

# Report to Council



**Date:** January 22, 2024  
**To:** Council  
**From:** City Manager  
**Subject:** Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy – Engagement Summary & Focus Areas  
**Department:** Climate Action & Environmental Stewardship

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**Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Climate Action & Environmental Stewardship Department dated January 22, 2024, with respect to the Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy key drivers and strategies.

**Purpose:**

To provide Council with an update on the progress of the Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy and to discuss its key drivers and strategies.

**Council Priority Alignment:**

Climate & Environment

**Background:**

The climate landscape has changed significantly in recent years, requiring aggressive greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction now and a stronger focus on resilience. In 2021 the City embarked on a process to create a new community climate action plan as outlined in Figure 1, the Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy (CRKS). Based on a low-carbon resilience approach to climate change, when complete the CRKS will address both reductions in GHG emissions and adaptation to the changes in climate our community projects to see in the coming decades. This new strategy is being developed at a critical point in time, as last spring the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stressed the urgency for immediate climate action on all fronts – a need for “everything, everywhere, all at once” as the world continues to edge closer to the 1.5-degree global temperature threshold. Taking action away from a business-as-usual approach will help sustain our quality of life, natural environment, citizen health and affordability.

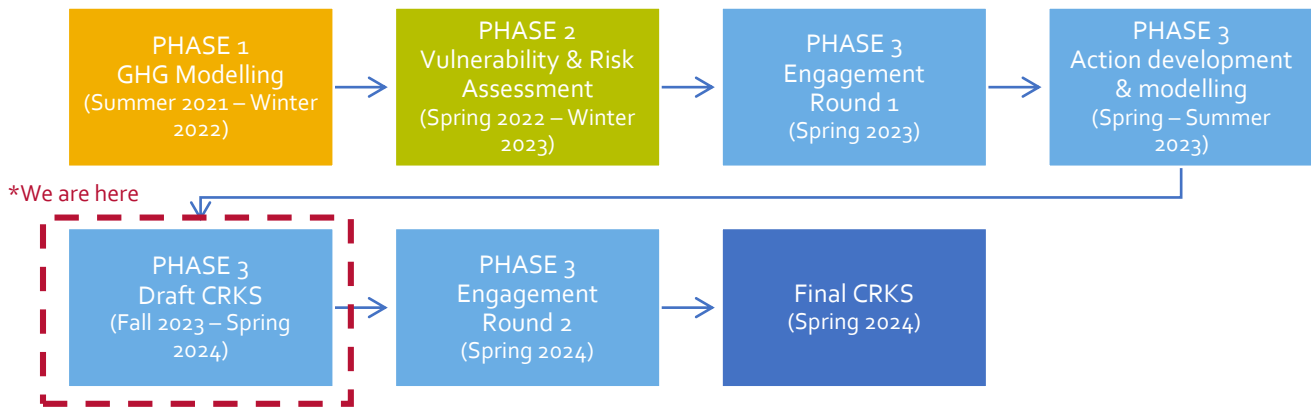


Figure 1: Process for developing the CRKS

*Previous Council Resolution*

Resolution	Date
THAT Council receives, for information, the report from Policy & Planning, dated April 3, 2023 with respect to the Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy: Vulnerability and Risk Assessment and Public Engagement Kickoff.	April 3, 2023
THAT Council receives for information, the report from the Policy & Planning Department dated June 20, 2022, with respect to Climate Modelling: GHG Reduction Targets and Next Steps for Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy;  AND THAT Council direct staff to update the 2040 OCP with new GHG reduction targets as outlined in the report;  AND THAT Council direct staff to use these new GHG reduction targets as a basis for developing a Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy;	June 20, 2022

**Discussion:**

Mitigating (i.e., reducing GHG emissions) and adapting to climate change are two interconnected efforts that are crucial for addressing the challenges posed by a changing climate. While each effort has distinct goals and strategies, combining mitigation and adaptation efforts through a low-carbon resilience approach is essential for effectively managing the impacts of climate change and ensuring the long-term sustainability of ecosystems, economies, and societies. Addressing climate adaptation and mitigation simultaneously in the CRKS will also maximize the Strategy’s implementation and co-benefits.

A variety of inputs are being utilized to inform the development of the CRKS. These include:

- **Council and corporate priorities:** Climate & Environment is one of Council’s six 2023 – 2026 priorities. Some of Council’s other priority areas, such as Transportation, Agriculture and Affordable Housing also have a direct link to becoming a more climate resilient community.

