



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Public Works and Transportation Committee

**From:** John Irving, P.Eng. MPA  
Director, Engineering

**Re:** **Sustainability Progress Report**

**Date:** October 15, 2014

**File:** 10-6125-07-01/2014-Vol 01

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Sustainability Progress Report", dated October 15, 2014, from the Director, Engineering, be received for information.

John Irving, P.Eng. MPA  
Director, Engineering  
(604-276-4140)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<hr/>
Economic Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Arts, Culture & Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Social Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Recreation Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Engineering & Public Works	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Fleet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Fire Rescue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Development Applications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Policy Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> 

## Staff Report

### Origin

In 2010, Council adopted a *Corporate Sustainability Framework*, which established focus areas through which the City has been creating a sustainable community. The Sustainability Framework informed the development of Richmond's 2041 *Official Community Plan – Moving Towards Sustainability*.

This Sustainability Progress Report describes each of the Sustainability Framework's focus areas; provides an overview of a variety of initiatives the City has undertaken that contribute to Richmond's sustainable development; and notes key sustainability-related targets.

On September 17, 2014, the Public Works and Transportation Committee provided a referral for staff to "assemble a cross-departmental package showcasing Richmond's efforts with regard to climate action and present it to Council". This report addresses that referral.

This report supports Council's Term Goal #8 Sustainability:

*8.1. Continued implementation and significant progress towards achieving the City's Sustainability Framework, and associated targets.*

### Analysis

#### Background

In 2010, Council adopted a Corporate Sustainability Policy, which states:

*The City of Richmond recognizes that a sustainable community is essential for achieving the City's Corporate Vision of 'being the most appealing, liveable and well-managed community in Canada'.*

*The City of Richmond is committed to becoming a recognized leader in sustainability, advancing local community sustainability through excellence in local governmental sustainability practice and serving as an inspiration for greater collective change.*

Building on this policy, in 2010, Council adopted a *Corporate Sustainability Framework*. The *Sustainability Framework* articulates key focus areas and goals to guide the City's efforts to foster a sustainable community in Richmond. Key focus areas include:

- Climate & Energy Action
- Sustainable Resource Use & Waste Management
- Compact, Complete Community
- Mobility & Access
- Green Built Environment
- Thriving Natural Environment
- Local Agriculture & Food Security

- Resilient Economy
- Inclusive, Accessible & Safe Community
- Vibrant Community.

In turn, the *Sustainability Framework* guided the preparation of Richmond's 2041 *Official Community Plan – Moving Towards Sustainability*, which was adopted on November 19, 2012. The 2041 OCP's goals, objectives and policies guide future growth, land use, social development, transportation, infrastructure, community amenities, ecological protection and enhancement towards achieving a sustainable community including: achieving a resilient and prosperous economy, a diverse, healthy community, improved social wellbeing, and environmental health.

### Defining Sustainability

The 1987 United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development report "Our Common Future" popularized and defined "sustainable development" as:

*Development that meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

This definition is reflected in the 2041 OCP's vision of a Sustainable Richmond:

*A healthy island city that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It is a place where people live, work, and prosper in a welcoming, connected, accessible and vibrant community.*

Ultimately, the pursuit of a sustainable community is an ongoing process of optimizing social, environmental, and economic outcomes, and integrating them in all the City's actions – ensuring a better quality of life for all, now and in the future.

### The Sustainability Progress Report

The Sustainability Progress Report (Attachment 1) describes how the City is forwarding a more sustainable community. It is intended to inform the public, Federal, Provincial and Regional stakeholders (e.g., Metro Vancouver, TransLink) and City staff.

Each chapter of the Sustainability Progress Report describes how the City is advancing sustainability in each of the key focus areas defined in the City's *Sustainability Framework*. For each of these focus areas, the Progress Report:

1. Provides context and describes how the topic contributes to greater community sustainability.
2. Documents a variety of City initiatives and associated outcomes that contribute to Richmond's sustainable development. These initiatives are drawn from across City departments, illustrating the multi-disciplinary and holistic approach to sustainability practiced in Richmond.
3. Identifies key targets and important documents relating to that topic.
4. Provides a timeline of major achievements and milestones in recent years.

Key initiatives and achievements profiled in the Sustainability Progress Report include:

- Richmond's action on district energy, including the award-winning Alexandra District Energy Utility and plans for future utilities in the Oval Village.
- Energy management in City buildings, which saves hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.
- Climate change adaptation planning as part of the 2008-2031 Richmond Flood Protection Management Strategy.
- Key sustainable community planning catalyst projects, including the Olympic Oval, Lansdowne Road transformation, and innovative means of funding the Capstan Skytrain station.
- Expanded recycling programs, such as the Green Cart Program.
- Supporting sustainable transportation modes, through expanding Richmond's active transportation networks, and supporting transit improvements, car-sharing and electric vehicles in Richmond's community.
- Encouraging "beyond building code" performance for new developments undergoing rezoning, and supporting sustainable energy upgrades to existing buildings.
- Enhancing Richmond's Ecological Network, through habitat protection in the Terra Nova Rural Park, Garden City Lands, Northeast Bog Forest, Bath Slough, urban forest planting, and other projects.
- Supporting farming and food security, through implementing the Agricultural Viability Strategy, community gardens, and the allocation space in the Gardens Agricultural Park for an "Incubator Farm".
- Working with local businesses to foster a resilient economy and ensure adequate employment lands.
- Fostering an inclusive, safe and accessible community through crime and fire prevention; programs to support vulnerable youth; implementing the Affordable Housing Strategy, and facilitating the construction of affordable housing; improving the accessibility of pedestrian spaces; negotiating childcare spaces in new developments; and orienting newcomers to Richmond's community.
- Creating a more vibrant community by investing in recreation assets, such as the City Centre Community Centre and Minoru Recreation Complex; providing recreation access for low-income residents; supporting Richmond Public Arts Program and the Arts and Culture Grants program; and heritage protection and restoration.

#### Tracking and Communicating Progress

The City will continue to report out on progress towards its sustainability goals. The Sustainability Progress Report is anticipated to be updated every 3-4 years.


Additionally, the City has recognized the need for an easily visible "dashboard" system that can provide an ongoing, near real-time report on measurements which relate to community sustainability, as well as the performance of the City's corporate activities. A Corporate Performance System and associated Dashboard are currently being prepared by City staff to facilitate the tracking and reporting of key sustainability topics.

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Conclusion**

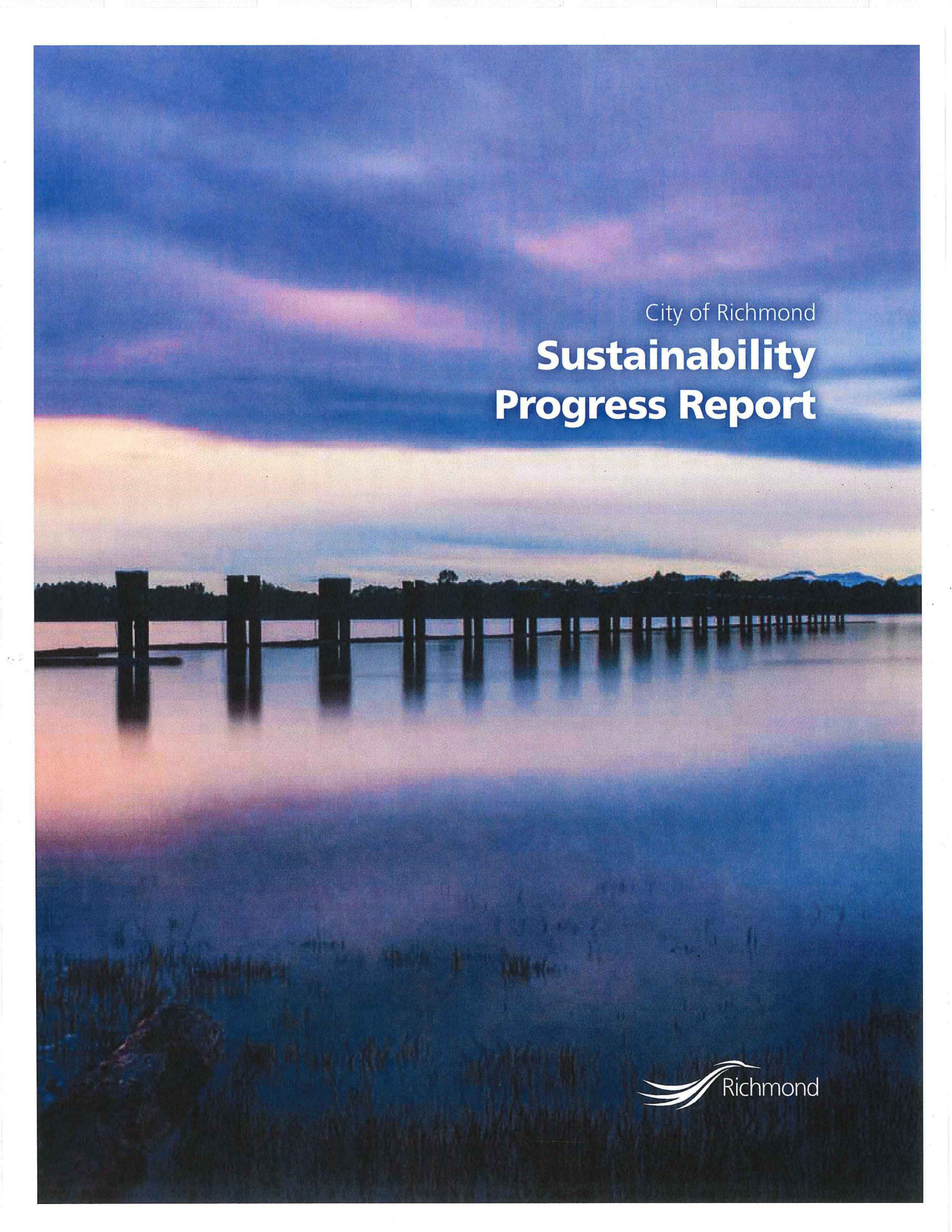
This Sustainability Progress Report provides a high-level overview of a wide range of initiatives the City is undertaking to advance greater economic prosperity, social wellbeing, and environmental performance in Richmond's community. As noted in the Progress Report, the City has set aggressive targets for Richmond's sustainability on a range of fronts – from greenhouse gas reductions, to waste diversion, to economic development. The City will continue to pursue excellence and innovate to achieve its sustainability related goals, which are recognized as critical to Richmond's Vision of "being the most appealing, liveable and well-managed community in Canada".



Brendan McEwen  
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BM:bm

Att. 1: Sustainability Progress Report



City of Richmond  
**Sustainability  
Progress Report**



# Contents

Introduction.....	2
Climate & Energy Action.....	4
Sustainable Resource Use & Waste Management .....	8
Compact, Complete Community.....	12
Mobility & Access.....	16
Green Built Environment .....	20
Thriving Natural Environment.....	24
Local Agriculture & Food Security.....	28
Resilient Economy .....	32
Inclusive, Accessible & Safe Community .....	36
Vibrant Community .....	40
Conclusion.....	44



# Introduction

## Committed to a Sustainable Richmond

The City of Richmond is committed to developing a resilient and sustainable community. Indeed, the pursuit of sustainability is enshrined in Richmond's Official Community Plan, which articulates a vision for a Sustainable Richmond:

*A healthy island city that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It is a place where people live, work, and prosper in a welcoming, connected, accessible and vibrant community.*

The City of Richmond considers this desired outcome as integral to our vision to be "the most appealing, livable, and well-managed community in Canada".

## What is a Sustainable Community?

A sustainable community is one where all residents have the opportunity to lead fulfilling, happy lives, while at the same time enhancing the well-being of future generations and the long-term integrity of our ecosystems. Working towards sustainability is about optimizing social, environmental and economic outcomes and integrating them in all the City's actions – ensuring a better quality of life for all, now and in the future.

A sustainable community enables healthy lifestyles; fosters social engagement and vibrant culture; provides equal opportunities for all its members; supports biodiversity; eliminates environmental harm from human activities; and provides meaningful, enjoyable work and economic opportunities.

*"Sustainable development meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".*

*United Nations' Brundtland Commission. 1987. Our Common Future.*

## Planning for Sustainability

Achieving Richmond's vision requires action from citizens, businesses, non-profits, and all levels of government. The City has a number of areas of influence by which it implements its vision, dictated by its legislated authorities, operations (e.g. maintenance of civic facilities), and influence it has with community stakeholders and other governments. To define the City's specific role, Richmond's City Council adopted a Sustainability Framework in 2010. This Framework outlined broad goals that guide City actions in the following areas:

- Climate & Energy Action
- Sustainable Resource Use & Waste Management
- Compact, Complete Community
- Mobility & Access
- Green Built Environment
- Thriving Natural Environment
- Local Agriculture & Food Security
- Resilient Economy
- Inclusive, Accessible & Safe Community
- Vibrant Community

These goals subsequently informed the development of the City's 2041 Official Community Plan, Richmond's 30-year plan for sustainable development.

## Purpose of this Document

This Sustainability Progress Report provides a brief update on various aspects of how Richmond is working to create a sustainable community, organized around the goal areas noted above. This document explains how each of these goal areas contributes to Richmond's sustainable development, and highlights some of the key initiatives, milestones, and projects the City will pursue in coming years that will contribute to greater sustainability in Richmond. Together, they tell a story of how Richmond is becoming a better community for people today, and for future generations.



**CITY TARGETS**

Reduce community GHG emissions 33% below 2007 levels by 2020, and 80% by 2050.

Reduce community energy use 10% by 2020 below 2007 levels.

**KEY DOCUMENTS:**

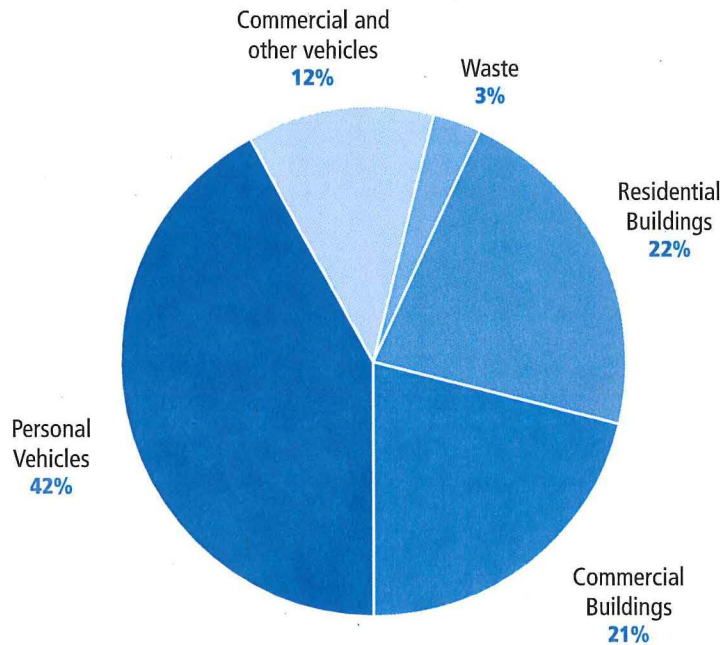
- 2041 Official Community Plan
- Community Energy & Emissions Plan
- Flood Protection Management Strategy

# Climate & Energy Action

Human-caused greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are changing our global climate. Communities around the world are acting to reduce the impacts of energy use, while anticipating and adapting to a changing climate.

