

# environmental

## SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

### *Highlights*



This Highlights document is a summary of the draft Environmental Sustainability Plan.

September 2021



<i>English</i>	We are seeking public input on this project. Visit <a href="https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca">letstalkcoquitlam.ca</a> to participate and help shape decisions made in your community.
<i>Arabic</i>	نسعى حالياً في الحصول على مساهمات الجمهور في هذا المشروع. بادر بزيارة <a href="https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca">letstalkcoquitlam.ca</a> للمشاركة والمساهمة في صياغة القرارات المتخذة في مجتمعك المحلي.
<i>Chinese Simplified</i>	我们正在咨询公众对这个项目的意见。请浏览 <a href="https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca">letstalkcoquitlam.ca</a> 进行参与，帮助形成在您的社区作出的决策。
<i>Chinese Traditional</i>	我們現正諮詢公眾對此項目的意見。請瀏覽 <a href="https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca">letstalkcoquitlam.ca</a> 進行參與，幫助形成在您的社區內作出的決策。
<i>Filipino</i>	Hinihiling namin ang mga mungkahi at input ng publiko para sa proyektong ito. Bisitahin ang <a href="https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca">letstalkcoquitlam.ca</a> upang lumahok at tumulong na gumawa ng mga desisyon para sa iyong komunidad.
<i>French</i>	Nous sollicitons l'avis du public sur ce projet. Visitez <a href="https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca">letstalkcoquitlam.ca</a> pour participer et aider à la prise de décisions au sein de votre collectivité.
<i>Korean</i>	우리는 이 프로젝트에 관한 시민의 의견을 구하고 있습니다. 참여하시려면 <a href="https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca">letstalkcoquitlam.ca</a> 를 방문하여 여러분의 지역 사회에서 이루어지는 의사 결정에 도움을 주세요.
<i>Persian</i>	ما به دنبال اطلاعات ورودی عموم در این پروژه هستیم. برای مشارکت و کمک به شکل‌گیری تصمیمات اتخاذ شده در جامعه خود، از <a href="https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca">letstalkcoquitlam.ca</a> دیدن نمایید.
<i>Romanian</i>	Solicităm opiniile publicului cu privire la acest proiect. Vă rugăm să vizitați pagina web: <a href="https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca">letstalkcoquitlam.ca</a> pentru a participa la acest proiect și pentru a contribui la deciziile care afectează comunitatea dvs.
<i>Russian</i>	Мы стремимся привлечь общественность к этому проекту. Посетите сайт <a href="https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca">letstalkcoquitlam.ca</a> , чтобы принять в нем участие и помочь нам доработать решения, принятые в вашем сообществе.
<i>Spanish</i>	Buscamos la aportación del público en este proyecto. Visita <a href="https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca">letstalkcoquitlam.ca</a> para participar y ayudar a desarrollar las decisiones que se toman en tu comunidad.

## Purpose

The Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP), the first of its kind for the City of Coquitlam, is a forward-looking plan to guide future decisions that support the long-term environmental resiliency and sustainability of the community. The draft ESP combines the City's existing and newly developed environmental goals, objectives and key performance indicators into a single strategy that guides the way the City approaches environmental sustainability in the future and helps to maximize co-benefits for the community.

Environmental sustainability is also an important part of how the City will achieve its strategic goals and overall vision for 2032. This vision is to sustain a high quality of life for current and future generations, a place where people choose to live, learn, work and play.

## Sustainability in a Growing Community

Coquitlam is a diverse community and one of the fastest-growing cities in the country, with a current population of 150,000. By 2041, over 220,000 residents are expected to live here.

This pace of growth can create significant pressures on the environment, as well as on City services and infrastructure, but it also creates opportunities for innovation and creativity. Thoughtful and strategic planning is required to ensure that Coquitlam grows in a way that protects and enhances our natural environment, while sustaining a high quality of life for our community.

## The Plan at a Glance

The ESP is organized into five themes: Climate Action, Built Environment, Waste Management, Water Management and Natural Areas, Wildlife and Habitat. Within each theme are related goals, strategies and actions that will support environmental sustainability for the future of Coquitlam. The final section covers how we will implement and monitor the actions and our progress.

### Learn More

In this highlights document, we summarize key elements from the full ESP. Visit [letstalkcoquitlam.ca/enviroplan](https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca/enviroplan).



# Climate Action

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction | Energy Management | Climate Change Adaptation



Climate action refers to efforts to reduce carbon pollution (also known as mitigation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions) in order to stop global temperature increases, as well as adapting to and preparing for the impacts of the changing climate.

## Goals

The goals for this theme include:

1. Reduce GHG emissions
2. Create a resilient City that can adapt and thrive in future climate conditions

## Strategies

To accomplish these goals, the City will:

1. Plan for and track corporate and community GHG emissions reductions
2. Support renewable energy applications where feasible and cost effective
3. Prepare for and reduce impacts and risks related to climate change
4. Support green jobs and the local green economy
5. Demonstrate City leadership in sustainability efforts

## Actions

The following are a sample of the actions included in the full Environmental Sustainability Plan.