- **Senior government plans and policies:** Canada’s 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, National Adaptation Strategy, as well as the Province’s CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, and Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy provide a pathway and synergies to reach goals.
- **Technical analysis and modelling:** The GHG Emissions Modelling Study provided the technical foundation for Council to direct staff to use new targets that aligned with the Province (40 per cent below 2007 levels by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050) in the development of the CRKS. This together with the Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, and Adaptation Modelling provided technical inputs to identify focus areas to reduce GHG emissions and prepare for climate change impacts.
- **Existing plans and strategies:** The City isn’t starting from scratch. The CRKS will build on the progress made in the 2018-2023 Community Climate Action Plan as well as on the implementation of plans and strategies already endorsed or currently in development such as the Official Community Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Electric Vehicle & E-Bike Strategy, Urban Forest Strategy, Water Security Plan, Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan, among many others.
- **Staff input:** Multiple departments across the organization have provided input on how climate can be integrated with other City of Kelowna priorities.
- **Community input:** The community was engaged through several different tactics to provide input on key priorities and actions to reduce GHG emissions and prepare for climate change (see *Appendix A: Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy Engagement Summary* for details). Most participants reinforced the urgency for taking action on climate. In fact, over 80 per cent of survey respondents felt the City’s current GHG emissions targets (reductions below 2007 levels by 25 per cent by 2033 and 80 per cent 2050) should be revised to align with or be more ambitious than the Province’s targets (40 per cent reduction below 2007 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050).

Based on these inputs, 13 key drivers in nine key focus areas have been identified as having the biggest impact where the City can help the community transition to a low carbon, resilient community (see figure 2 for the proposed structure of the CRKS and figure 3 for details of the key drivers). These focus areas and drivers have been modelled, where possible, for potential GHG emissions reduction and adaptation impact in the community. The drivers have been further broken down into 28 strategies, as illustrated in *Appendix B: Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy: Focus Areas, Drivers & Strategies*.