Richmond’s 2041 Official Community Plan commits the City to aggressive GHG and energy reduction targets. Encouragingly, the energy actions the City is taking to address climate change will also improve Richmond’s quality of life – moving away from fossil fuels to low carbon alternative sources of energy will make the air we breathe cleaner and our streets quieter and more pleasant. Designing walkable, bike and transit friendly neighbourhoods will support healthier lifestyles, and great neighbourhoods with convenient access to amenities. Improving our buildings’ energy use can provide healthier indoor spaces, while lowering households’ and businesses’ energy costs. Climate action is already creating a range of new opportunities for Richmond enterprises.

**Richmond 2010 Community Emissions**



**ACHIEVEMENTS**

2008	2012
City signs Climate Action Charter committing to carbon neutrality in corporate operations 2008–2031 Flood Protection Management Strategy	Launch of Alexandria District Energy Energy and emissions targets adopted in OCP

### Select Initiatives and Outcomes include:

**District Energy Innovation** — Richmond is a recognized leader in North America for its development of low carbon district energy systems, which provide energy for entire neighbourhoods from a centralized source. In 2012, the City launched the Alexandra District Energy Utility (ADEU), which uses renewable ground-source energy to heat and cool buildings in the West Cambie neighbourhood, and will ultimately serve over 3,000 households. ADEU has been recognized for engineering and environmental excellence by provincial, national and international organizations. In 2013, the City established Lulu Island Energy Company to manage future district energy systems, including a new development in the Oval Village, using heat recovered from a sewer. New buildings in Richmond's City Centre are required to be ready for district energy, which will allow them to connect to these low-carbon systems.

**Energy Management in City Facilities** — Since 2007, the City's energy management program for City facilities has saved approximately 28.4 GWh of energy and 5,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions – the equivalent of taking 1,500 cars off the road for a year. In 2013, the City implemented energy saving projects that will avoid additional annual operating costs by approximately \$100,000.



### ACHIEVEMENTS

#### 2013

City establishes Lulu Island Energy Company to manage district energy systems  
Dike Master Plan – Phase 1 establishes long-term solution to upgrade Steveston Dike

#### 2014

Community Energy & Emissions Plan  
Energy Utility bylaw for Richmond Oval neighbourhood established  
Inaugural Richmond Energy Challenge launched

**Youth Engagement** — Over the last five years, more than 6,700 Richmond Grade 6 students participated in the Climate Change Showdown. Together they have reduced the carbon-equivalent of taking 1,000 cars off the road for a year.

**Advanced energy systems in private-sector developments** — New private developments are integrating efficient, low-carbon energy systems. For example, the Parc Riviera development will connect households to ground-source heating. The City works to encourage green, energy efficient building during rezonings for new developments.

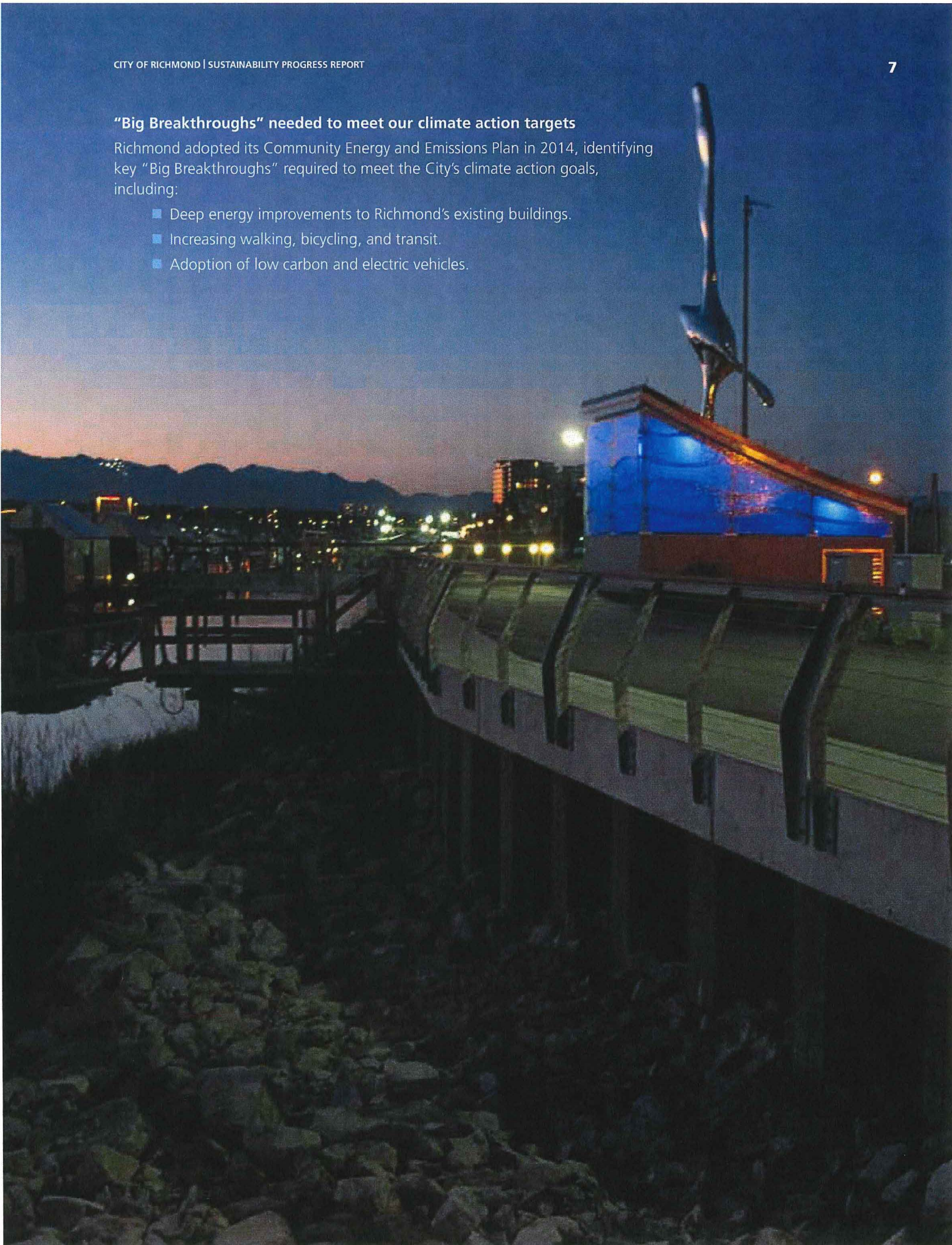
**Climate Change Adaptation** — As an island community in the Fraser River floodplain, Richmond will need to manage rising sea levels from climate change. The City manages the dikes and drainage systems that help prevent flooding in Richmond, and was one of the first cities in BC to establish a dike utility. In 2008, Council adopted the 2008–2031 Richmond Flood Protection Management Strategy which has been updated and refined annually. As part of its Flood Protection Strategy and Dike Master Plan, the City has planned to accommodate up to 1m of sea level rise by 2100.



**“Big Breakthroughs” needed to meet our climate action targets**

Richmond adopted its Community Energy and Emissions Plan in 2014, identifying key “Big Breakthroughs” required to meet the City’s climate action goals, including:

- Deep energy improvements to Richmond’s existing buildings.
- Increasing walking, bicycling, and transit.
- Adoption of low carbon and electric vehicles.



**TARGETS**

Divert 70% of all waste from the landfill by 2015 and 80% by 2020.

**KEY DOCUMENTS**

- Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan
- Report 2013: Recycling and Solid Waste Management - Achieving Goals Through Community Engagement
- Sustainability Framework: Proposed Solid Waste Strategic Program

# Sustainable Resource Use & Waste Management

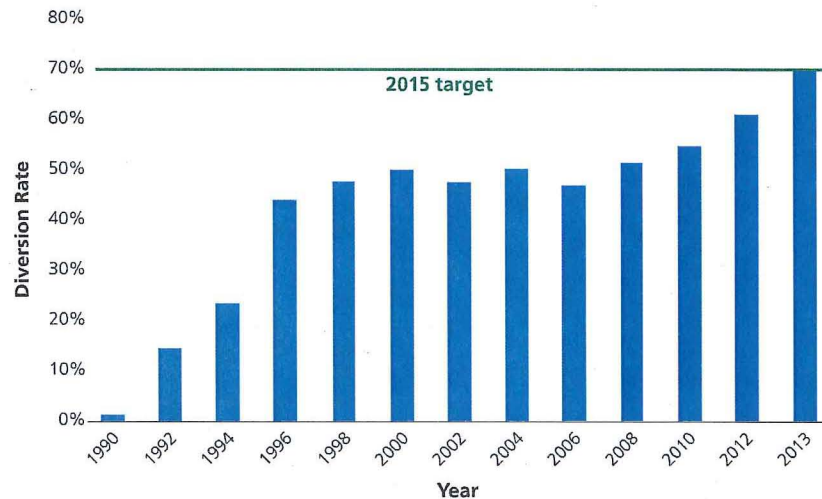
We use a tremendous amount of “stuff” in our modern lifestyles – think of all the materials it takes to construct a building, or all the products you use in your home, school and workplace. These products impact both the environment and human well-being over all the stages of their life cycle: resource extraction, manufacturing, distribution, use, and disposal.

Recycling and waste management are a core City service, and thus one of our key opportunities to advance resource sustainability. Better waste management realizes multiple sustainability benefits:

- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from decomposition at the landfill.
- Reduced energy and emissions use in materials for new products.
- Reduced tipping fee costs for government.
- New economic opportunities for entrepreneurs.

Richmond has markedly improved waste management over the past three decades. Despite significant population growth, we have almost halved the total volumes of waste sent to the landfill, and increased recycling.

**Percentage of Waste from Single Family Homes**



**ACHIEVEMENTS**

<p><b>2010</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Can expanded yard/garden trimmings collection program to include food scraps</li> <li>Launched Green Ambassadors program</li> <li>Published design guidelines for garbage collection in commercial buildings</li> </ul>	<p><b>2011</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched a 9-months food scraps recycling pilot program for townhomes</li> </ul>
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**Select Initiatives and Outcomes include:**

**Contributing to regional sustainability** — Richmond endorsed Metro Vancouver's 2010 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (ISWRMP), which outlines goals and strategies concerning waste reduction, reuse and recycling. The plan establishes the goal to divert 70 per cent of all waste from the landfill by 2015, 80 per cent by 2020. In 2013, the City achieved 70 per cent diversion for single-family homes, an increase of 9 per cent beyond 2012 levels, and is working to help multi-family and commercial buildings meet these levels.

**Leadership on Zero Waste Initiatives** — Richmond's Mayor Malcolm Brodie serves as the Chair on the Zero Waste Committee and chair of the National Zero Waste Council, contributing to policy and programs that aim to reduce waste destined for the landfill regionally and nationally.

**Ensuring producer responsibility** — Richmond works with local companies and organizations like Product Care and Encorp to support BC's Product Stewardship Programs. The City's Recycling Depot is a Product Stewardship collection site for paints, solvents, pesticides, flammable liquids, pesticides, lights, lighting fixtures, small appliances, used batteries, cellphones, Styrofoam, and glass bottles and jars. Richmond is also partnering with Multi Materials BC to expand Blue Box and Blue Cart recycling for packaging and printed paper.

*"The waste coming out of our houses is just the tip of the iceberg. For every one garbage can of waste you put out on the curb, 70 garbage cans of waste were made 'upstream' during that junk's production. So recycling helps, but we need to do even more."*

*Annie Leonard, The Story of Stuff.*

**ACHIEVEMENTS****2013**

Enhanced Green Cart recycling for food scraps and yard trimmings  
41,000 households received carts. Pilot program for multi-family  
Launched Large Item Pick Up program for more than 41,000 residential units  
Single-Family achieved 70% waste diversion target 2 years ahead of schedule  
Received "Golden Shovel Award" from Harvest Power

**2014**

Expanded Blue Box and Blue Cart recycling programs to include a broader range of materials through partnership with Multi-Material BC  
Received Bronze Quill Award of Excellence for Green Cart program



**Expanding recycling programs** — Richmond continues to expand the opportunities for residents to recycle by creating new and enhanced programs for recycling at home and on the go. The City was one of the first municipalities in the Lower Mainland to introduce curbside food scraps collection through the Green Can program in April, 2010. With the introduction of the Green Cart Program in June 2013, Richmond provided the enhanced Green Cart to single-family homes and expanded the program to include more than 11,000 townhomes for recycling food scraps and yard trimmings.

Richmond also expanded the materials accepted at the City's Recycling Depot to include Styrofoam, used books, batteries, cell phones and plastic bags. The City's new Large Item Pick Up program was also launched in 2013, making it easier for residents to recycle and safely dispose of larger household items like mattresses, appliances and furniture.



**Best practices in City demolitions** — The City frequently achieves close to 90 per cent recycling rates in City demolition projects, well above typical recycling rates in the demolition industry. In 2014, the City adopted a policy, requiring that City demolitions divert a high percentage of waste from the landfill.

**Supporting youth awareness and education** — Through partnerships with students, teachers and the School District, Richmond sponsors theatrical shows, awareness programs and volunteer opportunities to increase understanding of recycling and the benefits of reducing waste. In 2013, the City sponsored Clean Up Your Act and Zero Heroes, shows that reached more than 3,800 students and 200 teachers. Richmond also partnered with the Richmond School District to develop the Green Ambassadors program where dedicated high school students participate in monthly workshops to learn about environmental sustainability and apply what they have learned as volunteers at City events and activities. In 2013, approximately 185 students in the program contributed about 3,250 volunteer hours to promote recycling at community events and organize the Richmond Earth Day Youth Summit. These energetic and environmentally conscious individuals also manage green initiatives in their school.



**KEY DOCUMENTS**

- 2040 Regional Growth Strategy
- 2041 Official Community Plan
- City Center Area Plan

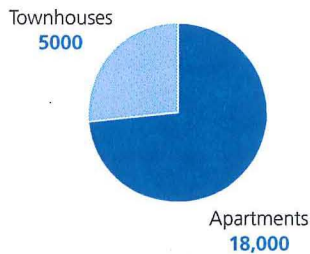
# Compact, Complete Community

Richmond’s health, well-being, economy, and environmental quality, are profoundly linked to how we use land and design our communities. The City’s land use planning guides Richmond’s future development towards these more sustainable patterns.

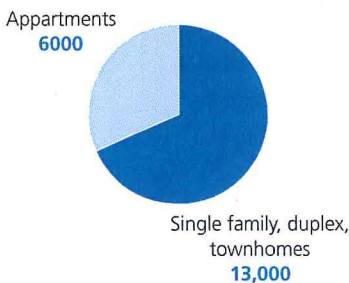
**2014 – 2041 Richmond Demographics (Est)**

	2014	2041
Population	207,500	280,000
Employment	148,000	180,000

**City Centre — New Housing to 2041**



**Rest of Richmond — New Housing to 2041**



By 2041, Richmond’s population is expected to grow by 40 per cent, and employment by a third. This growth can serve as a powerful lever to create a better quality of life in Richmond. By providing opportunities to live, work, shop, play and learn in compact urban village centres with mixed land uses, we can create a more vibrant, diverse community. Higher densities of residences and jobs in neighbourhoods can support local businesses and improve services, amenities, and recreation. We can provide our community members the choice to walk, bike, roll (wheelchair, scooter, etc.) or take transit to meet their daily needs. Investments in our communities provide the opportunity to make our public spaces more beautiful. And compact land use avoids sprawling development that incurs on natural areas and farmland, helping preserve the landscapes treasured by our community and throughout the region.

