

# Report to Council



**Date:** July 24, 2023  
**To:** Council  
**From:** City Manager  
**Subject:** Local Government Climate Action Program Year 2  
**Department:** Climate Action & Environmental Stewardship and Energy Management

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from Climate Action & Environmental Stewardship and Energy Management, dated July 24, 2023, with respect to Local Government Climate Action Program Update.

## **Purpose:**

To update Council on Year 2 of the provincial Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) and to fulfill the provincial LGCAP requirements to make the LGCAP survey and attestation form public.

## **Background:**

In 2022, the Province introduced the Local Government Climate Action Program to provide predictable and stable funding for local governments and Modern Treaty Nations to support climate action that reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and prepares communities for the impacts of a changing climate.

The City of Kelowna is eligible for \$419,082 annually for a three-year period provided the eligibility requirements outlined in Table 1 are met each year.

Table 1: LGCAP Eligibility Requirements

LGCAP eligibility requirement	Kelowna meets requirement?	Details
Be a signatory of the BC Climate Action Charter	✓	Kelowna signed on to the Charter soon after it was launched in 2007
Measure and report on corporate GHG emissions	✓	See Attachment A for GHG emissions for 2022
Report on projects linked to one or more objectives from the <a href="#">CleanBC Roadmap to 2030</a> and/or <a href="#">Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy</a>	✓	See Attachment A which includes projects that were worked on in 2022.
Submit and publicly post a completed program survey and signed attestation form by July 31, 2023	In progress	Survey and signed attestation form will be submitted following Council presentation
Demonstrate that all LGCAP funds received over the three-year period are spent on climate action by March 31, 2025	In progress	Staff are working collaboratively across multiple departments to identify projects and/or programs for LGCAP funds.

**Discussion:**

The LGCAP survey (see Attachment A) requires information on the City’s corporate GHG emissions, Kelowna’s community GHG emissions, projects that deliver on one or more objectives of the provincial [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#) and/or [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#), and approximate resources invested in climate action. The final component of the survey is a signed attestation form confirming that the LGCAP funds have been or will be allocated to climate action. Outlined below is a high-level summary of the survey.

Information collected on the survey enables the Province to track progress, highlight climate leadership and advance action by including local government and Modern Treaty Nation emissions resilience and climate action performance reporting data in the annual provincial Climate Change Accountability Report. All information gathered by the Province will help to inform policy development, monitor progress on achieving provincial and local climate objectives, and ensure that funds provided are used for these objectives.

LGCAP Survey Highlights:

1. *Measuring and reporting on Corporate GHG Emissions*

The City tracks energy and emissions data from its corporate operations through its energy management system. Some examples of corporate GHG emission sources include:

- Civic buildings and facilities (e.g. H<sub>2</sub>O, City Hall, fire halls, etc.)
- Water and wastewater treatment
- Vehicle fleet
- Outdoor lighting

