



# A snapshot of the state of Climate Action in the RDCK

*We all have a role to play in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a low carbon lifestyle. In the next pages, read about what the RDCK is doing and on the last page more about what you can do.*

In the summer of 2019, the RDCK worked internally to produce a report called the State of Climate Action in the RDCK. The report identifies indicators<sup>1</sup> to better understand how as a region the RDCK is:

- 1** Reducing Risks Associated with Climate Change
- 2** Building Climate Resilient Communities

Within these two climate action categories, pathways, goals, objectives/targets, policies/tools and indicators have been identified. An overview of the risk reduction and climate resilient pathways, goals and objectives is provided on the following pages. Take a look inside to see where we are today, where we are going and how you can take action.

<sup>1</sup>Indicator - a thing, like a trend or a fact, that shows that an action has had the desired impact

Visit [rdck.ca/sustainability](http://rdck.ca/sustainability) for the full State of Climate Action in the RDCK

Figure 1: RDCK Corporate Emissions

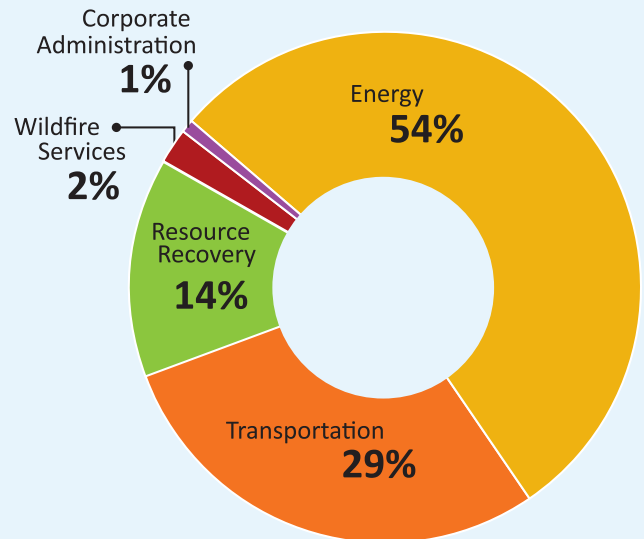


Figure 2: Columbia Basin Community Emissions

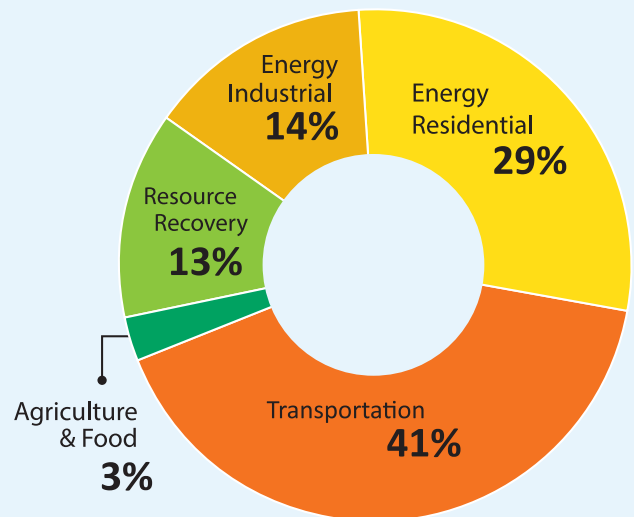
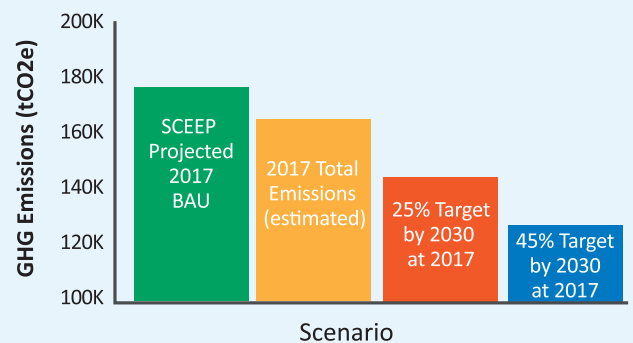


Figure 3: Comparison of 2017 emissions to different GHG emissions reduction targets








# Risk Reduction

## GOAL 1

To obtain 100% of the region's net energy from renewable sources (like water, hydro, wind, and biofuel power) and be carbon-neutral (meaning the amount of emissions we produce is the same as the amount of emissions we sequester) by 2050. To achieve this goal requires a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030.

## GOAL 2

To better prepare for and reduce flood, geohazard and wildfire risk by creating a sustainable land use pattern that supports the RDCK goals while preserving the integrity of the landscape through land use/ planning policy and regulation.