As land use changes, Richmond can provide a range of housing types and options to enable different types of families, and people of different ages and incomes, to live in our neighbourhoods. We can support more affordable housing, and allow existing community members the choice to “age in place” in their communities.

Compact, complete land use can decrease the per capita costs of infrastructure that citizens must pay. Better land use is as much about fiscal prudence as it is about building wonderful, walkable communities.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

2008	2009	2011
Richmond Oval Opened	City Centre Area Plan Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Strategy	2040 Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)

## Select Initiatives and Outcomes include:

### Regional Planning

In July 2012, after 23 local governments, by consensus, agreed to accept the 2040 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) "Shaping Our Future" the Metro Vancouver Board approved it. The RGS enables the parties to co-operatively plan and manage Metro Vancouver's regional growth. The RGS focuses on: creating a compact urban area; fostering a sustainable economy; protecting the environment; responding to climate change impacts; developing complete communities; supporting sustainable transportation choices.

### Recent Major Community Plans Approved

**2041 Official Community Plan (OCP)** — In November 2012, Council approved the 2041 Official Community Plan (OCP) 'Moving Towards Sustainability'. It clarifies how the City will achieve the 2040 Metro 2041 RGS goals and guides our community's development to support healthy urban living; environmental performance; economic vitality; and a broad range of high-quality amenities, including affordable housing.

**City Centre Area Plan (CCAP)** — In 2009, Richmond updated its CCAP, which enables the City to accommodate most City growth in the City Centre. This approach will facilitate greater access to the Canada Line, transit, services, parks, and amenities for Richmond's residents, all within walking, rolling (wheel chair, scooter), or biking distance.

**Steveston Area Plan** — The 2009 update to the Steveston Area Plan guides the balance of residential development, heritage, and Steveston's role as a key port for the Pacific fishing fleet.

**Hamilton Area Plan** — In 2014, Richmond updated its Hamilton Area Plan. The Hamilton neighbourhood is anticipated to grow from a population of about 5,000 currently, to 12,000 in 2041, as well as adding 2,000 jobs. The plan focuses on establishing Hamilton as a distinct village centre, with a "high street" including buildings up to four stories, and greater amenities such as new library space, more public recreation space, and a new North Arm Waterfront Park.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### 2012

2041 Official Community Plan  
Lansdowne Road West Transformation Project launched  
Capstan station funding agreement signed with landowners, TransLink

### 2014

Garden City Lands Master Plan  
Hamilton Area Plan

**Richmond Olympic Oval** — The Richmond Olympic Oval is both an award-winning sports and events facility, and also a model of green design and community building. The Oval is anchoring a new urban village along Richmond's waterfront, helping to catalyze development that provides our community members with new amenities and a greater connection to the Fraser River and Richmond's natural ecology. The Oval continues to grow in popularity. Since opening, the Oval has hosted over 3.5 million visitors. In 2013, it hosted 46 different special events, in addition to its regular programming.

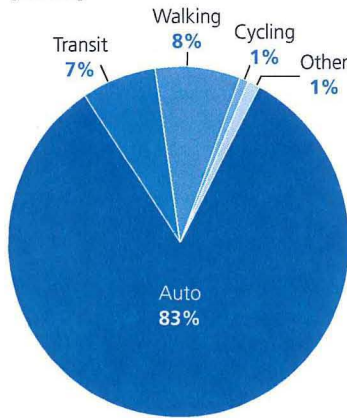


**Lansdowne Road Transformation** — The City is planning for the transformation of Lansdowne Road between Garden City Road and the Oval Villages. The City envisions Lansdowne Road serving as a model urban promenade serving pedestrians, bikes, and transit routes, anchored by a linear park.

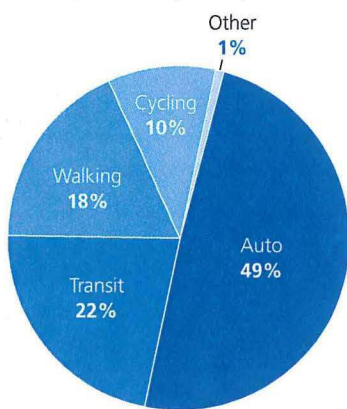
**Capstan Skytrain Station Funding** — The City has organized an innovative way of funding the development of a new (fifth) Canada Line transit station on Capstan Way. The “first of its kind” agreement allows funding for the new station to be collected by the City from developers building new residential buildings. Residents will benefit with rapid transit access right to their doorstep, increasing the livability of the community and providing valuable sustainable transportation options.



**Richmond Mode Share (2008)**



**Target Richmond Mode Share (2041)**



# Mobility & Access

Safe, convenient and enjoyable travel to our workplaces, schools, parks, natural areas, shopping, and other destinations improves our quality of life. Incorporating walking, bicycling, rolling (wheelchairs, scooters, etc.) and other forms of human-powered “active transportation” will also improve our health and happiness. Regular physical activity is associated with reduced rates of obesity, heart disease, diabetes and some cancers, and improved mental health.

B.C. households spend nearly \$11,000 on transportation annually—reducing dependence on fossil fuel vehicles will help reduce these costs for families and keep more money in our community.

Support for non-vehicular forms of transportation is important for our community’s social justice—we must ensure that all types of people, not just drivers, have safe, reliable and enjoyable travel modes that meet their needs. Richmond provides for the mobility needs of young people, older people and those that do not own a vehicle.

Mobility and access are also critical to a thriving economy. Businesses must be able to move goods efficiently to different markets at a reasonable cost and need their customers to be able to access their services. Providing for walking, biking, rolling and transit, and smarter parking policies can increase retail sales, reduce congestion, and support businesses in Richmond.

Finally, shifting our transportation modes is critical to achieving our environmental goals. Private vehicles and commercial transport together represent 53 per cent of Richmond’s greenhouse gas emissions, and result in a host of other environmental impacts including: air pollution, noise pollution, the urban “heat island” effect, stormwater pollution, and loss of open space and habitat to pavement. Switching to lower impact transportation options will improve Richmond’s environmental performance.

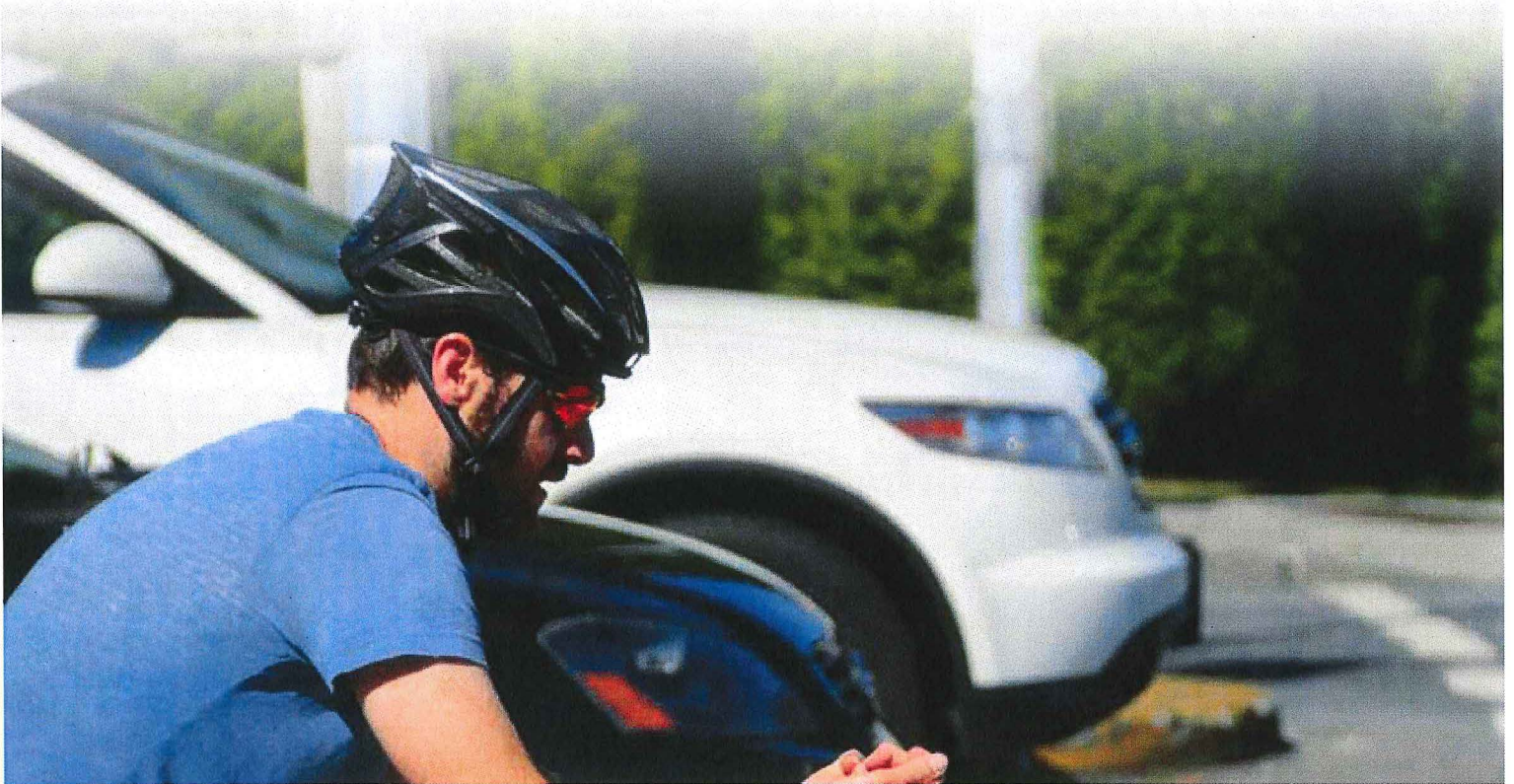
## ACHIEVEMENTS

2009	2010	2011
Canada Line and its Bike Bridge opens	Average daily ridership of 228,000 on Canada Line during 2010 Winter Olympics Average weekday ridership of 100,000 on Canada Line, three years earlier than forecast	Smarter intersections – Steveston “scramble” intersection implemented at No. 1 and Moncton

### Select Initiatives and Outcomes include:

**The Canada Line and other Transit Improvements** — The Canada Line opened in 2009, providing rapid transit to the heart of Richmond City Centre. As of March 2014, average weekday ridership is over 122,000, far exceeding the original forecast of 100,000 by 2013. The City will continue to work with the regional transportation authority, TransLink, to refine Richmond's hierarchy of transit services to best match the needs of the community, and improve appropriate routes via higher frequencies, longer operating hours and greater capacity.

**Expanding Richmond's Active Transportation Network** — The City adopted its first On-Street Cycling Network Plan in 1996. Since that time, the City has invested regularly in a network that now encompasses 60 km of bicycle routes and over 55 km of greenways and trails. The City recently completed the Railway Corridor, a multi-modal pathway connecting Steveston with the City Centre. Richmond will continue to extend our active transportation network, and improve the safety, enjoyment and ease of cycling, walking and rolling.



#### ACHIEVEMENTS

##### 2012

First City fleet electric passenger vehicles  
Crabapple Ridge Bike Route completed, first neighbourhood cycling route along local roads

##### 2013

First car-share vehicle comes to Richmond

##### 2014

Opening of Railway Avenue Greenway



**Supporting Car-Sharing** — Car-share services provide the benefits of private cars without the costs and responsibilities of ownership. Car-sharing typically results in a net reduction in per capita driving and the replacement of six to eight private cars for every shared car. The City supports car-share operations, notably Modo, ZipCar, and Car2Go, by enabling access to public parking infrastructure and securing off-street parking spaces in new developments.

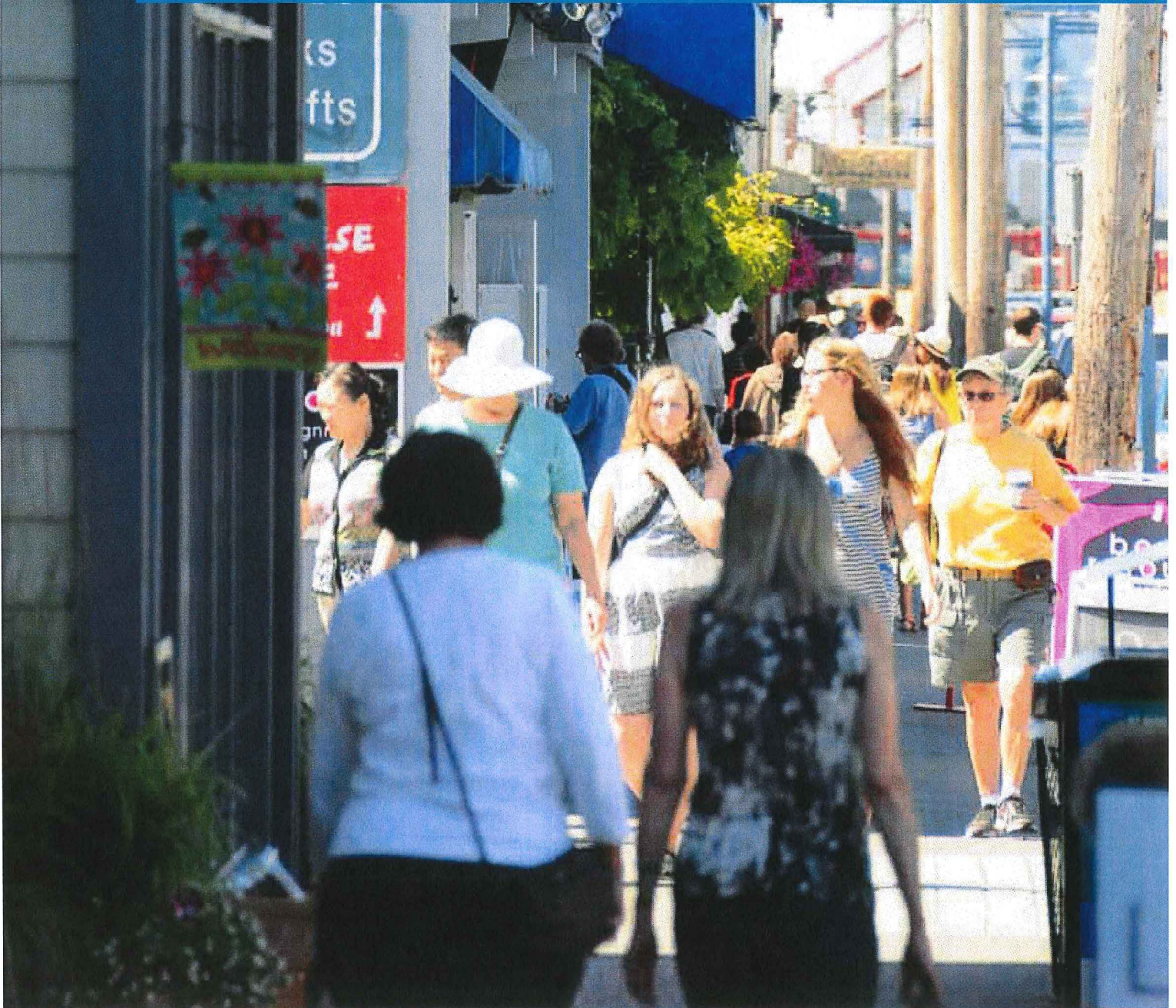
**Facilitating Electric Vehicles** — Electric vehicles represent a key opportunity to reduce the emissions, air pollution, and noise associated with driving, while reducing spending on gasoline. Since 2012, the City requires that new multifamily residential developments provide electric vehicle charging equipment for 25 per cent of vehicle stalls with a further 20 per cent pre-ducted for future installation. In 2013, the City partnered with the Province to install eight publicly accessible electric vehicle charging stations.

