PEACHLAND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

DRAFT

Prepared by the Peachland Climate Action Task Force,
a committee of Council

April 24, 2026

NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR MEDIA QUOTING

This draft Peachland Climate Action Plan is being shared for comment in advance of preparing the final Plan.

We invite Peachland residents and District staff to provide constructive comments by May 8.

Please send your comments to

pcatf.o7ei8@slmail.me

and include your name and either your home address (to confirm your Peachland residency) or your District staff position. We will use your comments to adapt the plan before submitting it to Council. We will not share your comments other than among the members of the Climate Action Task Force.

Thank you.

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We acknowledge that the work of this Task Force has taken place on the unceded traditional ancestral lands of the syilx/Okanagan People.

Many people contributed to the development of this Plan, and we greatly appreciate the time they took to help us.

First and foremost, we want to thank those Peachland residents who completed our survey in 2024, who participated in our community conversations in 2025, who spoke with us at the 2024 and 2025 open houses, and who attended our meetings. We have tried to faithfully represent your contributions to this process.

We would also like to acknowledge the participation and input from early Task Force members who have since stepped back: the late Councillor Keith Thom, community members Bill Aylesworth and Ethel Johnston, former Director of Operations Shawn Grundy, and Corporate Officer Jennifer Sawatzky.

The following people made presentations to the Task Force for which we are very grateful:

- Dr. Mary Stockdale (Adjunct Professor, UBCO), one of the primary drivers of the Vernon Climate Plan, gave us training for the Ambassador Program that was used successfully in Vernon for community engagement. The Task Force thinks something similar may be useful in implementing our Plan.
- Laurie Cordell (Mgr. of Planning Services, City of Armstrong), one of the primary drivers for the Vernon Plan, shared experiences and advice in developing a plan, noting pitfalls to avoid and suggesting areas we should consider sharing directly from the Vernon Plan.
- Kevin McCarty (Climate Action Specialist, City of Vernon), hired as the main implementor of the Vernon Plan, shared implementation stories, providing advice related to achievable actions and public engagement.
- Sahar Safaie (Climate Adaptation Solution Director, Arcadis, Project Lead for the BC Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment) shared insights into the BC Resilience Plan and advised how we could include concepts in our Plan.
- Cecilia Jacques (Climate Action Secretariat Engagement Manager, Accelerating Community Energy Transformation [ACET]), provided us with an overview of ACET, describing how its initiatives could assist in implementing the Peachland Plan.
- Ben Somoni (Executive Director, Youth Climate Corps BC) introduced us to the Corps and described how they could assist in implementing the Peachland Plan.
- Andrew Gage (Staff Lawyer, West Coast Environmental Law) described an initiative to hold Big Oil responsible for the costs to adapt to climate change facing municipalities.

We would also like to acknowledge John Martin (Community Emergency Liaison, Casa Loma, West Kelowna) who discussed with Task Force members how their Community Emergency Liaison system works, and how it could be adapted in Peachland.

ACRONYMS

ACET	Accelerating Community Energy Transition
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle
BEEPS	Bat Education and Ecological Protection Society
CARIP	Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program
CEEP	Peachland's Community Energy and Emissions Plan
CO2	carbon dioxide
COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
CPAP	Continuous Positive Airway Pressure
CWD	Chronic Wasting Disease
EoC	Emergency Operations Center
EV	Electric Vehicle
FCM	Federation of Canadian Municipalities
GCM	Global Climate Models
GHG	greenhouse gas (carbon dioxide, methane, etc.)
GJ	Gigajoule
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
kV	KiloVolt
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LGCAP	Local Government Climate Action Program
MERV Filters	Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value
MWh	Megawatt hour
OASISS	Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society
OBWB	Okanagan Basin Water Board
OCP	Official Community Plan
OFTF	Okanagan Forest Task Force
ONA	Okanagan Nation Alliance
PCAP	Peachland Climate Action Plan
PCAT	Peachland Climate Action Task Force
PWC	Peachland Wellness Centre
RDCO	Regional District of the Central Okanagan
TOTA	Thompson Okanagan Tourist Association
UBCM	Union of BC Municipalities
UN	United Nations
UV	Ultraviolet
WFN	Westbank First Nation

WORDS TO KNOW (GLOSSARY)

Climate: The prevailing weather conditions over a long period of time in any given place. Climate is what we expect.

