



LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAM  
**2023 SUMMARY REPORT**

JANUARY 2024



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## Executive Summary

The Local Government Climate Action Program (the Program) provides [local governments](#) (LGs) and [Modern Treaty Nations](#) (MTNs) with flexible, predictable and stable funding to support climate action related to the [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#) (the Roadmap), the [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#) (CPAS), and local climate action. When the Program was rolled out in 2022, 195 communities participated and received \$24.374 million for projects ranging from increasing building efficiency to adapting to climate impacts.

As part of the Program, the Province gathers information from participants through an annual survey, with 196 responses included in this report outlining actions taken from January 1 to December 31, 2022. This report summarizes data gathered from participants and provides insight into the current state of local climate action. The objectives of this report are to recognize ongoing local government and Modern Treaty Nation leadership and to track program outcomes and progress over time.<sup>1</sup> The program also focusses on reconciliation and in particular will be working with Modern Treaty Nations and their neighboring communities on resilience planning over the coming years.

Key survey results include:

- There are 440 full-time staff positions across the province dedicated to working on climate action and 73 communities have at least one full-time climate/sustainability employee;

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<sup>1</sup>Data gathered through the Program will be published in these annual reports and the [Climate Change Accountability Report](#) and will enable the Province and program participants to track progress on climate action through key performance indicators.

- There are 100 LGs and MTNs that have developed climate action plans, up from 89 the previous year. Planning documents range from strategies that integrate mitigation and resilience, to plans focused on community energy and emissions;
- There are 42 respondents who reported having net-zero community-wide targets; and
- There are 26 respondents that formally employ a climate lens assessment when making infrastructure and investment decisions.

To be eligible for funding this year, communities with populations exceeding 15,000 residents were required to measure and report their corporate emissions inventory. Last year, 52 communities reported their 2021 corporate inventories on a voluntary basis. This year, 105 LGs and MTNs reported their 2022 inventories with a total of 340,090 tCO<sub>2</sub>e associated with corporate operations (including 91,530 tCO<sub>2</sub>e from the delivery of contracted services).<sup>2</sup>

### ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

In 2022, 80 LGs and MTNs completed formal climate risk and vulnerability assessments (up from 62 the previous year), with 112 respondents reporting that measures were in place to address current and future climate risks. The most significant climate hazards identified were wildfire, extreme heat, and extreme storm events. The most frequently reported adaptation measures to address these hazards are participation in the [FireSmart Program](#), the provision of cooling centres, heat mapping, and stormwater management. The top three populations identified as most vulnerable to climate impacts are seniors and elders, people experiencing homelessness and low-income households.

### TRANSPORTATION

A total of 182 respondents reported having clean transportation actions underway or completed in 2022. 57 reported that mode shift targets are included in Official Community Plans or Regional Growth Strategies; 139 reported investments in active transportation planning; 102 reported they had made investments in active transportation infrastructure; 86 reported electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure planning activities; and 92 reported having made investments in EV infrastructure.

### BUILDINGS

For the buildings sector, a total of 173 respondents reported climate actions underway or completed. For example, nine communities have imposed zero-carbon heating requirements and 109 have adopted the step code ahead of the provincial regulation coming into effect.

### COMMUNITY-WIDE

For community-wide initiatives, a total of 159 respondents reported actions underway or completed. These actions include organics diversion programs in place in 103 communities and 40 communities where investments were made in renewable energy. Participants were asked what data is most valuable in developing complete, compact communities, with the top indicators being commute by mode and residential density.

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<sup>2</sup> Emissions from contracted services are largely crude estimates using a standard estimation approach. This figure should be used with caution.

## Introduction

B.C. is already experiencing climate impacts such as record-breaking wildfires, heat, flooding, and drought. Municipalities and Indigenous communities across B.C. are on the front lines of the impacts of our changing climate.

The Local Government Climate Action Program (the Program) aims to support communities in their climate action to reduce emissions and manage and reduce risk associated with climate change. The Program provides [local governments](#) (LGs) and [Modern Treaty Nations](#) (MTNs) with predictable and stable funding for climate action related to the [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#) (the Roadmap), the [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#) (CPAS), and to support local climate action.<sup>3</sup> Modern treaties are seen as the highest expression of reconciliation and the Province's relationship with Modern Treaty Nations is dynamic and evolving. The Program directly supports BC Modern Treaty Nations in taking action that contribute to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan.

