

Report to Council



Date: July 22, 2024

To: Council

From: City Manager

Subject: Local Government Climate Action Program – Year 3 Reporting

Department: Climate Action & Environmental Stewardship and Energy Management

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Climate Action & Environmental Stewardship and Energy Management Departments, dated July 22, 2024, with respect to the Local Government Climate Action Program Annual Update.

Purpose:

To update Council on Year 3 of the provincial Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) and to fulfill the provincial requirements to make the LGCAP survey and attestation form public.

Council Priority Alignment:

Climate & Environment

Background:

In 2022, the provincial government introduced the LGCAP to provide predictable, stable, and flexible 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, provided the eligibility requirements outlined in Table 1 are met. Originally the funding was provided for a three-year period (2022-2024) and funds were disbursed from the provincial government on an annual basis. Earlier this year, funds for an additional two years (2025 and 2026) were approved, and funds for LGCAP years 2024-2026 were disbursed in an upfront lump sum payment.

Table 1: LGCAP Eligibility Requirements

LGCAP Eligibility Requirement	Meeting 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 annually on corporate GHG emissions	✓	See Attachment A for 2023 GHG emissions
Report annually on initiatives linked to the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and/or Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy	✓	See Attachment A which includes initiatives that were worked on in 2023
Submit and publicly post a completed program survey and signed attestation form by July 31 each year	In progress	Survey and signed attestation form will be submitted following this Council presentation
Demonstrate that the first two annual installments (2022-2023) of LGCAP funds are spent on climate action by March 31, 2025	In progress	Staff have identified priority initiatives to fund based on an internal application process (see point 4 of the Discussion section)
Demonstrate that the last three annual installments (2024-2026) of LGCAP funds are spent on climate action by March 31, 2028	Not started	Staff will follow the same internal application process as years 1 and 2 to determine priority initiatives

Discussion:

Annual reporting for the LGCAP is completed through an online survey that requires information on corporate and community GHG emissions, initiatives that align with the provincial [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#) and/or [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#), and approximate resources invested in climate action (see Attachment A). 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. The City has completed the online survey and attestation form which summarizes climate action in 2023 related to the LGCAP. Outlined below is a high-level summary.

LGCAP Survey Highlights:

1. Corporate GHG Emissions

The City tracks energy and emissions data from its corporate operations (e.g., civic buildings and facilities, water and wastewater treatment, vehicle fleet, outdoor lighting) through its energy management system. In 2023, City operations emitted 7,381 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) emissions, excluding emissions from the airport, landfill and police facilities as per the LGCAP reporting standards. As per LGCAP requirements an estimate for contractor emissions was included in the survey; however, this number is highly variable and trends on corporate GHG emissions reductions are best determined excluding contractor service emissions. Beginning in 2018, higher usage of facilities and older infrastructure have led to a small rise in the City's corporate GHG emissions, as seen in Figure 1.

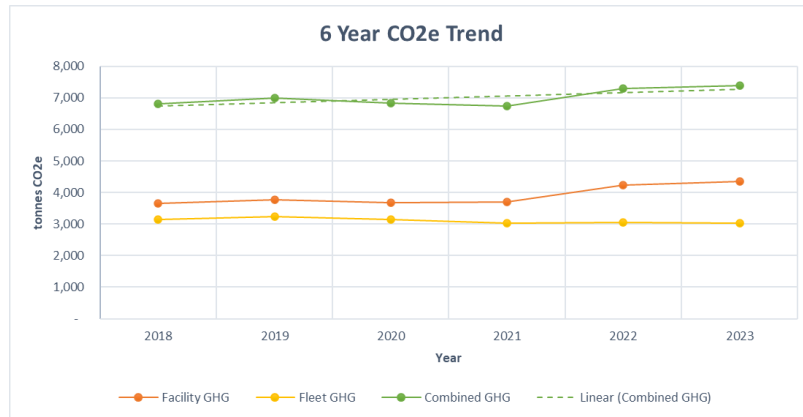


Figure 1: Corporate GHG emissions (2018 – 2023)

2. Community GHG emissions

All local governments and Modern Treaty Nations receive community GHG emissions data through the Province's Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI). The CEEI is broken down by transportation, buildings, and waste. As illustrated in Figure 2, the latest data available through the CEEI is for the year 2021 and shows that absolute community GHG emissions have increased slightly (4.6 per cent) compared to the 2007 baseline year. On a positive note, progress is being made on a per capita basis (declining approximately 20 per cent capita since 2007).

