



Climate Change Adaptation Strategy **ANNUAL REPORT**

2026 Dashboard

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples.

Abbreviations

ACCS	Arts, Culture and Community Services
CCAS	Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
CEAP	Climate Emergency Action Plan
DBL	Development, Buildings and Licensing
ENG	Engineering Services
FH	Fraser Health Authority
FSC	Finance and Supply Chain Management
PB	Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
PDS	Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability
REFM	Real Estate, Environment and Facilities Management
SPSO	Strategy and Project Support Office
VCH	Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
VEMA	Vancouver Emergency Management Agency

INTRODUCTION

In 2024, the City of Vancouver adopted the refreshed Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS), addressing the five main climate change-related hazards faced by Vancouver now and in the future. Included in that was a commitment to report annually on progress made.

This Annual Report fulfils this commitment for 2025. It includes the current-year Climate Budget for CCAS actions, and the final indicators and progress updates towards 2024-25 CCAS objectives. While the 2024-25 Strategy is now complete, actions will continue to advance resilience to the five climate change-related hazards, and progress will be reported annually.

Go to vancouver.ca/climateadaptation for past Annual Reports, the full Climate Change Adaptation Strategy report to City Council (including the full list of CCAS actions and indicators, and the Financial Framework), and other documents.

Climate Hazards

Climate adaptation requires a complex, risk-based approach to planning.

CCAS is built around the **five main climate-related hazards** facing Vancouver, plus enabling actions.

- As year-round temperatures increase, warmer summers will see **more extreme heat days and heatwaves**.
- **Poor air quality** from wildfire smoke and ground-level ozone (primarily from human sources) will increase with hotter and drier summers.
- **Drought**, caused by combinations of insufficient snow accumulation, chronic hot and dry weather, and low or delayed rainfall, will increase in frequency and intensity.
- More **extreme rainfall** events will occur in fall and winter, overwhelming the capacity of drainage systems and causing damage to property and infrastructure.
- **Sea level rise** will exacerbate coastal flooding of low-lying areas. With 1 meter of sea level rise projected by 2100, almost 13km² of City lands will be in the floodplain, meaning new risks and impacts to parklands, infrastructure, buildings, and residences.

Extreme Heat



Poor Air Quality



Drought



Extreme Rainfall



Sea Level Rise



Enabling Actions

2026 CLIMATE BUDGET

The City's 2026 Capital and Operating Budgets include **\$18.9M** in CCAS-related capital investments to advance implementation across climate hazards as shown below.

With the 2026 Budget Implementation and Workforce Restructuring project, broad changes were made to the City's 2026 operating budget, staffing levels, and organizational roles. No climate-related operating expenses total was calculated.

The 2024 CCAS Refresh identified an estimated \$74M capital investment need over 2024-26 to implement CCAS actions to improve adaptive capacity and resilience in Vancouver. As of 2025, these are 98% funded through investment allocations identified in the 2023-26 Capital Plan as well as external funding.

An additional \$20M was approved in the four-year 2023-26 Capital Plan for Emerging Climate Adaptation Priority projects, to support new projects that significantly reduce risk and enhance resilience. Examples in 2025 included cooling and clean air retrofits in City non-market housing facilities; street-tree planting; and nature-based flood mitigation in Still Creek.

Opportunities to reduce the funding gap include prioritizing regulatory/advocacy tools, optimizing project delivery at a lower cost, advocating for funding from senior government and partners, and continuing to include CCAS investment needs in future financial planning processes.