Weather: The state of the atmosphere at any given place and time. Weather is what we get.

Ecosystem: Dynamic networks of living organisms (plants, animals, fungi, microbes) together with the non-living physical elements (soil, water, air, minerals, sunlight, temperature) and the processes by which they all interact and depend on one another. Ecosystems range widely in size and can be embedded within larger ecosystems. Ecosystems are natural communities.

Emissions: Greenhouse gases (GHG) such as carbon dioxide (CO^2) and methane (CH^4) that enter the atmosphere when we extract and burn fossil fuels as well as from livestock farming. In excess, these gases are a form of *climate pollution* that is causing the Earth to overheat (global warming), so we need to reduce that pollution in order to tackle climate change.

Mitigation: The actions that can be taken to help reduce the climate impacts of human activities (e.g., cutting climate pollution). This is about helping prevent climate change from getting worse. Every reduction in pollution reduces future risks.

Adaptation: The actions that can be taken to get ready for the impacts that are already happening and the ones to come. This is about preparing ourselves and our community to better deal with the negative effects of climate pollution.

Resilience: The strength of communities and ecosystems to withstand and recover from the impacts of climate pollution. Building resilience is about ensuring that we can keep our community functioning as close to normal as possible. Resilience depends on both mitigation and adaptation.

Low-carbon: Describes something that minimizes the use of fossil fuels and thus climate pollution. Zero-carbon means no climate pollution.

INTRODUCTION

About the Peachland Climate Action Plan

Peachland Council formed the Peachland Climate Action Task Force (PCAT) to assist Council in being environmental stewards and improving community resilience to long-term shifts in weather patterns commonly known as climate change.

Initially the PCAT's role was limited to providing advice to Council, however, it soon became clear that the Task Force would need to step up and prepare the Peachland Climate Action Plan (Plan) themselves; a significant undertaking for an all-volunteer group. The result, after two years of dedicated effort and consultation with the community, is this Plan – prepared for Peachlanders, by Peachlanders.

The document is structured as follows:

Executive Summary: This is a brief overview of the document. COMING IN FINAL VERSION.

Introduction: This details the Who, What, When, Where, and Why of the Plan.

Climate Projections: This is a summary of Peachland's current contributions to climate pollution and projections from various sources regarding the forecasted changes to Peachland's climate.

Recommended Actions: This section looks at nine Focus Areas of life in Peachland and provides specific recommendations for actions to be taken by the District and by community members. The Focus Areas are:

- Health & Wellness
- Food & Agriculture
- Water
- Buildings
- Energy
- Transportation
- Local Economy
- District Assets & Operations
- Wildlife Habitat & Ecosystems

The recommended actions serve two related purposes: to reduce the District's and the community's contributions to the pollution that causes climate change, and to prepare Peachlanders for the current and future impacts of climate change.

Next Steps: This section provides suggestions as to how the District should move forward to consider and act upon the Plan's recommendations to ensure that this Plan does not just sit on a shelf. This includes implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and updating.

Appendices: Provide supplemental information related to the Plan. COMING IN FINAL VERSION.

Why We Need a Climate Action Plan

Climate change is not something that people will only experience somewhere else and in the future; we are already feeling the effects of it now in our community. In the Okanagan, we have experienced and can expect to experience:

Figure 1: The Effects of Climate Change in the Okanagan
Source: https://retooling.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/region_thompson-okanagan.pdf

Climate change is tied to changes in average global temperatures. The more significant the increase in global average temperatures, the more significant will be changes in our local climate.

While there are small natural fluctuations in global average temperatures over time, scientists who study climate unanimously agree that the recent shift in average temperature is caused by human activity. The direct cause is the release of climate pollution (technical term: greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide and methane), primarily from the production and burning of coal, oil, and gas, as well as burning wood.

It is undeniable to scientific experts that the rise in climate pollution has caused the rise in temperatures. Two diagrams show this relationship.

The first shows global average temperatures have been increasing in recent decades.

