

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE**

Friday, September 12, 2025

O N T A B L E

1. Invited Presentation re: B.C. Flood Strategy: Implementation of Priority Actions 2025-26.
2. E1 Presentation re: Climate 2050 Progress Report 2025.



B.C. Flood Strategy: Implementation of Priority Actions 2025-26

MetroVan Air Quality & Climate Committee
September 12, 2025



1

Vision

Together, we are leaders in innovative, holistic flood risk management, enhancing B.C.'s flood resilience for the 21st century.

Enhanced Public Safety

Economic Stability

Environmental Sustainability



2



What is the B.C. Flood Strategy?

From Flood Risk to Resilience: a Roadmap to 2035

Vision, Outcomes & Principles

4 Pathways based on Sendai Framework

1. Understanding risk
2. Governance
3. Preparedness, response & recovery
4. Investing in risk reduction

25 Actions phased out to 2035, starting with priority actions (initiated as resourcing allows)

- Floodplain mapping, risk assessments
- Legislation, regulations, policy guidance
- Integrated Flood Management Planning
- Investing in flood resilience

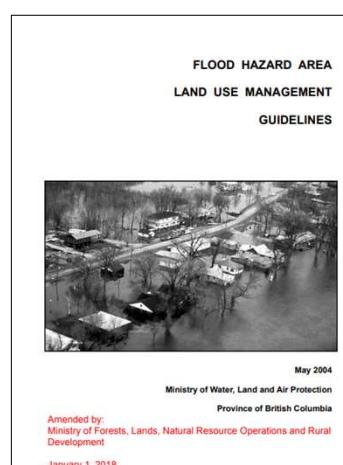


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New Guidance Based on B.C.'s Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines

- Developed in 2004, the guidelines no longer reflect current flood risks, climate change impacts, or Indigenous governance, prompting a need for modernization identified in the BC Flood Strategy (Action 2.7)
- Engagement on the B.C. Flood Strategy highlighted the lack of transparency, inadequate integration of Indigenous Knowledge, and the need for stronger regulatory tools to prevent unmitigated higher-risk development.
- The project aims to deliver updated, plain-language guidance that supports equitable, climate-resilient land-use decisions, aligns with key legislation, and respects Indigenous Rights and Title.



FLOOD HAZARD AREA
LAND USE MANAGEMENT
GUIDELINES

May 2004

Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
Province of British Columbia

Amended by:
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

January 1, 2018



4

New Guidance Based on B.C.'s Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines

Anticipated Timeline			
July 2025	August 2025 – March 2026	~April 2026	Summer 2026
Engagement with local governments, First Nations, and subject matter experts	Drafting of seed document in collaboration with a Technical Sub-Committee and Project Advisory Panel	Engagement on seed document with local governments and First Nations prior to finalization	Finalization of guideline


BRITISH COLUMBIA

5

Design Guidelines for Nature-Based Solutions

- Shift toward Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) to manage coastal and riverine flood / erosion risk
- Existing Provincial flood infrastructure guidelines mainly focus on hard infrastructure
- Action to update Provincial guidance to make information more accessible and useful
- Draft Guidelines being developed, based on March 2025 engagement, and additional engagement is anticipated for 2025-26



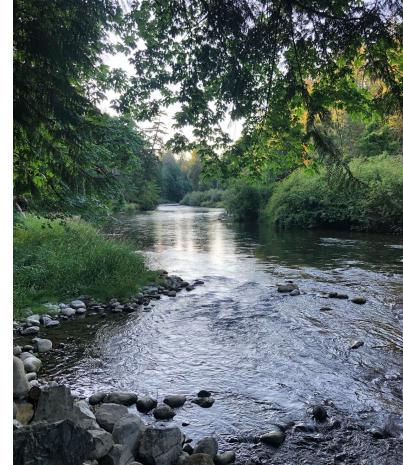
Coast Salish Biodiversity Approach to Shoreline Management (Source: Sky Spirit Studio Inc.)


