



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

FEBRUARY 2025





## Overview

The Local Government Climate Action Program (the Program) provides [local governments](#) and [Modern Treaty Nations](#) with flexible, predictable annual 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. The Program, established in 2022, provides approximately \$24 million annually to participating communities for initiatives ranging from active transportation to adapting critical infrastructure to prepare for climate impacts.

In March 2024, the Province allocated approximately three years of program funding to all participants (to cover fiscal years 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27) to provide more certainty to program participants in their climate action investments. The revised allocation also allows the Province to provide new Program supports including expanded regional climate action networks and guidance materials to advance local climate action.

In 2024, all local governments and Modern Treaty Nations completed the annual LGCAP survey to report on climate actions taken in 2023. This is the second year that all 189 local governments and eight Modern Treaty Nations reported.<sup>1</sup>

This report provides insights into local climate action in the areas of adaptation and resilience, transportation and buildings, as well as other community-wide initiatives. For each area of action, a snapshot from the 2023 calendar year is provided along with comparisons from 2022 to 2023, offering insight into how community-level climate action is advancing across the province. The final section covers progress made on the number of communities reporting emissions from their corporate services (now defined as traditional services) such as fire protection and recreational services.



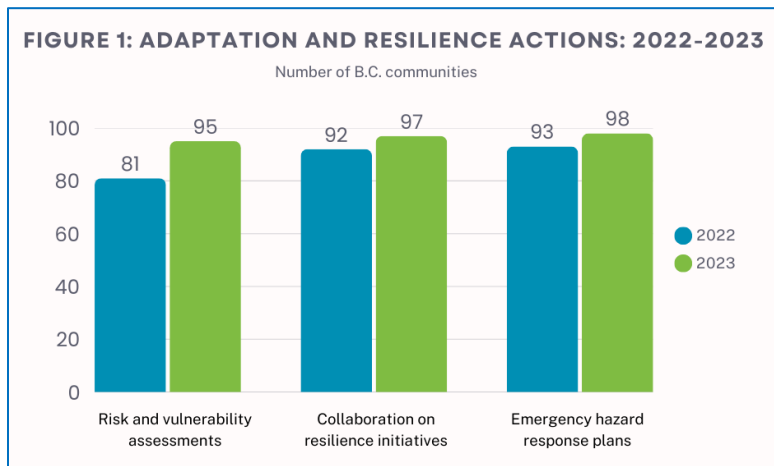
---

<sup>1</sup> For 2022 and 2023, 197 of 197 local governments and Modern Treaty Nations reported on climate actions taken. As one community requested their information not be shared publicly, the numbers included in this report reflect responses provided by 196 communities.

## Key Findings

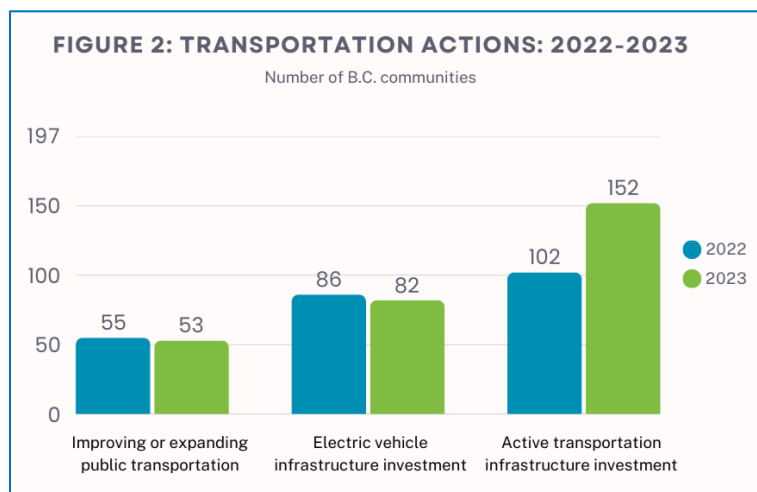
### Adaptation and Resilience

A critical component of climate action is preparing for the risks and impacts of climate change. In 2023, 108 communities integrated climate risk information into asset management, and 174 communities reported ongoing or completed adaptation initiatives. Figure 1 illustrates additional ways communities are preparing for and adapting to our changing climate. The number of formal climate risk and vulnerability assessments increased by 17.3 percent, from 81 in 2022 to 95 in 2023. Additionally, in 2023, more local governments reported collaborating with neighbouring communities on resilience initiatives (e.g. coastal flood management, ecological restoration and nature-based solutions), marking a 5 percent increase from the previous year. Emergency hazard response planning also saw an increase of 5.4 percent, with 98 communities developing such plans in 2023, up from 93 in 2022.