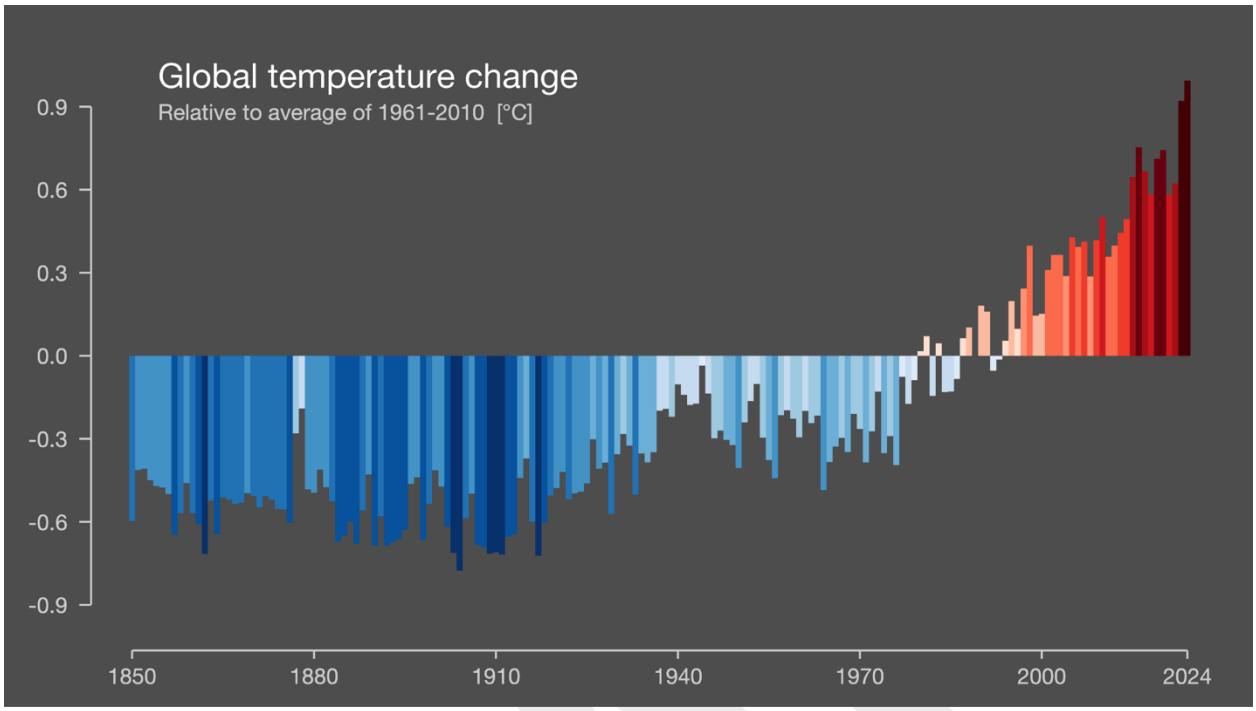

Figure 2: Global Temperature Change
Source: University of Reading, https://showyourstripes.info/c/globe

The second illustrates how climate pollution from human activity has increased since 1850. Note that Non-CO^2 emissions mean methane and other GHGs.