External Funding

City staff actively look for opportunities to advocate for and leverage funding from senior government and partners to enable CCAS projects. External funding programs are often cost-shared, so staff submit high-priority projects that best meet funding program requirements. Applications allow the City to either accelerate work underway, or undertake projects only made possible by significant available external funding. The following funding applications were successful as of Q1 2026:

- Musqueam Creek Overflow Flood Conveyance and Berm \$3.1M
- Kinross Ravine Park Wetland Restoration and Accessibility Enhancement \$0.07M
- Cooling and Air Filtration Upgrades at 4 Non-Market Housing Sites \$0.6M
- Vancouver Canopy Capacity Modelling Project \$0.2M
- Increasing Vancouver's Street Tree Canopy \$4.9M
- Forest Succession Planting in Local Parks to Enhance Vancouver's Draft Ecological Network and Increase Tree Canopy Equity \$1.7M

In addition, the following funding applications are currently in progress as of Q1 2026:

- Kerrisdale Library - Cooling and Clean Air Upgrade \$1.1M
- Still Creek Water Enhancement \$0.1M

FUTURE CHANGES: “COST OF DOING NOTHING”

City staff are working with ICLEI Canada to estimate local cost implications of inaction on climate adaptation, using ICLEI's “Cost of Doing Nothing” toolbox for municipal governments. This can also help us understand the distribution of those costs across different sectors and society, which will enable more equity-centred decisions.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY 2026 CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

2026 Multi-Year Capital Budget (Annual Budget): “Climate Priority” Initiatives

Goal Area	Service Areas	Capital Plan Program/Project	2026 Budget Allocation, \$M
Extreme Heat Air Quality	Urban Forest	2023-26 Park Trees – New	\$0.4
		2023-26 Street Trees – Replacement	\$0.8
	Climate Change Adaptation	2023-26 Tree Pits	\$0.6
		2026 Cool and Clean Air Non-Market Housing Building Retrofits	\$1.1
		2026-28 SRO Cooling and Warming Room Retrofit	\$0.5
Extreme Rainfall Sea Level Rise	Emerging Priorities	2023-26 Green Rainwater Infrastructure (GRI) Asset Renewal	\$0.3
		2023-26 GRI Planning and Design	\$3.1
		2023-26 GRI Renewal and Upgrades – Growth Projects	\$2.7
		2023 GRI Renewal and Upgrades – Watershed Projects	\$1.9
	Core Network	2023-2026 Flood & Watershed Planning	\$1.5
		Still Creek Nature-Based Flood Management Project	\$2.2
Sea Level Rise	Emerging Priorities	Seawall / shoreline planning - Coastal Flood Protection	\$3.8
TOTAL, \$M	Numbers may not sum due to rounding		\$18.9

CLIMATE HAZARD INDICATORS

CCAS hazard indicators illustrate local climate impacts on Vancouver and their change over time.

Hazard	Indicator	2025	Notes	Historical Trend
Extreme Heat	Heat Warnings ¹ days	2	One heat warning was issued in 2025, totaling two days. A Special Weather Statement due to an early season heat event was also issued on June 5.	Climate Hazard Indicators Heat
	Temperature ² > 25°C days	22	2025 was the third warmest year on record globally, with a global mean temperature of 1.44°C above the 1850-1900 average.	
	Temperature ² > 30°C days	0		
Air Quality	Air Quality Warnings ³ days	7	Metro Vancouver issued Air Quality Warnings on seven days in 2025. Two were smog warnings in August from a combination of local emission sources and hot, sunny weather. A five-day Warning was issued in September due to fire smoke from near Hope, Whistler, the Cariboo region and Washington State.	Climate Hazard Indicators Air Quality
Drought	Staged watering restrictions in place ⁴ weeks	23	In 2025, watering restrictions were in place from May 1 to Oct 15.	Climate Hazard Indicators Drought
	Allowable watering ⁴ hours per week	3	Allowable watering hours per week has decreased from 20 in the 2000s, to 3 in 2025.	
	Lawn watering banned ⁴ weeks	0	Stage 2 water restrictions, including a lawn watering ban, were not required due to favorable weather conditions and stable water reservoir levels.	
Extreme Rainfall	Rainfall Warnings ⁵ days	7	Rainfall warnings were issued for a total of seven days in 2025. Significant rainfall caused a mudslide on Vancouver's seawall on Dec 21, temporarily closing the seawall for ten days. Earlier in the month, an atmospheric river caused multi-day closures on major highways out of the Lower Mainland due to flooding, falling rock and debris, and avalanche hazards. During this event, 17 daily precipitation records across the province were broken, including at Vancouver International Airport.	Climate Hazard Indicators Rainfall
Sea Level Rise	Coastal water level high enough to trigger current preparedness protocols ⁶ days	19	On December 17, 2025, Vancouver experienced a short but intense storm which caused damage to the seawall between Second and Third Beach, requiring multiday closures for repair. Similar damage is common in winter months, requiring ongoing and costly repairs.	Climate Hazard Indicators Sea Level Rise
All Hazards	Climate-related costs to the City (estimated) \$	tbd	City staff are working to characterize and track costs related specifically to damage and recovery from climate-related events, though the damage and events anecdotally highlighted above certainly mean current and future operational, maintenance, and capital cost impacts for the City.	

