

environmental

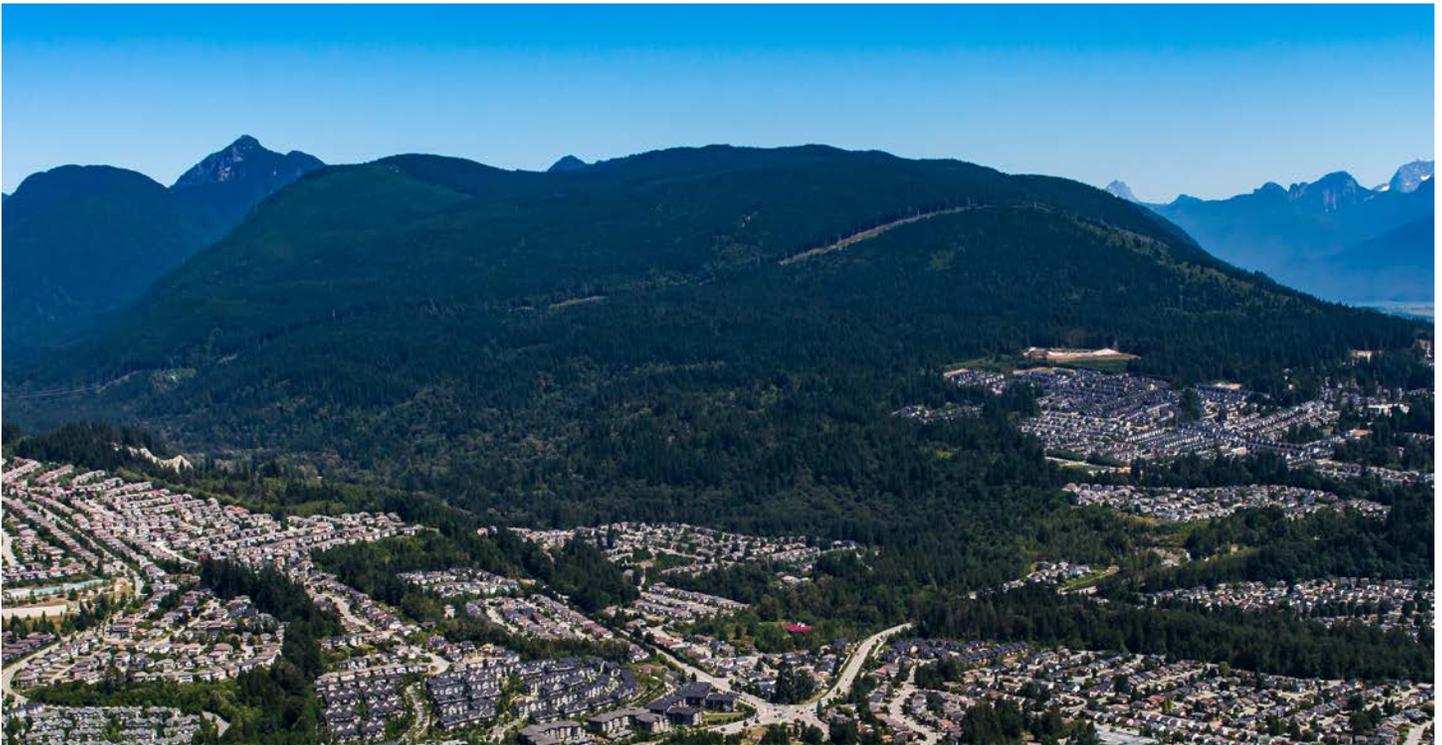
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Highlights



This Highlights document is a summary of the Environmental Sustainability Plan.

January 2022



Purpose

The Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP), the first of its kind for the City of Coquitlam, is a forward-looking plan to guide future decisions that support the long-term environmental resiliency and sustainability of the community. The draft ESP combines the City's existing and newly developed environmental goals, objectives and key performance indicators into a single strategy that guides the way the City approaches environmental sustainability in the future and helps to maximize co-benefits for the community.

Environmental sustainability is also an important part of how the City will achieve its strategic goals and overall vision for 2032. This vision is to sustain a high quality of life for current and future generations, a place where people choose to live, learn, work and play.

