City of Abbotsford **CLIMATE RESILIENCE** STRATEGY

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ABBOTSFORD

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Words defined in the Key Terms section are shown in bold green text throughout the document.

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Staff Project Team

- Erin Desautels, Environmental Services
- Tugce Conger, Energy & Climate Action
- Rebekah Stokes, Energy & Climate Action
- Deputy Chief Charlene Jordan-Jones, Fire Rescue Services
- Assistant Chief Russell Smith, Fire Rescue Services
- Kelly Pater, Fire Rescue Services

Staff Working Group

- Raman Bindra, Airport Operations
- Gracelyn Shannon, Asset Management
- Robyn Macleod, Building Permits & Licenses
- Heather Kauer, Community Planning
- Blake Collins, Development Planning
- Bruce Livingstone, Economic Development
- Deputy Chief Bradley Gaudette, Fire Rescue Services
- Mike Sikora, Housing, Homelessness & Community Development
- Ryley Slywka, Parks & Facilities
- Colin Midgely, Roads & Fleet Operations
- Thomas Dueckman, Facilities & Operations
- Danielle Pope, PRC Planning & Business Services
- Don Driedger, Project Management Office
- Geoff Paynton, Recreation & Culture
- Gordon Botha, Transportation
- Martin Fyfe, Transportation
- Stella Chiu, Utilities Infrastructure
- Jamie Austin, Utilities Operations
- Tyler Bowie, Flood Mitigation & Development Engineering
- Robin Hastings, Urban Forestry
- Ronil Rabari, Energy & Climate Action
- Jas Gill, Planning & Development Services

Semá:th (Sumas First Nation)

Thank you for sharing your 2023 Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and 2024 Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan.

Consulting Team

Introba | Licker Geospatial Consulting | MODUS | upland agricultural consulting | TYLin

- **Introba:** Dave Ramslie, Robin Hawker, Brigit Haley, Sydney Hoffman
- **Licker Geospatial Consulting:** Aaron Licker, Gaby Baasch, Jamie Blackey, Colin Rowell, Cole Lord-May
- **MODUS:** Rob Barrs, Jean Roe, Jordan Wilson
- **Upland Agricultural Consulting:** Ione Smith
- **TYLin:** Ra'ad Rihani

Our Community

We would like to thank the community members and interest holders who participated in surveys, webinars, pop-up events, focus groups, meetings, and other engagement activities throughout the development of this Strategy.

July 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Climate change is affecting Abbotsford. Floods, extreme heat, wildfire smoke, drought, and other climate-related events are disrupting daily life, impacting businesses and agriculture, straining infrastructure and emergency response systems, and highlighting the growing **risks** facing our community. Climate projections indicate that many of these hazards will become more frequent and severe over time, increasing the need to both reduce **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** and prepare for future climate events.

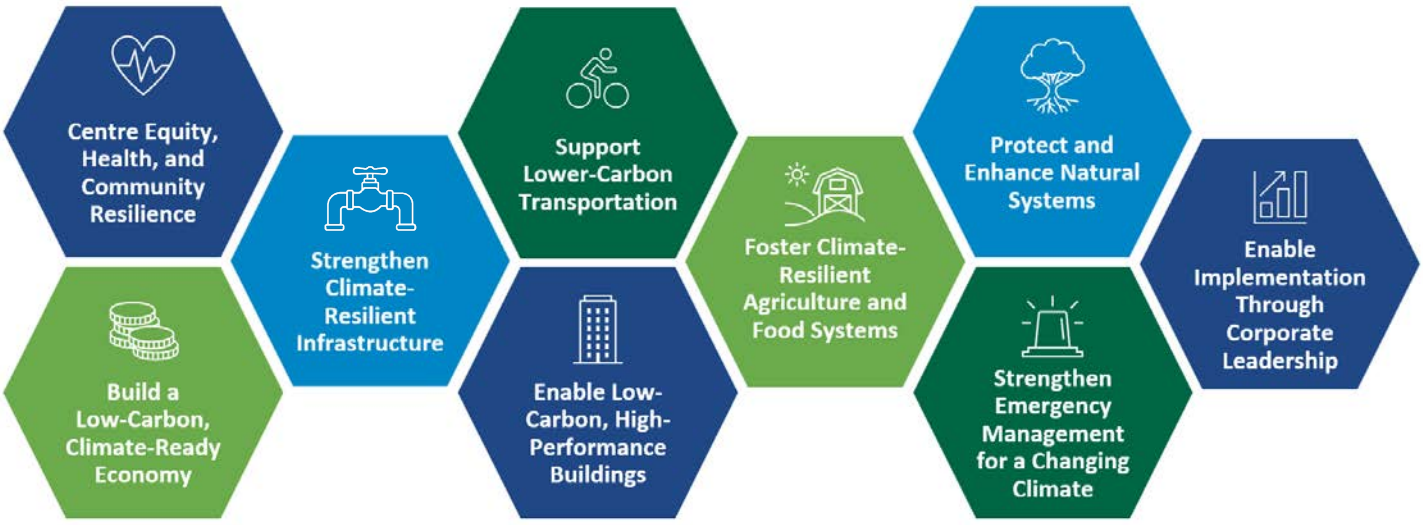
Our Climate Resilience Strategy provides a roadmap for climate action in Abbotsford. It was developed using a low-carbon resilience approach that integrates GHG emissions reduction and climate resilience. This approach helps identify actions that can reduce emissions and prepare for climate impacts, while delivering broader benefits for the community.

Our Strategy was informed by technical analysis, community engagement, and deep staff collaboration. This included community GHG emissions modelling, **Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA)**, **hazard** and **vulnerability** mapping, and two rounds of public engagement involving hundreds of residents and interest holders. Together, these efforts helped identify Abbotsford's greatest climate risks, opportunities for emissions reduction and areas where action can have the greatest impact.

At the heart of our Strategy is a community-centred vision that emphasizes low-carbon resilience (**LCR**) and is reflected in nine Big Moves (see Figure 1) that represent priority areas for climate action in Abbotsford.

Many of the actions included in our Strategy build on work already underway across our community, while others identify new opportunities to reduce GHG emissions, strengthen resilience, and support long-term implementation. Recognizing that climate resilience is a long-term commitment, implementation will be guided by principles of equity, collaboration, evidence-based

Figure 1. Nine Big Moves for climate resilience

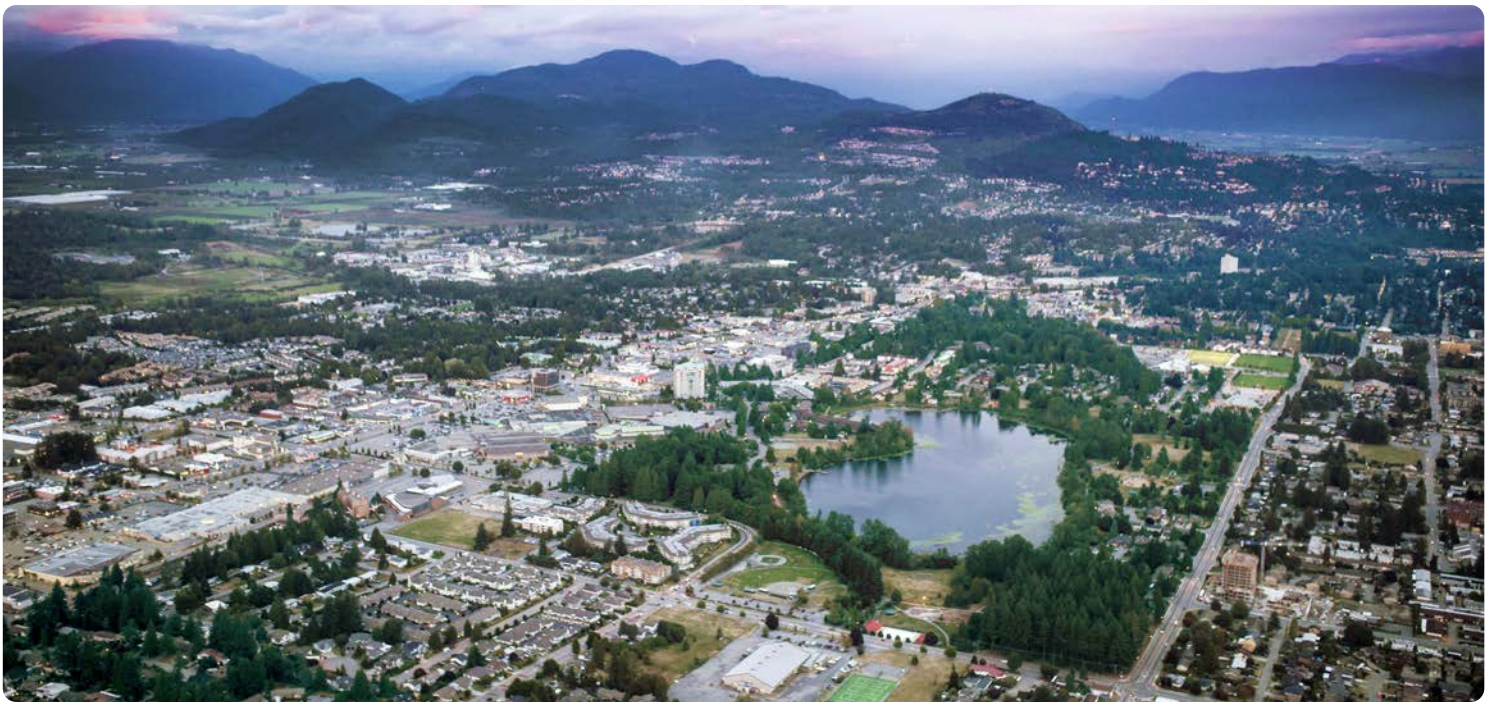


decision-making, policy alignment, **co-benefits**, and fiscal responsibility. Actions will be integrated into existing plans, programs, and asset management processes wherever possible, while implementation will be phased over time based on priority level, readiness, available resources, and opportunities to coordinate with planned projects and investments.

The cost of inaction continues to grow as climate-related risks and impacts increase. Analysis during this project identified municipal asset exposure to flooding, wildfire, and landslide hazards, underscoring the importance of proactive investment in risk reduction and resilience. To support informed decision-making, we will explore a cost-benefit analysis for selected priority actions and develop a high-level funding strategy to help identify implementation scenarios, funding opportunities, and resource requirements. A diversified funding approach, including municipal investment, grants, partnerships, and other funding sources, will help support implementation over time.

While the City will play an important leadership role, successful implementation will require ongoing collaboration with residents, businesses, First Nations, community organizations, utilities, regional partners, and other levels of government. Continued public engagement, education, knowledge-sharing, and partnership-building will help strengthen community capacity and support coordinated action across all areas of the Strategy.

Climate change presents both challenges and opportunities for Abbotsford. By taking action today, we can help reduce risk, lower emissions, strengthen resilience, and support a healthier, more sustainable future for current and future generations.



1. A CALL FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Abbotsford is already experiencing the impacts of **climate change**.

In recent years, our community has faced severe climate-related events that have affected residents, businesses, agriculture, infrastructure, ecosystems, and essential services. Extreme heat, wildfire smoke, drought, intense rainfall, and flooding have disrupted daily life, strained emergency response systems, damaged critical infrastructure, compromised public safety, and highlighted the urgency of climate action in Abbotsford.

The November 2021 flood was one of the most significant climate-related disasters in British Columbia's history[1] (see A Closer Look at Flooding on page 16).

Climate change is no longer a future issue; it is already affecting our community and will continue to shape how Abbotsford lives, grows, and prepares for generations to come. As the Hub of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford is a major transportation and trade corridor, a key gateway to the United States (US), and home to one of Canada's most productive agricultural regions. Rapid population growth, expanding infrastructure needs, and increasing climate-related risks create both opportunities and challenges. Responding effectively requires coordinated action to both reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and strengthen our community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate impacts.

A vision focused on Low-Carbon Resilience (LCR) defines both a lens for measuring success and a pathway for action through our **Climate Resilience** Strategy (our Strategy). Abbotsford understands the need to address climate drivers and impacts in an integrated way, while also responding to evolving Provincial and Federal policy direction. This includes the **BC Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)**, which requires municipalities to proactively identify and assess local hazards and risks, strengthen emergency preparedness, and support disaster risk reduction and **climate adaptation**. Together with existing City and regional plans, ongoing emergency management work, and the new Abbotsforward 2050 **Official Community Plan (our OCP)**, our Strategy charts a path towards a low-carbon, resilient Abbotsford. Building climate resilience presents opportunities to create a safer, healthier, and more connected community.

1. Public Safety Canada. (2023). Government of Canada provides disaster recovery funding to British Columbia for 2021 flood

OUR 2050 VISION

A low-carbon, resilient Abbotsford where people, the natural environment, and the economy thrive together in a healthy, connected community.

Investments in resilient infrastructure, energy-efficient buildings, sustainable transportation, **natural assets**, and emergency preparedness can help reduce long-term risk while supporting economic growth, food security, environmental health, and quality of life in Abbotsford.

A strong resilience approach also recognizes that climate impacts are not experienced equally across the community. Prioritizing equity considerations and **vulnerable populations** can help ensure that resilience investments reduce disproportionate risks, improve access to essential services, and strengthen community well-being for all residents. Abbotsford is already investing in a wide range of initiatives that address emissions, reduce risk and strengthen resilience to climate hazards. These existing plans, projects, programs, and policies are highlighted throughout the Big Moves (Section 4) to demonstrate how our Strategy builds on and complements actions already underway across the City.

Our Strategy provides a roadmap for climate action in Abbotsford through a LCR approach that integrates **climate mitigation** and adaptation to reduce emissions, strengthen resilience, and deliver broader community co-benefits. It is intended to guide coordinated decision-making across City operations and support the integration of climate considerations into future plans, policies, infrastructure investment, and service delivery as Abbotsford continues to grow and proactively respond to a changing climate.

2. CLIMATE CHANGE IN OUR REGION

Climate change is a global issue with local consequences. According to the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, GHG emissions from human activities are warming the planet and increasing the frequency and severity of climate-related hazards around the world. Global surface temperatures have already increased by approximately 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels, contributing to widespread environmental, social, and economic impacts[2].

These changes are already affecting communities in every nation and are increasingly influencing how governments, communities, and organizations plan for the future.

In response, governments at all levels have established climate commitments and emissions reduction targets. Through the 2015 Paris Agreement, countries, including Canada, committed to limiting global warming to well below 2°C while pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C[3].

The Government of Canada has committed to reducing GHG emissions by 40–45% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieving **net-zero** emissions by 2050[4]. Similarly, British Columbia's CleanBC Plan aims to reduce GHG emissions by 40% by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050[5]. Achieving these ambitious targets will require coordinated action across all levels of government, with municipalities playing a critical role.

OUR GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS

In December 2025, we adopted our updated Official Community Plan and declared new community GHG emissions reductions targets in alignment with the Government of Canada and the Province of BC:

- ✓ **Reduce GHG emissions by 40% (below 2007 levels) by 2030**
- ✓ **Reach net-zero emission by 2050**

2. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2023). Climate Change 2023
3. United Nations. (2015). Paris Agreement
4. Government of Canada. (2025). Canada's 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement
5. Government of British Columbia. (2021). CleanBC Roadmap to 2030

2.1 COMMUNITY GHG EMISSIONS AND TARGETS IN ABBOTSFORD

The City of Abbotsford is the largest community in the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD). We have a population of approximately 175,000 people as of 2024 and exist in a context of fast growth, with a 19% increase in population size since 2006. Abbotsford's community GHG emissions estimates were most recently provided by the Province in 2022.

Abbotsford's community emissions are divided into three sectors: buildings, transportation and waste. These sectors are closely connected to population growth, land use change and municipal emissions reductions policies.

Our OCP has established GHG emissions reduction targets of 40% below 2007 levels by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050 for community emissions. Progress to these targets is demonstrated in Figure 2. These targets speak to absolute or total emissions produced by activities in our community, in contrast to per capita emissions, which measure average emissions per resident, calculated by the ratio of total emissions and population.

While absolute emissions targets are the focus of emissions reduction for Abbotsford and globally to limit temperature rise, the per capita metric is useful in a growing community for understanding how the community is improving their efficient use of energy and resources.

Figure 2. Community emissions in 2007 and 2022, reported as absolute totals and per capita

Total Community Emissions ($ktCO_2e$)			
	2007	**2022**	**Progress-to-Date**
Buildings	369	454	23% ^
Transportation	467	575	23% ^
Waste	60	75	26% ^
Total	896	1104	21% ^

Per Capita Emissions (tCO_2e/person)			
	2007	**2022**	**Progress-to-Date**
Buildings	2.84	2.70	5% v
Transportation	3.60	3.42	5% v
Waste	0.46	0.45	2% v
Total	7	6.6	5% v

Community emissions alone (i.e. buildings, vehicles and waste) have increased by 21% in total, (see Figure 2 and Figure 3[6]), largely due to population growth. However, on a per capita basis, emissions have decreased by 5%, reflecting progress in efficiency and lower emissions per resident.

Aside from buildings, transportation, and waste, other sectors, such as agriculture, industry, rail, and air transportation, also contribute to Abbotsford's overall emissions profile. These sectors are included in Abbotsford's total GHG emissions analysis to provide a complete picture of GHG emissions, even where direct municipal influence may be limited. Because of this limited municipal control, these emissions are out of scope of provincial reporting. Key community sectors are further broken out into commercial and residential categories (see Figure 4).

Figure 3. Contribution of buildings, transportation and waste to Abbotsford's community emissions in 2022

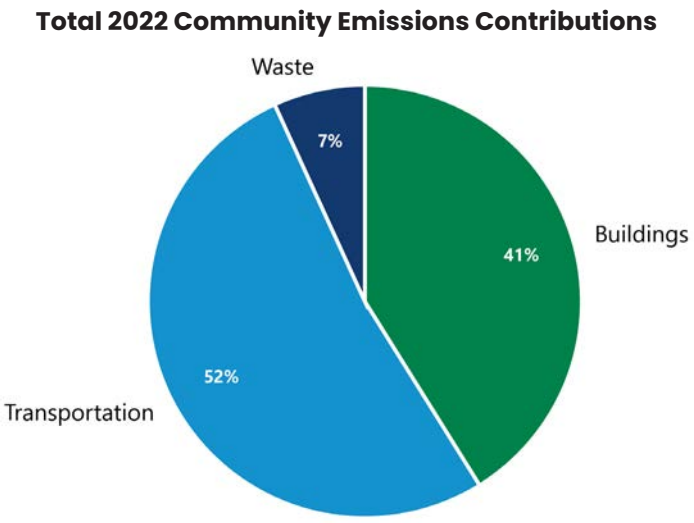
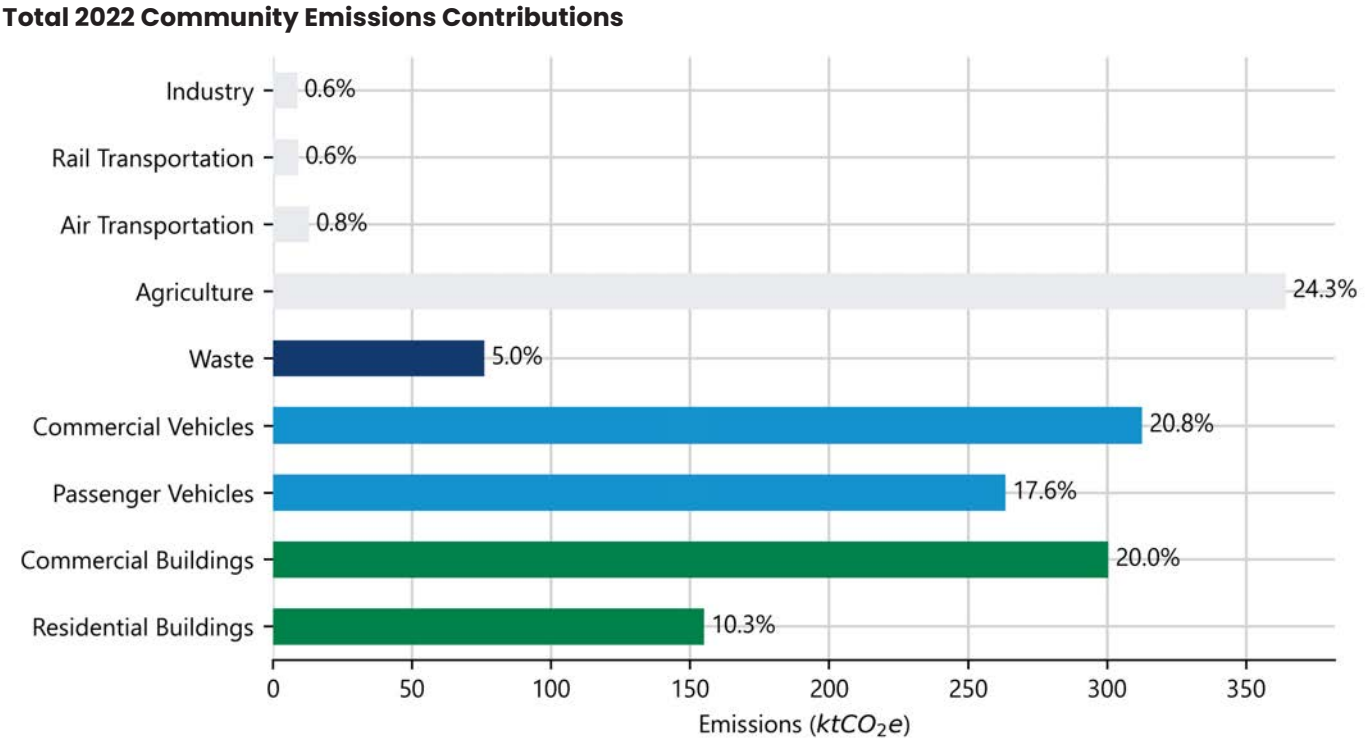


Figure 4. Total 2022 community and non-community emissions for Abbotsford, with proportional contribution from each sector. Total community emissions across all sectors is 1,104 kt CO_2e - the equivalent of ~750,000 passenger vehicles. Community emissions are coloured while non-community, (out-of-scope) emissions are grey.