The number of formal climate risk and vulnerability assessments increased by 17.3 percent, from 81 in 2022 to 95 in 2023. Additionally, in 2023, more local governments reported collaborating with neighbouring communities on resilience initiatives (e.g. coastal flood management, ecological restoration and nature-based solutions), marking a 5 percent increase from the previous year. Emergency hazard response planning also saw an increase of 5.4 percent, with 98 communities developing such plans in 2023, up from 93 in 2022.

### Transportation



Transportation is the largest single source of GHG emissions in the province, accounting for 28.8 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e) or approximately 44 percent of our annual total.<sup>2</sup> The Roadmap focuses on multiple ways to reduce emissions from transportation, including encouraging more walking and cycling, supporting infrastructure for electric vehicles and reducing the carbon intensity of fuels.

In 2023, 164 communities reported ongoing or completed initiatives to

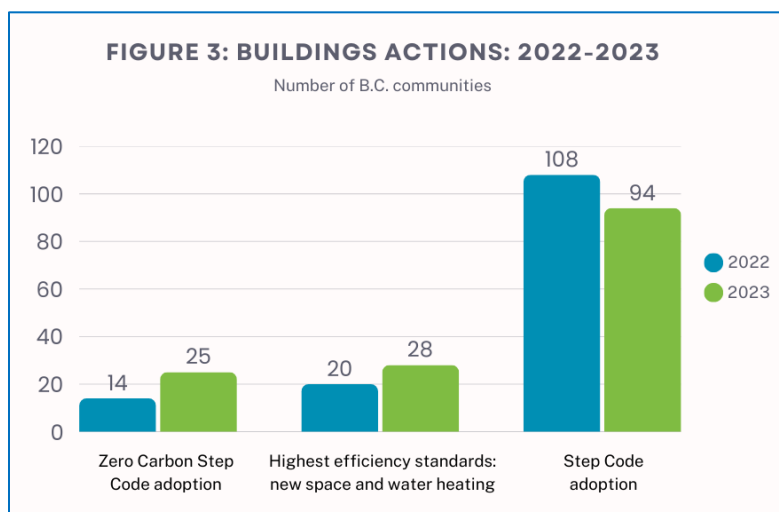
reduce emissions from transportation. Figure 2 shows examples of clean transportation actions from 2022 to 2023. In 2022, 55 communities took steps to improve and expand their public transportation systems, fostering better connectivity within and between neighbourhoods. This momentum has continued into 2023, with 53 communities working to enhance access to public transportation. Electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure also saw significant investment. In 2022, 86 communities reported EV infrastructure expenditures, with similar numbers in 2023, as 82 communities made such investments.

<sup>2</sup> The latest [greenhouse gas \(GHG\) data for B.C. is for 2022](#) based on the National Inventory Report published in May 2024.

From 2022 to 2023, communities investing in active transportation increased by 49 percent, rising from 102 to 152. These figures demonstrate a growing commitment to sustainable and healthy transportation options across the province.

## Buildings

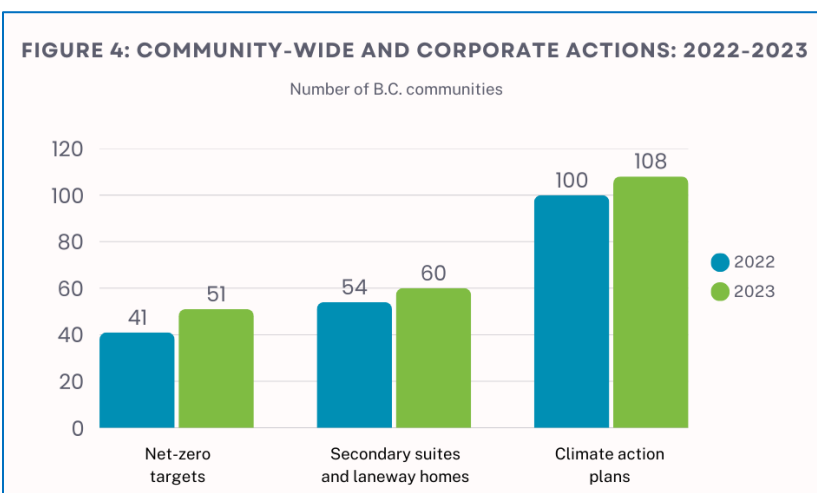
Residential, commercial, and institutional buildings account for 7.8 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e or 12 percent of the province's GHG emissions, mainly due to energy used for heating, cooling, and hot water. Key buildings actions in the Roadmap include zero-carbon new construction by 2030, highest efficiency standards for new space and water heating equipment and enhancing energy efficiency programs.



