



**To:** Public Works & Transportation Committee      **Date:** June 15, 2023  
**From:** Peter Russell      **File:** 10-6125-01/2023-Vol  
Director, Sustainability and District Energy      01  
**Re:** **Energize Richmond Toolkit for Community Activation**

**Staff Recommendation**

That the stakeholder engagement and community activation Toolkit outlined in the staff report titled "Energize Richmond Toolkit for Community Activation", dated June 15, 2023, from the Director, Sustainability and District Energy, be received for information.

Peter Russell, BAsC, MSc, MCIP RPP  
Director, Sustainability and District Energy  
(604-276-4130)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b> Community Social Development	<b>CONCURRENCE</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b> 
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> 

## Staff Report

### Origin

Council endorsed the development of the Energy Poverty Reduction Toolkit for Low Income Households and their Service Providers (Toolkit) on September 27, 2021. When brought forward, the stated purpose of the Toolkit was to create a resource, in collaboration with participating non-profit sector leaders, whose work will assist households experiencing low income in reducing their energy related expenses and contribute to a reduction in community greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). Through the development of the draft Toolkit, it was determined that the material would be helpful and appropriate for multiple audiences. As a reflection of this, the Toolkit was rebranded as the Energize Richmond Toolkit to promote inclusion and equitable participation for all members of the Richmond community. Despite the name change, households experiencing low income are still a core audience. As proposed, the Toolkit focuses on stakeholder activation to support target households. The work aligns with the City's Community and Energy Emissions Plan 2050 (CEEP 2050), *Action 1.4.5: Develop a decarbonisation strategy for affordable housing in partnership with stakeholders*. The Toolkit also addresses important social equity issues noted in CEEP 2050 and the City's Social Development Strategy. This report provides an update on the outcomes of the first phase and outlines the key milestones needed to complete the final phases of the initiative.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #2 Strategic and Sustainable Community Growth:

*Strategic and sustainable growth that supports long-term community needs and a well-planned and prosperous city.*

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #5 A Leader in Environmental Sustainability:

*Leadership in environmental sustainability through innovative, sustainable and proactive solutions that mitigate climate change and other environmental impacts.*

*5.1 Continue to demonstrate leadership in proactive climate action and environmental sustainability.*

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

*Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.*

This report also supports Action 2.9 in the City's 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond:

*Develop programs and services that respond to the specific needs of demographics at risk of or living in poverty (e.g. energy poverty reduction programs, financial literacy training for young adults, family-based outreach programming).*

## **Analysis**

### Energize Richmond Toolkit

Energy poverty is caused by a combination of factors including insufficient income, high energy costs and the energy efficiency of the building. A household typically experiences energy poverty when the amount spent on fuels and electricity exceeds 6% of net income. Staff assessed multiple data sources and engaged several community stakeholders to inform the development of the Toolkit.

Goals of the Toolkit were to create a resource in which service providers and community groups can engage community members experiencing low income to increase their awareness of climate and energy issues and to support these households in the creation of action plans that will reduce energy consumption, energy-related expenses and GHG emissions. While the Toolkit (Attachment 2) was developed with an eye to support households experiencing energy poverty, staff see the resulting Toolkit as a resource for all households. The Toolkit will help all residents prepare for the impacts of climate change. Development of the Toolkit used a community engagement and activation approach that sought to build capacity in the non-profit sector, enabling them to help their customers more effectively.

### Phase One – Research and Design through Collaboration with Sector Leaders

This phase included collaboration with local non-profit and government Sector Leaders who are actively working within the Richmond community. The goal of these collaborative efforts is to build the Sector Leaders organizational capacity to better assist the households they support in reducing their energy costs, as well as identify key material to be communicated to Community Leaders through the Toolkit. Through dialogue with these Sector Leaders, energy poverty-related resources and incentives needed to facilitate this work were identified. Non-profit and government Sector Leaders who represent or reach relevant audiences were identified as key groups to engage. A total of 17 leaders were interviewed to ensure that the Toolkit's design reflects community interests, values and concerns. A table outlining the non-profit and government Sector Leaders interviewed, and the questions asked, are provided in Attachment 1.

Interviews were 60 minutes in length and included questions as noted in Attachment 1. The interviews aimed to identify and understand the interests, values and concerns of residents around climate change impacts and high-energy costs, and determine the supports needed to address these issues. The interview questions focused on opportunities, challenges and priorities related to community engagement for households with low income. Specific questions were included to identify the current level of engagement on climate and energy issues, and gaps in services and resources for residents with low income.

### *Results*

Interviews with non-profit and government Sector Leaders revealed that the residents they support are concerned about the high cost of living, climate events such as heat waves, and are especially concerned about how these factors affect the health of the most vulnerable populations in their community. In the interviews, the leaders responded positively to the proposed Toolkit

content and stated that a knowledge gap currently exists around available energy conservation and efficiency resources. Interviewees shared the following feedback:

- The term, “energy poverty” is ambiguous and may create social stigma for those who identify as living on low income. As a result, staff propose adjusting the name of this initiative from the “Energy Poverty Reduction Toolkit” to, “Energize Richmond”;
- Toolkit materials should be translated into other languages to reduce engagement barriers;
- Many residents experiencing low income are renting their homes, therefore the Toolkit should include resources for renters and landlords;
- Community Leaders, or Energize Richmond Leaders, are trusted members who are active in their community and should host the dialogue sessions; and
- Preferred methods of engagement include in-person, hands-on workshops with refreshments.

#### Phase Two – Toolkit Development and Training of Community Leaders

Targeted Community Leaders are key members, and trusted advisors, of the numerous unique and diverse groups that make up the fabric of Richmond. Staff developed initial Toolkit materials, including an event survey and interview guide to aid in evaluation, see Attachment 2 for the Draft Toolkit Facilitation Guide. Contents of the draft Toolkit were informed by the feedback gathered through interviews with Sector Leaders and from experience gained in Boston, Cambridge and Vancouver. Dialogue materials and the facilitation guide are structured around the following action themes:

1. Saving Energy and Cutting Carbon Emissions
2. Preparing for Changing Climate
3. Living with Resilience
4. Enhancing Mobility
5. Building Community

Draft Toolkit content will be further refined based on additional feedback from stakeholders who participate as Community Leaders. Currently the Toolkit addresses the following material and issues:

- A guide for Community Leaders detailing how the Toolkit works, how to access support and find resources, tips on how to facilitate and evaluate a community dialogue and action planning event, and a sample agenda;
- A PowerPoint presentation outlining energy costs, climate risks, related City programs, and how community members can take action in keeping with climate and energy action goals;
- Fact sheets on the impacts and risks of climate change as well as an outline of the City’s actions to address energy and climate change;

- A menu of action items that community members can take to advance climate and energy goals with links to resources;
- An energy and climate action planning workshop guide to assist event participants to map out the steps they are going to take;
- Event surveys and worksheets to track outreach with participants post event, actions that have been taken, barriers to participation, and additional resource needs; and
- Event marketing templates (signage, social media, email).

Community Leader training will support them in hosting dialogue events that are engaging, interactive and empowering. Integration of polling, quizzes, group discussion, games and activities will support this goal. The Toolkit design and materials will allow in-person events, with optional virtual programming. Online aspects of the Toolkit will be made accessible by employing tools and platforms that are commonly used and easy to engage with, and by considering participants' access to internet and technology. Translation services will be provided based on community need.

The opportunity to participate as a Community Leader will be promoted through the City website, social media, and relevant non-profit sector organizations. Interested individuals will be required to complete a registration form. Selected Community Leaders will receive the Toolkit and training in hosting energy and climate dialogues, action planning workshops, and an honorarium to recognize their time, expertise and commitment.

