



State of Climate Action in the RDCK 2025 Update

ONGOING RDCK CLIMATE ACTION

Many climate action measures are underway and have been in progress for years. The annual RDCK State of Climate Action report provides an update on work that is in progress.

The State of Climate Action (SoCA) is a reporting framework that aims to:

- Help the RDCK track the progress towards its climate action objectives and targets;
- Evaluate and improve its climate action initiatives and efforts;
- Maintain public transparency on these processes; and,
- Demonstrate climate action leadership.

By tracking and reporting on climate action, the RDCK will also be able to find ways to streamline its efforts, achieve co-benefits through integration and collaboration between projects and initiatives, and optimize the use of time and resources.

POTENTIAL FUTURE RDCK CLIMATE ACTION

The RDCK held an extensive public engagement process in 2023 on a draft Climate Action Plan.

Staff used the feedback from the engagement process to develop [RDCK Ideas for Climate Action](#). In April 2024, the Board directed staff to explore climate action priorities that are practical and affordable and based on RDCK Ideas for Climate Action.

In order for an idea to move forward, staff would need to do a business case and bring it to the Board of Directors to vote on at a public meeting.

HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

Pages 2 and 3 are a quick snapshot of pathways, goals and the average score for each of the 10 pathways. Pages 4-12 provide more detail with objectives, indicators, whether the RDCK has jurisdiction and an update on progress.

How did we get the score?

First we looked at each indicator and determined whether there was strong progress (green - 2), moderate progress (yellow - 1), or limited progress (red - 0). Once all indicators within a given pathway were scored, an average was taken to provide the overall score for that pathway.



Progress on RDCK Climate Action

While the RDCK is ambitious in its climate action, many of the actions in the following pages will take years to show progress as they are complex and often multi-year initiatives. Some indicators may not change for several years depending on what the work is. Read through the pages to get a sense of how progress is being made and where efforts may be taking longer.

In 2025, the RDCK:

- Updated Area I Official Community Plan including improved aquifer, riparian area, and wildfire protections
- Saw a 36% increase in transit ridership
- Contributed and/or leveraged >\$200,000 in funding to improve transportation options in rural communities
- Processed 1,683 tons of organic waste into compost
- Avoided >48 million litres/year of water leakage by detecting and fixing 2 leaks on farms in Erickson
- Delivered 357 FireSmart home assessments with 10% of civic addresses now assessed

The RDCK's climate action goals, objectives, targets and indicators are grouped into the following pathways.

PATHWAY	GOALS	AVERAGED SCORE
 LAND USE & PLANNING	Ensure RDCK policies and decision-making guidelines promote healthy, sustainable and low-carbon lifestyles for residents, and minimize risks associated with natural hazards.	
 TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY	Develop an integrated active and low-carbon regional transportation network that supports universal access to services and amenities.	
 ENERGY	Build grid resilience and transition to a low-carbon future through clean energy efforts, including reducing emissions, improving efficiency and using sustainable energy sources.	
 BUILDINGS	Encourage improvements to existing buildings by improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon pollution.	
 RESOURCE RECOVERY	Improve the health of our natural ecosystem by reducing the RDCK's environmental impact through the assessment and diversion of waste from landfills, while simultaneously advancing the recovery of waste through improved waste management and new technologies.	

SCORING

Strong Progress

Moderate Progress

Limited Progress

PATHWAY	GOALS	AVERAGED SCORE
 WATER SUPPLY	Strengthen watershed governance and implement strategies to protect drinking water and agricultural water supply.	 1.8
 FOOD SUPPLY & AGRICULTURE	Support a sustainable and resilient regional food system, through climate adapted agricultural strategies that enhance local food security and ensure access for all residents.	 1.8
 FLOODING & GEOHAZARDS	Reduce community vulnerability by promoting emergency preparedness and risk assessments, and assessing infrastructure for opportunities to adapt against increased flooding and geohazard events.	 1.6
 WILDFIRE	Reduce fire risk within and around each RDCK community, while adapting to more frequent and intense fires.	 1.6
 LEADERSHIP & OPERATIONS	Incorporate a climate lens for all Board decision making to prioritize climate action and adaptation.	 0.9