The program is designed to be accessible to all communities, with minimal administration and reporting requirements. The Province continues to work with communities and Modern Treaty Nations to gather feedback to improve program design and requirements. This report provides a snapshot of community climate action across a range of areas such as land use planning, climate adaptation, buildings, transportation, waste, water, and energy. These actions highlight the ongoing leadership, achievements, and experiences of B.C. communities. Reporting also highlights how the province can best support building internal capacity in smaller and remote communities while also learning how these communities are adapting to a changing climate and adopting renewable energy sources.

The 2023 Summary Report illustrates:

- Progress toward measuring and reporting corporate and community wide GHG emissions;
- Local climate priorities linked to the Roadmap;
- Climate action and resilience initiatives taken by communities in support of CPAS; and
- How funding was used to build local capacity and support climate initiatives.

Reporting priorities for 2023 include:

- Monitoring progress on achieving provincial and local climate objectives,
- Ensuring that funds provided are used for these objectives,
- Identifying what information and supports are most needed to advance local climate action,
- Including community level data into the [Climate Change Accountability Report](#).

In early 2023, engagement sessions were held in communities across the province to gather feedback on the Program. Over 200 local staff representing 125 communities attended workshops and webinars, and shared ideas that have informed the Program's strategic direction and reporting requirements. Participants also provided information on additional support needed to advance local climate action.

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<sup>3</sup> Several funding programs are available directly for First Nations, these can be found in the BC Community Climate Funding Guide - <https://communityclimatefunding.gov.bc.ca/>

In the fall of 2023, a Symposium was held to bring local government and public sector staff together to share knowledge and recognize the leadership, achievements, and experiences of B.C. communities. Feedback gathered during the Symposium will inform continuous improvement of the Program.

## Overview of Key Findings - 2023

In 2023, Program participants were required to complete an online survey. The survey was developed based on feedback from ministerial partners, LGs and MTNs, national and international GHG reporting protocols, [and the Carbon Disclosure Project](#). In addition, communities with populations exceeding 15,000 residents were required to measure and report their corporate emissions.

196 communities completed the survey in time to be included in this report. The table below provides an overview of the state of LG and MTN climate action in 2022, based on survey results:

Action Type	Status
Climate action plans	100 communities have developed a climate action plan or strategy (a 22% increase from 2021).
Risk and vulnerability assessments	80 communities have completed a risk assessment (a 31% increase from 2021).
Net-zero commitments	42 communities have established net-zero targets.
Climate lens application	26 communities apply a formal climate lens to infrastructure investments and decisions.
Community-wide GHG emissions	Eight communities independently measured community-wide emissions in 2022 <sup>4</sup> (a 69% decrease from 2021).
Corporate emissions reporting	105 communities tracked and reported corporate emissions in 2022 (a 102% increase from 2021).
Funding community-wide initiatives	\$482,095 of Program funds were invested in community-wide climate initiatives.
Funding transportation initiatives	\$1,127,543 of Program funds were invested in transportation initiatives.
Funding buildings initiatives	\$1,867,937 of Program funds supported buildings initiatives.

## Adaptation and Resilience

A critical component of climate action is preparing for the risks and impacts of climate change. As communities plan for impacts, they increase the resilience of communities, economies, and ecosystems. Some communities are leading the way by taking an integrated approach that coordinates and streamlines adaptation and mitigation planning. This enables communities to embed climate-focused decision making into community and regional planning processes.

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<sup>4</sup> These communities either developed their own unique community-wide GHG emissions inventories or acquired the raw Provincial CEEI data prior to public release to conduct their own processing and quality control.

Examples of community-level climate resilience initiatives include assessments of current and future climate risks (e.g., increased frequency and severity of flooding) and plans to address hazards through planning, service delivery, asset management and other measures.

Applying an equity lens to climate action enhances climate resilience for everyone. In survey results for 2021 and 2022, respondents consistently indicated that low-income households, seniors and elders, and people experiencing homelessness are most vulnerable to climate impacts. To address inequitable impacts, 68 communities have measures in place to address equity.