Following the training session, each leader will be encouraged to host a minimum of one event in their community. City staff will attend events to listen and provide information about City initiatives. Community Leaders, event participants and City staff will be engaged as part of Toolkit evaluation. Information and feedback will be gathered through pre-event and post-event surveys and interviews.

Based on the implementation schedule, Phase Two is intended to last four months and will be complete in November 2023. Staff will provide an update to Council highlighting the outcomes of this phase.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

Motivating and enabling residents to take their own actions to reduce GHG emissions has been identified in the City's Community Energy and Emissions Plan. The Energize Richmond Toolkit is a pilot that equips and empowers community members as leaders in engaging their social networks in climate and energy issues. Through peer-to-peer dialogues and action planning sessions, Energize Richmond Leaders inspire their community to take steps to reduce energy use and carbon emissions. Additionally, the program will advance Action 2.9 in the City's 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond related to development of programs that respond to the needs of demographics at risk of or living in poverty in Richmond.

June 15, 2023

- 6 -



Chad Paulin, M.Sc., P.Ag.  
Manager, Environment  
(604-247-4672)

Att. 1: Toolkit Stakeholder Interviews  
Att. 2: Toolkit Facilitation Guide  
Att. 3: Climate Leader Presentation

### Toolkit Stakeholder Interviewees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Date</b>
Emy Lai	City of Richmond (Green Ambassadors) Sanitation/Recycling Assistant, Public Works	August 3, 2022
Ahmed Omran	S.U.C.C.E.S.S.	August 4, 2022
De Whalen	Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition	August 3, 2022
Hajira Hussain	Richmond Food Bank Society	July 28, 2022
Patrick Caraher	Aboriginal Housing Management Association	August 8, 2022
Tabitha Geraghty	Chimo Community Services	August 10, 2022
Ruth Taverner	Richmond Family Place	August 11, 2022
Parm Grewal	Richmond Multicultural Community Society	August 10, 2022
Jeannie Jacobson	Connections Community Services Society	August 12, 2022
Carol Dickson	RCRG Better at Home Program	September 29, 2022
Ella Huang	Richmond Centre for Disability	September 23, 2022
Steven Lamothe	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Community Integration Teams	September 30, 2022
Tamas Revoczi	Sea Island Community Association	September 29, 2022
Mini Kahlon	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction	October 11, 2022
Alan Sakai	Steveston Community Association	October 24, 2022
Yasmin Abraham	Empower Me	October 26, 2022
Sue Varley	City of Richmond	October 26, 2022

### Toolkit Stakeholder Interview Questions

---

Q1: To begin, can you tell me a bit about what you do, what your group does and the constituents you work with?

---

Q2: What are your personal concerns about climate risks (e.g. temperature, air quality, sea level, flooding)? What are your personal concerns about energy? What makes you most concerned looking ahead?

---

Q3: How are climate impacts and high energy costs affecting your community right now?

---

Q4: What is the best way to connect these issues with your constituent group? What are their primary concerns and how do you see climate resilience and energy affordability overlapping with them?

---

Q5: Are there particular questions about climate change or energy that you think your community has and would like to have more information about?

---

Q6: What type of resources and actions might people be open to learning about and engaging with?

---

Q7: What barriers to engagement exist and how could they be overcome?

---

Q8: What would it look like to partner with the City to share a program out to residents ? How best to engage? How could the City support you, supporting them? Resources needed?

---

Q9: What are the best communication channels for reaching people in the community? How do they prefer to connect?

---

Q10: Are you aware of any existing funding or community programs that address these issues?

---

Q11: Who else should we be talking to as we gather input on the program design?

---



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	ABOUT
2	HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE
3	GETTING STARTED
5	HOW TO CUSTOMIZE
6	DIALOGUE OUTLINE
8	FACILITATION NOTES

**ENERGIZE RICHMOND** is a City of Richmond Toolkit that connects community members to climate and energy resources that help save money, prepare for climate impacts, and create a healthy and resilient Richmond for all.

Energy costs are on the rise and for many households, they are becoming a burden. The impacts of climate change are also being felt as we experience more extreme weather. The City of Richmond is taking many steps to address these challenges. Community members have an important role to play as there are numerous ways to contribute. Our shared experiences and how we confront and respond to them connect us as a community.

**QR Link:  
Richmond  
Climate Action  
Programs**



Not everyone is equally affected. Some households are more at risk of experiencing energy cost burdens and the effects of climate change and fossil fuels, including people with low income, racialized communities, recent immigrants, and seniors. Fossil fuels—oil, gas, and coal—drive climate change and cause harmful air pollution. Air pollution is linked to lung and heart diseases, asthma attacks, and even premature death. Our recognition of and capacity to address these inequities is key.

The path forward is an Energized Richmond where we work together to cut energy use and carbon emissions and to prepare our community for a changing climate.

As an Energize Richmond Leader, you are making a vital contribution to the place we call home by engaging your friends, families and/or peers in conversations about energy and climate change and what Richmond is doing and guiding them through a planning process where they decide the ways in which they want to take action.

# ABOUT

As an Energize Richmond Leader, the Toolkit provides training resources to help you facilitate dialogues on climate action. This guide will help you design and implement your event. To learn more about your role and expectations, please refer to the document “Energize Richmond Leaders: Toolkit Overview and Expectations”.

# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The following guide outlines resources and offers tips for how to facilitate a dialogue about energy and climate change and an action planning session. It is designed to support Energize Richmond Leaders slide deck presentation but can also be used as a stand-alone resource to support your dialogue.

We recommend that you review this guide before facilitating a dialogue. Take notes, jot down ideas and questions, and identify terms that may be unfamiliar to you or your group. It may be helpful to print out this guide and have your marked-up version with you during the dialogue.

It may take up to 60 minutes to review this guide, depending on the length of your dialogue. If you plan to use the complete slide deck presentation that corresponds to this guide, plan for at least 60 minutes to review this guide and prepare.

# GETTING STARTED

When you are ready to plan your dialogue on climate action, it is most important to think about WHO you are talking to and HOW you can best connect with them.

The best dialogues are with people who are already in your network and who see you as a trusted member of that network. That may be your neighbours, co-workers, housemates, teammates, customers, clients, employees, members of the same social group or place of worship, and many more.

When you know who, sort out how. Do you only have a brief amount of time with your group? Will using a PowerPoint presentation help the conversation, or will the group be more comfortable without? Are there members of the group who need additional consideration to participate, such as time constraints, childcare, or language support?

Your Leader training will also ask these questions and set you on a path for success with your dialogue. If you haven't thought through these questions yet, take 15 minutes now before you continue reading through this facilitation guide. For more tips and guidance on organizing your event, such as inviting participants, choosing a format, and online platforms to use, refer to the **Energize Richmond Leaders Dialogue Event Planning Guide** and **Technology Guide**.

*(cont.)*

# GETTING STARTED

## TIPS

If you are ready to go, here are a few general tips as you approach your dialogue:

▶ **Focus on actions.** It's important to talk about challenges related to energy and climate change, **but focus the conversation on actions underway in the community and the roles community members can play.** Allow the time and space for people to talk through the problem, but pivot those reactions to productive conversations on the need for bold individual, community and collection action.

▶ **Share personal stories.** When appropriate, use storytelling to convey your message or ground your point. When sharing how climate impacts you personally, talk about the experience rather than the topic or issue.

▶ **Be respectful and empathetic.** You are responsible for yourself and the people around you. Please ensure you review the ground rules with the group at the start of the session (see "Group Agreements" on slide 5 of the Community Leader Presentation). Be aware of how current events could impact your conversation and your participants and be sensitive to those impacts.

▶ **You don't need to have all of the answers.** If you get asked a question and you don't know the answer, say that but promise to follow up or connect the person asking the question with someone who does. You are not expected to be an expert, and it is okay to tell your group that.

There is strong support among Canadians that we must not back away from efforts to combat climate change. Expect to be met with support, creativity, and productive conversation.