Sustainability in a Growing Community

Coquitlam is a diverse community and one of the fastest-growing cities in the country, with a current population of 154,000 and projections by Metro Vancouver for over 255,000 residents by 2050.

This pace of growth can create significant pressures on the environment, as well as on City services and infrastructure, but it also creates opportunities for innovation and creativity. Thoughtful and strategic planning is required to ensure that Coquitlam grows in a way that protects and enhances our natural environment, while sustaining a high quality of life for our community.

The Plan at a Glance

The ESP is organized into five themes: Climate Action, Built Environment, Waste Management, Water Management and Natural Areas, Wildlife and Habitat. Within each theme are related goals, strategies and actions that will support environmental sustainability for the future of Coquitlam. The final section covers how we will implement and monitor the actions and our progress.

Learn More

In this highlights document, we summarize key elements from the full ESP.



Climate Action

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction | Energy Management | Climate Change Adaptation



Climate action refers to efforts to reduce carbon pollution (also known as mitigation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions) in order to stop global temperature increases, as well as adapting to and preparing for the impacts of the changing climate.

Goals

The goals for this theme include:

1. Reduce GHG emissions
2. Create a resilient City that can adapt and thrive in current and future climate conditions

Strategies

To accomplish these goals, the City will:

1. Plan for and track corporate and community GHG emissions reductions
2. Support renewable energy applications where feasible and cost effective
3. Prepare for and reduce impacts and risks related to climate change
4. Support green jobs and the local green economy
5. Demonstrate City leadership in sustainability efforts

Actions

The following are a sample of the actions included in the full Environmental Sustainability Plan.

Example Actions	Timeline
Develop and implement a new Climate Action Plan that incorporates emerging best practice approaches and innovative technology to align with the City's newly adopted community and corporate climate change targets	Short Term
Implement the new Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan and advance mutually supportive actions in the Climate Adaptation Strategic Plan to increase community wildfire preparedness and address wildfire climate risk events	Short Term
Identify and pursue opportunities to add and retain green infrastructure and features to neighbourhoods through neighbourhood plans, streetscape and design guidelines and other relevant plans and programs	Short Term



Corporate and Community Targets:

45% GHG reduction by 2030 of 2007 levels

100% GHG reduction (carbon neutral) by 2050

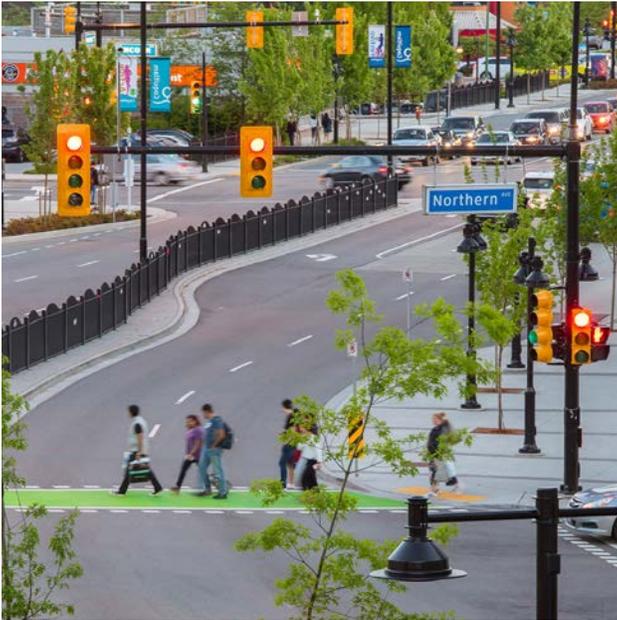
Want to know more?

Check out the *Environmental Sustainability Plan* at coquitlam.ca/enviroplan.



Built Environment

Transportation | Buildings | Land Use and Urban Design



The design of our communities is vital to our health and well-being. The built environment is places and spaces created or modified by people, including buildings, transportation systems and public areas. It also considers healthy food access, community gardens, walkability and bikeability.