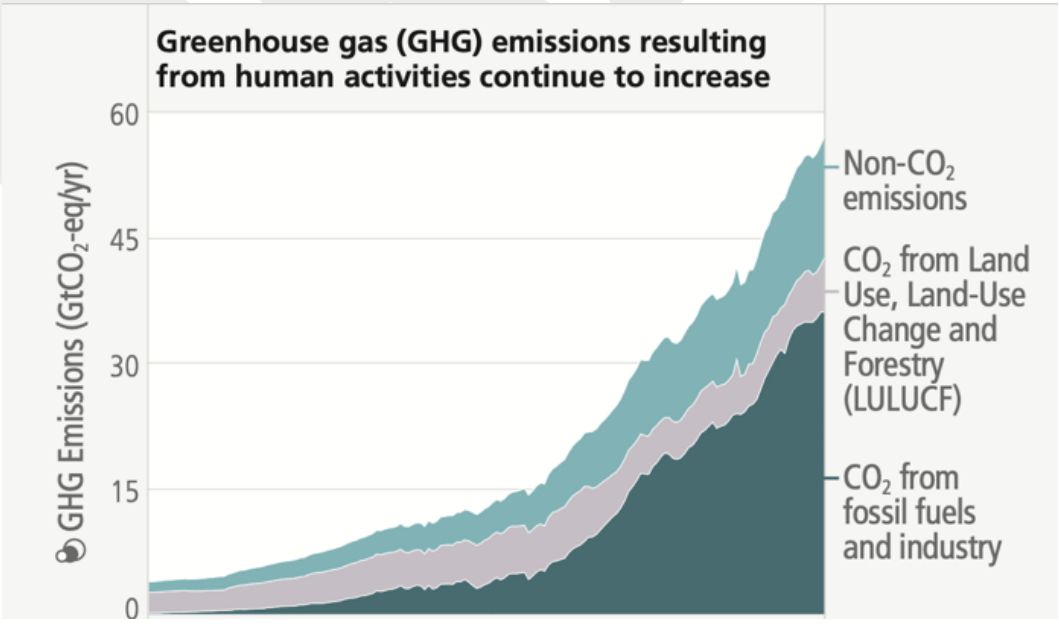

Figure 3: Greenhouse gas emissions
Source: IPCC Assessment Report 6 - Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023, fig 2.1

Temperature increases due to climate pollution are sped up by positive feedbacks. Positive feedbacks are processes where the outcome builds momentum for further changes in the same direction. For example, outcomes from higher temperatures will themselves cause even higher temperatures.

Climate scientists have determined that to minimize climate change impacts, the world needs to keep the global average temperature rise (relative to pre-industrial times) to 1.5 C. To achieve this goal, the world needs to become net-zero carbon by 2050. Net-zero carbon is a state where new processes are extracting as much climate pollution from the atmosphere as is being added.

It is the responsibility of every country, every province, every municipality, and every individual to take steps to reduce their own climate pollution. This is especially true in Canada, one of a handful of countries with the highest emissions of climate pollution per person (Our World in Data). While this may seem a daunting task for any one individual, the District of Peachland and Peachlanders would be short-sighted to ignore this responsibility to each other and to the rest of the world.

We also recognize our community does not have unlimited financial resources. Our largest sources of climate pollution are transportation, heating and cooling of buildings, food and agriculture, and waste management. If we can prioritize efforts on reducing climate pollution from these sources, we can ensure that our actions will have the greatest impact. That is not to say other topics we discuss in the Plan are unimportant; any actions we can make, big or small, are steps in the right direction.

Doing our part to reduce our contributions to climate pollution is important, but our work doesn't stop there. While we can hope that the world's collective efforts at reducing climate pollution will result in a maximum global average temperature increase of less than 1.5 C, we also need to be prepared to deal with the impacts from larger temperature increases. Federal and provincial governments encourage resilience plans for high emission scenarios. We will need to take steps as a community to prepare for the impacts of these types of climate change hazards. In addition to preparing us for those risks, the steps outlined in this Plan will help us build stronger community bonds so that we can take care of each other and our non-human neighbours.

Types of Actions We are Recommending

The Plan identifies actions that the District and individual Peachlanders can take both to reduce our climate pollution (mitigating the severity of climate change) and to prepare for increased hazards (adapting to the changing climate).

Actions to reduce our impacts will be in four main areas:

- **Taking steps to reduce the amount of energy used to perform everyday tasks.** An example would be installing energy-efficient windows and more insulation to reduce the amount of energy needed to heat and cool your house.
- **Changing the type of energy used to perform everyday tasks to one that reduces climate pollution.** An example would be switching from an internal combustion engine car to an electric vehicle (EV). Another example would be switching from a gas furnace to an electric heat pump.
- **Changing how we perform everyday tasks by reducing or eliminating some actions that consume a lot of fossil fuels.** An example would be taking public transit instead of driving a vehicle to and from work and other destinations. Another example would be holding meetings online instead of in-person.
- **Increasing Peachland's capacity to capture and contain carbon from the atmosphere.** An example would be planting native, drought-resistant trees and vegetation that will convert carbon dioxide in the air to oxygen.

