Resilient St. John's Climate Plan:

Community Update 2022-2024

ST. JOHN'S

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Land Acknowledgments

We respectfully acknowledge the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, of which the City of St. John's is the capital city, as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk. Today, these lands are home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We also acknowledge, with respect, the diverse histories and cultures of the Mi'kmaq, the Innu, the Inuit, and the Southern Inuit of this province.

Acknowledgments

Many residents and organizations contributed to the development of this plan throughout the various engagement stages, including the public, members of the Multi-Stakeholder Sustainability Team, St. John's Environmental and Sustainability Experts Panel, and St. John's Corporate Energy Team. We also thank all the residents and organizations who reached out to staff and council, completed online surveys, hosted do-it-yourself climate change workshops, and attended virtual sessions or council meetings.

Introduction

This report highlights the wide range of projects, initiatives, and partnerships underway across the City that are advancing the sustainability priorities outlined in the Resilient St. John's Community Climate Plan, which was unanimously adopted by Council in 2022.

Resilient St. John's Climate Plan is the City's roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, advancing the transition to clean energy, and adapting to the climate risks that impact our community.

Climate change is an urgent worldwide crisis. Global temperatures are likely to rise by 1.5ºC between 2030 and 2050 if GHG emissions are released at the current and projected rates. Allowing the temperature rise to exceed 1.5ºC will disrupt global social, economic, and ecological systems, with severe consequences for the most vulnerable populations.[1]

In 2019, the City of St. John's declared a climate emergency and committed to reaching net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. This commitment was further strengthened in 2022 with the adoption of the Resilient St. John's Climate Plan. Achieving net-zero means reducing GHG emissions as much as possible and offsetting any remaining emissions through measures that remove or neutralize them.

This includes the City's GHG reduction commitments:

- 25% by 2025
- 50% by 2030 with a stretch target of 60%
- achieving net zero by 2050 at the latest

Resilient St. John's is not just a climate plan. At its core, it is also a clean economic development strategy for the community. The City's planned energy transition is cost-effective and, overall, a good economic policy for St. John's, with an average $167 in savings per GHG tonne reduced. Over 28 years, that's an overall return of nearly $1.8 billion dollars, or a 33% return on a $5.5 billion dollar investment. The plan estimates the generation of 1,400 full-time jobs and plans for a future where households save about 50% on their energy costs.

Tackling climate change in St. John's involves two streams of work:

Mitigation: reducing the GHG emissions from energy consumption and other activities within the city; and

Adaptation: preparing for the physical, economic, and ecological changes already underway from climate change.

By incorporating both streams in the plan the City can avoid duplicated efforts and maladaptive decisions (Figure 1).

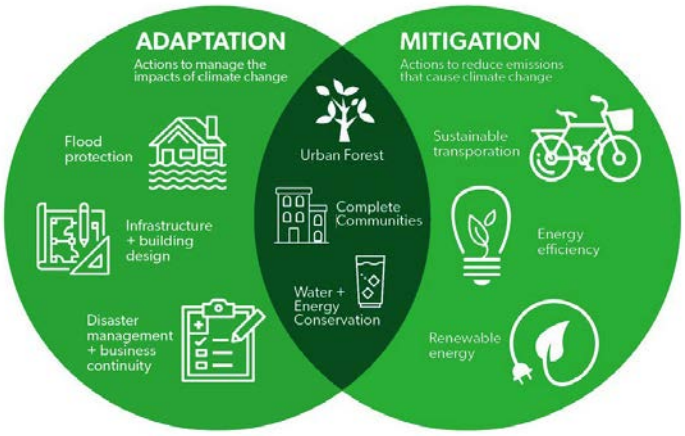


Figure 1. Shared considerations of the City's adaptation and mitigation efforts.

[1] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2018). Special report: Global warming of 1.5 ºC. IPCC. **https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/**

What We Need to Do

The following is a list of strategic priorities that the City identified in its plan.

1. Municipal Leadership and Planning

Smart Growth

- Improve the resilience of new buildings, roads, and stormwater infrastructure to extreme weather.
- Increase the City's resilience by informing municipal plans with the latest climate data and projections of future extreme weather events.
- Protect and enhance coastal infrastructure from the impacts of sea-level rise and storm surge.

The City's Responsibilities

- Integrate climate considerations into city-wide development policies and budget decisions.
- Report to the community on progress and regularly update the plan.
- Develop business and industry working groups.
- Develop partnership with academic institutions and entrepreneurship incubators for pilot projects and training.

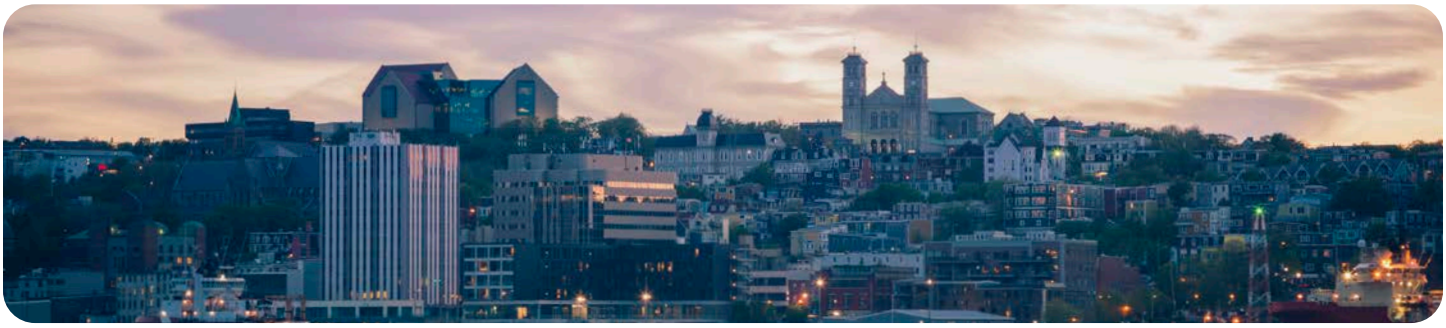
2. Affordable, Efficient Buildings For All

Resilient Natural and Built Infrastructure

- Support homes in energy retrofits and increasing household-level climate resilience.
- Improve the resilience of existing buildings, roads, and stormwater infrastructure to extreme weather and temperatures.
- Protect and enhance the resilience of parks and open spaces, including habitats, from the impacts of climate change.

New Development Standards

- Develop new sustainable development guidelines so all new developments are net-zero by 2030.
- Retrofit Existing Buildings
- Retrofit existing homes and buildings on a mass scale and then switch to electric heat pumps and water heaters to achieve net-zero or net-zero ready.
- Convene a roundtable to address energy poverty.



3. Transportation Transformation

Personal-Use Vehicles

- Support the Electrification of personal, municipal, and commercial vehicles.

Transit and Active Transportation

- Expand and electrify transit.
- Improve and expand walking and cycling infrastructure.

4. Disaster Resilience and Emergency Preparedness

Preparing for the Storms

- Improve resilience and preparedness of key services and businesses to extreme weather events.
- Improve resilience and emergency preparedness of residents to extreme weather events.

5. Thriving Natural Environment and Agriculture

Protecting Green Spaces

- Protect surface and ground-water quality and quantity.
- Enhance the resilience of ecological assets from climate change.
- Improve local food security by supporting the food and agriculture sector.
- Monitor and plan for the spread of invasive species and infectious disease.

A Low-Waste Future

- Improve public education to reduce overall waste production and improve waste diversion.
- Support the development of a circular economy.