**Greening the City's Vehicle Fleet** — In 2013, Council adopted a Green Fleet Action Plan to improve fuel efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions of City vehicles and fleet, targeting a 20 per cent reduction in emissions below 2010 levels by 2020. Richmond Fire-Rescue manages their own fleets, and are likewise achieving strong environmental outcomes, reducing greenhouse gas emissions 26 per cent between 2007 and 2012.



*"You can't have good transit if you can't walk when you arrive. So pedestrian-oriented development is the heart and soul of great cities. Every city that you love is a city that you want to walk in."*

*Peter Calthorpe, Architect and Planner*





**PUBLIC DRINKING FOUNTAIN AT GARRY POINT.**

# Green Built Environment

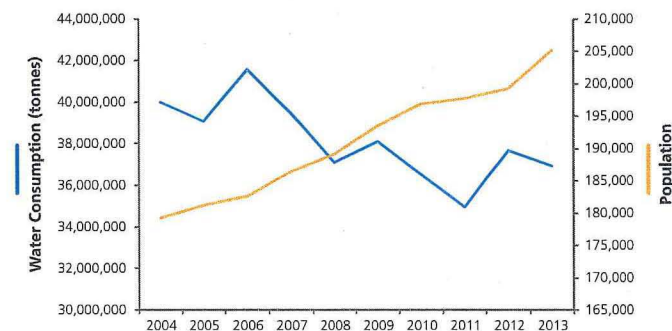
The built environment – the buildings and infrastructure that constitute our city – is central to our community's sustainability. The environmental impacts of buildings are substantial – they account for 43 per cent of Richmond's greenhouse gas emissions; 40 per cent of all the raw materials consumed around the world; and 45 per cent of all the solid waste produced in Metro Vancouver. We spend 90 per cent of our time in buildings, so they are crucial to our health and well-being. Encouragingly, numerous leading projects show that it is possible to develop buildings with a net-positive impact on the planet, while contributing to a more beautiful, socially enriching community.

In addition to buildings, a host of infrastructure systems support Richmond. City infrastructure includes our water distribution system; stormwater drainage, flood protection, and irrigation systems; the municipal sanitary sewer; and energy utility systems. The City's long-term financial management strategy ensures that we have sufficient funds to invest in the continued renewal of these systems. The City recognizes it can extend these systems' life, and reduce costs and environmental impacts, by managing the demand for the services they provide.

Notably, as part of the "ecological network" approach specified in Richmond's 2041 Official Community Plan, the City is implementing "green infrastructure" into our community. Green infrastructure uses natural systems to help meet human needs – for example, well-functioning watercourses such as the wetlands constructed at the Richmond Olympic Oval serve human needs including drainage, erosion protection, flood storage, water filtration, the potential for trails and transportation corridors, and other functions. They also provide important natural habitat and beautify communities.

Investing in our buildings and infrastructure to reduce energy and resources, can increase our comfort, save money, protect the environment, and support local jobs.

## Water consumption and population in Richmond



### ACHIEVEMENTS

2005	2006	2008
High Performance Building Policy	Fire Hall No. 5 the first LEED Gold certified Firehall project ever	Richmond Oval receives LEED Silver certification Oval includes innovative "green infrastructure" wetland Flood Management Strategy

**Select Initiatives and Outcomes include:**

**Sustainably managed infrastructure** — Richmond has made strides in the long-term financial management of its aging infrastructure, ensuring adequate funding for the renewal of streets, drainage systems, dikes, water and sanitary sewer systems in coming decades.

**Delivering clean water and conserving resources** — The City of Richmond consistently delivers high quality drinking water – the 2013 Water Quality Report includes findings from nearly 2,000 test sites, which consistently found outstanding water quality. To ensure a sustainable water supply and limit costs of expanding infrastructure, the City engages in a variety of water efficiency programs. These efforts include the leak detection program, the multifamily water metering program, and educational efforts including hosting over 500 elementary students for the water conservation initiative Project WET, and 16 “H2Whoa!” theatrical presentations.

**Flood protection and water drainage** — Private and public land with improvements in Richmond are valued at approximately \$63 billion. The City manages and improves 49 km’s of dikes, 622km of drainage pipes, 178km of ditches, and 41 drainage pumping stations to help protect our communities, and provide irrigation to agricultural lands. Richmond’s flood protection and drainage systems are among the best managed and most robust in the region. The City is responding to evolving demands on our infrastructure, including sea level rise, and the need for seismic improvements to dikes. The City implemented \$45M of drainage and diking improvements since 2008, and a further \$9.9M of drainage and diking improvements will be implemented in 2014.

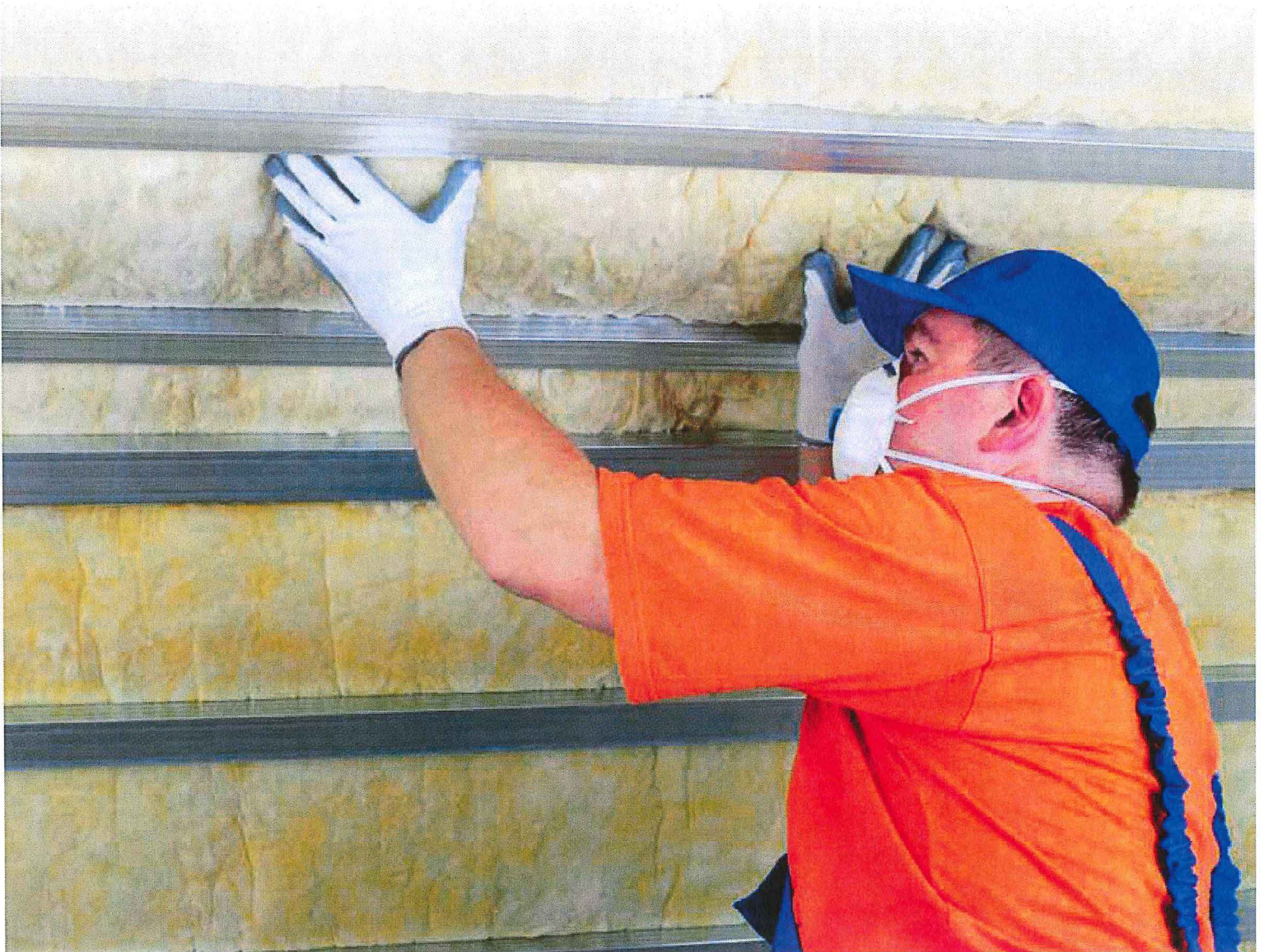


**ACHIEVEMENTS**

2012	2013	2014
Alexandria District Energy Utility becomes operational	Lulu Island Energy Company created Phase 1 – Dike Master Plan Richmond Community Safety Building LEED Gold	Alexandria District Energy Utility receives Canadian National Energy Globe Award and the Canadian Geo-exchange Coalition Excellence Award High Performance Building Policy update Hamilton Firehall LEED Silver

**Encouraging “Beyond Code” performance** — It is the City’s policy for developments in the City Centre undergoing rezoning to achieve green building performance measured with the LEED rating system. Likewise, the City requires industrial or office building developments to achieve stormwater management, via green roofs, landscaping features, and/or use of the LEED system. The City continues to evaluate how to foster green building performance in private developments.

**Encouraging sustainability in households, businesses and existing buildings** — Starting in 2012, the City supported 11 Richmond businesses participating in ClimateSmart, a program to help manage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs. The City also recruited households and businesses into the energy efficiency programs offered by BC Hydro, Fortis BC, and the Province. In 2014, the City launched the inaugural Richmond Building Energy Challenge, a friendly and informative competition to reduce energy use in institutional, commercial and multifamily buildings.



**High Performance City buildings** — In 2005, the City adopted its High Performance Building Policy, which requires LEED Silver accreditation for new City construction over 2,000 square metres. The policy was modified in 2014 with yet deeper targets for energy efficient buildings and a commitment to develop carbon neutral buildings by 2030. The City has frequently exceeded the targets specified in the policy. Notably, the Richmond Community Safety Building (home to the Richmond RCMP) has achieved LEED Gold accreditation, and the Steveston Firehall targets the same accreditation.

**Steveston Firehall—A high performance green building.**



**KEY DOCUMENTS**

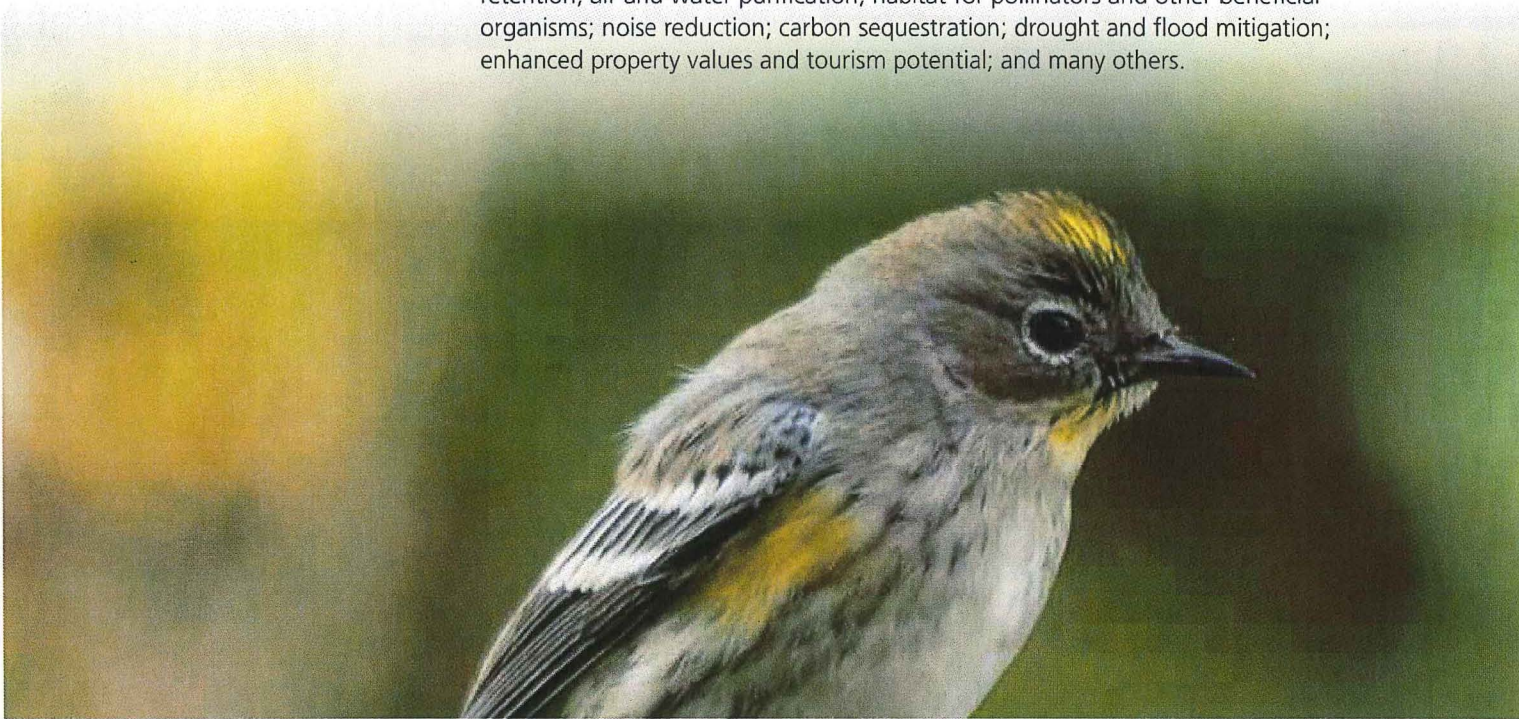
- Ecological Network Management Strategy

# Thriving Natural Environment

Richmond is endowed with many areas of high ecological value, supporting a rich array of biodiversity. Richmond is surrounded by the Fraser River, one of the world's most productive salmon rivers, and the Salish Sea, an extraordinarily biodiverse inland sea. The Fraser estuary is a vital link in the Pacific Flyway bird migration route, and each year millions of birds visit Richmond, mainly along Sturgeon Bank, South Arm Islands and island foreshore habitats. Other important natural assets include Richmond's sloughs and canals; bogs and marshes; urban trees and forests, parks and open spaces; cultivated and uncultivated agricultural lands; and garden lands. Our region is world renowned for these natural assets.