6. Emissions Inventory created by Fraser Valley Regional District.

Trends in emissions changes since 2007 were identified through the emissions modeling and policy analysis report (see Appendix A) completed to support the development of our Strategy. This deep dive provided quantified insights on emissions drivers and sector trends, helping the City understand where action can have the greatest impact. Key findings from this analysis include:

- **Residential buildings** saw the greatest improvement, with per capita emissions reflecting gains in energy efficiency and lower emissions from homes.
- **Commercial buildings** have experienced growth-related emissions increases, highlighting an area for focused improvement.
- **Per capita transportation emissions** have remained largely unchanged over time. While emissions from passenger vehicles remained stable and commercial vehicle emissions decreased slightly, total transportation emissions continued to rise alongside population growth. This indicates the importance of scaling up efficient electrification and zero-emissions transportation options to further shift travel behaviours.

Since signing the BC Climate Action Charter in 2007, the City has implemented a range of programs, policies and actions to protect our environment and address climate change. These are guided by direction from various levels of government and most closely by the policies and actions outlined in our OCP and Master Plans. Progress is tracked and reported in annual sustainability reports to the Province and the community. These efforts provide a strong foundation for our Strategy to build upon.

Looking ahead, achieving our GHG emissions targets will require continued collaboration across all levels of government, alongside broader adoption of low-carbon technologies, with local governments playing an important role in this transition. Clear pathways are established and emerging across all sectors, as outlined below.

- **New Buildings** can become increasingly low carbon in operations through improved construction standards specifying GHG reductions alongside energy efficiency.
- **Existing Buildings** offer significant potential for GHG reduction through retrofits that also address the building envelope and, most critically, electrification of building systems.
- **Passenger Vehicles electrification** when paired with densification and sufficient transportation and transit infrastructure - will be a primary early driver of emissions reductions in the transportation sector given firmly established mobility patterns throughout the Lower Mainland.
- **Commercial Vehicles** are evolving as new lower-carbon technologies and fuels emerge. Policy shifts and incentives will support adoption of renewable fuels, hydrogen and electrification options.
- **Waste** emissions reductions are primarily seen through the increased diversion of organic material to composting facilities. These considerations were integrated into the process for developing our Strategy's Big Moves and Actions.

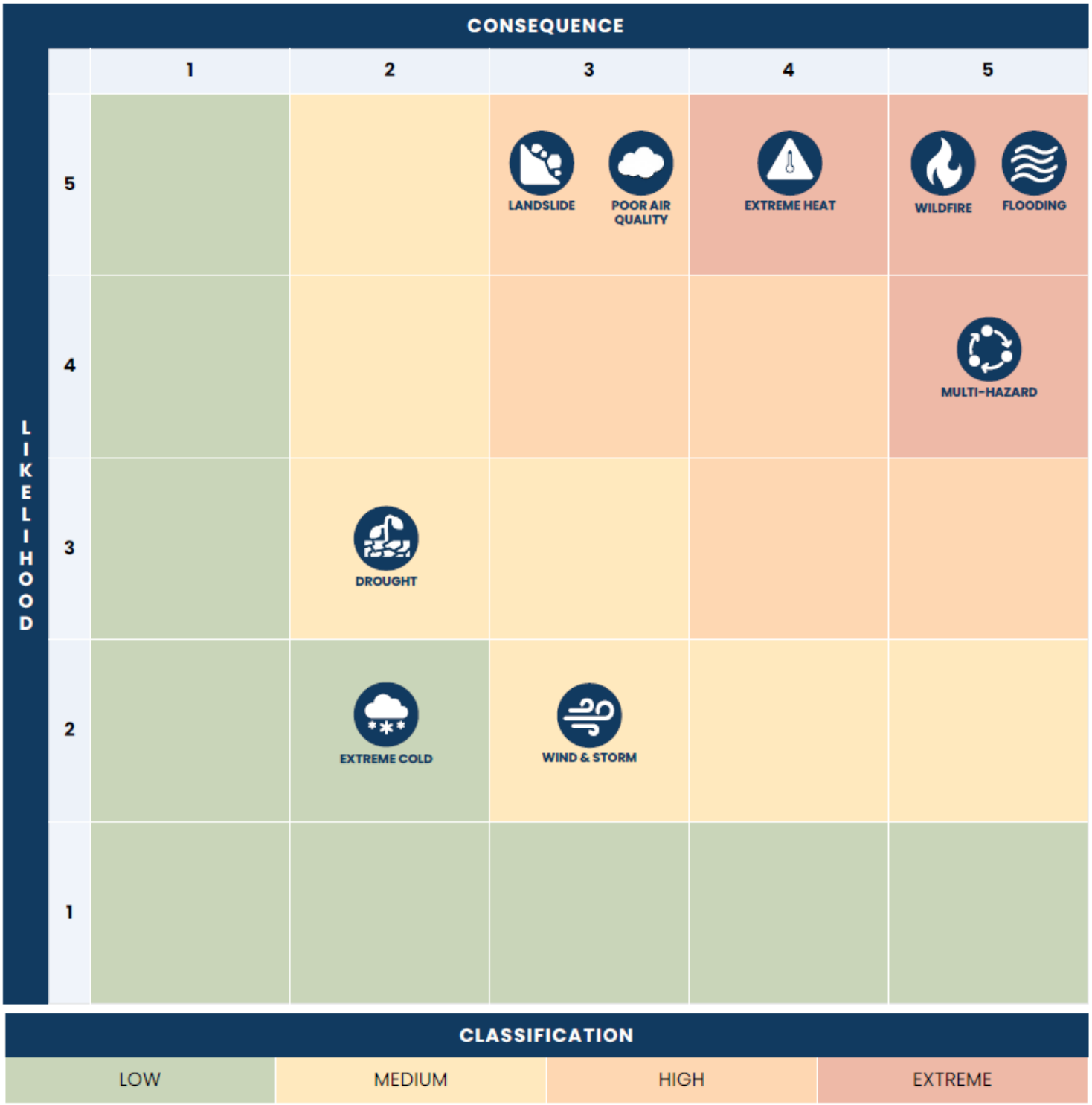
2.2 COMMUNITY CLIMATE RISKS AND IMPACTS

To better understand the climate risks facing Abbotsford now and into the future, the City conducted a Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA). The HRVA assessed both climate-related hazards (e.g., extreme heat, wildfire, flooding, etc.) and non-climate hazards (e.g., terrorism, social disturbance, urban fire, etc.) that currently or could affect the community. While our Strategy focuses on climate-related hazards, the fulsome HRVA will also support broader emergency management and resilience planning efforts led by Abbotsford Fire Rescue Services to help the community prepare, respond and recover for a wide range of risks and emergencies.

Based on the HRVA's 2050 projections for the climate-focused hazards (see Figure 5), flooding, wildfire, extreme heat, multi-hazard events, poor air quality, and landslides pose the greatest risks to Abbotsford. Despite projecting drought to be a medium risk, the consequences and cascading impacts on our community's well-being and on the agriculture sector from this hazard should not be overlooked. The following sections provide more details on these key risks and associated vulnerabilities.

Appendix B provides additional detail regarding the HRVA process and approach.

Figure 5. Climate-focused HRVA by 2050.



Flooding (Risk Level: Extreme)

Flooding has become a defining hazard facing Abbotsford. From the Sumas Prairie to Clayburn Village, flood events have affected homes, farms, transportation corridors, businesses, ecosystems, essential infrastructure, people and animals across our community and beyond. Flooding in Abbotsford can be driven by intense rainfall, overflowing rivers and creeks (often due to flooding originating south of the Canada/US border), snowmelt, spring freshet, and changing groundwater conditions. When these conditions occur together, they can create widespread and interconnected impacts across the city and broader Fraser Valley region.

A CLOSER LOOK AT: FLOODING

Flooding is not a new challenge for Abbotsford, but recent events have demonstrated how severe and disruptive flood impacts are becoming for our community.

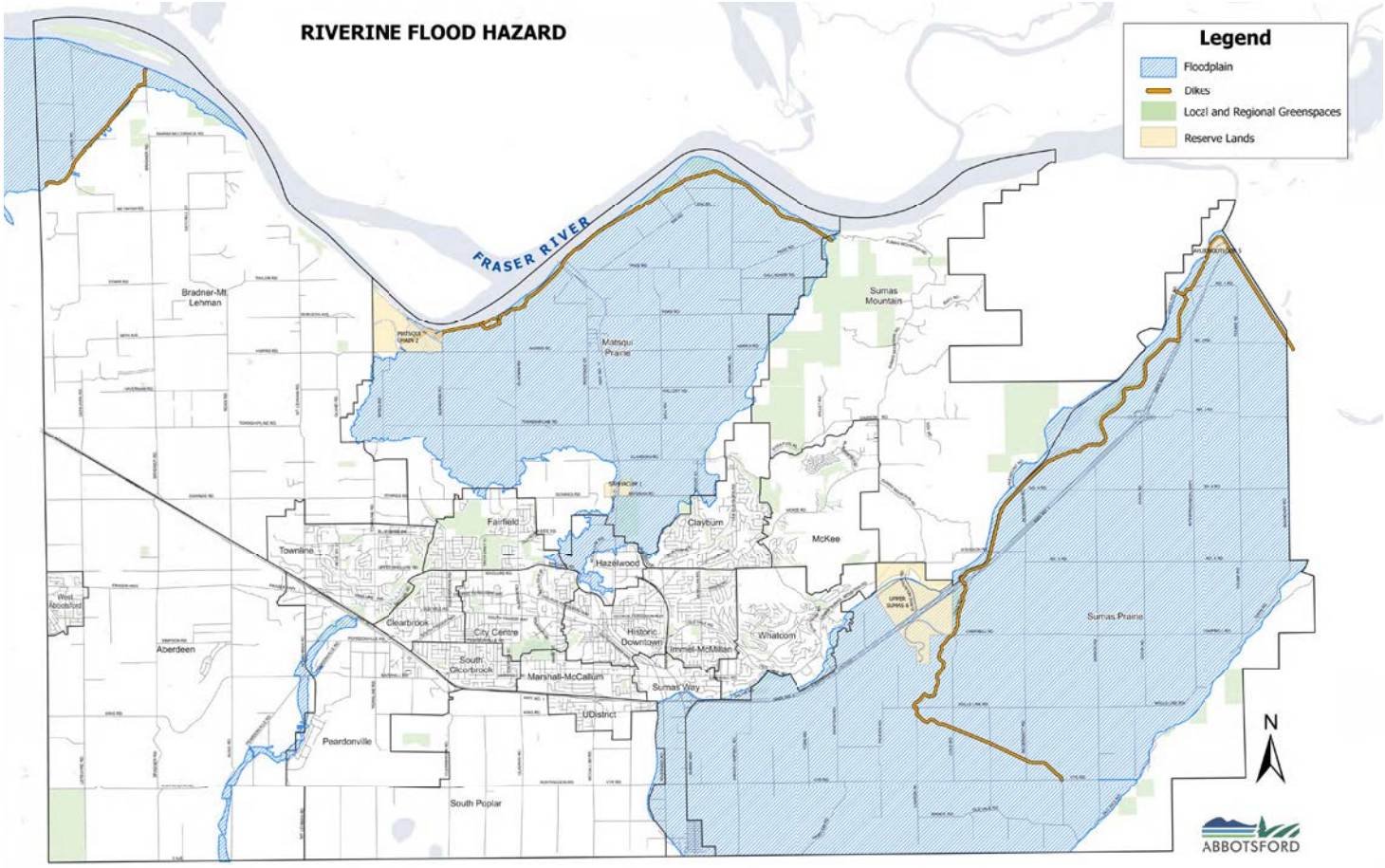
In November 2021, Abbotsford experienced one of the most significant flooding disasters in British Columbia's history after extreme rainfall caused the Nooksack River in Washington State (US) to overflow into the Sumas Prairie. Thousands of residents were evacuated, major transportation corridors were closed, farms and businesses were inundated, and critical infrastructure and supply chains were heavily disrupted across the Fraser Valley. In Abbotsford alone, more than 1,100 properties were placed under evacuation order, over 3,300 residents were evacuated, and hundreds of thousands of livestock died during the disaster. Across British Columbia, insured damages from the event exceeded $675 million, with total economic losses estimated in the billions of dollars.

Flooding and atmospheric river events have continued to affect Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley, including major events in February 2020, October 2024, and December 2025. These events have caused widespread disruptions across the region, including flooding, evacuations, infrastructure damage, and transportation impacts. Together, they reinforce the need for continued investment in flood mitigation and long-term climate resilience.

Key Vulnerabilities:

- **Neighbourhoods:** Sumas Prairie, Matsqui Prairie, and Clayburn Village are particularly vulnerable to flooding and flood-related disruptions (see Figure 6).
- **Transportation:** Key transportation corridors and infrastructure, including Vye Road, the Abbotsford-Huntingdon border crossing, and major railway lines, are exposed to flooding.
- **Agriculture and Economy:** Approximately two-thirds of Abbotsford's agricultural land and economic productivity are exposed to flooding, including 95% of vegetable cropland areas.
- **Natural Systems:** Sensitive ecosystems and drainage corridors, including the Sumas River, Matsqui Slough, and several local creeks and tributaries, are vulnerable to flooding impacts.

Figure 6. Riverine Flood Map
Floodplain extent, highlighting areas that may be at risk of flooding due to increased river levels based on the 2022 Floodplain Management Bylaw No. 1669
Flood depth, likelihood, or how local drainage conditions may affect flooding are not shown.



Wildfire (Risk Level: Extreme)

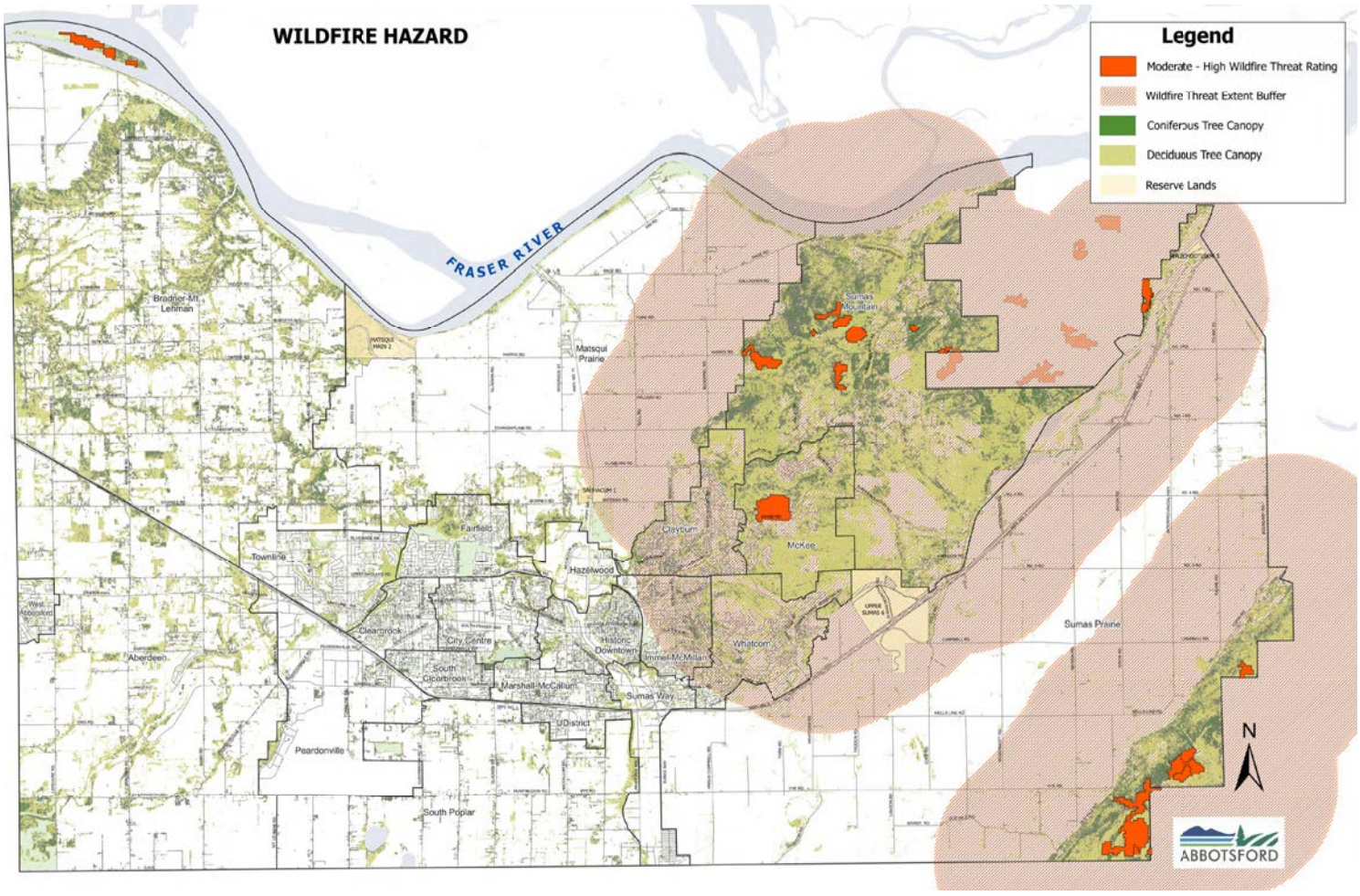
Wildfire is a more serious and visible threat in Abbotsford as hotter, drier conditions increase the likelihood of wildfire ignition and spread. Climate change is expected to lengthen the fire season, create more severe fire weather conditions, and increase wildfire risk across forested areas such as Sumas Mountain and other parts of the community (see Figure 7).

Wildfire impacts can extend well beyond forested areas. Wildfires can threaten homes, transportation corridors, water supply infrastructure, ecosystems, agricultural lands, and critical services, while also increasing pressure on evacuation and emergency response systems. Communities across the Fraser Valley are also expected to experience more frequent wildfire smoke events and periods of poor air quality as wildfire conditions become more severe across British Columbia.

Key Vulnerabilities:

- **Neighbourhoods:** Areas including Immel-McMillan, Clayburn, Whatcom, McKee, and Sumas Mountain are exposed to higher wildfire risk due to their proximity to forested areas.
- **Transportation and Infrastructure:** Portions of Highway 1 and Highway 11, as well as Fire Halls 2 and 7, are located within wildfire threat areas.
- **Water Supply:** Cannell Lake and Norrish Creek water infrastructure north of the city is located within moderate wildfire risk areas.
- **Agriculture and Economy:** More than 40% of agricultural land is exposed to wildfire threat, including portions of Matsqui Prairie and Sumas Prairie.
- **Natural Systems:** Sensitive ecosystems, large tree stands, and heavily forested creek corridors around Sumas Mountain and Bradner-Mt. Lehman are vulnerable to wildfire impacts.

Figure 7. Wildfire Hazard Map
Wildfire threat level at the wildland–urban interface (areas where communities are near wildland vegetation and fuels) based on the BC Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA). A 2.4 km buffer represents the typical distance embers may travel during a wildfire, showing the potential extent of wildfire risk.



Extreme Heat (Risk Level: Extreme)

Extreme heat is one of the most noticeable ways climate change is affecting daily life in Abbotsford. It has been the deadliest climate hazard[7] and climate projections indicate that summers will become hotter and heat events more frequent, longer, and more intense over time. Extreme heat can have serious impacts on people's health and well-being, especially for seniors, young children, people with existing health conditions, outdoor workers, and those without access to cooling. Extreme heat can also make other climate-related hazards worse. Higher temperatures can increase drought conditions, worsen air quality during wildfire smoke events, and place additional pressure on water systems, energy systems, infrastructure, agriculture, and natural environments.

Key Vulnerabilities

- **Neighbourhoods:** Areas including City Centre, Historic Downtown, Clearbrook, and UDistrict, experience higher overall heat exposure due to limited shade and large paved areas (see Figure 8).
- **Human Health:** Seniors, people with existing health conditions, outdoor workers, and residents without access to cooling can be more impacted during extreme heat events.
- **Buildings:** Older buildings and facilities may experience overheating, cooling challenges, and increased strain on mechanical systems during prolonged heat events.
- **Agriculture:** Agricultural areas, particularly the Matsqui Prairie and Sumas Prairie, are vulnerable to crop damage, lower yields, and livestock stress during prolonged heat.
- **Natural Systems:** Warmer temperatures may increase pests and place additional stress on ecosystems and sensitive natural areas.

A CLOSER LOOK AT: 2021 HEAT DOME

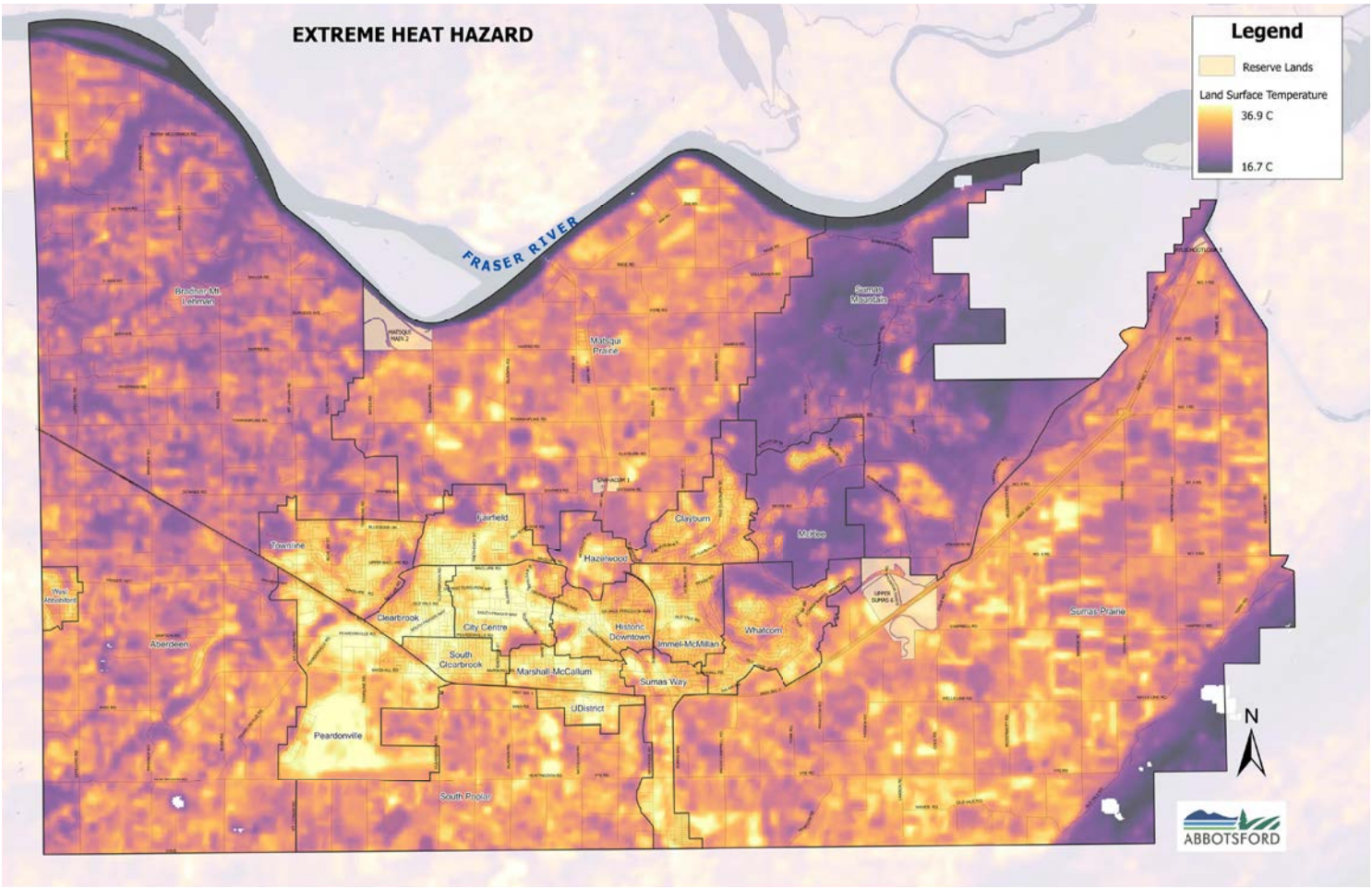
In June 2021, Abbotsford experienced record-breaking temperatures during the extreme heat dome that affected communities across British Columbia. Temperatures in Abbotsford exceeded 40°C, placing significant stress on residents, infrastructure, agriculture, ecosystems, and emergency response systems throughout the City.