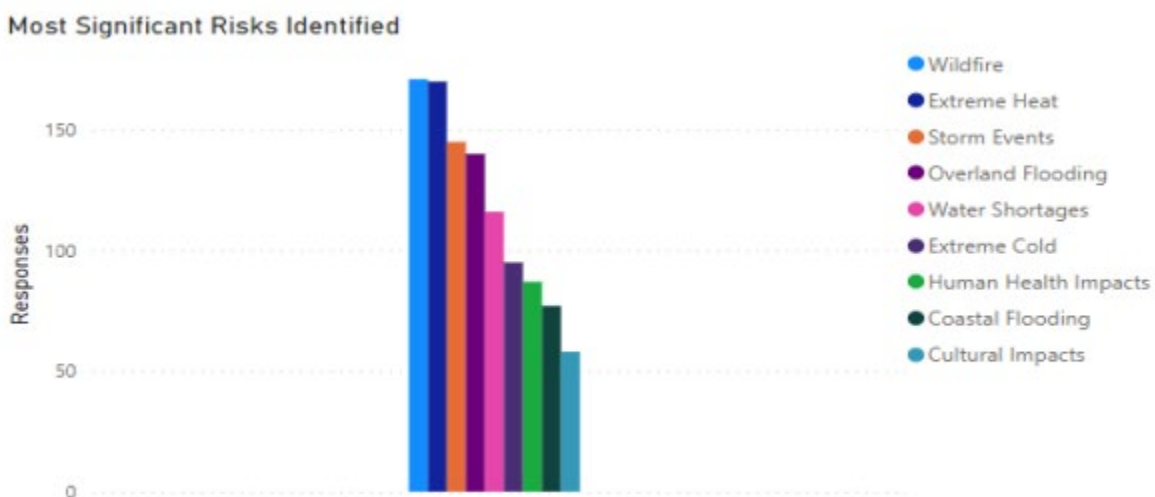
In 2021, 61 communities reported they had completed a risk and vulnerability assessment to understand local impacts. In 2022, an additional 19 jurisdictions completed an assessment bringing the total to 80 local and regional climate risk assessments across B.C.

Has Your Local Government Completed a Climate Risk Assessment?		
Reporting Year	Yes	No
2021	61	123
2022	80	116

In 2022, 112 respondents reported that measures were in place to address current and future climate risks. The most significant climate hazards identified are wildfire, extreme heat, and extreme storm events. This differs slightly from 2021 where extreme storms, extreme heat and flooding were the most reported climate hazards. This year participants were also asked to report on how climate risks are being addressed. The FireSmart Program, cooling centres and heat mapping, and stormwater management were the most reported adaptation measures.

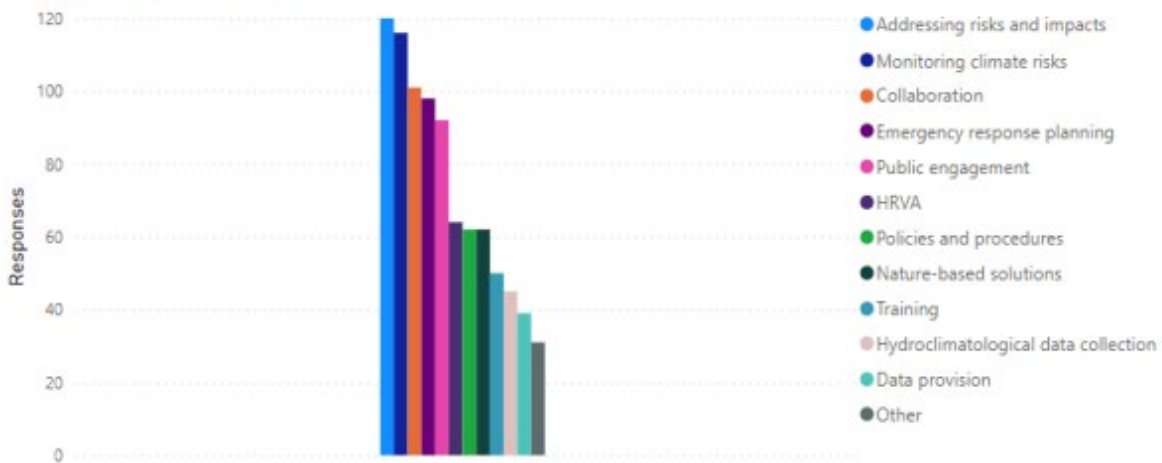
Collaboration at all levels of government is essential to combating the effects of climate change, and 93 participants responded that they collaborate with other local communities and levels of government on resilience planning and initiatives.

