



Climate Forward Action Plan

Phase 2 2026-2030



What is the Climate Forward Action Plan?

The Climate Forward Action Plan was developed to translate the City of Prince George's established climate commitments into a coordinated and actionable framework, ensuring progress toward the goals outlined in key plans, policies, and strategies.

The Climate Forward Action Plan lays out achievable tasks that can be completed within 5 year increments to move Prince George forward on climate action goals. Introduced in 2021 as the Climate Forward Implementation Strategy, Phase 1 guided climate actions through the end of 2025. The plan was renamed for Phase 2 to improve clarity and readability while maintaining the same objectives and outcomes. Upon completion of Phase 1, a review was conducted to assess progress. Beginning in 2026, Phase 2 of the Climate Forward Action Plan came into effect.



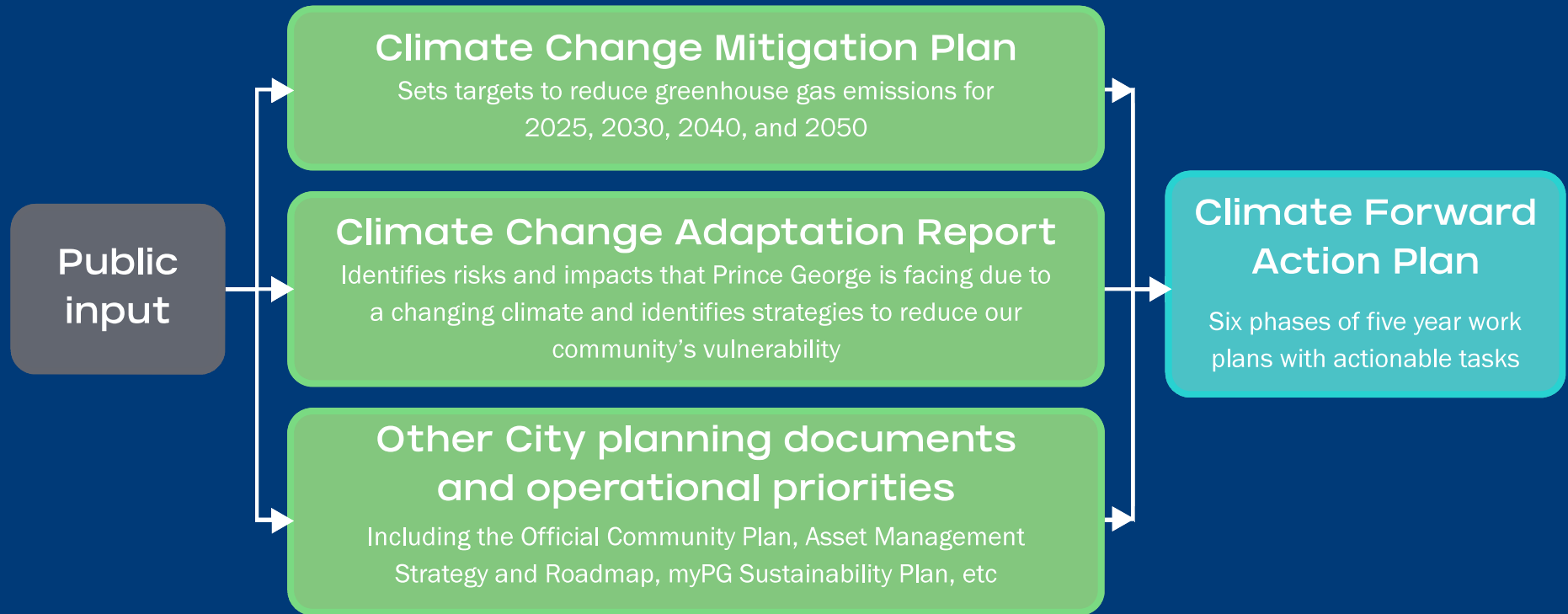


This document represents Phase 2 of the Climate Forward Action Plan that outlines actions for 2026-2030. The future phases will bring us to 2050 and the achievement of our long-term targets.