SCORING

Strong Progress

Moderate Progress

Limited Progress



PATHWAY: LAND USE & PLANNING

OBJECTIVES	INDICATOR	UPDATE	JURISDICTION	STATUS
Update planning policies and bylaws to guide future development to create sustainable and complete communities	Number of Official Community Plans (OCPs) over 10 years old	8 of 11 (Area I completed)	Regional	Moderate Progress
	Level of progress and engagement on regional growth planning	Board has committed to develop two sub-regional Official Community Plans (OCPs): • Sub-Regional OCP for Electoral Areas F, H, J, K • Sub-Regional OCP for Electoral Areas A, B, C • RDCK undertaking a Regional & Local Community Needs Project in collaboration with Castlegar, Nelson, Creston, Salmo, Slocan, Kaslo, and Nakusp	Regional	Strong Progress
	Number of new RDCK parks and/or improvements to existing parks	• RDCK purchased a 4.4-acre property (3823 Goat Canyon Road) that will soon allow long-term public access to the Goat River in a cherished community gathering location	Regional	Strong Progress
Leverage planning policy to reduce the risk threshold of community development decisions and projects	Level of progress and improvements made to landuse policy frameworks for hazards (flood, fire, erosion)	Area I 2025 OCP (Sentinel Mountain OCP) includes enhanced land use objectives and policies for hazard lands and: • Development Approval Information Areas (DAIAs) • Aquifer Protection Development Permit Areas (APDPs) • Riparian Protection Development Permit Areas (RPDP) • Wildfire Development Permit Areas (WDPs) • RDCK has initiated a Floodplain Management Bylaw project in partnership with Village of Salmo	Regional	Strong Progress
	Number of OCPs with updated hazard Development Permit Areas (DPAs)	1 Area I - Sentinel Mountain OCP include updated Hazard DPAs	Regional	Strong Progress



PATHWAY: TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

OBJECTIVES	INDICATOR	UPDATE	JURISDICTION	STATUS
Support improvements to the regional transportation network and increased accessible, and affordable low-carbon transportation options for all residents (with a focus on equity-seeking populations)	Number of new transportation trails added	- Rural Mobility Community Advisory Committee has been supporting the North Slocan Trails Society to investigate the feasibility of adding an active transportation link between New Denver & Silverton - RDCK is working with the Nelson Area Community Transportation group to accommodate connector trails between uphill Nelson and the Great Northern Rail Trail	Provincial, Regional, Municipal	Moderate Progress
	Level of progress towards an improved regional network of rural, alternative and low-carbon transportation options, or mobility mosaic	- Established the Rural Mobility Community Advisory Committee (RMCAC) This group has collaborated on a series of rural community transportation initiatives including, childrens bicycle education programming, active transportation infrastructure investigations, regionalshared mobility programs, and has also channeled community input into RDCK transit services - The RDCK has directly accessed or contributed > \$100,000 in grant funding towards rural mobility initiatives informed by the RMCAC, and leverage approximately \$100,000 in external funding opportunities accessed by community partners	Regional	Strong Progress
	Increase in annual public transit ridership	1,050,000 rides (+36%) This significant increase is likely due to real increases in ridership as well as the installation of Automated Passenger Counters on buses that allow for more accurate data collection than previously possible	Provincial	Strong Progress
	Improvements made to regional transit services and systems	In 2025, RDCK passed a motion establishing transit apportionment equation for the West Transit Service. This delineates how transit services and associated costs are divided across the region, and will help facilitate service adjustments and improvements in the future	Provincial, Regional	Strong Progress
By 2035, plan to shift all new cars to be zero emission vehicles (ZEV), which aligns with the provincial CleanBC goal, and transitioning large diesel vehicles to run on low-carbon fuels	# of ZEV's purchased by the RDCK	- None purchased in 2025 - An Electric Vehicle (EV) orientation event was provided for staff with a presentation, test drives, and local Toyota rep sharing expertise on the new Toyota bZ4X - An EV tips sheet was also developed outlining best practices for EV travel and charging stations across RDCK	Regional	Moderate Progress