#### COMMUNITY-LEVEL CLIMATE HAZARDS



The following diagram shows reported resilience and adaptation actions such as nature-based solutions and performing a hazard risk and vulnerability assessment.

Adaptation Initiatives in 2022



The Province is working together with Indigenous communities, LGs, and other organizations to reduce risks from heatwaves, flooding, and wildfires, as well as enhance the climate resilience of infrastructure across the province. See the [Safe and Healthy Communities section](#) of B.C.’s Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy for information on priority initiatives.

## Measuring, Reporting and Tracking Emissions

### CORPORATE EMISSIONS

Communities reported on their corporate emissions which cover GHG emissions produced from the delivery of traditional services such as fire protection, solid waste management, recreational and cultural services, road and traffic operations, water and wastewater management, and government administration.

To be eligible for Program funding in 2023, communities with populations exceeding 15,000 residents were required to measure and report their corporate emissions. In 2022, 105 LGs and MTNs reported their corporate emissions, totaling 340,090 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. This includes 91,530 tCO<sub>2</sub>e from the delivery of contracted services.<sup>5</sup> The intent is to eventually have all LGs and MTNs report corporate emissions, with support from the Province to build capacity in this area.

### COMMUNITY-WIDE EMISSIONS

B.C. Climate Action Charter signatories now include all LGs in the province, meaning they have all committed to measuring and reporting their community-wide GHG emissions. Community energy and emissions data are critical inputs to evidenced-based decision making, measuring the impacts of climate action policies, programs, and investments, and determining whether course corrections are necessary.

The [Community Energy and Emissions Inventory](#) (CEEI) is the provincial platform for tracking and reporting community-wide energy use and emissions for buildings, transportation and solid waste. The

<sup>5</sup> Emissions from contracted services are largely crude estimates using a standard estimation approach. This figure should be used with caution.

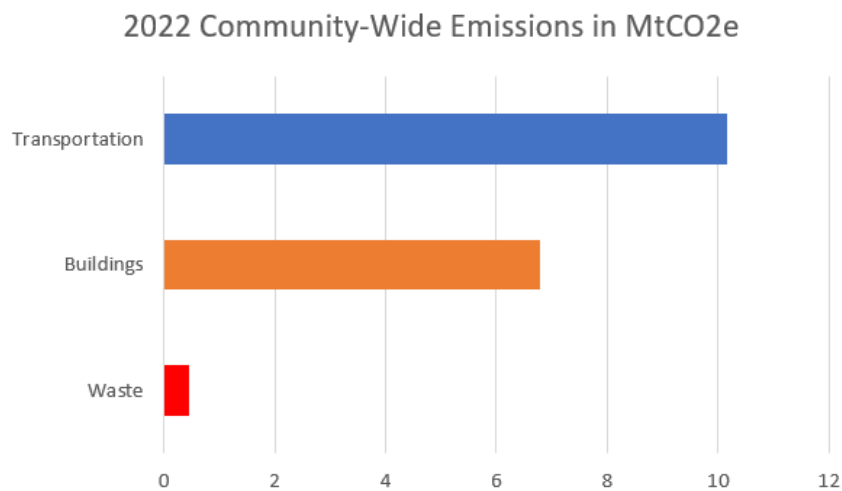


CEEI supports LGs to measure, report and track their emissions and develop effective climate mitigation policies.

The Province provides LGs with community-wide emissions data through the CEEI but there is a two-year lag due to data acquisition, quality assurance and control, and alignment with federal and provincial GHG inventories.

In 2021, 26 communities reported that they measured community-wide emissions.<sup>6</sup> Many communities reported barriers to tracking progress such as insufficient funding, staff, expertise, and acquiring data in a timely manner. In 2022, only eight communities reported that they measured their community-wide energy and emissions inventory.

The Province realizes that it is critical for LGs to have timely and complete CEEI data. Work is underway to improve CEEI's timeliness, precision, level of detail, presentation, and scope to assist LGs in measuring community-wide emissions.



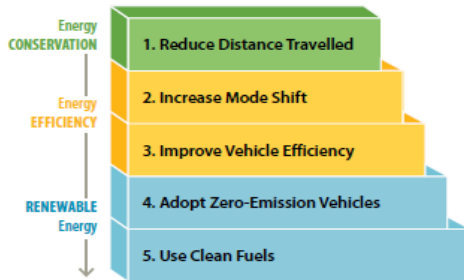
## Transportation Pathway

Transportation is the largest single source of GHG emissions, accounting for 25.1 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e or approximately 41% of our annual total in British Columbia. The Roadmap focuses on multiple ways to reduce emissions from transportation, including encouraging more walking and cycling, and reducing the carbon intensity of fuels.

