



REGIONAL
DISTRICT
OF NANAIMO

Climate Action Plan 2025-2029
Annual Progress Report for 2025

1.0 Reporting Scope

This report summarises progress to date (January 2025 through November 2025) on the five climate action priorities and associated strategic supports identified in the RDN’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2025-2029. This status report excludes climate action outside of the priorities within the Climate Action Plan as its focus is specifically on implementation of these priority areas. A full summary of climate action across RDN services is provided every 5 years to support revision of the Climate Action Plan. The 2024 report on RDN-wide climate action is provided as an appendix to the CAP 2025-2029 document. This present status report supports the CATAC-recommended Strategic Support: “Regular reporting, accountability, and adaptive approaches.”

2.0 Reporting, accountability, adaptive approaches

Reporting and accountability supports all CATAC work. The RDN Board approved a reporting framework in May of 2022 with revisions in 2024. Reporting activities and their status are summarised below. The Plan is implemented using an adaptive management approach, adjusting to address challenges and leverage opportunities.

Category Reported	Frequency	Method	Status
Community Emissions	Annual	RDN Website	Complete
Action on top CATAC priorities	Annual	Climate Action Report Card <i>and</i> Concise Report	Complete (this report)
RDN Organisation-wide climate action	Every 5 years	Comprehensive status RDN Website	Completed 2024 within CAP, next report to Board in 2029
Revised Climate Action Plan	Every 5 years	CATAC Report to Board RDN Website	Completed Fall 2024, next report to Board in Fall 2029

3.0 Accelerating uptake of climate-adaptive buildings

3.1 Priority Description

Accelerate uptake of new and existing buildings that are low emissions and adapted to the anticipated effects of climate change for our area. For new buildings this means continuing work on the Regional Strategy for Net Zero Buildings and Localized Energy Generation, including implementation of effective regulations to reduce emissions (specifically Zero Carbon Step Code) and supports for improving energy efficiency and climate-adaptive building approaches (e.g., builder education, resident awareness). For existing buildings this means continuing work on community efficiency financing, improving complementary supports for homeowners (concierge service, outreach, rebates), and evaluating these programs on a routine basis to ensure they are meeting objectives. This work should integrate with priorities to manage risk in high-hazard areas (e.g., Climate Resilient Policy work) to ensure a holistic approach to managing climate risk in the built environment.

3.2 Key Context

The RDN runs a green building outreach and rebate program to support update of climate-adaptive home retrofits and new buildings. Work under this priority builds on that existing program. While the RDN does not have direct control over resident choices to pursue climate adaptive home retrofits, it can increase resident awareness through outreach, help identify and decrease some barriers to participation, and fill gaps in programs offered by other levels of government. Through the BC Building Code, the RDN does have authority over energy efficiency and carbon emissions performance of new buildings but only in Electoral Areas of the RDN. Regulations are considered in the context of complementary RDN priorities, including housing affordability, equity and capacity of the local building industry. All work related to buildings depends on partnership-building and effective outreach with residents, the local building industry and other regional stakeholders.

3.3 Climate Adaptive Buildings - Implementation Status (January 2025 - November 2025)

Year	ID	Task	Activities	Status	Context
2025	B1	Zero Carbon Step Code (EL-4) for Electoral Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop draft bylaws to present to Electoral Area Services Committee and then Board for consideration 	In progress, delayed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of staff capacity, delayed to 2026
2025-2029	B2	Policy/supports for BC Energy Step Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and implement building sector supports for higher levels of BC Energy Step Code 	In progress, on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 - Training program design for delivery in 2026
2026	B3	Improve outreach on embodied emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop education and outreach materials for embodied emissions 	In progress, on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping started for 2026 delivery
2025	B4/ B6	Evaluate and adjust resident supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate and adjust retrofit concierge program (HEN) and scope regional cost-share options Review and adjust existing rebate program 	In progress, on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retrofit concierge program evaluation and recommendations complete Revisions to rebates recommended Evaluate regional cost share options in 2026 to implement 2027
2025-2029	B5	Community Efficiency Financing Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement community efficiency financing program contingent on analysis 	Cancelled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RDN Board adopted staff recommendation to cancel as provincial support for bylaw unlikely Continue to support municipal efforts
2027	B7	Commercial building awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope and implement options for supporting commercial retrofit 	In progress, on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future task
2025-2029	B8	Education/outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing program design/delivery of education and outreach to support awareness 	In progress, on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual resident workshops (e.g. draft-proofing), promotion at existing community events. RDN and City of Nanaimo co-developed guide to Manufactured Home retrofits. Net Zero Renovation Pilot