6. Clean Energy For Resilience

Expanding our Options

- Supplement the electricity grid with wind farms and ensure the electricity system is planned and managed to handle supply and demand.
- Develop a partnership with Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) to decarbonize the district energy system.
- Expand landfill gas capture systems

Community Update

Summary

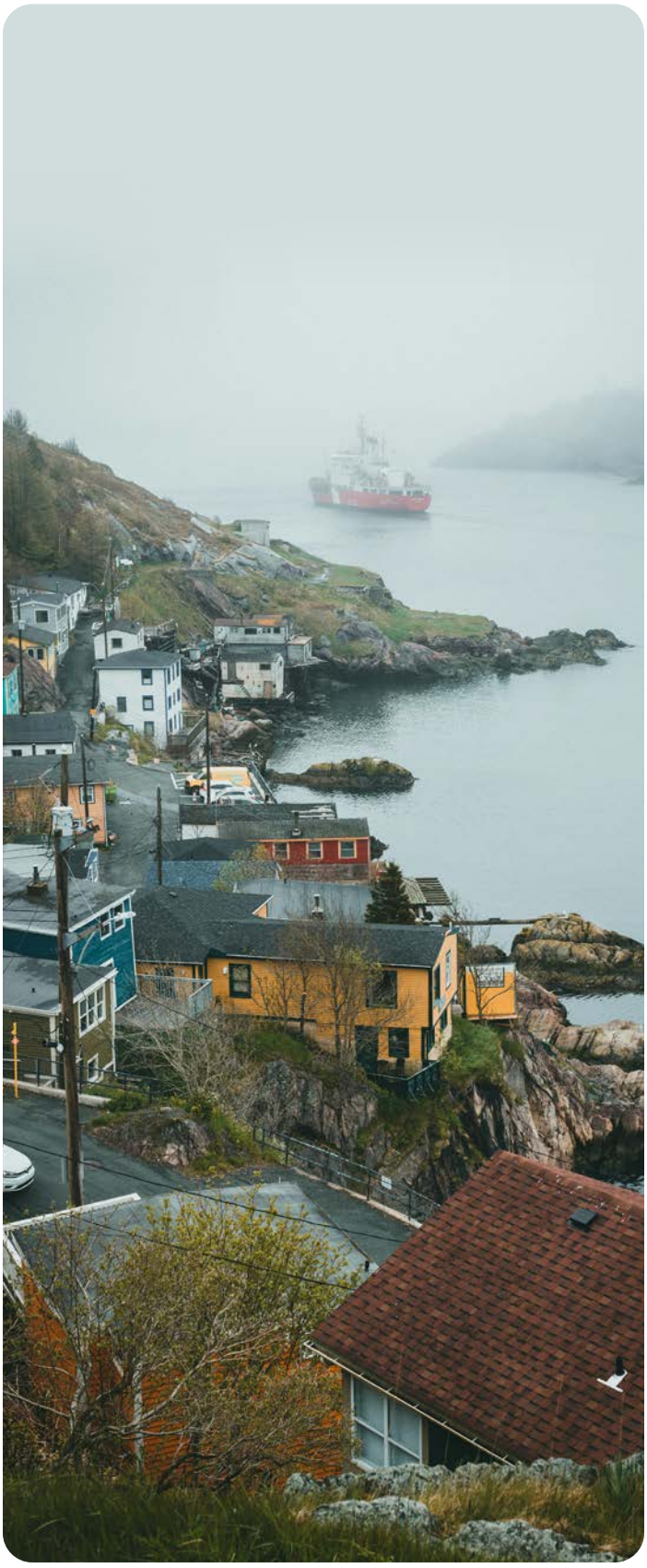
The City of St. John's has made impressive strides on its journey toward a climate-resilient future, thanks to the dedication of community members, local organizations, and visionary leadership. Guided by the Resilient St. John's Climate Plan, the City is committed to protecting our environment, strengthening our infrastructure, and building a sustainable, thriving community for generations to come.

Achieving a successful energy transition and adapting to climate change is a significant undertaking; one that no single organization can accomplish alone. Collaboration has been at the heart of St. John's progress. Businesses, institutions, associations, and community groups have all stepped up as partners and leaders, working together to turn ambitious climate goals into real, positive change for our city.

This update highlights the progress made so far and outlines the work that still lies ahead. While it may not capture every effort happening across our community, it showcases the significant achievements to date and the ongoing commitment required to meet our climate targets. Together, we are building a more resilient St. John's.

Celebrating Local Climate Champions

St. John's is proud to recognize the inspiring efforts of individuals and organizations through the Applause Awards, which now include the Climate Change Leadership Award. Recent honorees—like Ordinary Spokes, East Port Properties, Dr. Sean McGrath and FANE, Avalon Mall, Food Producers Forum, and AmeriSpec NL—showcase the power of community action. From promoting cycling and food security to cutting emissions and supporting sustainable buildings, these leaders are helping to shape a greener, healthier city.



Smart Growth and Resilient Infrastructure

The City is embedding climate resilience into every aspect of urban planning. By updating housing policies, flood mapping, and water management with the latest climate data, St. John's is preparing for the challenges of extreme weather and sea level rise. Infrastructure upgrades — like improved sewers, stormwater systems, water infrastructure upgrades, and leak detection — are already reducing risks and protecting neighborhoods.

Leading by Example

St. John's is integrating climate action into city policies, budgets, and partnerships. Regular progress reporting, expert panels, and collaborations with local non-for-profit organizations, businesses, schools, colleges and universities ensure that innovation and best practices are at the heart of every initiative. The City's retrofit of 17 facilities, sustainable transportation improvements, electric vehicle charging network, and support to collaborations with schools and industry are just some examples of how we're fostering a culture of sustainability.

Raising the Bar for New and Existing Buildings

All new city buildings are now designed to high standards of energy efficiency and sustainability, with projects like the LEED-certified H.G.R. Mews Community Centre, Fortis Canada Games Complex, and the upcoming Passive House Goulds Fire Station setting new benchmarks. Updated building codes and partnerships to encourage training are ensuring that new development moves us closer to net-zero emissions. At the same time, the City is working to build the support needed by residents and businesses to retrofit existing buildings.

Looking Ahead, The Work Continues

While we celebrate these achievements, we know there is more to do. By working together and staying focused on our goals, St. John's is leading the way toward a safer, more sustainable future. The journey is ongoing, and every action—big or small—brings us closer to realizing the vision of the Resilient St. John's Climate Plan.

Let's keep building a Resilient St. John's, together.

Recognitions

In 2021, The City established Applause Awards program that combines the majority of the City's individual awards under one banner. This allows us to celebrate outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations in a variety of areas.

In 2023, the Climate Change Leadership Award was added to recognize community members that have demonstrated exemplary leadership in climate change action. Awards are provided in two categories - corporate and community.

2023

Ordinary Spokes Community Bike Action, Community Leadership Award: Ordinary Spokes is a not-for-profit organization operated by volunteers. They work tirelessly to promote cycling culture in St. John's by maintaining an inclusive community-focused cycling hub, offering education on bicycle mechanics and safety, organizing community events, and providing financially accessible bicycles and repairs. In the last two years, Ordinary Spokes has hosted over 70 bicycle repair sessions and refurbished over 150 bicycles.

East Port Properties, Corporate Leadership Award: East Port Properties is committed to protecting the environment through its environmental and energy policies and management plans. Their buildings at 351 and 235 Water Street consistently outperform comparable buildings in their energy and water efficiency and have achieved certifications such as LEED Gold and BOMA Best Platinum. The facilities operate with low-carbon sea water cooling/heating and geothermal systems respectively, as well as responsive lighting, space conditioning systems, and a composting and e-waste diversion program. They offer 14 EV Charging parking stalls, while also encouraging public transportation to their tenants.

2024

Dr. Sean McGrath, FANE - Community Leadership Award: FANE was founded in 2015 by Dr. Sean McGrath, Dr. Barry Stephenson and Dr. Kyla Bruff. It is a small group of concerned citizens, thinkers, and practitioners trying to make a difference by working on how we think about nature. Their method is to make ecological knowledge available and compelling everywhere to transform the imaginations and practices of communities.

Crombie REIT – Avalon Mall, Corporate Leadership Award: Understanding the impact a 600,000 sqft building can have on the environment, Avalon Mall is led by example when it comes to sustainable operations. The facility has an in-vessel composter that diverts over 200,000 lbs of food waste from landfill, uses containers to separate "blue bag items", has completed energy-efficient upgrades that reduce 1.5 million kW per year, and offers EV charging options. Avalon Mall has made great strides in reducing its carbon footprint and continues to find new ways to grow their sustainable efforts.