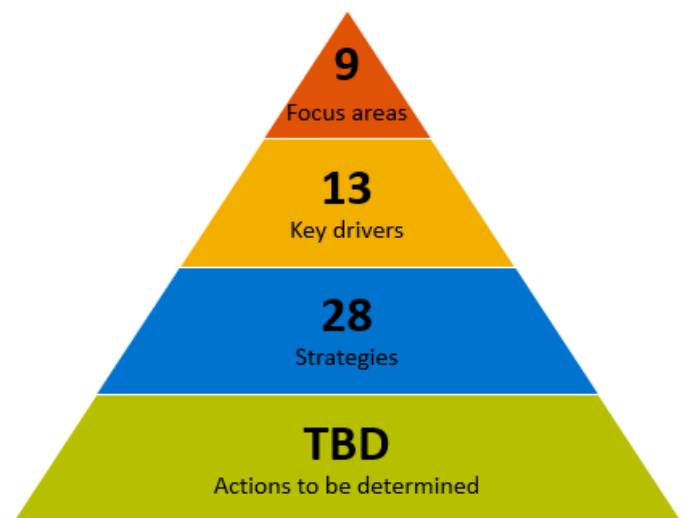


Figure 2: proposed CRKS structure/hierarchy

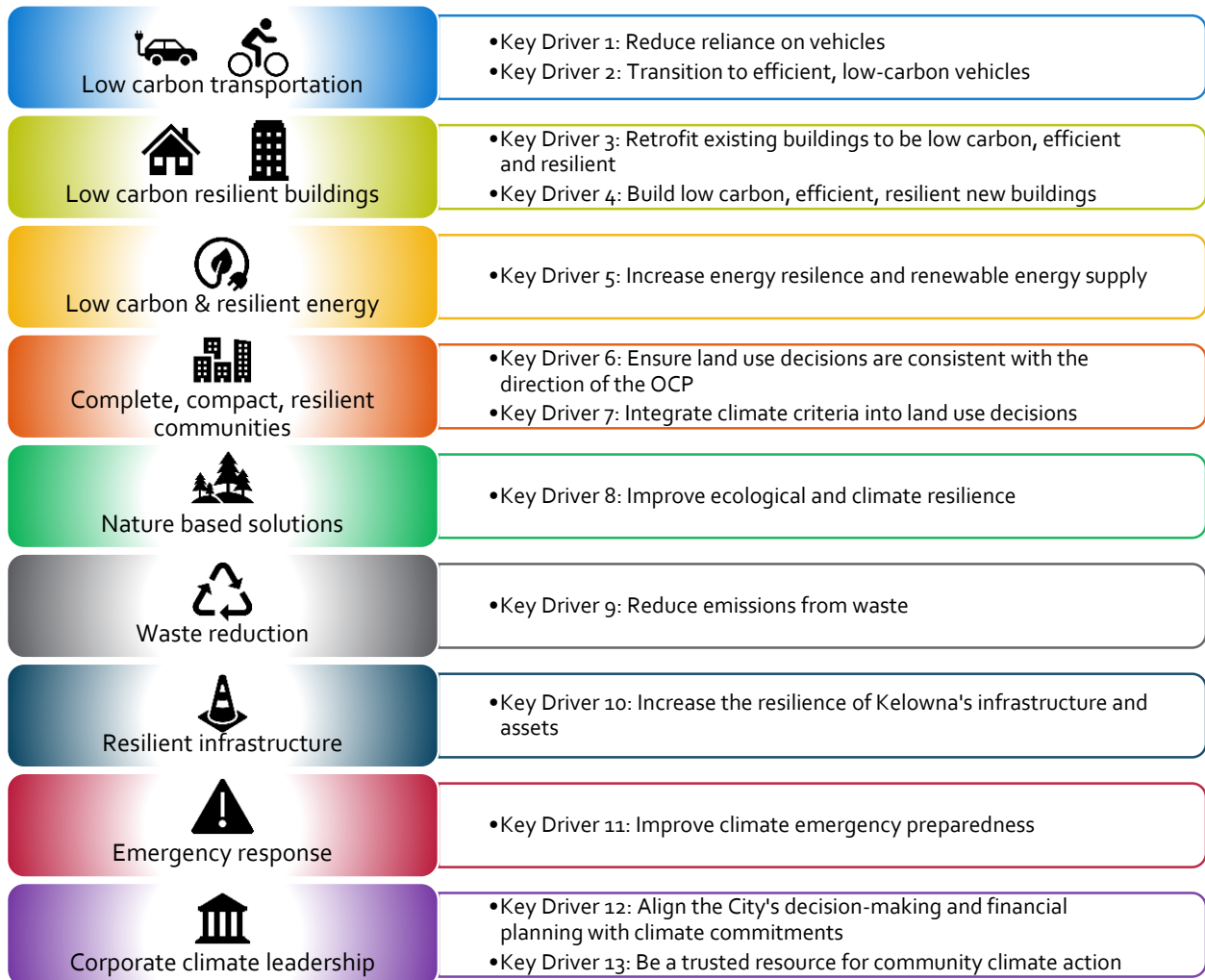


Figure 3: Key drivers to achieve climate resiliency

### Conclusion and Next Steps:

For Kelowna to become resilient to climate change, it will require collective action – by all levels of government, businesses, organizations, and the broader community. As local governments control or influence over 50 per cent of Canada's GHG emissions and are on the front lines of many climate impacts, many municipalities and regional districts in BC have responded with more aggressive climate action plans. The City is well positioned to improve Kelowna's resiliency as well, by influencing how our community grows, commutes, interacts and protects natural assets for continued quality of life.

Based on the input received to date, staff are currently working with the consultant to complete the Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy which will include a series of recommended actions to deliver on each of the key drivers and associated proposed strategies.

It is anticipated that the draft CRKS will be shared with Council this Spring, and subsequently used to facilitate the final round of public engagement.

**Internal Circulation:**

Capital Planning & Asset Management  
Community Communications  
Development Engineering  
Energy Management  
Fire Communications & Emergency Management  
Policy & Planning  
Risk Management  
Solid Waste  
Integrated Transportation  
Suburban and Rural Planning  
Urban Forestry  
Utility Services  
Utility Planning

**Considerations applicable to this report:*****Existing Policy:***

- 2040 OCP
  - Objective 12.1 Design the community to be more resilient to a changing climate
  - Objective 12.3 Encourage the community to take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change
  - Objective 12.4 Improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions of new buildings
  - Objective 12.5 Improve energy efficiency and reduce operational greenhouse gas emissions of existing buildings
  - Objective 12.6 Transition toward 100 per cent renewable energy by 2050
  - Objective 12.7 Support the transition to emerging low and zero-emission transportation technologies
  - Objective 12.8 Invest in ecosystem services and green infrastructure to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate
  - Objective 12.9 Support the community to prepare for and become resilient to the impacts of climate change
  - Objective 12.10 Adapt to a changing water supply
  - Objective 12.11 Increase resilience to extreme weather events
  - Objective 12.12 Reduce risk to public health, the local economy and the environment related to invasive species.
  
- Imagine Kelowna
  - Goal: Take action in the face of climate change

***Consultation and Engagement:***

The public had an opportunity to provide their input on the development of the Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy through multiple avenues. Through social media posts, e-bulletins, news releases and paid newspaper, radio, and website advertising, the public was encouraged to visit the Get Involved platform to learn how to provide their feedback. Get involved had nearly 4,500 site visits, and 286 people completed the online survey during the month of April. Nearly 80 people attended one of the two open houses (hosted April 18 and 27, 2023). An Invested Organizations Working Group and a Youth Working Group have also each met 4 times over the past year to provide their input. Further input was

also gathered from the Agricultural Advisory Committee at their September 2022 meeting. This engagement is summarized in *Appendix A: Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy Engagement Summary*.

The next opportunity for public engagement will be this spring after the Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy is drafted and presented to Council.

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

***Legal/Statutory Authority:***

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

***Financial/Budgetary Considerations:***

***Communications Comments:***

Submitted by:

T. Guidi, Sustainability Coordinator

**Approved for inclusion:** C. Ray, Climate Action & Environment Manager

**Attachments:**

- Appendix A: Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy Engagement Summary
- Appendix B: Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy: Focus Areas, Drivers & Strategies