# HOW TO CUSTOMIZE

The Energize Richmond Toolkit was built for and with the Richmond community. Before creating the Toolkit, leaders from a broad range of community organizations shared their insight into what would be a successful outreach Toolkit. Their input was incorporated into this guide and other materials to ensure the Toolkit works for the community it serves.

The same intention should be made when facilitating your dialogue, because Richmond is made up of many diverse communities. This guide, and the materials that support it, are made to be customized for your group and dialogue.

Here are a few tips for customizing your dialogue:

- ▶ **Cut content but keep the sequencing.** If your group is ready and willing to discuss everything, that is great and go for it! If you have less time or you want to focus on a specific topic or action area, you can cut or skip over content, but the order of discussion is intentional to focus the conversation on solutions.
- ▶ **Use facts, stories, and images that resonate with your group.** Your group will be most engaged if the conversation is relevant and timely. Help the members of your dialogue connect by using facts, stories, and even images that relate to them.
- ▶ **Try humour.** Climate change is a serious issue, but this is a conversation with neighbours and friends. It is okay to be lighthearted at points without undermining the urgency of the issue.
- ▶ **Be creative.** The best way to customize your dialogue is to be creative. No two conversations are meant to be the same. While the guide offers the framework for conversation, it should not box you in.

# DIALOGUE OUTLINE

## **Section 1—Introduction**

*(slides 1-6)*

- Welcome : Greeting, acknowledgement of Indigenous land and traditional territories and technology reminders
- Personal and participant introduction
- Toolkit overview and plan for the day
- Group agreements
- Survey thoughts on energy and climate change
- Participant introductions and motivations

## **Section 2—Let's Talk About Energy**

*(slides 7-14)*

- We use energy and electricity every day
- Where does our energy come from
- What are your thoughts on energy?
- Discussion question
- Energy impacts
- Carbon emissions from transportation
- Benefits of clean energy

*Suggested break (5-15 min.)*

## **Section 3—Let's Talk About Climate Change**

*(slides 15-23)*

- Climate change is impacting us now
- Floods, sea level rise and heat
- Poor air quality
- Some people are more at risk
- Discussion question

*(cont.)*

# DIALOGUE OUTLINE

## **Section 4—Let's Talk About Solutions**

*(slides 24-42)*

- Vision and path forward
- Saving Energy and Cutting Carbon Emissions
- Preparing for a Changing Climate
- Living with Resilience
- Enhancing Mobility
- Building Community

## **Section 5—Creating a Personal Energy Savings and Climate Action Plan**

*(slides 43-58)*

- Overview
- Saving Energy and Cutting Carbon Emissions
- Preparing for a Changing Climate
- Living with Resilience
- Enhancing Mobility
- Building Community
- Workplan Instructions

# FACILITATION NOTES

## Section 1—Introduction (slides 1-6)

▶ **Slide 1**—Welcome your participants to your meeting space and thank them for their time and commitment to listen and engage over the allotted time. If hosting your event online, go over technology reminders.

▶ **Slide 2**—Introduce yourself and share a few personal details. This may include where you live, work, and/or play in the city. Share why you’ve become an Energize Richmond Leader and if using the presentation, include a fun photo of yourself or something that represents you.

Ask participants to share their names, if they live, work, and/or play in Richmond and what they value most about their community. Take note of how they define community—it may be different than how you and others define it. Also take note of similarities or overlap in responses to help guide further discussion points. Another way of asking this is “what do you love most about your city?”

▶ **Slide 3**—Provide an overview of the Energize Richmond Toolkit. Remind participants why you are there and what you hope to achieve. Be clear that you want to motivate actions that save energy, cut carbon emissions, prepare for climate impacts and when possible, save money at the same time.

▶ **Slide 4**—Use this slide to outline the discussion so that everyone knows what to expect of the conversation.

▶ **Slide 5**—Walk through agreements on how you will work together as a group. Feel free to customize. If participants know each other well, you may not need this step, unless not everyone is in alignment around energy and climate issues.

▶ **Slide 6**—At this point it’s important to survey participants to hear how they’re thinking about energy issues **before** proceeding further into the discussion. This can be done verbally or by using the online version of the survey—whatever works best for you and your participants.



# FACILITATION NOTES

## Section 2—Let's Talk About Energy (slides 7-14)

- ▶ **Slide 7—Let's Talk About Energy.** Introduction slide.
- ▶ **Slide 8—We use energy and electricity every day.** You can skip this slide if you feel your participants have a good understanding of what energy is used for.
- ▶ **Slide 9—Where does our energy come from?** Do you know where British Columbia gets its energy from? British Columbia's energy mix is primarily composed of sources such as hydroelectric power, gas and biomass.

If you like, you could show this short video about hydropower:

<https://youtube/OeqKLiEwZO>

- ▶ **Slide 10—What are your thoughts on energy?** This is a good time to bring people into the conversation by asking people a few questions about energy use and cost.
- ▶ **Slide 11—Did you know?** Close to 20 percent of households in Richmond are spending twice as much as other Canadians.

You can ask participants to calculate the percentage of their income they spend on energy using this formula: To figure out your energy costs, take your average monthly energy bill cost and divide it by your combined monthly household income (after tax). Then multiply by 100 to determine your energy consumption cost. For example, if you and your partner have a combined income of \$5000/month (after tax) and you pay \$300/month on your energy,  $(300/5000 * 100 = 6\%)$  you spend 6% of your income on your energy costs.

(cont.)

# FACILITATION NOTES

▶ **Slide 11 (cont.)**–Sources:

- 18% of Richmond households spend 6%+ on their energy needs.
- “Households that spend more than 6% of their after-tax household income on home energy services (or roughly twice the national median) have high home energy cost burdens, and are said to be experiencing energy poverty.” And, “Most households in Canada spend less than 3% of their after-tax income on their energy needs.”

▶ **Slide 12–We need energy, but...** Many people do not know that fossil fuels are the primary source of carbon emissions and that there are health risks associated with using gas appliances such as asthma.

▶ **Slide 13–57% of Richmond’s carbon emissions comes from transportation**

▶ **Slide 14–Clean energy is better for everyone.** Climate change is also causing energy costs to rise to manage extreme heat.

# FACILITATION NOTES

## Section 3—Let's Talk About Climate Change (slides 15-23)

► **Slide 15—Let's talk about climate change.** You could skip over this section if you want to focus on energy issues. Similarly, you could skip the energy section and dive into climate change, depending on what your group will be most interested in and the amount of time you have.

If you plan to cover this section, pause here and ask the group what is causing climate change. If you are hosting your event online, participants can answer out loud, or type their answers into the chat, or you could set up a poll in Zoom (see the Technology Guide). While the focus of your dialogue isn't on the causes of climate change, it can be helpful to briefly describe the main cause: the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas to generate electricity and heat, to power our cars, trucks and other forms of transportation, and to make the products and goods we use. (If you show a video the group may already have heard the answer but you can have some fun reviewing it.)

If you like, you could share a short video for some fun and/or inspiration. Here are a few ideas:

- UBC Climate Hub "Climate Comeback":  
[facebook.com/watch/?v=2417458868369603](https://facebook.com/watch/?v=2417458868369603)
- Bill Nye The Science Guy climate change explainer: [youtu.be/EtW2rrLHs08](https://youtu.be/EtW2rrLHs08)
- Bill Nye The Science Guy mad about lack of climate action:  
[youtu.be/IvySCXP5RnE](https://youtu.be/IvySCXP5RnE) (maybe not appropriate for some as he swears a bunch)

► **Slide 16—Climate change impacts us all now.** It's important to place the risk of climate change in the present given many people still feel it is a distant threat. And remind people we can come together to address it.