3.4 Climate Adaptive Buildings - Strategic Supports



Equity-centered design and delivery

- Equity guidelines prioritized in building work, but implementation requires strong intention and commitment
- Manufactured home retrofit guide addresses additional barriers to retrofit



Effective outreach

- Programs are supported by extensive, dedicated outreach including public workshops, rebate programs, in-person promotions
- Developing retrofit kits for use by residents, distributed through libraries
- Ongoing industry training initiatives, engagement and collaboration
- Materials developed with public engagement and input



Active advocacy

- Staff meetings with BC Hydro on barriers to retrofits in manufactured homes
- No recent advocacy on property assessed clean energy (PACE) completed



Collaboration and regional participation

- City of Nanaimo partnership on manufactured home project
- Concierge program serves region
- Collaborations with local stakeholders to support 'industry ecosystem'
- Significant knowledge exchange with other local governments



Interdepartmental approaches

- Cross-promotion with DWWP, Emergency Services on climate adaptive homes for residents
- Strong collaboration on outreach between departments, including sharing of resources and program development



Reporting, adaptive approaches

- Outreach program completes annual internal review and adjustment
- Some program monitoring and metrics within concierge program

3.5 Key Accomplishments

- Entering 3rd year of delivery of Home Energy Navigator Retrofit Concierge
- Completed in-depth evaluation of Community Efficiency Financing Options
- Evaluated options for BC Energy Step Code and Zero Carbon Step Code with industry consultation
- Worked with area manufactured home park residents and owners to develop guide for manufactured home energy and climate resilience retrofits
- Delivered Net Zero Renovation pilot to area residents, including Net Zero reno training for over 80 builders

3.6 Challenges and Opportunities

- Staff shortage has delayed preparation of proposed policy and bylaws for Zero Carbon Step Code- expecting to back to capacity in 2026
- Provincial and federal renovation funding is weakening compared to past years, significant financial headwinds
- Focus of industry and homebuyers shifting towards immediate affordability and health of building industry over long term sustainability
- Renovation interest remains relatively strong compared to decreased activity for existing homes
- In 2026, other local governments who offer the Home Energy Navigator program may collaborate on evaluation

3.6 Recommended adjustments

- Zero Carbon Step Code work to continue in 2026-2027
- Continue retrofit concierge program for another year with increased outreach by local government staff, review again with other local governments in 2026/2027
- Adjust rebate amounts to offer fewer rebates at higher values, responding to shift in demand
- Develop robust metrics to understand impacts of programming on equity-seeking groups

4.0 Building Wildfire Resilience

4.1 Priority Description

Improve regional wildfire resilience with accurate characterization and mapping of current and future wildfire risk and potential compounded risks (slope instability, debris flow etc.), assessment and implementation of appropriate development controls, and effective, equitable supports that build resident awareness and capacity. This priority will help the Regional District of Nanaimo better understand regional wildfire risk and implement adaptation approaches in line with that risk.