Goals

The goals for this theme include:

1. Encourage sustainable modes of transportation
2. Develop complete, well-connected neighbourhoods that consider the protection of natural areas
3. Encourage sustainable development and building design

Strategies

To accomplish these goals, the City will:

1. Prioritize walking, cycling and transit
2. Increase electric vehicle (EV) usage
3. Support sustainable building, construction, renovation and development practices
4. Include sustainability planning in the development of new civic facilities and the maintenance of existing facilities
5. Implement sustainable development practices that minimize impacts on natural areas and habitats
6. Prioritize opportunities to incorporate urban design features and public realm elements that contribute to making neighbourhoods livable, sustainable and green

Actions

The following are a sample of the actions included in the full Environmental Sustainability Plan.

Example Actions	Timeline
Develop an Electric Mobility Strategy to advance vehicle electrification and support greater e-mobility in the City	Short Term
Implement BC Energy Step Code requirements for new building permit applications in advance of provincial adoption schedule	Short Term
Pilot a program to increase industry and homeowner awareness and capacity for energy efficient upgrades and retrofits for existing buildings	Medium Term
Identify and pursue opportunities to add and retain green infrastructure and features to neighbourhoods	Ongoing



Target:

30% sustainable mode share by 2031

Want to know more?

Check out the Environmental Sustainability Plan at coquitlam.ca/enviroplan.



Waste Management

Reduce | Reuse | Recycle



The way our economies typically use and dispose of resources puts pressure on natural systems, communities and public health. The waste management theme includes reducing, reusing, recycling and disposal of solid waste.

Goals

The goals for this theme include:

1. Minimize waste generation
2. Maximize reuse, recycling and material recover
3. Ensure adequate disposal opportunities exist to discourage illegal dumping and littering

Strategies

To accomplish these goals, the City will:

1. Reduce waste and increase diversion of recyclable and organic material from the residential waste stream
2. Reduce waste and increase diversion of recyclable material at businesses and institutions
3. Reduce waste and increase waste diversion in civic facilities, parks and at City events
4. Minimize the use of single-use items
5. Reduce illegal dumping and littering

Actions

The following are a sample of the actions included in the full Environmental Sustainability Plan.

Example Actions	Timeline
Expand current programs and develop new initiatives to educate residents and schools about waste generation, recycling, reusing and food waste	Short Term
Implement a single use item bylaw that reflects the approach developed by Metro Vancouver	Short term
Assess opportunities to extend existing residential waste reduction programs to multi-family	Medium Term



Target:

80% waste diversion

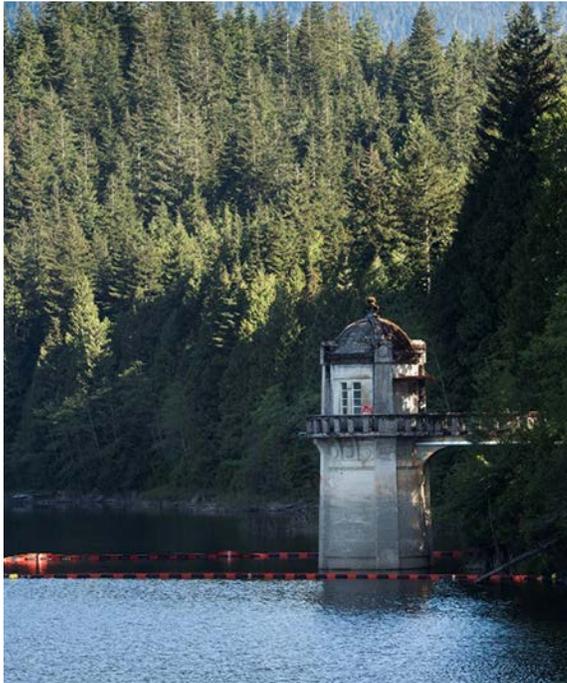
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Water Management

Water Conservation | Water Quality | Stormwater and Watershed Management | Liquid Waste Management



Water management includes planning, developing and managing the quality and quantity of water resources and infrastructure. Applying a sustainability lens to water management decisions going forward will ensure that the City is being proactive and responsible in adapting to climate change impacts on our water system.