PATHWAY: ENERGY

OBJECTIVES	INDICATOR	UPDATE	JURISDICTION	STATUS
Engage in efforts to improve grid resilience and future-proof electrical infrastructure	Increase in rural community grid resiliency	- Grid Stability Pilot Project is complete. - Administered by Lardeau Valley Opportunity LINKS Society, provided rebates of up to \$1,000 to help 41 eligible households and businesses establish or enhance back-up power systems	Regional, Utility	Strong Progress
	Level of engagement and advocacy with Province and Utilities on rural energy resiliency	Secured funding from FortisBC for retrofit rebate top-ups alongside the Home Save program (\$65,000/yr for next 3 years)	Regional, Provincial, Utility	Moderate Progress
Support a regional transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050	Level of leadership, education, and engagement around the transition to renewable energy	Renewed effort to transition Kaslo Transfer Station from diesel generation to solar power for heating and electrical loads	Regional	Moderate Progress
Develop and maintain robust carbon pollution and energy inventories (both corporate & community) to accurately inform decision makers and to track direct impacts and progress towards climate action targets	Total corporate GHG emissions	2024 Total: 2,059 tonnes CO ₂ e Facilities: 1,399 tCO ₂ e Fleet: 294 tCO ₂ e Contracted Services: 366 tCO ₂ e	Regional	Limited Progress
	Total corporate energy use	- GHG Emission Reduction Pathway Study completed for RDCK facilities - Delivered 5 training sessions to Facility Managers on energy monitoring and management - Prioritized Energy Control Measures that will be implemented through the Asset Management Plan as assets reach end-of-service life	Regional	Moderate Progress
	Total community GHG emissions	- Inventory to be updated every 5 years - Developed and published a public summary of the 2023 Community Inventory for wide audiences	Regional, Municipal, Private, Public	Moderate Progress



PATHWAY: BUILDINGS

	OBJECTIVES	INDICATOR	UPDATE	JURISDICTION	STATUS
COMMUNITY BUILDINGS	Align new Community & Residential buildings with provincial Step Code timelines (Part 3 & Part 9 buildings respectively) encouraging community organizations and residents to push for Net Zero Ready for all new builds by 2030	Operational energy & emission performance of newly constructed Part 9 residences	78 permitted Part 9 homes were built in 2025, achieving the following levels of Energy & Zero Carbon Step Code performance: Energy Step 1: 12 Zero Carbon Level 2: 1 Energy Step 2: 2 Zero Carbon Level 3: 1 Energy Step 3: 26 Unidentified Level: 76 Energy Step 4: 31 Energy Step 5: 7	Provincial	Strong Progress
	Encourage residents and businesses to retrofit existing buildings to meet 20-30% energy efficiency improvements	Number of homes signed up Regional Energy Efficiency Program	149 (1,389 since program began)	Regional & Municipal	Moderate Progress
		Reduction of GHG emissions from REEP housing stock	The Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) has been replaced by Home Save, a new City of Nelson-RDCK collaborative home retrofit program that will begin tracking this metric. This new program will include in-house rebates and is set to launch in spring of 2026	Regional & Municipal	Moderate Progress
		Level of outreach, education, and engagement with industry and public on energy retrofits	The new regional retrofit program - Home Save - will include an extensive public outreach campaign	Regional, Municipal, Utility, Private	Moderate Progress
CORPORATE BUILDINGS	Corporate structures will adhere to the Better Building Policy for RDCK Facilities to ensure that all existing buildings continue to improve on energy efficiency	Number of RDCK's existing facilities retrofitted to high performance attributes	- Arrow Lakes water treatment facility HVAC upgrades completed - Committed \$20,000 LGCAP funding towards Resource Recovery facility programmable thermostats - Upgrading community complex HVAC systems and controls, and committed \$15,000 of LGCAP funding towards purchasing and installing Direct Digital Controls to improve system efficiency through automation	Regional	Strong Progress



