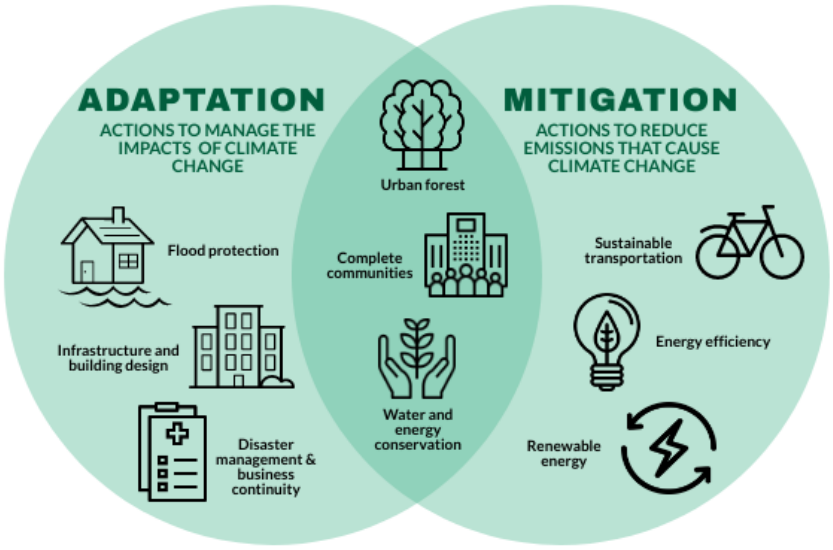
City of Campbell River

Campbell River Community Climate Adaptation Plan Summary

What is "Climate Adaptation"?

There are two approaches to respond to climate change: mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation aims to avoid, reduce or delay climate change by limiting heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) in the atmosphere. For instance, switching to renewable energy sources like wind or solar power, using bicycles and electric vehicles for transportation instead of fossil fuels, retrofitting existing buildings to conserve energy, and simply consuming less "stuff", are all examples of mitigation.

On the other hand, adaptation focuses on managing the adverse impacts of climate change that are already occurring, in order to prevent or minimize potential damage. In other words, adaptation measures aim to prepare for and cope with the inevitable consequences of climate change. Actions under this approach include introducing regulations to protect the community from flooding and sea level rise, creating emergency response and recovery plans for natural disasters, and establishing warming and cooling centres for the public to take shelter during extreme weather events.



What's in the City's Climate Adaptation Plan?

In 2018, the City of Campbell River partnered with eight other municipalities on Vancouver Island to create Climate Adaptation plans all using the same kind of process.

We held workshops and invited a variety of people such as municipal staff, First Nations, health professionals, school district representatives, non-profit organizations, utilities, and businesses.

Together we brainstormed different climate impacts that will affect, or are already affecting Campbell River, and thought about the risks to all the different parts of our community, such as our drinking water, parks, road systems, food systems, schools and hospitals, and people in vulnerable situations. We came up with 33 climate adaptation actions to consider in the near future. The purpose of the CCAP is to provide a roadmap for Campbell River to prepare itself for the consequences of a changing climate, while identifying new opportunities for action as climate science evolves.

Climate Adaptation Measures

The 33 actions have been developed to address climate impacts and risks within five key focus areas: the built environment, natural environment, community health and wellbeing, economy, and enabling actions. These actions are listed out below by category, followed by some questions. We want to know which of the actions from the list you feel are most important.

Category: Built Environment Includes infrastructure like road networks, sewer and storm drain systems, buildings that provide essential services to the community, and a water treatment facility. The City will need to make sure existing and future infrastructure can withstand the impacts of climate change through careful planning, design and construction.	
Action 1	Conduct an infrastructure risk assessment to determine priority risks to assets under climate projections
Action 2	Develop plans to protect infrastructure and/or relocate sites based on risk.
Action 3	Study stormwater system vulnerability under climate change, and plan for upgrades to accommodate future precipitation projections.
Action 4	Establish a Flood Management Bylaw.
Action 5	Increase severe weather resiliency of docking facilities, including planned upgrades.
Action 6	Proactively prevent damage to trees and power lines.
Action 7	Establish a monitoring system for current and future precipitation intensities, reservoir levels, river flows/levels and sea level rise, sharing information so that data can inform planning decisions in City and community.
Action 8	Create a sea level rise education tool.
Action 9	Explore potential regulatory and financial mechanisms to increase pervious surfaces and rainwater management at the homeowner, subdivision, new commercial, and light industrial levels
Action 10	Increase use of green infrastructure on public and private property.
Category: Natural Environment More frequent extreme weather and events such as wildfires, floods and droughts are compromising the land, air, water, plants and animals that make up our natural environment. Appropriate responses to protect the natural environment against harm posed by climate change is essential.	
Action 11	Review and update guidelines or requirements for erosion and run-off prevention.
Action 12	Move toward establishing an Integrated Watershed Management approach to improve the health and resilience of the watersheds.
Action 13	Develop a framework for monitoring and evaluation of ecosystem health and ecosystem services, identifying risks due to climate impacts and extreme weather.
Action 14	Increase education for City staff and community on invasive species and pests, continue to manage areas of invasive species within the City's parks and public spaces, prepare for

	emerging invasive species threats as they appear, and develop consolidated invasive species strategy/policy.
Action 15	Identify opportunities to support viable conditions for marine habitat and species
Action 16	Reduce riparian harm and strengthen protection through policy tools and guidance.
Action 17	Develop an Environmentally Sensitive Area Management policy.
Action 18	Determine limits to tourism in sensitive areas and shut down vulnerable areas during high-risk periods.
Action 19	Conduct a tree canopy assessment to determine trees vulnerable to wind damage, changing temperature patterns, and other climate impacts.
Category: Community Health and Wellbeing Climate change can create negative consequences to public health and safety, community wellbeing, livability, and cultural identity. Climate change impacts also exacerbate inequality by affecting certain groups more than others. It is important to prioritize the health, safety and wellbeing of our community through equitable, proactive planning and response.	
Action 20	Plan for redundancy of critical routes for emergency response and flow of goods and services.
Action 21	Develop a strategy to monitor, plan for, and mitigate flooding due to dam breach.
Action 22	Build community capacity for personal preparedness and to reduce health risks associated with extreme weather.
Action 23	Implement the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
Action 24	Create, review, and update Emergency Response and Recovery Plans relative to Campbell River's climate hazards.
Action 25	Establish more designated and accessible areas of refuge from extreme weather events.
Action 26	Develop network of support for populations in vulnerable situations including seniors, youth, and those experiencing homelessness.
Action 27	Communicate climate change-influenced health risks to the community.
Category: Economy Impacts of climate change can have significant consequences for the local economy. Proactive planning will prepare the business sector for climate impacts, while using human ingenuity to identify new opportunities to respond to climate change.	
Action 28	Support tourism sector in understanding the changing climate, sector-specific risks, and identifying opportunities to adapt and diversify.
Action 29	Support local businesses (i.e. fishing industry) in identifying and mitigating climate-related risks
Category: Enabling Actions Those actions needed to move the Community Climate Adaptation Plan forward. In other words, not just the "what" but also the "how".	
Action 30	Develop a climate change communications strategy for the community of Campbell River.
Action 31	Integrate climate change adaptation into day-to-day decision making and practices at the City.
Action 32	Monitor and track implementation of the Community Climate Adaptation Plan and report on progress annually or biennially.
Action 33	Facilitate further dialogue with local First Nations to go through an action planning process and determine how the City can best support action implementation in a way that honours Indigenous sovereignty and autonomy.