



Zoning Bylaw Update Backgrounder 5

Zoning for a Liveable and Resilient City

The City of North Vancouver continues to grow and change, and our Zoning Bylaw needs to change too. We are currently in the process of updating our Zoning Bylaw to be clearer, more effective and easier to use.

This backgrounder explains how the new Zoning Bylaw will support the City of North Vancouver's commitment towards a liveable and resilient future. Our new Zoning Bylaw is an opportunity to explore some important ways we can tackle the climate crisis, continue to grow our economy, and achieve our goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 - all while enhancing and protecting the health of our environment.

This backgrounder is one in a series of eight, you can find them all on our project webpage at cnv.org/zoningupdate.



Zoning, Liveability and Resilience

Climate change is affecting our city more and more each year as we deal with hotter, drier summers, poor air quality from wildfires, and wetter winters. We are also losing biodiversity due to development and other human activities, and climate-related damage to natural habitats and ecosystems. In recent years, the City has suffered from extreme climate events including the heat dome in the summer of 2021 that killed 9 North Shore residents, and over 600 people across the province.

Mitigation

The bulk of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the region come from on-street traffic (31%) and buildings (26%). (Metro Vancouver, Climate 2050 Strategic Framework)

The Zoning Bylaw has a direct impact on how people move around the City by regulating how different travel modes are supported through building design. It can also influence how efficient buildings are in terms of their carbon impact at initial construction and from operations (heating, cooling, etc.) over the life of the building.

Adaptation

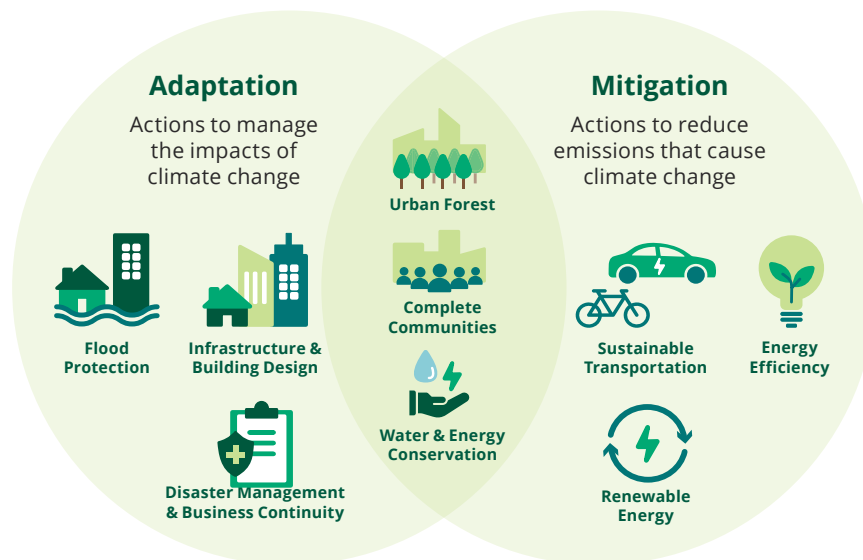
The new Zoning Bylaw could include requirements that aim to address air quality, risks from wildfires and extreme weather including rain, snow and heat.

Resilience

Some measures that can be taken, like increasing tree canopy and support for walking and biking, meet the goals of both mitigation and adaptation

Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience

Our community and natural environment can become more resilient to the effects of climate change through mitigation and adaptation measures.



Zoning & Equity

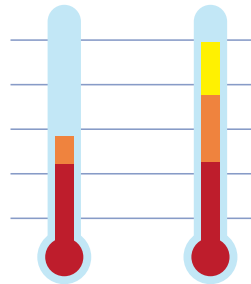
Climate change impacts some people more than others. Locally and globally, people facing systemic discrimination, poverty, and lack of services are those most affected by climate change. (Metro Vancouver, Climate 2050 Strategic Framework)

Context

Average temperatures across Metro Vancouver are increasing

Average daytime high temperatures will increase by

+ 2.9°C
by 2050



Average daytime high temperatures will increase by

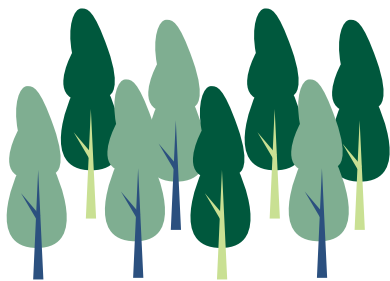
+ 4.9°C
by 2080

Metro Vancouver Climate Projections Report (2016)

City Carbon Pollution by Source

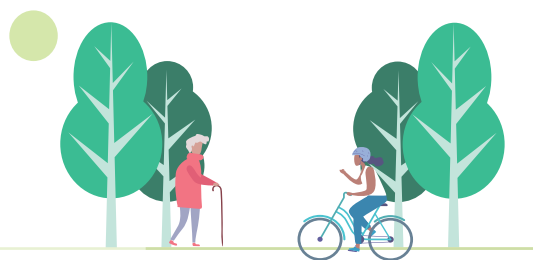


57.2%
Gas and Diesel Vehicles

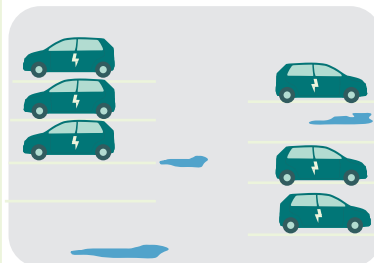


25%
of the City is covered by tree canopy

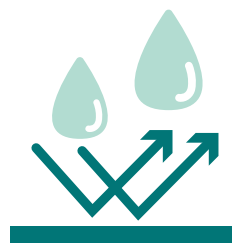
Tree canopy refers to stems, branches, and leaves of trees that provide shade over public and private land in the City.