PATHWAY	GOAL	OBJECTIVES
 Land Use & Planning	Achieve a sustainable land use pattern that supports the RDCK's goals to better prepare for and reduce flood, geohazard and wildfire risk	Update planning policies and bylaws to decrease urban sprawl while supporting active transportation and complete communities
 Transportation	Establish a regional transportation network focused on active transportation and low carbon fuel options	Track implementation of new bus routes, bike lanes and trails while promoting and supporting mobility for vulnerable communities
 Buildings	Accelerate high performance low carbon construction and energy efficiency upgrades in corporate and community structures	Adopt Better Building Policy for RDCK facilities, BC Energy StepCode for new buildings and continue to improve energy efficiency of existing buildings
 Energy	Transition from a high carbon dependent region to a low carbon dependent region by 2050	Support the creation and implementation of the regional 100% Renewable Energy Plan by 2050
 Resource Recovery	Reduce the RDCK's impact by assessing and diverting waste from landfills	Align with CleanBC and aim to divert 95% of organic waste from landfills by 2030

## RDCK Climate Actions to Date



2007

Joined the BC Climate Action Charter: committing to working toward carbon neutrality



2008

Carbon Neutral Kootenays

Strategic Community Energy Emissions Plan (SCEEP)

2016

2016-19

Supported the reduction of corporate emissions in 3 recreations centers (the largest emitters for the RDCK)

# Climate Resilient Communities

## GOAL 1

To build climate resilient communities by recognizing future uncertainties and priorities while providing strategies to strengthen and empower residents, business owners and local governments to adapt to climate change.

PATHWAY	GOAL	OBJECTIVES
 <b>Water Supply</b>	Strengthen watershed governance and implement adaptive strategies to protect drinking water	Consider recommendations of the Watershed Governance Initiative Scoping Study with the primary intent to protect watersheds where consumptive water sources are at risk
 <b>Agriculture &amp; Food Security</b>	Empower local food systems with productive and resilient climate adapted agricultural strategies.	Continue to support producers in their farm practices as shifting temperature and precipitation patterns result in food systems variability
 <b>Floods &amp; Geohazards</b>	Reduce community vulnerability against increased flooding and geohazard events	Develop strategies for risk reduction and pursue funding opportunities to take action
 <b>Wildfire</b>	Reduce fire risk around the wildland—urban interface of communities	Increase the number of certified FireSmart Homes
 <b>Corporate Administration</b>	Incorporate a climate lens for all decision making and prioritize climate adaptation	Align decision making with the RDCK's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets in all areas

Participated in Accelerate Kootenays and the installation of 13 fast charging stations on highways 1, 3 and 95 to create an accessible network for electric vehicles in the Basin

**2017**

Senior Energy Specialist hired to implement recommendations from SCEEP

Committed to 100% renewable energy by 2050

**2018**

Supported the reduction of community emissions through the Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) launched in 2019

**2019**

Declared a Climate Action Imperative

Created climate action indicators to monitor and track progress within the RDCK

# Get Involved

The average BC resident produces **13.7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent each year.** Around the world, we are being called to **reduce our emissions by 50% by 2030.**

How will you reduce **6.85 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent from your life?**

## What does PRODUCING 1 tonne (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) of GHG look like?

- Driving 4500km (428 litres of gasoline) — from Nelson to New Brunswick, or Creston to Yellowknife and back, or Nakusp to Savannah, Georgia
- \$200 of natural gas or a month of winter heating
- 40.9 x 20 pound propane cylinders used for home barbeques
- 2 return flights from Vancouver to Mexico City

## What does REDUCING 1 tonne (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) of GHG look like?

- 43.6 bags of waste recycled instead of landfilled
- Every 5th single passenger trip, choosing a zero emission form of transportation (walk, bike, bus or zero emission vehicle) assuming ~20,000 kms per year
- Reducing your home natural gas consumption by 17 gigajoules (GJ) per year



## Community Actions

### Transportation

- Travel by walking/hiking, biking, or rideshare
- Join Kootenay carshare or get a group of people together and start a carshare chapter: [www.carsharecoop.ca](http://www.carsharecoop.ca)
- Switch to an electric or hybrid vehicle

### Buildings and Energy

- Register for REEP [www.rdck.ca/leep](http://www.rdck.ca/leep) and do an energy audit on your home to see where you can save energy
- Find incentives from your utility and the province through [www.BCBetterHomes.bc.ca](http://www.BCBetterHomes.bc.ca)
- Work with BC Energy Step Code to build a high performance house

### Resource Recovery

- Reduce what you consume
- Learn how to compost successfully to reduce your kitchen and yard waste

### Food and Agriculture

- Grow your own food
- Buy food from a local farmer

### Wildfire Mitigation

- Do a FireSmart assessment on your home: [www.bcwildfire.ca/prevention](http://www.bcwildfire.ca/prevention)

### Emergency Preparedness

- Learn about potential risks around your home and community through the RDCK website and have an emergency plan and kit ready: [rdck.ca/EN/main/services/emergency-management/emergency-preparedness.html](http://rdck.ca/EN/main/services/emergency-management/emergency-preparedness.html)