The goals and objectives are based on information gathered from Phase 1 of the Climate Forward Action Plan, the City's 2020 Climate Change Mitigation Plan, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), the City's Climate Change Adaptation Report, which assists the City for preparing for a changing climate, plus several other City planning documents and operational priorities.

Consultation with internal City departments determined how climate actions aligned with each Department's current work plans, staff capacity, budgets and to what extent additional budget (e.g., grant funding) may be required. The plan provides strategic direction on what is feasible and can be undertaken by the City in the next 5 years, as identified in the consultation process.

Relation to other plans, strategies, and procedures



Climate Forward Action Plan timeline





Why do we care about this?

Climate change has been occurring at an accelerated rate in Northern British Columbia compared to the global average. While climate change may seem like a concern for the future, Prince George is already experiencing its effects.

Between 1942 and 2018



Annual days below -25 °C decreased from

18 to 7 days/year



Average winter temperatures

↑ 2.8 °C



Minimum winter temperatures

↑ 9.0 °C



Winter precipitation

↓ 40.5%



Summer precipitation

↓ 28.5%

By 2050 Prince George can expect



Annual temperature to increase by an additional 2 °C



6 more days above 30 °C



2.5 fewer days below -30 °C



More extreme precipitation events

Moving forward on climate action

Impacts of a changing climate are wide-reaching with implications for infrastructure, the natural environment, and public health. The results are expected to have disproportionate impacts on the elderly and those with lower income. The following impacts have already been experienced and can be expected to intensify into the future:

More extreme rainfall events, causing:

- Rainfall exceeding the capacity of drainage system and damaging aging infrastructure
- Property damage, loss of riverfront trails, roads and flooding
- Infiltration and backups of sanitary sewer

Higher summer temperatures, causing:

- Increased wildfire risk
- Increased irrigation demand
- Reduced die-off of forest pests

Warmer, wetter winters, causing:

- Increased road maintenance
- Rain on snow events leading to localized flooding
- Impacts to outdoor recreation

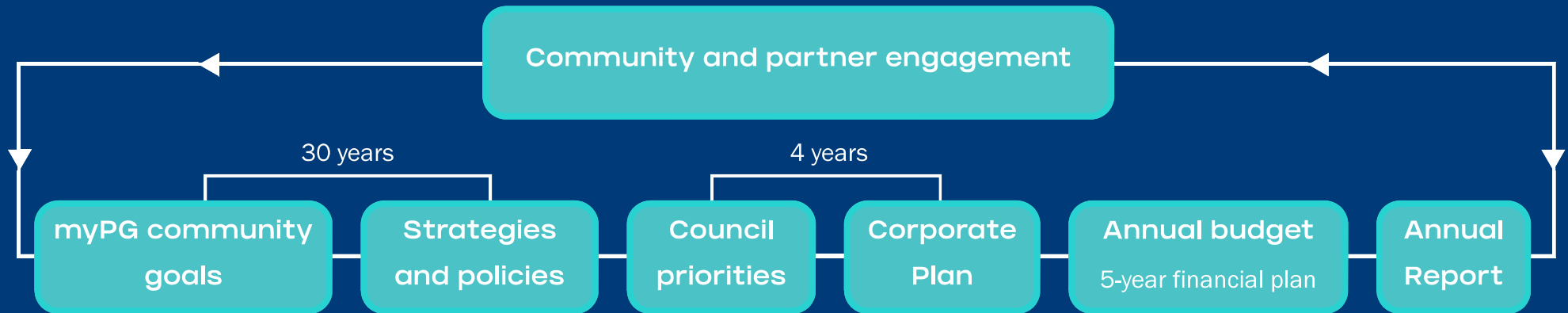
In addition, climate change is expected to have social, health, and economic impacts, such as:

- Increased frequency of traffic accidents, and slips and falls associated with rain on snow, and freeze-thaw events
- Exacerbation of heart and lung conditions due to increased wildfire smoke and other air quality pollutants associated with hotter, and drier summers
- Increased energy demands and costs associated with enhanced cooling needs associated with higher summer temperatures
- Challenges for the forestry industry associated with beetle pest infestations and increased fire activity



The Climate Forward Action Plan provides strategic direction on what is feasible to be undertaken by different City of Prince George departments in the next 5 years, and will be used to inform the Annual Report and Work Plans in alignment with the City of Prince George Strategic Framework.

Strategic Framework



The Climate Forward Action Plan is based on the City's overall planning framework which is based on four pillars:

- Social Health and Well-Being
- Economic Growth and Development
- Climate Action and Environmental Leadership
- City Government and Infrastructure

The actions within this 5-year action plan are intended to be completed within existing capital and operational budgets and/or through grant funding opportunities. The Climate Forward Action Plan demonstrates the City of Prince George's efforts to increase resilience and reduce emissions making the City a competitive applicant for these funding opportunities. The previous CFIS plan has been supporting a number of successful infrastructure grant funding applications due to demonstrated climate action initiatives.



Monitoring progress

Progress will be evaluated in alignment with Provincial reporting guidance, including annual corporate emissions tracking. Responsible departments will provide updates on actionable tasks to the designated coordinator each year and achievements will be reported out through the Annual Report and considered within the Corporate Workplan.

The following pages identify the actionable tasks to be completed over the next five years, along with the Responsible Department assigned at the time this plan was written. If organizational restructuring changes the responsible departments, this plan should be reviewed and responsibilities updated accordingly.



Climate Forward Action Plan

Budget and Governance



Focus Area

Budget and Governance

Actionable task	Funding source	Responsible Department(s)
Share sustainability related information produced by the City Green Team with all internal staff using the City Connect Newsletter and the City Wide Web internal webpage.	Operating	Civic Facilities & Events
Develop a climate action grant stream to support not-for-profit organizations in implementing community-based climate initiatives.	Operating, Grant Funding	Civic Facilities & Events
Complete a bear aware campaign working with internal staff and external experts.	Operating	Civic Operations
Work with City Communications to draft an energy saving email to send out internal City staff.	Operating	Finance and IT Services
Provide Council with options for a stormwater utility credit program to encourage natural solutions for stormwater management.	Operating	Civic Operations Finance and IT Services

Climate Forward Action Plan

Buildings



Focus Area

Buildings

Actionable task	Funding source	Responsible Department(s)
Identify potential sustainability initiatives that could be trialed at CN Center.	Operating	Civic Facilities & Events
Explore options to divert food waste from the Civic Center away from the landfill.	Operating, Grant funding	Civic Facilities & Events
Review options to monitor energy consumption of server rooms.	Operating, Grant Funding	Finance and IT Services
Lighting efficiency upgrades at City facilities including: street lighting, flood lighting, interior lights and exterior lights.	Grant Funding	Civic Facilities & Events
Develop an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging strategy for applicable City properties.	Grant Funding	Civic Facilities & Events
Review feasibility of heat recovery systems during applicable projects.	Operating, Grant Funding	Civic Facilities & Events
Optimize Direct Digital Controls for City facilities as part of relevant HVAC projects.	Capital, Grant Funding	Civic Facilities & Events

Focus Area

Buildings

Actionable task	Funding source	Responsible Department(s)
Install stratification fans where opportunities for summer cooling and winter heat distribution exist.	Capital, Grant Funding	Civic Facilities & Events
Utilize lighting studies to determine viability of transition to LED or other energy saving measures.	Operating, Grant Funding	Civic Facilities & Events
Assess for further energy reduction projects as opportunities arise.	Operating	Civic Facilities & Events
Review grant opportunities to support an energy manager for corporate energy efficiencies.	Grant Funding	Civic Facilities & Events