4.2 Key Context

Wildfire is the number one hazard for the RDN based on the RDN's 2019 Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) and this hazard is expected to increase with climate change. The Province of British Columbia provides Wildfire Risk Assessments for public lands only, covering only a small portion of lands in the RDN due to extensive Private Managed Forest Lands (PMFL) in the RDN area. This leaves the RDN with significant information gaps and wildfire risk ratings that may not accurately represent actual risk in our area. The RDN runs FireSmart programming in the community to help reduce fire risk in rural areas and develops Community Wildfire Response Plans for electoral areas. Currently the RDN has to apply annually for grant funding to implement FireSmart activities.

4.3 Building Wildfire Resilience - Implementation Status (January - November 2025)

Year	ID	Task	Activities	Status	Context
2025	F1	Advocate for wildfire risk maps with private lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to province for comprehensive wildfire risk maps inclusive of private lands 	In progress, on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary inquiries suggest province will continue with public lands only More formal advocacy recommended
2025	F2	Approach PMFL owners for data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work directly with PMFL managers to acquire missing fire risk data 	In progress, delayed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> this action will take more time, extending in to 2026
2026	F3	Scope feasibility of acquiring fire risk independently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand feasibility for acquiring data independently, including through data-sharing with Mosaic 	In progress, on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raised at regional Emergency Managers meeting, extend delivery through to 2027
2027-2028	F4	If feasible, acquire fire risk data independently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake regional approach to acquiring fire risk data through remote sensing/analysis 	Future Task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to integrate with update of Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
2028-2029	F5	Understand compound risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping and hazard assessments to identify areas with compound risk of post-wildfire hazards 	Future Task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent on improved wildfire risk data
2028-2029	F6	Develop wildfire risk controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If warranted, develop and implement risk mitigation in higher risk areas 	Future Task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent on results of wildfire and compound risk assessments
2028-2029	F7	Update Community Wildfire Resilience Plans (CWRPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Community Wildfire Resilience Plans (CWRPs) with new risk data 	Future Task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May need to update with or without data
2026-2028	F8	Outreach on compounded risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated outreach to residents on compounded risks of wildfire and how to reduce risk 	Start 2026, on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be integrated in to Climate Resilient Homes, FireSmart promotions
2025-2029	F9	Collaboration with E&S Resilient Homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share resources and community outreach opportunities, cross-promotion 	In progress, on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial discussions to understand messaging, support cross-promotion
2025-2029	F10	Funding Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to province for long-term, no application FireSmart funding for RDN 	Delayed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was not able to be undertaken

4.4 Building Wildfire Resilience - Strategic Supports



Equity-centered design and delivery

- Equity to be centered in Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment update when it occurs
- Wildfire risk assessment would include assessment of risks to equity seeking populations using appropriate methods
- Strong need to recognize reconciliation and rights holders through this work



Effective outreach

- Strong, high-quality outreach through FireSmart Programming
- Supported through cross-promotion planning with Resilient Homes Program
- Materials development will include considerations for diverse populations and rural audiences



Active advocacy

- Active participation in provincial consultations on supports needed to increase uptake of retrofits, including property assessed clean energy (PACE)



Collaboration and regional participation

- Tasks discussed with regional Emergency Managers group
- Potential to take collaborative approach to data acquisition and sharing of results, if regional interest
- Will consult with other governments on approaches/methods



Interdepartmental approaches

- Improved collaboration between FireSmart/Emergency Services outreach and Resilient Homes programs



Reporting, adaptive approaches

- No additional reporting developed for this at current
- Activities to be part of regular reporting to CATAC/Board under climate reporting

4.5 Key Accomplishments

- Initial conversations with province to understand likelihood of receiving improved data
- Initial conversations with Regional Emergency Managers on feasibility of acquiring data independently
- Initial planning meeting between RDN FireSmart Program staff and RDN Resilient Homes Program staff

4.6 Challenges and Opportunities

- Staff turnover has led to some unknowns regarding progress, opportunity to establish improved file sharing and updates between departments on this priority
- Upcoming updates of the RDN's Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment includes opportunities to acquire this data, as does upcoming Official Community Plan updates
- Opportunity to identify approaches that can be used by other Regional Districts on Island