The event highlighted how dangerous extreme heat can be for communities that are not designed for prolonged high temperatures. Across British Columbia, the heat dome contributed to 619 heat-related deaths, making it the deadliest weather event in Canadian history, while emergency calls and hospital visits surged across the Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland.

The impacts were also felt across Abbotsford's agricultural sector, where prolonged heat contributed to crop damage, livestock stress, and reduced yields.

7. BC Coroners Service. (2022). Extreme Heat and Human Mortality: A Review of Heat-Related Deaths in B.C. in Summer 2021

Figure 8. Extreme Heat Hazard Map
Satellite-derived land surface temperatures during the June 2021 Pacific Northwest heat dome event. By comparison, the historic baseline (1971–2000) average annual hottest day is 30.9°C.



Multi-Hazard (Risk Level: Extreme)

Climate hazards do not always happen in isolation. As climate change increases the frequency, duration and severity of hazards such as extreme heat, drought, wildfire, flooding, and landslides, Abbotsford is expected to experience more situations where multiple hazards occur at the same time or in close succession.

These overlapping events can create compounding impacts across the community. For example, prolonged heat and drought can increase wildfire risk, while wildfire-damaged slopes may become more vulnerable to erosion, **debris flows**, and landslides during heavy rainfall. When multiple hazards occur together, they can place significant pressure on infrastructure, emergency response systems, transportation networks, agriculture, ecosystems, and public health.

Key Vulnerabilities:

- **Neighbourhoods:** Areas such as Whatcom, McKee, and Sumas Mountain are vulnerable to combinations of wildfire, landslides, debris flows, and access disruptions during intense rainfall.
- **Transportation and Infrastructure:** Highway 11 (Sumas Way), Huntingdon Road, North Parallel Road, and mountain access routes are vulnerable to prolonged closures and infrastructure disruptions during multi-hazard events.
- **Buildings:** Older buildings and facilities may experience increased strain from simultaneous extreme heat and wildfire smoke events due to cooling and air filtration demands.
- **Agriculture and Natural Systems:** Agricultural lands and ecosystems may face compounding impacts from drought, extreme heat, wildfire, flooding, and erosion, increasing long-term stress on both natural and agricultural systems.

Poor Air Quality (Risk Level: High)

Poor air quality primarily caused by wildfire smoke is becoming a more common experience in Abbotsford and across the Fraser Valley. As wildfire conditions become more severe across British Columbia, and neighbouring communities south of the US border, smoke events are expected to become more frequent, longer-lasting, and more disruptive to daily life. These events can affect physical and mental health, reduce visibility, disrupt outdoor activities and work, and place additional pressure on building systems and community services.

While smoke impacts are often temporary, repeated smoke exposure can have significant cumulative effects on public health and quality of life, particularly for people who spend extended periods outdoors for work or leisure or do not have access to clean indoor air spaces.

Key Vulnerabilities:

- **Human Health:** Seniors, children, pregnant women, and people with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions are more vulnerable during smoke events.
- **Agriculture and Economy:** Smoke events can disrupt outdoor work, including farming, landscaping, and construction, while reducing productivity in labour-intensive agricultural sectors.
- **Buildings and Indoor Air Quality:** Older buildings and facilities without adequate ventilation or air filtration may struggle to maintain acceptable indoor air quality during smoke events.
- **Critical Services and Infrastructure:** Poor visibility and smoke conditions may disrupt airport operations, emergency response, transportation, and other critical services.

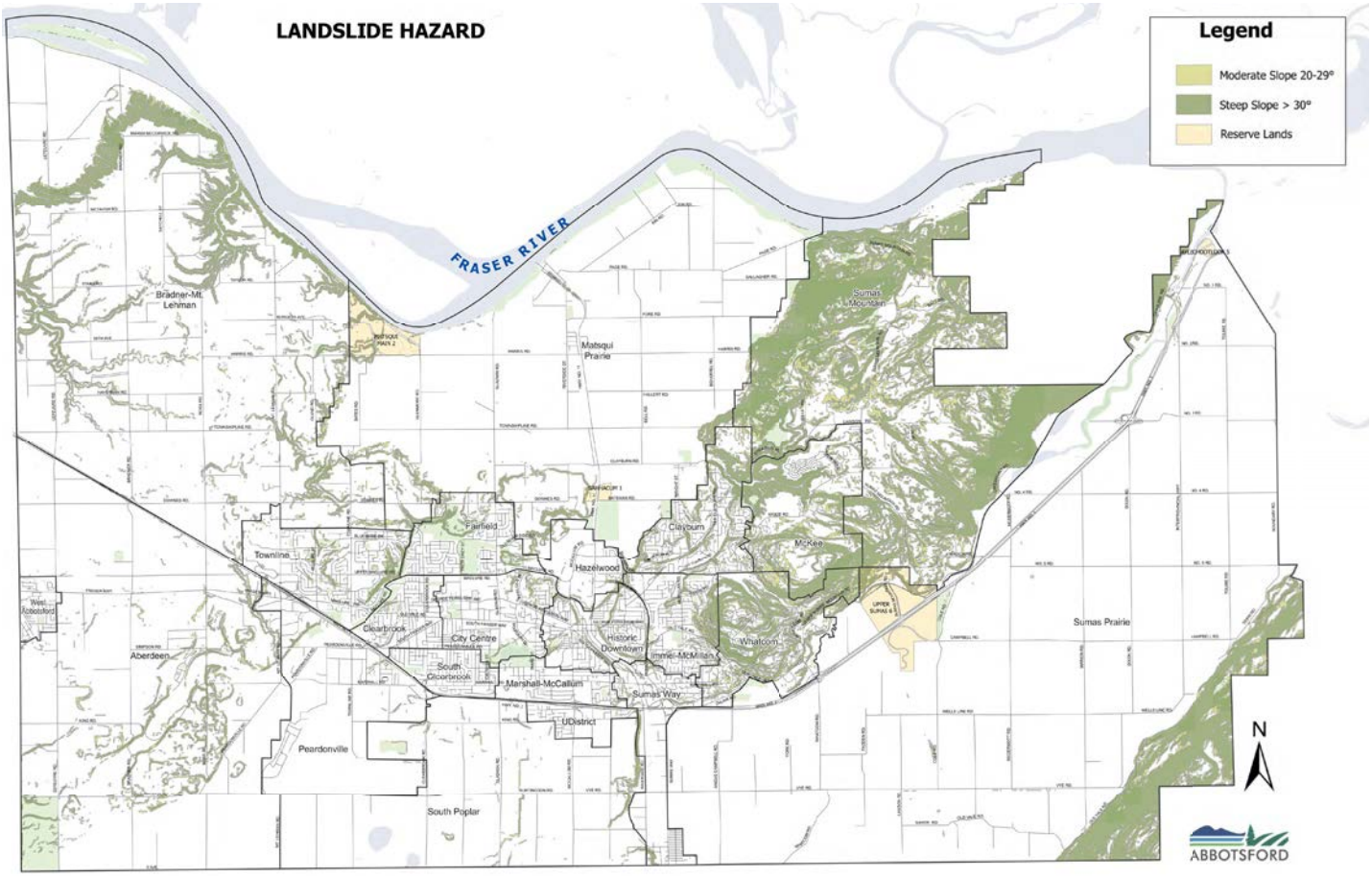
Landslide (Risk Level: High)

More intense rainfall is expected to increase landslide risk in Abbotsford over time, particularly in steep and mountainous areas (see Figure 9). Several locations in and around Abbotsford have already experienced landslides and slope failures. Landslides can damage infrastructure, block transportation routes, disrupt utilities, and affect nearby homes, businesses, and ecosystems.

Key Vulnerabilities:

- **Neighbourhoods:** Whatcom, McKee, Sumas Mountain, and Clayburn are exposed to increased landslide risk, particularly during extreme rainfall events.
- **Transportation and Infrastructure:** Bridges, water mains, and roads located near steep slopes and drainage corridors may be vulnerable to erosion, slope instability, and debris flows.
- **Limited Access Routes:** Some roads, including Bakstad Road, Foxglove Lane, and Eldridge Road, are vulnerable to landslides and may become difficult to access during major events.
- **Business and Agriculture:** Businesses, aggregate operations, and agricultural areas located downslope of Sumas Mountain and Vedder Mountain may be affected by debris flows and sediment movement.
- **Natural Systems:** Sensitive ecosystems and creek corridors on Sumas Mountain and Vedder Mountain are vulnerable to erosion, sedimentation, and habitat disturbance.

Figure 9. Landslide Hazard Map
Potential landslide risk areas, based on slope steepness. Terrain with slopes greater than 30 degrees are commonly used to identify locations that may be more prone to landslides. This map does not replace detailed geological or geotechnical assessments.

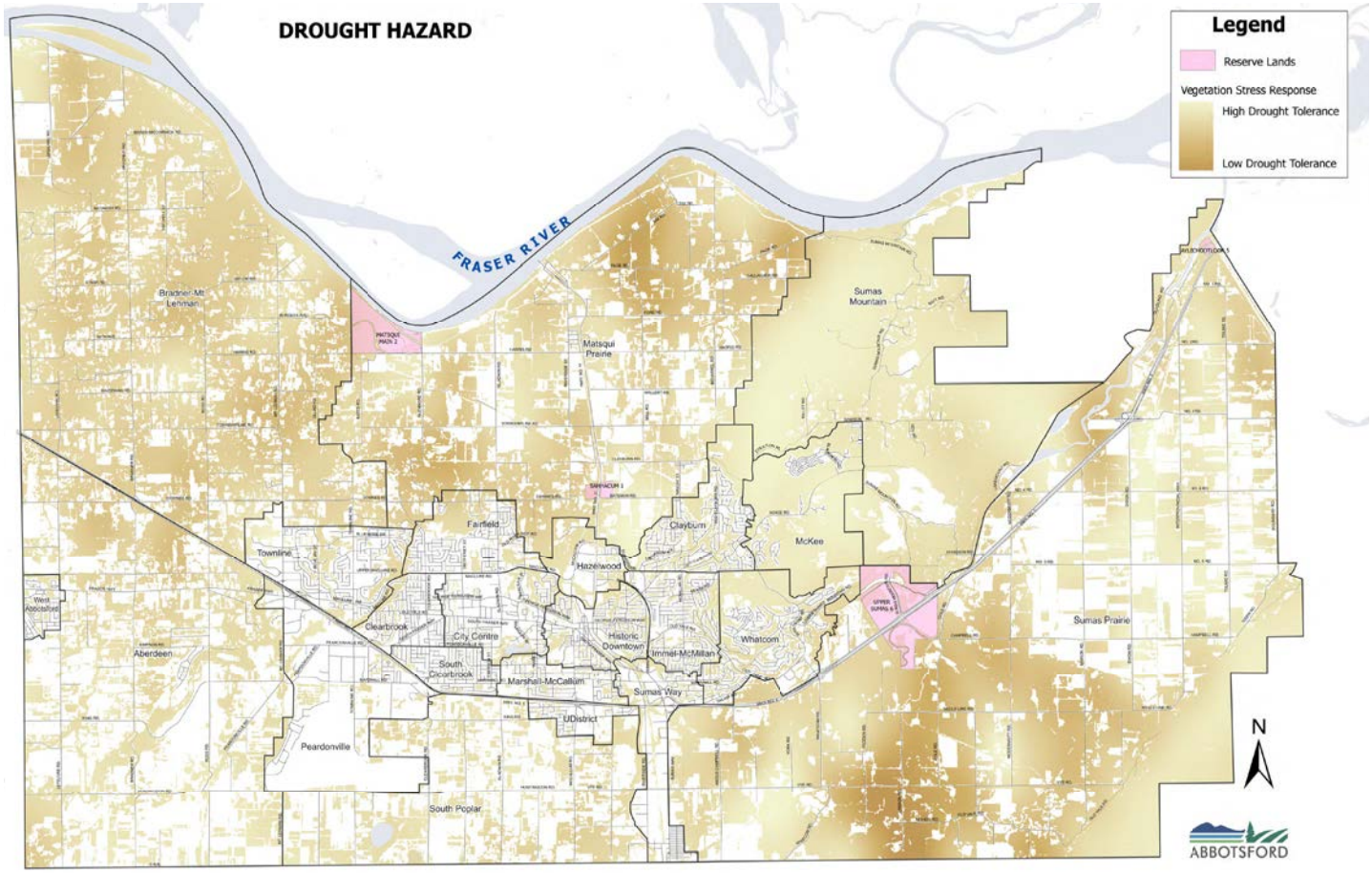


Drought & Water Scarcity

Although drought and water scarcity was identified as a medium-risk in the HRVA, it was raised as an important concern by community and staff. We heard clearly that long-term water availability, particularly for agriculture, and the ongoing impacts of drought are top of mind for many residents and businesses across Abbotsford. As summers become hotter and drier, drought and water scarcity are expected to place increasing pressure on agriculture, the natural environment, outdoor recreation, and water supply across the community (see Figure 10).

While drought and water scarcity may not cause the same immediate disruption as flooding, repeated dry conditions can create significant long-term impacts over time. Reduced stream flows, vegetation stress, declining ecosystem health, and increased wildfire risk are already becoming more visible across the region, reinforcing the importance of drought resilience and long-term water management in Abbotsford. As a result, drought and water scarcity remained an important consideration for the Climate Resilience Strategy and its actions.

Figure 10. Drought Hazard Map
Vegetation stress during drought conditions, measured as an average of the two driest summers in the past decade (2018 and 2021).



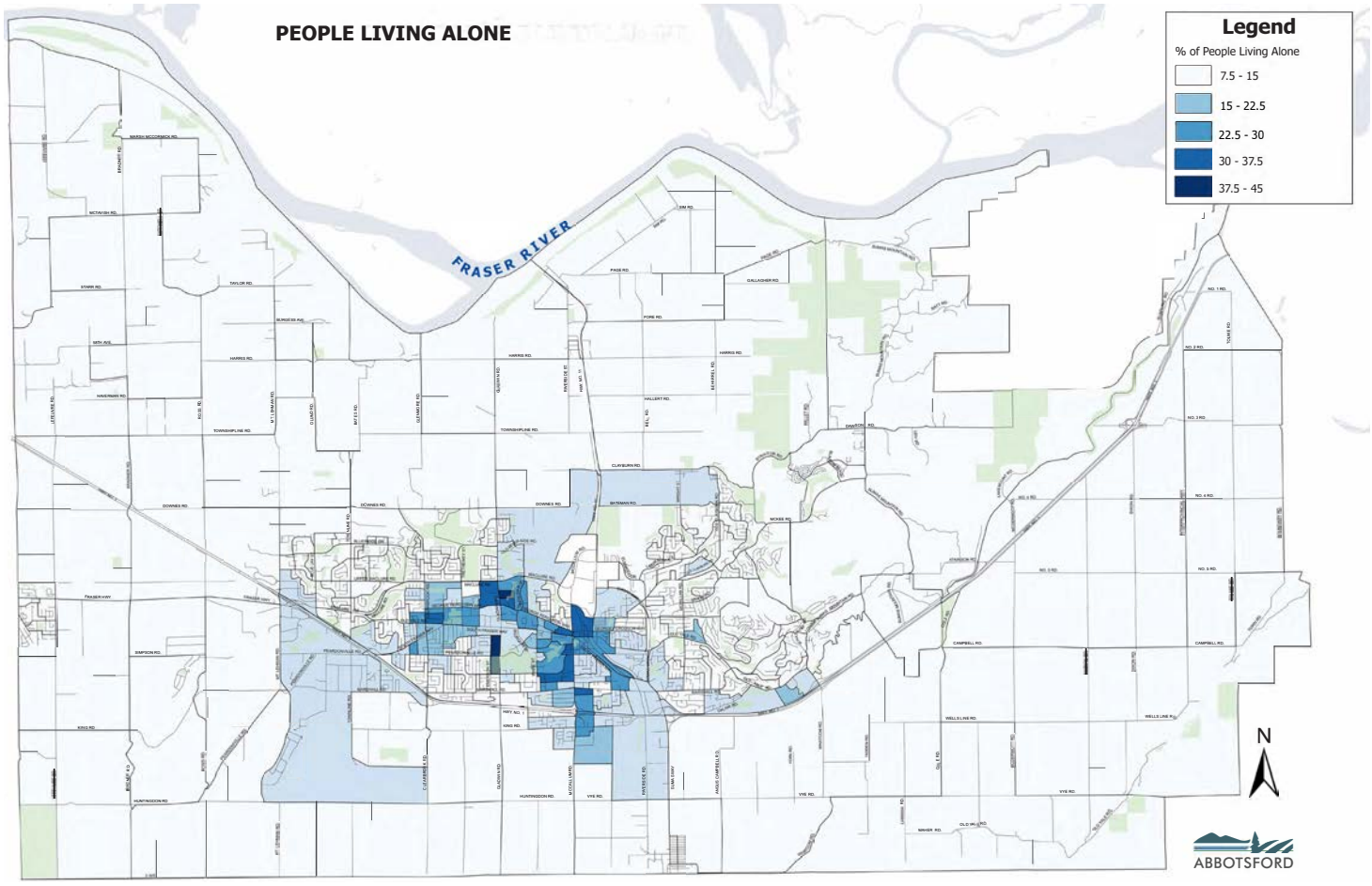
A CLOSER LOOK AT: 2023 DROUGHT AND WATER RESTRICTIONS

In the summer of 2023, prolonged hot and dry conditions across British Columbia pushed much of the province into severe drought. Reservoir levels dropped, stream flows declined, and wildfire risk increased across the Fraser Valley. In July 2023, Abbotsford implemented Stage 2 water restrictions as a precautionary measure to help protect long-term water supply during the peak summer season. The impacts were felt across our community, particularly within Abbotsford's agricultural sector where water demand increased during prolonged hot and dry conditions. Dry conditions also placed increasing stress on local ecosystems, vegetation, and stream flows across the region. The event reinforced how vulnerable agriculture, ecosystems, and community water systems can become during prolonged periods of heat and low rainfall.

2.3 INEQUITIES AND DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACTS

Climate change does not affect everyone equally. Some residents, neighbourhoods, and sectors are more exposed to climate hazards or may face greater challenges preparing for, responding to, and recovering from climate events. Climate hazards such as extreme heat, flooding, wildfire smoke, and prolonged emergencies can disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, such as people living alone (see Figure 11). During climate events, these groups may face greater health and safety risks, increased disruption to daily life, and more challenges accessing support and recovery resources. Some areas of Abbotsford may also be more likely to experience physical damage and service disruptions due to their location. This includes flood-prone areas, agricultural lands, and communities located near major transportation corridors or steep slopes, where flooding, landslides, blocked evacuation routes, or infrastructure damage can disrupt homes, businesses, transportation, and essential services. Climate impacts can also create uneven economic pressures across the community. Agricultural workers, small businesses, and households with limited financial capacity may face greater difficulty recovering from climate hazard-related events or associated prolonged disruptions to work and services.

Figure 11. People Living Alone Map
Relative number of households where people report living alone, shown as a percentage of the total population. Taken from 2021 Census data.



Building climate resilience in Abbotsford means ensuring that climate actions support vulnerable populations and neighbourhoods most affected by climate change (see Figure 12). Disproportionate impacts and barriers to resilience were important considerations in the development and refinement of actions within our Strategy and will continue to be a focus during implementation.

Improving access to services, information, infrastructure, and community support systems will remain a vital part of building a more resilient Abbotsford for everyone.

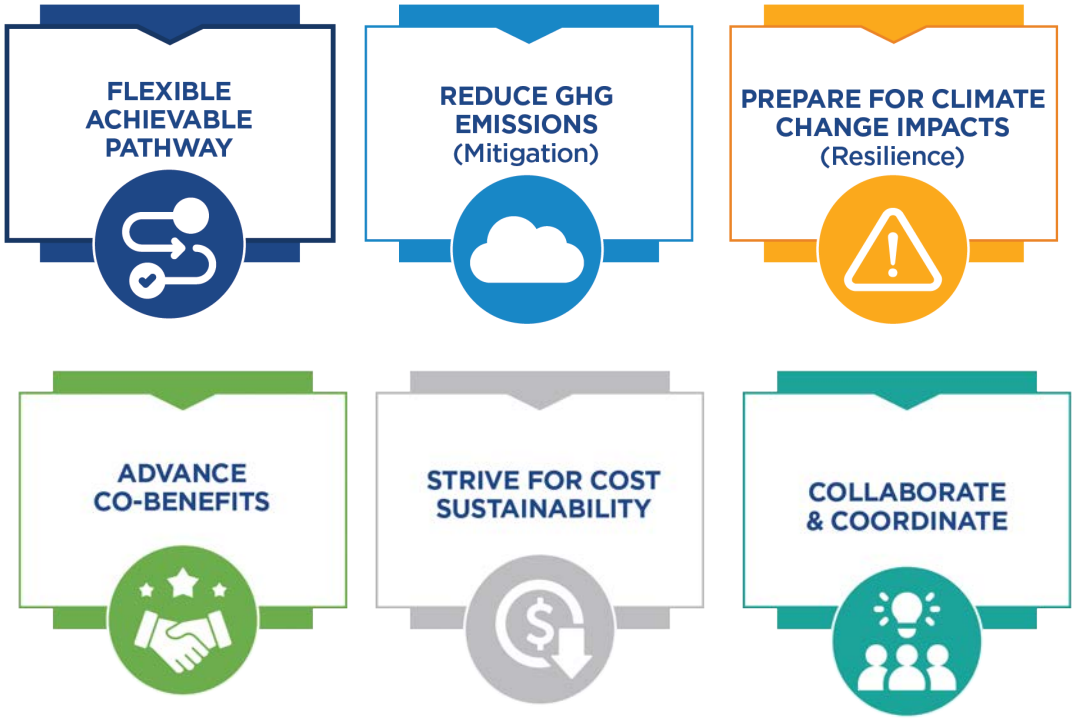
Figure 12. Disproportionate climate impacts affect some vulnerable populations more than others

3. DEVELOPING OUR CLIMATE RESILIENCE STRATEGY

3.1 STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Our Strategy was developed to align with recent and planned City initiatives and to inform future planning and asset management efforts. The Strategy envisions bridging siloes across climate adaptation, climate mitigation and emergency management to develop an integrated, low-carbon resilience strategy with an actionable and realistic implementation plan. Our approach is intended to be fiscally responsible and recognizes that success requires collaboration between the City, the community, and committed partners. Our Strategy development was guided by six themes (see Figure 13), discussed further in this section.