BRITISH COLUMBIA

6

Flood Hazard Identification & Mapping Program

- WLRS is cost-sharing with the federal government through FHIMP to produce high-quality, updated floodplain maps for higher-risk communities.
- Floodplain maps for FHIMP Study Areas are nearing completion. FHIMP funding agreement requires public release of the maps and associated reports within one year of completion.
- Local governments may choose if / when to incorporate updated floodplain mapping into their bylaws and plans.
- The Province's [Flood Study Explorer](#) currently contains 53 available floodplain maps and reports, with up to 148 more to be added or linked to. Finalized FHIMP products are also intended to be shared there.



7

Flood Hazard Identification & Mapping Program

List of FHIMP Study Areas, with Project Status

Phase 1:

- Lower Fraser – anticipated early fall 2025
- Nicola Valley – anticipated late fall 2025
- Upper Fraser and Nechako – anticipated early fall 2025
- Bulkley Skeena River - complete
- Shuswap Region – anticipated early fall 2025
- Grand Forks extension - complete
- Columbia River – anticipated early fall 2025

Phase 2:

- Chilliwack River – contract awarded by FBC
- Similkameen River – contract awarded by FBC
- Okanagan Tributaries – RFP to be released by FBC
- Lower Fraser Extension to Ocean – RFP to be released by FBC



8

Provincial Disaster & Climate Risk Assessment

- EMCR is currently working toward a fall release of the Disaster Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) hazard data sets on ClimateReadyBC, including province-wide, low resolution flood hazard areas.
- Future work is planned toward regional scale DCRRAs, which will be informed by the most accurate available floodplain mapping, like that produced under the FHIMP.



9

Additional Ongoing Initiatives

Federally Identified Flood Risk Areas (FIFRA) by Public Safety Canada

- FIFRA hazard layer is used to provide a national flood hazard rating (Low to Extreme) and to guide federal investments
- It uses a Canada-wide flood hazard model and will be accessible to the public via a Flood Risk Awareness Digital Resource, expected in December 2025
- FIFRA has implications for federal disaster financial assistance eligibility to provinces/territories

Enhancements to Flood Forecasting by the BC River Forecast Centre

- Expanded model coverage and improved methodologies
- Enhanced snowpack and hydrologic data inputs

Sumas River Watershed Flood Mitigation Planning (SRWFMP)

- Initiative brings together the Semá:th, Leq'á:mel and Máthxwi First Nations, the cities of Abbotsford and Chilliwack, and the Province of B.C. to develop a comprehensive flood plan



10



Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF)

- CEPF is a suite of funding streams intended to enhance the resilience of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies and to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate-related risk
- Application deadlines have been established for the winter 2025 / spring 2026 intakes.

Disaster Resilience & Innovation Funding (DRIF) Program

- The DRIF program provides funding to First Nations and local governments in B.C. to enhance their capacity to withstand and adapt to natural and climate-driven hazards.
- EOIs are accepted on an ongoing basis. Selections are made annually, with funding decisions determined for that year. **The cutoff date for 2026 is expected to be in the Spring.**



11



Thank you!

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12



Climate 2050 Progress Report 2025

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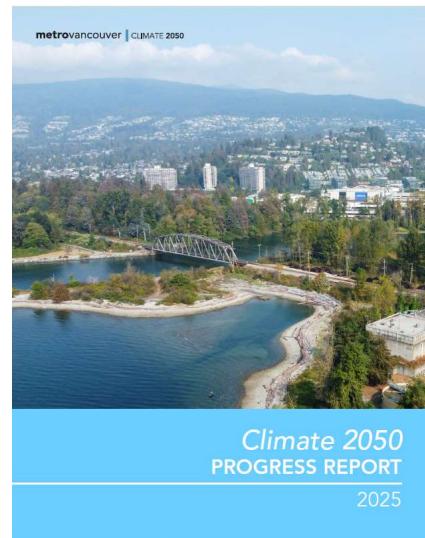
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INSIDE THE CLIMATE 2050 PROGRESS REPORT

- Highlights of climate action by Metro Vancouver, member jurisdictions, and others
- Updated GHG emissions trends: 2010-2023
- Implementation updates for each Issue Area
- Key Performance Indicators



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2

2

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: SUPPORTING CLEAN ENERGY UPGRADES IN BUILDINGS

- CleanBC Better Homes program issued 4,429 heat pump rebates in region in 2024
- New Westminster providing top-ups to homeowners to install electric heat pumps
- District of West Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, and City of North Vancouver partnering on the Jump on a Heat Pump program