4.7 Recommended adjustments

- Continue advocacy to Province for improved fire risk assessment data on private lands, and for automatic FireSmart funding for the Regional District of Nanaimo, as provided to some other local governments
- Continue advocacy to Mosaic through 2026 to understand feasibility of data-sharing
- If capacity, improve documentation of how equity is currently addressed within emergency preparedness and response, then identify and implement improvements to policies and plans

5.0 Managing Water and Growth

5.1 Priority Description

Prioritize better understanding of how climate change, population growth, and water use are likely to impact local water resources and regional water security. This means working towards a regional understanding of impacts to shared water sources and sharing information so that growth can be directed into areas with appropriate water resources, or areas of additional water storage can be built. It also includes testing best practices that can be shared with other areas (e.g., updating water budgets with revised climate and growth projections) and supporting improved data collection across the region.

5.2 Key Context

The RDN's Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program (DWWP) provides leading edge research and collaborative watershed management to protect water resources and supporting ecological systems across the RDN. This Priority complements existing DWWP work and builds on progress made under the CATAC 2022-2024 work plan to help ensure future water security for our region, in the context of complicated water jurisdiction. While the RDN can play a role in bringing water managers together, it does not have authority over other water providers operating in the Regional District (e.g. City of Nanaimo, Town of Qualicum Beach, small service providers), nor over the allocation of water, as allocation is a provincial responsibility. The RDN can effectively bring together water suppliers to support uptake of best practices and communicate with the province around information needs and other concerns for our region. The RDN is also able to implement planning tools (for new development only) in areas with concerns around groundwater supply (e.g. Development Permit Areas for aquifer protection). With new provincial housing mandates, individual water suppliers, including the RDN, are evaluating potential impacts on water supplies. By working towards a more regional understanding of cumulative impacts, including updating climate and growth projections, and sharing the results of its own work, the RDN can help ensure that broader impacts for the region are understood and planned for.

5.3 Managing Water and Growth - Implementation Status (January 2025- November 2025)

Year	ID	Task	Activities	Status	Context
2026	W1	Update water budgets with revised growth projections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update water budgets for French Creek and Nanoose, continue Yellow Point water budget 	Start 2026, on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May extend into 2027, potential to contribute to OCP updates and evaluating changes to minimum lot sizes in rural areas
2026-2027	W2	Establish corporate processes to evaluate water and growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update corporate process on water and growth to include appropriate analyses 	Start 2026, on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will be developed as part of OCP review
2027-2029	W3	Incorporate analyses and results into OCP updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where OCP updates occur, ensure relevant results from this work are considered 	Future Task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of water budget updates and findings from minimum parcel size inquiry can be brought into OCP updates
2028-2029	W4	Work towards regional analysis of cumulative growth and climate impacts on regional water security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share approaches with municipalities and other water providers If buy-in, complete regional analysis of cumulative growth and climate impacts on water security 	Future Task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In collaboration with Asset Management and DWWP
2029	W5	Options analysis to upgrade water monitoring approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate options for upgrading existing ground and surface water monitoring to improve data reliability while reducing eff 	Future Task	

5.4 Managing Water and Growth - Strategic Supports



Equity-centered design and delivery

- Equity impacts to be assessed as part of updating internal process and policy options



Collaboration and regional participation

- Integrated with DWWP work, approach and results shared out with others in region
- Working towards regional analysis to capture cumulative impacts to regional water security



Effective outreach

- Results of water budget work and analyses to be shared with residents in affected areas
- Interested parties consulted as part of water budget development



Interdepartmental approaches

- Close cooperation between Long Range Planning and Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program
- Work supports objectives of Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Plan



Active advocacy

- Future advocacy to area water purveyors and province encouraging regional data sharing, working towards regional analysis of cumulative impacts