PROGRESS INDICATORS

Adapting and improving the city's resilience to climate hazards depends on these more immediate outcomes.

Indicator		2023-2025	Target		Notes
Extreme Heat					
Cool Kits distributed	#	6,500	6,500	2025	Target achieved.
Households retrofitted in rental/non-profit residential buildings	#	90	300	2026	Project underway and on track. Target and indicator changed to reflect housing units vs buildings.
Tree canopy cover (% of total Vancouver land area)	%	25% 2022 ⁷	30%	2050	~2,900 hectares of tree cover across the city's total area of 11,500 hectares
Tree pits installed, trees planted (annual total)	#	34 2025	20-40	-	Target corrected to show annual installations. 2025 focused on Grandview-Woodland, Kensington-Cedar Cottage and Mount Pleasant neighbourhoods.
Air Quality					
DIY Air Cleaner units distributed	#	650	800	2025	-
Drought					
Single-detached residences with water meters installed (city-wide total)	%	17%	25%	2026	-
Residential water meters technology conversions (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) (city-wide total)	#	13,575	25,000	2026	Published figure and target corrected to show cumulative AMI conversions in Vancouver; on track for completion
Extreme Rainfall					
New green rainwater infrastructure incorporated into City right-of-way projects	hectares	2.5	3	2026	Indicator description and target corrected to show hectares <i>added</i> between 2023-25 (rather than cumulative existing area)
Enabling Actions					
External funding secured (annual total)	\$	\$10.5M	n/a	n/a	See <i>Climate Budget</i> section for breakdown

FUTURE CHANGES: INDICATORS

The effectiveness of climate adaptation actions depends on a range of complex variables influenced by geography, socio-economic factors, and ecological systems, making target setting inherently intricate.

The next Annual Report will put greater emphasis on indicators where the City has a more direct role in leading the delivery of outcomes. For instance, the City has deploys green infrastructure to manage rainwater naturally. A quantitative target could be set around *green rainwater assets installed around the city*, with the ultimate outcome of reducing the impact of localized flooding on residents (which is harder to measure as it depends on a number of factors).

Staff are also developing equity indicators to help ensure the City advances climate action in ways that address existing inequities and do not inadvertently cause further harm to disproportionately impacted communities.

MILESTONES

These milestones summarize our progress on prioritized City implementation of CCAS actions.

