
Regional Energy Efficiency Program
BC Climate Action Toolkit

State of Climate Action in the RDCK
Carbon Neutral Kootenays
100% Renewable Kootenays 2050



Stay Involved:
<https://rdck.ca/PlanArea1>