# FACILITATION NOTES

- ▶ **Slide 17–Heavy rain and flooding.**
- ▶ **Slide 18–Rising sea levels.** For slides regarding climate impacts, don't feel you need to be an expert. The slides have plain, clear language about the overall trends which is what most people care about.
- ▶ **Slide 19–Hotter, drier summers.** How many days over 25°C will there be in 2050 if we don't cut carbon emissions? We're expecting our current number of 22 hot days per year to reach nearly 55 hot days by 2050.
- ▶ **Slide 20–Poor air quality.**
- ▶ **Slide 21–The number of days our air quality is being degraded by wildfire smoke is increasing.**
- ▶ **Slide 22–Just as energy costs impact some more than others, the same is true for climate change.** Talking about equity is important as policies and programs need to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change. This would be a good time to take questions. If you don't know the answer, let people know you will find out and get back to them.
- ▶ **Slide 23–What climate impacts are you most concerned about and why?** Give folks a chance to answer this question either in an all-participant format if you have a small group or by breaking people into small groups to discuss. The impacts of climate change can be overwhelming and it is helpful for people to process the risks together.

You might want to answer first to kick things off. Also, capture notes or ask volunteers to take notes so the feedback regarding what climate impacts people are most concerned by can be shared with City of Richmond staff to consider in relation to climate plans and programs.

**Following this discussion, you may want to take a break.**

# FACILITATION NOTES

## Section 4—Let's Talk About Solutions (slides 24-42)

- ▶ **Slide 24—Let's Talk About Solutions.** Introduction slide.
- ▶ **Slide 25—Our path forward...**
- ▶ **Slide 26—Energize Richmond Actions.** These two slides are about pivoting to solutions which will take up the remainder of the dialogue. First going over what the City of Richmond is doing in this section, then what your participants can do to contribute, and finally into the personal action planning session. If you only had time to show one slide, choose the Energize Richmond Actions slide to help focus the following discussion.
- ▶ **Slide 27—Richmond has a plan.** There are a number of plans and programs in place that address energy and climate change across a range of City departments. We've organized them into five action buckets so it is easier for people to see how it all adds up. *If you are running short on time, you could just go over this slide and skip to the actions people can take under the five areas.*
- ▶ **Slide 28—Saving Energy and Cutting Carbon Emissions.** This section is about ways the City of Richmond is working to save energy and cut climate emissions from energy use. Let the group know you'll walk through these five action areas, and that the following slides provide more information on City-led initiatives and pathways for them to take action. This will help the group narrow down their areas of interest while they explore the various steps within each one.
- ▶ **Slide 29—What the City is Doing.** Net zero means that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are in balance with emission reductions. We cannot get to net zero without greatly cutting back the production and use of fossil fuels. Carbon neutral means that buildings are constructed in a way that they don't generate carbon emissions. This is done by building to the highest levels of energy performance which in British Columbia is called the Step Code. Local governments can choose to adopt the Step Code and at what level.

# FACILITATION NOTES

▶ **Slide 30–What the City is Doing.** Community owned energy, energy efficiency, and clean energy are covered here.

▶ **Slides 31-34–Preparing for a Changing Climate.** This section is about steps the City of Richmond is taking to prepare for and reduce the risk of extreme weather events, sea level rise, and other climate impacts.

We can think of resilience to climate change as the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt and thrive, no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.

▶ **Slides 35-38–Living with Resilience.** This section covers programs to generate a circular economy and manage waste, increase food security and environmental protection. Circular economies reduce waste and pollution and regenerate natural systems. Food recovery cuts emissions and waste by redistributing food. Food security efforts include increasing the sustainability of agriculture in Richmond including cutting carbon emissions.

▶ **Slides 39-40–Enhancing Mobility.** This section is about the ways in which the City of Richmond is making transportation more sustainable and affordable. This is key given transportation is the largest source of emissions in the community.

▶ **Slides 41-42–Building Community.** Building strong connections within our communities (e.g., neighbours, workmates, schoolmates, members of our faith communities) is critical to being resilient to the impacts of climate change.

*Pause here to ask participants for their thoughts on these priorities and for other ideas for what the City could be doing. You or the City staff member with you can take note of suggestions.*

# FACILITATION NOTES

## **Section 5—Creating a Personal Energy Savings and Climate Action Plan** (slides 43-58)

► **Slides 43-56—Creating a personal energy savings and climate action plan.** This section of the dialogue should be the most engaging with your group. Start it off by asking the group a question—what can you do to save energy and take climate action? You may ask the group to think about actions they are not already taking because you will soon lead them into creating their own climate action plan. Ask, or call on, a few people to share their responses. It may help to start by sharing your own response and include what action area it falls under.

The slides in this section have examples of actions but there is a full list available in the Action Planning Guide [need to link to the guide here]. You may choose not to use the presentation and walk through the guide instead. Or you may decide to give people about five minutes to walk through the guide on their own and then leave time for any questions that come up.

► **Slides 57-58**—At this point you can ask the group whether they would like to develop individual climate action plans or come up with something to work on together.

- *If they prefer to work individually:* Use the next 5-10 minutes and ask everyone to think about their personal action plan—what they can do to save energy and take climate action. The responses to the previous discussion question should help people come up with ideas. After 10 minutes, bring the group back together and ask people to share some of the actions they came up with.
- *If they prefer to come up with a collective plan:* Split them into smaller groups. If you are online, choose groups of about three using the breakout function in Zoom (see Technology Guide for more detail). Ask the groups to brainstorm ideas for collective action—meaning ways in which they can work together.

(cont.)

# FACILITATION NOTES

## ► Slides 57-58 (cont.)

- Ask groups to pick a note taker and let them know that each group will report back to the larger group with their ideas. Allow 15-20 minutes for the smaller group discussion. You can share the deck and allow folks to add their ideas to the last slide.
- Let the group know that the dialogue is coming to a close. Ask the group to take 10 minutes to fill out the survey that will record the actions they plan to take and also gather their feedback on the event. This will help Toolkit organizers understand the impact the Toolkit is having and help improve the Energize Richmond Toolkit. Names and personal information do not need to be shared.
- If action items for the group were discussed, go over them and outline next steps to take.
- If you feel comfortable, share your contact information for members of your group to follow up with questions or feedback. You are not required to share your information. If you don't want to, you can change that part of this slide to "Thank You" and regardless, be sure to thank the group for their time.



# Welcome



Please check that your correct name is on the participant list. (Click “participants” at the bottom of your screen.)



Please keep your audio muted unless you’re speaking.



Please use the “raise hand” function if you would like to speak.

# Energize Richmond





# Hello!

I live in [Location] here in Richmond. You may see me [Insert Activity]. I became an **Energize Richmond Community Leader** because [Rationale for Becoming a CL].

# Today we will...

1

Learn about the ways in which energy and climate issues are impacting Richmond.

2

Hear about what the City of Richmond is doing to help.

3

Talk about the ways we can save energy and money, prepare for climate impacts, and create resilient households and neighbourhoods.