Figure 13. Six Themes that guided our strategy development



Flexible & Achievable Pathway

Climate action is a shared responsibility across all levels of government. International agreements, federal and provincial climate frameworks, regional collaboration, and local planning all influence how Abbotsford addresses climate change (see Figure 14). While many factors contributing to climate change are beyond municipal control, local governments play an important role in reducing emissions and building resilience in their communities.

Our Strategy focuses on identifying climate actions that are either within the City's direct sphere of control or that the City can influence through partnerships, collaboration, and advocacy (see Figure 15). We will stay informed of issues in the City's sphere of interest, though we recognize opportunities for change in these areas are limited. Taking this approach helps ensure our Strategy is practical, achievable, and focused on actions that can result in visible changes within the community.

Figure 14. Abbotsford's Climate Context

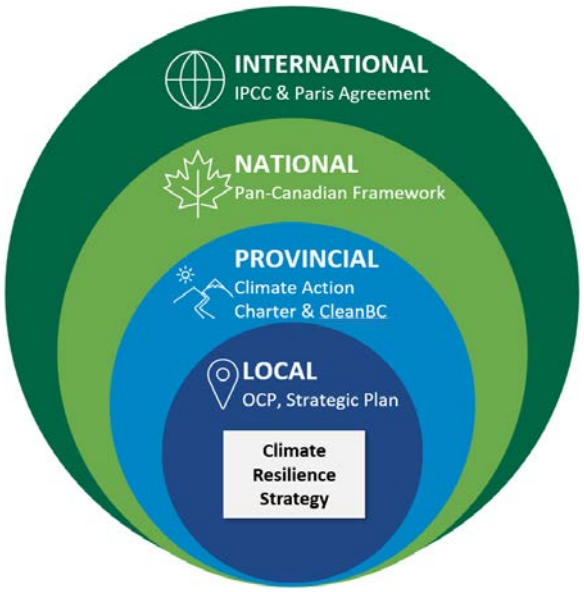
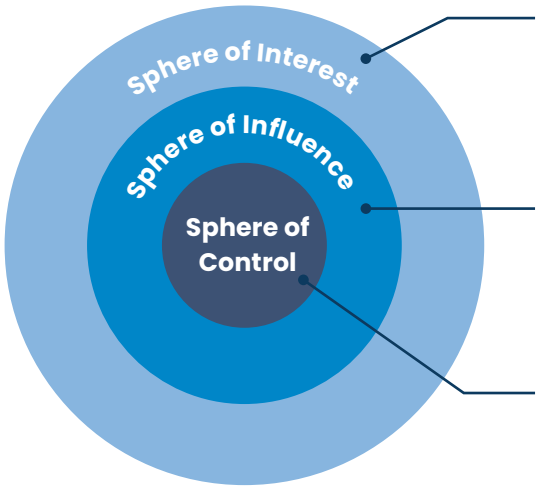


Figure 15. Sphere of Interest, Influence, and Control



INTEREST

Where a municipal government has neither control nor direct influence over components of the urban system, but is interested in and possibly affected by the outcome of decisions made by other actors.

INFLUENCE

Where a municipal government has no decision-making authority, but has access to resources and forums that can be used to influence decision-making by market actors or other levels of government.

CONTROL

Where a municipal government has near-complete or full decision-making authority over components of the urban system or issue in question.

Low-Carbon Resilience:
Reduce GHG Emissions, Prepare for Climate Impacts, & Advance Co-Benefits

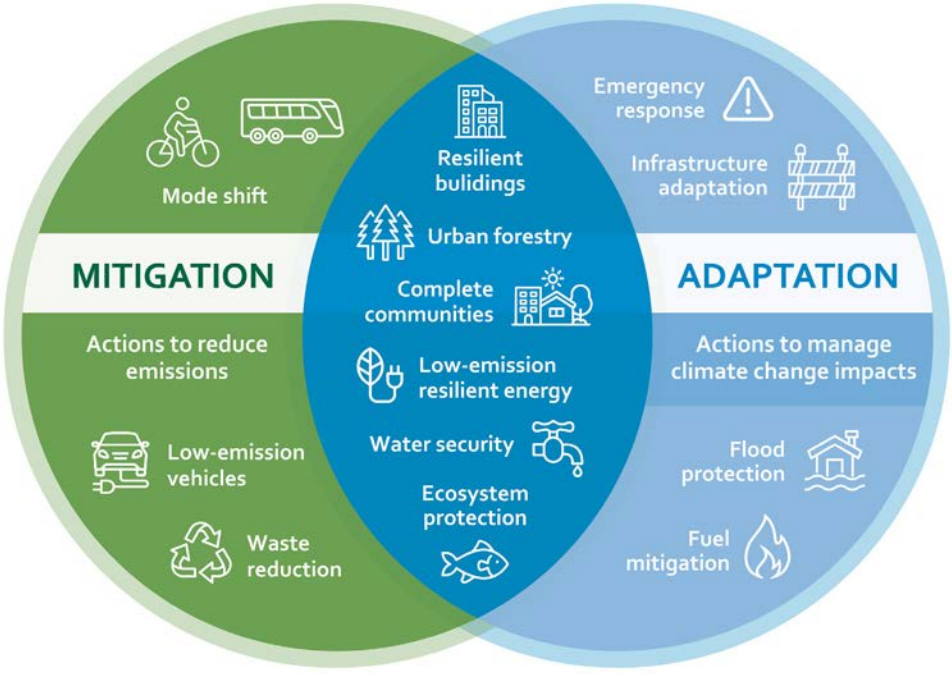
Our Strategy takes a Low-Carbon Resilience (LCR) approach that looks to maximize opportunities for both climate adaptation and GHG emissions reductions (mitigation) together, rather than as separate efforts (see Figure 16). This approach, developed by Simon Fraser University's Action on Climate Team (SFU ACT), recognizes that many climate actions can provide multiple benefits at the same time.

Taking this LCR approach supports more integrated and long-term decision-making by identifying opportunities where climate actions can address multiple priorities at once. For example, expanding urban tree canopy and natural areas provides co-benefits of helping reduce **urban heat**, improving air quality, managing stormwater, supporting biodiversity, and storing carbon.

Similarly, improving public transit systems can help reduce emissions while supporting more accessible mobility options and access during climate events. Another example is a **microgrid**. A microgrid is an energy system that can operate independently from the provincial electrical grid and is typically made up of a **renewable energy system** and back-up fossil fuel generators. Microgrids can be designed to automatically disconnect from the local electrical grid during a power outage when they can connect to and power critical services like community buildings, homes, or potable water supply during emergency events. When microgrids are planned and designed this way, they can support communities to respond and recover more quickly.

By focusing on actions that provide benefits across multiple areas, our Strategy supports a practical and "no-regrets" approach to climate action, helping ensure investments made today continue. to provide long-term value for the community.

Figure 16. Low-Carbon Resilience Approach, adapted from Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy (2024)



A CLOSER LOOK AT: MAKING EVERY INVESTMENT COUNT

A low-carbon resilience approach helps maximize the value of investments in climate action by focusing on actions that provide multiple benefits. By addressing climate risks, reducing emissions, and supporting broader community priorities at the same time, the City can avoid duplicating efforts and make more efficient use of funding. This helps stretch limited resources further while delivering lasting benefits for residents, businesses, and the environment.

Collaborate & Coordinate

Building a more resilient and low-carbon Abbotsford will require action across the community. While the City plays an important leadership role, residents, businesses, community organizations, and local partners all have an important part to play. Many residents are already taking action in their homes, neighbourhoods, and workplaces through activities such as planting trees, choosing native and heat and drought tolerant / resistant landscaping options (**xeriscaping**), converting lawns to plant and/or rock gardens, conserving water and preparing for emergencies. Other examples include reducing energy use, going electric with heating systems and personal vehicles, installing rooftop solar panels, and supporting local agriculture. Community-level actions such as checking in on neighbours during extreme weather, volunteering, and participating in local initiatives further strengthen collective climate action. Our Strategy aims to build on that momentum by supporting community awareness, education, preparedness, and opportunities for residents to get involved in climate action in ways that are practical, accessible, and meaningful. Working together will help Abbotsford become safer, healthier, more connected, and better prepared for the future.

Abbotsford already has significant work underway that supports climate action. Our Strategy is positioned to play a bridging role within the overall corporate planning and service delivery framework ensuring that climate change considerations are embedded across the organization. It is informed by the Official Community Plan, which sets long-term land use, growth, and community direction, and aligns with Council's Strategic Plan. Our Strategy translates these higher-level objectives into broad approaches and targeted climate-related actions to guide decision-making. It informs the development and implementation of Master Plans, and other City plans and strategies as well as directly supports new and updated policies and bylaws.

Priority initiatives flow through to actualization by way of Financial Plans and operating plans to become on-the-ground projects, programs and services in the community. Our Strategy was also informed by broader regional and local First Nations work. This included integrating information and resources shared by Semá:th (Sumas First Nation), including their HRVA[8] and Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan[9], to better understand local vulnerabilities, priorities, and opportunities related to flooding, environmental protection, and long-term resilience. These perspectives helped inform the identification of key vulnerabilities and the development of actions that support shared resilience goals. Our Strategy was developed in parallel with the City's broader HRVA and in close collaboration with Abbotsford Fire Rescue Services. This approach and partnership supported a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to risk management, helping better align emergency management planning, climate resilience, and broader infrastructure and community planning efforts.

Cost Sustainability

Our Strategy aims to pursue strategic approaches to implementation and funding over time. This includes leveraging grant opportunities, coordinating climate actions with planned infrastructure projects and asset replacement cycles, and phasing major investments over time to match budget capacity. It also involves embedding climate considerations into long-term asset management and financial planning processes, ensuring that decisions made today support operational needs, affordability, and long-term resilience. Additional information about our Strategy's implementation and financing approach is found in Section 5 Implementing Our Strategy.

3.2 PROJECT TIMELINE

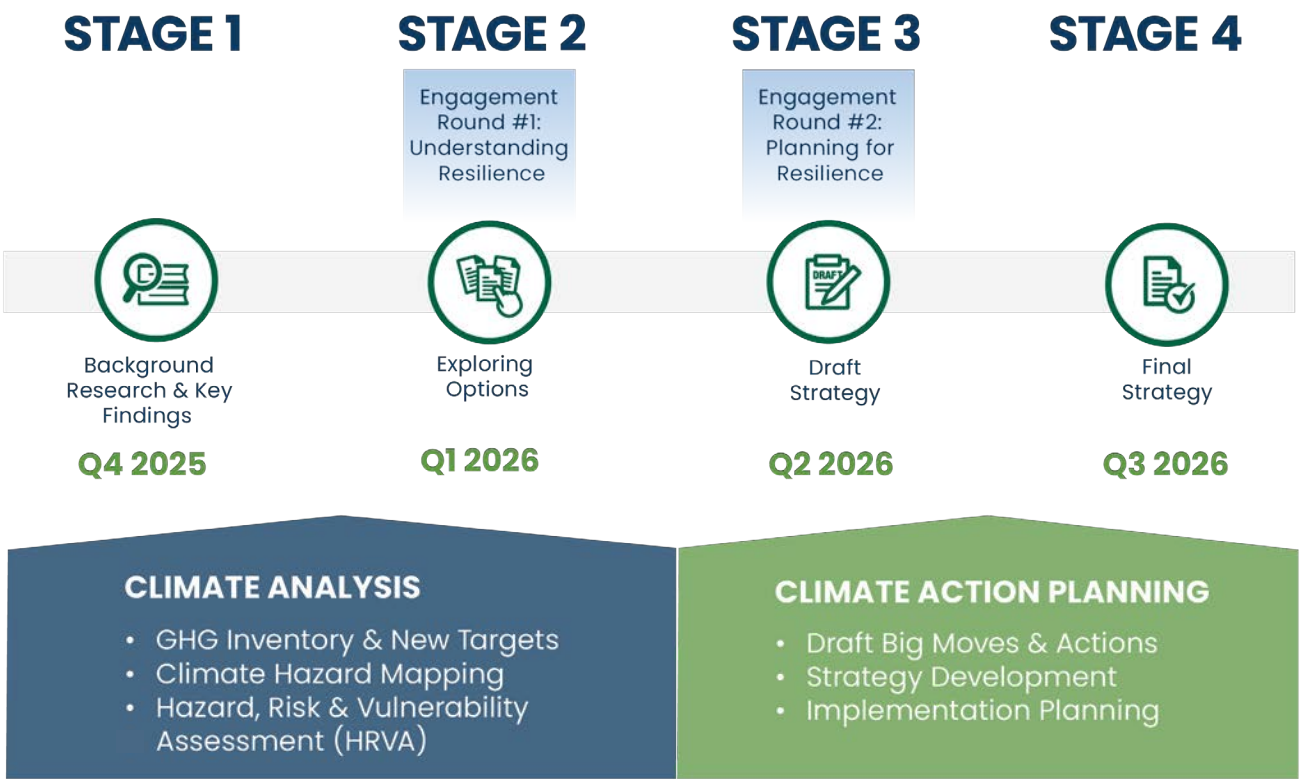
Our Strategy was developed through a multi-stage process that emphasized technical analysis, collaboration, and public engagement to identify practical and integrated climate actions for Abbotsford. The process included ongoing collaboration with an internal staff working group through four workshops, regular Council updates and direction at each project stage, and two rounds of extensive public and interest holder engagement to help shape our Strategy's vision, priorities, and actions (see Figure 17).

3.3 ENGAGEMENT

Our Strategy was shaped by knowledge and input from the Abbotsford community and interest holders. Community feedback helped validate the technical analysis, refine the Big Moves, and develop actions.

8. Semá:th First Nation. (2023). Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
9. Semá:th First Nation. (2024). Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan

Figure 17. Climate Resilience Strategy Development Stages



A CLOSER LOOK AT: BC EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT (EDMA)

Our pre-engagement work included preparation for First Nations outreach, such as reviewing and understanding the requirements of the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA), which establishes the provincial framework for hazard mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Informed by this framework, our team incorporated EDMA principles and requirements into our engagement approach and conducted initial outreach to local First Nations in early March 2026. While the Climate Resilience Strategy is now complete, additional collaboration and cooperation opportunities with local First Nations will be part of the City's Emergency Management Plan development process anticipated to be initiated in 2027.

Engagement with the public and interest group holders was essential to ensure the Strategy considered priorities for the community and resonated with residents, businesses and visitors of Abbotsford (See Figure 18 and Appendix C). While the majority of the actions found in the Strategy will be led by the City, there are many opportunities for partnerships and collaborations with community members taking an active role in supporting local climate resilience and getting involved through neighbourhood-level action.

We facilitated two rounds of public engagement:

ROUND #1	Understanding Resilience
(January to February 2026)	
PURPOSE	To understand people's experiences, concerns, and ideas about climate resilience and emergency planning.

ROUND #2	Planning for Resilience
(April to May 2026)	
PURPOSE	To seek feedback on the HRVA, the Draft Vision, Big Moves and and initial Action Ideas.

Figure 18. Round #1 and Round #2 Engagement summarizing What We Did and What We Heard for our Climate Resilience Strategy.

3.4 MODELLING FOR LOW CARBON RESILIENCE

The development of our Strategy was supported by policy modelling that examined potential mitigation and adaptation outcomes of a focused subset of high-impact policies within the City's sphere of control or influence (see Appendix A). This exercise looked at scenarios that have been established to yield local results for GHG emissions reduction or resilience outcomes and provided further rationale in support of our final Big Moves and actions.

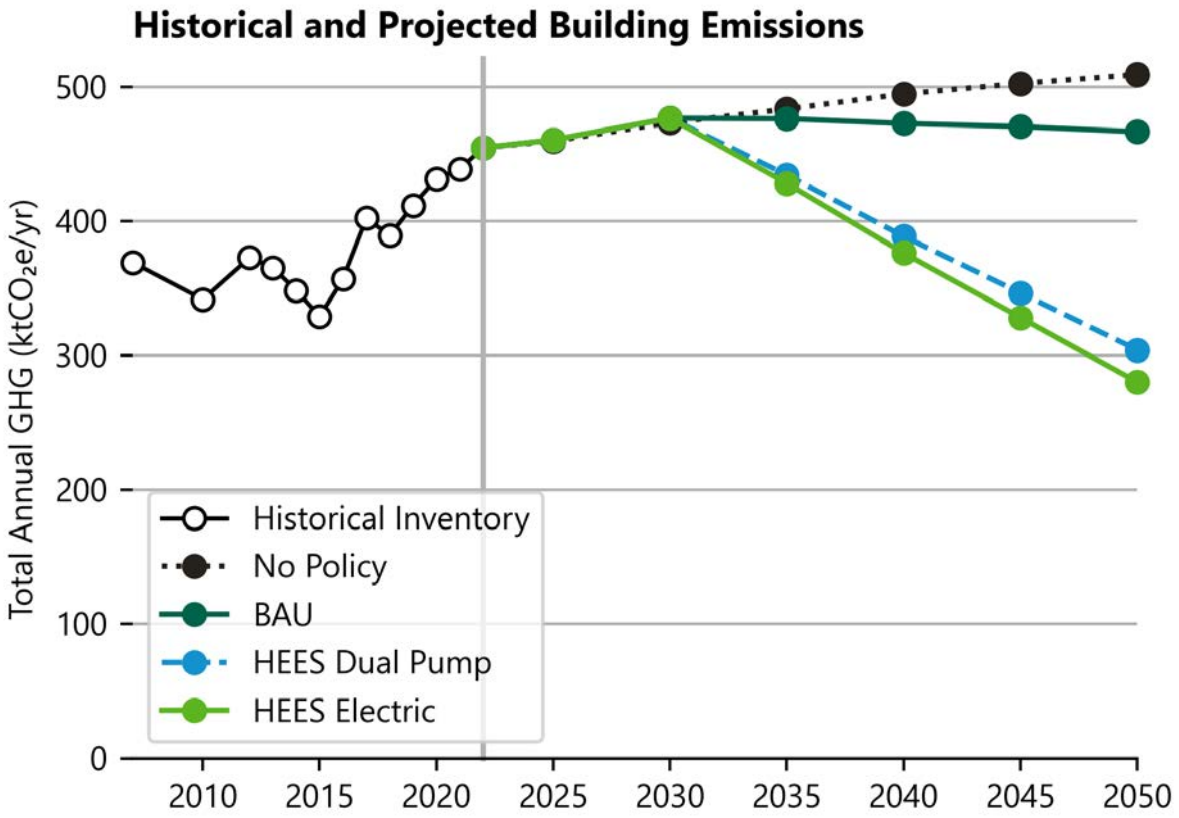
Using a land use and population forecast as a foundation, the analysis reviewed current emissions trends and projected future conditions to 2050 under a Business-as-Usual scenario alongside a defined set of enhanced scenarios that examined the impacts of specific mitigation and adaptation policies (see Figure 19). The Business-as-Usual (BAU) scenario incorporated existing and planned legislation such as the CleanBC Zero Emission Vehicle mandates and the BC Zero Carbon Step Code for new developments. Five additional policies were modelled including accelerated heat pump retrofits and zero carbon building standards informed by the provincial Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard (HEES, See Figure 19); establishing new hazard development permit areas to guide development in less hazard-prone locations; citywide solar potential and **agrivoltaics** to bolster renewable energy generation; and targeted tree canopy expansion to address the urban heat island effect.

This diverse policy analysis identified opportunities to reduce emissions in the buildings and transportation sectors through electrification, energy retrofits, renewable energy expansion, and decarbonization of light, medium, and heavy-duty vehicles. It also highlighted policies that can strengthen community resilience by reducing hazard exposure and improving the City's capacity to adapt through investments in natural assets.

Modelling these policies produced actionable recommendations tailored to Abbotsford's context, helping identify priority sectors and further guide our Strategy's Big Moves and actions toward meaningful GHG emissions reductions and long-term community resilience benefits.

For further details on the Climate Resilience Strategy: Mitigation and Adaptation Modeling Report, see Appendix A.

Figure 19. The BAU with HEES implementation coupled with heat pump retrofitting to either electric or dual fuel heat pumps.



