

# Memo



**Date:** May 1, 2024  
**To:** Agricultural Advisory Committee  
**From:** Climate & Environment Manager  
**Subject:** Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy – Update & Engagement Opportunities

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**Purpose:**

To provide the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) with an update on the Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy (CRKS) and to inform on upcoming engagement opportunities.

**Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy Update:**

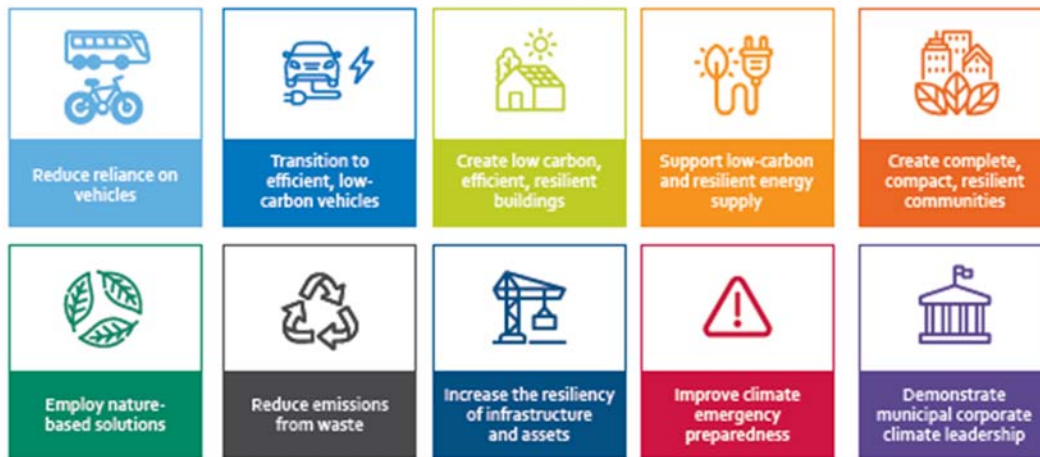
At the September 8, 2022 meeting, staff introduced the AAC to the CRKS that was under development to replace the 2018-2023 Community Climate Action Plan. At that meeting, staff sought input from the AAC on the agricultural sector’s vulnerability and risks due to climate change and to identify opportunities for agriculture to become more resilient to a changing climate.

Since that time, staff completed a Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, worked with a consultant on additional analysis, and engaged with staff across the organization, the community, interested and affected parties, and a youth working group. All of this informed the development of the draft CRKS.

The climate landscape has changed significantly in recent years, requiring aggressive greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction in combination with a stronger focus on resilience. The draft CRKS provides direction to help reduce GHG emissions while preparing for the impacts of climate change. This low-carbon resilience approach is essential for addressing the challenges posed by a changing climate and ensuring the long-term sustainability of ecosystems, economies, and society, while maximizing the efficiencies and other co-benefits of action.

To make the biggest impact on climate in our community, the draft CRKS focuses on action in 10 key drivers (see graphic below and *Attachment A: 10 Key Drivers to Address Climate Change in Kelowna*). These drivers of change will help put the community on the path to reducing GHG emissions 40 per cent below 2007 levels by 2030; and net zero emissions by 2050, while helping us become more resilient to climate change impacts. The drivers are broken into 28 strategies, and further into actions the City can take to help create a low carbon resilient community.