PATHWAY: RESOURCE RECOVERY

OBJECTIVES	INDICATOR	UPDATE	JURISDICTION	STATUS
Align with CleanBC and aim to divert 95% of organic waste (food waste only) from landfills	Level of progress on diversion of organic wastes	230 tonnes of organics collected at Creston facility 1,453 tonnes collected at Salmo facility in 2025 - Initiated sale of compost material from Salmo facility. Donated compost from Creston Facility to Fields Forward - Initiated pilot to incentivize Institutional, Commercial, Industrial (ICI) sector organics diversion - Drafted a bylaw amendment to regulate the disposal of organic waste by ICI sector (surcharges for loads of ICI waste containing >10% organics/recycling)	Provincial	Strong Progress
	Implement a program to increase the awareness of opportunities to self-manage organic waste	Secured funding through Columbia Basin Trust for a rural residential self-haul program, two part-time rural focused organics ambassadors that will assist with kit distribution. In 2025, initiated planning for 2026 launch of self-haul funded program, and developing job descriptions for organic ambassadors.	Regional	Strong Progress
Achieve reductions in disposal rates that exceed alignment with the provincial target of 350 kg per person per year	Degree of implementation of the updated Resource Recovery Plan	Status of Capital projects and new programs listed in Resource Recovery Plan: 52% - complete 25% - in progress 12% - not proceeding 12% - yet to be initiated	Regional	Strong Progress
	Level of progress on diversion of construction and demolition wastes	RDCK and City of Nelson collaborated on the design of a Multi-Material Construction Waste Diversion Pilot that is set to launch in Spring 2026, initially targetting drywall and glass	Regional	Strong Progress
Reduce the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from regional waste streams	Reduction in GHG emissions through methane capture or treatment	1,405 tonnes of CO₂e avoided by flaring in Creston in 2024 - Awarded funding in support of a feasibility study for landfill gas management at Ootischenia and Creston landfills and completed procurement	Provincial, Federal	Moderate Progress
	Improvements to landfill septage management	- Stage I of the Castlegar Liquid Waste Management Plan was finalized in 2025. - The detailed design work for the Creston receiving facility is complete	Regional	Strong Progress



PATHWAY: WATER SUPPLY

	OBJECTIVES	INDICATOR	UPDATE	JURISDICTION	STATUS
COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS	Creating the conditions for regional collaborative decision making to protect watersheds where drinking water sources are at risk	Funding accessed for small water system users to support resilience planning	- Secured funding through Investment Agriculture Foundation to support agricultural water users in the Goat River Watershed - Conducted the Quartz Creek Natural Asset Management Plan for the Ymir Water system - Completed the Terms of Reference for the Slocan Lake and River Partnership	Regional	Strong Progress
		Level of increase in surface and groundwater monitoring programs	No increase in monitoring in 2025	Regional	Limited Progress
		Level of engagement and collaboration with First Nations	- Working with Syilx (Okanagan Nation Alliance) and Sinixt Confederacy on Slocan Lake and River Partnership (SLRP) - Working with Ktunaxa Nation and yaqan nuʔkiy on the Kootenay Lake Partnership (KLP) - Partnering with yaqan nuʔkiy on water sustainability for the Goat River Watershed	Regional, First Nations	Strong Progress
	Focus on water protection as well as watershed landscape planning	Development of plans and policies to support water supply resiliency measures through land planning management	- Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) completed for Lister - Area I OCP updated in 2025, includes Riparian and Aquifer Protection Development Permit Areas	Regional	Strong Progress
CORPORATE WATER SYSTEMS	Improve management of RDCK systems to prepare for the impacts of climate change	Level of monitoring of RDCK-operated water systems	- New post-flow meter installed on Duhamel system - New outflow meter installed and operating on Grandview water system	Regional	Strong Progress
		Level of development and implementation of a Leak Detection Strategy	2 leaks detected and repaired in Erickson during first half of agricultural property meter installations This will save about 131,870 litres/day - Metering and leak detection on Balfour system has also reduced consumption by ~25%	Regional	Strong Progress
		Level of development and implementation of a Metering Implementation Strategy	- Phase 1 of meter installation in Erickson underway (80 of 150 planned meters installed for large agricultural properties) - Phase 2 planned for 500 residential connections	Regional	Strong Progress



