Climate action & environment



Our lakes, valley hillsides, streams, and clean air contribute to a good quality of life in Kelowna. But human development threatens the fragile balance of our natural environment and climate. The OCP provides the opportunity to strategically plan how the community will grow, commute, and interact, which can play a major role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions (climate mitigation), manage the risks of climate change impacts (climate adaptation) all while protecting our precious natural assets. Focusing on actions and policies with multiple benefits will help our community become resilient to climate change.

MITIGATION

ive transportation

Public transi

Low carbon transportation e.g. electric vehicles)

Renewable ener

Waste reduction 8

management

ADAPTATION

RESILIENCY

Complete communities
Urban forests
Natural assets
Energy efficient buildings
Green infrastructure
Sustainable food systems
Water conservation

management
Wildfire planning &
management
Fmergency

Build back better after disaster events

Invasive specie planning

Looking ahead



Acting on climate change while preserving our natural environment requires us to:

- Create complete, compact communities
- Protect our lakes, streams, wetlands and other natural areas from development pressures
- Create a healthy urban forest
- Improve energy efficiency in buildings
- Transition to low-carbon transportation options like cycling or electric vehicles
- Move towards 100% renewable energy by 2050
- Mimic nature in infrastructure design when possible
- Collaborate with First Nations to incorporate Indigenous knowledge in climate change action

Growing sustainably



The most effective action our community can take to protect the natural environment and tackle climate change is to build a more compact city. Focusing growth in areas where homes, jobs, and amenities are all easily accessible allows for more land to be left in a natural state and reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions with less automobile dependence. Further, multi-unit housing in these areas results in more shared wall and floor space reducing energy use.

Due to development since 1800, the City has lost:

- 92% of its riparian areas
- 77% of its broadleaf woodlands
- 73% of its grasslands

Current tree canopy
Urban Centers – 11.5%
Core Area – 14.3%
Remainder of the City – 20.1%

GHG emissions by sector (2017)

Transportation – 53% Buildings – 40% Waste – 7%