Figure 1: 10 Key Drivers for climate action



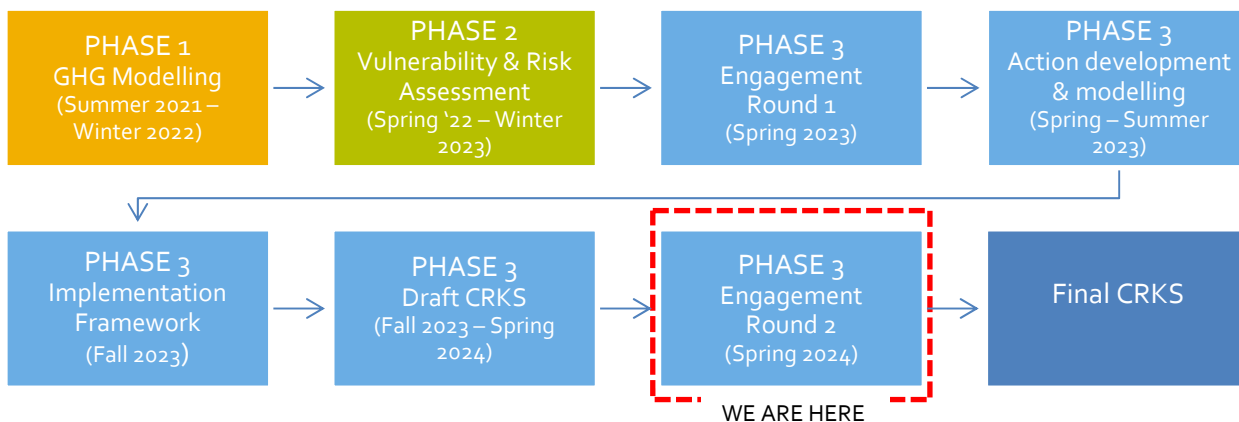
There is no driver specific to agriculture; however, three of the drivers have a relationship to agriculture:

- Increase the resiliency of infrastructure
- Employ nature-based solutions
- Improve climate emergency preparedness

**Engagement Opportunities:**

Engagement for the draft CRKS will launch May 15, 2024 on [getinvolved.kelowna.ca/climatestrategy](https://getinvolved.kelowna.ca/climatestrategy). The site will include a draft of the Strategy and provide opportunities for the members of the public to provide feedback either through the online survey and/or participating in one of the planned open houses (see [getinvolved.kelowna.ca/climatestrategy](https://getinvolved.kelowna.ca/climatestrategy) for dates). Members of the AAC are encouraged to participate and share this engagement opportunity with their networks. Input will be accepted until June 9, 2024.

The CRKS will be revised following this last round of engagement and will be presented to Council for their consideration in early summer.



**Prepared by:** T. Guidi, Planner Specialist  
**Reviewed by:** C. Ray, Climate & Environment Manager



# Attachment A: 10 Key Drivers to Address Climate Change in Kelowna

1



## Reduce reliance on vehicles

- Create fast and reliable transit
- Create safe, comfortable walking and bicycling routes
- Expand shared mobility options
- Reduce distance driven by vehicles

2



## Transition to efficient, low-carbon vehicles

- Increase access to EV charging on private property
- Expand the public EV charging network
- Support the transition to efficient and zero-emission commercial vehicles and goods movement
- Support more fuel-efficient, lower carbon driving

3



## Create low carbon, efficient, resilient buildings

- Support retrofits to create more efficient, low carbon, resilient residential buildings
- Support retrofits to create more efficient, low carbon, resilient non-residential buildings
- Accelerate adoption of low carbon, efficient new buildings
- Increase the resilience of new construction to local climate hazards

4



## Support low-carbon and resilient energy

- Support the transition to a low-carbon energy supply
- Advocate for increased resilience of the local energy supply

5



## Create complete, compact, resilient communities

- Target growth in climate resilient Urban Centres and Core Areas
- Integrate GHG emissions reduction and resilience in land-use planning regulation and development policies
- Apply a climate lens to development

6



## Employ nature-based solutions

- Protect and restore natural systems providing ecosystem services to reduce climate hazard risk
- Utilize green infrastructure to improve climate resilience
- Inventory, assess and monitor ecosystems and green infrastructure

7



## Reduce emissions from waste

- Reduce waste generation and increase waste diversion

8



## Increase the resilience of infrastructure and assets

- Infrastructure is upgraded or adapted to withstand the impacts of a changing climate

9



## Improve climate emergency preparedness

- Enhance climate emergency response planning
- Empower the community to be prepared for climate emergencies

10



## Demonstrate municipal corporate climate leadership

- Incorporate a climate lens into municipal governance and operations
- Decarbonize City assets and operations
- Empower the community to take climate action
- Incorporate Indigenous Knowledge in climate action initiatives