Goals

The goals for this theme include:

1. Conserve and protect drinking water
2. Use an integrated approach to stormwater management that provides flood protection while protecting ecological health
3. Protect the public and environment from exposure to sanitary sewage

Strategies

To accomplish these goals, the City will:

1. Enhance residential drinking water conservation and efficiency
2. Promote Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) drinking water efficiency
3. Reduce corporate drinking water consumption
4. Manage stormwater to mimic the natural hydrology of the watershed and reduce pollution, while incorporating the anticipated impacts of climate change
5. Increase sewer capacity and effectiveness

Actions

The following are a sample of the actions included in the full Environmental Sustainability Plan.

Example Actions	Timeline
Implement the Enhanced Water Conservation Strategy to further reduce water consumption	Short Term
Pursue targeted education and enforcement opportunities to reduce pollution in watercourse by analyzing and mapping the City's spill response data	Short Term
Create and expand education, outreach and volunteer opportunities related to residential stormwater management	Short Term
Investigate the use of rainwater, groundwater and greywater re-use systems to reduce water demand	Long Term



Target:

90%

of watercourse samples meet regional water quality guidelines for aquatic health

Want to know more?

Check out the Environmental Sustainability Plan at coquitlam.ca/enviroplan.



Natural Areas, Wildlife and Habitat

Watercourses | Fish and Wildlife | Biodiversity | Forests and Trees | Parks and Green Spaces



Healthy, natural areas provide great value to our community and support diverse, interconnected ecosystems. They also have tremendous cultural and spiritual importance and contribute to community livability.

Goals

The goals for this theme include:

1. Improve ecological conditions of natural areas for the community and wildlife
2. Provide a balanced, sustainable system of parks and provides equity of access to services and facilities across demographics and neighbourhoods
3. Profile and highlight the natural assets and features of Coquitlam and plan for expanded outdoor recreation and environmental initiatives

Strategies

To accomplish these goals, the City will:

1. Collaborate with kʷikʷəłəm and other local First Nations, academic institutions and community organizations to increase environmental stewardship and knowledge that supports the conservation and enhancement of natural areas and watersheds
2. Improve and preserve natural areas to enhance biodiversity and protect species at risk
3. Protect and enhance the urban forest
4. Improve equitable access to parks and natural areas
5. Minimize human-wildlife conflict and promote co-existence with wildlife

Actions

The following are a sample of the actions included in the full Environmental Sustainability Plan.

Example Actions	Timeline
Develop a citywide Urban Forest Management Plan that considers tree retention, stewardship, forest and ecosystem health, public safety and climate change impacts	Short Term
Measure tree canopy cover percentages in developed neighborhoods	Short Term
Engage youth through youth-focused volunteer opportunities, school programs and outdoor experiences	Ongoing



Target:

Increase total parkland area

Want to know more?

Check out the Environmental Sustainability Plan at coquitlam.ca/enviroplan.

Implementation and Monitoring

Implementation Plan



The ESP's implementation plan covers the next five to 10 years and is summarized in a table that includes the following:

- a list of actions
- anticipated timelines
- high-level cost estimates
- lead City departments

Over time, strategies and actions will be updated as progress is made and new information and technology becomes available.

Ongoing staff work will help the City maintain the ESP as a modern, forward-thinking plan into the future. A fulsome review and update of the ESP will occur on a 5 to 10-year schedule consistent with other corporate plans.

Measuring Success

To understand the City's progress on improving and enhancing environmental sustainability, it will be important to monitor key performance indicators (KPIs). These measurable targets and desired trends align with the goals of the ESP, and will help staff to monitor progress and success.

Example indicators:



Greenhouse gas reduction



Percent of registered electric vehicles



Waste diversion rate



Summer water consumption



Number of native trees and shrubs planted in natural areas



Monitoring Progress

The ESP Dashboard provides a snapshot of the ESP KPIs. Several KPIs also reflect progress for more than one theme or goal. Regular reports to Council will summarize progress to date through the use of the ESP Dashboard.

Interested to learn more?

The Environmental Sustainability Plan is available at coquitlam.ca/enviroplan. Printed copies are available upon request from the Engineering and Public Works counter on the ground floor at City Hall.