2025

Food Producers Forum Inc, Community Leadership Award: Food Producers Forum Inc is a non-profit group that works to improve food security and community health in Newfoundland and Labrador. They focus on rebuilding local food production, planting raised bed gardens for single-parent families, building low-energy food structures, running a food producers survey, and connecting with rural and Indigenous communities.

AmeriSpec NL - Dana Locke, Corporate Leadership Award: AmeriSpec NL is a leading home energy audit provider in St. John's, having completed over 10,000 audits and helped deliver $34 million in rebates, reducing over 1,100 tons of greenhouse gases yearly. Dana Locke has guided over 4,000 homeowners through rebate programs, making AmeriSpec a trusted climate advocate and local sustainability leader.

Priority 1:
Municipal Leadership and Planning

Smart Growth

- Improve the resilience of new buildings, roads, and stormwater infrastructure to extreme weather.
- Increase the City's resilience by informing municipal plans with the latest climate data and projections of future extreme weather events.
- Protect and enhance coastal infrastructure from the impacts of sea level rise and storm surge.

Description:
Incorporating the latest climate data and greenhouse gas projections in municipal planning decisions helps progress the sustainable development of our community. Integrating climate mitigation and adaptation into municipal plans, capital projects, and risk reducing efforts, the City helps build long-term resilience.

2022-2024 Actions:

- **Housing Amendments to Increase Density and Accelerate Development:** Text amendments were approved for the Envision St. John's Development Regulations to enable a greater variety of housing types in residential zones. The text amendment stimulate housing growth and are supported by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF).
- **Incorporate Climate Change Risks in St. John's Water System Masterplan:** The plan included the changes of climate to our water sources and water demand. This is key to ensure capacity exists for a sustainable future with adequate infrastructure planning for a resilient water system.
- **Include Climate Change in Flood Hazard Mapping:** Delineated seven streams' flood-prone areas to prepare for and mitigate potential flooding risks, protecting infrastructure and communities from climate-related impacts. The study also identified hydraulic structures that may be undersized or at future risk due to climate change.

2025-2026 Upcoming Actions:

- **Include Climate in Neighborhood Plans:** This includes the Downtown Plan, Cowan Heights, and University Area plans. These plans embed climate strategies in urban development. A climate-conscious neighborhood plan supports sustainable growth and transportation, usable green space, and adaptations like improved stormwater management.
- **Develop Neighborhood Plans for other Neighborhoods:** The City will continue expanding its climate-informed neighborhood planning process, ensuring that emission cutting and adaptation strategies are embedded in future urban development and land use policies.

The City's Responsibilities

- Integrate climate considerations into city-wide development policies and budget decisions.
- Report to the community on progress and regularly update the plan.
- Develop business and industry working groups.
- Develop partnership with academic institutions and entrepreneurship incubators for pilot projects and training.

Description:

Ensuring that climate change is a central consideration in the municipal plan, financial planning, and that the City is open to innovative partnerships, will help St. John's achieve the strategies outlined in the Resilient St. John's Plan. By consistently monitoring and reporting on climate initiatives and progress, the City can track successes, identify gaps, and make informed decisions for future actions.

2022-2024 Actions:

- **Reporting:** Actions are reported through the City's Strategic Plan updates to Council and the community.
- **Environment and Sustainability Experts Panel (ESEP):** The ESEP provides expertise, opinion, and perspective about environmental and sustainability matters to Council.
- **City Carbon Budget - Pilot:** The City completed a carbon budget pilot involving proposed corporate capital works projects. Lessons learned were incorporated in future strategies for accounting for environmental impact in the City's budget across more areas in the budget.
- **Industry Working Groups and Workshops:** Workshops and working groups participated in discussions about commercial fleet electrification, energy efficiency in National Building Code of Canada and the National Energy Code for Buildings. Participants shared lessons learned, discussed benefits and challenges, and provided recommendations to help accelerate efforts.
- **Internships, Industry Innovation and Learning Collaborations:** The City has hosted interns through MUN's and econext's green economy workforce development efforts, as well as various course projects with several teams in collaboration with MUN. Topics included energy efficiency, buildings fuel switching, sea level rise risk, Low Impact Development design, and community composting opportunities.

2025-2026 Upcoming Actions:

- **EcoSchools Program:** Collaborating with EcoSchools Canada in implementing a four-year program (started 2024) supporting local schools to become EcoSchools Certified. EcoTeams plan, act, and record results. At the end of the school year, certification is assessed and awarded Bronze to Platinum. This includes a special Resilient St. John's badge.
- **Expert Panel, Working Groups, and Innovative Action:** The City will continue to engage businesses and industry leaders through the ESEP, and working groups as projects require, to ensure that initiatives align with emerging best practices and foster a collaborative approach to sustainability.
- **Continuing Partnerships and Incorporating Climate in City's Responsibilities:** This includes exploring methodologies to carbon budgets, innovative approaches in development design, and knowledge sharing efforts.

Priority 2:

Affordable, Efficient Buildings for All

Resilient Natural and Built Infrastructure

- Support homes in energy retrofits and increasing household-level climate resilience.
- Improve the resilience of existing buildings, roads, and stormwater infrastructure to extreme weather and temperatures.
- Protect and enhance the resilience of parks and open spaces, including habitats, from the impacts of climate change.

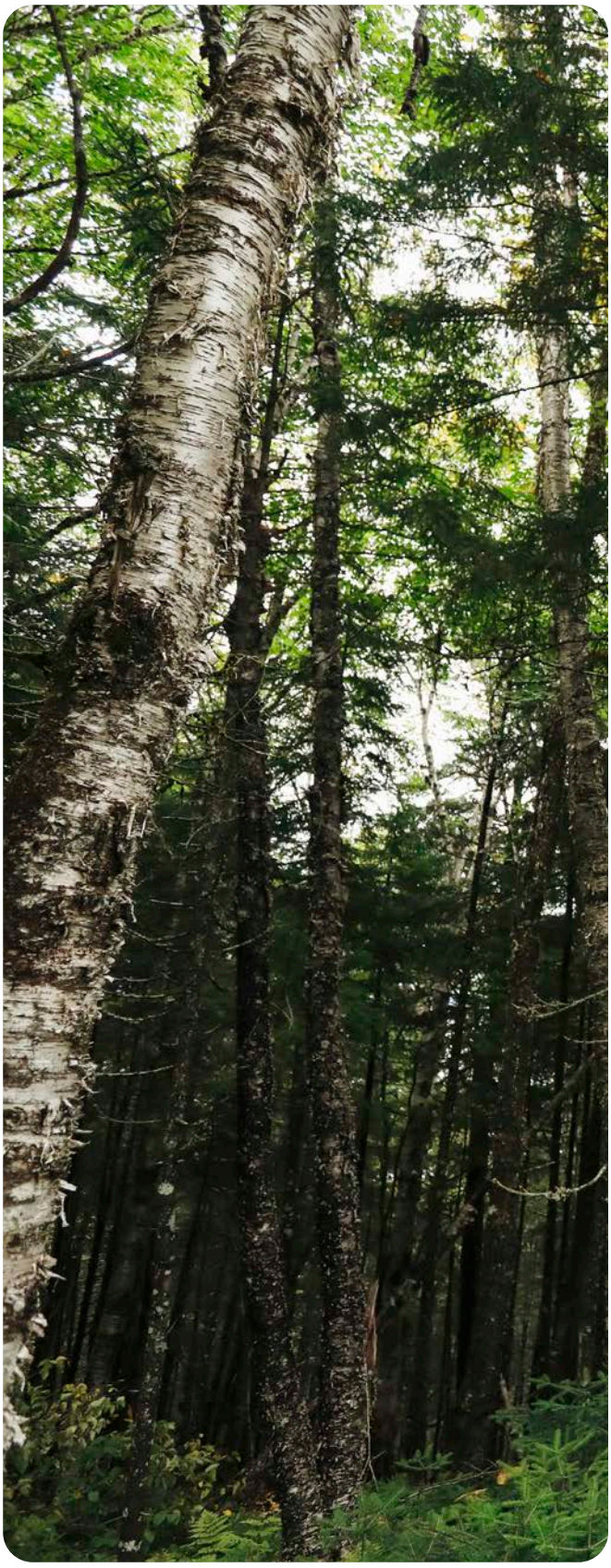
Description:
As the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events increases, strengthening existing infrastructure and building capacity is important to reduce risks. Adapting infrastructure, sharing knowledge with residents, building capacity, and enhancing natural areas within our City helps buffer from impacts.