Milestone	Due Date	Responsible	Progress
Extreme Heat			
Improving Access to Cooling in Public Spaces			
Launch extreme heat transportation pilot for seniors and people with disabilities in 2024.	2025	VEMA, ACCS	In Progress
Pursue upgrades in two community-use facilities and one civic-operations facility with mechanical cooling by 2025 and continue to develop design plans for future cooling upgrade projects while seeking external funding to accelerate cooling retrofits for additional sites.	2025	PB, REFM	Complete, Ongoing
Supporting Indoor Cooling and Thermal Safety at Home			
Expand on 2022 and 2023 Cool Kit project in partnership with community-based organizations and Vancouver Coastal Health, delivering 3,000 kits.	2025	VEMA	Complete
Initiate work to scope, resource, and determine legal, technical, and economic feasibility for reducing indoor temperatures in existing multi-family residential buildings.	2025	PDS	Complete
Develop and launch a multi-family heat pump incentive and owner support program with BC Hydro, Province of BC and Zero Emission Innovation Centre in 2024.	2025	PDS	Complete
Complete two existing building retrofit programs: the Rental Apartment Retrofit Accelerator (RARA) and Non-Profit Resilient Retrofit Grant (NRRG). These programs will seek participating buildings from the rental and non-profit sector to complete retrofits that reduce emissions and improve resilience	2027	PDS	In Progress
Complete a study on cooling measures in existing multi-family buildings, in partnership with Metro Vancouver and the City of North Vancouver. The findings will inform direction on short, medium and long-term strategies to reduce heat-related morbidity in existing multi-family buildings.	2025	PDS	Complete
Implement requirements for mandatory cooling in new multi-family residential buildings in Vancouver Building By-law effective 2025 and explore for 1-3 story residential buildings.	2024	PDS	Complete
Advocate to Province to reduce barriers to installing cooling measures outlined in the Strata Property Act and Residential Tenancy Act.	2025	PDS, VCH, FH	Complete
Complete analyses and report out on findings from multi-year Measuring Indoor Temperature Initiative in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health and BC Centre for Disease Control.	2025	PDS	Complete
Stewarding the Urban Forest and Green Space to Support Outdoor Cooling			
Continue to advance tree planting on public land to support efforts to increase the urban forest canopy to 30% by 2050, with a focus on below average canopy neighbourhoods.	2050	PB	Complete, Ongoing
Install 20-40 new tree pits (and planted trees) in low canopy areas per year, including appropriate soil volume improvements.	2025	ENG, PB	Complete, Ongoing
Assess the resilience of specific climate-adapted tree species to extreme heat and drought by implementing and monitoring three pilot tree-planting projects and use the outcomes of these pilots to inform the use of climate-adapted species in future tree-planting projects.	2026	PB	Complete
Explore priority areas for tree planting and retention on private land.	2025	PDS	In Progress
Following update to the Tree Bylaw, develop a monitoring approach to track changes to tree coverage on private land as a result of permitted tree removal.	2025	SPSO	Not Started

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These milestones summarize our progress on prioritized City implementation of CCAS actions.

Milestone	Due Date	Responsible	Progress
Air Quality			
Cross-cutting: Extreme Heat and Air Quality			
Continue working with health, housing, and community-based partners to increase supports for seniors and people with disabilities as part of the Resilient Neighbourhoods Program during extreme heat and poor air quality events.	2025	VEMA, ACCS	Complete, Ongoing
Explore expanding social capital grants program to support resilient retrofits for social infrastructure to address near-term needs related to extreme heat and air quality events.	2025	ACCS	Complete, Ongoing
Explore requirements for installing cooling and air quality infrastructure (such as air conditioning and air filters) as part of tenant improvements or renovations in city-partnered emergency homeless shelters.	2025	ACCS	In Progress
Utilize the updated REFM Facilities Standard Manual to ensure climate resiliency considerations are implemented in the construction of new City-owned buildings and to support upgrades for existing buildings. All new public-facing facilities will have mechanical cooling and improved air filtration systems, and designated clean air spaces will have additional filtration requirements to address wildfire smoke events.	2025	REFM	Complete
Poor Air Quality			
Expand on 2023 DIY Air Cleaner pilot in partnership with the Pacific Institute for Pathogens, Pandemics, and Society to enable community members to build their own air cleaners.	2025	VEMA	Complete
Work with Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Coastal Health on a Hyperlocal Air Quality Monitoring Initiative to build a dense air quality monitoring network using lower cost sensors to better understand neighbourhood level variations in air quality.	2024	PDS, ENG, REFM	Redundant
Explore and implement building code requirements for filtered outdoor air in new 1-3 storey residential buildings.	2024	PDS	Redundant
Drought			
Accelerate residential metering and transition to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meter reading systems as outlined by the Water Demand Management Strategy and supported by regional direction from Metro Vancouver.	2026	ENG	In Progress
Explore policy updates for increased non-potable water use in future developments under suitable densification scenarios.	2025	ENG	In Progress
Explore policy that prohibits the installation of in-ground lawn irrigation systems that use potable water for new build permits applied for 2025 onwards.	2025	ENG	In Progress

