

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7.2

MEETING DATE: July 2, 2025

STAFF REPORT – COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: Corporate and Community Climate Action Plans Update DATE: June 23, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Engineering PREPARED BY: T. Friesen

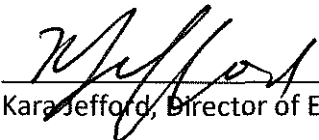
1. SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

The Corporate and Community Climate Action Plans provide greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and outline actions that enable Chilliwack to achieve the reductions. The Community Climate Action Plan aims to reduce emissions from buildings, transportation, and waste management, while protecting and enhancing natural areas, in order to cut emissions 40% by 2030 and 100% by 2050, relative to 2007 levels. The Corporate Climate Action Plan focuses on decreasing emissions by 50% from the City's fleet, facilities, and operations by 2030, and 100% by 2050, from 2010 levels.

A decision to receive an update on implementation of the Climate Action Plans is required.

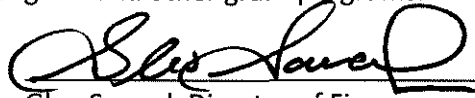
2. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive the update regarding implementation of the Corporate and Community Climate Action Plans for information.


Kara Jefford, Director of Engineering

3. FINANCE COMMENTS:

Funding for climate actions is allocated within the Financial Plan, with funding assistance provided through the Local Government Climate Action Program and other grant programs.


Glen Savard, Director of Finance

4. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/COMMENTS:

Supports recommendation.


David Blain, CAO

**STAFF REPORT ON
CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLANS UPDATE**

PREPARED BY:	<u>Thomas Fabian</u>	DATE:	<u>June 23, 2025</u>
POSITION:	<u>Environmental Services Specialist</u>	DEPARTMENT:	<u>Engineering</u>

1. DEFINITION OF ISSUE:

The Corporate and Community Climate Action Plans provide greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and outline actions that enable Chilliwack to achieve the reductions. The Community Climate Action Plan aims to reduce emissions from buildings, transportation, and waste management, while protecting and enhancing natural areas, in order to cut emissions 40% by 2030 and 100% by 2050, relative to 2007 levels. The Corporate Climate Action Plan focuses on decreasing emissions by 50% from the City's fleet, facilities, and operations by 2030, and 100% by 2050, from 2010 levels.

A decision to receive an update on implementation of the Climate Action Plans is required.

2. BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 On August 16, 2022, Council adopted the Corporate and Community Climate Action Plans, developed with consultant support through extensive engagement with staff, and the public.
- 2.2 The Community Climate Action Plan contains initiatives that guide the City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Chilliwack. The Community Climate Action Plan aims to reduce Chilliwack's emissions 40% from 2007 levels by 2030, and 100% by 2050. This aligns with the greenhouse gas reduction targets established by the provincial government. The proposed actions to reach this target focus on reducing emissions from transportation, buildings, and waste management, while protecting and enhancing our natural areas to sequester what emissions remain.
- 2.3 Similarly, the Corporate Climate Action Plan directs the City's internal emissions reduction efforts through the 2020s and beyond. It targets a 50% reduction in emissions from fleet vehicles, contracted services, day-to-day operations, and facilities, relative to 2010 levels, by 2030, and 100% by 2050.
- 2.4 The Community Climate Action Plan contains a range of actions that work alongside provincial and federal emissions reduction initiatives to help the community reach net zero emissions in 2050. A summary of the community actions is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of actions in the Community Climate Action Plan.