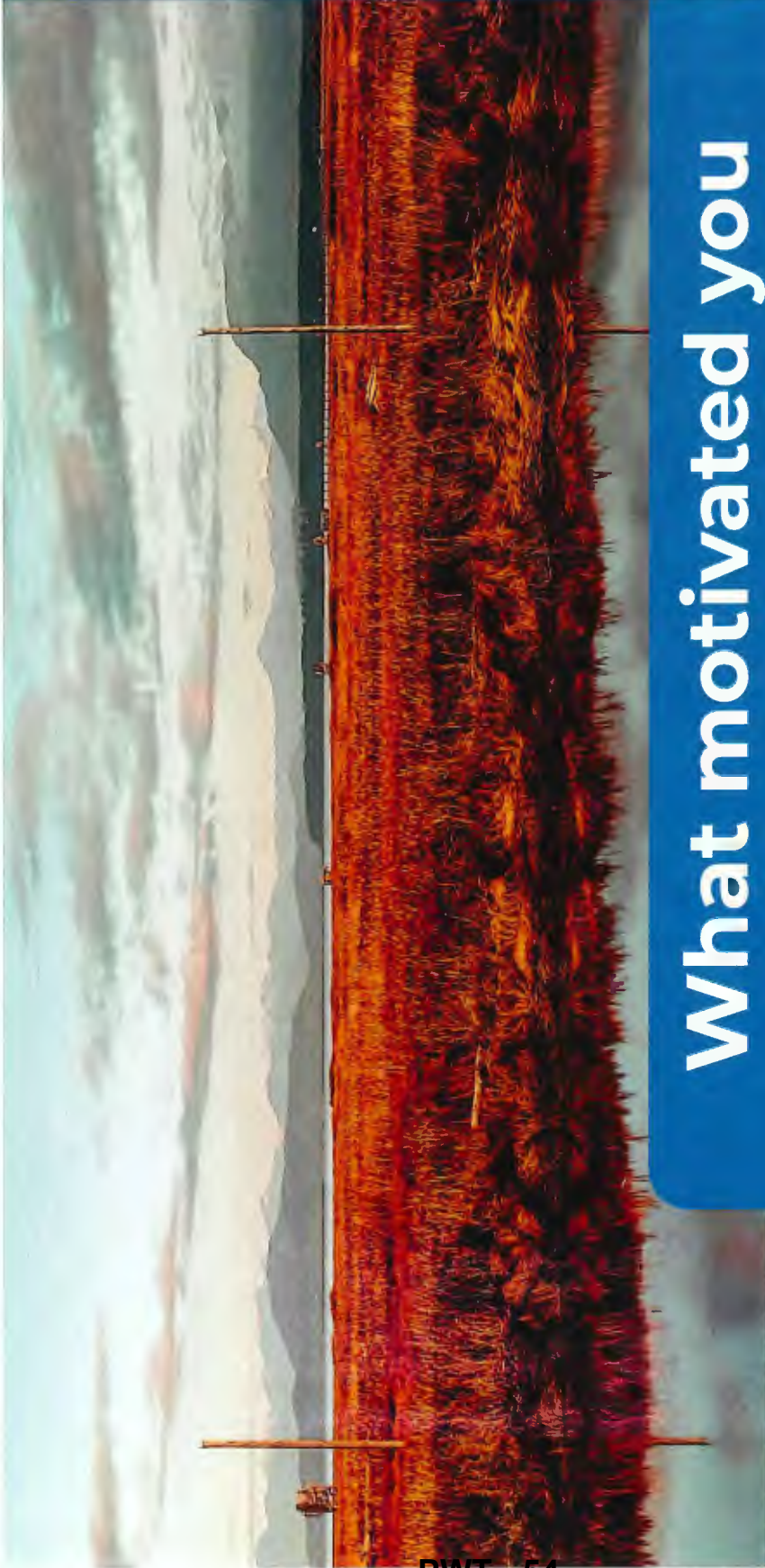
4

Create an action plan!



## Group Agreements

- **Be respectful and empathetic:** Everyone brings their own unique and valuable experiences
- **Share the air:** Step back if you tend to speak a lot to allow others who aren't as comfortable to step into the conversations
- **Be present:** Minimize distractions and avoid trying to multitask



**What motivated you  
to join the event?**

**Let's talk about energy**



## We use energy and electricity every day.

**We rely on energy** to power the systems and devices that make our lives comfortable, convenient, and productive. We need energy to:

- Heat and cool our homes
- Light our streets and houses
- Cook our food
- Use our tv's and computers
- Power our transportation services

# Where does our energy come from?

In Canada, our energy comes from several sources, including:

- **Fossil fuel energy** (oil, gas, coal)
- **Renewable energy** (solar, wind, hydro)

Do you know where British Columbia gets its energy from?



## What are your thoughts on energy?

### **Do you know how much energy you use to light, heat or cool your home?**

- Do you use electricity or gas to heat your home?

### **Do you think you spend too much money on your energy bills?**

- Do you find you're spending more because your house gets too hot in the summer or too cold in the winter?
- What actions do you currently take to save money on your energy bills?

## Did you know...

If your energy costs are disproportionately high, there are programs and resources available to help you lower your energy use, increase the comfort of your home, and save money on your bills.

## We need energy, but...

The need for energy is undeniable, but using it can be **expensive for families** and **creates pollution**. The energy we produce—especially from burning fossil fuels like oil and gas—to heat buildings, power transportation, and make and move the things we consume, is a major source of carbon emissions and air and water pollution.



**57% of Richmond's carbon emissions  
comes from transportation alone**

# Clean energy is better for everyone

**Carbon emissions drive climate change. And climate change is causing energy costs to rise** in order to manage extreme heat and cold events, which are happening more often. We need to start using cleaner sources of energy powered by the sun and wind to **protect our climate and help families save money.**

**Let's talk about climate  
change**



# Climate change impacts us all now.

As we encounter hotter temperatures, heavier rainfall, and risk of flooding, we experience **climate disruption**. Our shared experiences, and how we confront and respond to them, **connect us as a community**.

# Heavy rain and flooding

Heavy rain events are becoming more frequent and intense. Autumns and winters in Richmond are getting warmer and wetter.

## Did you know...

The atmospheric river events of 2021 marked Richmond's biggest storm in half a century with over 130 mm of rain in a 3 day period. That's enough water to fill a standard swimming pool! Other than small isolated situations, the City's drainage system protected the island from any major impacts.

Learn More About the City of Richmond's Flood Protection Initiatives:



Flooded fields at Walter Lee Elementary School during the November 2021 atmospheric river events.  
(*Carlos Silva, Twitter*)





Fraser River flooding. (City of Richmond BC, Twitter)

# Rising sea levels

Climate change is making Richmond more vulnerable to coastal and Fraser River flooding. Warmer temperatures, melting ice, and warming oceans are causing water levels to rise.

The City of Richmond sits 1 meter above sea level and is part of the Fraser River floodplain. **Over the next 30 years, sea levels are expected to rise by 50 cm and by 1 meter in the next 80 years**, putting our homes, businesses, parks, and wildlife habitats at risk. Over the next 50 years, the City will be raising dikes to 4.7 metres to meet the year 2100 sea level rise projections, with the ability to further raise to 5.5 metres.



Learn More About the City of Richmond's Climate Action Programs:

## Hotter, drier summers

**Summers in Richmond are getting warmer.** On average, the Metro Vancouver area gets 22 hot days per year (+25° C).

**Extreme heat can be dangerous for our health.** The western heat dome that we experienced in 2021 was the deadliest weather event in Canada, causing 619 heat-related deaths in BC between June 25-July 1.

How many days over 25 C will we have in 2050 if we don't cut carbon emissions?