2022-2024 Actions:

- **Completed Studies and Designs for Sewer Separation and Replacement Projects:** Including Empire Avenue sewer separation study and Royal Oak Drive/Mooney Crescent/ old Petty Harbour Road sewer replacement design, Southside Road storm sewer design and Prescott Street improvements design, to reduce flood risks and improve drainage infrastructure.
- **Trenchless Rehabilitation for Aging Underground Sewers:** Particularly on Water Street, to extend system lifespan and minimize community disruption. This approach also improves sewer capacity and supports long-term infrastructure sustainability.
- **Upgraded Stormwater and Transportation Infrastructure:** Projects are complete and underway to improve storm sewers and intersections, such as the University Avenue upgrades and Portugal Cove Road-Major's Path intersection improvements. Work will begin in 2025 to address the Southside Road storm Sewer.
- **Update to City's Emergency Preparedness Webpage to Include Home Protection Options:** Updated the City's website and promotion of information on emergency preparedness and **Protecting Your Property from Flooding**
- **Leak Detection:** Since 2020 between 350-400 leaks have been identified each year to reduce water loss across the system. **The Leak Detection Program** identifies and repairs leaks within the water distribution system. This includes the City's system of watermains, valves, and fire hydrants, as well as the private system supplying residential and commercial properties. This program is ongoing.

2025-2026 Upcoming Actions:

- **Stormwater and Sewer:** Continue to improve capacity to reduce urban flooding in risk areas.
- **Leak Detection:** Continue to identify and repair leaks within the water distribution system, this includes the City's system of watermains, valves, and fire hydrants, and the private system supplying residential and commercial properties.
- **Urban Forest Management:** Continue to implement the City's Urban Forest Management Plan Recommendations and begin its update.
- **Support Homes in Identifying Options to Increase Climate Resilience:** Integrate adaptation information in Residential Retrofit Navigator Program, which is scoped to support residents in undergoing retrofits, and pursue making these upgrades eligible for financial support.



New Development Standards

- Develop new sustainable development guidelines so all new developments are net-zero by 2030.

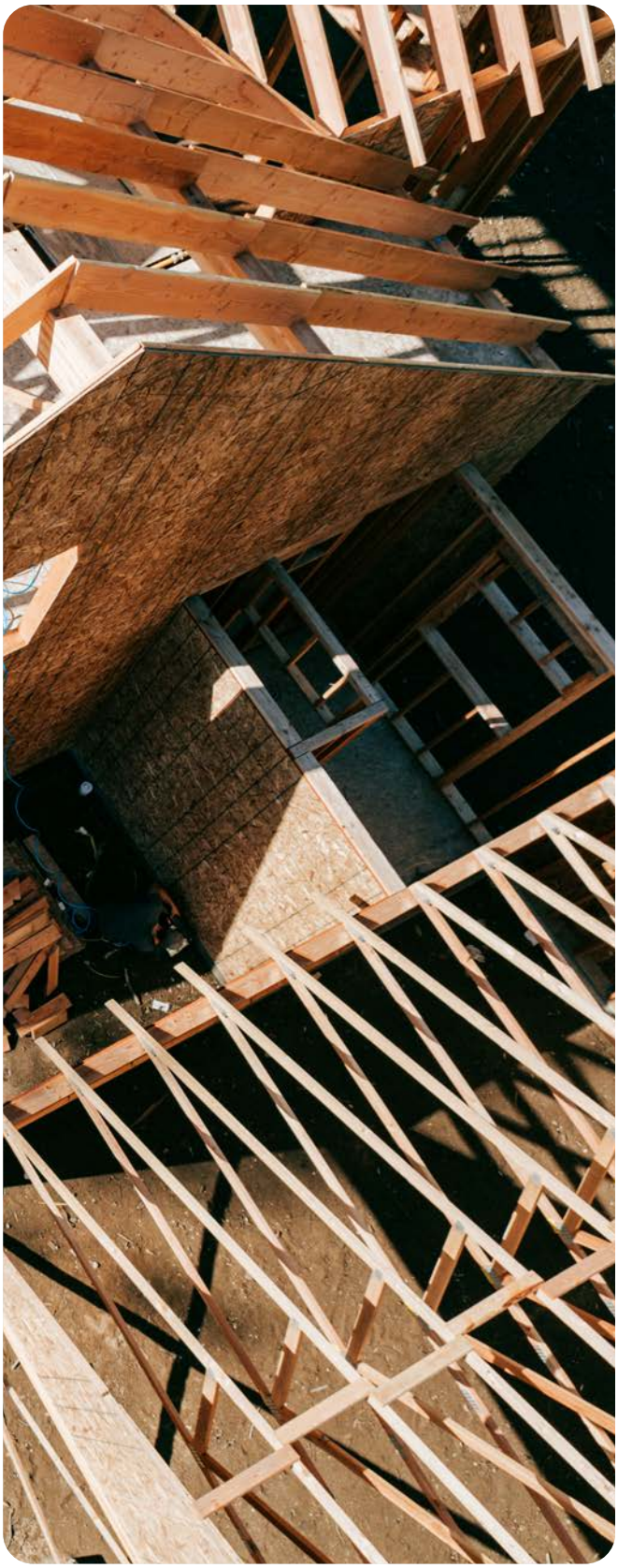
Description:
Setting strong sustainability standards for new developments is essential to achieving the targets set by the Resilient St. John's Climate Plan. This strategy focuses on updating building codes, implementing higher energy efficiency requirements, and promoting best practices in sustainable design to ensure that future construction aligns with climate action goals.

2022-2024 Actions:

- **Development and Adoption of Updated Development Design Manual:** Included guidance to enhance accessibility, active transportation, stormwater management, introduce and encourage the use of Low Impact Development (LID) and EV charging in new development.
- **Implement Sustainable Building Design in City Facilities:** Since 2018, all new City of St. John's facilities have been built to the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC) standard to reduce operating costs, increase asset value, and improve climate resilience. Notably, the H.G.R. Mews Community Centre achieved LEED Certified status, and the new Fortis Canada Games Complex was built to a LEED Silver Standard. These projects incorporate energy efficiency, stormwater management, geothermal energy systems, and the use of greener, more efficient materials and technologies.
- **Adoption of 2020 National Building Code of Canada:** Adopting updated building codes ensures changes to ensure buildings remain functional after extreme weather events. The 2020 updated code includes updated wind speed data, maps, and emphasizing the importance of durable materials.
- **Development Adoption Pathway for Energy Efficiency and Adaptation Considerations in the National Building Codes:** Evaluated and adopted higher energy efficiency standards within the National Building Codes to improve building performance, reduce emissions, and support the transition to net-zero construction.

2025-2026 Upcoming Actions:

- **Design of a New Passive House Fire Station:** The new Goulds Fire Station is aiming for Passive House Classic Certification, setting a high standard for energy efficiency, occupant comfort, and health. As the first commercial building of its kind in the province, it represents an innovative approach to future city facility planning.
- **Define a Climate Ready Buildings Policy for the City:** Develop a City administrative policy and/or procedures based on experience to establish clear direction on how to ensure the City has a climate-resilient and low-carbon building portfolio (including new construction, existing, acquisition, leasing as tenant or landlord, and City funded).
- **Decision on Implementation of National Building Code Energy Efficiency tiers:** Council will decide on the proposed pathway for adopting energy efficiency tiers in the National Building Code (NBC section 9.36) and the National Energy Code for Buildings (NECB), including which tier will become the new minimum standard. The pathway will include the timely adoption of the 2025 National Codes, which furthers energy efficiency and support Canada's net-zero goals.
- **Energy Efficiency in Building Codes Training:** The City, in partnership with industry organizations and other collaborators, will share opportunities to deliver training focused on NBC section 9.36 and NECB.