Actions to prepare for the hazards from climate change will help to keep our community safe and resilient in the face of local and regional impacts. These include a range of activities such as improving emergency preparedness and better protecting vulnerable people and assets.

About the Peachland Climate Action Task Force

The Peachland Climate Action Task Force was established by the Council in January of 2024 (initially called the Climate Sustainability and Resiliency Task Force). The members of the Task Force are:

Councillor: Rick Ingram

Community Members: Shelly Elverum, Sheila Kerr, Gail Karish, Mark Meisner, Craig Thompson, and Alex Morrison (representing the Peachland Watershed Protection Alliance)

Staff Technical Advisor: Jason Sandberg, Director of Engineering and Operations

Staff Admin Support: Karen Babin, Legislative Administrator

How We Sought Input from the Community

We held over 50 PCAT meetings. Notices were posted on the District's website and the meetings were open to the public. To ensure that the Plan would be rooted in our community values and address the most pressing concerns, we used diverse means to seek input from Peachlanders at several steps along the way, including:

- Hosting a booth at the Peachland Open House in June 2024. Peachlanders had a chance to share their concerns and experiences at this venue.
- Developing an online survey which was open for community input during November and December 2024.

- Hosting a booth at the 2025 Peachland Open House.
- Holding 7 Community Conversations through the late spring and summer of 2025, seeking input from various segments of our community to solicit their thoughts about our specific Plan Focus Areas. Community Conversations involved the following groups: Health & Wellness practitioners, Youth, Seniors' Rental community (PSSS), Service Clubs and the Chamber of Commerce, Manufactured Homes residents, the Bat Education and Ecological Protection Society (BEEPS), and the Community at large.
- Making available a draft version of the Climate Action Plan for community and Council review and feedback in April 2026.

BUILDING ON THE CEEP AND OTHER PLANS

In researching and writing this Plan, the PCAT considered earlier plans from Peachland, other BC communities (see list below), the Province, and the federal government.

Peachland's Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) was written in 2021 with community engagement that included two workshops with stakeholder groups and an online public survey. This document provided a good analysis of the sources of Peachland's climate pollution. It identified 6 "Big Moves" detailing actions to mitigate that pollution. Many of the recommendations from that document are included in our Plan. However, the CEEP only addressed actions by the public to reduce pollution. It did not address the District's climate pollution or the needed actions by the District and the public to prepare for the hazards of climate change.

Prior to the CEEP, Peachland took several climate actions including:

- signing the BC Climate Action Charter in 2009
- preparing community energy and emissions inventory reports
- preparing reports and applying for funding from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) and the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP)
- establishing the Mayor's Task Force on Climate Change in 2014
- joining the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection program in 2019
- hiring a part-time Climate Action Coordinator in 2021 (9-month position)

Other BC plans and reports that were reviewed in developing Peachland's Climate Action Plan included the following:

- The Vernon Climate Action Plan (2021)
- The Nanaimo Climate Change Resilience Strategy (2020)
- Climate Projections for the Okanagan Region (2020)
- Interior Health - Climate Change Sustainability Roadmap (2023)
- cleanBC - Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (2022)

- Ntityx Resources - Westbank First Nation Forestry Seven Generation Plan
- OBWB - Flood Risk Mapping for the Okanagan Valley Watershed, District of Peachland - Peachland Creek Water Supply Under Future Climate Assessment (2024)
- Peachland Integrated Asset Management and Climate Change Planning report (2025)
- RDCO - 2021 Update of the Central Okanagan Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory
- Golder Associates Ltd. - Report on Initial Phases in the Development of a Groundwater Protection Plan, District of Peachland (2007)
- Syilix Water Declaration (2014)

You can find links to these and other source documents in Appendix 1: Sources and References. WILL BE INCLUDED IN FINAL VERSION

Building a Healthy, Connected Future Together

Climate action in Peachland is about more than infrastructure or policies; it's about caring for one another. By combining the wisdom and experience of our Seniors with the energy and creativity of younger generations, our community can face change with confidence and compassion. Each small action contributes to a stronger and more connected Peachland. Together, we can build a community where everyone, at every age, can breathe easier, stay safe, and continue to thrive in the years ahead.