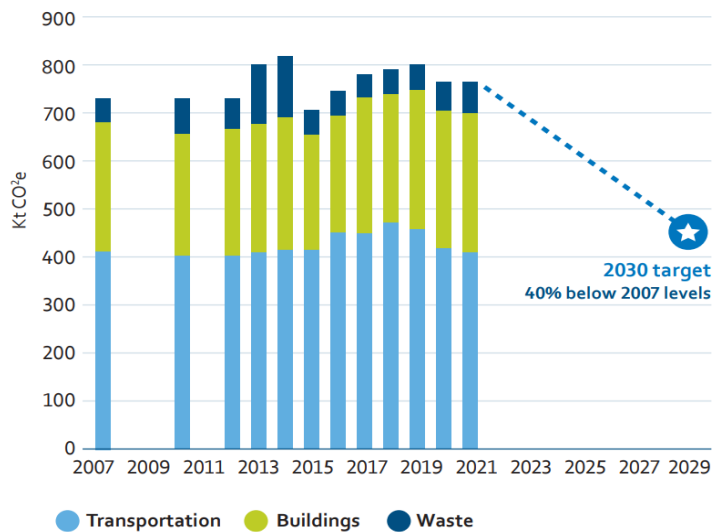


Figure 2: Community GHG emissions (2007-2021)

3. City of Kelowna recent climate action projects

Outlined below are a sample of the initiatives the City led during 2023 that align with the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and/or Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy. A more comprehensive summary of climate action projects completed in 2023 related to Council Priorities can be found on the [Climate & Environment Section](#) of the Progress Report on Council Priorities 2023-2026 webpage and in the LGCAP survey (Attachment A).

Initiatives reducing GHG emissions:

- **Corporate efficiency upgrades or retrofits:** Ongoing energy upgrades to City facilities including the Rutland Family Y that will reduce emissions by 160 tonnes of CO₂e per year.
- **Zero emission vehicle (ZEV) procurement:** In 2023, we added six ZEVs - five Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) and one Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicle - to the City's corporate fleet.
- **Established electric vehicle charging ready bylaws:** To support the shift to electric vehicles, we updated the Zoning Bylaw to require most parking stalls in new residential buildings to include an energized electrical outlet capable of minimum Level 2 charging.
- **Topping Up Provincial energy efficiency programs:** We continued to offer top-up rebates to existing provincial programs to those that switch from a fossil fuel heating system to a heat pump and to those that install EV chargers in multi-unit residential buildings. We also added top ups for heat pump water heaters and electrical service upgrades.

Initiatives to adapt to a changing climate:

- **FireSmart Community Chipping Program:** The City won a Climate and Energy Action Award at the 2023 UBCM Conference for this program that offers free curbside removal and chipping of highly flammable plant and shrub materials to reduce wildfire fuel levels on private properties.
- **WaterSmart Landscaping Rebates:** Offered rebates to Kelowna residents for planting climate appropriate landscapes and optimizing water use.
- **Mill Creek Flood Protection:** continued the multi-year, multi-million-dollar initiative to improve the creek corridor and reduce flooding potential throughout the city, from the Kelowna Airport to Okanagan Lake.

Work continued on several strategies that will help the City continue to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to changing climate. These include the Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy, the Sustainable Urban Forest Strategy, and the Water Security and Responsibility Plan - all of which will be presented to Council for endorsement later this year.

4. Initiatives to be funded through LGCAP

The first two years of LGCAP funding must be spent by the City by March 31, 2025. Eligible expenditures are flexible and can include, but are not limited to staffing, contracts, climate resilient infrastructure, matching funds to leverage funding from the other sources, risk assessments, and communications/engagement.

Earlier this year, staff initiated an internal application process to identify and prioritize climate action initiatives across the organization that require funding and would support the objectives of the LGCAP. After an internal review process, the following initiatives were recommended for LGCAP funding:

- **Lawn Swap Go Electric Rebate Program:** Provides rebates to eligible residents when trading out old gas-powered equipment for new electric equipment. The rebate covers up to \$150 (no more than 50% of the cost) for new electric lawnmowers, leaf blowers, trimmers or chainsaws.
- **Quail Ridge Park Wildfire Risk Reduction Prescription:** Develop a wildfire risk reduction prescription (known as a fuel management prescription) for the Quail Ridge Linear Park and adjacent natural area.

- **Fire Weather Monitoring Stations:** The City is partnering with the UBCO to install a network of fire weather stations across Kelowna's natural areas. This would enable the Kelowna Fire Department to monitor wildfire weather and predicted fire behaviour in real time across the community.
- **Term Staff Position - Climate Action Specialist:** A three-year term staff position who can support the City's community climate action efforts by developing and implementing programs focused on mobilizing behaviour change in the community.

Over the coming months, staff will be implementing the initiatives, ensuring LGCAP requirements are met. Additional initiatives may be added based on available funding and LGCAP alignment.

Conclusion:

The Province introduced the LGCAP to provide predictable, stable, and flexible funding 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). The City continues to support climate action through various funding streams and will utilize the LGCAP funding for initiatives that align with the Province's CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy and the upcoming Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy.

Internal Circulation:

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Capital Planning & Asset Management | • Integrated Transportation |
| • Communications | • Long Range Policy Planning |
| • Financial Services | • Purchase Services |
| • Fire Prevention | • Urban Forestry |
| • Grants & Special Projects | • Utility Services |

Existing Policy:

- 2040 OCP
 - Objective 12.1: Design the community to be more resilient to a changing climate.
 - Objective 12.2: Prioritize climate resiliency in City operations
 - 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:

The proposed initiatives for utilizing the initial allocation of LGCAP funds will be presented to Council with the quarterly financial reporting.

Submitted by:

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Approved for inclusion:

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