



RDCK Ideas for Climate Action

In 2023, the Regional District of Central Kootenay asked residents for their feedback on the following ideas to help with climate adaptation. We received 3,518 comments from the public during our engagement process as well as a submission with 954 signatures in support of climate action. We appreciate everyone who shared their thoughts.

We revised most of the proposed ideas and removed others based on what residents told us. The updated list of ideas is included below.

Approval process

In order for an idea to move forward, it would need to be approved. Staff would need to do an analysis (e.g. feasibility study) on it and bring a report to the Board of Directors to vote on at a public meeting. Members of the public are welcome to attend the Board meetings and will have the opportunity to ask questions.



- Some of the ideas on the list could move forward if they prove to be a good fit for our region.
- Other ideas could be removed from the list if further research shows they are not feasible.
- As other ideas arise (for example, when new technology is developed), they could be added to the list and brought forward for the Board of Directors to consider.

List of RDCK Climate Action ideas

Ideas on transportation and mobility

- Work with the Provincial government to connect communities by increasing regional active and public transportation options
- Partner with community groups to expand local options for cycling, walking and other forms of active transportation
- Connect all new and renovated RDCK buildings (such as offices and recreation facilities) to bus routes and to pathways for cycling and walking
- Look into amenities in each community – such as hospitals, schools, parks and recreation facilities – that could benefit from access to increased transit service or pathways

Ideas on planning for growth

- Research and learn from how other regional districts have used alternative/innovative strategies to guide regional development

- Consider a regional approach to land use planning and support municipalities and neighbouring areas (e.g. Area F and Nelson) in planning for growth together

Idea on energy efficiency

- Support community organizations in switching to renewable energy sources

Ideas on supporting farmers

- Support local food producers who want to enhance their resilience related to food system challenges, such as shifting weather patterns
- Encourage and support local food production (e.g. farmers' markets, home gardens and food production)
- Increase advocacy for small-scale livestock farming
- Support a connected and resilient food system across the region through collaboration, partnerships and support for local efforts
- Help farmers and those in the agricultural industry who would like to prepare for wildfire emergencies

Ideas on improving water access for farmers

- Look into ways to support farmers who want to capture and store more water on their farms
- Support local farmers who would like to upgrade their irrigation systems
- Support efficient water use in agriculture and food production through regional water stewardship partnerships and collaborations

Idea on protecting and conserving water

- Support the region in conserving water

Ideas on mitigating risks from floods and geohazards

- Establish additional development requirements for flood-prone areas
- Increase education and awareness of how the conservation of riverbanks and shorelines supports flood mitigation and healthy aquatic systems
- Increase expertise regarding flood risk
- Consider mapping more of the identified high risk areas (16 of 29 completed so far)
- Develop criteria for qualified professionals to determine what is 'safe' when developing hazard areas

Idea on wood chipping

- Explore mobile chipping program options (such as wildfire fuel mitigation, yard waste, landfill wood stream, construction and demolition, etc.)

Idea on investing

- Review RDCK investment portfolio to be sure we are divested from fossil fuel creators