Retrofit Existing Buildings

- Retrofit existing homes and buildings on a mass scale and then switch to electric heat pumps and water heaters to achieve net-zero or net-zero ready.
- Convene a roundtable to address energy poverty.

Description:
Improving the energy efficiency and sustainability of City-owned buildings is a key strategy for reducing emissions, lowering operating costs, and enhancing climate resilience. This strategy focuses on upgrading building systems, improving HVAC performance, transitioning to cleaner energy sources, and implementing energy-efficient retrofits across municipal facilities.

2022-2024 Actions:

- **Energy Performance Contract for 17 City-Owned Facilities:** Implemented a large-scale energy efficiency program across City facilities to reduce energy consumption, GHGs and costs. This Included air sealing, LED lighting, retrofits from oil to electric systems. Facilities included: City Hall and City Hall Annex, Works Depot, Animal Care Centre, Buckmaster Recreation Centre, Bowring Park Locker and Day Camp, Central Fire Station, West End Fire Station, Paradise Fire Station, Mary Brown's and St. John's Convention Centre, Riverhead Wastewater Treatment Plant, Bay Bulls Big Pond Water Treatment Plant, Windsor Lake Water Treatment Plants, Petty Harbour Water Treatment Plants, as well as Robinhood Bay Waste Management Facility. This cuts 1,118 tonnes of CO_2e per year from the City's emissions (25% of the 2030 Corporate target).
- **Design of a Home Energy Navigator Program:** Collaborated in the design of a program that would assist homeowners in navigating energy and adaptation retrofit options, accessing financial incentives, and making informed decisions to improve home energy efficiency and resilience.
- **ReCover Initiative:** Collaborated with The **ReCover Initiative**, which with support from the Government of Canada was awarded funding to be Atlantic Canada's Deep Retrofit Accelerator. They collaborate with building owners, communities, and industry to improve the energy efficiency of buildings.

2025-2026 Upcoming Actions:

- **Home Energy Navigator Program:** Collaborate with econext and other partners to implement the collaboratively designed program to assist homeowners in energy efficiency and adaptation retrofits.
- **Housing Energy Efficiency Retrofits of 166 Housing Units:** Carrying out a deep energy retrofit, upgrading insulation, heating systems, and lighting to improve energy efficiency and reduce utility costs for City-owned non-profit housing.
- **245 Freshwater Fuel Switching:** Transitioning this facility from oil heating to electric to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on fossil fuels.
- **Southlands and Shea Heights Community Centres LED lighting retrofits:** Replacing lighting with energy-efficient LED fixtures to lower electricity consumption and maintenance costs.
- **Kilbride Community Centre Retrofit- Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Fund (GICB):** A comprehensive retrofit of the to improve energy efficiency (including upgrades to insulation, heating and cooling systems, and lighting) and key accessibility and inclusion upgrades.
- **Building Adaptation Retrofit Masterplan:** Assess the specific climate risks of City-owned facilities (commercial and residential), estimate the financial impacts of these hazards, and build a plan to reduce risks and enhance the building's resilience, value, and operational stability. Share lessons learned with industry and residents.
- **Continue Improving Energy Efficiency in City-Owned Buildings:** The city will keep evaluating and improving energy efficiency in its buildings. It will share insights and best practices while upgrading municipal facilities, prioritizing both energy efficiency and the transition from oil heating to more sustainable energy sources.

Priority 3:
Transportation Transformation

Personal-Use Vehicles

- Support the Electrification of personal, municipal, and commercial vehicles.

Description:
Expanding electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure is key to accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles in St. John's. This strategy focuses on increasing the availability of public charging stations at key locations, ensuring residents and businesses have access to reliable charging options, and leveraging funding opportunities to grow the public EV charging network.

2022-2024 Actions:

- **Established a Public EV Charging Network:** Installed 16 EV chargers at key City facilities and high-traffic locations where residents access services, supporting the transition to electric vehicles.
- **City Fleet - Two Light Duty EV Pilot Program:** Tested electric vehicle performance, procurement, staff training, and maintenance process for City municipal operations to inform upcoming fleet transition masterplan.
- **City Fleet - Installed 8 EV Chargers at City Hall and City Depot:** Enhancing charging capacity to support fleet electrification.
- **City Fleet – Secure Funding for St. John's Low-Carbon Fleet and Infrastructure Masterplan:** Funding secured in collaboration with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

2025-2026 Upcoming Actions:

- **Expand the Public EV Charging Network:** Install 26 additional chargers between 2025 and 2027 to further support EV adoption and accessibility.
- **City Fleet - Continue Adding Light-Duty EVs:** Based on case-by-case analysis, deploy additional EVs in alignment with the City's light-duty vehicle asset replacement schedule to keep in pace with the estimated 7 EVs minimum, until a fleet masterplan is fully developed.
- **City Fleet - Develop a City of St. John's Low-Carbon Fleet and Infrastructure Masterplan:** Establishing A roadmap for transitioning the City fleet to low-emission vehicles, including energy infrastructure to plan for 100% low-carbon fleet by 2045.
- **Explore Options for Residential On-street Charging:** Based on input from the Inclusion Advisory Committee, explore options and detail a pilot for Council's review for a process to enable resident-owned chargers to be used while parking on-street.

Transit and Active Transportation

- Expand and electrify transit.

Description:
Transportation is the single largest source of GHG emissions. Transitioning to a cleaner, more efficient transportation reduces costs for residents, improves air quality, cuts greenhouse gas emissions, improves food security, and overall adds mobility options for residents. This strategy focuses on increasing active and transit transportation options, electrifying the transit fleet, and improving the overall customer experience to encourage greater use.

2022-2024 Actions:

- **Metrobus ZIP Network:** Metrobus introduced the Zip Network providing more weekday and Saturday service on core routes 1, 2, 3 and 10, highlighted by 15-minute frequency during rush hours.
- **Metrobus on Demand:** A pilot shared-ride service that lets riders request trips in specific zones.
- **Metrobus System Improvements:** System wide schedule adjustments were made to improve on time performance, service adjustments were made to routes 1, 3 and 10 to address capacity issues and a second bus was added to route 16 during the day to reduce the headway from 60 minutes to 30 minutes.
- **Metrobus Added 8 Hybrid Buses to The Fleet:** Introduced hybrid buses with accessible features for replacement of end-of-life diesel buses as an interim step toward full electrification, reducing fuel consumption, noise, and emissions.
- **Completion and Adoption of a Zero-Emission Fleet Plan for Public Transit:** Developed a long-term strategy to transition Metrobus to a fully zero-emission fleet, outlining key steps, investment requirements, as well as expected savings.

2025-2026 Upcoming Actions:

- **Improve Customer Experience with Service Enhancements on Summer and Fall Schedules:** Implement changes to routes and schedules to improve reliability, frequency, and accessibility for transit users.
- **Increase Transit Sustainability by Converting 20 Additional Bus Shelters from Electrical to Solar Power:** Expand the use of solar-powered bus shelters, reducing energy consumption and supporting clean energy adoption.
- **Metrobus Route 33 Express:** Fast, convenient way to travel between three of our major transit hubs - The Village Shopping Centre, Avalon Mall and Memorial University Centre.
- **Metrobus Depot Upgrades to Future-Proof and Enable Zero-Emission Buses:** Upgrading infrastructure at the Metrobus facility to expand bus storage capacity and support the charging and maintenance of hybrid and battery electric buses.
- **Metrobus Introducing Battery Electric Buses:** Introducing battery electric buses for replacement of end-of-life diesel buses for purchases 2025 and onward, reducing fuel consumption, total cost of ownership costs, and emissions.

Transit and Active Transportation

- Improve and expand walking and cycling infrastructure.

Description:

Transportation is the single largest source of GHG emissions. Transitioning to a cleaner, more efficient transportation reduces costs for residents, improves air quality, cuts greenhouse gas emissions, improves food security, and overall adds mobility options for residents. This strategy focuses on increasing active and transit transportation options, electrifying the transit fleet, and improving the overall customer experience to encourage greater use.