4. OUR ROADMAP FOR RESILIENCE

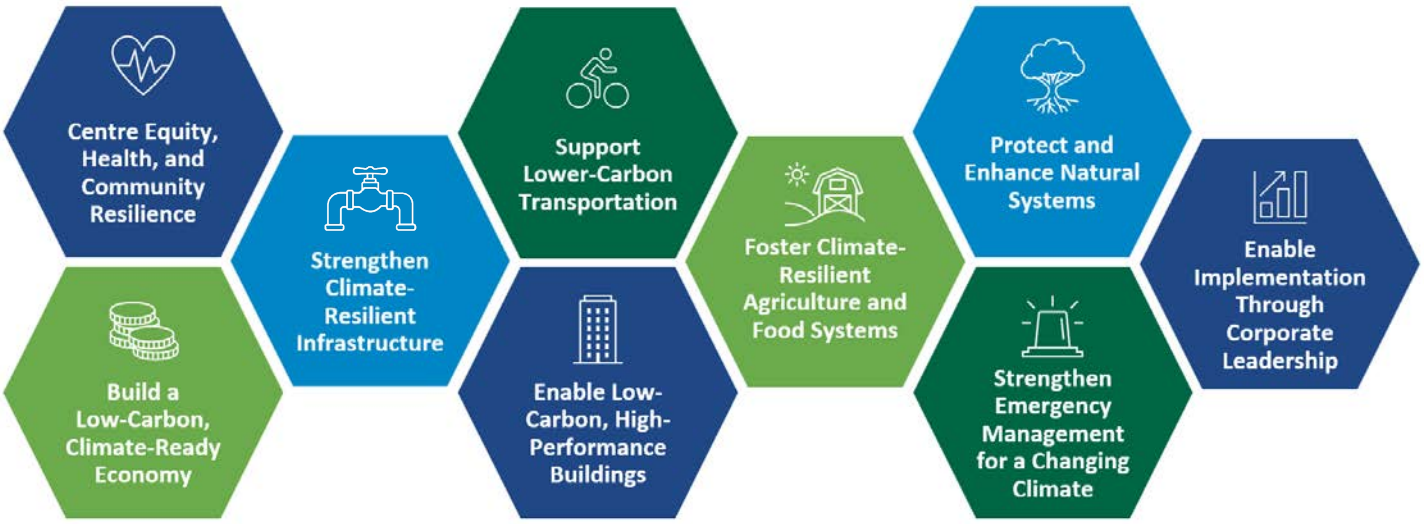
4.1 DEFINING OUR BIG MOVES

Our Strategy is centred around nine Big Moves (see Figure 20). These Big Moves represent priority areas for climate action in Abbotsford. Together, they take a low-carbon resilience approach to reducing GHG emissions, preparing for climate impacts, and building a safer, more livable community.

The Big Moves were developed based on the results of the emissions and hazard analyses and refined by feedback from staff, Council, and the public. This process helped identify where climate risks, emissions reduction opportunities, and community priorities intersect, and where the City can take practical and meaningful action over both the short and long term. Additionally, more detailed policy modelling was performed on a set of five high-impact actions with the purpose of providing more detailed implementation information. The modelling results are presented in a separate, internal report to staff.

Each Big Move highlights the need for action in a priority area, provides an overview of what Abbotsford is already doing, and identifies key actions the City can take to build on existing efforts. Together, the actions across all nine Big Moves will support the development of a practical and achievable roadmap for advancing climate action in Abbotsford.

Figure 20. Our Big Moves



4.2 UNDERSTANDING OUR BIG MOVES

Each Big Move begins with a banner that provides a snapshot of the key themes, benefits, and priorities addressed by the actions in that section. An example is shown below (see Figure 21).

Figure 21. Big Move Snapshot Example

GHG Emissions Reduction Impact:

The emissions reduction impact highlights the potential contribution each Big Move can make towards reducing community GHG emissions. Ratings are based on quantitative modeling work completed to understand the overall impact of the actions included in the Big Move. Where modelling was not completed, the emissions reduction impact is estimated based on qualitative assessment of actions in the Big Move.

Climate Hazards of Focus:

The climate hazards shown in the banner represent those most directly addressed by the actions included in the Big Move. In many cases, the actions also provide resilience benefits across other climate hazards beyond those identified.

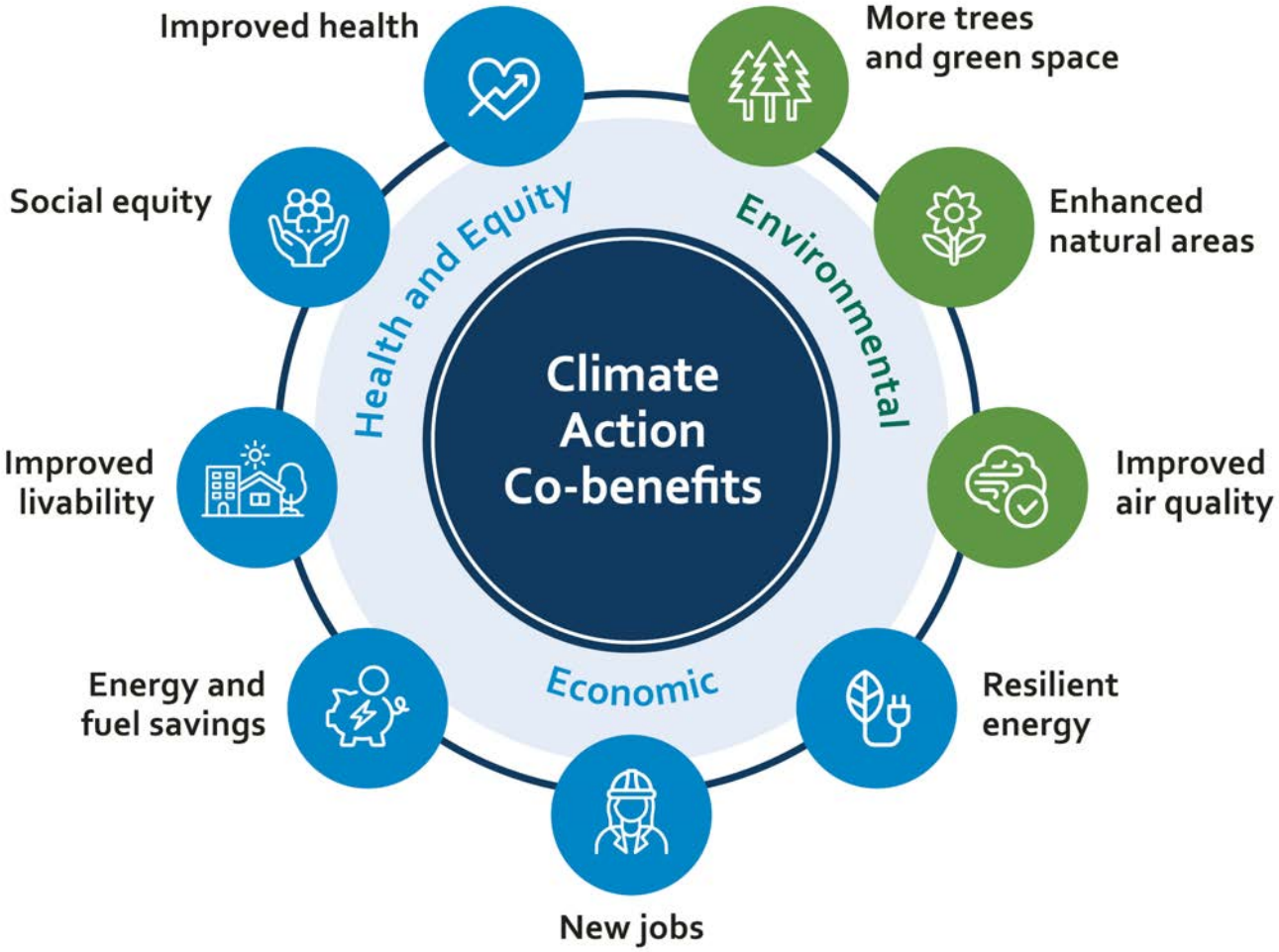
What We Learned from You:

Community and interest holder input played an important role in shaping our Strategy. These bullets highlight key themes and insights gathered through engagement that helped inform the development and refinement of actions.

Co-benefits:

Climate action often delivers benefits beyond reducing GHG emissions or increasing resilience to climate hazards. Each Big Move highlights the most significant co-benefits associated with its actions to illustrate the broader value of climate action. Our Strategy uses a set of nine co-benefits organized into three categories: health & equity, economic, and environmental (see Figure 22). This approach is consistent with frameworks used by other local governments, including the City of Kelowna and the City of Maple Ridge.

Figure 22. Co-Benefits supported through our Strategy[10]



10. The co-benefits and this graphic were adapted from Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy (2024).

Following the summary banner, each Big Move is organized into four sections:

- **Why this Big Move?**
  Every Big Move begins by explaining why action is needed, including the climate risks, sources of emissions, opportunities, and community priorities that informed the development of the Big Move.
- **What are we already doing?**
  Climate action is already happening across Abbotsford. This section highlights existing plans, programs, infrastructure investments, partnerships, and initiatives that provide a foundation for future work.
- **How can we build on this?**
  This section outlines how the City will work towards achieving each Big Move through actions that fall largely within municipal control. Each action includes a high-level resource intensity estimate indicating the relative level of effort and investment required, the lead City department(s) responsible for implementation, the focus of the action (see Figure 23), and existing policies that support the action.
- **Where else can we influence?**
  Many climate challenges extend beyond municipal authority. These actions highlight opportunities for the City to collaborate, advocate, and work with other governments, First Nations, businesses, organizations, and residents to advance climate action and resilience across our community and region.

Figure 23. Estimated resource intensity, lead City department(s), action focus, and supporting policies

RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
$ = < $50,000 **$$** = $50,000 - $100,000 **$$$** = $100,001-$500,000 **$$$$** = > $500,000 **A&P** = Advocacy & Partnership (no explicit incremental cost associated)	**ENG** = Engineering & Regional Utilities **FRS** = Fire Rescue Services **FIN** = Finance & Procurement Services **ISIR** = Innovation, Strategy & Intergovernmental Relations **OPS** = Operations **PDS** = Planning & Development Services **PRC** = Parks, Recreation & Culture	**Adapt**. = Adaptation  **Mit**. = Mitigation  **LCR** = Low-Carbon Resilience (integrated adaptation and mitigation) 	Lists specific OCP Policies as well as City plans and strategies with relevant policies.

BIG MOVE 1:

Centre Equity, Health, and Community Resilience


WASHROOMS
CEDAR
PRIVACY PROTECTION
ABBOTSFORD

BIG MOVE 1:

Centre Equity, Health and Community Resilience

CLIMATE HAZARDS OF FOCUS	EMISSIONS REDUCTION IMPACT	WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YOU	CO-BENEFITS
EXTREME HEAT POOR AIR QUALITY EXTREME COLD FLOODING	GHG LOW	• Provide social support during emergencies • Protect vulnerable populations • Address public health impacts • Educate the community about climate hazards	• Health & **Equity** • Improved Health • Social Equity • Improved Liveability

Why this Big Move?

Climate hazards are already affecting the health, safety, and day-to-day lives of people across Abbotsford[12] with some populations and neighbourhoods experiencing greater impacts due to existing vulnerabilities. Hazard events can disrupt transportation, access to services, emergency response, and community supports, particularly when hazards occur at the same time or in close succession[13].

The HRVA identified flooding, extreme heat, wildfire, poor air quality, landslides, and multi-hazard events as some of the highest climate risks facing Abbotsford today and by 2050. These events can create compounding impacts across the community and place additional pressure on natural and built infrastructure, sensitive ecosystems, emergency response systems, and recovery efforts.

This Big Move is grounded in our vision and focuses on strengthening the systems and supports that help people prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related events, with an emphasis on advancing equity and protecting health across the community. This includes improving emergency preparedness, expanding access to cooling and warming supports, strengthening evacuation and recovery planning, improving public awareness and communication to better connect with diverse and harder-to-reach groups, and supporting residents who may face greater challenges during major events.

Building community resilience also means ensuring climate actions support the people and neighbourhoods most affected by climate change. As Abbotsford continues to grow and climate risks evolve, strengthening equity, health, and community resilience will remain an important part of creating a more connected and prepared community.

11. Global News. (2025). 'Really challenging issue': Many B.C. communities still at high risk for flooding
12. Wang, J., et al. (2022). Preliminary investigations of ground failures triggered during the mid-November 2021 atmospheric river event in British Columbia.

BIG MOVE 1:

Centre Equity, Health and Community Resilience

What are we already doing?

Abbotsford is already taking action to help residents prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related events. Many of these efforts build on lessons learned from recent events, including the 2021 flood[14] and heat dome[15]. Current efforts include:

- **Emergency Planning & Response:** Hazard-specific emergency plans, **Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)** coordination, evacuation planning, reception centres, and emergency notification systems that support response during flooding, extreme heat, severe weather, and other emergencies.
- **Cooling & Warming Supports:** Cooling centres, warming spaces, outreach programs, and partnerships with Fraser Health Authority and community organizations to support vulnerable populations during climate events.
- **Monitoring & Preparedness:** Monitoring of weather conditions, river systems, streamflows, slopes, and drainage infrastructure to support early warning, preparedness, and emergency response activities.
- **Public Awareness & Education:** Education and emergency preparedness resources and initiatives that help residents learn about and understand climate risks, prepare for emergencies, and build community resilience.

13. Public Safety Canada. (2023). Government of Canada provides disaster recovery funding to British Columbia for 2021 flood
14. Government of Canada. (2023). Surviving the heat: Impacts of the 2021 western heat dome in Canada.

BIG MOVE 1:

Centre Equity, Health and Community Resilience

How can we build on this?

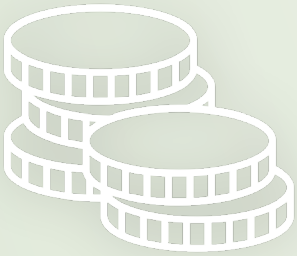
Developing community resilience will require both immediate actions and long-term investment across City operations, infrastructure, emergency management, and community services. The following actions represent practical steps the City can take to strengthen preparedness, reduce risk, and support residents during climate-related events.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
1.1	Improve access to cooling and hydration during extreme heat events by maintaining and expanding cooling centres and other cooling resources (e.g., misting stations and water filling stations), assessing gaps in coverage, and reducing barriers related to distance, mobility, awareness, and hours of operation, particularly in high heat-exposure neighbourhoods.	$$	FRS/PRC	ADAPT	Community Accessibility Plan (2025)
1.2	Improve evacuation, emergency access, and recovery planning for hazard-prone areas by identifying alternative routes, reducing the risk of residents becoming isolated, assessing and improving resilience to road closures and rerouting, and coordinating reception centres, supplies, and support services during prolonged emergencies.	$$	FRS/ENG/PDS	ADAPT	Evacuation & Shelter-in-Place Plan (2020)
1.3	Enhance public communication, education, and preparedness for climate hazards by providing guidance, alerts, training opportunities, and resources that support emergency preparedness, home-level resilience (e.g., air filtration systems, flood protection measures), and community-led initiatives, in collaboration with partner agencies.	$	FRS/ENG/ISIR	ADAPT	Disaster Response Plan

Where else can we influence?

Strengthening community resilience will require strong partnerships and coordinated action across governments, health agencies, community organizations, businesses, and the broader community. The following actions identify opportunities for the City to collaborate, advocate, and work with others to improve preparedness, support vulnerable populations, and strengthen community response during climate-related events.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
1.4	Work with partners to expand access to warming and cooling supports for vulnerable populations during extreme cold and heat events, including those with limited mobility, by building on existing Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelters and services, and advocating for provincial support.	$$	ISIR/FRS/PRC	ADAPT	Community Accessibility Plan (2025)
1.5	Enhance preparedness and support systems for vulnerable populations during hazard events and power outages, including improving access to services and coordinating with community organizations.	$$	FRS/ISIR	ADAPT	Disaster Response Plan Community Accessibility Plan (2025)



BIG MOVE 2:

Build a Low-Carbon, Climate-Ready Economy

BIG MOVE 2:

Build a Low-Carbon, Climate-Ready Economy

CLIMATE HAZARDS OF FOCUS	EMISSIONS REDUCTION IMPACT	WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YOU	CO-BENEFITS
FLOODING EXTREME HEAT DROUGHT WILDFIRE POOR AIR QUALITY	GHG LOW	• Support entrepreneurs and local businesses • Provide grants and incentives • Clarify economic sector priorities	• Improved health • Improved liveability • Energy and fuel savings • New jobs • Improved air quality

Why this Big Move?

A strong economy is essential to Abbotsford's long-term prosperity and resilience. Local businesses, industries, institutions, and workers help drive economic activity, provide employment opportunities, and deliver the goods and services that support daily life. As a regional hub for manufacturing, transportation, trade, and goods movement, Abbotsford's economy is closely connected to regional transportation networks and supply chains[16].

Climate change is creating new challenges for businesses and workers. Flooding, extreme heat, wildfire smoke, power outages, and transportation disruptions can affect operations, damage infrastructure, disrupt supply chains, reduce productivity, and create health and safety concerns for workers. Many of these risks are expected to increase over time, creating additional uncertainty and costs for businesses[17].

While climate change is reshaping business conditions, it is also creating new opportunities. Advancements in technology, evolving market expectations, and supportive policies are enabling businesses to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and strengthen competitiveness, while supporting broader climate goals. Informed by public feedback highlighting the importance of supporting Abbotsford's growing economy in the face of climate impacts, this Big Move focuses on supporting businesses and workers in adapting to changing conditions while unlocking opportunities for growth. By strengthening supply-chain resilience, support workforce development and green job opportunities, reducing emissions from commercial and industrial activities, and encouraging more climate-conscious business practices, Abbotsford can foster a thriving, low-carbon economy that benefits the entire community.

15. City of Abbotsford. (2018). Transportation & Transit Master Plan
16. Province of British Columbia. (2022). Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy

BIG MOVE 2:

Build a Low-Carbon, Climate-Ready Economy

What are we already doing?

Many existing plans, programs, and partnerships contribute to building a low-carbon, climate-ready economy in Abbotsford. These efforts support businesses, workers, transportation systems, and more sustainable use of resources. Current efforts include:

- **Business Continuity & Emergency Preparedness:** Existing emergency management plans, Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) coordination, emergency notification systems, evacuation planning, and recovery planning that help support businesses and workers during major climate events.
- **Transportation & Goods Movement Planning:** Implementation of the Transportation & Transit Master Plan, active transportation improvements, transit planning, and regional transportation initiatives help support the efficient movement of people and goods across Abbotsford.
- **Waste Reduction & Recycling Programs:** Existing recycling, organics diversion, and waste reduction programs help reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and support more sustainable use of materials across the community.
- **Regional Collaboration & Economic Resilience:** The City continues to work with neighboring municipalities, regional organizations, educational institutions, utilities, and industry partners on initiatives related to transportation, workforce development, and economic resilience.

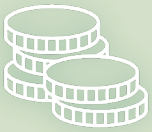
BIG MOVE 2:

Build a Low-Carbon, Climate-Ready Economy

How can we build on this?

The following actions focus on areas where the City can help create the conditions for a low-carbon, climate-ready economy through policies and programs.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
2.1	Strengthen supply-chain resilience through sustainable procurement practices, supplier diversification, climate-risk screening, and consideration of local and regional supply opportunities, consistent with procurement laws and policies.	$	FIN	LCR	Asset Management Strategy (2021)
2.2	Increase access to organics and recycling disposal options for commercial, institutional and industrial properties.	$$$	ENG	GHG MIT	OCP Policy 4.6.17
2.3	Support local businesses and workers in preparing for and recovering from hazard events through improving communication and coordination, support for safe work practices, restoration of access to business areas, and advocating for provincial and federal recovery funding.	$$	FRS/ISIR	ADAPT	Disaster Response Plan



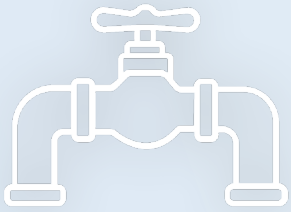
BIG MOVE 2:

Build a Low-Carbon, Climate-Ready Economy

Where else can we influence?

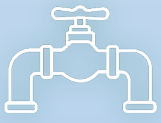
Many of the factors that shape Abbotsford's economy extend beyond municipal authority. The following actions identify opportunities for the City to work with businesses, educational institutions, industry organizations, and other partners to support innovation, workforce development, and long-term economic resilience.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
2.4	Encourage low-carbon business practices that reduce utility costs, support active transportation and foster a circular economy.	$	ISIR/ENG	LCR	OCP Policy 4.2.1 OCP Policy 4.2.2 OCP Policy 4.4.11 OCP Policy 4.4.14 OCP Policy 4.4.15 Transportation and Transit Master Plan (2018)
2.5	Support green job pathways and continuing education by partnering with educational institutions on workshops and training for renewable energy systems, low-carbon retrofits, low-carbon fleets and maintenance, resilient construction, and the operation and maintenance of green building systems.	A&P	ENG	LCR	OCP Policy 4.2.10 OCP Policy 4.6.11 Development Bylaw Business Retention & Expansion Strategy
2.6	Pursue Fraser Valley Zero Emissions Mobility Strategy opportunities for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles to support transition to efficient commercial vehicles and zero-emissions goods movement.	$$	ENG	GHG MIT	FVZEM Strategy OCP Policy 4.4.23 Transportation and Transit Master Plan (2018)



BIG MOVE 3:

Strengthen Climate-Resilient Infrastructure



BIG MOVE 3:

Strengthen Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

CLIMATE HAZARDS OF FOCUS	EMISSIONS REDUCTION IMPACT	WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YOU	CO-BENEFITS
FLOODING, DROUGHT, WILDFIRE, MANY HAZARDS ADDRESSED	LOW	• Enhance flood infrastructure • Protect water supply infrastructure • Upgrade roads	• Improved health • Improved liveability • Enhanced natural areas • Resilient energy, • Energy and fuel saving

Why this Big Move?

Climate change is increasing pressure on the infrastructure systems that support Abbotsford each day. Flooding, landslides, wildfire, and other climate hazards can damage roads, utilities, energy systems, and community facilities, causing disruptions to transportation, emergency response, water supply, and essential services. As climate events become more frequent and severe, proactive infrastructure planning will play an increasingly important role in reducing vulnerability and supporting community resilience.

Abbotsford also plays an important role as a regional transportation, trade, and service hub within the Lower Mainland. Major transportation corridors, the Canada–United States border crossing, rail infrastructure, and Abbotsford International Airport all support the movement of people, goods, and services across the region and beyond. At the same time, climate hazards affecting Abbotsford are closely connected to conditions and infrastructure beyond municipal boundaries, particularly within shared **watersheds** and cross-border systems such as the Nooksack and Sumas River systems. These regional connections create additional complexities and highlight the importance of coordinated, forward-looking infrastructure planning and investment.

Climate impacts on infrastructure that support our community was the top concern raised by residents. This Big Move focuses on strengthening the resilience of our infrastructure and energy systems to better withstand future climate conditions and reduce long-term risk. This includes advancing flood mitigation infrastructure and watershed planning, strengthening climate-resilient land use and development policies, integrating climate projections into asset management and infrastructure design, supporting drought resilience and water security, ensuring a resilient utility infrastructure and service delivery, advancing low-carbon and renewable energy systems, and continuing to incorporate wildfire risk considerations into planning and development. Many of these actions will also require ongoing collaboration and partnerships across governments, First Nations, and other organizations to support coordinated and effective climate resilience efforts.

