



CITY OF WHITE ROCK

Community Climate Action Plan

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN?

The City of White Rock is initiating a process to develop a Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP). The CCAP will articulate where our community stands on energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the development of:

- A baseline inventory of current energy consumption and GHG emissions, and a projection of future emissions;
- Targets to reduce GHG emissions from the baseline;
- Actions that we – as individuals, organizations, businesses – can take to help us achieve these targets;
- Policies and tools that we can incorporate into our Official Community Plan (OCP) to further assist the community in reducing emissions, and;
- Indicators to help monitor our progress over time.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

There is growing evidence that global climate change, resulting from human use of energy, is causing significant impact on the ecology of the planet. Currently, over half of all the energy used in Canada is consumed in cities for buildings and transportation. Communities in British Columbia are responding by undertaking initiatives to address energy use and climate change.

The City of White Rock has signed on to the BC Climate Action Charter, a voluntary commitment to become carbon neutral in our local government operations (e.g., facilities, vehicles fleets, purchasing, etc) by 2012.² Additionally, through the development of our CCAP, we are responding to legislation¹ that requires local governments to set GHG reduction targets and incorporate policies and actions to reduce emissions into their Official Community Plans. These efforts represent our contribution to the province-wide GHG emissions reduction targets set by the provincial government: 33% below 2007 levels by 2020, and 80% below 2007 levels by 2050.



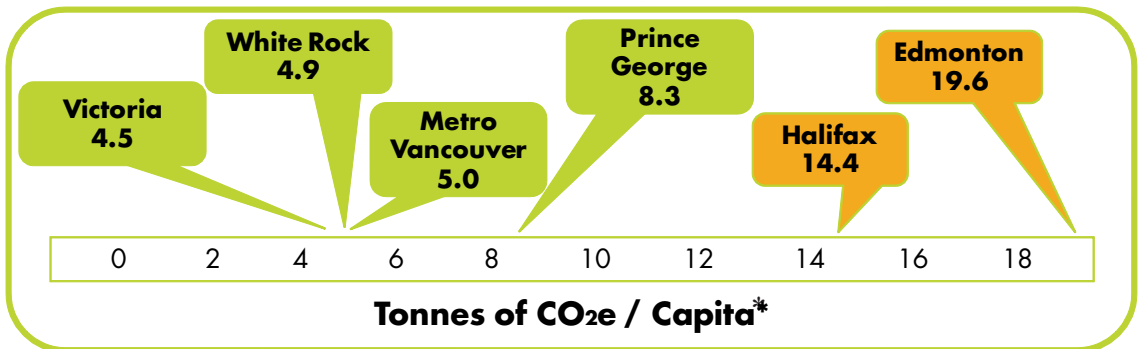
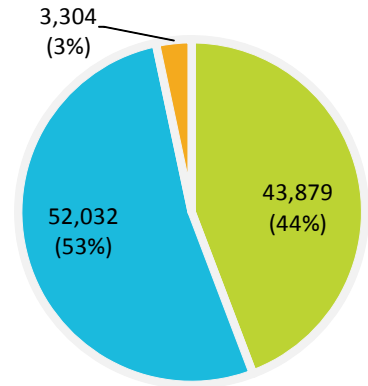
¹Bill 27 – 2008: Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act, 2008. http://www.leg.bc.ca/38th4th/1st_read/gov27-1.htm

²'Carbon neutral' means implementing measures to reduce emissions and applying emission offsets to net the remaining emissions to zero. The City of White Rock will be required to pay a carbon tax and to purchase offsets for any emissions that it is unable to reduce.

OUR CURRENT SITUATION

An energy and GHG emissions inventory helps us to understand how much we emit and where our emissions come from. Once we know that, we can set targets and develop actions to reduce our energy consumption and GHG emissions. In 2007, our community-wide energy consumption and GHG emissions were **99,215** tonnes of CO₂e. The figure below shows these emissions broken down by sector³.

- Buildings:** This includes the energy to heat and cool residential, commercial and industrial buildings, as well as the activities that occur within these residences and facilities. This data is obtained from utility records and includes electricity and natural gas consumption. Other sources such as wood, fuel oil, or propane tank heat have not been quantified in the inventory.
- Transportation:** Vehicular emissions estimates are based on a count of the vehicles registered in the region, an estimate of fuel consumption based on type of vehicle, and an estimate of the number of kilometres driven. This data is obtained through ICBC and Natural Resources Canada.
- Solid Waste:** Waste does not directly consume energy but when deposited into landfills, it decomposes and releases methane gas which is a greenhouse gas stronger than carbon dioxide.