MILESTONES

These milestones summarize our progress on prioritized City implementation of CCAS actions.

Milestone	Due Date	Responsible	Progress
<i>Extreme Rainfall</i>			
<i>Improving Our Understanding of Extreme Rainfall</i>			
Complete an Extreme Rainfall Risk Assessment and Strategy - Phases 1 and 2 (hazard assessment and risk/vulnerability assessment) and scope Phase 3 (strategy).	2026	ENG	In Progress
Initiate scoping of a study to assess steep slopes City-wide to identify areas at risk for instability (i.e. slope instability from extreme rainfall, or from slope or bluff toe erosion from sea level rise).	2025	ENG	Complete
<i>Supporting Community Stewardship of Rainwater Infrastructure</i>			
Pilot coordination of Adopt a Catch Basin program with Resilient Neighbourhoods Program to expand community participation and public awareness.	2025	ENG, VEMA	Complete, Ongoing
<i>Managing Rainwater Through Green Rainwater Infrastructure and the Built Environment</i>			
Explore a dedicated funding stream for GRI maintenance tasks and renewal projects in underserved areas to accelerate project implementation.	2025	ENG	In Progress
Explore and work towards early implementation opportunities for Still Creek nature-based flood mitigation through a pilot project from the Still Creek Watershed Enhancement Opportunities Study and the forthcoming Rupert and Renfrew Station Area Plan.	2025	ENG	In Progress
Incorporate green rainwater infrastructure (GRI) into City right-of-way reconstruction projects.	2026	ENG	Complete, Ongoing
Develop methods to quantify and communicate the service provision value of GRI for benefits such as drainage, livability, urban heat island mitigation.	2025	ENG	In Progress
Implement rainwater management requirements in the Vancouver Building By-law for LL Part 3 and for all Part 9 buildings.	2024	DBL, ENG	Complete
Explore a policy or bylaw for the Rupert Renfrew area that prohibits underground parking in and around Still Creek.	2025	PDS, REFM, ENG	Complete
<i>Sea Level Rise</i>			
<i>Planning for Sea Level Rise and Coastal Hazards</i>			
Complete a vulnerability assessment and study of waterfront parks and beaches.	2027	PB	In Progress
Develop a coastal adaptation policy that outlines a city-wide approach to coastal adaptation planning, including governance, policy tools, and funding mechanisms.	2026	PDS	Complete
Initiate technical work and engagement towards the development of a Fraser River Flood Mitigation Plan.	2025	PDS, ENG	In Progress
Perform a cost benefit analysis to determine best value in terms of delivering safe and resilient housing and coastal and extreme rain infrastructure at South East False Creek 1A.	2024	REFM	Complete
Complete an environmental assessment of the shoreline areas of the City's flood hazard areas (i.e., False Creek, Kits Beach, Locarno to Spanish Banks, the Fraser River shoreline and areas of Burrard Inlet) where coastal adaptation will take place.	2025	REFM, ENG, PDS, PB	Redundant
Explore the development of vulnerability assessments for the severe weather and coastal flooding initial response guidelines.	2025	VEMA	Complete
Begin development of a coastal asset inventory and resilience guidelines.	2025	ENG, PB	In Progress
Collaborate with neighbouring local governments and First Nations on refined sea level rise projection criteria for short -and medium- term infrastructure planning.	2025	PDS, ENG	Redundant
<i>Piloting Creative Solutions for Coastal Resilience</i>			
Design & construct a Sea2City coastal adaptation pilot project on the Cooper's Park shoreline and continue to seek funding for additional Sea2City pilots.	2025	REFM, ENG, PB	In Progress
Explore a pilot for nature-based solutions to flooding along the Fraser River.	2025	ENG	In Progress
Begin design of naturalized shoreline adaptation approaches (e.g., for West End Waterfront Plan implementation) and continue project-specific engagement with Host Nations.	2025	PB	Not Started