BIG MOVE 3:

Strengthen Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

What are we already doing?

Abbotsford has a range of plans, infrastructure projects, and initiatives underway that support climate-resilient infrastructure and long-term risk reduction. Recent and more frequent flooding and other climate-related hazard events have accelerated many of these efforts, including work related to flood mitigation, infrastructure planning, land use policy, drainage systems, and long-term water supply resilience. Current efforts include:

- **Flood Protection & Infrastructure Operations:** Ongoing operation and maintenance of dikes, pump stations, drainage systems, and conveyance infrastructure helps manage floodwaters and reduce flood risk.
- **Hazard Mapping & Land Use Planning:** Flood hazard-mapping, updated steep slope management, Development Permit Areas, and wildfire development guidelines that help guide safer development and manage exposure to climate-related hazards.
- **Ongoing Monitoring & Assessment:** Monitoring of unstable slope areas, weather conditions, streamflows, and infrastructure vulnerabilities during climate hazard events support preparedness, response, and risk reduction.
- **Asset Management & Infrastructure Planning:** Long-term infrastructure planning, utilities master planning, drinking water system hazard and risk assessment, energy planning, and asset management processes that support infrastructure renewal and risk reduction.
- **Water Conservation & Supply Planning:** Long-standing water conservation initiatives (e.g. public education and outreach, water metering, and water use management measures), drought-tolerant landscaping recommendations, water use management measures, and ongoing work to strengthen long-term water supply reliability and system redundancy.
- **Regional Coordination & Emergency Planning:** Continue collaboration with senior governments, First Nations, regional agencies, and U.S. partners on flood response, watershed planning, emergency management, and regional resilience initiatives.

BIG MOVE 3:

Strengthen Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

How can we build on this?

Making our infrastructure more resilient will require ongoing investment, long-term planning, and coordinated action throughout the community. The following actions identify practical steps the City can take to reduce risk, improve service reliability, strengthen resilience to future climate events, and support the transition to low-carbon infrastructure and energy systems.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
3.1	Accelerate implementation, maintenance, and upgrading of flood mitigation infrastructure and related asset management actions, including pump stations, dikes, drainage systems, conveyance capacity, and protection or floodproofing of critical municipal assets and facilities in flood-prone areas.	$$$$	FIN/OPS/ENG	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.8 OCP Policy 4.6.10 OCP Policy 4.6.14 OCP Policy 4.6.15 OCP Policy 4.6.18 Integrated Stormwater Master Plans
3.2	Continue to develop the Sumas River Watershed Flood Mitigation Plan.	$$$$	ENG	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.8 OCP Policy 4.6.10 OCP Policy 4.6.14 OCP Policy 4.6.15 OCP Policy 4.6.18 Integrated Stormwater Master Plans
3.3	Strengthen flood-resilient land use planning and development by incorporating updated flood risk mapping, climate projections, and hazard DPA modelling into regulations, zoning, and development requirements, while considering policies, incentives, and site-level mitigation measures such as floodproofing and green infrastructure.	$$	PDS	LCR	OCP Policy 4.6.8 OCP Policy 4.6.10 OCP Policy 4.6.15 OCP Policy 4.6.15 OCP Policy 4.6.18 Integrated Stormwater Master Plans

BIG MOVE 3:

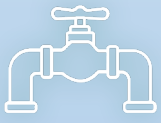
Strengthen Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
3.4	Improve water-efficient and drought-tolerant landscaping in municipal design, operations, and community development.	$$	PRC/OPS	LCR	OCP Part 3: Land Use OCP Part 6: Development Permit Guidelines OCP Policy 4.6.14 OCP Policy 4.6.15 OCP Policy 4.6.16 Joint Abbotsford Mission Water Master Plan (2018)
3.5	Continue incorporating wildfire risk considerations into land use planning and development, including applying and refining Wildfire Development Permit Guidelines.	$$	PDS	ADAPT	OCP Part 3: Land Use OCP Part 6: Development Permit Guidelines McKee Neighbourhood Plan OCP Policy 4.6.10
3.6	Further integrate climate resilience and future climate projections into infrastructure planning, asset management, and capital upgrades by utilizing analysis completed for critical assets exposed to multiple hazards, including transportation corridors, drainage systems, utilities, water supply infrastructure, City-owned buildings, and facilities supporting emergency response and community services. Incorporate resilience upgrades through renewal projects and design standards.	$$	FIN/ENG/OPS	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.10

BIG MOVE 3:

Strengthen Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
3.7	Continue development of additional water supply sources (e.g., New Water Source project), to improve long-term supply and system redundancy during drought.	$$$$	ENG	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.9 OCP Policy 4.6.12 OCP Policy 4.6.14
3.8	Increase on-site renewable and low-carbon energy generation and storage at City facilities and infrastructure sites, informed by recent modelling for solar potential, as opportunities arise.	$$$	ENG/OPS	LCR	Asset Management Strategy (2021) Green Buildlings Policy (C002-02)
3.9	Integrate the wastewater treatment plant into the City's energy transition strategy by implementing hydrogen sulphide (H_2S) remediation, reducing emissions, and advancing energy recovery and process efficiency to support low-carbon infrastructure goals.	$$$	ENG	LCR	OCP Policy 4.6.16 Joint Abbotsford Mission Wastewater Master Plan (2018)
3.10	Advance low-carbon energy projects such as the JAMES Plant Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) initiative that upgrades biogas from wastewater treatment processes into a low-carbon fuel, in alignment with the City's emissions reduction and clean energy objectives.	$$$$	ENG	LCR	OCP Policy 4.6.16 Joint Abbotsford Mission Wastewater Master Plan (2018) OCP Part 2: A Sustainable Community



BIG MOVE 3:

Strengthen Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

Where else can we influence?

Because many infrastructure systems and climate hazards extend beyond municipal boundaries, strengthening climate resilience will also require ongoing collaboration with senior governments, First Nations, regional agencies, utilities, and U.S. partners. The following actions identify opportunities for the City to advocate, coordinate, and work with others to build more resilient infrastructure systems and advance reliable, low-carbon energy solutions.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
3.11	Continue advancing coordinated flood risk management through collaboration with the Province and other levels of government, First Nations, and U.S. interest holders, including advancing flood risk reduction and ecosystem strategies, sharing data, and leveraging funding opportunities to support flood mitigation projects in the transboundary area.	$$	ENG	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.8 OCP Policy 4.6.15 OCP Policy 4.6.18 Integrated Stormwater Master Plans
3.12	Support transition to low-carbon energy supply by exploring local and small-scale renewable and low-carbon energy generation and storage opportunities (e.g. solar, wind, district energy systems, waste heat recovery) and pursue partnerships and financing programs for projects.	$$	ENG/OPS/PDS	LCR	OCP Part 2: A Sustainable Community
3.13	Work with utilities to integrate the OCP planning and development permitting with utility planning, to ensure preparedness for electrical grid capacity concerns and address systemic barriers to electrification (e.g. participation in BC Hydro's Infrastructure Manager Program).	$$	PDS/ENG	LCR	OCP Part 3: Land Use OCP Part 6: Development Permit Guidelines Development Bylaw

BIG MOVE 4:

Support Lower-Carbon Transportation

BIG MOVE 4:

Support Lower-Carbon Transportation

CLIMATE HAZARDS OF FOCUS	EMISSIONS REDUCTION IMPACT	WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YOU	CO-BENEFITS
EXTREME HEAT POOR AIR QUALITY	HIGH	• Improve transit networks and service • Expand cycling infrastructure • Consider affordability	• Improved health • Improved liveability • Social equity • Energy and fuel savings • Improved air quality

Why this Big Move?

Transportation is a key pathway for Abbotsford to reduce emissions while improving how people and goods move across the community. As a regional hub for trade and goods movement, the City is well positioned to lead the shift toward cleaner, more efficient transportation. Transportation emissions accounted for 52% of community emissions in Abbotsford in 2022, reflecting the opportunity to reduce emissions in this sector.

Expanding electric vehicle use, supported by accessible charging infrastructure, offers a clear path to reducing emissions, specifically for personal vehicles. Policy modelling shows that electrification is the primary driver of emissions reductions by 2050. The City can play an active role in assuring access to charging infrastructure at home, work, and key destinations across our community to support electrification. At the same time, complementary investments in transit and active transportation can make it easier and more affordable for people to choose sustainable travel options that reduce overall driving trips and provide health and well-being benefits.

Through collaboration with industry and regional partners, as well as advocacy efforts, Abbotsford can also support low-carbon innovation in commercial transportation as new technologies continue to emerge.

Together, these efforts will reduce emissions, improve air quality, and create a more connected, accessible, and resilient community.

BIG MOVE 4:

Support Lower-Carbon Transportation

What are we already doing?

The City is already working with neighbouring local governments and BC Transit to improve access to key services, electric charging infrastructure and sustainable modes of transportation. Key strategies and collaborations are defined in the following list:

- **Fraser Valley Zero Emissions Mobility Strategy**
  The City is collaborating with the City of Chilliwack and the Fraser Valley Regional District to implement a roadmap for transitioning to Zero-Emissions Mobility (ZEM) across the region. It includes planning for EV charging infrastructure and support for emerging mobility options.
- **Transportation and Transit Master Plan**
  The City is currently updating its 2018 Transportation and Transit Master Plan as part of the citywide Plan for 2050 initiative.
- **Implementation of the Official Community Plan**
  Abbotsforward 2050 envisions the development of medium- to high-density urban hubs at locations with access to services and transit.
- **BC Transit**
  The City is continuing to partner and collaborate with BC Transit to ensure transit access that keeps up with population growth.

BIG MOVE 4:

Support Lower-Carbon Transportation

How can we build on this?

There are two primary components of change that drive emissions reductions for vehicles: technology change (e.g. switching to electric vehicles), and behaviour change (e.g. shortening trip length via proximity to resources and services or choosing sustainable and active transportation options).

Electrification is the primary driver of emissions reductions, and the City can encourage leadership by other levels of government supporting charging infrastructure installation across the community. The City also has influence over driving behaviour through our OCP and Transit & Transportation Master Plan.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
4.1	Implement the Fraser Valley Zero Emissions Mobility (FVZEM) Strategy to advance zero-emissions transportation and develop enabling infrastructure.	$$$	ENG	GHG MIT	FVZEM Strategy (2026) OCP Policy 4.4.23 Transportation and Transit Master Plan (2018)
4.2	Revisit the Green Fleet Strategy to advance low carbon municipal fleet and phase out fossil fuel combustion vehicles where possible.	$$$	OPS	GHG MIT	FVZEM Strategy (2026) Transportation and Transit Master Plan (2018) Green Fleet Strategy (2019)
4.3	Support increased use of e-micromobility, car share programs and shared-mobility options.	$$	ENG	GHG MIT	FVZEM Strategy (2026) OCP Policy 4.4.2 OCP Policy 4.4.12 OCP Policy 4.4.14 OCP Policy 4.5.11 Transportation and Transit Master Plan (2018)
4.4	Consider **EV-readiness** for non-residential buildings in upcoming Zoning Bylaw updates.	$	PDS	GHG MIT	OCP Part 6: Development Permit Guidelines OCP Policy 4.4.23

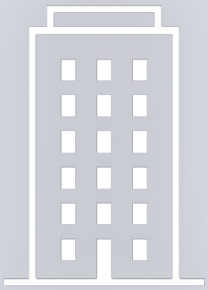
BIG MOVE 4:

Support Lower-Carbon Transportation

Where else can we influence?

To achieve meaningful emissions reductions in this sector, strong policies and leadership from other levels of government will be required. The City has the opportunity to work together with the Province and with key industry members to ensure electrification policies are progressed, and the appropriate infrastructure is in place to support the transition to zero-emissions vehicles.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
4.5	Partner with neighbouring local governments to advocate for rapid transit, improved public transportation, and low-carbon regional mobility.	A&P	ENG	LCR	FVZEM Strategy (2026) OCP Policy 4.4.16 OCP Policy 4.4.18 Transportation and Transit Master Plan (2018)
4.6	Work with BC Transit to create fast and reliable transit; more frequent service, improved infrastructure, transit pass program expansion, transit travel training program.	$$$$	ENG	LCR	FVZEM Strategy (2026) OCP Policy 4.4.16 OCP Policy 4.4.18 Transportation and Transit Master Plan (2018)
4.7	Work with BC Hydro to access incentives for EV-Readiness in existing MURBs.	A&P	ENG	GHG MIT	OCP Part 6: Development Permit Guidelines OCP Policy 4.4.23
4.8	Work with BC Transit to support implementation of the Central Fraser Valley Transit Future Action Plan priorities identified for Abbotsford.	$$	ENG/PDS	LCR	OCP Policy 4.4.18
4.9	Continue working with utilities to understand RNG potential for heavy-duty vehicles.	A&P	ENG	GHG MIT	FVZEM Strategy (2026)
4.10	Advocate to the Province to maintain strong **Zero-Emissions Vehicle (ZEV)** Act sales targets that accelerate the transition to zero-emissions mobility and support broader climate and transportation goals.	A&P	ENG	GHG MIT	Transportation and Transit Master Plan (2018) FVZEM Strategy (2026)



BIG MOVE 5:

Enable Low-Carbon, High-Performance Buildings

BIG MOVE 5:

Enable Low-Carbon, High-Performance Buildings

CLIMATE HAZARDS OF FOCUS	EMISSIONS REDUCTION IMPACT	WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YOU	CO-BENEFITS
EXTREME HEAT POOR AIR QUALITY	HIGH	• Support retrofits and low-carbon buildings • Provide incentives and supports • Consider affordability	• Improved health • New jobs • Energy and fuel savings • Improved liveability • Social equity • Resilient energy

Why this Big Move?

After transportation, building emissions are the second largest contributor to our GHG emissions, accounting for 41% of community emissions. Similarly to transportation, reducing building emissions is essential to meeting our targets. Emission reductions from new buildings will play an important role, particularly as high-efficiency, electrified construction advances under the BC Energy and Zero Carbon Step Codes.

Many of the buildings that will exist in 2050 are already in place today. This indicates a significant opportunity to improve existing buildings through retrofits, including energy upgrades and the transition to electric building systems equipment.

Advancing this work will rely on collaboration with provincial partners, utilities, and industry to support policy development, build capacity, and ensure reliable energy systems are built and maintained that also enable electrification.

In addition to reducing emissions, this Big Move also supports adaptation by looking to make buildings more comfortable, durable and resilient, supporting safer indoor environments and improved performance during extreme weather and other climate events.

BIG MOVE 5:

Enable Low-Carbon, High-Performance Buildings

What are we already doing?

Our OCP encourages densification of new buildings, especially in certain neighbourhoods, which in turn will lead to a reduction in the per capita emissions of each new unit. Currently, Abbotsford is meeting the minimum provincial Energy Step Code requirements (Step 3 for Part 9 buildings and Step 2 for Part 3 buildings). City-owned buildings are also addressed through corporate policy.

- **Civic Green Building Policy** - This bespoke policy is informed by best practices. It provides a guideline and establishes requirements for ensuring new buildings, additions, and major renovations of City-owned facilities are net-zero emissions in operation.
- **Education & Outreach** – Continue supporting the building and development professionals with hands-on and practical workshops and resources that encourage construction of low-carbon and high-performance building.

However, there is more mitigation work that can be done in this sector. Zero Carbon Step Code implementation is a high-impact option for reducing new building emissions and, as mentioned above, advocacy to the Province and collaboration with BC Hydro will be required.

BIG MOVE 5:

Enable Low-Carbon, High-Performance Buildings

How can we build on this?

Municipalities in BC can directly influence emissions in their buildings by encouraging higher density in their OCP and by implementing Energy and Zero Carbon Step Code. We can also work with BC Hydro to improve lead times on electric permits, which will be required to decarbonize the building stock. The actions within this Big Move are intended to support the transition to low-carbon, energy-efficient buildings by leveraging municipal planning tools, encouraging compact and complete communities, improving building performance, supporting electrification, and strengthening collaboration with utilities and development partners.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
5.1	Improve access to cleaner air spaces during poor air quality events by identifying and assessing City-owned facilities suitable for use as clean air refuges, prioritizing indoor air quality improvements (e.g., filtration or air scrubbers), and expanding awareness and hours of operation during smoke events.	$$	OPS/ENG	ADAPT	OCP Part 4.5
5.2	Pilot income-prioritized energy efficiency programs (e.g. Abbotsford Residential Retrofit Program) to reduce energy poverty and improve housing resilience.	$$	ENG	LCR	Development Bylaw
5.3	Integrate climate resilience considerations into municipal building design and development through the Civic Green Building Policy update.	$	PDS/ENG/OPS	ADAPT	OCP Part 3: Land Use OCP Part 6: Development Permit Guidelines Civic Green Buildings Policy Development Bylaw
5.4	Track builder community progress on Energy Step Code and Zero Carbon Step Code developments and leverage successes to support timely implementation.	$	ENG	GHG MIT	OCP Policy 4.3.1

BIG MOVE 5:

Enable Low-Carbon, High-Performance Buildings

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
5.5	Review building development and permitting process and zoning-bylaws to streamline building applications and reduce barriers to electrification.	$$	PDS	LCR	OCP Policy 4.6.11 OCP Part 6: Development Permit Guidelines
5.6	Pursue pilot program opportunities and share resources to support deep energy retrofits in existing buildings, including agricultural buildings.	$$	ENG	GHG MIT	OCP Part 3: Land Use OCP Part 6: Development Permit Guidelines Development Bylaw

Where else can we influence?

Electrification will be required to achieve our emissions reductions targets for buildings. As with transportation, senior level government policy is required here, specifically through Zero Carbon Step Code and the Highest Efficiency Equipment Standard. Ongoing advocacy to ensure strong implementation of these policies is paramount. Moreover, there is a lot of room for industry capacity and education building via, for example, retrofit accelerator and mandatory reporting programs. Where possible, the City can also help to connect building owners with decarbonization incentives.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
5.7	Support improved indoor air quality in existing residential buildings, particularly for vulnerable populations, through coordination with partners and programs (e.g. providing access to supplies and equipment such as replacement filters and DIY air cleaners).	$$	ENG/ISIR	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.13
5.8	Improve access to safe indoor temperatures in existing buildings, particularly for low-income households and renters, by supporting retrofits and equipment installations through partnerships and incentive programs (e.g., air conditioning, heat pumps) and supporting ongoing Right-to-Cool advocacy efforts.	$$$	ENG/PDS	LCR	Extreme Weather Response Plan

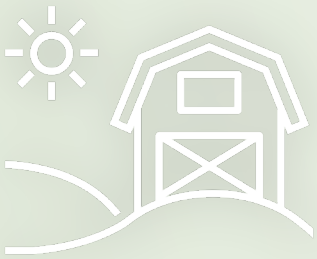
BIG MOVE 5:

Enable Low-Carbon, High-Performance Buildings

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
5.9	Advance programs, resources, and partnerships to support building electrification, resilience and equipment efficiency (e.g. pilot youth climate corps program).	$$	ENG/PDS	GHG MIT	OCP Policy 4.6.11 OCP Part 6: Development Permit Guidelines Development Bylaw
5.10	Identify and support solutions to enhance electrical capacity and load management in condominium and apartment buildings.	$$	ENG	LCR	OCP Policy 4.6.11 OCP Part 6: Development Permit Guidelines Development Bylaw
5.11	Advocate to provincial government to support early implementation of high-efficiency standards for building heating and cooling systems and explore timeline for municipal adoption.	A&P	ENG	ADAPT	OCP Part 6 Development Bylaw
5.12	Advocate to higher levels of government, and partners for new or renewed programs, incentives, rebates and financing tools for home and building owners to make low-carbon resilient building upgrades (e.g. PACE financing, Greener Homes Grant).	A&P	ENG	LCR	OCP Policy 4.6.11 OCP Part 6: Development Permit Guidelines Development Bylaw
5.13	Collaborate with utilities to identify opportunity or constraint areas for building electrification, ensure electrical grid resiliency, and energy efficient heating and cooling (e.g. heat pumps) and to access incentives and support for low-income households.	$$	ENG	LCR	OCP Policy 4.6.11 OCP Part 6: Development Permit Guidelines Development Bylaw

BIG MOVE 5:

Enable Low-Carbon, High-Performance Buildings



BIG MOVE 6:

Foster Climate-Resilient Agriculture & Food Systems


I ECOFARM

BIG MOVE 6:

Foster Climate-Resilient Agriculture & Food Systems

CLIMATE HAZARDS OF FOCUS	EMISSIONS REDUCTION IMPACT	WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YOU	CO-BENEFITS
EXTREME HEAT FLOODING DROUGHT WILDFIRE	GHG LOW	• Support farmers • Facilitate collaboration • Build a resilient local food system • Protect loss of ALR • Support soil healt	• Improved health • Social equity • Improved livability • Energy and fuel savings • Resilient energy • New jobs • Enhanced natural areas • Improved air quality

Why this Big Move?

Agriculture is a defining part of Abbotsford's identity, economy, and landscape. Home to one of Canada's most productive agricultural regions, Abbotsford plays an important role in food production and has a blooming wine industry[18]. The agricultural sector also supports jobs, contributes significantly to the local economy, and helps shape the character of the community.

At the same time, climate change is already affecting agricultural operations across British Columbia, highlighting the need to build long-term resilience within the sector[19]. These hazards can affect crop yields, livestock health, water availability, soil health, farm infrastructure, transportation networks, and operations. Many of these risks are expected to increase over time, creating additional challenges for livestock farmers, and producers and increasing uncertainty within the agricultural sector – despite the necessity of goods and service to our daily life and well-being.

This Big Move focuses on strengthening the resilience of Abbotsford's agricultural sector and food systems while supporting opportunities to reduce emissions and improve long-term sustainability.This Big Move also recognizes the critical responsibility the Province of BC has in this sector through establishing regulation and legislation coupled with leading implementation and monitoring. There are several opportunities for the City to continue working with other levels of government on improving agricultural resilience, while understanding that for many aspects, the City primarily supports the direction set by the Province.

17. City of Abbotsford. (2011). Agriculture Strategy
18. Province of British Columbia. (2022). Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy

BIG MOVE 6:

Foster Climate-Resilient Agriculture & Food Systems

This includes:

- Supporting flood, drought, heat, and wildfire preparedness
- Strengthening water security and groundwater management
- Improving agricultural infrastructure
- Supporting local food systems
- Exploring opportunities for agricultural innovation, renewable energy, and low-carbon farming practices

By supporting farmers, protecting agricultural resources, and investing in climate resilience today, Abbotsford can continue to help nurture our community well-being by ensuring a strong, productive, and resilient agricultural sector for future generations.