Reporting, adaptive approaches

- Not yet integrated

5.5 Key Accomplishments

- Developed Best Practices for Climate-Informed Water Supply Planning and promoted adoption by purveyors within district
- Results of Climate Informed Water Supply Planning practices in RDN water systems released in 2025

5.6 Challenges and Opportunities

- Draft Aquifer Development Permit Areas (DPAs) developed for Area F aquifer protection in 2024
- RDN Board requested evaluation of moving from 2 ha to 1 ha minimum parcel sizes for rural-residential properties, water-related impacts be included in these evaluations
- Upcoming OCP reviews provide opportunity for additional analysis and incorporation of water budget and rainwater management work into community planning policy

5.7 Recommended Adjustments

- Results of minimum lot size investigation be referred to the Climate Action Technical Advisory Committee for comment

6.0 Advancing Natural Asset Management

6.1 Priority Description

Advance natural asset management within RDN services to ensure underlying ecological systems and processes are protected, restored, and maintained. An overarching policy will: direct integration of natural asset management within RDN services; invest in data and resources to support that integration; develop methods to prioritize investment in critical natural assets, and; mobilize the public to protect natural assets through outreach and incentives.

6.2 Key Context

Natural asset management recognizes, values, and protects the services provided by natural ecosystems, organisms and landscapes through formal integration into asset management practices. This increases the likelihood these systems will be invested in and protected, avoiding costs of replicating these services through engineered approaches (e.g., water treatment plants, impounded storage). Natural asset management is a climate resilient approach that enhances both adaptive capacity and landscape carbon sequestration (mitigation).

Because many climate hazards are the result of altered natural processes, investment in natural assets often reduce risks from multiple hazards. For example, functional forest ecosystems moderate local temperatures, protect from severe winds, better absorb rainfall, retain soils on steep slopes to reduce landslide risk, and affect both water quality and quantity. This, in turn, reduces infrastructure costs and risks for RDN residents.

While the RDN has mixed jurisdiction to implement natural asset management practices, particularly on private lands, it can help support this approach by building its own practice and improving awareness of key natural assets in the region. This priority builds directly on the significant work already completed under the 2022-2024 CATAC Priority on Water Resilience and Natural Assets.

6.3 Natural Asset Management - Implementation Status (January 2025- November 2025)

Year	ID	Task	Activities	Status	Context
2024-2025	NA1	Include climate resilience in Parks Acquisition Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Parks Acquisition Strategy to include criteria for climate resilience 	In progress, delayed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Park acquisition criteria and framework on track for Q1/Q2 2026
2025-2026	NA2, 3, 4	Update existing policies to integrate natural assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include Natural Assets in Asset Management Policy Integrate PSAB/CPA natural asset management standards when available Strengthen environmental/climate values in asset management policy 	In progress, on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in 2025 RDN Board adopted revised Asset Management policy that includes natural assets and has strengthened environmental/ climate values
2025-2027	NA5	Develop Natural Asset Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Board plan with clear direction on criteria for natural assets, including supporting data needed for prioritization, levels of service, maintenance needs 	In progress, delayed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundational work complete for plan development Lack of grant delayed some work Grant application resubmitted
2025-2026	NA6	Establish data and monitoring needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, acquire and maintain data for accurate natural asset monitoring, including through Mosaic 	In progress, delayed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of grant delayed some work Grant application resubmitted
2027-2029	NA7	Define levels of service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For key natural assets, establish levels of service and required budget 	Future Task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work may advance to 2026 if feasible
2025-2026	NA8	Risk assessment for Natural Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete risk assessment for natural assets to help prioritize intervention and investment for key natural assets 	In progress, delayed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of grant delayed some work Grant application resubmitted
2026-2029	NA9	Support demonstration projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide cross-departmental support for demonstration of natural asset/green infrastructure 	In progress, on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks submitting grant for Greenshores demonstration project