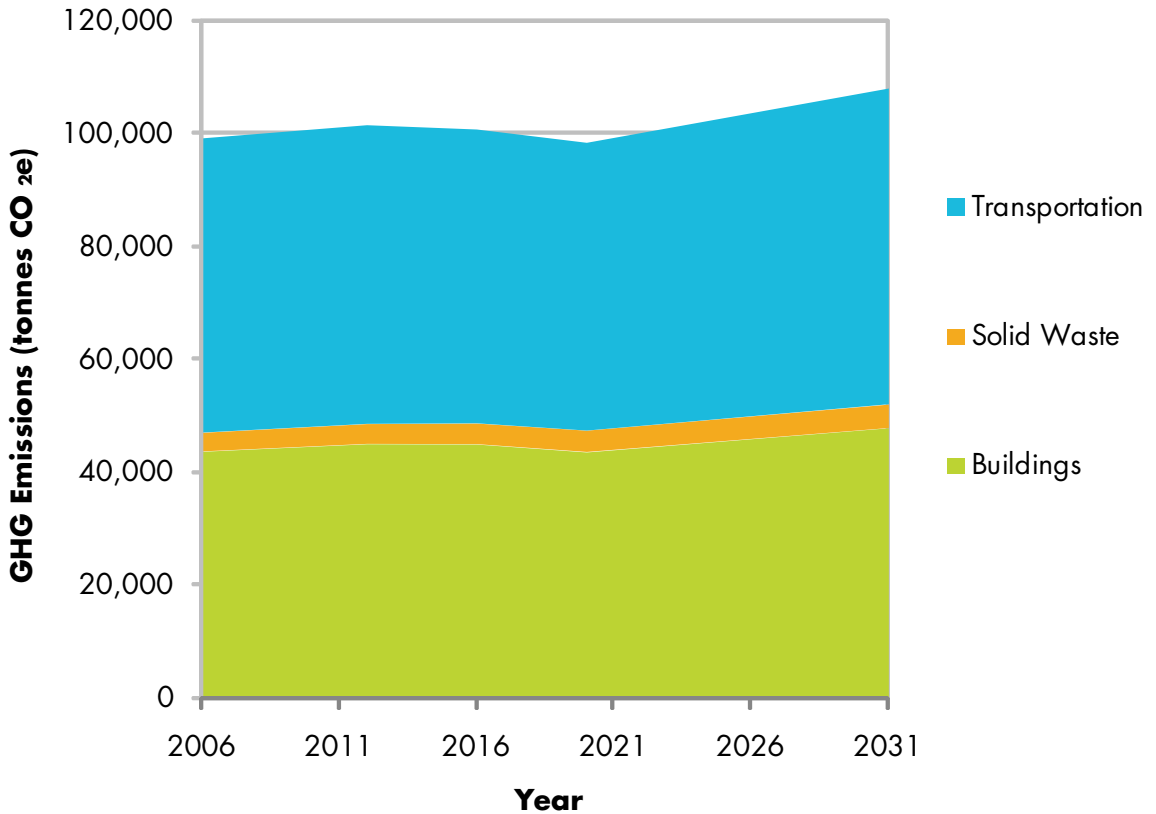
³These figures are based on data provided through the Province of BC's Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) initiative: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/climate/ceei/index.htm>

*Benchmarks provide a relative point of comparison that can help to contextualize community progress in reducing GHG emissions. Making comparisons based on these figures should be done with an understanding of the factors that influence emissions in different communities including: population density, infrastructure, energy sources, etc. Per capita emissions for BC communities are derived from 2007 CEEI figures (emissions) and 2006 Census data (population). Figures from Halifax and Edmonton are for 2002 and 2001 respectively. Note: these figures include emissions from residential and commercial buildings, transportation and solid waste (industrial emissions are not included).

ENERGY AND EMISSIONS FORECAST

If we continue with business-as-usual, our emissions are projected to increase to over 108,030 tonnes CO₂e by the year 2031. This forecast is based on population projections from our Official Community Plan and assumes that:

- Average energy demand in homes (residential) will be reduced by 20%;
- Average energy demand in the work place (commercial) will be reduced by 9% per square metre, and;
- Energy intensity of vehicles will drop by 15% as a result of technology advances and improved efficiency standards.



OUR CHALLENGE

Our challenge as a community is to reduce our energy consumption and GHG emissions.

- How much can we reduce?
- Where will set our GHG emissions reduction targets?
- What actions will we take to achieve those targets?

To provide your input to our Community Climate Action Plan, please take the time to fill out our online survey before **September 30, 2009** at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=OvOSJaY29_2b7TGKJ9fDHw2w_3d_3d_7

MORE INFORMATION

For further information about the Community Climate Action Plan, please contact:

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Watch our website for Community Climate Action Plan updates and events:

<http://www.city.whiterock.bc.ca/2005City-Operations/Environment.html>