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<sup>6</sup> Of these 26 LGs, some developed their own unique community-wide GHG emissions inventories, and some acquired the raw Provincial CEEI data prior to public release to conduct their own processing and quality control.

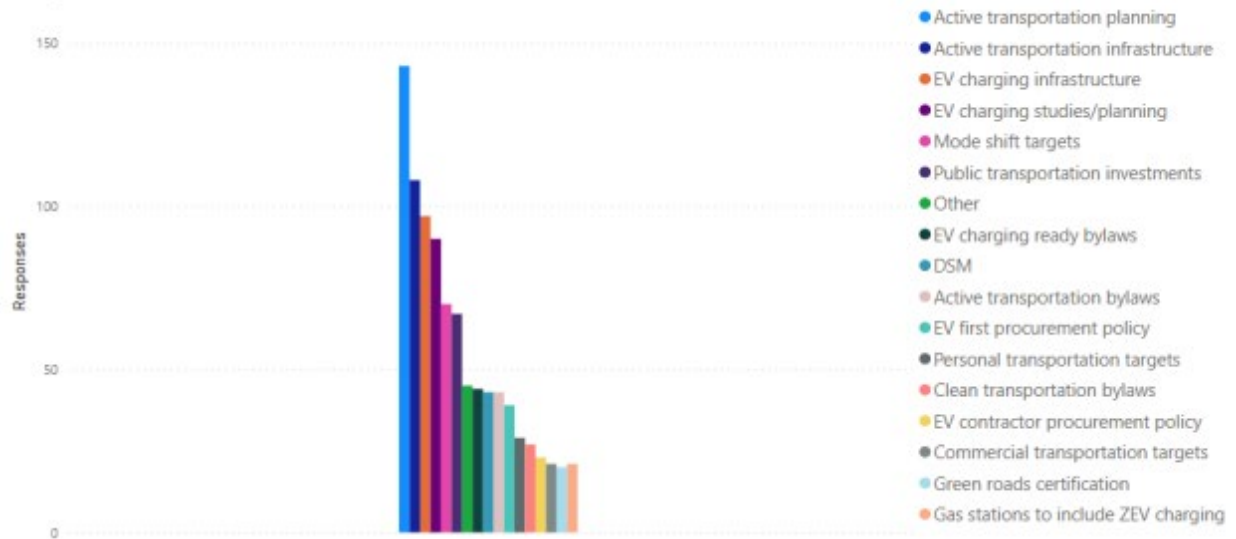
## CleanBC Roadmap Transportation Decarbonization Pathway



A total of 182 respondents reported having clean transportation actions underway or completed in 2022. 57 reported that mode shift targets are included in Official Community Plans or Regional Growth Strategies; 143 reported investments in active transportation planning; 108 reported they had made investments in active transportation infrastructure; 90 reported electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure planning activities; and 97 reported having made investments in EV infrastructure.

The following diagram shows reported transportation actions such as active transportation planning, demand side management (DSM) and public transportation investments.