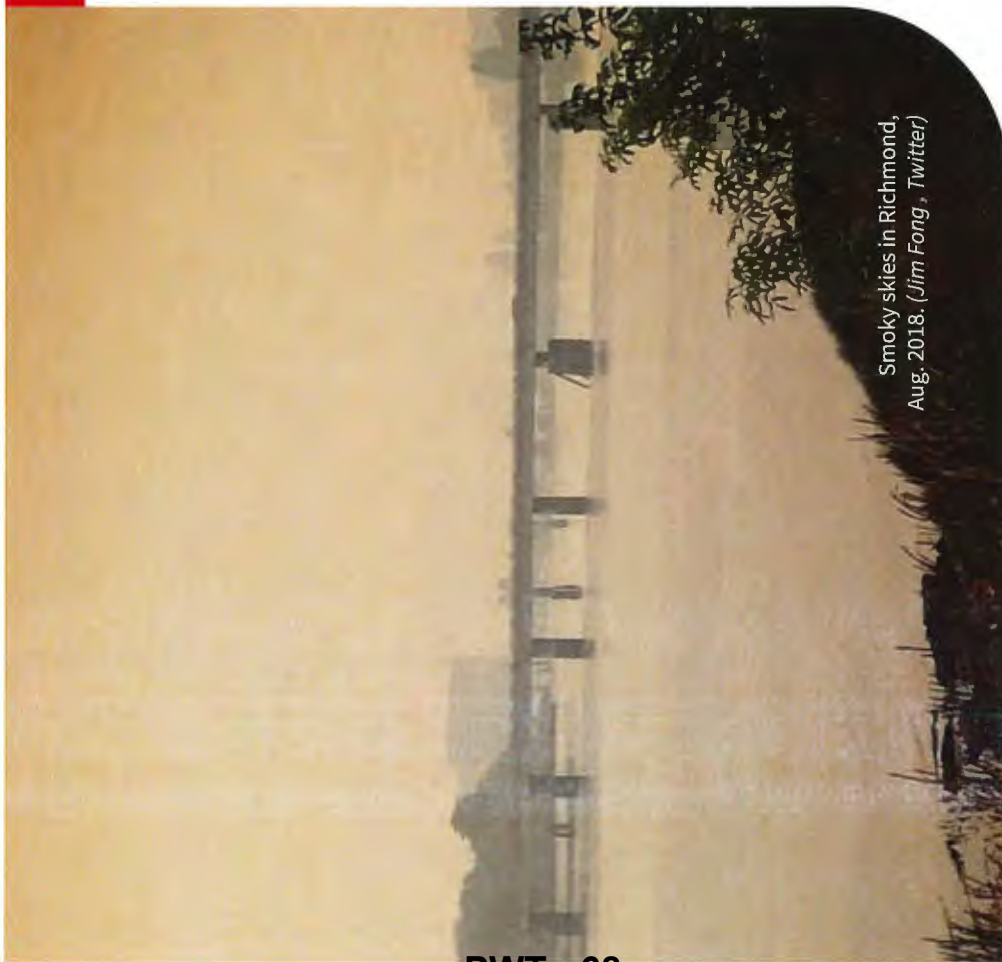
Learn More About City Resources for Staying Safe in Hot Weather:



# Poor Air Quality

Poor air quality from smog and wildfire smoke impacts physical and mental health, outdoor work, recreation, and tourism.

Young children, the elderly, and those with poor health or compromised immune systems are more likely to get sick from air pollution.



Smoky skies in Richmond,  
Aug. 2018. (*Jim Fong, Twitter*)

**The number of days our air quality is degraded by wildfire smoke is increasing**

Wildfire smoke degraded air quality for eight days during the summer of 2015, a record total of 19 days in 2017, and 22 days in 2018.

Daily doctor visits for asthma and prescriptions filled for asthma relief medication increased to far above average.

In October 2022, **Metro Vancouver's air quality was ranked 3rd worst in the world.**



Get Up-To-Date Air Quality Data from the Province of BC's Richmond South Air Monitoring Station:

**Just as energy costs impact some more than others, the same is true for climate change.**

**Climate impacts are experienced disproportionately** across households experiencing low income, racialized communities, recent immigrants, seniors, children, people with disabilities, people with chronic health conditions and unhoused people.

As changes to our climate intensify and become more frequent, so too will the shocks and stresses experienced by our neighbours who have been systematically excluded.



**What climate impacts are you most concerned about and why?**

**Let's talk about solutions**



# Our path forward...

We have **an opportunity** to save money, increase comfort, and tackle the climate crisis at the same time. And we can do it in a way that builds an affordable, healthy and resilient Richmond for all.



## Energize Richmond city actions

Richmond's vision is to be a **sustainable and healthy island city** that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to thrive. It's a place where people live, work, and prosper in a welcoming, connected, accessible and vibrant community.

# Richmond has a plan.

Together we can...



**Save Energy and Cut  
Carbon Emissions**



**Live with Resilience**



**Build Community**



**Prepare for a  
Changing Climate**



**Enhance Mobility**



# Saving Energy & Cutting Carbon Emissions

Conserving energy is a great way to address climate change while saving money, and increasing the comfort of your business or home.





## Saving Energy & Cutting Carbon Emissions

### What the City is doing

#### Net Zero by 2050:

Richmond's Community Energy and Emissions Plan (GEEP) 2050 includes multiple actions within eight strategic directions that together will set Richmond on a path to achieve 50% reduction in community GHG emissions by 2030, and reach net zero emissions by 2050.

#### Retrofit Existing

**Buildings:** The City is retrofitting existing municipal buildings and shifting to low-carbon heating and cooling.

#### Carbon Neutral

**Buildings:** Richmond has adopted the highest level of the province's Step Code for high energy performance. All new buildings will have low-carbon energy systems and will be built to top energy performance standards by 2027.



Learn More About the City of Richmond's Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) 2050:



## Saving Energy & Cutting Carbon Emissions

### What the City is doing

#### **Community Owned Energy:**

Richmond is leading the way in developing publicly owned, regional district energy systems that deliver low-carbon, affordable and clean energy and help lower building costs.

**Efficient and Clean Energy:** Through its Energy Management Program, Richmond is cutting energy use, promoting efficient uses of energy and increasing the use of renewable energy via incentives and promotion of best practices.

See what the Lulu Island Energy Company is All About:



# Preparing for a Changing Climate

We can prepare now so we're ready for climate-related  
disruptions and emergencies.





## Preparing for a Changing Climate

### What the City is doing

**Flood Management:** Richmond has the most comprehensive flood management system in the province and work is underway to improve the overall system and dikes in particular to withstand sea level rise and other climate impacts.

Check Out the City's Flood Protection Management Strategy:



**Rainwater Management:** The City has a plan to manage stormwater and reduce its impact on drainage infrastructure and water quality, while also finding ways to use rainwater as a resource. This is especially important due to the expected increase in rainfall intensities due to climate change.



## Preparing for a Changing Climate

### What the City is doing

**Natural Areas:** Richmond has a strategy to manage and improve its natural areas and the ecosystem services they provide, like clean air and water, biodiversity and recreation opportunities. The plan prioritizes long-term sustainability, collaboration, and adaptation to climate change, so everyone can continue to benefit from the city's natural areas in the face of a changing climate.



Learn About the City's Ecological Network Management Strategy:

**Urban Forest:** The City is working on building an urban forest that can withstand climate change impacts like heat stress, waterlogging, and pest outbreaks. Urban forests offer many benefits such as cooling the air, absorbing rainwater, reducing air pollution, and capturing carbon, which can help the city adapt to climate change.



Check Out the City's Public Tree Management Strategy 2045:



**Let's talk about solutions**



# Our path forward...

We have **an opportunity** to save money, increase comfort, and tackle the climate crisis at the same time. And we can do it in a way that builds an affordable, healthy and resilient Richmond for all.

## Energize Richmond city actions

Richmond's vision is to be a **sustainable and healthy island city** that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to thrive. It's a place where people live, work, and prosper in a welcoming, connected, accessible and vibrant community.

# Richmond has a plan.

Together we can...



**Save Energy and Cut  
Carbon Emissions**



**Live with Resilience**



**Build Community**



**Prepare for a  
Changing Climate**



**Enhance Mobility**



## Saving Energy & Cutting Carbon Emissions

### What the City is doing

#### Net Zero by 2050:

Richmond's Community Energy and Emissions Plan (GEEP) 2050 includes multiple actions within eight strategic directions that together will set Richmond on a path to achieve 50% reduction in community GHG emissions by 2030, and reach net zero emissions by 2050.

#### Retrofit Existing

**Buildings:** The City is retrofitting existing municipal buildings and shifting to low-carbon heating and cooling.

#### Carbon Neutral

**Buildings:** Richmond has adopted the highest level of the province's Step Code for high energy performance. All new buildings will have low-carbon energy systems and will be built to top energy performance standards by 2027.