2022-2024 Actions:

- **Sidewalk Snow Clearing Expansion:** Expanded the sidewalk snow clearing network including sections of the shared-use path network, making winter mobility safer and more accessible for pedestrians across more neighborhoods.
- **Majors Path & Portugal Cove Road:** Work began in 2024 to improve traffic flow, safety and the active transportation network in this area. Work will continue into 2026 with the transition a modern roundabout at the intersection of Portugal Cove Road, Major's Path, and Airport Heights Drive, which includes active transportation crossings connected to nearby paths.
- **Advanced Construction of Kelly's Brook Shared Use Path:** The conversion of Kelly's Brook Trail into a shared-use path with improved lighting and safer crossings is ongoing. Once complete, the trail will travel from Kings Bridge Road to Columbus Drive and provide a connection from the east end to the west end of the city, with many amenities and parks and destinations along the route.

- **Canada Drive Active Transportation Improvements:** Work is ongoing to enhance pedestrian and cyclist accessibility and safety through road rehabilitation and the addition of a new shared-use path from on Canada Drive from Columbus Drive to the Team Gushue Highway.
- **Elizabeth Avenue Active Transportation and Roadway Improvements**: As part of a street rehabilitation project, a new shared-use path was built along the north side of Elizabeth Avenue from Bonaventure Avenue to Paton Street. The project also includes road and sidewalk upgrades, underground utility work, and improved pedestrian crossings.
- **Back Line Sidewalk Extension (Ridgemount Street to Sunset Street):** Extending sidewalk infrastructure to improve walkability and connectivity in the area.
- **Expansion of Shared-Use Path Network:** Planning and construction of several additional **shared-use path projects** have been advanced — including in Airport Heights and along the Crosstown — to enhance citywide connectivity and support safe, multi-modal transportation for pedestrians and cyclists.
- **Crosswalks Safety Improvements:** The crosswalk safety improvement program resulted in the improvement of 12 crosswalks. Improvements included accessible curb ramps, curb extensions, rapid-flashing beacons, signage and or sightline improvements.
- **Active transportation Promotion – Trail Explorers:** Promoted active transportation through initiatives like International Walk to School Month and **Trail Explorers**.

2025-2026 Upcoming Actions:

- **Continue Implementing Shared-use Paths as per the Bike Master Plan:** Expand and enhance cycling and pedestrian infrastructure to create a more connected and accessible active transportation network.
- **Additional Expansion of Sidewalk Snow Clearing:** Further expansion of the sidewalk snow clearing network, including additional sections of the shared-use path network, are planned.
- **Active Transportation Promotion – Trail Explorers:** Further promote active transportation by continuing to offer Trail Explorers and offering a **Bike Trail Ride** to teach children the basics of safe biking practices in relation to trail and neighbourhood riding (May 24 at Rotary Park booked, others may be planned).

Priority 4:

Disaster Resilience and Emergency Preparedness

Preparing for the Storms

- Improve resilience and preparedness of key services and businesses to extreme weather events.
- Improve resilience and emergency preparedness of residents to extreme weather events.

Description:
Ensuring climate change considerations are incorporated into the City's decisions, emergency management and response is critical to reduce consequences from weather events. This strategy explores the implementation of assessments, systems and procedures to adapt to a changing climate.

2022-2024 Actions:

- **Incorporating Climate Change Risks in Hazard Identification Risk Analysis (HIRA):** The City conducted an all-departments effort to identify hazards and risks. HIRA involves systematically identifying potential hazards, assessing their risks, and working with control measures to minimize or eliminate those risks. This process informs both Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity planning.
- **Weather Risk Assessment & Alert System:** Thresholds when infrastructure becomes significantly impacted have been implemented to support operations in receiving alerts when weather hazards are likely to exceed thresholds and impact key systems. This is key, especially as thresholds may be passed more frequently

2025-2026 Upcoming Actions:

- **Conduct Risk Specific Response and Management Activities** – The City and Regional Fire Service will conduct a series of risk exercises to test plans and standard operating procedures for a significant threat.
- **Incorporating Climate Change Risks in Enterprise Risk Management Framework Development:** The continued development of the City's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) framework and risk registers for the various City divisions incorporates and assesses climate change and weather-related risks. This provides each City division with a listing/analysis of possible risk causes that drive weather/climate.
- **Climate Resilient Coastal Communities Partnership Project – Sea Level Rise Risk Assessment:** In collaboration with the Atlantic Infrastructure Management Network. This project is assessing coastal areas for risk to rising sea levels and storm surges. It will provide data to guide future planning and infrastructure improvements.
- **Conduct a Highly Localized Neighborhood-Level Climate Risk Resilience Assessment:** Perform detailed physical and social vulnerability mapping to identify areas most at risk from climate change impacts, followed by an adaptation plan to guide future resilience programs and infrastructure investments.

Priority 5:

Thriving Natural Environment and Agriculture

Protecting Green Spaces

- Protect surface and ground-water quality and quantity.
- Enhance the resilience of ecological assets from climate change.
- Improve local food security by supporting the food and agriculture sector.
- Monitor and plan for the spread of invasive species and infectious disease.

Description:
This strategy focuses on safeguarding drinking water sources, improving stormwater management, environmental stewardship through policies, infrastructure upgrades, and conservation efforts. This includes strengthening local food systems through urban agriculture, and supporting community gardens to help improve access to locally grown food

2022-2024 Actions:

- **Lundrigan's March Improvements:** Partnered with Newfoundland and Labrador Conservation Corps (**CCNL**) "Green Teams" and the Stewardship Association of Municipalities (**SAM**) to replace the environmental education on site, and conduct planting to limit impacts at the perimeter of the wetland.
- **Community Gardens:** Supported community gardening at the City's community centres and Victoria Park.
- **Environmental Education in Recreation Summer Camps:** Partnered with CCNL "Green Teams" to deliver environmental education and gardening programs to children in Recreation Summer Camps.

- **Naturalization of 11 Hectares of City Land:** Active naturalization restores areas with native trees, shrubs, to create more natural conditions. This process helps protect communities from climate change and invasive species, while also supporting pollinators like bees and butterflies.
- **Groundwater Watershed Protection:** The City continues to protect the watershed zones, which include groundwater that drains into the lakes used for local water supply. This protection was upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada in 2024.
- **Wetland Policy and Study 2A:** Protects Lundrigan's Marsh and all wetlands with an overall weighted Wetlands Ecosystem Services Protocol for Atlantic Canada (WESP-AC) score of 5 or greater, and all wetlands with an individual WESP grouped function score of 8.5 or greater. Wetlands with lower scores remain unprotected, while those not assessed require further assessment to develop their score.
- **Residential ReLeaf Program:** The St. John's ReLeaf program is initiative that expands the urban forest through City-provided vouchers for trees to residents to plant on private property. Since 2019, it has distributed nearly 700 vouchers to St. John's residents. This program is ongoing.
- **Edible Tree Planting:** With support from **Tree Canada's Edible Trees Grant** 65 fruit trees and berry bushes were added to the Bowring Park

Orchard.

2025-2026 Upcoming Actions:

- **Expansion of Municipal Habitat Stewardship Agreement:** The agreement is being expanded to include areas in Cape Spear and Southside Hills.
- **New H.G.R Mews Community Centre Community Garden:** New accessible community garden at the facility.
- **Promotion and Support Community Gardening:** Hosting a Community Gardener Gathering with partners (May 27 at Paul Reynolds Community Centre) and updating the City's **Community Gardens website**, guides, and forms.
- **Wetland Study Phase 2B:** Furthers the assessment of wetlands in development pressure areas, by performing WESP scoring to inform council on how City's Wetland Policy would apply to these.
- **Pursue Funding Opportunities to Develop an Urban Forest Masterplan:** The plan was created in 2006, which included a 5-year operational plan and a 20-year Management plan. An update would include new data, management frameworks and practices, and including climate change considerations.

A Low-Waste Future

- Improve public education to reduce overall waste production and improve waste diversion.
- Support the development of a circular economy.