Transportation Initiatives in 2022



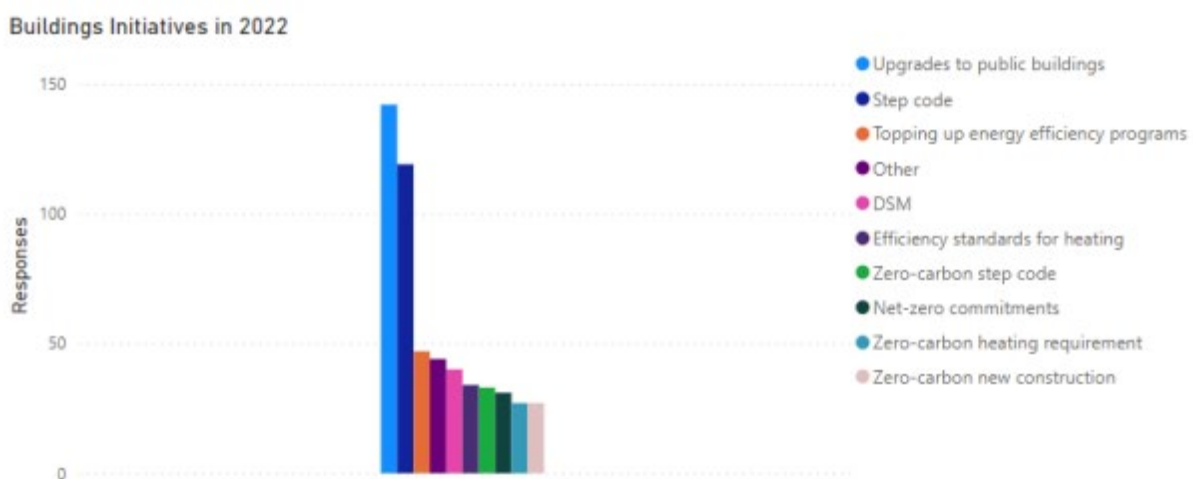
## Buildings Pathway

Residential, commercial, and institutional buildings account for 7.3 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e or 11% of the province's GHG emissions, mainly due to energy used for heating, cooling, and hot water. Key buildings actions in the Roadmap include zero-carbon new construction by 2030, highest efficiency standards for new space and water heating equipment and enhancing energy efficiency programs.

Under the Roadmap, the Province will add a new carbon pollution standard alongside the existing Energy Step Code and will support communities to set carbon pollution performance standards for new buildings through a voluntary provincial regulation. The [Energy Step Code](#) provides a path for builders and communities to prepare for and reach energy efficiency standards earlier than basic BC Building Code requirements.

For the buildings sector, a total of 173 respondents reported climate actions underway or completed. For example, 27 communities have imposed zero-carbon heating requirements and 119 had adopted the step code ahead of the provincial regulation coming into effect.

The following diagram shows reported buildings sector actions such as energy efficiency upgrades to public buildings and zero carbon new construction requirements.



## Communities Pathway

Local governments and Indigenous communities are critical partners in efforts to reduce emissions and build cleaner, stronger communities for everyone. Community-level transformation pathways are closely tied to actions in land-use and in the transportation, buildings, and energy sectors, all of which have significant influence on community GHG emissions and resilience.

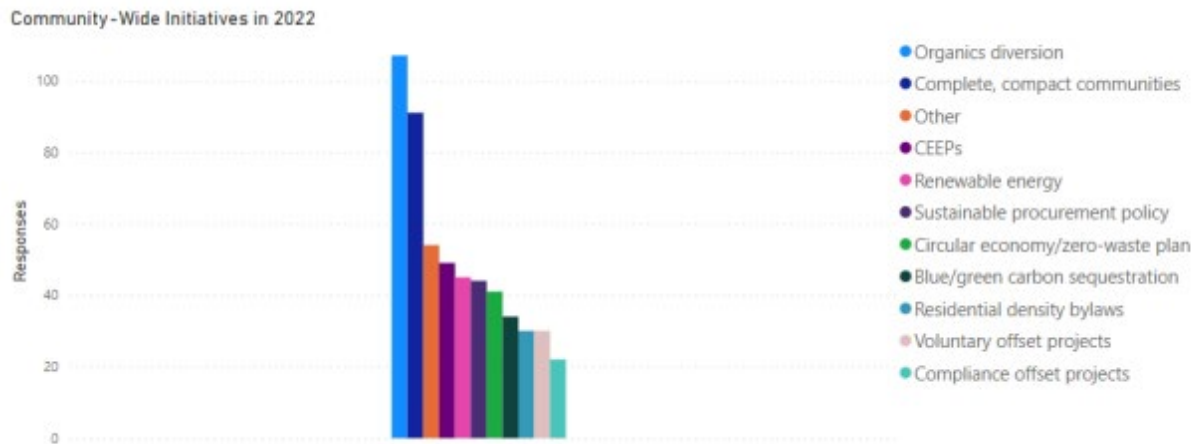
### COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

Community-wide climate initiatives include activities that span the community such as implementing green infrastructure, organics diversion, and climate and energy plans.

In 2022, 100 LGs and MTNs reported having climate action plans in place, ranging from strategies that integrate mitigation and resilience, to plans that focus on community energy and emissions. Of those, 42 respondents reported having established net-zero community-wide targets, which refers to a jurisdiction achieving a balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and removed from the atmosphere. Other frequently reported initiatives include 107 organics diversion programs and 45 communities investing in renewable energy. Of note is substantial investments made by Modern Treaty

Nations on community electrification in partnership with the federal and provincial infrastructure programs.