In 2023, 164 communities reported one or more ongoing or completed initiatives to reduce emissions from the buildings sector. Figure 3 shows examples of actions taken to decarbonize buildings in 2022 and 2023. In 2022, 14 communities implemented the [Zero Carbon Step Code](#), a building standard aimed at reducing carbon emissions from new buildings to zero, increasing to 25 in 2023 (a 78.6 percent increase). Communities enacting the highest efficiency standards for new space and water heating equipment grew from 20 in 2022 to 28 in 2023 (a 40 percent increase). In 2022, 108 communities reported adopting the [Energy Step Code](#) (a provincial standard that provides an incremental approach to achieving more energy-efficient buildings beyond the requirements of the base BC Building Code) followed by 94 communities in 2023. Communities that reported in 2022 may not have reported again in 2023 as they had already signed up for the Energy Step Code.

## Community-Wide and Corporate Initiatives

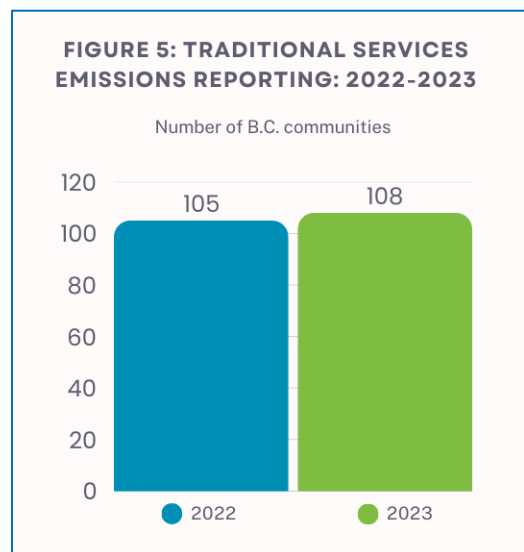
Community-wide initiatives include actions that span the community such as developing GHG emissions reduction targets. Corporate initiatives include actions where the scope applies to the services provided directly by a local government or Modern Treaty Nation such as a zero waste strategy. In 2023, 146 communities reported one or more ongoing or completed community-wide and corporate initiatives.



From 2022 to 2023, an increasing number of communities established net-zero community-wide targets, which refers to a jurisdiction achieving a balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced

and removed from the atmosphere. In 2023, 60 communities reported focusing on housing affordability, accessibility and density by allowing secondary suites and laneway homes compared to 54 communities in 2022 (an 11 percent increase). Developing complete, compact, energy-efficient communities is a crucial strategy for addressing and mitigating climate change. These urban design principles directly contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing community resilience. In 2023, 108 communities reported having climate action plans in place compared to 100 in 2022 (an 8 percent increase). Some plans address mitigation and adaptation, and others focus on community energy and emissions.

### Emissions Reporting for Traditional Services and Community-Wide Emissions



Local governments directly control or influence over 50 percent of energy and emissions in British Columbia. The Roadmap recognizes this influence through commitments on access and enhancement of energy and emissions data at the local government level.

**Traditional Services Emissions:** Communities reported on their traditional services emissions which cover GHG emissions produced from the delivery of 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 10,000 residents were required to measure and report their traditional services

emissions. In 2023, 108 communities reported traditional services emissions compared to 105 in 2022 (a 3 percent increase).

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

To support strategic local government planning and investments, work is underway to improve CEEI's timeliness, precision, level of detail, presentation, and scope to assist local governments in measuring community-wide emissions so they can make evidence-based decisions on their climate investments.

### Resources

For more information on the Local Government Climate Action Program, please visit the [Program webpage](#) where you can find resources such as methodological guides and climate action success stories. To access data collected through the program surveys to date, and to gain additional insights, please visit the [LGCAP dashboard](#). 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.