Richmond's natural areas are a source of inspiration and beauty to residents and visitors alike. They support recreation, social interaction, and psychological and spiritual renewal. The City recognizes the intrinsic value of its natural places and ecosystems.

What is more, Richmond's natural areas provide a range of economic and social benefits, or "ecosystem services", including: Temperature regulation; stormwater retention; air and water purification; habitat for pollinators and other beneficial organisms; noise reduction; carbon sequestration; drought and flood mitigation; enhanced property values and tourism potential; and many others.



**ACHIEVEMENTS**

**2007**

CPRA Award of Excellence for Innovation for Terra Nova Rural Park

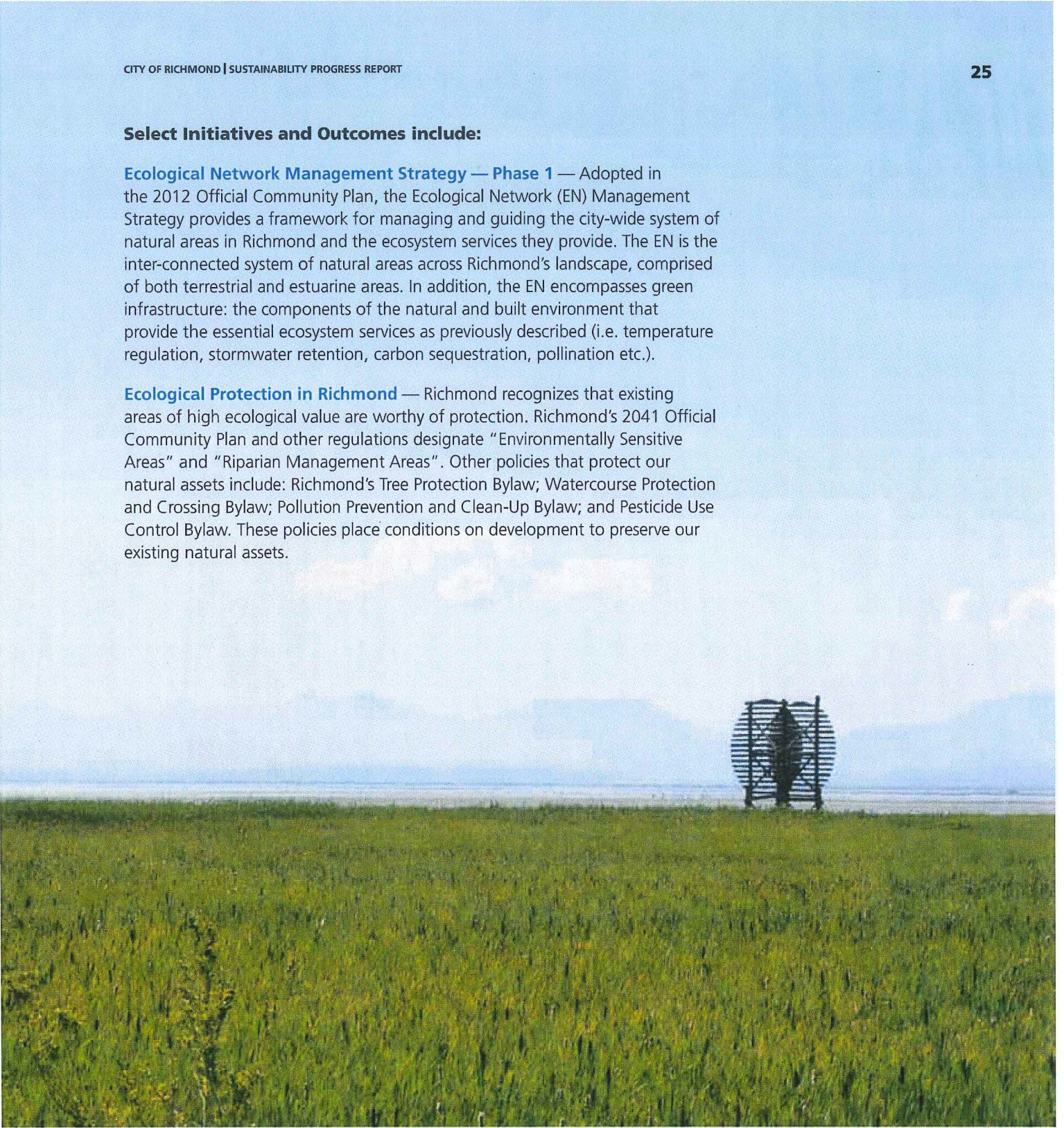
**2010**

Purchase of Garden City Lands

### Select Initiatives and Outcomes include:

**Ecological Network Management Strategy — Phase 1** — Adopted in the 2012 Official Community Plan, the Ecological Network (EN) Management Strategy provides a framework for managing and guiding the city-wide system of natural areas in Richmond and the ecosystem services they provide. The EN is the inter-connected system of natural areas across Richmond's landscape, comprised of both terrestrial and estuarine areas. In addition, the EN encompasses green infrastructure: the components of the natural and built environment that provide the essential ecosystem services as previously described (i.e. temperature regulation, stormwater retention, carbon sequestration, pollination etc.).

**Ecological Protection in Richmond** — Richmond recognizes that existing areas of high ecological value are worthy of protection. Richmond's 2041 Official Community Plan and other regulations designate "Environmentally Sensitive Areas" and "Riparian Management Areas". Other policies that protect our natural assets include: Richmond's Tree Protection Bylaw; Watercourse Protection and Crossing Bylaw; Pollution Prevention and Clean-Up Bylaw; and Pesticide Use Control Bylaw. These policies place conditions on development to preserve our existing natural assets.



### ACHIEVEMENTS

#### 2012

OCP – Chapter 9, Island Natural Environment.  
Ecological Network Concept adopted  
OCP establishes targets for distribution of parks in Richmond  
Grauer Land purchase by the City in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada  
North East Bog purchase, northern parcel

#### 2014

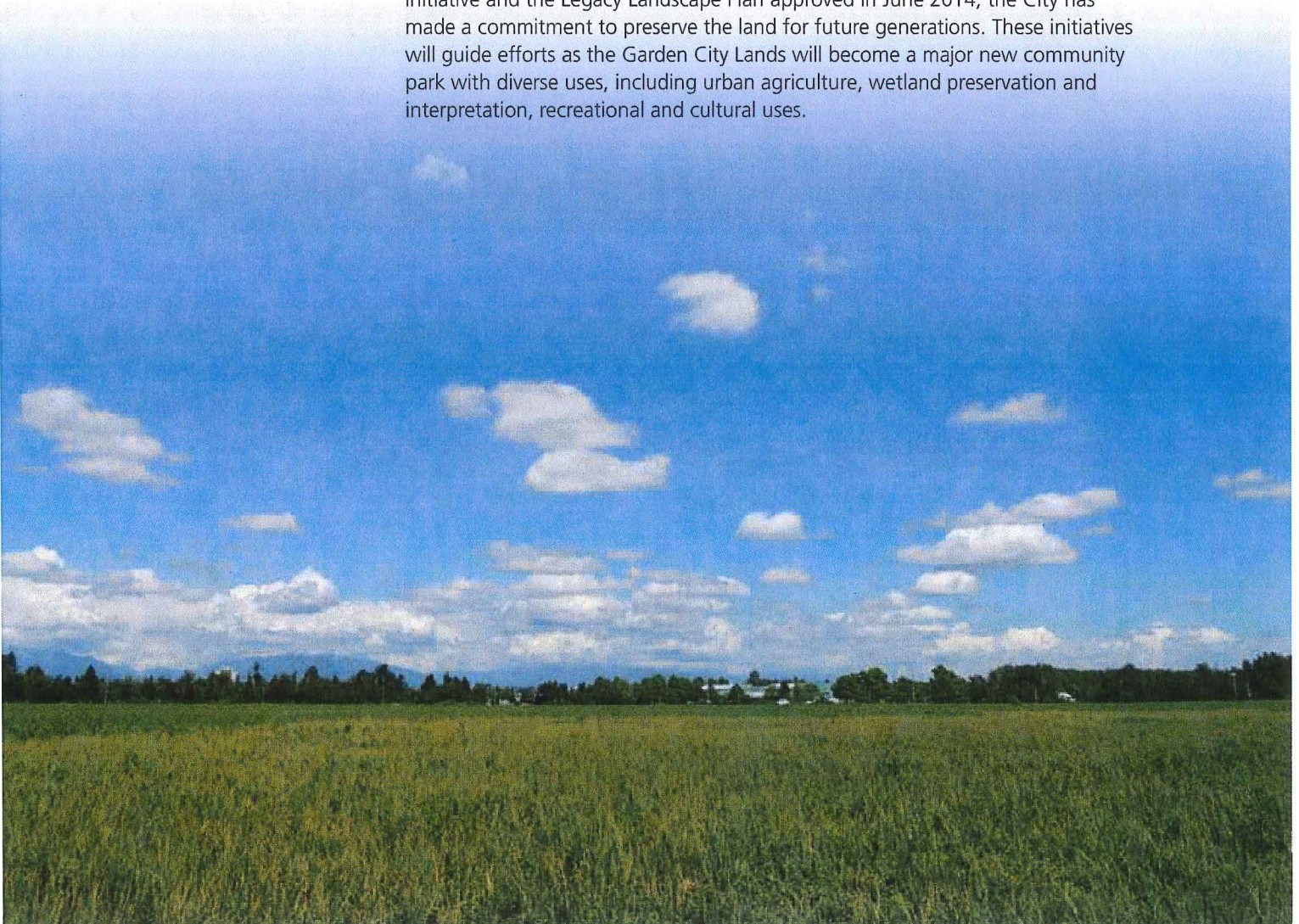
Ecological Network  
Management Strategy  
– Phase 1  
Garden City Legacy Landscape  
Plan approved by Council



**Supporting natural habitat in Terra Nova** — Terra Nova Rural Park is a 25.5 hectare city-wide nature park adjacent to the West Dike in the Thompson area with historic buildings, a community garden and a picnic area and provides habitat for birds and other wildlife in the area. The area was honoured with the Innovation Award from the World Leisure Organization for its development of Terra Nova Rural Park, the sixth major award the City has received since 2007 for Terra Nova Rural Park, including provincial, national and international honours. The Terra Nova Nature Preschool was launched in the fall of 2014 – an innovative new collaboration between Thompson Community Centre, Richmond School Yard Society, and the City that encourages 3 and 4 year old students to explore the natural landscape.

**Supporting our urban forest** — The City has planted an average of 550 new trees each year for the past 10 years, and also maintains existing trees. The City's Tree Protection Bylaw ensures that Richmond's urban forest on private property thrives.

**Creating a Legacy for the Garden City Lands** — The Garden City lands comprise natural and semi-natural areas with important environmental values, which may also be used for recreation, park, agricultural and food production purposes. The ecological value of the Garden City Lands is recognized by the community, and through the development of the Create Garden City Lands initiative and the Legacy Landscape Plan approved in June 2014, the City has made a commitment to preserve the land for future generations. These initiatives will guide efforts as the Garden City Lands will become a major new community park with diverse uses, including urban agriculture, wetland preservation and interpretation, recreational and cultural uses.



**Bath Slough** — One of Richmond's last remaining sloughs, and today has a catchment area spanning 750 hectares of industrial, commercial agricultural, and residential land in the Bridgeport neighbourhood. The Bath Slough Revitalization Initiative seeks to improve and restore ecological connectivity within Bath Slough, as the slough connects inland areas to important habitat on the Fraser River shoreline. The Bath Slough initiative is a flagship pilot project supporting the City's Ecological Network, as it will demonstrate an integrated slough revitalization, stewardship, and civic enhancement program.

**Northeast Bog** — In 2011, The City purchased the last 6 hectares of Richmond's northeast bog forest, named the Northeast Bog Forest. The lands complete a 19 hectare parkland bog forest. The bog represents an important remnant of the historical Lesser Lulu Island Bog, and houses a rich array of plants and wildlife.

**Sturgeon Bank, Grauer Land Purchase** — The City, in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada, has purchased the Grauer Lands that are part of an internationally important section of the Fraser River Estuary. These lands will be protected as wildlife habitat and parkland. Through preservation of these foreshore wetlands the City will be protecting a vital part of the Pacific Flyway for migratory birds as well as creating valuable park space for today and for generations to come.



**TARGETS**

Maintain Richmond's agricultural land base protected in the Agriculture Land Reserve, with no loss of ALR lands (unless consultation with agricultural community determines the project will realize a substantial benefit for the farming community).

**KEY DOCUMENTS:**

- Agricultural Viability Strategy

## Local Agriculture & Food Security

A sustainable community requires that its members have access to food that supports healthy people and a healthy planet – food that is tasty, nutritious, safe, affordable, and appropriate to their culture and personal beliefs. As a society, we need a food system that protects the well-being and dignity of people involved in providing food, and that is economically and environmentally viable.

Our food comes from all over the world, impacting our environment and social well-being in a variety of ways. Approximately 20 to 30 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions stem from our food system, and around 70 per cent of water use. Likewise, supplying food results in a range of social impacts relating to job quality, worker safety, food affordability, immigration patterns and other issues. Sustainable food systems can improve the quality of the environment, while supporting human well-being now and in the future.

Richmond is blessed with a strong agricultural tradition and some of the finest farmlands in Canada. Agriculture in Richmond supports our communities' sustainability in a variety of ways – it provides food; economic activity and employment; a range of natural assets; and is a key part of our culture and heritage. Richmond residents understandably place a strong priority on protecting farmlands. Thirty-nine per cent of Richmond's land is within the bounds of the Agriculture Land Reserve, which protects farmlands from development that would degrade their agricultural potential.

To maintain Richmond's farming traditions and land base, agriculture needs to be economically viable. However, the agricultural industry in Richmond faces challenges. Continuing to support viable agriculture is a priority for Richmond.