Climate Forward Action Plan Fleet



Focus Area

Fleet

Actionable task	Funding source	Responsible Department(s)
Purchase of hybrid options for future loader purchases to supplement the hybrid loader that was already purchased.	Capital	Civic Operations
Assess feasibility of hybrid models when the light duty fleet at City Hall is due for replacement.	Operating	Civic Operations
Purchase electric Zamboni's to replace current propane models.	Capital	Civic Operations Civic Facilities & Events

Climate Forward Action Plan

Land Use



Focus Area

Land Use

Actionable task	Funding source	Responsible Department(s)
Review to update key planning tools prioritizing the Zoning Bylaw to encourage compact and complete communities in alignment with Official Community Plan.	Operating	Planning & Development
Consider the use of financial tools to support land use and investment decisions that prioritize redevelopment, investment and infill in growth priority areas.	Operating	Planning & Development
Prioritization of linear trails adjacent to developments that also achieve fuel break outcomes.	Operating	Planning & Development Civic Operations

Climate Forward Action Plan

Natural Environment



Focus Area

Natural Environment

Actionable task	Funding source	Responsible Department(s)
Draft a new Tree Protection Bylaw focusing on expansion of tree protection beyond select AG and riparian areas.	Operating Grant	Planning & Development
Review Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw, related Design guidelines, and other divisional bylaws, to consider climate change in alignment with Asset Management Policy & infrastructure plans.	Operating	Planning & Development Civic Operations
Retain and enhance vegetation and natural environments, including riparian and other sensitive ecosystems, through development approvals and major construction projects.	Operating	Planning & Development Civic Operations
Protect, enhance, and acquire parkland along the riverfront.	Operating	Planning & Development Civic Operations
Develop backyard composting information handout for the public.	Operating	Civic Operations
Engage with the RDFFG regarding opportunities to reduce solid waste.	Operating	Civic Operations

Focus Area

Natural Environment

Actionable task	Funding source	Responsible Department(s)
Support provision of grant funding to the Northwest Invasive Plant Council for management of novel invasive species that have become established due to a changing climate.	Grant Funding	Civic Operations
Engage with federal and provincial agencies and partners regarding bank stabilization and replanting project along the Nechako River.	Operating, Grant Funding	Civic Operations Planning & Development
Work with local industry, development community and the public to increase awareness around the impacts of erosion and sedimentation on stormwater and infrastructure and biological systems.	Operating	Planning & Development
Develop an Erosion and Sediment Control Bylaw to mitigate impacts of erosion and sedimentation on City infrastructure, private property and the environment.	Operating	Planning & Development
Work in partnership with the Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable (PGAIR) to provide public education and to advocate for improved air quality.	Operating	Planning & Development
Amend Clean Air Bylaw to accommodate the open burning under certain conditions for the purposes of wildfire preparedness.	Operating	Planning & Development

Focus Area

Natural Environment

Actionable task	Funding source	Responsible Department(s)
Complete Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) when data for 2025 becomes available and review climate targets for necessary updates.	Grant Funding	Planning & Development
Support ongoing testing and development of Novion natural asset inventory and valuation.	Operating, Grant Funding	Civic Operations
Incorporate natural assets into the City Geographic Information Systems (GIS).	Operating	Civic Operations Finance and IT Services

Climate Forward Action Plan

Public Safety and Emergency Management



Focus Area

Public Health and Safety and Emergency Management

Actionable task	Funding source	Responsible Department(s)
Develop hazard specific evacuation plans for climate related emergencies.	Operating, Grant Funding	Administrative Services
Deliver FireSmart education through engagement at a minimum of three public events per year.	Grant Funding	Administrative Services
Support staff attendance to BC Wildfire Resiliency Summit.	Grant Funding	Administrative Services
Develop additional community engagement and education materials for future FireSmart events.	Grant Funding	Administrative Services
Host Network of Emergency Support Services Teams (NESST) conference with a focus on climate related emergencies.	Operating, Grant Funding	Administrative Services
Achieve the City's first FireSmart Neighborhood.	Grant Funding	Administrative Services
Develop school FireSmart education program.	Grant Funding	Administrative Services
Build a FireSmart display house showcasing FireSmart building and landscaping best practices.	Grant Funding	Administrative Services