The following diagram shows the reported community-wide actions such as complete, compact communities and community energy and emissions plans (CEEPs).



## COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING

The [B.C. Climate Action Charter](#) includes a voluntary commitment to create complete, compact, and energy-efficient communities. Complete communities are considered those that support:

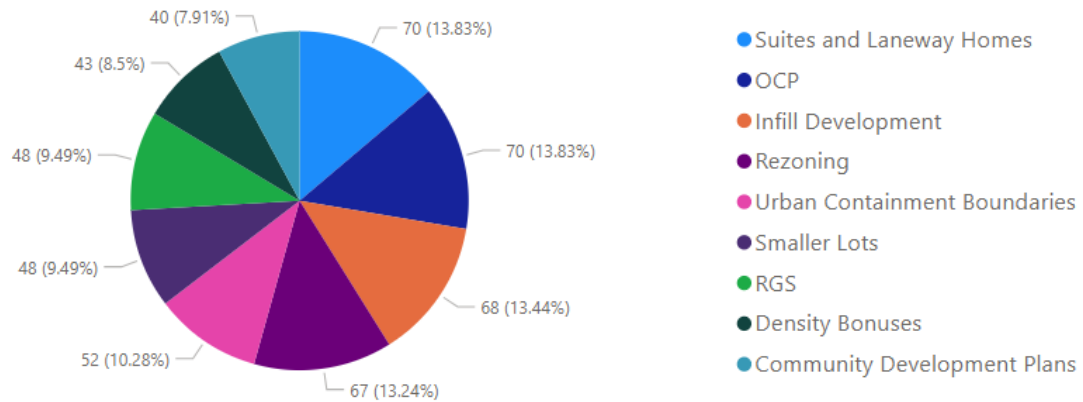
- Diverse types of housing to meet identified community needs, accommodate people at all stages of life, and support a wider range of jobs, and
- Amenities and services within a 15- to 20-minute walk from home.

Complete communities are typically age-friendly and equitable, and more walkable, accessible, and economically resilient. Complete communities also have the potential to reduce GHG emissions associated with transportation.

Survey respondents demonstrated the commitment to creating complete communities through Official Community Plans, Regional Growth Strategies and Community Development Plans. These initiatives support land use patterns that improve active transportation infrastructure, address housing affordability, and preserve natural assets.

Many communities are focusing on housing affordability and accessibility by allowing secondary suites and smaller lots and providing density bonus zoning for the provision of community amenities. Most actions related to housing involve updates or amendments to zoning bylaws.

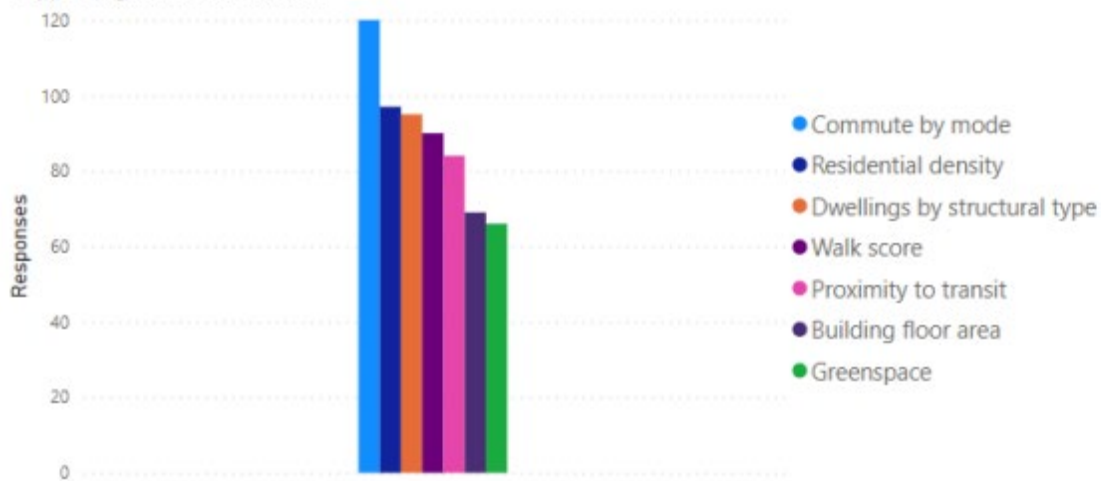
### Complete, Compact Communities Initiatives in 2022



The new [Homes for People plan](#) outlines how the Province will rapidly deliver more homes for those in need and how new housing options will create more vibrant communities throughout B.C.