What are we already doing?

Agriculture is a priority in Abbotsford, and many existing plans, programs, and investments already contribute to climate resilience within the sector. These efforts help support the long-term viability of agriculture in our community. Current efforts include:

- **Flood Protection & Drainage Infrastructure:** Existing flood mitigation infrastructure, drainage systems, pump stations, and flood response measures help reduce flood risk and support agricultural production across Sumas Prairie and Matsqui Prairie.
- **Groundwater & Water Resource Management:** Implementation of the Groundwater Management Strategy, groundwater monitoring, and water conservation initiatives help protect the Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer and support sustainable groundwater use across the region.
- **Agricultural Environmental Stewardship:** Ongoing advocacy for riparian restoration, water quality monitoring, groundwater protection, and environmental stewardship initiatives help support healthy ecosystems, water quality, and agricultural lands.
- **Agricultural Planning & Collaboration:** Existing agricultural planning initiatives and collaboration with farmers, agricultural organizations, First Nations, and other levels of government help support the long-term sustainability and resilience of Abbotsford's agricultural community.

While acknowledging efforts to build resilience to date, we recognize that additional efforts are needed to nourish a resilient agriculture sector for future generations.

BIG MOVE 6:

Foster Climate-Resilient Agriculture & Food Systems

How can we build on this?

The following actions identify practical steps the City can take to strengthen agricultural resilience, support local food systems, protect natural resources, and reduce GHG emissions.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
6.1	Continue implementing the Groundwater Management Strategy to support the health of the Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer, through source protection.	$$	ENG	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.9OCP Policy 4.6.12 OCP Policy 4.6.14 Joint Abbotsford Mission Water Master Plan (2018) Groundwater Management Strategy
6.2	Develop an Irrigation Plan including agriculture community consultation to support long-term agricultural water resilience, including drought response, irrigation conveyance, and water demand management.	$$	ENG	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.7.9 Abbotsford Drainage Master Plan (2018)
6.3	Consider pathways to enable agrivoltaic systems on agricultural land and greenhouse roofs (e.g. through policies in the OCP and zoning regulations).	$	ENG/PDS	GHG MIT	OCP Policy 4.7.6
6.4	Conduct further research and engagement to assess the following decarbonization options in more detail: biogas, **carbon sequestration** of soils, decarbonization of greenhouses, solar for big barns and equipment electrification. Focus on incentivization, education, coordination and supportive bylaw frameworks, as opposed to regulation.	$$	ENG	GHG MIT	OCP Policy 4.7.6 OCP Policy 4.7.9
6.5	Consider studies on waste diversion potential for the agricultural sector.	$	ENG	GHG MIT	OCP Policy 4.6.17 OCP Policy 4.7.9

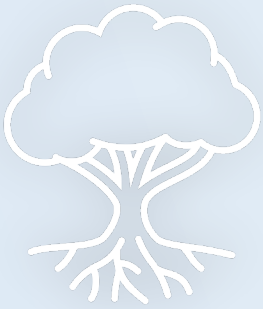
BIG MOVE 6:

Foster Climate-Resilient Agriculture & Food Systems

Where else can we influence?

Many factors affecting the agricultural sector extend beyond our direct control. The following actions identify opportunities for the City to collaborate, advocate, and work with governments (provincial and federal) partners to support agricultural resilience, innovation, and emissions reductions.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
6.6	Continue provincial advocacy efforts to improve water quality and quantity, and soil health through **riparian** restoration, agricultural best practices, and waterway monitoring.	A&P	PDS/ENG	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.12 OCP Policy 4.7.3 Abbotsford Drainage Master Plan (2018)
6.7	Support agricultural flood resilience and recovery by working with farmers and partners to strengthen flood preparedness, coordinate drainage and irrigation recovery, improve communication in flood-prone agricultural areas, and advocate for provincial and federal funding to reduce long-term impacts to crops, livestock, soils, and farm businesses.	$$	ENG/OPS	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.8 OCP Policy 4.6.18 OCP Policy 4.7.3
6.8	Support community food systems resilience, including access to local food production through expanding or increasing community gardens and urban agriculture sites in partnership with community organizations. Assess opportunities on underutilized parkland.	$$	PRC/PDS	LCR	OCP Policy 4.7.14 OCP Policy 4.7.17 OCP Policy 4.7.18 Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan (2018)
6.9	Advocate to senior levels of government to further invest in drainage infrastructure improvements in Matsqui Prairie and Sumas Prairie to reduce flood risk for residents during extreme rainfall and flooding events.	A&P	ENG	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.8 OCP Policy 4.6.18 OCP Policy 4.7.3



BIG MOVE 7:

Protect and Enhance Natural Systems


Anvil

BIG MOVE 7:

Protect and Enhance Natural Systems

CLIMATE HAZARDS OF FOCUS	EMISSIONS REDUCTION IMPACT	WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YOU	CO-BENEFITS
FLOODING EXTREME HEAT WIND & STORM LANDSLIDE	GHG MODERATE	• Preserve trees and green spaces • Preserve wetlands, riparian areas and sensitive ecosystems • Support biodiversity • Steward and protect natural assets • Support pollinators (bees, butterflies, and birds)	• Enhanced natural areas • More trees and green space • Improved air quality • Improved health, • Improved liveability • New jobs

Why this Big Move?

Natural systems are some of Abbotsford's most valuable assets. Forests, streams, wetlands, riparian areas, and other natural features support biodiversity, improve environmental health, and make our community more liveable. They also provide a wide range of services that benefit people, infrastructure, and the economy. In addition to these environmental benefits, access to nature contributes to physical and mental well-being by reducing stress, supporting social connection, encouraging active lifestyles, and improving overall quality of life. Protecting and enhancing natural areas can therefore strengthen both community resilience and public health.

Healthy natural systems play an important role in helping communities adapt to climate change. Trees and vegetation provide shade and cooling during extreme heat events while wetlands, floodplains, and riparian areas help absorb and slow floodwaters, reduce erosion, improve water quality, and strengthen watershed function[20]. Natural areas can also improve drought resilience, stabilize streambanks and slopes, and provide refuge habitat for fish and wildlife.

Natural systems help reduce GHG emissions by storing carbon. Protecting and enhancing forests, soils, wetlands, and other natural assets helps remove carbon from the air while delivering a wide range of additional benefits. These types of actions are a strong example of a low-carbon resilience approach, where a single investment can contribute to climate resilience, emissions reduction, biodiversity, and community well-being at the same time.

This Big Move focuses on protecting and enhancing Abbotsford's natural systems and assets.

19. City of Abbotsford. (2021). Towards natural asset management in the City of Abbotsford

BIG MOVE 7:

Protect and Enhance Natural Systems

This work includes:

- Expanding and maintaining the trees, green spaces and canopy cover
- Restoring wetland habitats and riparian areas
- Supporting biodiversity and ecosystem connectivity
- Integrating nature-based solutions into watershed management and flood mitigation
- Encouraging stewardship across the community

What are we already doing?

We already have a range of plans, programs, and initiatives in place that help protect and enhance natural systems across our community. These efforts support biodiversity, improve environmental health, and help maintain the natural assets that provide important benefits to residents. Current efforts include:

- **Urban Forest Management:** Implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy and ongoing tree planting, maintenance, and urban forest management activities that help expand canopy cover and reduce urban heat island impacts.
- **Natural Asset Management:** Ongoing work to identify, inventory, and better manage natural assets such as forests, wetlands, riparian areas, and watercourses, through initiatives such as Towards Natural Asset Management in the City of Abbotsford.
- **Watershed, Riparian & Environmental Stewardship:** Existing watershed planning, riparian protection, environmental stewardship, and water quality initiatives that help support healthy ecosystems, improve watershed function, and protect fish and wildlife habitat.
- **Invasive Species & Habitat Management:** Ongoing efforts to monitor and manage invasive species, maintain ecological health, and protect natural areas and habitats throughout the community.

BIG MOVE 7:

Protect and Enhance Natural Systems

How can we build on this?

The following actions focus on protecting and enhancing natural systems to improve climate resilience, reduce GHG emissions, and improve environmental health across the community.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
7.1	Increase tree canopy and promote green street approaches along active transportation routes to provide shade and improve comfort and safety for users.	$$$	OPS/PRC	LCR	OCP Policy 4.6.1 OCP Policy 4.6.2 OCP Policy 4.6.3 OCP Policy 4.5.11 Urban Forest Strategy (2021) Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan (2018)
7.2	Strengthen implementation of management practices identified in the Urban Forest Management Strategy to grow and maintain Abbotsford's urban forest by leveraging the registry of natural assets from the Towards Natural Asset Management in the City of Abbotsford report.	$$	OPS/PRC	LCR	OCP Policy 4.6.1 OCP Policy 4.6.3 Urban Forest Strategy (2021) Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan (2018)
7.3	Expand natural asset and ecosystem management to support climate resilience and reduce hazard impacts through nature-based solutions, watershed-scale water management, riparian and habitat restoration, soil health improvement, invasive species management, xeriscaping, and stewardship-based planning and management approaches.	$$$	OPS/PRC	LCR	OCP Policy 4.6.1 OCP Policy 4.6.2 OCP Policy 4.6.3 Urban Forest Strategy (2021) Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan (2018)

BIG MOVE 7:

Protect and Enhance Natural Systems

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
7.4	Strengthen water conservation and drought response through public communications (e.g. "Go for Gold" messaging), water use bylaws, metering, incentives, and programs supporting water-efficient practices, appliances, rainwater collection, and greywater.	$$	ENG/ISIR	 ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.14 Joint Abbotsford Mission Water Master Plan (2018)
7.5	Develop Off-Road Strategy to create connected green spaces by linking private and public lands.	$$	PRC	 LCR	OCP Policy 4.6.1 OCP Policy 4.6.3 Urban Forest Strategy (2021) Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan (2018)
7.6	Implement Branch Out Abbotsford to support the community in planting trees and using natural solutions on their property, including on farms and in rural areas.	$$$	PRC	 LCR	OCP Policy 4.6.1 OCP Policy 4.6.3 Urban Forest Strategy (2021) Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan (2018)

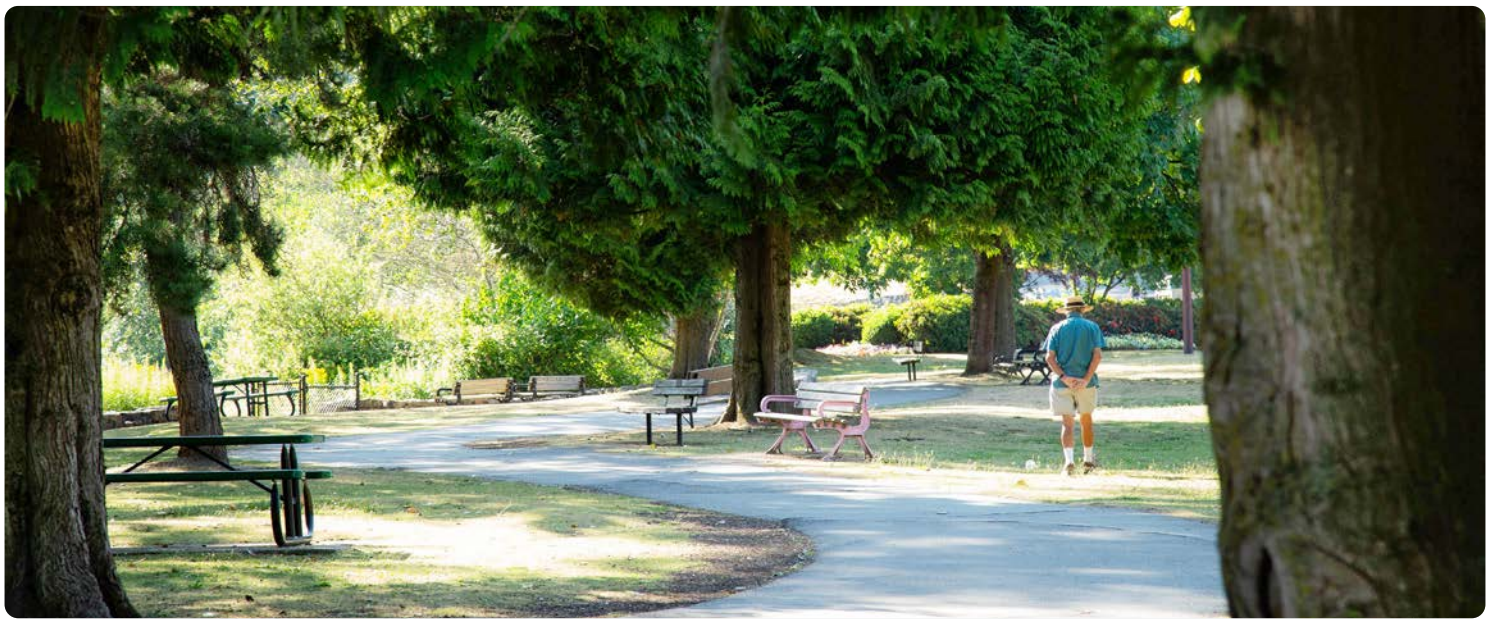
BIG MOVE 7:

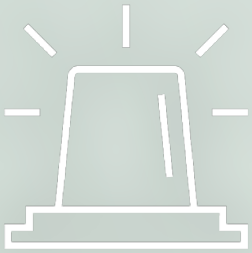
Protect and Enhance Natural Systems

Where else can we influence?

Protecting and enhancing natural systems often requires coordinated action across watersheds, ecosystems, and jurisdictions. The following actions identify opportunities for the City to collaborate, advocate, and work with others to advance nature-based solutions, watershed health, and ecosystem resilience.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
7.7	Consider integrating nature-based approaches into flood mitigation at the watershed scale and working with regional partners to advance watershed-scale planning that considers upstream land use, cumulative effects, and transboundary impacts on flooding, water quality, and ecosystem health, consistent with the BC Flood Strategy.	$$	ENG	LCR	OCP Policy 4.6.18
7.8	Work with the FVRD and partners to support biodiversity and ecosystem resilience by continuing to track and manage invasive species, monitoring ecological change, and identifying opportunities to protect and restore native habitats.	$$	OPS	LCR	OCP Policy 4.6.1 Urban Forest Strategy (2021) Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan (2018)





BIG MOVE 8:

Strengthen Emergency Management for a Changing Climate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BIG MOVE 8:

Strengthen Emergency Management for a Changing Climate

CLIMATE HAZARDS OF FOCUS	EMISSIONS REDUCTION IMPACT	WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YOU	CO-BENEFITS
WILDFIRE MANY HAZARDS ADDRESSED	LOW	• Enhance community preparedness • Collaborate with First Nations • Provide social supports during emergencies	• Improved health • Improved liveability • New jobs

Why this Big Move?

Emergency management plays a critical role in helping communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related events. As climate change increases the frequency and severity of hazards such as flooding, extreme heat, wildfire, high winds, and landslides, emergency management systems must continue to adapt to these growing risks.

Recent events have demonstrated that climate hazards can create complex and cascading impacts across our community[21]. These events impact transportation networks, utilities, communications systems, emergency services, and critical infrastructure at the same time. In some cases, hazards occur simultaneously or in close succession, placing additional demands on staff, resources, and response systems. These types of events require strong coordination, clear communication, and the ability to respond effectively across City departments and partner organizations.

This Big Move focuses on enhancing the City's emergency management systems and capabilities to support a coordinated, proactive, and climate-ready approach to emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. This includes strengthening cross-departmental coordination, refining emergency plans and bylaws, improving wildfire preparedness, enhancing planning for complex, multi-hazard events, and ensuring the City has the capacity and resources needed to respond to future challenges. These efforts will complement ongoing emergency management planning and help strengthen the City's overall preparedness and response capabilities.

20. Global News. (2025). 'Really challenging issue': Many B.C. communities still at high risk for flooding

BIG MOVE 8:

Strengthen Emergency Management for a Changing Climate

What are we already doing?

Abbotsford already has a strong foundation of emergency management planning, response capabilities, and partnerships that help prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. These efforts support coordination across departments and organizations, improve preparedness for both climate and non-climate hazards, and help protect residents, businesses, and critical infrastructure during major events. Current efforts include:

- **Emergency Planning & Response:** Existing emergency plans, Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) procedures, hazard-specific response plans, evacuation planning, and emergency notification systems help support coordinated response during flooding, extreme heat, and other climate-related events.
- **Training, Exercises & Partnerships:** Regular emergency exercises, staff training, mutual aid agreements, and collaboration with neighbouring jurisdictions, First Nations, provincial agencies, and emergency management partners help strengthen emergency preparedness and response capabilities.
- **Monitoring & Early Warning:** Ongoing monitoring of weather conditions, river systems, streamflows, slopes, and other hazard indicators helps support early warning, preparedness, and emergency response activities.

BIG MOVE 8:

Strengthen Emergency Management for a Changing Climate

How can we build on this?

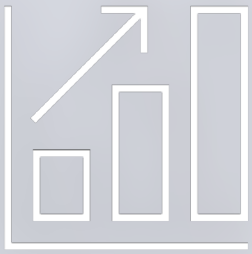
The following actions focus on strengthening the City's emergency management systems, coordination, and organizational capacity to support effective preparedness, response, and recovery before, during, and after climate events.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
8.1	Strengthen coordination and information sharing across departments and external partners during complex multi-hazard events by defining clear roles, communication channels, escalation procedures, and maintaining mutual aid agreements.	$	FRS	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.10 Disaster Response Plan
8.2	Strengthen cross-departmental coordination to support implementation of the Emergency Management Plan and Response Guidelines and related climate hazard preparedness and response activities.	$	FRS	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.10 Disaster Response Plan
8.3	Refine a coordinated approach to wildfire preparedness and response, including evacuation planning, public alerting, and collaboration with BC Wildfire Service and local partners, including co-developed preparedness and response approaches.	$$	FRS	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.10 Disaster Response Plan
8.4	Enhance planning for prolonged and overlapping emergency response and recovery by integrating multi-hazard scenarios into planning and exercises, and strengthening coordination, staffing, and resource planning across departments and external partners.	$$	FRS	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.10 Disaster Response Plan
8.5	Develop a new Emergency Management Bylaw.	$	FRS	ADAPT	Disaster Response Plan

BIG MOVE 8:

Strengthen Emergency Management for a Changing Climate

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
8.6	Enhance disaster debris management planning in the Extreme Weather Response Plan or develop a new Disaster Debris Management Plan.	$$	ENG/OPS	ADAPT	Extreme Weather Response Plan
8.7	Strengthen subdivision and development requirements to improve access and evacuation by requiring multiple access and evacuation routes in new developments.	$	PDS/FRS	ADAPT	OCP Part 3: Land Use OCP Part 6: Development Permit Guidelines Development Bylaw
8.8	Explore opportunities to strengthen organizational capacity for corporate emergency management and climate hazard preparedness, including consideration of additional City resource needs aligned with Council priorities and budget processes.	$$	FRS	ADAPT	OCP Policy 4.6.10 Disaster Response Plan



BIG MOVE 9:

Enable Implementation Through City Leadership

BIG MOVE 9:

Enable Implementation Through City Leadership

CLIMATE HAZARDS OF FOCUS	EMISSIONS REDUCTION IMPACT	WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YOU	CO-BENEFITS
EXTREME HEAT WILDFIRE FLOODING	LOW	• Raise community awareness of climate resilience • Transparently track progress over time • Collaborate across jurisdictions	• Improved health • Improved liveability • Social equity • New jobs

Why this Big Move?

Successfully implementing our Strategy will require more than individual projects and actions. It will involve strong leadership, coordination, partnerships, and accountability to ensure climate considerations are integrated into decision-making across the organization and sustained over time. Climate change affects nearly every aspect of City operations, from infrastructure planning and emergency management to transportation, natural systems, economic development, and community services. As a result, responding effectively to climate change requires collaboration across departments, alignment between plans and policies, and ongoing coordination with other governments, First Nations, utilities, and community partners.

At the same time, implementing climate action requires resources, staff capacity, and long-term investment. Establishing clear responsibilities, securing funding, tracking progress, and regularly reviewing policies and programs can help ensure climate action remains effective, transparent, and responsive to changing conditions. Strong governance and organizational capacity also help position the City to take advantage of emerging opportunities, partnerships, and funding programs.

This Big Move focuses on enhancing the organizational foundation needed to support long-term implementation of our Strategy.

BIG MOVE 9:

Enable Implementation Through City Leadership

What are we already doing?

Implementing climate action requires coordination, planning, and ongoing investment across many areas of City operations. Abbotsford already has a range of plans, processes, partnerships, and organizational practices in place that advance climate action and resilience. Current efforts include:

- **Strategic Planning & Policy Direction:** Climate action is embedded within key guiding documents such as Council's Strategic Plan and OCP. These plans help establish a foundation for climate action across departments and initiatives.
- **Cross-Departmental Collaboration:** Climate action is already being advanced through collaboration between departments. Development of this Strategy, the HRVA, emergency management planning, master planning, and other initiatives have involved ongoing coordination between departments.
- **Regional & Intergovernmental Partnerships:** The City continues to work with First Nations, neighbouring local governments, regional organizations, utilities, provincial agencies, and U.S. partners on issues related to flooding, transportation, watershed management, and emergency management.

BIG MOVE 9:

Enable Implementation Through City Leadership

How can we build on this?

The following actions focus on strengthening the internal systems, resources, and coordination needed to support long-term climate action and resilience across the organization.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
9.1	Identify and regularly review climate-related municipal policies, regulations, standards, and incentive programs to maintain effective climate actions.	$	Many	LCR	2022-2026 Strategic Plan: Sustainable & Safe City
9.2	Establish an interdepartmental committee to strengthen corporate-wide collaboration and coordination, and to support integrated climate action implementation.	$	ENG	LCR	2022-2026 Strategic Plan: Sustainable & Safe City
9.3	Identify and pursue sustainable funding sources and financing mechanisms to support Climate Resilience Strategy implementation.	$	Many	LCR	2022-2026 Strategic Plan: Sustainable & Safe City
9.4	Track action implementation progress, monitor outcomes, and provide regular public reporting to support transparency and accountability.	$	ENG	LCR	2022-2026 Strategic Plan: Organizational Excellence & Integrity
9.5	Review procurement policy to maintain focus on material selection and whole life carbon in procurement for infrastructure and capital projects.	$	FIN	GHG MIT	2022-2026 Strategic Plan: Sustainable & Safe City
9.6	Review City resource needs for climate action and resilience in alignment with Council priorities and budget processes.	$$$	ENG	LCR	2022-2026 Strategic Plan: Organizational Excellence & Integrity
9.7	Develop public-facing hazard map resources to increase awareness and understanding of local climate and non-climate hazards in the community.	$$	ENG/FRS	ADAPT	2022-2026 Strategic Plan: Sustainable & Safe City

BIG MOVE 9:

Enable Implementation Through City Leadership

Where else can we influence?