Description:

Transitioning to a circular economy reduces waste, conserves resources, and supports sustainable economic growth by keeping materials in use for as long as possible. Raising awareness on waste reduction and diversion empower residents and businesses to make more sustainable choices. This strategy focuses on increasing waste diversion, promoting reuse and recycling, and encouraging businesses and institutions to adopt circular practices.

2022-2024 Actions:

- **Recycling Mandate and Clear Bags:** St. John's requires the use of clear bags for recycling, which prevents waste of useful materials, reduces raw material consumption, and lowers greenhouse gas emissions. On average, over 230 metric tonnes are recycled monthly through curbside collection.
- **Waste Management in Events:** Special event policies and procedures now include waste management plans to align event operations with the city's low-waste goals, helping to reduce landfill contributions during public gatherings.
- **Furniture Reuse Program:** Through partnerships with Home Again Furniture Bank and Habitat for Humanity ReStore, gently used furniture and household items are diverted from waste streams and provided to individuals and families in need. This ongoing program is supported by MMSB, Canadian Parks and Recreation, and the City of St. John's (**Link**).

- **Household Hazardous Waste and EPR Drop-Off:** The Robin Hood Bay Waste Management Facility offers a convenient "one-stop" drop-off for household hazardous waste and materials covered under provincial Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs, such as tires, waste oils, and paint, ensuring safe recycling and reuse.
- **Composting and Mulching Programs:** Curbside collection of yard waste and seasonal items like pumpkins and Christmas trees supports composting efforts that reduce landfill waste and emissions. Free compost giveaways at Robin Hood Bay have become a regular feature, encouraging community participation.
- **Residential Backyard Composting Education:** In partnership with **MUN Botanical Garden** and the **MMSB**, the City offers free composting courses online and in-person, along with discounted compost bins delivered at no cost to residents who complete the courses, fostering backyard composting practices (**Link**).
- **Digital Resources and Public Education:** The **CURBit** website and app were updated and provide accessible information on waste diversion, collection calendars, and weekly promotions. Additionally, free tours, presentations, and open house events at Robin Hood Bay educate schools, community groups, government bodies, and businesses about

waste diversion and facility operations.

2025-2026 Upcoming Actions:

- **Developed a Strategy to Increase Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI) Waste Diversion:** Identifying policies and programs to reduce landfill waste from businesses and institutions while promoting recycling and resource recovery.
- **Circular Economy Incubator:** Collaborate with Project Zero econext Circular Economy Incubator to support participants to ensure they are competitive and informed of the local challenges, and consider municipal needs as part of their business development plans (**link**).
- **Upgrading Composters in Community gardens:** Through a partnership with the MMSB, bins were upgraded to compost tumblers for Community gardens.
- **Education:** Education and ongoing waste diversion programs continue in addition to efforts to collaborate with a growing circular economy industry.

Priority 6:
Clean Energy for Resilience

Expanding our Options

- Supplement the electricity grid with wind farms and ensure the electricity system is planned and managed to handle supply and demand.
- Develop a partnership with Memorial University of Newfoundland to decarbonize the district energy system.
- Expand landfill gas capture systems

Description:
Through the transition to clean energy, is required. The City's plan is to collaborate in the implementation of low-carbon district energy systems like the one at Memorial University, capturing landfill gas for its reuse to displace energy needs, and potentially adding wind energy if needed later in the transition pathway. All these strategies focus on expanding sustainable energy systems, cutting emissions, improving energy independence, and supporting innovation.

2022-2024 Actions:

- **Explore Beneficial Reuse of Landfill Gas:** Conducting assessments to identify opportunities for converting captured landfill gas at Robin Hood Bay Regional Waste Management Facility into a useful energy source, reducing emissions and supporting sustainability goals. As a reliable and long-term source of energy, this has potential to help displace other high GHG intensive energy used and improve reliability of the system locally.
- **MUN:** Ongoing alignment efforts were undertaken with the Sustainability Office of MUN. MUN is working on replacing one fuel-fired steam boiler with smaller electric boilers, cutting 10.5M litres of fuel use and 28,440 tons of CO2e.

2025-2026 Upcoming Actions:

- **Decision on Beneficial Reuse of Landfill Gas:** Complete assessment and make decision on Robinhood Bay Regional Waste Management Facility potential as an energy source for the community.

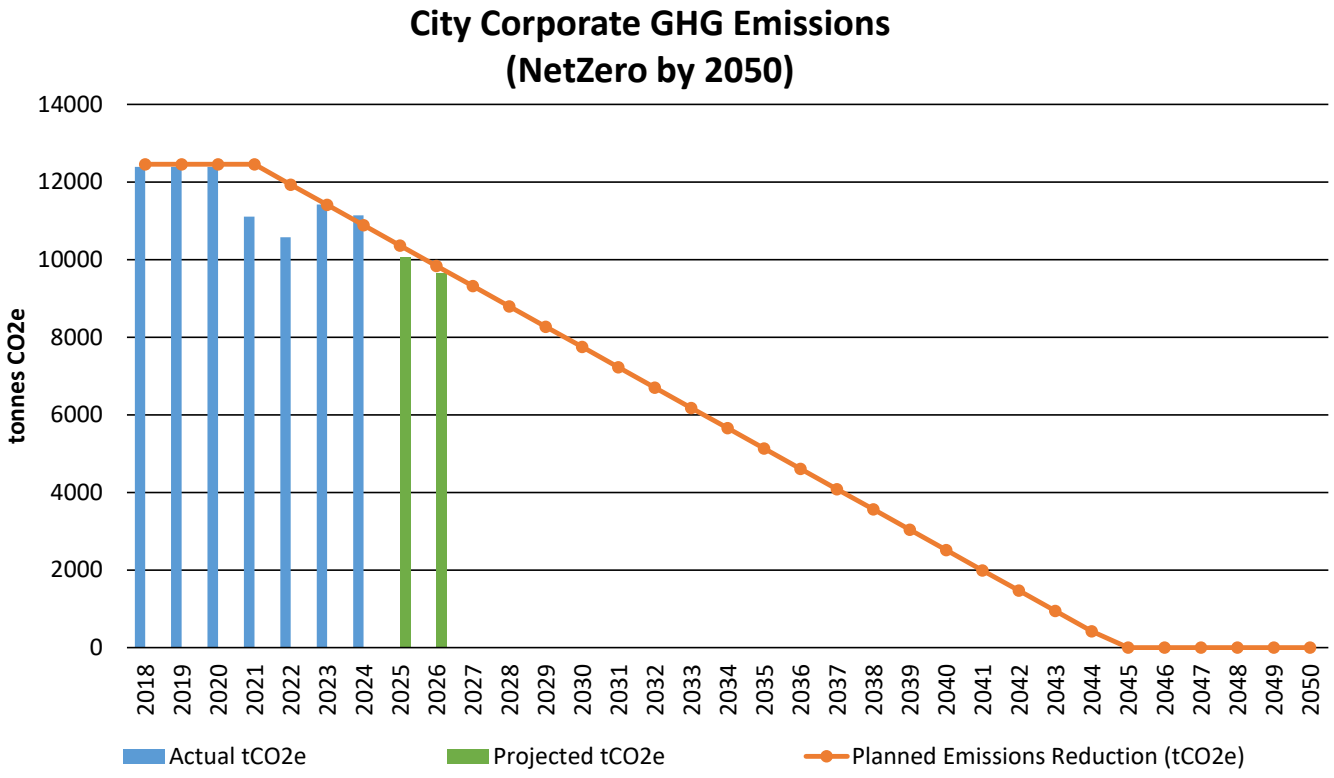
Progress by the Numbers

The City's Corporate Emissions

In line with the City's community targets to reach net-zero for the whole community in the Resilient St. John's Climate Plan, Council committed to the following corporate operations GHG reductions:

- 40% reduction by 2030 and a stretch target of 50%
- net-zero by 2050 at the latest

Emissions directly linked to the City's operations were reduced have been reduced by 10% from the 2018 baseline. As projects such as the building retrofits are commissioned and come into operation, this reduction is expected to increase to 19% in 2025-2026 and to 22% by 2026-2027 based on currently approved projects. The increase in emissions in 2023 was attributed to an increased level of service (e.g., increased snow clearing, additional water pumping to meet increasing demand).