Learn More About the City of Richmond's Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) 2050:



## Saving Energy & Cutting Carbon Emissions

### What the City is doing

#### **Community Owned Energy:**

Richmond is leading the way in developing publicly owned, regional district energy systems that deliver low-carbon, affordable and clean energy and help lower building costs.

**Efficient and Clean Energy:** Through its Energy Management Program, Richmond is cutting energy use, promoting efficient uses of energy and increasing the use of renewable energy via incentives and promotion of best practices.

See what the Lulu Island Energy Company is All About:





## Preparing for a Changing Climate

### What the City is doing

**Flood Management:** Richmond has the most comprehensive flood management system in the province and work is underway to improve the overall system and dikes in particular to withstand sea level rise and other climate impacts.

Check Out the City's Flood  
Protection Management  
Strategy:



**Rainwater Management:** The City has a plan to manage stormwater and reduce its impact on drainage infrastructure and water quality, while also finding ways to use rainwater as a resource. This is especially important due to the expected increase in rainfall intensities due to climate change.



## Preparing for a Changing Climate

### What the City is doing

**Natural Areas:** Richmond has a strategy to manage and improve its natural areas and the ecosystem services they provide, like clean air and water, biodiversity and recreation opportunities. The plan prioritizes long-term sustainability, collaboration, and adaptation to climate change, so everyone can continue to benefit from the city's natural areas in the face of a changing climate.



Learn About the City's Ecological Network Management Strategy:

**Urban Forest:** The City is working on building an urban forest that can withstand climate change impacts like heat stress, waterlogging, and pest outbreaks. Urban forests offer many benefits such as cooling the air, absorbing rainwater, reducing air pollution, and capturing carbon, which can help the city adapt to climate change.



Check Out the City's Public Tree Management Strategy 2045:





## Preparing for a Changing Climate

# What the City is doing

### **Invasive Species:**

The City has a plan to reduce the risks posed by invasive species, which can proliferate due to climate change and ecological shifts. By addressing the threat of invasive species, we can help protect our natural areas and ensure that they remain healthy and resilient for generations to come.



Learn About  
Invasive  
Species:

### **Cooling Centres:**

During heat waves and poor air quality events, the City provides clean air cooling stations in community centers, pools, water parks, libraries and arenas to help residents vulnerable to heat stress and poor air quality. It also offers tips on how to stay cool from health authorities.



Where to  
Cool Down:

### **Emergency Programs:**

Richmond's emergency programs protect people's lives, public infrastructure, private property, and the environment during emergencies or disasters. These programs help the City deal with climate-related impacts, such as flooding and provide a vital safety net for the community in times of crisis.



Emergency  
Preparedness  
in Richmond:



## Preparing for a Changing Climate

### What the City is doing

#### **Invasive Species:**

The City has a plan to reduce the risks posed by invasive species, which can proliferate due to climate change and ecological shifts. By addressing the threat of invasive species, we can help protect our natural areas and ensure that they remain healthy and resilient for generations to come.



Learn About  
Invasive  
Species:

#### **Cooling Centres:**

During heat waves and poor air quality events, the City provides clean air cooling stations in community centers, pools, water parks, libraries and arenas to help residents vulnerable to heat stress and poor air quality. It also offers tips on how to stay cool from health authorities.



Where to  
Cool Down:

#### **Emergency Programs:**

Richmond's emergency programs protect people's lives, public infrastructure, private property, and the environment during emergencies or disasters. These programs help the City deal with climate-related impacts, such as flooding and provide a vital safety net for the community in times of crisis.



Emergency  
Preparedness  
in Richmond:



## Living with Resilience

Our everyday choices—such as what we eat, the waste we create, what we choose to buy, and our energy and water use—can help us both become more resilient, save money, and cut carbon emissions.





## Living with Resilience

### What the City is doing

**Circular Economy:** The City has policies in place, like the Circular City Strategy, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support sustainable practices. A circular economy can have a variety of positive impacts that go beyond economics and the environment, including the elimination of waste and pollution, preserving products and materials and regenerating natural systems, all playing an important role in the achievement of climate change targets.



Learn About the  
Richmond Circular City  
Strategy:

**Waste Management:** Richmond's waste management system diverts 79% of landfill waste from single detached homes and duplexes and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. And as of March 2022, the City has banned plastic bags, straws and foam food containers to further reduce unnecessary single-use plastics and promote the circular economy.



See How Richmond is  
Re-Thinking Waste  
Management:



## What the City is doing

**Food Recovery:** Richmond wants to help businesses use their resources better and practice circular economy in their operations. As part of this vision, the City partnered with a company called FoodMesh, which helps redistribute food. Together, they made the Richmond Food Recovery Network. This helps local food businesses take their unsold food and use it for something more valuable instead of throwing it away.

**Food Security:** Agriculture plays a significant role in the economy of Richmond, occupying more than 40% of the city's land base. The City has a plan to help manage land use and make people more aware of food security issues. This plan also helps make agriculture more sustainable and reduces the impact of climate change on farming.



Learn About the Richmond Food Recovery Network; Food Mesh:



## What the City is doing

### **Environmental Enhancement Grant:**

Local community groups can apply for funding up to \$2500 and individuals up to \$500 to carry out inclusive projects that enhance, restore or conserve Richmond's unique island natural environment. Eligible initiatives include invasive species pulls, native tree planting, watercourse enhancement, shoreline and street clean-ups, wildlife education, and creating or enhancing habitats for birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.

Discover How to Access Funds  
to Carry Out Your Own  
Environmental Enhancement  
Project:





## Enhancing Mobility

Transportation accounts for 57% of the City's carbon emissions. Focusing on making more climate-friendly transportation choices will help us save money on gas, avoid parking fees, and be ready for disruption.





## Enhancing Mobility

### What the City is doing

#### **Sustainable Transportation:**

Richmond is committed to making it easier and safer for residents, employees, and visitors to get around by walking, rolling, cycling or taking public transit. By investing in infrastructure such as new transit shelters, crosswalks, bike lanes, and cycling facilities throughout the city, the City aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and make low-carbon transportation options more accessible for everyone.



Learn How the City Supports Active Transportation:

**Low-Emission Vehicles:** The City requires all new residential parking spaces to have an electric vehicle (EV) charging outlet to encourage EV adoption and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The City is also building a network of public EV charging stations for efficient and sustainable service and is shifting its own fleet of vehicles towards green operations by purchasing vehicles that have lower emissions.



Find Out Where You can Charge Your EV:





# Building Community

Knowing our neighbours and being ready to support each other makes us all stronger in the face of climate and other emergencies.





## Building Community

### What the City is doing

**Complete Communities:** To create complete communities with a diverse range of affordable housing options, Richmond is encouraging the development of compact neighbourhoods. This will make it easier for residents to walk, roll, and cycle within and between neighbourhoods, promoting better health while also reducing air pollution on quieter and safer roads and increasing social equity and inclusion.

**Neighbourhood Celebration Grant Program:** Communities can receive up to \$2,000 to fund events that bring people of different backgrounds together. This includes neighborhood block parties, picnics, and cultural celebrations. Local artists are encouraged to partner with non-profit organizations to develop proposals that use art to strengthen communities and foster social connections.

# Creating a personal energy savings and climate action plan



# Energy Savings and Climate Action Plan

What can you do to  
prepare for and reduce  
climate impacts?



## Enhancing Mobility

### What the City is doing

#### **Sustainable Transportation:**

Richmond is committed to making it easier and safer for residents, employees, and visitors to get around by walking, rolling, cycling or taking public transit. By investing in infrastructure such as new transit shelters, crosswalks, bike lanes, and cycling facilities throughout the city, the City aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and make low-carbon transportation options more accessible for everyone.