Heat pumps lower household energy bills and improve health

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: ENABLING ACCESSIBLE AND SAFE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

- TransLink has invested \$144 million in 104 active transportation projects across the region
- Shared e-mobility programs in Coquitlam and Surrey saw high uptake and are being expanded



E-mobility pilot program in Coquitlam

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: USING SEWER HEAT TO PROVIDE RENEWABLE ENERGY

- 30 thermal energy networks are operating or planned in the region including several that use sewer heat
- Squamish Nation's Senáḵw District Energy System will reduce 120,000 tonnes of GHG over 30 years



Squamish Nation's Senáḵw development

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: EXPANDING URBAN FORESTS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

- Maple Ridge and West Vancouver's Urban Forest Management Plans are helping to increase tree canopy cover
- Township of Langley's Tree Voucher Program is helping residents plant trees on their property
- Metro Vancouver's Tree Guide is supporting climate resilient tree species selection



Urban forest in Maple Ridge

PROGRESS TOWARDS CLIMATE 2050 TARGETS

Positive trends and opportunities:

- Per capita GHG emissions have decreased by 16% since 2010
- Electric vehicles make up 27% of new vehicle sales
- Residents are driving less and walking and cycling more
- New buildings are 20% more energy efficient than the 2018 building code



Transit Oriented Development in the region

PROGRESS TOWARDS CLIMATE 2050 TARGETS

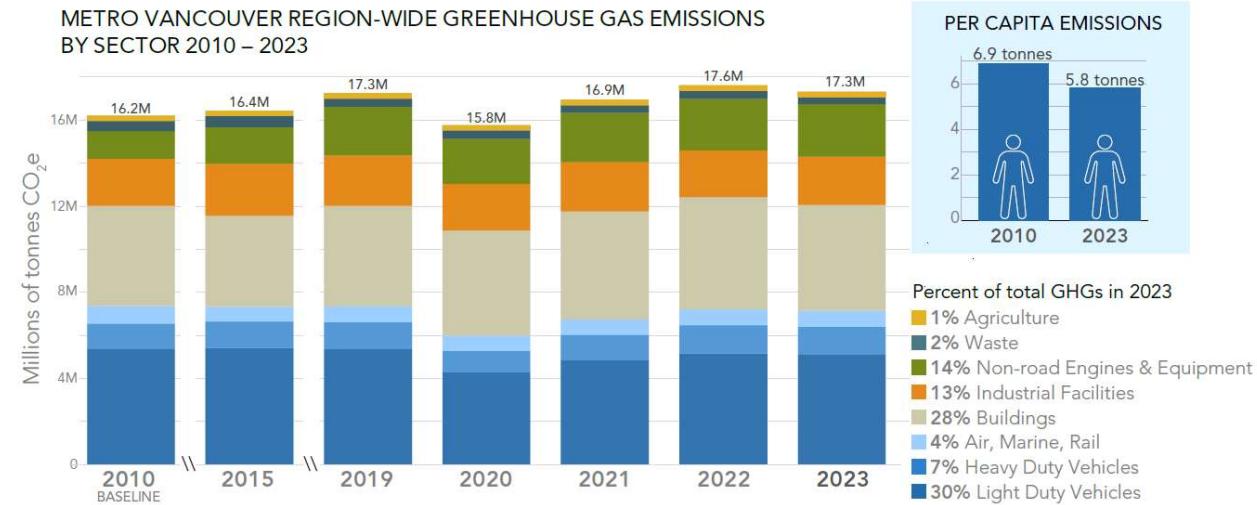
Challenges:

- Political and economic uncertainty associated with international trade
- Regional affordability challenges
- Rising capital costs of infrastructure
- Mounting costs of responding to the impacts of climate change



Wildfire smoke over Bowen Island

REGIONAL EMISSIONS RISING, PER CAPITA DECREASING



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9

IMPLEMENTING CLIMATE ACTION TOGETHER

- Emissions are starting to decrease in some sectors
- Continued collaboration is needed to reduce emissions and manage climate impacts
- Staff will continue to seek direction from the AQC and Board in implementing *Big Moves* and other key *Climate 2050* actions



Iona Beach Regional Park

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10



Thank you! Questions?

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11

11