PATHWAY: AGRICULTURE & FOOD SUPPLY

OBJECTIVES	INDICATOR	UPDATE	JURISDICTION	STATUS
Establish and nurture partnerships with a wide variety of involved organizations, and actively maintain a high level of regional collaboration on local agriculture initiatives	Level of engagement and support for food producers and the agricultural industry for increased climate variability (research, education infrastructure) and regional food resiliency	Engaged with > 25 producers and community members (including > 15 active farms) regarding water supply resilience across the Goat River Watershed through in-person visits, calls, emails, event attendance, and local outreach	Private, Public	Strong Progress
	Continuation of funding and collaboration with the Kootenay Food Council	In 2025 the Kootenay Food Council: - Released its 8th Annual Farm & Food Directory - Launched the Grow & Connect Platform (beta version) This app helps coordinate transportation needs between food sector producers & buyers - Advanced the Kootenay Food Procurement Network Pilot with \$20,000 to bridge food access institutional purchasing and recovery with local resources	Regional	Strong Progress
	Continuation of funding and collaboration with the Kootenay Boundary Farm Advisory	In 2025, the Kootenay Boundary Farm Advisory: - Delivered 192 1-on-1 farmer engagements and 56 farm visits - Conducted 80 food producers engagements across the RDCK - Accessed 8 agricultural expert supports - Hosted 16 events and held 35 meetings - Continued to host the Kootenay Soil Building Network	Regional	Strong Progress
	Support and collaborate with the Kootenay Food Council on a regional Food Systems Report Card	KFC - Food Systems Report Card sneak peek In the RDCK there are: 138 farms 67 farmgate sales locations 36 food processors 11 emergency food services Stay tuned for KFC's upcoming pilot report	Regional	Strong Progress



PATHWAY: FLOODING & GEOHAZARDS

OBJECTIVES	INDICATOR	UPDATE	JURISDICTION	STATUS
Increase emergency preparedness and resilience of communities	Level of improvements made to the Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP)	Strengthening the NEPP through a Columbia Basin Trust-funded Community Readiness project by expanding training, developing new program materials, and supporting greater community participation. This includes enhancing local capacity through outreach, improved resources, and more structured support for neighbourhood-level preparedness.	Regional	Strong Progress
Support communities in developing resilience to flood and geohazard risk	Identify acceptable levels of risk and integrate these into guidelines and policy	Drafted a Risk Tolerance Policy that should be in place by the end of the 2026 that will help characterize what the RDCK considers acceptable or safe when developing in areas exposed to geotechnical hazards.	Regional	Moderate Progress
	Development of risk reduction strategies for identified high hazard areas	Continued assessing the implications of structural flood mitigation strategies identified through the National Disaster Mitigation Program project and highlighted three high-priority flood hazard areas, and now seeking funding to address structural mitigation options where applicable.	Regional	Moderate Progress
Consider flood and geohazard risk within the RDCK when making land use decisions	Development of plans and policies to support flood and geohazard adaptation measures through building and land planning management	- RDCK has initiated a Floodplain Management Bylaw project in partnership with Village of Salmo - The RDCK Board adopted the OCP for Electoral Area I: Sentinel Mountain Official Community Plan (Electoral Area I) Bylaw No. 2821, 2024, in 2025. OCP include enhanced land use objectives and policies for hazard lands, as well as policies related to: - Development Approval Information Areas (DAIAs) - Riparian Protection Development Permit (RPDP) Areas	Regional	Strong Progress
	Number of Site-Specific Floodplain Exclusions	3 applications 2 approved	Regional	Strong Progress



