



TOWN OF SIDNEY

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

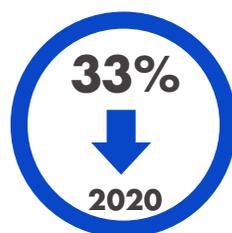
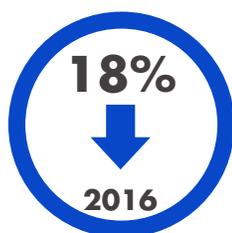
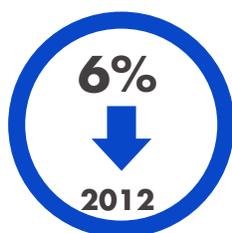
WHAT IS A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN?

A Climate Action Plan is a strategic plan to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions throughout our community, and from Town operations. The Town of Sidney is initiating a process to develop a Climate Action Plan, which will establish:

- A baseline inventory of energy consumption and GHG emissions;
- Targets to reduce GHG emissions from the baseline;
- Actions that we can take to help us achieve these targets, and;
- An implementation strategy to ensure the plan is a success.

WHY ARE WE CREATING A PLAN?

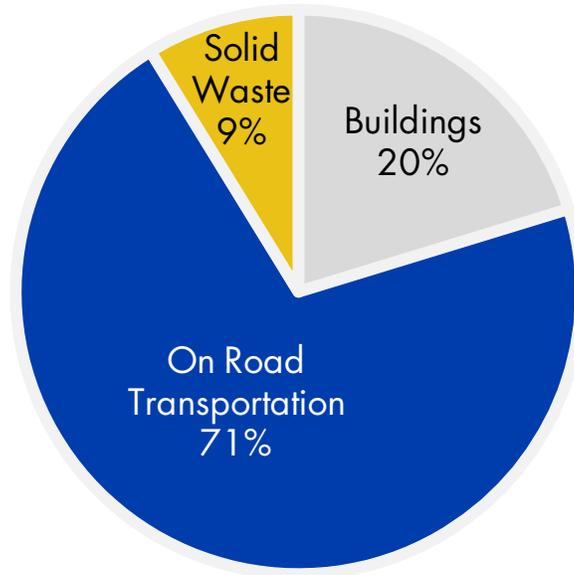
There is growing scientific evidence that climate change is having an impact on the ecology of the planet. Climate change is largely the result of a rapid build-up of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. The need to take action to reduce our impact on the climate has been recognized by governments at all levels. In 2007, the Province of British Columbia set province-wide targets to reduce total GHG emissions (from 2007 levels) by:



Communities across British Columbia are undertaking planning processes in an effort to address legislation that requires municipal governments to set GHG reduction targets and incorporate these into Official Community Plans (OCPs) by May 31, 2010. In addition, the Town of Sidney has signed on to the Climate Action Charter, making a voluntary commitment to become “carbon neutral” in their operations by 2012.

OUR CURRENT SITUATION

An energy and GHG emissions inventory helps us to understand how much we emit and where our emissions come from. Once we know that, we can set targets and develop actions to reduce our energy consumption and GHG emissions. In 2007, our energy consumption and GHG emissions were approximately **51,960 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e)**. Carbon dioxide equivalents describe the global warming potential of greenhouse gases using the functionally equivalent amount or concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) as the reference. The figure below shows these emissions broken down by sector³.