Focus Area

Public Health and Safety and Emergency Management

Actionable task	Funding source	Responsible Department(s)
Promote Emergency Readiness Week through social media and the City website.	Operating	Administrative Services
Review current FireSmart principles and recommendations to update the Hazardous Condition Development Permit areas objectives and guidelines for Wildfire Hazard designations.	Operating	Planning & Development
Consider FireSmart principles and recommendations in Zoning Bylaw Review for landscaping regulations.	Operating	Planning & Development
Use the recommendations provided in the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan as a guide for prioritizing wildfire related projects.	Grant Funding	Planning & Development
Execute fuel management activities on city-owned land as funding becomes available.	Grant Funding	Planning & Development
Develop clean air strategy for establishment of a potential clear air refuge during air quality warnings.	Operating, Grant Funding	Civic Facilities & Events

Climate Forward Action Plan

Renewable Energy



Focus Area

Renewable Energy

Actionable task	Funding source	Responsible Department(s)
Explore opportunities to partner with UNBC students to review various aspects of the District Energy System (DES) for potential efficiencies.	Operating	Civic Operations

Climate Forward Action Plan

Transportation



Focus Area

Transportation

Actionable task	Funding source	Responsible Department(s)
Review potential for a more permanent bike valet during summer months downtown.	Operating	Civic Facilities & Events
Review development regulation bylaws to align with the Active Transportation Plan.	Operating	Planning & Development
Support implementation of initiatives and projects prioritized within the Active Transportation Plan, Pedestrian Crossing Strategy, and Age-friendly and Accessibility Plan.	Grant Funding	Civic Operations
Work to support shared transportation initiatives to increase alternative forms of transportation that reduce reliance on fossil fuel use.	Grant Funding	Civic Operations
Continue to work with BC Transit to modernize bike racks on buses.	Grant Funding	Civic Operations
Continue operations and maintenance of the publicly available City owned EV charging stations and update appropriate bylaws to include usage fees.	Operating, Grant Funding	Civic Operations

Focus Area

Transportation

Actionable task	Funding source	Responsible Department(s)
Research opportunity for a winter active transportation corridor.	Operating	Civic Operations
Explore options for signal prioritization for transit and/or emergency services.	Operating	Civic Operations
Coordinate public events that provide education and best practices for identifying and utilizing modes of transportation that reduce fossil fuel consumption.	Operating	Planning & Development
Continue to convert to LED streetlights.	Operating	Civic Operations
Update appropriate bylaws to include usage fees for City EV charging.	Operating, Grant Funding	Civic Operations

An aerial photograph showing a river winding through a lush green landscape. The river is surrounded by dense trees and vegetation. In the background, there are some buildings and a parking lot. The overall scene is a mix of natural and developed areas.

Climate Forward Action Plan

Water Resources

Focus Area

Water Resources

Actionable task	Funding source	Responsible Department(s)
Deliver key messaging related to water conservation, as outlined in the City Water Conservation Plan.	Operating	Civic Operations
Update the 2016 Water Conservation Plan to reflect current conditions and climate projections.	Operating	Civic Operations
Consider undertaking an urban stream monitoring program.	Operating	Civic Operations
Complete irrigation upgrades to improve water efficiency at the Exhibition Park outdoor soccer fields.	Grant Funding	Civic Operations
Incorporate water conservation initiatives into buildings as opportunities arise.	Grant Funding	Civic Facilities & Events



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