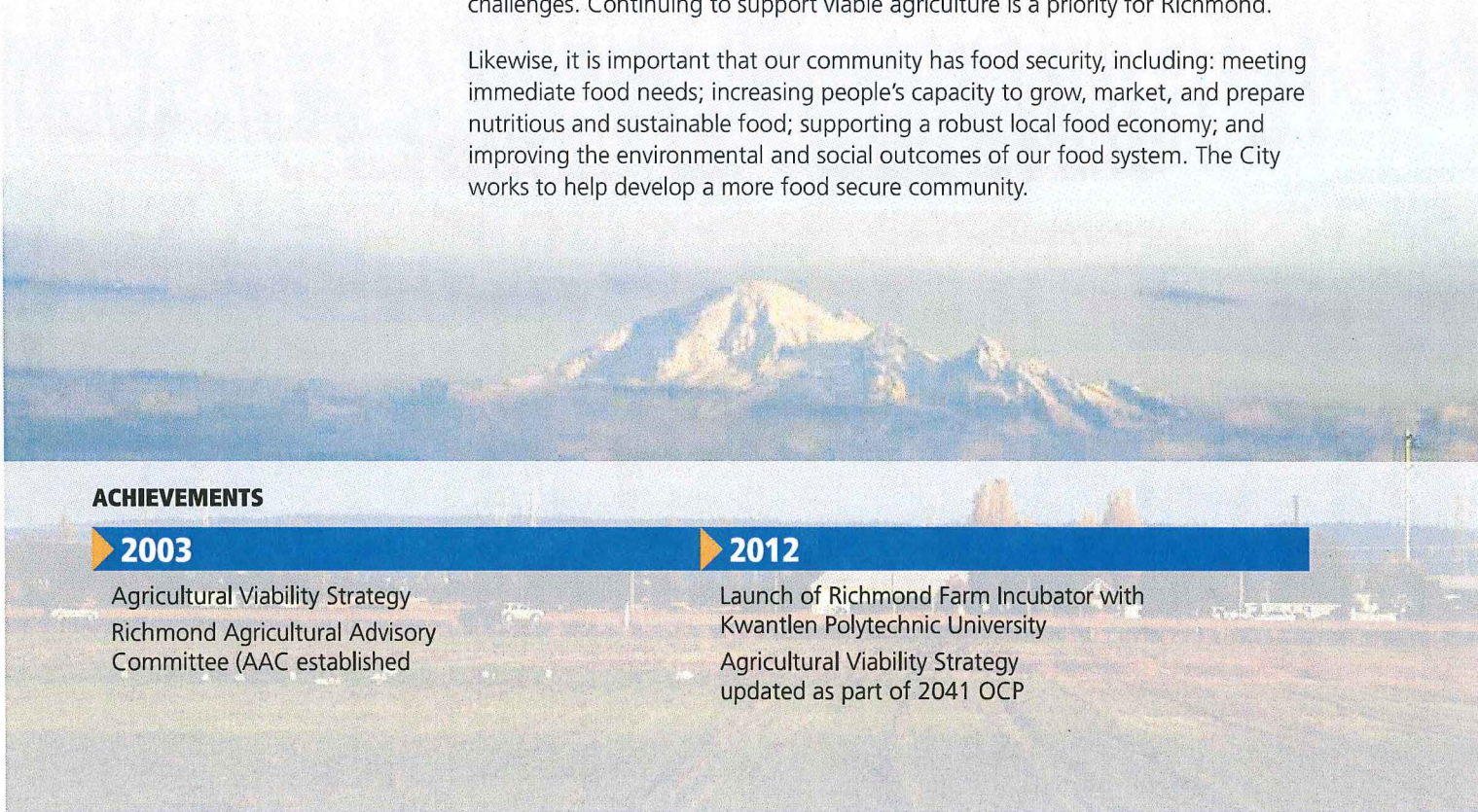
Likewise, it is important that our community has food security, including: meeting immediate food needs; increasing people's capacity to grow, market, and prepare nutritious and sustainable food; supporting a robust local food economy; and improving the environmental and social outcomes of our food system. The City works to help develop a more food secure community.

**ACHIEVEMENTS****2003**

Agricultural Viability Strategy  
Richmond Agricultural Advisory  
Committee (AAC established)

**2012**

Launch of Richmond Farm Incubator with  
Kwantlen Polytechnic University  
Agricultural Viability Strategy  
updated as part of 2041 OCP



**Select Initiatives and Outcomes include:**

**Supporting farms** — The City's 2003 Agricultural Viability Strategy articulates how the City will support farming and food systems in Richmond. The City continues to implement this strategy, providing for the infrastructure, policies and programs required to support a viable agricultural sector.

**The Agricultural Land Base** — Located in the Fraser River delta, Richmond possesses fertile soils and a climate well-suited to agriculture. Approximately 4,993 hectares of Richmond's land base, or 39 per cent of the City, is within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Richmond's Official Community Plan recognizes the ALR and the importance of agriculture as a contributor to the economy, a source of food, an environmental resource, and a heritage asset.

**Encouraging greater food security through food sharing** — The Sharing Farm is a non-profit organization with the mandate to grow produce to provide to charitable food distribution organizations, and to foster greater education and collaborative initiatives that support food security, reduce hunger, and enhance the sustainability of our food systems. Since 2008, the Sharing Farm Society has harvested and donated over 200,000 pounds of healthy fruits and vegetables to help low income families in need in Richmond. In May 2014, Council endorsed a five-year agreement for the Sharing Farm Society to continue to engage in growing organic fruits and vegetable on 1.1 hectares in Terra Nova Rural Park.



**Community gardening** — A number of Richmond Parks feature community gardens, which beautify neighbourhoods, build community, and provide community members the opportunity to grow nutritious food. Since 2010 the City of Richmond's community gardens have been managed by the Richmond Food Security Society (RFSS). The RFSS currently manages community gardens at eight locations throughout the city proving over 300 plots.

**Supporting Agricultural Education** — Through a partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Department of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems, the City is educating a new generation of farmers to improve food security. In July 2012, Council endorsed the allocation of 1.8 hectares at the Gardens Agricultural Park (No. 5 Rd. and Steveston Highway) for the development of an "Incubator Farm". The Incubator Farm an opportunity for graduates of the Richmond Farm School program to continue learning by actively farming in an applied, cooperative and supported manner for up to three years

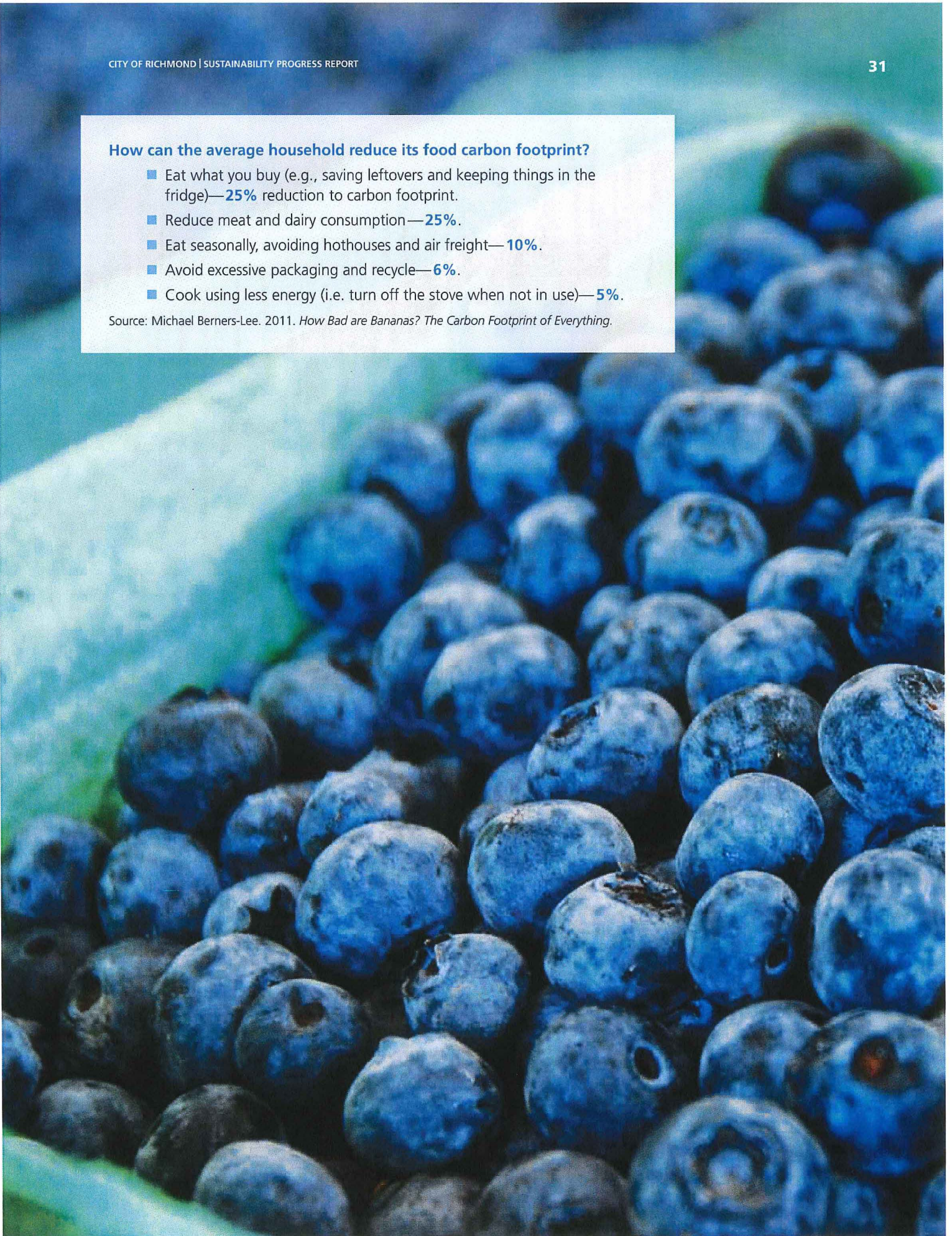
**Terra Nova Rural Park** — The City incorporated extensive opportunities for agriculturally oriented activities into the Terra Nova Rural Park, providing opportunities to learn about and appreciate growing food. These include a Waterwise Demonstration Garden, Community Garden, use by the Fruit Tree Sharing Project, and the Terra Nova School Yard Project.



**How can the average household reduce its food carbon footprint?**

- Eat what you buy (e.g., saving leftovers and keeping things in the fridge)—**25%** reduction to carbon footprint.
- Reduce meat and dairy consumption—**25%**.
- Eat seasonally, avoiding hothouses and air freight—**10%**.
- Avoid excessive packaging and recycle—**6%**.
- Cook using less energy (i.e. turn off the stove when not in use)—**5%**.

Source: Michael Berners-Lee. 2011. *How Bad are Bananas? The Carbon Footprint of Everything*.



**TARGETS**

Maintain Richmond's share of regional employment at approximately 10%

**KEY DOCUMENTS:**

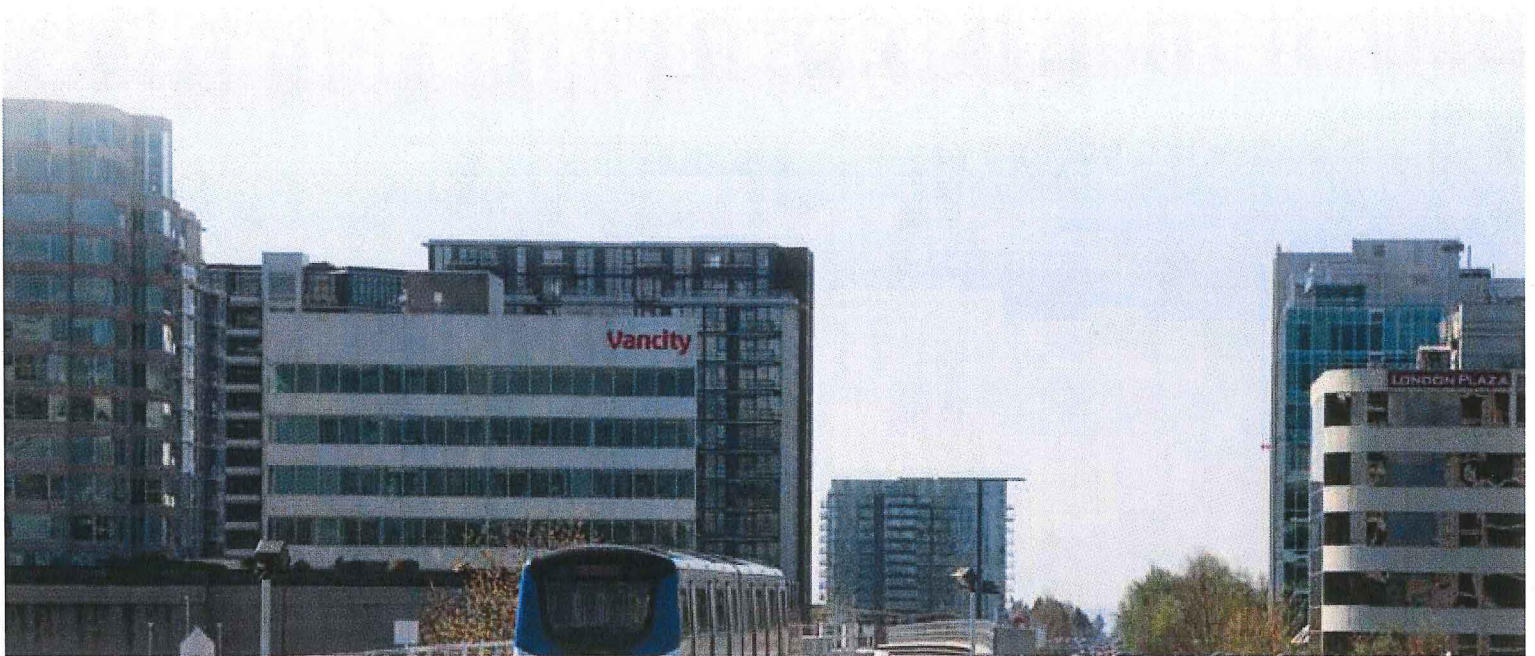
- Resilient Economy Strategy
- 2041 Employment Lands Strategy

# Resilient Economy

Economic activity is fundamental to Richmond's well-being. Our economy allows people to meet their wants and needs. Having fulfilling, secure employment adds to peoples' sense of satisfaction and purpose. A bustling streetscape full of thriving local businesses makes for vibrant neighbourhoods. And the City depends on tax revenue to provide services to our community. For all these reasons, Richmond requires a strong, resilient economy – an economy that can thrive in the face of global economic and environmental change.

Richmond has a diverse economy, with key clusters including transportation, warehousing and logistics; manufacturing; wholesale; and tourism. The City is supporting and growing these sectors, to ensure a stable base of employment and economic opportunity.

Richmond's resilient economy is accomplished through a focus on business retention, as the existing commercial and industrial tax base and associated jobs support the City's ability to provide its residents with services and facilities. Maintaining a steady share of regional employment growth in sectors where Richmond has a competitive advantage also strengthens the local economy's ability to withstand major economic, social or environmental shifts.



