

Climate Action Best Practice Guidebook

For B.C. Local Governments and Modern Treaty Nations

The Climate Action Best Practice Guidebook is a new resource designed to help local authorities—including Modern Treaty Nations, regional districts, and municipalities—accelerate climate action in their communities. It is a living document, edited as new information and resources become available.



Purpose of the Guidebook

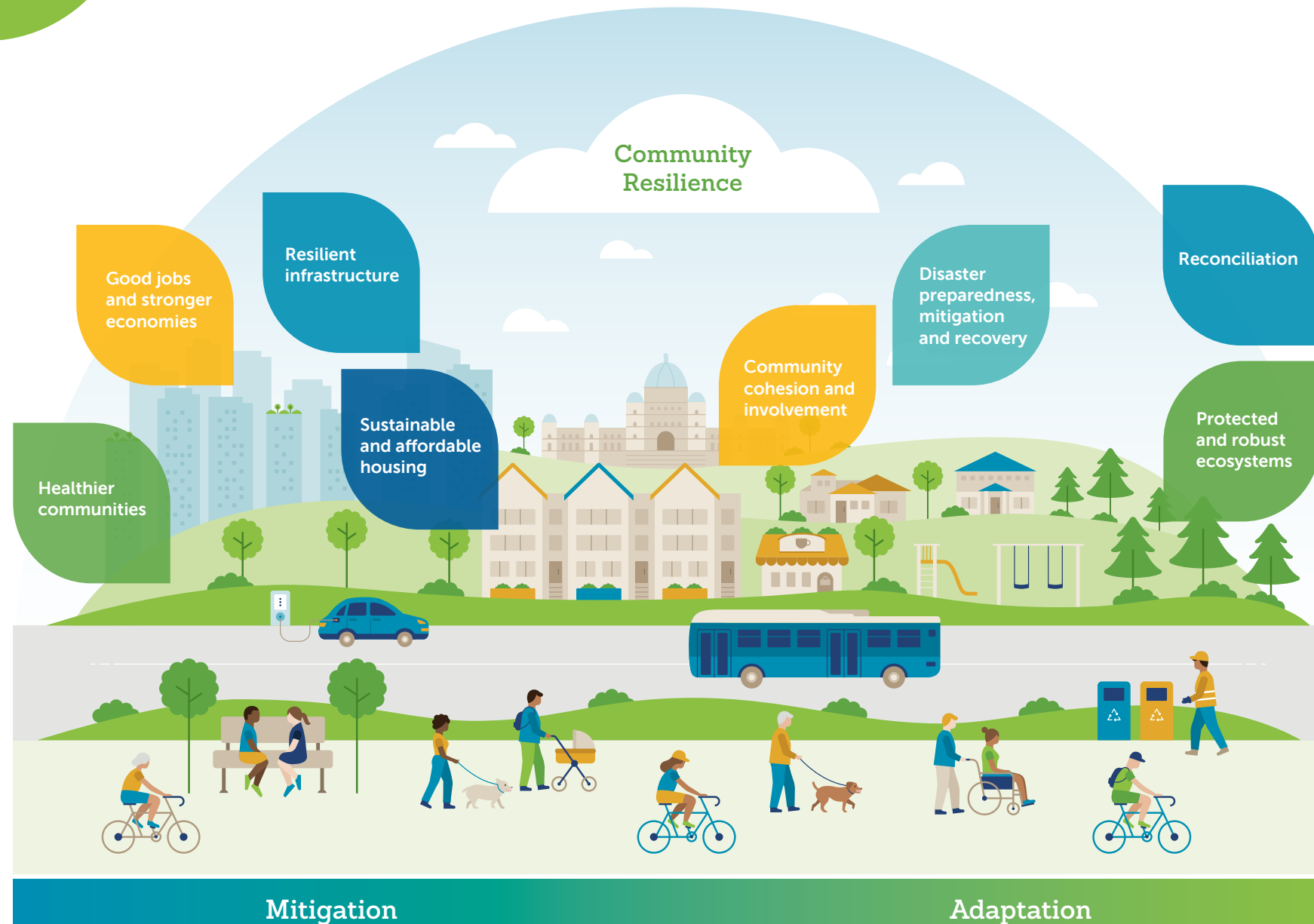
The guidebook offers practical strategies, real-world examples, and tools to help local authorities in reducing emissions, building resilience, and delivering co-benefits like affordability, public health, and economic development.

Local authorities are essential in advancing climate action. They understand their communities' unique needs and are well-positioned to implement solutions that align with local priorities. This guidebook supports that leadership by helping communities:

Get started with limited resources

- Identify additional measures to reduce emissions and build climate resilience
- Develop realistic climate action projects tailored to their context
- Ensure climate action aligns with local economic, social, and environmental priorities
- Learn from what is working for other B.C. communities

Climate action includes both reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and climate resilience (adaptation). In practice, these are often integrated to achieve broad community benefits.



Inside the Guidebook

The guidebook is designed to provide useful information to local staff, senior decision makers, and elected officials, with the ability to easily navigate to the information that is of most interest to them. There are three primary ways to navigate the guide: hyperlinked table of contents; easy-reference table of climate action projects on page 10; and Appendix A - Index of Climate Action Projects.

The initial sections of the guidebook, '*Introduction*' and '*Foundations of Climate Action for Local Authorities*,' outline the foundations of local climate action, including key challenges, emission sources, climate risks, leadership strategies, and practical tips for aligning action with community priorities.

The next section, '*Climate Action Projects*,' highlights a variety of actionable projects that local authorities can implement to address both emissions reduction and climate adaptation. The projects are organized into six themes.

Within this section, each project of focus is described in detail with key considerations highlighted (e.g., engagement and equity considerations, capacity requirements, general cost indications, etc.), as well as examples of communities that have implemented this type of project and additional resources.

3.1 Governance, Planning and Preparedness

- Climate risk assessments
- Neighbourhood preparedness programs
- Developing extreme temperature response plans



3.2 Climate-Informed Land Use and Development

- Compact and energy efficient community planning
- Hazard-informed land use planning



3.3 Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure

- Building retrofit programs
- Information and training sessions for local building industry
- Development permit areas for energy and water conservation and GHG emissions reduction
- Resilient landscape and property programs and policies



3.4 Transportation and Mobility

- Green fleet transition
- Public transit infrastructure and safe access
- Active transportation planning and implementation



3.5 Ecosystems and Natural Assets

- Urban forest strategies
- Green infrastructure



3.6 Economy, Energy and Waste Management

- Renewable energy programs
- Organic waste infrastructure and diversion programs



The final section of the guidebook, '*Resources and Funding*,' provides information on:

- Funding resources to finance climate action initiatives
- Guidance resources to use funding effectively
- Data and information sources to help with planning
- Climate focused conferences to build climate knowledge and collaborate



The guidebook complements existing resources and aligns with provincial goals for climate action. It empowers communities to make the most of funding and tools available through the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP). **Explore the guidebook to help build a more resilient, low-carbon future for your community!**