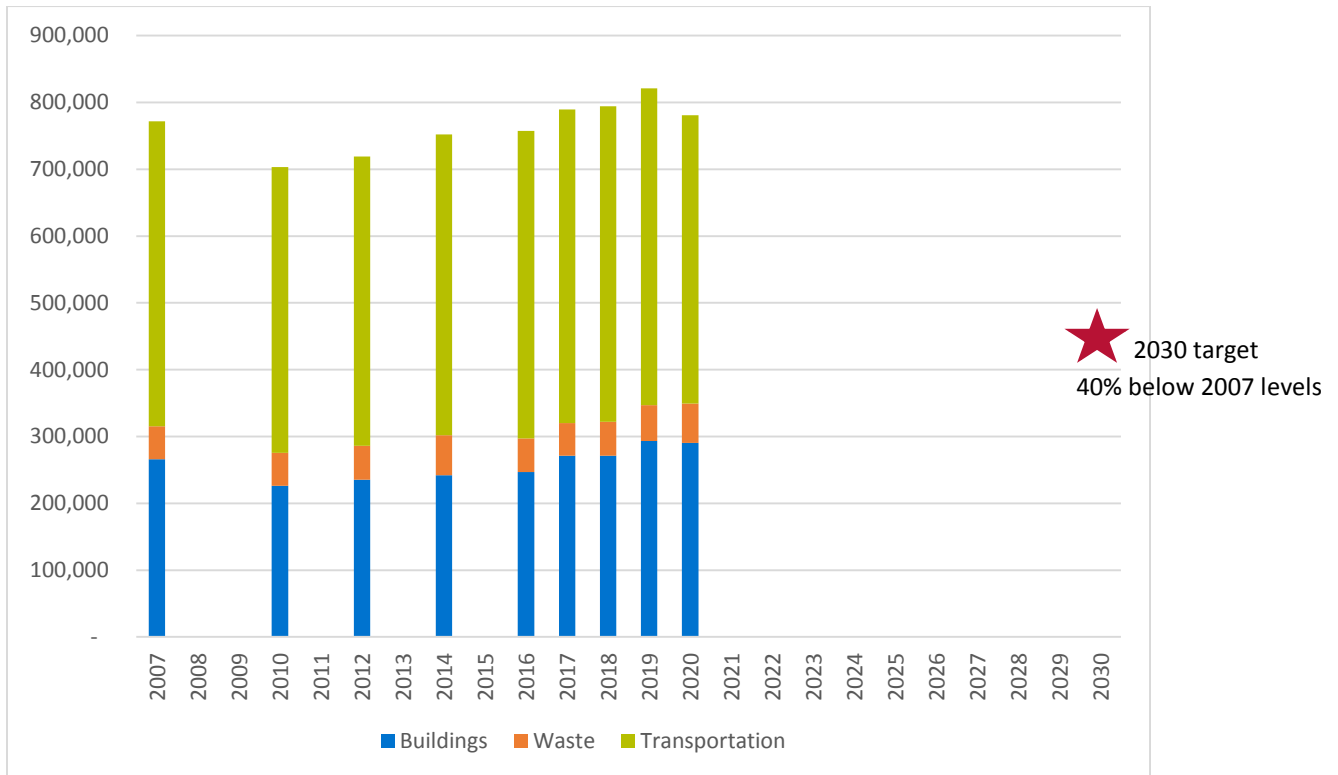
City operations emitted 7,033 tonnes of GHG emissions in 2022; excluding emissions from the airport, landfill and police facilities as per LGCAP reporting standards. As per LGCAP requirements we have included an estimate for contractor emissions in the survey, however this number is highly variable and trends on corporate GHG emissions reductions are best determined excluding contractor service

emissions. Since 2018, the City's corporate GHG emissions has seen a slight downwards trend. A new corporate Strategic Energy Management Plan will identify priority actions that will help the City continue to achieve greater GHG emissions reductions from its operations.

2. *Community GHG emissions*

Last year, Council directed staff to use new targets that aligned with provincial targets to reduce absolute GHG emissions 40 per cent below 2007 levels by 2030 and approach net zero by 2050 in the development of a new climate strategy. As illustrated in Figure 1, the latest data available for Kelowna's community GHG emissions is for the year 2020 and shows that absolute GHG emissions have increased compared to the 2007 baseline year by 1.1 per cent. On a positive note, progress is being made as on a per capita basis (declining 22 per cent capita since 2007) but this is not enough to keep pace with Kelowna's rapid growing population to make a reduction in overall community GHG emissions.

Figure 1: Kelowna's Community GHG Emissions



GHG emissions are estimated using data from the provincial Community Energy and Emissions Inventory for buildings and waste, third-party aggregate local fuel sale data for light duty transportation and Statistics Canada data for heavy duty transportation emissions.

The new Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy (currently in development) will identify actions to put Kelowna on the path towards achieving the new Council directed targets.

### 3. *City of Kelowna recent climate action projects*

Outlined below are a sample of the initiatives the City led or participated in during 2022 that deliver on the objectives of the [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#) (to reduce GHG emissions) and/or [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#) (to adapt to a changing climate).

- Projects reducing GHG emissions
  - Adopted the 2040 Official Community Plan and the 2040 Transportation Master Plan;
  - Offered top-up rebates for residential heat pumps and for EV charging infrastructure for multi-unit residential buildings as part of the CleanBC Municipal Top Up Program;
  - Continued implementation as an early adopter of the Energy Step Code;
  - Collaborated with NRCAN on Canadian Energy End Use (CEE) map project to develop a GIS mapping dashboard for building energy use and GHG metrics based on current and projected policy scenarios;
  - Constructed 2.1 km of “All Ages and Abilities” bike routes;
  - Constructed 345m of sidewalks;
  - Issued permits for two companies to operate shared e-bikes and e-scooters that resulted in approximately 240,000 trips, preventing 158,000 kilometers of driving; and
  - Collaborated with UBCO on waste reuse initiatives.
  