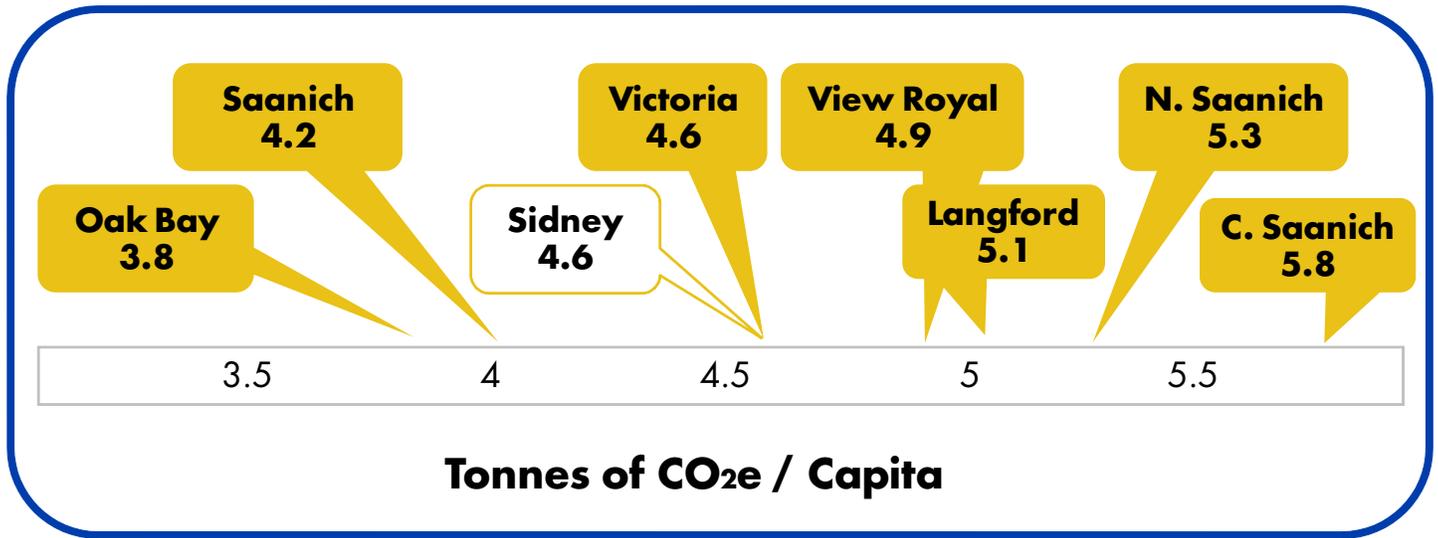
- **Transportation:** Vehicular emissions estimates are based on a count of the vehicles registered in the region, an estimate of fuel consumption based on type of vehicle, and an estimate of the number of kilometres driven. This data is obtained through the CEEI initiative and includes data sources from ICBC and Natural Resources Canada.
- **Buildings:** This includes the energy to heat and cool residential, commercial and industrial buildings, as well as the activities that occur within these residences and facilities. This data is obtained through the Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) initiative from utility records and includes electricity and natural gas consumption. Other sources such as wood, fuel oil, or propane tank heat have not been quantified in the inventory.
- **Solid Waste:** Waste does not directly consume energy but when deposited into landfills, it decomposes and releases methane gas which is a greenhouse gas stronger than carbon dioxide.

³These figures are based on DRAFT data provided through the Province of BC's Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) initiative:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/climate/ceei/index.htm>. Through this Climate Action Plan project, the numbers will be updated to more accurately reflect the estimated emissions for the Town of Sidney.

HOW DO WE COMPARE?

To better understand our current situation with respect to GHG emissions, it may be helpful to see how we compare to other communities in our region on a per capita basis.



WHAT IS A TONNE OF CO₂e?

Residents in the Town of Sidney emit approximately 4.6 tonnes of CO₂e per capita.

One tonne is equivalent to using:

- 385 litres of gasoline (or 10 fill-ups)
- \$200 of natural gas (20 Gigajoules)
- Electricity to heat 3 homes for a year (38,000 kW hours)

OUR CHALLENGE

Our challenge as a community is to reduce our energy consumption and GHG emissions.

How much can we [reduce our emissions](#)?

Where will we set our [GHG emissions targets](#)?

What [policies and actions](#) will we commit to in our [OCP](#)?

These questions will be addressed during the development of the Plan.

WHAT IS A GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG)?

GHGs are gases in the air, such as carbon dioxide, water vapour, nitrous oxide and methane, that trap heat in the atmosphere. We add GHGs to the air primarily by burning fossil fuels (e.g., gasoline, natural gas, oil, etc) that emit carbon dioxide when:

- we drive our cars,
- we heat and cool our buildings,
- we transport our goods,
- our garbage decomposes in our landfills,
- we grow our food - through fertilizer use, manure management and animal digestion and,
- we cut down trees that aren't replaced.

RESOURCES

To find out more about actions you can take to reduce your energy consumption and address climate change, visit these websites:

- http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/What_You_Can_Do/
- <https://www.bchydro.com/youraccount/teampowersmart/Join.do>
- <http://www.toolkit.bc.ca/>

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Climate Action Plan, please contact:

Randy Humble
Director, Development Services
250-656-1725
rhumble@sidney.ca

www.sidney.ca