Example Actions	Timeline
Develop a new Climate Action Plan that incorporates emerging best practice approaches and innovative technology to align with the City's newly adopted community and corporate climate change targets	Short Term
Develop a new Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan that aligns with and supports the actions in the Climate Adaptation Strategic Plan, especially those that address wildfire climate risk events	Short Term
Develop strategic education opportunities to encourage the community to take action to address climate change	Long Term



**Corporate and Community Targets:**

**45%** GHG reduction by 2030

**100%** GHG reduction (carbon neutral) by 2050

### Want to know more?

Check out the full draft Environmental Sustainability Plan at [coquitlam.ca/enviroplan](https://coquitlam.ca/enviroplan).



# Built Environment

Transportation | Buildings | Land Use and Urban Design



The design of our communities is vital to our health and well-being. The built environment is places and spaces created or modified by people, including buildings, transportation systems and public areas. It also considers healthy food access, community gardens, walkability and bikeability.

## Goals

The goals for this theme include:

1. Encourage sustainable modes of transportation
2. Develop complete, well-connected neighbourhoods that consider the protection of natural areas
3. Encourage sustainable development and building design

## Strategies

To accomplish these goals, the City will:

1. Prioritize walking, cycling and transit
2. Increase electric vehicle (EV) usage
3. Support sustainable building, construction, renovation and development practices
4. Include sustainability planning in the development of new civic facilities and the maintenance of existing facilities
5. Foster sustainable development practices that minimize impacts on natural areas and habitats
6. Prioritize opportunities to incorporate urban design features and public realm elements that contribute to making neighbourhoods livable, sustainable, and green

## Actions

The following are a sample of the actions included in the full Environmental Sustainability Plan.

Example Actions	Timeline
Develop an Electric Mobility Strategy to advance vehicle electrification and support greater e-mobility in the City	Short Term
Implement BC Energy Step Code requirements for new building permit applications in advance of provincial adoption schedule	Short Term
Pilot a program to increase industry and homeowner awareness and capacity for energy efficient upgrades and retrofits for existing buildings	Medium Term
Identify and pursue opportunities to add green infrastructure and features to neighbourhoods	Ongoing



**Target:**

**30%** sustainable mode share by 2031

### Want to know more?

Check out the full draft Environmental Sustainability Plan at [coquitlam.ca/envioplan](https://coquitlam.ca/envioplan).





# Waste Management

Reduce | Reuse | Recycle



The way our economies typically use and dispose of resources puts pressure on natural systems, communities and public health. The waste management theme includes reducing, reusing, recycling and disposal of solid waste.

## Goals

The goals for this theme include:

1. Minimize waste generation
2. Maximize reuse, recycling and material recover
3. Ensure adequate disposal opportunities exist to discourage illegal dumping and littering

## Strategies

To accomplish these goals, the City will:

1. Reduce waste and increase diversion of recyclable and organic material from the residential waste stream
2. Reduce waste and increase diversion of recyclable material at businesses and institutions
3. Reduce waste and increase waste diversion in civic facilities, parks, and at City events
4. Minimize the use of single-use items

## Actions

The following are a sample of the actions included in the full Environmental Sustainability Plan.

Example Actions	Timeline
Expand current programs and develop new initiatives to educate residents and schools about waste generation, recycling, reusing and organics	Short Term
Implement a single use item bylaw following the development of a regional approach by Metro Vancouver	Short term
Assess opportunities to extend existing residential waste reduction programs to multi-family	Medium Term



Target:

**80%** waste diversion

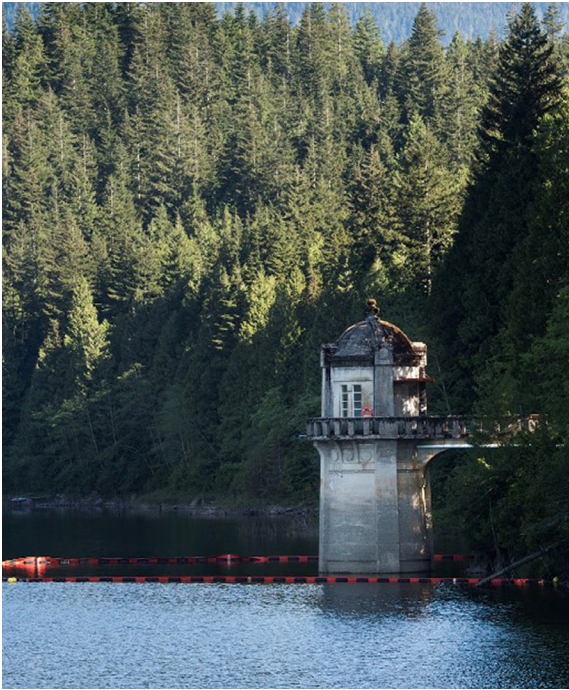
## Want to know more?