MILESTONES

These milestones summarize our progress on prioritized City implementation of CCAS actions.

Milestone	Due Date	Responsible	Progress
<i>All Hazards</i>			
Explore opportunities with partners to address the unique needs of people experiencing homelessness and housing precarity in climate-related events.	2025	VEMA, ACCS	In Progress
Formalize the Resilient Neighbourhoods Program and officially expand mandate beyond Extreme Heat planning.	2025	VEMA	In Progress
Update Resilient Neighbourhoods Toolkit with community-led climate resilience actions to adapt to climate change and align with Neighbourhood and Community Placemaking Grants for 2024.	2025	VEMA	Not Started
Continue to advance risk management initiatives for park trees, street trees, and forested areas to address risks associated climate-related events such as wildfire and pest and pathogen outbreaks.	ongoing	PB	Complete, Ongoing
<i>Enabling</i>			
<i>Mainstreaming Climate Adaptation in City Practices</i>			
Generate localized cost-implication estimates from inaction on climate adaptation, using ICLEI's 'The cost of doing nothing' toolbox for municipal governments.	2025	PDS	Complete
Pilot the use of a climate equity evaluation framework through which CCAS actions will be evaluated to ensure equitable development and implementation.	2025	PDS	Complete
Integrate updated climate projections into City processes to inform relevant planning, policies, and infrastructure projects.	2025	PDS	Complete, Ongoing
Continue to integrate climate adaptation into the climate budget and use to guide future planning and investment decisions.	ongoing	PDS, FSC	Complete, Ongoing
Establish a Climate Friendly Buildings Advisory Committee to seek input from diverse residents living in multi-family buildings to understand benefits and challenges of future regulations and programs aimed at reducing carbon pollution generated in existing multifamily buildings while adapting these buildings to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change.	2024	PDS	Complete
<i>Collaborating With Key Partners and Senior Levels of Government</i>			
Continue to participate in regional, national, and international collaborations to advance best practice on municipal climate adaptation planning (e.g., C40 Cool Cities Network, Fraser Basin Council).	2025	PDS	Complete, Ongoing
Leverage funding opportunities and maximize intergovernmental collaboration through alignment with National Adaptation Strategy and British Columbia Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.	2025	PDS	Complete, Ongoing
<i>Building Community Awareness of Climate Change Hazards and Responses</i>			
Improve public access to information and awareness by completing a public-facing multi-hazard and risk story map (identified in Resilient Vancouver) by 2025.	2025	VEMA	Complete, Ongoing
Enhance public communications around each of the climate-related hazards to improve the reach and relevance of City messaging by leveraging community partners and translating materials.	2025	PDS, VEMA	Complete
<i>Setting Intentions and Commitments for the 2026-30 Strategy</i>			
Build on existing relationships and partnerships to ensure that communities that are most impacted by climate change (including Host Nations, urban Indigenous, and equity-denied communities) are aware of and engaged in the 2025 CCAS update process.	2025	PDS	Redundant
Ensure priority actions for the 2025 CCAS align with the UNDRIP Action Plan (once finalized and approved), acknowledging the importance of building resilience to climate hazards while addressing past harms.	2025	PDS	Complete, Ongoing
Seek meaningful collaboration with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations to support Host Nation priorities for the 2025 CCAS refresh (UNDRIP Action 3.10).	2025	PDS	Complete