6.3 Natural Asset Management - Implementation Status Cont'd (January 2025- November 2025)

Year	ID	Task	Activities	Status	Context
2028-2029	NA10	Incentives for residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify incentives and tools for private residents to protect natural assets 	Future Task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be integrated with Green Building program and Climate Risk management initiatives (e.g. Our Changing Coast)
2026-2027	NA11	Education and outreach material development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop public education on value of natural assets and ecosystem services 	Start 2026, on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused on landowners, this public education will tie in to existing educational materials from DWWP, FireSmart, and Resilient Homes program

6.4 Natural Asset Management - Strategic Supports



Equity-centered design and delivery

- Equity not yet integrated into natural asset management work
- Plan development will need to speak to equity, include due consideration of rights holders
- Opportunities to include in Youth Ambassadors programming



Effective outreach

- Plan development proposed to include community engagement
- Community outreach about value of natural assets and ecosystem services planned for 2026/2027
- Outreach/education to be part of in-situ demonstrations



Active advocacy

- Advocacy will include approaching Mosaic for access to condition assessment data of key areas/assets as part of plan development



Collaboration and regional participation

- Share data, methods, and outcomes with member municipalities and interested parties in the area
- Intent to explore interest in regional working group during plan development



Interdepartmental approaches

- Collaborative delivery with interdepartmental working group (Parks, DWWP, LRPES, Corporate Services)



Reporting, adaptive approaches

- Data needs and associated monitoring program for natural assets to be explored as part of plan development

6.5 Key Accomplishments

- Completed natural asset inventory in 2023 and road map in 2024 to scope next steps
- Natural asset management framework, outlining current activities, roles, responsibilities completed in 2025 - foundational to Natural Asset Management plan development
- Completed with cross-departmental input

6.6 Challenges and Opportunities

- Did not receive anticipated grant funding, proceeded within available budget for 2025
- Resubmitted grant in fall 2025 with contingency to allow progress on subset of plan
- Significant overlap with DWWP activities, strong interest from NGOs and other partners in region with good opportunity for collaboration
- Success on private land will be very dependent on collaboration yet external parties not yet well-integrated into Natural Asset Management activities

6.7 Recommended Adjustments

- Extend timing of Natural Asset Management Plan development activities from 2026 into 2027 to accommodate delays associated with lack of grant funding
- As part of Plan development, increase integration of third parties into development of Natural Asset Management plan to maximize collaboration potential

7.0 Climate Resilient Policy

7.1 Priority Description

Building on work completed under CATAC Priority 2 (Removing barriers to climate action within RDN policy), Climate Resilient Policy means the RDN establishes very clear direction on Climate Adaptation, Mitigation and Resilience through overarching policy, and ensures other key policies align with that direction. This includes establishing appropriate Board policies that clarify the RDN's approach to climate action and risk mitigation, ensuring that zoning bylaws reflect the climate goals and sustainability priorities of the Regional Growth Strategy and Official Community Plans, updating existing policies for compatibility with Board climate policies, and evaluating and implementing new policy tools where appropriate. As with all CATAC priorities, investing in resident outreach and education, and a strong focus on equity will make work on this priority more effective.

7.2 Key Context

The RDN has substantial influence over long term patterns of development through zoning, development controls like Development Permit Areas, and other policy. Development patterns, in turn, affect resident vulnerability to climate change, and how easy or difficult it is for residents to make sustainable choices that reduce emissions and climate vulnerability. The Regional District also has responsibilities to understand climate risk and guide development that acknowledges and, as reasonable, limits risk to residents and infrastructure.

This priority includes preparation of draft Development Permit Areas (DPAs) designed to advance innovative approaches that minimize the environmental footprint of new development. Such DPAs help limit destructive activities permitted under current policy and better support development that protects rural character, aquifers, carbon sequestration, and the ecological services that help lower service costs for residents. A review of key policies, including zoning and subdivision servicing will complement activities under the Water and Growth priority.