**ACHIEVEMENTS**

**2002**

1st ever Richmond Economic Development Strategy adopted

**2006**

Business Retention, Expansion and Attraction Strategy adopted

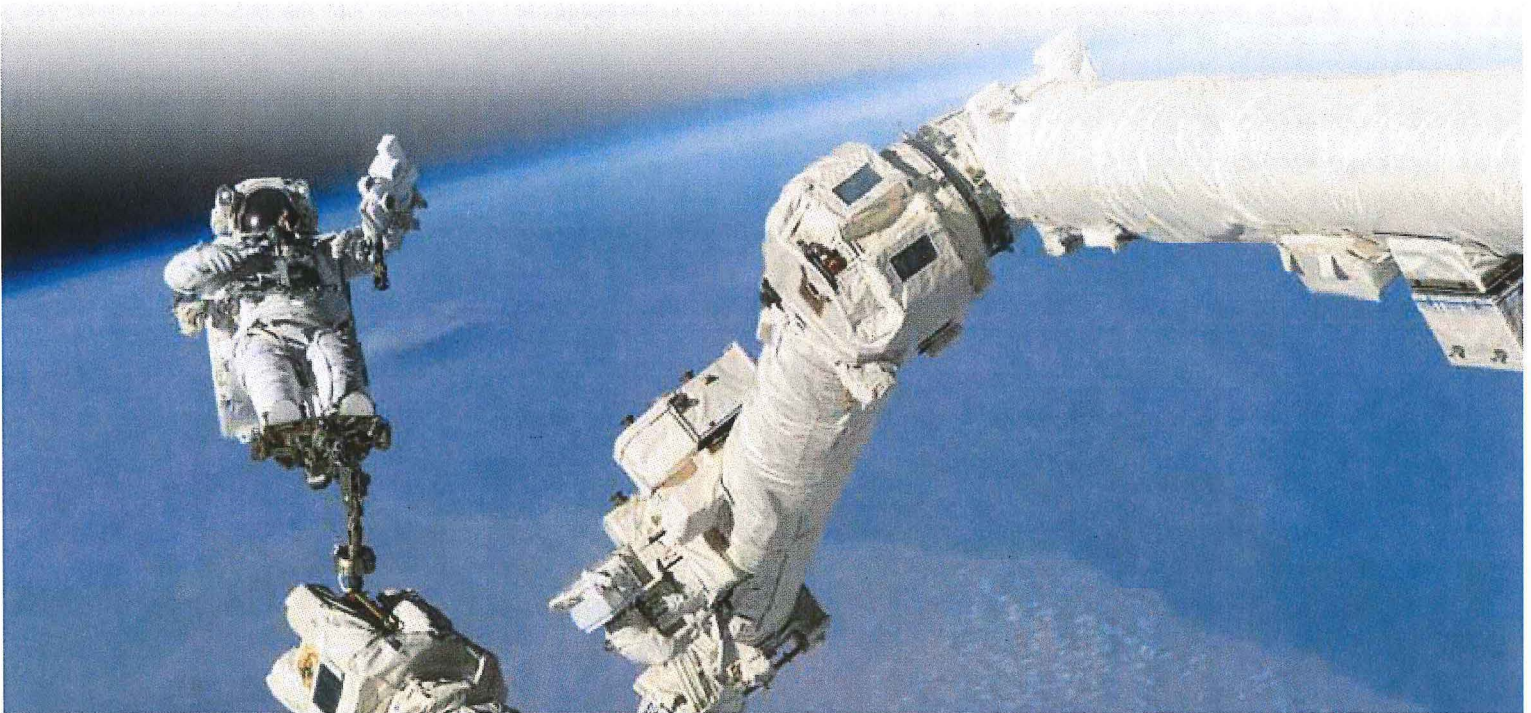
**2010**

Venue City for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games

**Select Initiatives and Outcomes include:**

**Identifying strategies to support a resilient economy** — The City adopted its Resilient Economy Strategy in 2014, a strategic-level blueprint for the City's economic development efforts in the coming years. The Strategy includes nine core initiatives, some focused on supporting key industry clusters such as transportation and logistics, while others focused on strengthening the City as a location for a range of businesses.

**Working with our local businesses** — The City's economic development efforts are anchored by its Business Development Program. Through the program, the City helps businesses expand or relocate in Richmond; provides information and gathers data and statistics; identifies resources and incentives; and helps businesses access City processes and departments, other government agencies, and business services and resources. Collaboration with business and facilitation between stakeholders will continue to be the basis of Richmond's economic development.

**ACHIEVEMENTS****2011**

1st ever Richmond Economic Development Strategy adopted

**2013**

Business Retention, Expansion and Attraction Strategy adopted

**2014**

Venue City for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games



**Ensuring adequate employment lands** — Key sectors of Richmond’s economy, such as light industry and office, face pressures on their land base. Both these sectors are important to maintaining existing businesses, and attracting clusters of industries that support high-paying jobs. Through its Employment Lands Strategy and other planning initiatives the City has worked to ensure that sufficient lands for key sectors, including light industry and office are available.

**Working with the Province and other partners to expand the capacity to move goods, while improving our community’s liveability** — The City continues to work to ensure that Gateway related infrastructure projects do not exacerbate auto-dependency or sprawl, and improve the livability of our communities. Opportunities include prioritizing goods movement and transit in highway developments, and implementing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure as part of major transportation infrastructure projects.



*“Public discourse about climate change has resulted in the erroneous idea that it’s all about cost, burden and sacrifice. Acting on climate change is really about profit, jobs and competitive advantage.”*

*Amory Lovins*



**KEY DOCUMENTS:**

- Social Development Strategy
- Affordable Housing Strategy
- Intercultural Strategic Plan
- Older Adults Service Plan
- Youth Service Plan
- Richmond Community Wellness Strategy
- 2009–2016 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy
- Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy
- The Fire-Rescue Plan

# Inclusive, Accessible & Safe Community

At the heart of the concept of sustainability is social equity – the idea that all people, present and future, deserve the opportunity to lead a fulfilling life that maximizes their innate capabilities. The opportunity to live a fulfilling life can be diminished by poverty; income inequality; inaccessible environments for people with disabilities or special needs; a lack of access to education, health, and other services; and discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, language, age, sexual orientation, and other factors.

Greater social well-being depends on a host of factors, including emergency services, safety, healthcare, housing, social services, and adequate income. In many cases, the City has limited jurisdiction to address social issues, which are predominantly the purview of senior levels of government – for example, the provision of healthcare, social services and social housing is historically a senior government responsibility.

Nevertheless, the City is committed to doing its part to continuing to make Richmond a more equitable, inclusive, accessible and safe community. The City is the “closest” level of government to our citizens. We can provide socially enriching services and programs, support affordable housing, and increase the capacity of different stakeholders in our community to address social issues. Moreover, given Richmond’s high proportion of immigrants and rapidly growing population, it is important that our community welcome and provide opportunity to newcomers.

An important aspect of improving our wellbeing is ensuring the safety of our community. The City supports community safety via police services, fire-rescue, and emergency planning and preparedness services.



**ACHIEVEMENTS**

**2007**

Council adopts the Richmond Affordable Housing Strategy  
Affordable Housing Coordinator position established

**2008**

Social Planning Coordinator position established  
Council adopts Older Adults Service Plan  
Council adopts Youth Service Plan: Where Youth Thrive

**2009**

City leases building to Richmond Centre for Disability  
First edition of Newcomer’s Guide released

**2010**

Council adopts the Richmond Community Wellness Strategy

**Select Initiatives and Outcomes include:**

**Crime and Fire Prevention** — In addition to responding response to crime, fire, and medical emergencies, the City of Richmond's and RCMP Detachment and Fire Rescue are active preventing emergencies before they occur. In 2014, the City released its Crime Prevention Guide. Likewise, Fire-Rescue provides a range of education efforts, such as its Car Seat program, guidance on home and electrical safety, and other efforts. The City has introduced services such as Richmond RCMP's Online Crime Reporting to improve services when crime does occur.

**Social Development Strategy** — In 2013, City Council adopted Building our Social Future: A Social Development Strategy for Richmond. Key goals of the Strategy are supporting greater social equity and inclusion; engaging Richmond's citizens in civic life; and building on social assets and strengthening the capacity of community organizations to enhance Richmond's social fabric.

**Supporting youth** — The Community Services Department's Roving Leader Youth Outreach Program, initiated in 2001, is targeted to vulnerable Richmond youths aged 13-18. Roving Leaders provide youths with support and mentorship, developing and implementing services to meet the individual needs of program participants. The Roving Leaders establish positive relationships with the youths, helping them make the transition to using mainstream social and recreational opportunities and/or other community resources.

**Action on Affordable Housing** — On May 28, 2007, City Council approved Richmond's Affordable Housing Strategy. This ensures access to safe and affordable housing, which is essential for building a strong and healthy community. As of December 2013, 460 subsidized housing units have been secured.

**Enhancing Accessibility** — In 2007, City Council approved the establishment of an annual program for the installation of enhanced pedestrian features at signalized intersections, special crosswalks and pedestrian signals that significantly improve the level of accessibility for people of different ages and abilities.

**ACHIEVEMENTS****2011**

City receives Provincial Child Care Award of Excellence in Municipal/Regional Government category

**2013**

Council adopts Building our Social Future: A Social Development Strategy for Richmond  
West Cambie Child Care Centre Opens

**2014**

Cranberry Child Care Centre Opens  
Web-based City Grant Program application process launched



### **New affordable housing at the Storeys development to be opened in 2016**

— The Storeys Development at Granville Avenue and Anderson Road is an innovative \$43M multi-stakeholder project that involves delivery of a high-performance, mixed-use building containing affordable housing and complimentary community services. Built on City-owned land, the project consists of 129 affordable rental units for a diverse group of low-income tenants, community/social enterprise spaces, and informal and formal supports to foster self-sufficiency, life skills and community connections.

**Supporting vulnerable single parents** — In 2013, in conjunction with the rezoning for Cressey Cadence development, Council approved the provision of 15 units of third stage transitional housing for lone-parent families and expectant mothers. The transitional housing will be part of a larger mixed-use residential and commercial development of 244 residential units. The transitional housing will be complemented by adjacent City-owned child care centre and a network of formal and informal community supports.

**Child Care Initiatives** — Since the 1990s, the City has pursued strategic opportunities to pursue child care facilities through the rezoning process for private developments. To date, these negotiations have resulted in the establishment of six City-owned child care facilities offering 195 licensed child care spaces serving infants/toddlers and 3 to 5 year olds. Five additional child care facilities have been negotiated and when completed will add over 200 more licensed spaces to the City's inventory. All of the recently negotiated facilities will include infant and toddler spaces which were identified in the Richmond 2009-2016 Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy as a high priority across the city.

**Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC)** — In 2002, City Council introduced the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) to provide advice on intercultural issues, making Richmond one of the first Metro Vancouver municipalities to have such a committee. The mandate of RIAC is to enhance intercultural harmony and strengthen intercultural co-operation in Richmond. Key RIAC activities include providing information and recommendations to City Council, serving as a resource to community stakeholders on intercultural matters, and responding to referrals on intercultural issues from Council.



**Orienting Newcomers** — The City of Richmond’s Newcomers Guide to Richmond, a document available in five different languages that is aimed at assisting newcomers integrate quickly and easily into the community. The Guide, first produced in 2008, explains the role of municipal government and introduces newcomers to local services and opportunities (e.g., employment, recreation, youth and family support services).

**Wellness Programs** — The Community Services Department’s Seniors Wellness Program targets frail, isolated and at risk older adults, and is geared to allowing older adults to “age in place,” feel safe and remain independent. A key component of the program is Wellness Connections, a program that offers transportation to and from home, nutritious meals, fitness classes, education sessions related to health and tours of community amenities. Community Services offers seven wellness clinics to help older adults better manage their health, served by dedicated volunteer nurses and health practitioners.

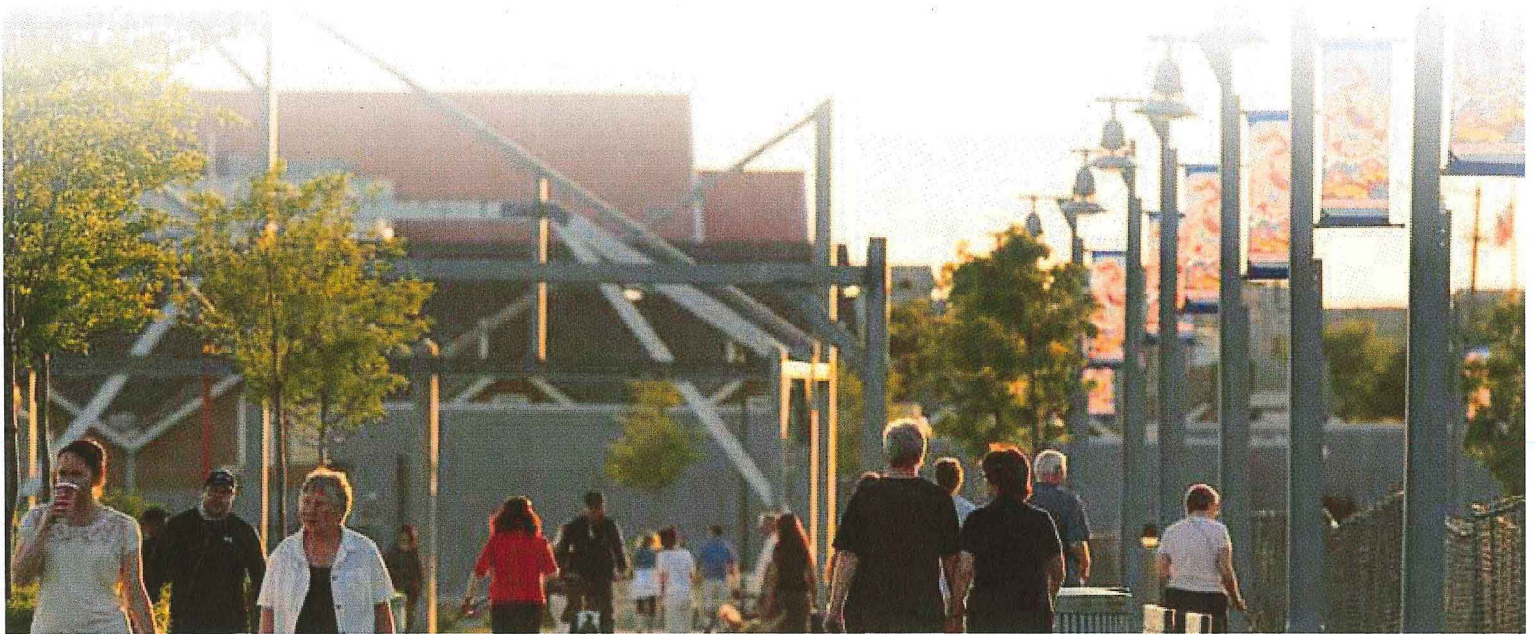


# Vibrant Community

A sustainable community fosters well-being, health, and sense of community among its residents. Richmond is committed to supporting a flourishing culture and a high quality of life for its residents.

A flourishing cultural scene provides a City a distinct, shared identity. The City is committed to fostering a thriving, resilient, diverse and creative community. The City envisions a community in which: people have a strong sense of identity; citizens are empowered, engaged and connected; and there are opportunities for cultural engagement, lifelong learning, celebrating heritage, community revitalization and engaging in the creative economy. Fostering such a community both benefits our citizens and establishes Richmond as a tourism destination.

Likewise, the City provides a range of recreation services, programs and facilities to support community wellness. Through the City's parks and recreational services, such as Richmond's community centers, pools, playing fields, and other amenities, we provide opportunities for healthy, enriching lives for our citizens.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

### 2008

2010 Arts and Culture Plan endorsed

### 2010

1st annual Doors Open O Zone, Richmond's 2010 Winter Olympics Celebration Site 2010 Public Art Program Policy update

### 2011

1st annual Culture Days, a celebration of arts and culture Media Lab opens 1st annual Your Kontinent: Richmond International Film and Media Arts Festival

### Select Initiatives and Outcomes include:

**Ensuring access to parklands** — The City is committed to access to parks for its citizens, targeting a neighbourhood park within an 800m radius of residents city-wide, and within 400m for those living in the City Center. The City also seeks to provide more significant “community parks” within a 1,500m radius service area. In the last 5 years, the City has invested \$118,300,000 to acquire 130.6 hectares of park land (including 55.2 hectares at the Garden City Lands).