Respondents were also asked what kind of data would best support the creation of complete communities. The chart below illustrates the types of information identified such as commute by mode and walk score.

### Supporting Indicators Ranked



### Program Funding Investments

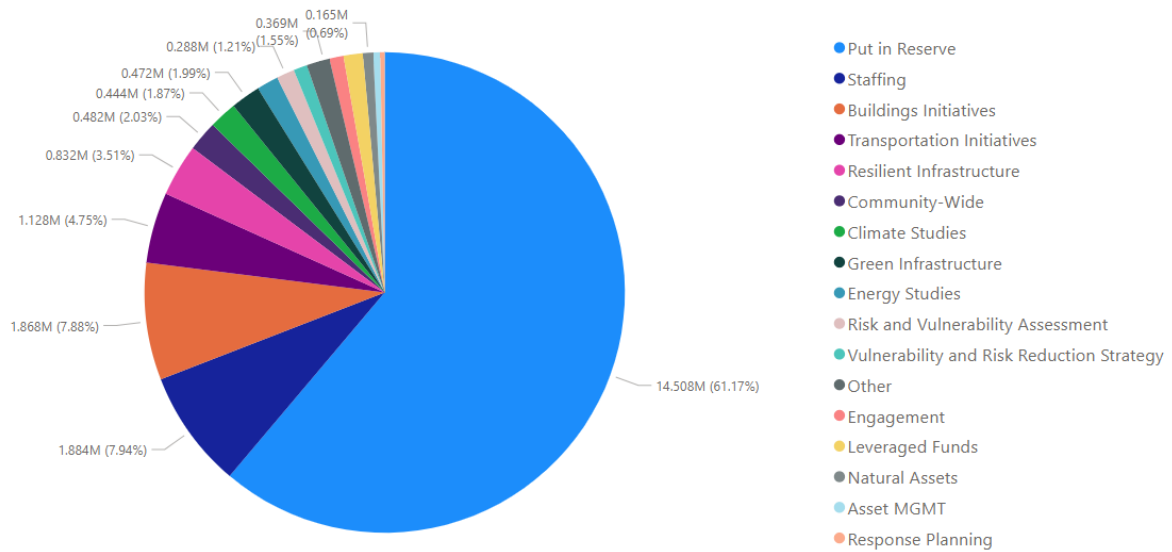
LGCAP disburses \$24.456 million annually for projects ranging from increasing building efficiency to adaptation planning. A base funding amount of \$38,082 is allocated to each eligible community. The base funding represents approximately 30% of total annual funding for the Program. The remaining 70% is allocated using the adjusted per capita population methodology from the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant (2020 populations from [BC Statistics](#)). The methodology ensures small communities receive an equitable

share of funding. See the Program [FAQs](#) (page 2, Table 1) for an example of how the methodology is applied to adjust base populations.

This year, we asked participants to report how funds were spent. Participants noted that funds were used to support initiatives ranging from climate studies to active transportation investments.

The diagram below indicates the dollar value in millions and percentage of reported funding invested in each category in 2022.

2022 LGCAP Funding



Nearly two thirds of funding (\$14.508 million) was placed in reserve to support large capital projects and a range of other activities such as climate action planning, electric vehicle charging infrastructure and upgrades to public buildings. Through grant stacking, an additional \$60.14 million dollars was leveraged using LGCAP funds to advance local climate action. Participants also reported investing a total of \$123.74 million in mitigation and \$124.27 million in adaptation and resilience initiatives (including from sources beyond LGCAP funds) during the 2022 reporting year.

## Resources

For more information on the Local Government Climate Action Program, please visit the [Program website](#) where you can find resources such as frequently asked questions, methodological guides and climate action success stories. Resources will continue to be updated as we collect input about the Program and receive questions from participating communities.

Questions and feedback about the Program can be directed to [LGCAP@gov.bc.ca](mailto:LGCAP@gov.bc.ca).

Please visit the [BC Community Climate Funding Guide](#) for other sources of climate-related funding programs for local governments, and Indigenous communities and organizations.