It is important to understand the RDN's jurisdiction and the limits to it when scoping actions under this priority (see Appendix 2 of the Climate Action Plan).

7.3 Climate Resilient Policy - Implementation Status (January 2025 - November 2025)

Year	ID	Task	Activities	Status	Context
2025	P1	Establish working group and criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish interdepartmental working group to prioritize policies for review Develop prioritization criteria 	Cancelled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined more efficient for Long Range Planning to lead, consult others as needed
2026-2028	P2a	Review key policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Zoning Bylaw 2500 from a climate resilience perspective to identify potential amendments that support energy efficiency and promote improved forms of development, ensuring alignment with the new Regional Growth Strategy and Official Community Plans 	2026 start, on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bylaw 2500 (Zoning) has been identified as a reasonable place to start. This will be followed by the subdivision servicing regulations
2028	P2b	Review key policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review subdivision servicing regulations 	Future Task	
2027	P2c	Review key policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practices for climate resilience across other local government responsibilities understood and implemented if not in place. 	Future Task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent on timing of staffing
2027-2029	P3	Update and amend policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement update to policies (Bylaw 2500, subdivision servicing, other) 	Future Task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update of policies will integrate with OCP update schedules where possible
2025-2026	P4	Adopt Development Permit Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize and amend Draft DPAs for aquifers, environmentally sensitive areas, and shorelines within Official Community Plans 	In progress, delayed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft DPAs delayed due to staff capacity
2027	P5	Limited use and covenant policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore feasibility of new policy tools for high risk lands, update restrictive covenants on development applications to reduce risk 	Future Task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recommend revision to scope (see 7.7)

7.4 Climate Resilient Policy - Strategic Supports



Equity-centered design and delivery

- Equity considered during all policy reviews - varied approaches



Collaboration and regional participation

- All municipalities reviewed Regional Growth Strategy and are engaged on policy updates that affect their communities



Effective outreach and education

- OCP reviews supported by strong facilitation and outreach
- DPA implementation to be supported by outreach and engagement



Interdepartmental approaches

- All policy work to date has included input from a cross-section of RDN departments through formal and informal processes



Active advocacy

- OCP reviews supported by strong facilitation and outreach
- any bylaw updates to be supported by outreach and consultation



Reporting, adaptive approaches

- Developing revised monitoring approach for Regional Growth Strategy Implementation, with opportunity to include revised climate/sustainability metrics

7.5 Key Accomplishments

- Development of draft DPAs that push boundaries to reduce environmental impact of new development
- New provisions in the revised 2024 Regional Growth Strategy to better support sustainable development approaches

7.6 Challenges and Opportunities

- Development of central Board policy (timed for 2024) delayed due to review of approach
- Vacant staff positions have delayed planned policy work (DPAs) - new staff coming on to directly support this work area for 2026 and potentially 2027
- Upcoming OCP reviews offer potential for the introduction of DPAs that support climate resiliency

7.7 Recommended Adjustments

- Remove working group structure, revise to policy-specific consultation approach
- Expand feasibility assessment of limited use policies and covenants towards a broader scope of options for use in Official Community Plan review

8.0 Comments from CATAC Membership

CATAC membership reviewed the Draft 2025 Status Report and provided the following recommendations to improve implementation, in addition to those recommended in other parts of this report.

- **Resilient Buildings:** connect with VIU Trades and Career Technical Centre (CTC) programs
- **Building Wildfire Resilience:** consider fire risks to watersheds and drinking water quality/availability and associated economic impacts of disrupted water supplies; consider opportunities available through rezoning to implement wildfire risk mitigation or other climate resilience attributes
- **Cross-cutting:** Provide advance letter to province advising on importance of Local Government Climate Action Funding; Invest time in improving relationships with First Nations to better understand their priorities and how they may align with RDN priorities
- **Transportation:** CATAC membership to provide statement on importance of investing in safe and affordable transportation options for the Region

END