Check out the full draft Environmental Sustainability Plan at [coquitlam.ca/enviropplan](https://coquitlam.ca/enviropplan).



# Water Management

Water Conservation | Water Quality | Stormwater and Watershed Management | Liquid Waste Management



Water management includes planning, developing and managing the quality and quantity of water resources and infrastructure. Applying a sustainability lens to water management decisions going forward will ensure that the City is being proactive and responsible in adapting to climate change impacts on our water system.

## Goals

The goals for this theme include:

1. Conserve and protect drinking water
2. Use an integrated approach to stormwater management that provides flood protection while protecting ecological health
3. Protect the public and environment from exposure to sanitary sewage

## Strategies

To accomplish these goals, the City will:

1. Enhance the residential drinking water conservation and efficiency
2. Promote Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) drinking water efficiency
3. Reduce corporate drinking water consumption
4. Manage stormwater to mimic the natural hydrology of the watershed and reduce pollution, while incorporating the anticipated impacts of climate change
5. Increase sewer capacity and effectiveness

## Actions

The following are a sample of the actions included in the full Environmental Sustainability Plan.

Example Actions	Timeline
Implement the enhanced Water Conservation Strategy to explore tools to further reduce water consumption	Short Term
Pursue targeted education and enforcement opportunities to reduce pollution in watercourse by analyzing and mapping the City's spill response data	Short Term
Create and expand education, outreach and volunteer opportunities related to residential stormwater management	Short Term
Investigate the use of rainwater, groundwater and greywater re-use systems to reduce water demand	Long Term



**Target:**

**90%**

of watercourse samples exceed regional water quality guidelines for aquatic health

### Want to know more?

Check out the full draft Environmental Sustainability Plan at [coquitlam.ca/enviroplan](https://coquitlam.ca/enviroplan).





# Natural Areas, Wildlife and Habitat

Watercourses | Fish and Wildlife | Biodiversity | Forests and Trees | Parks and Green Spaces



Healthy, natural areas provide great value to our community and support diverse, interconnected ecosystems. They also have tremendous cultural and spiritual importance and contribute to community livability.

## Goals

The goals for this theme include:

1. Improve ecological conditions of natural areas for the community and wildlife
2. Provide a balanced, sustainable system of parks and provides equity of access to services and facilities across demographics and neighbourhoods
3. Profile and highlight the natural assets and features of Coquitlam and plan for expanded outdoor recreation and environmental initiatives

## Strategies

To accomplish these goals, the City will:

1. Increase community stewardship and knowledge to support the conservation and enhancement of natural areas
2. Improve and preserve natural areas to enhance biodiversity and protect species at risk
3. Protect and enhance the urban forest
4. Improve equitable access to parks and natural areas

## Actions

The following are a sample of the actions included in the full Environmental Sustainability Plan.

Example Actions	Timeline
Develop a citywide Urban Forest Management Plan	Short Term
Measure tree canopy cover percentages in developed neighborhoods	Short Term
Engage youth through youth-focused volunteer opportunities, school programs and outdoor experiences	Ongoing



**Target:**

Increase total parkland area

### Want to know more?

Check out the full draft Environmental Sustainability Plan at [coquitlam.ca/enviroplan](https://coquitlam.ca/enviroplan).

# Implementation and Monitoring

## Implementation Plan



The ESP's implementation plan covers the next 10 years and is summarized in a table that includes the following:

- a list of actions
- anticipated timelines
- high-level cost estimates
- lead City departments

Over time, strategies and actions will be updated as progress is made and new information and technology becomes available.

Ongoing staff work will help the City maintain the ESP as a modern, forward-thinking plan into the future. A fulsome review and update of the ESP will occur on a 5 to 10-year schedule consistent with other corporate plans.

## Measuring Success

To understand the City's progress on improving and enhancing environmental sustainability, it will be important to monitor key performance indicators (KPIs). These measureable targets and desired trends align with the goals of the ESP, and will help staff to monitor progress and success.

Example indicators:



Greenhouse gas reduction



Percent of registered electric vehicles



Waste diversion rate



Summer water consumption



Number of native trees and shrubs planted in natural areas

## Monitoring Progress

The ESP Dashboard provides a snapshot of the ESP KPIs. Several KPIs also reflect progress for more than one theme or goal. Regular reports to Council will summarize progress to date through the use of the ESP Dashboard.



### Interested to learn more?

The full draft Environmental Sustainability Plan is available at [coquitlam.ca/enviroplan](http://coquitlam.ca/enviroplan). Printed copies are available upon request from the Engineering and Public Works counter on the ground floor at City Hall.

### What do you think of the ESP?

We want to hear from you.  
Answer the survey  
before Oct. 15 at  
[letstalkcoquitlam.ca/enviroplan](http://letstalkcoquitlam.ca/enviroplan).



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