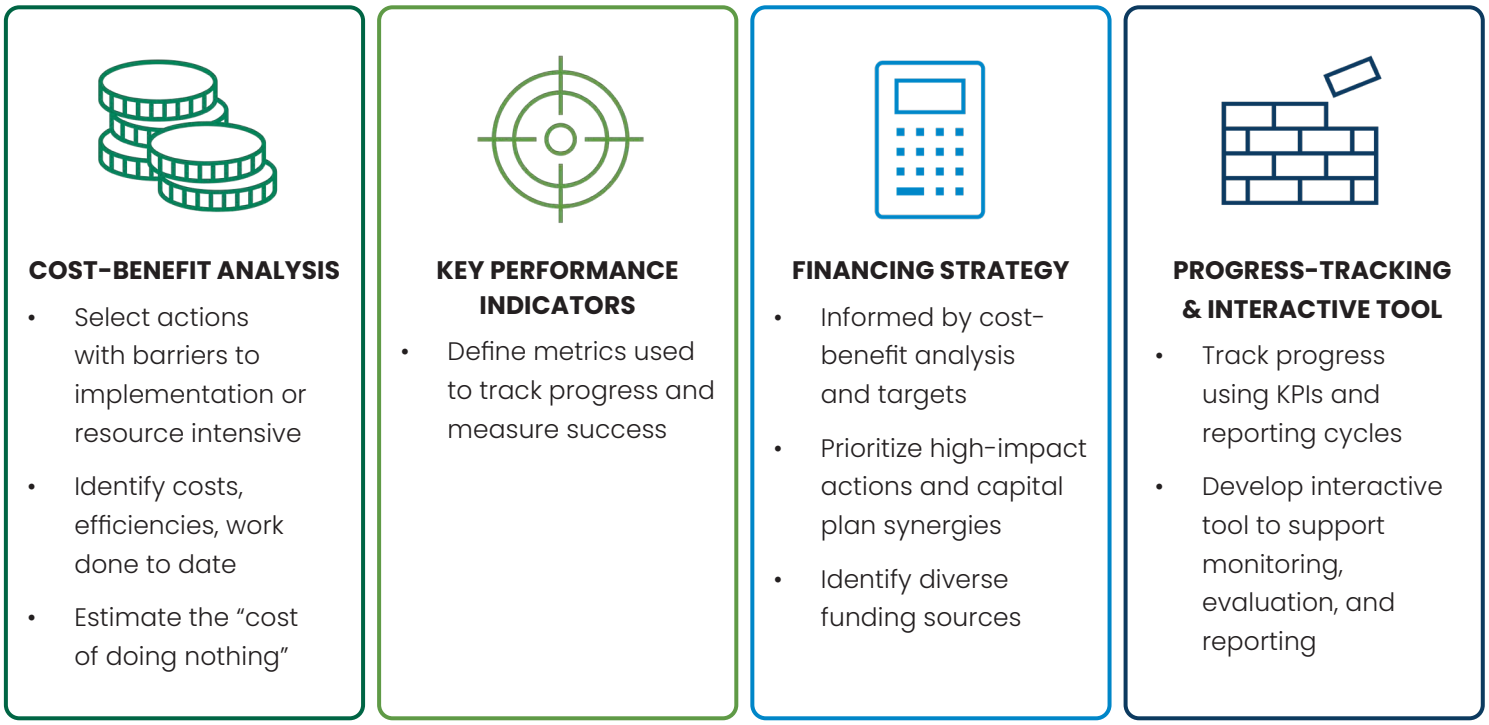
Successfully implementing our Strategy will also require strong partnerships and collaboration beyond the City. The following action identifies opportunities to work with others to advance climate action and address shared challenges.

#	ACTION	RESOURCE INTENSITY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FOCUS	POLICY SUPPORTS
9.8	Strengthen intergovernmental and regional partnerships, including collaboration with cross-border governments, neighbouring local governments, First Nations, utilities, and regional agencies to address shared climate risks.	A&P	Many	LCR	2022-2026 Strategic Plan: Inclusive & Connected Community

5. IMPLEMENTING OUR STRATEGY

Translating strategy into action requires a plan for implementation. Our implementation planning process involves four key elements (see Figure 24) to ensure that actions are advanced on the desired timeline (see Figure 25), at the appropriate pace and scale, involving the right people and organizations, and leveraging the most value out of the funds dedicated to moving climate resilience forward. As momentum builds, we are committed to keeping our eye on realizing the results intended, while also tracking progress, celebrating successes and sharing challenges with the community.

Figure 24. Building blocks of our implementation planning.



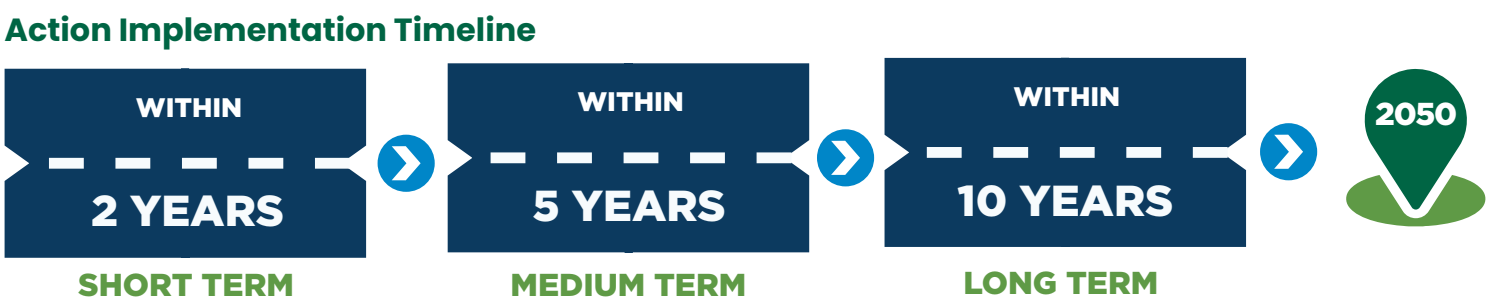
5.1 IMPLEMENTATION PRINCIPLES

To support successful implementation in alignment with our 2050 OCP horizon and associated GHG emissions reduction targets, while also reflecting the Strategy's themes, staff will define a set of principles as part of implementation planning.

Once principles are determined, we will consider tools and leverage points we can control or influence:

- Alignment with existing Council endorsed plans i.e. OCP, Urban Forest Management Strategy, FVRD Active Transportation Network Plan, etc.
- Utilizing existing policies and programs
- Leveraging existing financing and funding mechanisms
- Accessing available resources, including department and staff leads
- Advocating and/or asking for policy changes to all levels of government
- Advocating and/or asking for changes to financial mechanisms / levers
- Fostering collaborative partnerships

Figure 25. Our Strategy's action implementation timeline in alignment with our OCP (Abbotsforward 2050)



5.2 COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

To refine our implementation process, we will complete a cost-benefit analysis. The analysis will focus on a select group of priority policies, with a subset of actions identified for detailed assessment. Staff responsible for policy implementation will be involved to guide and inform the cost-benefit analysis approach and results through an iterative process.

Staff will consider actions undertaken to date, barriers to implementation, anticipated resource and funding needs, expected delivery timeframes, and opportunities to achieve efficiencies through alignment with other initiatives.

A qualitative assessment of the costs, benefits, and risks associated with implementation will be generated, including consideration for the potential consequences of maintaining the status quo, as well as implications of delayed or incomplete implementation. Staff will validate assumptions, identify common themes, and explore opportunities for coordination and efficiency. These insights will then be incorporated into the final assessment, which will provide a consolidated view of implementation costs, organizational capacity requirements, expected benefits, potential efficiencies, and the risks associated with inaction.

5.3 COST OF INACTION

The costs of climate-related hazards are expected to increase as extreme weather events become more frequent and severe. While implementing resilience measures requires upfront investment, evidence consistently demonstrates that proactive action is more cost-effective than responding to impacts after they occur. Studies have found that every dollar invested on disaster mitigation and adaptation measures today can save $15 in future response, recovery, and replacement costs, highlighting the value of investing in preparedness today to reduce future financial risks[21].

Our HRVA further demonstrates the scale of potential exposure within the community. Analysis identified approximately $1.6 billion in insured City assets exposed to flooding hazards, $2.1 billion exposed to wildfire hazards, and more than $700 million exposed to landslide hazards. These figures reflect only significant City-owned infrastructure and facilities and do not include residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, or other privately owned assets within the community. This indicates that the cost to our community, beyond city-insured assets, would be far greater.

While exposure does not equate to direct losses, the findings illustrate the magnitude of assets that could be affected by climate-related hazards and underscore the importance of investing in risk reduction and long-term resilience. The broader economic and social costs to the community—including damage to homes and businesses, service disruptions, impacts to public health and safety, environmental degradation, loss of culture and recovery costs—would be substantially greater than the municipal asset values alone. Investing in resilience to climate change today can help reduce future costs, protect critical infrastructure and community services, and improve the City's ability to withstand and recover from climate-related events. As a result, implementation of our Strategy needs to be viewed not only as an environmental and social initiative, but also as a prudent risk management and financial stewardship approach that helps avoid larger costs and disruptions in the future.

A CLOSER LOOK AT: THE COST OF INACTION

The Canadian Climate Institute estimates that climate-related impacts are already reducing Canada's economic growth by approximately $25 billion annually, equivalent to roughly half a year's projected GDP growth. Without adaptation, these costs are expected to increase over coming decades, potentially reaching $80–$100 billion annually by the 2050s.

Being proactive today can significantly reduce future damages, with every dollar invested in resilience estimated to generate $13–$15 in benefits through avoided losses and broader economic gains[21].

Recent findings from Statistics Canada show that extreme weather is driving higher insurance claims and increasing financial risk for communities. Annual insured losses reached $3.4 billion in 2022 and a staggering $9.4 billion in 2024. The Insurance Bureau of Canada[22] is urging all levels of government to proactively reduce risk through measures such as resilient infrastructure, stronger building standards, and risk-informed land use planning - approaches that are reflected throughout our Strategy.

21. Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan – Minister's Forward (2024).
22. Insurance Bureau of Canada. (2026). New Statistics Canada report confirms extreme weather reshaping Canada's home insurance market.

5.4 FINANCING OUR STRATEGY

The proposed financing approach for our Strategy is grounded with recognition that proactive investment in resilience is more effective and economical than responding to climate impacts after they occur. As climate-related risks increase, strategic investments today can help reduce future costs, protect municipal assets and services, and strengthen long-term community resilience. Financing decisions will be consistent with Implementation Principles and guided by an equity-centred, evidence-based, and fiscally responsible approach that seeks to maximize resilience benefits while making effective use of available resources.

Implementation will be integrated into existing municipal processes wherever possible, including capital planning, asset management, infrastructure renewal, and departmental work plans. Aligning climate resilience actions with planned projects and Council-endorsed strategies will help maximize efficiencies, leverage existing resources, and embed resilience considerations into routine decision-making.

As outlined above, to support prioritization and investment decisions, a cost-benefit analysis will be undertaken for select actions. These findings will help identify actions that provide the greatest overall value and inform implementation sequencing, budget planning, funding applications, and future Council decision-making.

Recognizing that implementation will occur over many years, actions will be phased based on priority level, readiness, available resources, co-benefits and opportunities to coordinate with planned capital and operational projects. This phased approach will provide flexibility while allowing the City to make steady progress toward its resilience objectives.

A diversified funding approach will be pursued to support implementation. In addition to City-derived funding sources, we will seek opportunities to leverage government grants, development-related growth funding, partnerships, joint-funding applications with partners, and other funding programs. Where appropriate, we may also advocate for policy change and funding mechanisms that support local climate resilience initiatives.

To support future decision-making, a high-level financing strategy will be developed that identifies anticipated resource requirements and relative costs of Climate Resilience Strategy actions. The financing strategy will provide Council with implementation scenarios and funding considerations to support budgeting, project prioritization, and long-term financial planning.

Through this approach, we can advance climate resilience actions in a strategic and fiscally responsible manner while remaining responsive to evolving risks, opportunities, and funding availability.

5.5 WORKING TOGETHER: ENABLING ACTION ACROSS OUR STRATEGY

Building climate resilience will require collaboration across municipal departments, community organizations, regional partners, businesses, and residents. While our Strategy identifies a series of Big Moves, several cross-cutting areas of focus can help enable progress across the entire Strategy.

Education and awareness initiatives can help residents and organizations better understand climate risks, build preparedness, and support informed decision-making.

Continued public engagement will ensure implementation remains responsive to community needs while fostering shared ownership of resilience actions.

Partnerships with neighbouring local governments, First Nations, regional agencies, community organizations, and other interest holders will be essential to align efforts, share knowledge, leverage resources, and pursue funding opportunities.

Together, these enabling areas of focus can strengthen collaboration, build community capacity, and support coordinated implementation across the Climate Resilience Strategy.

5.6 MEASURING SUCCESS

To measure progress and track implementation of our Strategy, a set of indicators and targets will be developed as part of the Implementation Plan. These indicators are intended to provide a data-driven and practical way to monitor and evaluate progress over time and, where possible, align with indicators and targets from other City plans, such as the OCP. A list of potential indicators is provided in Figure 26 as a starting point. The final list of indicators and targets will be refined by staff to ensure they are aligned with feasible or existing data collection efforts.

Tracking progress is only valuable if the results are shared transparently and straightforwardly. The final indicators (and associated targets) will support regular reporting, highlight successes, and identify where additional effort may be needed. By sharing progress over time, the City can build awareness of climate action, celebrate achievements, encourage continued community participation, positioning ourselves as leaders in advancing a more low-carbon and resilient Abbotsford.

Climate science, GHG emissions data, and our understanding of local climate risks will continue to evolve over time. To ensure the Climate Resilience Strategy remains relevant and impactful, we will aim review and update on a five–year cycle, ideally aligning with updates to the City's Master Plan, OCP, or the release of future IPCC assessment reports. This timing will help ensure the Strategy reflects the latest body of climate change knowledge, emerging best practices, and changing local priorities and conditions.

Figure 26. List of indicators to be considered for monitoring and evaluating progress on implementation over time.

BIG MOVE	POTENTIAL INDICATOR
1	% of residents within x proximity of cooling centres
	% of residents reporting preparedness measures for climate-related hazard events
2	% of businesses/farms reporting preparedness measures for climate-related hazard events
	% waste diverted from the landfill
3	% of trips made by walking, cycling, and transit
	# of public EV charging stations
4	# of homes supported through energy efficiency, cooling, air quality, or electrification programs
	# of new buildings achieving or exceeding Step Code standards
5	# of community garden plots
	% tree canopy cover (excluding agricultural land)
6	# trees planted citywide
7	% tree canopy cover (excluding agricultural land)
	# trees planted citywide
8	# of multi-departmental climate hazard preparedness exercises, workshops, or training sessions conducted annually
	# staff/community members participating in multi-agency wildfire preparedness, response, or evacuation exercises
9	# of relevant City policies, standards, and master plans reviewed and updated using a climate lens
	$ in funding sources, mechanisms, and levers acquired to support Strategy action implementation

6. CONCLUSION

Abbotsford has a history as a community that adapts, innovates, and comes together to respond to change. As climate risks continue to evolve and the transition to a lower-carbon future accelerates, there is an opportunity to make investments and decisions today that strengthen resilience, reduce emissions, and support a healthy, sustainable, and thriving community for generations to come.

Our Strategy builds on the strong foundation of plans, policies, programs, and investments already underway across the City. Rather than starting from scratch, it identifies opportunities to strengthen and expand existing efforts while focusing on areas where the City can have the greatest impact through its direct control and influence. The nine Big Moves provide a practical roadmap for advancing a low-carbon resilience approach to climate action by reducing GHG emissions, preparing for climate impacts, and supporting many other community priorities at the same time. Together, these actions will position Abbotsford for long-term success in a changing climate.

Implementing our Strategy will require ongoing leadership, collaboration, and commitment. While many actions can be advanced directly by the City, success will also depend on continued partnerships. By working together and continuing to build on the strong foundation already in place, Abbotsford can move towards a more low-carbon, resilient, and sustainable future.

7. KEY TERMS

Words defined in the Key Terms section are shown in bold green text throughout the document.

Agrivoltaics
The use of the same land for growing crops or raising animals as for producing solar energy.

Carbon Sequestration
The process of capturing and storing carbon in natural systems such as forests, soils, and wetlands.

Climate Adaptation
Actions that help people, infrastructure, ecosystems, and communities prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.

Climate Change
Refers to any long-term shift in weather conditions over time, including temperature, precipitation, winds, and other indicators. The impacts of climate change are far-reaching, affecting our infrastructure, weather patterns, wildlife and landscapes.

Climate Mitigation
Actions that reduce or prevent GHG emissions.

Climate Resilience
The capacity of ecosystems, economies, infrastructure, and communities to absorb the impacts of climate change while maintaining essential services and functions needed to support health and well-being. In some cases, climate resilience involves changing services and functions so they are more sustainable.

Co-benefits
The positive social, economic, and ecosystem results of a policy or measure aimed at reducing climate risks and emissions. These form a crucial component of a low-carbon resilience approach, linking climate action to overall sustainable community development. Specifically, in this Strategy these include:

- Improved health
- Social equity
- Improved livability
- Energy & fuel savings
- New jobs
- Resilient energy
- Improved air quality
- Enhanced natural areas
- More trees and green space

Debris Flows
Fast-moving mixtures of water, sediment, boulders and logs that flow down steep mountain creeks

Electric Vehicle (EV)
Any vehicle that is partially or fully powered by electricity and plugs in to recharge. EVs can reduce fuel consumption and emissions.

Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)
British Columbia legislation that establishes requirements for hazard mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)
A coordinated location or function that supports emergency response, coordination, and decision-making during major events.

Equity
Equity is about fairness and justice. It is about taking deliberate actions to remove systemic, group, and individual barriers and obstacles that hinder opportunities and disrupt well-being. Equity is achieved through the identification and elimination of policies, practices, attitudes, and cultural messages that create and reinforce unfair outcomes.

EV-Readiness
The condition of having infrastructure in place (e.g., electrical capacity, wiring, conduit) to support current or future electric vehicle charging installation.

Floodplain
Areas adjacent to a stream or river which stretch from the banks of its channel to the base of the enclosing valley walls, which experience flooding during periods of high discharge.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions
Air contaminants, such as carbon dioxide and methane, that are released into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change by trapping heat. They can be measured as total (absolute) emissions or per person (per capita).

Hazard
A dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity, or condition. In this context, hazards are caused or made worse by climate change. Examples include rainstorms, extreme weather, wildfires, storm surges, landslides, and floods

Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA)
A process to identify hazards that may cause an emergency, and the potential consequences. Understanding this helps a community establish priorities, plans and strategies to prevent or reduce the risk.

Net-zero
The reduction of GHG emissions to as close to zero as possible. Emissions not eliminated are balanced by removing GHGs from the atmosphere. GHGs are removed by planting trees or sequestering carbon, for example.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
A United Nations body that assesses climate science and provides authoritative reports on climate change, its impacts, and response options.

Kilotonnes Carbon Dioxide Equivalent ($ktCO^2$ e)

A unit used to measure GHG emissions. One kilotonne equals 1,000 tonnes of CO2e, allowing comparison of different GHGs based on global warming potential.

Low-Carbon Resilience (LCR)

An approach that integrates climate mitigation and adaptation to reduce emissions while strengthening resilience and leveraging co-benefits.

Microgrid

Systems composed of electrical loads and distributed energy generation resources, that are interconnected through an electrical grid. Microgrids have the ability to operate independently in "island mode" from the central electrical grid, so can remain operating during regional power outages.

Natural Assets

The stock of natural resources and ecosystems (including geology, soil, air, water and all living things) that provide benefits to people. Examples include forests, wetlands, and streams. It is from these natural assets that humans derive a wide range of services, often called ecosystem services, which make human life possible.

Official Community Plan (OCP)

A long-term municipal planning document that guides land use, growth, and development.

Renewable Energy System

Renewable energy is energy derived from natural processes that are replenished at a rate that is equal to or faster than the rate at which they are used. There are many forms of renewable energy, sourced directly or indirectly from the sun, or from heat generated deep within the earth. An example of a renewable energy system is a battery energy storage system in which batteries are used to store electricity produced by generation plants and make it available when needed.

Riparian Area

Land adjacent to rivers, streams, lakes, or wetlands that supports water quality, habitats, and ecosystem health.

Risk

The chance that a hazard will cause harm, based on the likelihood of occurrence and severity of consequences.

Solar Photovoltaic (PV)

Systems that utilize solar panels to convert sunlight to direct current electricity. Inverters are then used to convert the direct current electricity into alternating current electricity to be used in a home.

Urban Heat Island

An urban area that experiences higher temperatures than nearby rural areas due to built surfaces and reduced vegetation.

Vulnerability

The degree to which ecosystems, economies, infrastructure, and communities are susceptible to, or unable to cope with, the adverse effects of climate change. Vulnerability varies based on exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity. Geographic location, socio-economic conditions, and other factors can impact susceptibility to harm and adaptive capacity.

Vulnerable Populations

Groups that may face greater exposure or barriers during climate hazards due to various factors. These may include lower-income households, seniors, Indigenous communities, newcomers, people experiencing homelessness, and those with limited mobility or access to resources.

Watershed

An area, usually defined by elevated ridges within which all water flows into the same catchment area such as a river or lake.

Xeriscaping

A landscaping approach that reduces or eliminates the need for irrigation by using drought tolerant plants and water efficient design.

Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV)

A vehicle that produces no tailpipe emissions or can operate without producing emissions, such as battery electric or hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

Appendices

APPENDIX A

Climate Resilience Strategy: Mitigation and Adaptation Modeling Report

APPENDIX B

Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) Overview

APPENDIX C

Understanding & Planning for Resilience Engagement: What We Heard Final Report

City of Abbotsford
Engineering & Regional Utilities

32315 South Fraser Way
Abbotsford, BC
V2T 1W7

T: 604-864-5514
E: climateaction@abbotsford.ca

abbotsford.ca

ABBOTSFORD