Progress by the Numbers

St. John's Community Emissions

The following are directional indicators to assess if progress can be expected in the City's GHG Emissions as a community. A reassessment of this emission inventory would take place with the update of the plan in 2027, leveraging 2026 census data other yearly data.

Sector	Resilient St. John's Climate Plan Energy Transition		Actions Update (2022-2024)		
	Long Term Goals to Achieve Net-Zero by 2050 (2022-2050)	**Estimated Medium-Term Goals** (2022-2026)	**Status** (Started, On-track, Behind)	**Summary of Update**	
Building Growth/New Development	Focus 10% of new development in intensification zones, the remainder should continue according to current population placement	Densification is increased and encouraged. See transportation and active transportation below	Started	Housing text amendments, intended to increase density of housing. Allowing multi-unit residential buildings in more land use types.	Indicators are being developed.

Sector	Resilient St. John's Climate Plan Energy Transition		Actions Update (2022-2024)		
	Long Term Goals to Achieve Net-Zero by 2050 (2022-2050)	**Estimated Medium-Term Goals** (2022-2026)	**Status** (Started, On-track, Behind)	**Summary of Update**	
New Buildings Energy Performance	All new buildings are substantially more efficient and heated by electric systems by 2030. Proposed timeline: NBC 2020 (small buildings & houses): **2022:** 2020 NBC s.9.36 **2024:** 10% better (NBC 2020 Tier 2) **2026:** 20% better (NBC 2020 Tier 3) **2030:** 40% better (NBC 2020 Tier 4) NEBC 2020 (commercial & industrial): **2022-2023:** NEBC 2020 Tier 1 **2024:** 25% better (NEBC 2020 Tier 2) **2026:** 50% better (NEBC 2020 Tier 3) **2030:** 60% better (NEBC 2020 Tier 4)	NBC 2020 Tier 2 and NECB 2020 Tier 1 adopted. -37% GJ from Heating Oil -12% GJ from Electricity -27% GJ from Propane -51% GJ from Wood (from 2016 values, assuming population increases)	Behind	Building Code Accelerator	NBC 2020 Tier 1 was adopted in 2023. Pathway in-development for remaining tiers.

Sector	Resilient St. John's Climate Plan Energy Transition		Actions Update (2022-2024)		
	Long Term Goals to Achieve Net-Zero by 2050 (2022-2050)	**Estimated Medium-Term Goals** (2022-2026)	**Status** (Started, On-track, Behind)	**Summary of Update**	
Existing Buildings Energy Performance Retrofits	Achieve 50% thermal savings and 50% electrical savings in 100% of all existing dwellings by 2045. Prioritize energy efficiency over fuel switching unless heating system needs replacement. All heating systems are electric by 2030.		Started	Corporate Energy Performance Contract GNPP neighbourhood retrofit demonstration project Energy Concierge Service Collaboration	17 City owned facilities retrofitted 166 units of housing being retrofitted. Over 1,100 grants of the 6,598 from Greener Homes Program could be assumed were for St. John's residents (2.7-3% of all housing units).
Public Transit	30% increase ridership by 2030 50% increase ridership by 2040 2% per year (from baseline) per year after that. Electrify transit system by 2045, starting in 2025 all new buses are electric.	+6% of all trips are on Transit (from 2016 values) Starting in 2024-2025 all new buses are electric.	On-track	Improvements and ridership increasing measures. Pathway for electrification adopted in 2024.	As of January 2024, Metrobus ridership up 35% over 2022 values. End of life replacement buses starting in 2024-2025 to be hybrid, and 2025-2026 battery electric buses.

Sector	Resilient St. John's Climate Plan Energy Transition		Actions Update (2022-2024)		
	Long Term Goals to Achieve Net-Zero by 2050 (2022-2050)	**Estimated Medium-Term Goals** (2022-2026)	**Status** (Started, On-track, Behind)	**Summary of Update**	
Active Transportation	Increase mode share by 50% for short trips (<2km walking <10 km for biking) by 2050	short trips (<2km walking <10 km for biking): +17.5% trips on Bike +12% trips Walking -2.3% trips in Personal Vehicles (from 2020 values)	Started	The City has implemented significant improvements to its active transportation network. Including Kelly's Brook trail, Canada Drive, Elizabeth Avenue, Major's Path, Airport Heights, and a Crosstown Share-Used path.	According to Google Environmental Insights Data: Trips overall increased by 22% from 2020 to 2024. The share of trips done in Automobiles saw a decline of 2%. Cycling and On-foot trips (long and short) have seen a 25% increase each on trips overall (from 2020 values).
Municipal Fleet	100% EV by 2045	6-7 light duty vehicles are electric (at least)	On-track	Light duty fleet pilot project and infrastructure capacity to grow installed. Pathway to full electrification funded for 2025.	2 light duty vehicles pilot already in fleet 2024, adding 5 light duty vehicles in 2025. 8 fleet EV Chargers installed 2024, 4 additional installed in 2025.

Sector	Resilient St. John's Climate Plan Energy Transition		Actions Update (2022-2024)		
	Long Term Goals to Achieve Net-Zero by 2050 (2022-2050)	**Estimated Medium-Term Goals** (2022-2026)	**Status** (Started, On-track, Behind)	**Summary of Update**	
Personal Vehicles and Light Duty Commercial Vehicles	100% new vehicles sales are EVs by 2035.	Approximately: 540 battery electric vehicles 607 hybrid or plug-in-hybrid vehicles in the City (there were 82 EVs, and 263 hybrids in the City in 2020).	On-track	6 Municipal Public Level 2 charging sites. 6 more public sites approved.	Over 800 battery electric vehicles (of the over 1,245 in the province) could be expected to be in St. John's Over 3,000 hybrids could be expected to be in St. John's.
MUN/NL Health Services District Energy System	Replacement for existing fuel oil boilers with electric systems (by 2030)	-12% GJ from heating oil from NL Health Services / MUN	On-track	Electrification of MUN campus	Ongoing (**Link**)
Solid Waste	Divert most organic waste from landfill by 2040 to composting facility. 80% of landfill gas produced is captured by 2040, and re-used.	Organic waste tonnage diverted ASAP (expected to reach 23,300 tonnes per year by 2025) Landfill gas capture and re-use is progressed	Behind On-track	Funding support from Food Canada was not secured. Reconfiguring of proposal is ongoing Beneficial reuse expression of interest was positive. The City has begun a feasibility and business planning process.	Organic Diversion metrics TBD 60% of landfill under temporary or permanent cover for capture (40 of 65 hectares. Remainder area is currently active dumping, stockpiling and leachate collection).

Sector	Resilient St. John's Climate Plan Energy Transition		Actions Update (2022-2024)		
	Long Term Goals to Achieve Net-Zero by 2050 (2022-2050)	**Estimated Medium-Term Goals** (2022-2026)	**Status** (Started, On-track, Behind)	**Summary of Update**	
Tree Planting/ Naturalization	The 11.3 hectares of urban reforestation are maintained as carbon sequestration efforts. Additional planting will support closing the carbon gap.	11.3 hectares naturalized and no major increases in mowing areas	N/A	11.3 hectares of City land were naturalized and no major increases in mowing areas have moved forward. ReLeaf program plants over 175 tree vouchers for 2025 Update planned for Urban Forest Management Plan	11.3 hectares of City land +700 trees have been funded to date by ReLeaf
Energy Generation	30 wind turbines (3MW each) to be developed and meet demand as required	None unless from Landfill Gas	N/A	No additional plans to meet demand started beyond re-use of landfill gas.	Feasibility of utilization for energy, and conceptual design being completed by end of 2025.
Marine & Aviation	Marine transportation reduces GHG use intensity by 50% Aviation is 100% net-zero by 2050 Heavy duty transport trucks reach 25% new sales being electric by 2035, then stays constant until 2050.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A