**Investing in recreation assets for an expanding community** — The City is investing in a variety of buildings to increase the amenities available to Richmond residents. The Richmond’s City Centre Community Centre will be a vibrant new two-storey facility located within a mixed-use development at Firbridge Way and Minoru Boulevard. In another major development, the City is planning for the development of the Minoru Recreation Complex, an \$80 million 10,200 square metre facility that will house new aquatic facilities, new older adults centre, fitness centre, central kitchen, and improved park amenities. In July 2014, Council adopted principles for the centre, including that it be a model of sustainability and foster active living and wellness

**Supporting recreation access for low income communities** — The City encourages the participation of all population groups in arts, cultural, sport and recreational programs, regardless of income. To this end, the City coordinates a Recreation Fee Subsidy program that assists low-income Richmond residents with the cost of registration for City and Community Partner programs. In addition, the City administers the Canadian Tire Jumpstart program for Richmond which subsidizes costs for registration, transportation and equipment for physical activities for low income youth. The City also provides an annual grant to support Richmond KidSport, to help ensure kids have the positive experience of sport and physical activity.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### 2012

Arts and Culture Grants program created  
Arts Strategy update  
Museum Feasibility Study adopted

### 2013

Tram Building completed  
Seine Net Loft at Britannia restoration completed  
Japanese Fishermen’s Benevolent Society Building restoration begins  
Branscombe House restoration begins

### 2014

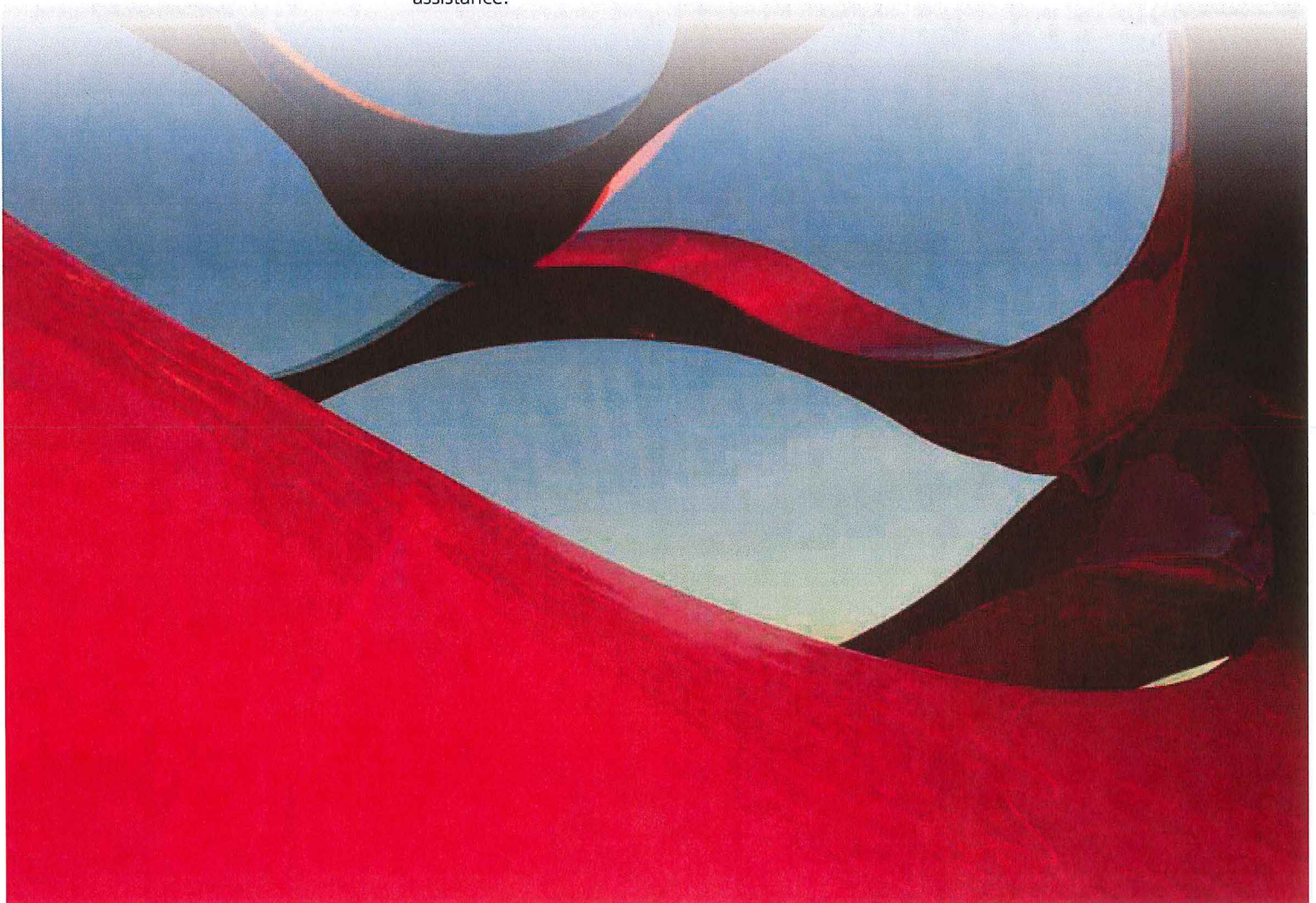
Tram restoration begins



**Maximizing the benefits of our relationships and City volunteers** — The City is recognized as a leader in collaborating with community organizations, other levels of government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to deliver cultural and recreational programming. Likewise, the City boasts a robust approach to coordinating volunteers and maximizing the benefits of volunteering in our community – through the City's online Volunteer Recruiter systems ([icanhelp.richmond.ca](http://icanhelp.richmond.ca)), the City facilitates a wide variety of volunteer opportunities for students, adults and seniors. Richmond's volunteer system helps participants give back to their community, have fun, and build valuable skills.

**Supporting public art** — First adopted in 1997 and updated in 2010, the Richmond Public Art Program promotes, supports and facilitates the creation of public art within the City. The aim of the Public Art Program is to create a collection of highest quality art works through private and public development contributions. Public art works have been added to the City's public realm and numerous programs focusing on art in the public realm including the annual Lulu Series talks and Pecha Kucha evenings have been initiated.

**Grants for arts and culture** — In 2012 Council created the Arts and Culture Grants program. Designed to strengthen the infrastructure of arts and culture organizations, increase the investment in arts opportunities, show support for the careers of local artists and support a wide range of artistic and cultural activity, the program offers two types of grants—operating assistance and project assistance.



**Live-Work Space for Artists** — Two rezonings in the Arts District of City Centre approved by Council which include 37 affordable artist live work units. Scheduled to be completed in 2015, the ARTS units will provide affordable living and working spaces for artists allowing them to live and create and contribute to the cultural ecology of the City.

**Restoring Branscombe House** — In 2012 a unique and creative partnership was formed for the restoration of the historic Branscombe House. The strategy involved philanthropic support and in-kind labour enabling the City to initiate the required work to conserve and protect this valued heritage resource. Completion of the upper floor in the fall of 2014 will allow public use of this building.

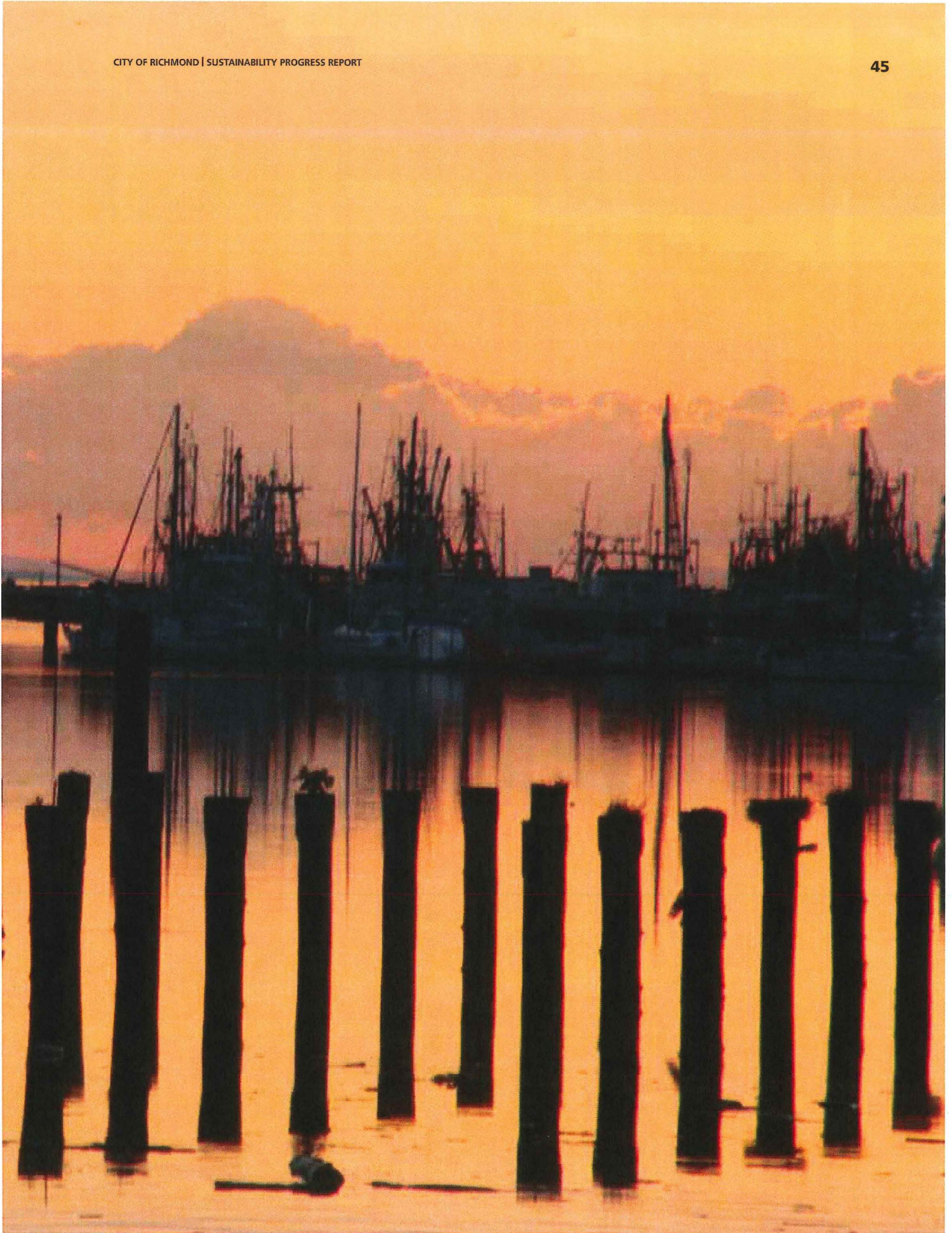
**Media Lab** — The City has transformed an under utilized space in the Cultural Centre into a Media Lab. With a particular focus on youth, the Media Lab provides residents the opportunity to access and develop media and computer skills which can be applied towards artistic activities and marketable job skills.

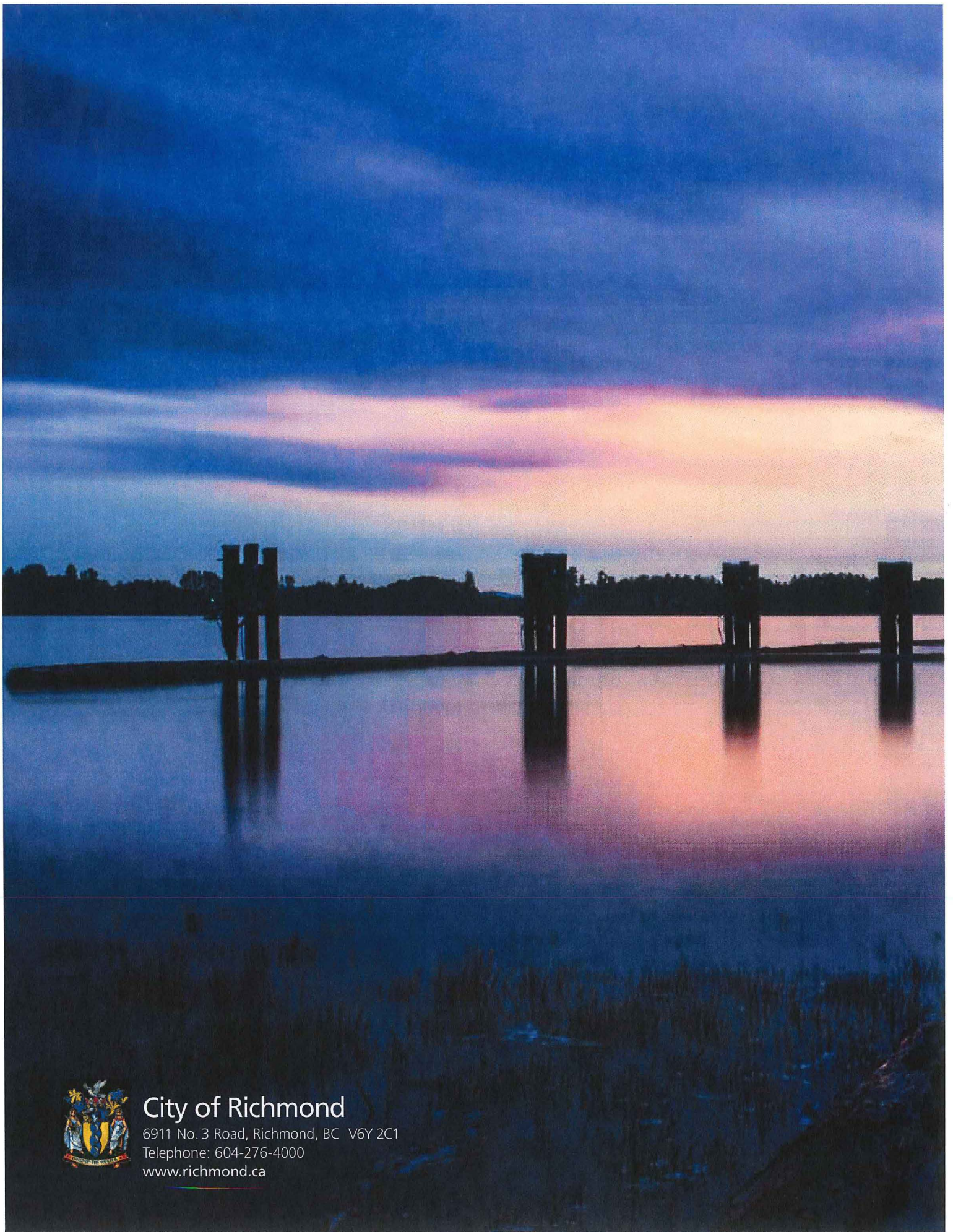


## Conclusion

This document highlights some of the many ways in which the City is working towards a more sustainable Richmond. These efforts position the City as a leader in our region and beyond. The future will hold challenges and opportunities associated with social and demographic changes; a rapidly evolving economy; and environmental and climate change. The City will continue to work to enhance Richmond's sustainability and resilience – a community that optimizes social well-being, economic prosperity, and a thriving environment.







## City of Richmond

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