PATHWAY: WILDFIRE

OBJECTIVES	INDICATOR	UPDATE	JURISDICTION	STATUS
Increase participation in FireSmart Program	Number of FireSmart Neighbourhoods recognized as FireSmart Communities	32 (5 new, changes in municipal partnerships resulted in overall decrease)	Regional, Public	Strong Progress
	Number and dollar-value of FireSmart Rebates awarded	95 rebates • \$246,302 total across Electoral Areas • 10% of all civic addresses in Electoral Areas have been assessed	Provincial, Regional	Strong Progress
	# of FireSmart Home Partners Home Assessments completed annually	357	Regional, Public	Moderate Progress
	# of homeowners received FireSmart Home Partners certification	0	Regional, Public	Limited Progress
Support RDCK residents and communities to be aware, informed, and resilient towards the risks of wildfire	Level of community engagement regarding wildfire risk Hours spent engaging and educating community	2025 Youth Climate Corps • Presented on RDCK FireSmart Programming in communities throughout the RDCK Wildfire Mitigation specialist spent 232 hours in community engagement/public education events across region	Regional, Public	Strong Progress
Incorporate wildfire adaptation measures through building and land planning management to reduce wildfire risk	Development of plans and policies to support wildfire adaptation measures through building and land planning management	• 2 Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans (CWRP) were updated in 2025 - Area H North and South • Continued RDCK Wildfire Resilience Contractors program • A Wildfire DPA has now been implemented in Area I	Regional, Public	Strong Progress
Mitigate and adapt to wildfire risk by creating fuel-breaks around at-risk communities	# of hectares treated (or dollars spent) - Through funders OTHER than the RDCK	• The RDCK funds and participates in the regional and sub-regional wildfire roundtables • Developed web-based Wildfire Resilience Planning Tool to support GIS mapping to track data from various organizations • Successfully applied for funding from Columbia Basin Trust to facilitate prescription development and implementation for 6 potential treatment units identified in local CWRPS	Provincial, Private	Strong Progress



PATHWAY: LEADERSHIP & OPERATIONS

OBJECTIVES	INDICATOR	UPDATE	JURISDICTION	STATUS
Develop and maintain robust carbon pollution and energy inventories to accurately inform decision makers and to track direct impacts and progress towards climate action targets	Comprehensiveness of Corporate GHG & Energy data	Published the RDCK 2023 Community GHG Inventory and developed a Summary of this technical document that has been published alongside it to support residents to understand the key takeaways and next steps recommended in the report	Regional	Strong Progress
Provide leadership and participate in multi-agency initiatives to accelerate climate action & mitigation efforts within the RDCK	Level of collaboration with other agencies on climate action	Continued working and engaging closely with many community organizations on regional transportation initiatives through the Rural Mobility Community Advisory Committee	Regional	Strong Progress
Update and improve RDCK systems and guiding documents to better support and further climate actions and initiatives	Improvements to Asset Management framework	Following an asset management analysis that included setting up an Asset Management Steering Committee and undertaking workshops with staff to develop prioritization criteria, the Asset Management Coordinator (AMC) was hired to review the RDCK's asset inventory and identify all remaining gaps. The AMC then drafted a 3-year Asset Management Plan that is undergoing final review and revisions	Regional	Strong Progress
	Incorporation of sustainability into Procurement decisions		Regional	Limited Progress
	Enhancements to Emergency Management Services	Strengthening operational effectiveness by modernizing EOC systems and building greater coordination with municipal and regional partners	Provincial, Regional	Strong Progress
Align decision making with the RDCK's carbon pollution targets in all areas (i.e., land use & planning, building construction, project management) and provide staff with resources to support climate targets and goals	Level of improvement made to RDCK policies to align with RDCK's climate action targets		Regional	Limited Progress
	Level and quality of consideration of climate impacts in Board Reports & decisions		Regional	Limited Progress