Impervious surfaces are urban areas covered by concrete and asphalt where water cannot be absorbed.



65%
of the City is covered by impervious surfaces including roads, parking areas and buildings



40.2%
Natural Gas Use in Buildings and Businesses



2.6%
Waste and Electricity

City of North Vancouver Climate & Environment Strategy Survey Guide (2021)

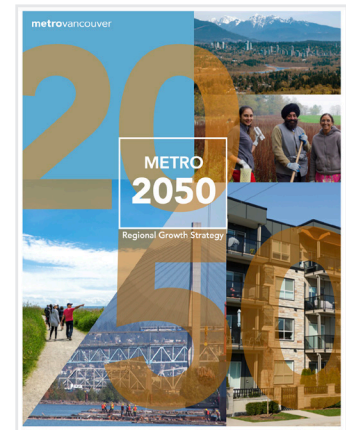
Existing Objectives, Goals and Directions

The Zoning Bylaw Update gives us an opportunity to build upon regional and City planning and climate policy to help realize climate, sustainability and resilience related objectives while working towards creating a more liveable city.

Metro Vancouver

Regional Growth Strategy

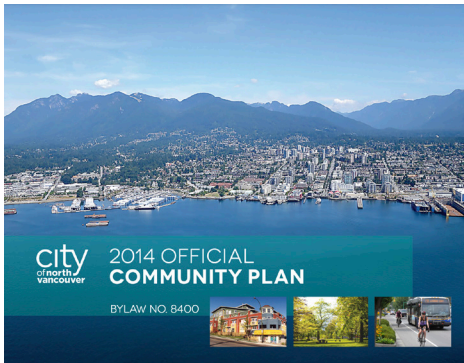
[The Metro 2050 Regional Growth Strategy \(2022\)](#) outlines a goal of protecting the environment, addressing climate change and responding to natural hazards.



Regional Climate Strategy

[The Climate 2050 Regional Climate Strategy \(2018\)](#) is the regional strategy guiding climate change policy and action for Metro Vancouver for the next 30 years. The strategy addresses adaptation (responding to climate impacts) and mitigation (reducing GHG emissions), both of which are necessary components in addressing climate change.

City of North Vancouver

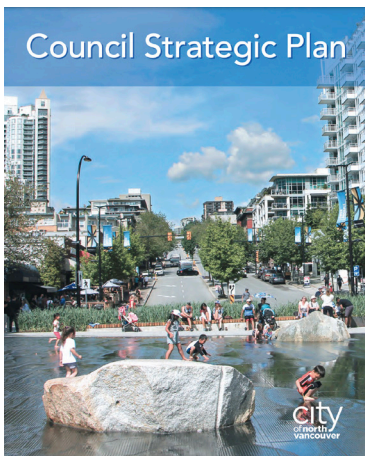
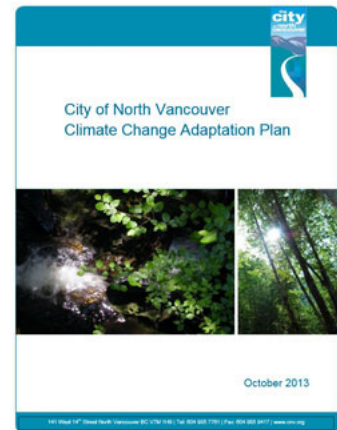


Official Community Plan

[The City of North Vancouver Official Community Plan \(OCP\) \(2014\)](#) provides a framework for how the city can develop in a more sustainable way. The Plan explains that a more compact and complete community requires less energy and produces fewer GHG emissions and contains policies that promote development of a more compact and complete community.

Climate and Environment Strategy

The City is in the process of developing a [Climate and Environment Strategy](#) that will replace its Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2013) and its Community Energy and Emissions Plan. The new Strategy will be the playbook for planning, adapting, and making decisions for the climate and environment today and over the next decade.



Council Strategic Plan

One of the strategic focus areas in [Council's Strategic Plan \(2018\)](#) is to become a Liveable City that leads the way in climate action, and acts as a steward of the environment for future generations.

Unlocking Opportunities with a New Zoning Bylaw

A new zoning bylaw alone cannot guarantee that we achieve our climate and environment-oriented goals. Federal, provincial and other municipal policies and regulations concerning issues such as transportation and energy use, ecological protection, and cooling/heating systems are required to curb emissions. A zoning bylaw can be used as a tool to adapt to our changing climate.

More specifically, zoning can play a role in climate mitigation and adaptation efforts by:

- promoting mixed use buildings in more places around the city, making it easier for City residents to walk, roll, or take transit to get around;
- improving urban connectivity as a mitigation tactic, as it can decrease reliance on personal vehicles and thereby reduce carbon pollution attributed to transportation;
- improving tree canopy by mandating tree planting through newer landscaping standards, while the City's Tree Bylaw regulates tree removal; and
- creating more opportunity to protect the regional water system and prevent flooding by reducing impervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces increase the potential for pollutants to enter the water system.



Stay Informed

For more information on this exciting initiative, please visit the Zoning Bylaw Update [project webpage](#) and subscribe to our mailing list.

Links To Related Policies + Background Documents

- [Metro 2050: Regional Growth Strategy \(2022\)](#)
- [Climate 2050: A climate strategy for the Metro Vancouver region \(2022\)](#)
- [The Climate 2050 Regional Climate Strategy \(2018\)](#)
- [Climate and Environment Strategy \(in development\)](#)
- [City of North Vancouver Council Strategic Plan \(2018\)](#)
- [City of North Vancouver Official Community Plan \(2014\)](#)
- [Climate Change Adaptation Plan \(2013\)](#)

city
of north
vancouver