Scope	Action	Timeframe	Status
Transportation	Accelerate expanded transit services	Long (2023-2030)	In progress
	Implement the Draft Active Transportation Plan and Cycle Vision Plan	Long (2023-2030)	In progress
	Explore alternative transportation programs	Medium (2026-2028)	In progress
	Promote BC Hydro's EV Charger Rebate Program for apartment buildings	Short (2023-2026)	Planned for 2025
	Review standards for EV charging requirements in residential developments	Short (2023-2026)	In progress
	Expand EV charging requirements to new commercial developments	Medium (2026-2028)	Future
Buildings	Offer municipal top-up rebate for green home upgrades	Short (2023-2026)	Complete
	Track and then offer Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) retrofit finance program	Short (2023-2026)	Future
	Build capacity in the building industry for energy efficiency	Short (2023-2026)	In progress
	Offer training with BC Energy Step Code partners	Medium (2024-2027)	In progress
	Support provincial requirements for low carbon building materials	Short (2023-2026)	Future
Natural Areas	Restore five natural areas	Short (2023-2026)	Future
	Showcase opportunities to reclaim and restore natural areas to landowners	Short (2023-2026)	Future
	Enhance Chilliwack's tree canopy	Short (2023-2026)	In progress
Waste	Invest in public education programs to divert organic waste	Ongoing	In progress
	Establish a bylaw to increase diversion of waste by the construction sector	Medium (2024-2027)	Future
	Improve efficiency of the landfill gas capture system	Ongoing	In progress
Air Quality and Agriculture	Partner with the FVRD, province, health, and transportation authorities to address issues related to air quality	Ongoing	In progress
	Identify opportunities for sustainable farming practices	Short (2023-2026)	Future

- 2.5 The Corporate Climate Action Plan contains initiatives related to City assets and operations, and enables the City to demonstrate leadership in reducing emissions. A summary of the corporate actions is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of actions in the Corporate Climate Action Plan.

Scope	Action	Timeframe	Status
Fleet	Investigate opportunities to use higher renewable content/low greenhouse gas fuels in fleet vehicles	Short (2023)	In progress
	Incorporate low carbon requirements into next procurement process for waste collection	Medium (2024-2027)	In progress
	Replace all light-duty fleet vehicles with electric at time of renewal	Long (2023-2032)	In progress
	Develop an “electric first” policy to evaluate and prioritize electric vehicles for all new fleet purchases	Short (2023-2026)	In progress
	Evaluate and install EV charging infrastructure to support fleet transition plans	Long (2023-2032)	In progress
	Evaluate feasibility of using e-bikes to replace some staff vehicle trips, and engage with staff to pilot a program	Short (2023-2026)	In progress
Facilities	Establish a corporate energy manager position	Short (2023)	Complete
	Conduct facility energy assessments and integrate into capital planning process	Short (2023-2026)	In progress
	Develop a new zero-carbon policy for all new City facilities in 2025 and beyond	Short (2023-2026)	To be reviewed in 2025
	Advance assessment for a district energy system in the Chilliwack Landing area	Medium (2024-2027)	Future
Resource Recovery	Pursue the conversion of biogas at the wastewater treatment plant to be suitable for the FortisBC grid	Long (2028-2032)	In progress
	Carry out wastewater treatment plant infrastructure upgrades to improve biogas capture	Medium (2026-2028)	In progress
	Develop a zero-waste procurement policy for City facilities and City events	Short (2023-2026)	Future

- 2.6 The provincial government launched the annual Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) in 2022 to replace the previous Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program. Through the LGCAP program, the City received \$312,000 in 2022, an additional \$312,000 in 2023, and a three-year lump-sum allocation of \$914,000 in 2024 to support initiatives from 2024 through 2026. This funding provides a critical foundation for implementing the City’s Climate Action Plans and advancing key climate initiatives. In addition to LGCAP, the City also accesses further financial support through various provincial, federal, BC Hydro, and Fortis grant programs dedicated to climate action and sustainability projects.

- 2.7 To date, the City has made significant progress in advancing key initiatives within both the Corporate and Community Climate Action Plans. Notable accomplishments include:

Community Actions

- Active Transportation Infrastructure:
 - Implementation of the Active Transportation Plan and Cycle Vision Plan reduce GHG emissions and enhance connectivity through cycling/pedestrian projects such as upgrades to Chilliwack River Road (2022-23, in partnership with Ch'iyáqtel), Tyson Road (2024-25), Keith Wilson Road (2024-25), Knight Road (2024-25), Bailey Road (2024-25, in partnership with Ch'iyáqtel), Luckakuck Way (2024-25), Mary Street (2024-25), and Yale Road (2024-2025)—all designed to create safe, accessible routes for pedestrians, cyclists, and mobility device users.
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations:
 - From 2022-24, installed 26 publicly available EV charging stations with grant funding.
- Fraser Valley Zero Emissions Mobility Strategy:
 - In partnership with the City of Abbotsford and Fraser Valley Regional District, the grant-funded Strategy will establish actionable targets and a roadmap for advancing light-duty and micromobility Zero Emission Vehicles, and long-term planning for medium and heavy-duty vehicle electrification. The Request for Proposals was released in June 2025 to select a consultant for this project.
- Municipal Top-Ups for Energy Rebates
 - From 2023-25, Chilliwack took part in the CleanBC Homes and Home Renovation Rebate Program by offering grant-funded municipal top-ups to further incentivize upgrades to space and water heating systems. A total of 131 Chilliwack residents participated in the program to improve their home energy efficiency and reduce GHGs. In spring 2025, the provincial government ended the program but made improvements to the CleanBC Better Homes Energy Savings Program (formerly the Income Qualified Program), which offers rebates based on income and household occupancy.
- Step Code Education/Capacity Building Initiatives:
 - In partnership with the Cities of Abbotsford and Mission and grant funding support, six workshops have been held in 2024 and 2025 to increase building industry knowledge and support builders in meeting the BC Step Code requirements and energy efficiency standards, with another upcoming Step Code Airtightness Workshop series planned for fall 2025.
- Tree Canopy Assessment:
 - Work has commenced on assessing the existing tree canopy and reviewing potential opportunities to increase Chilliwack's tree canopy while accommodating provincially-mandated housing growth.

- Landfill Gas to Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Conversion Pilot:
 - The fully grant-funded pilot project to evaluate new technology to convert landfill gas to RNG at the Bailey Landfill is in the preparation stage and scheduled to start in February 2026.
 - This initiative could put the landfill gas, which is currently flared, to beneficial use and create a new revenue stream via RNG injection into the FortisBC grid.

Corporate Actions

- Fleet EV Purchases:
 - Five EVs have been added to the municipal fleet in 2023-25.
- Fleet Electrification Study:
 - A Green Municipal Fund grant application has been submitted for a Fleet Electrification Study to evaluate the current municipal fleet and identify pathways for electrification, including charging infrastructure requirements and cost forecasting.
- City Staff E-bike Pilot Program:
 - A staff e-bike pilot program was launched in 2024, aimed at replacing select staff vehicle trips with electric bicycle travel. This initiative aims to promote active transportation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by cutting down the number of short-distance vehicle trips taken by staff.
- Chilliwack Coliseum Heat Recovery:
 - In 2023, retrofits were completed to recover waste heat from the Chilliwack Coliseum to heat the pool at the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre.
- Energy Manager:
 - A corporate Energy Manager position was established in 2024 with grant funding to conduct facility energy studies and strategically move initiatives forward.
- GHG Master Planning Study for City Facilities:
 - A comprehensive GHG reduction strategy, fully grant-funded, is nearing completion for nine of the City's largest GHG-emitting facilities. This study provides the basis for additional grant applications for facility upgrades.
- Sardis Sports Complex GHG Reduction Study:
 - A grant-funded technical study was completed in 2024 to evaluate natural gas reduction and heat recovery options for the Sardis Sports Complex. Additional funding has been secured to carry out the recommended dehumidifier control optimization, ice plant heat recovery recommissioning, and air preheating.
- Cheam Centre Retrofit:
 - A Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) grant application was submitted in 2024 for deep energy retrofits to the Cheam Centre (funding announcements pending). The planned project includes upgrades to the space and water heating systems,

upgrades to the building control system, and a new heat recovery dehumidification system to heat the pool.

- Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Renewable Natural Gas Project:
 - Biogas produced at the WWTP is being used to heat on-site digesters.
 - Preparations for upgrades to the WWTP are underway to increase digester capacity and facilitate adding fats, oils and grease to increase production of biogas for sale to Fortis BC as a Renewable Natural Gas.

3. RECOMMENDATION & SUBSTANTIATION:

Recommendation:

That Council receive the update regarding implementation of the Corporate and Community Climate Action Plans for information.