- Initiatives to adapt to a changing climate
  - Initiated a [Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment](#);
  - Endorsed the [Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan](#);
  - Collected 100 metric tonnes of vegetation to reduce wildfire risk as part of the FireSmart Community Chipping Program;
  - Amended the Development Application Procedures Bylaw No. 12310 to require pre-development tree inventory to identify trees that may require root zone protection measures and help ensure trees proposed to be retained are protected;
  - Continued work on Mill Creek Flood Protection Project (year four of an eight-year project) to improve flood passage and public safety on Mill Creek; and
  - Initiated development of a Water Security Plan.

### 4. *Resources invested in climate action*

The LGCAP survey asks local governments to estimate their investment in climate action (both staffing and initiatives). This is a challenging task, as the primary intent of many staff and initiatives may not be climate related, however these positions and/or initiatives still delivered a variety of climate benefits.

The City currently has three staff working directly on community climate action in its newly formed Climate Action and Environmental Stewardship department, as well as two staff dedicated to reducing corporate energy end emissions in its Energy Management department. There are also staff from multiple different departments across the organization whose positions may not be focused directly on climate, but whose projects help to reduce emissions and help our community adapt to climate change.

In 2022, staff led a variety of projects and initiatives that resulted in nearly \$19 million invested in actions that helped reduce GHG emissions and prepare for a changing climate. These funds, a large portion of which were funded through external grants (e.g. Disaster Mitigation Fund, Community Resiliency Fund, BC Active Transportation Fund, etc.), paid for projects such as new active

transportation infrastructure (\$5.5 million), energy upgrades at civic facilities (\$1 million), and Mill Creek flood protection project (\$5 million).

### **Conclusion:**

Local and regional governments influence approximately 50 per cent of the nation's overall GHG emissions, however, they are also uniquely positioned to help the community shift towards a low carbon lifestyle and respond to climate impacts. Responding to this, the Province introduced LGCAP to provide predictable and stable funding for a three year period, ending in 2024 to help local governments and Modern Treaty Nations reduce GHG emissions and/or adapt to the anticipated increase in frequency and severity of climate events (e.g. wildfire, drought, heat domes and flooding).

While the amount of influence a local government has varies depending on different sources of GHG emissions within their boundaries, there is an opportunity to strategically plan and build the community, so Kelowna's GHG emissions decrease and the city is well-adapted to a changing climate. The LGCAP funds can support infrastructure, policy and regulation, and engagement and outreach to help deliver on Kelowna's climate goals and ultimately create a healthier and more livable community for people of all ages and abilities, while driving local job growth and economic development.

### **Internal Circulation:**

Capital Planning & Asset Management  
Communications  
Development Planning  
Financial Services  
Fleet Services  
Grants  
Integrated Transportation  
Policy & Planning  
Purchase Services  
Solid Waste  
Urban Forestry  
Utility Planning  
Utility Services

### **Considerations applicable to this report:**

#### ***Existing Policy:***

2040 OCP

- Objective 12.1 Design the community to be more resilient to a changing climate.
  - Policy 12.1.1 GHG Emissions Reduction Targets.
  - Policy 12.1.2 Climate Resilient Land Use Planning
  - Policy 12.1.3 Adapting Infrastructure
- Objective 12.2 Prioritize climate resiliency in City operations
  - Policy 12.2.3 Climate Leadership
- Objective 12.9 Support the community to prepare for and become resilient to the impacts of climate change.

2023-2026 Council Priorities

- Climate and Environment
  - Reduce corporate and community GHG emissions

***Financial/Budgetary Considerations:***

Staff across multiple departments are collaborating to identify initiatives that can utilize LGCAP funds.

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

***Legal/Statutory Authority:***

***Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:***

***Financial/Budgetary Considerations:***

***External Agency/Public Comments:***

***Communications Comments:***

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**Approved for inclusion:**



R. Smith

Attachments:

Attachment A: Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) YEAR 2