Learn How the City Supports Active Transportation:

**Low-Emission Vehicles:** The City requires all new residential parking spaces to have an electric vehicle (EV) charging outlet to encourage EV adoption and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The City is also building a network of public EV charging stations for efficient and sustainable service and is shifting its own fleet of vehicles towards green operations by purchasing vehicles that have lower emissions.



Find Out Where You can Charge Your EV:



## Building Community

### What the City is doing

**Complete Communities:** To create complete communities with a diverse range of affordable housing options, Richmond is encouraging the development of compact neighbourhoods. This will make it easier for residents to walk, roll, and cycle within and between neighbourhoods, promoting better health while also reducing air pollution on quieter and safer roads and increasing social equity and inclusion.

**Neighbourhood Celebration Grant Program:** Communities can receive up to \$2,000 to fund events that bring people of different backgrounds together. This includes neighborhood block parties, picnics, and cultural celebrations. Local artists are encouraged to partner with non-profit organizations to develop proposals that use art to strengthen communities and foster social connections.

# Energy Savings and Climate Action Plan

What can you do to  
prepare for and reduce  
climate impacts?



## Saving Energy & Cutting Carbon Emissions

### What you can do

1

The **CleanBC** Better Homes and Home Renovation website, administered by the Province of BC, includes all utility rebates for improving your home's energy efficiency and reducing GHGs through building upgrades.



Find Out  
More From  
CleanBC:

2

**Reduce your energy use.** If you live in an income-qualifying household, **order a free energy savings kit** and take advantage of free installation and energy coaching.

3

**Get to know your energy bill.** Understanding how much energy you use and when can help you take control and manage your bills. Check out the **FortisBC** and **BCHydro** websites if you need help making sense of your energy bill.





## Saving Energy & Cutting Carbon Emissions

### What you can do

4

Electric heat pumps use  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the energy consumed by gas furnaces and hot water heaters in winter, and they keep you cool in summer. Check **CleanBC** for rebates.

5

Whether you rent or own your home, you can **improve energy efficiency**. For example, you can **insulate your home** for cooler summers and warmer winters, and you can **check for drafts and use weatherstripping** to make your space more comfortable on a budget.

6

Join a program like BC Hydro's **Team Power Smart** for tips on how to save money through smart energy choices. Take the energy Reduction Challenge and commit to reducing your electricity use by 10%. After 365 days, you'll earn a \$50 reward if you've met your goal.



## Saving Energy & Cutting Carbon Emissions

### What you can do

7

If you're facing utility services disconnection or are having trouble paying your energy bills, you may be eligible for the BC Hydro customer **crisis fund grant**.

Learn How BC Hydro can Provide Assistance During a Crisis:





# Preparing for a Changing Climate

## What you can do

**1**

Prepare your home and family for emergencies. Create a MyRichmond account to subscribe to **Richmond BC Alert** notifications and make sure you and your family have an **emergency plan and emergency kits** (including for your pets).



Stay Informed  
with Richmond  
BC Alert:

**2**

Know where the **cooling centres, spray parks, outdoor swimming pools, and cleaner air spaces are near you** (available at richmond.ca or by calling 3-1-1). All community centres and public libraries have air conditioning.



## Preparing for a Changing Climate

### What you can do

3

Prepare your property and help reduce the risk of flooding by **ensuring proper drainage. Learn about Richmond's flood protection systems** working to keeping the city safe.

4

Stay up to date with news, events and information by signing up for the **Climate Action eNewsletter.**

Keep Up-To-Date with City News:





# Living with Resilience

## What you can do

1

### Grow, buy and share more local food.

Community food markets and community kitchens provide access to fresh local food and opportunities to learn with others. Join or start a **community garden** and try growing some of your own food.



Learn About Richmond's Community Garden's; managed by Urban Bounty

2

Use an app like

### FoodMesh or Too Good To Go

that partners with local restaurants and bakeries to reduce food waste. Check out **Love Food Hate Waste** and the **Richmond Community Ideas Hub** for other easy and fun ways to reduce waste.

3

### Share, reuse, and repair what you have, and donate, recycle, or trade unwanted goods.

Your unwanted products may qualify for a **take back program**, where producers, retailers, and consumers share the responsibility of collecting and recycling.



## Living with Resilience

### What you can do

4

Apply for the **Environmental Enhancement Grant** to enhance, restore, or conserve Richmond's natural environment. Eligible projects include tree planting, invasive species removal, wildlife education, and habitat creation.

5

Support local businesses committed to social equity and sustainability to strengthen our local economy and increase resilience to global disruptions. Buying local can also reduce carbon emissions. Check out **LocoBC** and **SupportLocalBC**.

6

Support city policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and value sustainable practices like the **Circular City Strategy**.



## Enhancing Mobility

### What you can do

1

#### Walk, bike, ride an e-scooter or take

**transit** when possible and support community organizations that advance active transportation.

Richmond has an extensive network of both on- and off-street **cycling routes**.

2

Lead your school or workplace in participating in **Bike to School Week** or **Bike to Work Week** and the **Commuter Challenge**.

Get Involved with HUB:



3

Contact TransLink about the **TravelSmart for Newcomers** program to help people new to Canada get comfortable with taking transit.

Get Information on Travelling Smart through Richmond:





## Enhancing Mobility

### What you can do

4

Choose a **car share** for **trips** you need to make by vehicle. Learn more about **car-sharing**, **carpooling** and ride-sharing.

5

If you're a person with a disability, or a senior, consider hosting **Travel Training** to get comfortable using public transit. Seniors with low income and persons with disabilities can access the **BC Bus Pass Program** to reduce the cost of transit.

6

Support **City policies** that reduce carbon emissions from transportation and foster better public transit and active transportation.





## Enhancing Mobility

### What you can do

7

If you're going to purchase a car, choose electric. Electric cars don't create emissions and use 1/3 of the energy consumed by internal combustion engine vehicles. Visit **CleanBC Go Electric** to learn about federal and provincial incentives and other programs to support the transition to an electric vehicle.

8

Have an older car? Consider scrapping it and claiming a rebate. **BC SCRAP-IT** encourages vehicle owners to replace high-polluting 2000 and older vehicles with cleaner forms of transportation. Program participants may choose from vehicle incentives towards the purchase of a 2008 or newer model vehicle, transit passes, bicycle incentives, car share and ride share services, or cash.



## Building Community

### What you can do

1

Check out **The Community Coolkit**, a do-it-yourself guide for community members wanting to engage with their neighbours in climate-proofing their block and caring for the places where they live. The Coolkit is full of fun tools and hands-on activities to help you see your neighbourhood in a new way, make climate change visible, and re-imagine your future.

Learn More About the  
Community Coolkit from  
the Collaborative for  
Advanced Landscape  
Plannings (CALP):



2

**Get to know your neighbors** and be ready to assist during climate change events. Develop a communication plan, such as a call-tree, to ensure important information is shared and vulnerable neighbors are contacted.



## Building Community

### What you can do

3

Richmond's **Neighbourhood Celebration Grant Program** provides funding for initiatives that reconnect residents through grassroots community events and shared experiences. Eligible events include block parties, community picnics, and cultural celebrations. Local artists are also encouraged to develop proposals in partnership with nonprofits and neighbourhood groups.

4

Partner with your community association to host a sustainability-focused event like a **clothing swap** and spread the word through the city **calendar of events**.

I/we  
commit  
to...

Use this space to write down your next steps.

## FOR EXAMPLE:

- Talk to a neighbour about setting up a call tree
- Figure out how to take transit instead of a car for one of my regular errands
- Sign up for the Greenest City newsletter so I can stay informed about opportunities to provide my input on City plans related to Climate Emergency
- Report back to my Community Climate Leader

# Climate Action Ideas

Add your idea here

Add your idea here

Add your idea here

Add your idea here

Add your idea here

Add your idea here