CLIMATE PROJECTIONS

Climate is what we expect, and weather is what we get. We expect certain kinds of weather at different times of the year. We often plan daily activities around the weather forecast; those short-term changes in the atmosphere that can bring a late autumn frost to the garden or delay a golf outing due to rain. Based on our climate experience, we don't expect to be able to go snowshoeing around here in summer, nor do we expect a snow-free winter in Peachland!

Scientists who study climate look at changes in the atmosphere over decades rather than days. Their research tells us global average temperatures have been increasing since humans started burning fossil fuels in the Industrial Revolution, with the rate of increase being significantly faster since 1950. In 2024, the hottest year on record, the global average temperature was estimated to be between 1.46C and 1.62C warmer than the pre-industrial average. While a degree or so may not seem like much, these changes in climate are already having and will continue to have significant impacts on our lives and the natural world in which we live.

Scientists prepare projections for long-term changes in average temperatures under different scenarios for climate pollution emissions.

In the Central Okanagan, these are the projected changes in climate in the high emissions scenario:

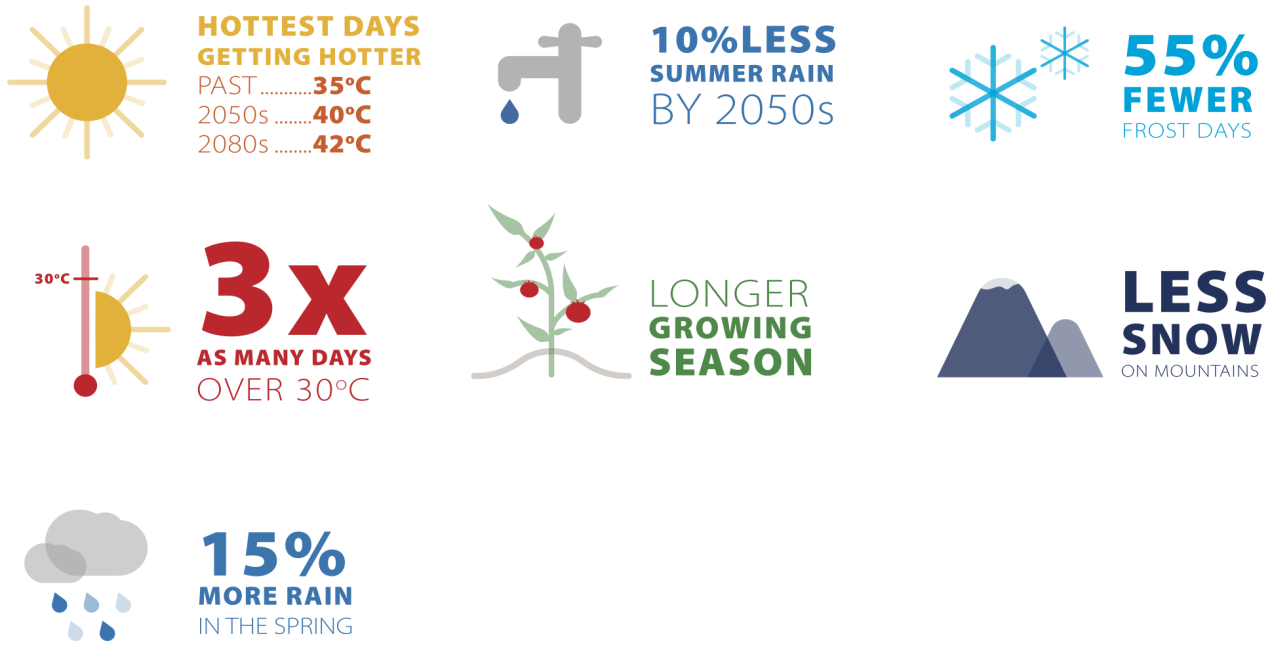

Figure 4: Projected Climate Changes in the Okanagan.
Source: https://retooling.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/region_thompson-okanagan.pdf

In Peachland, the number of hot days in a year (hotter than 32C) is expected to increase significantly over time while the number of cold days (colder than -15C) is expected to decrease.

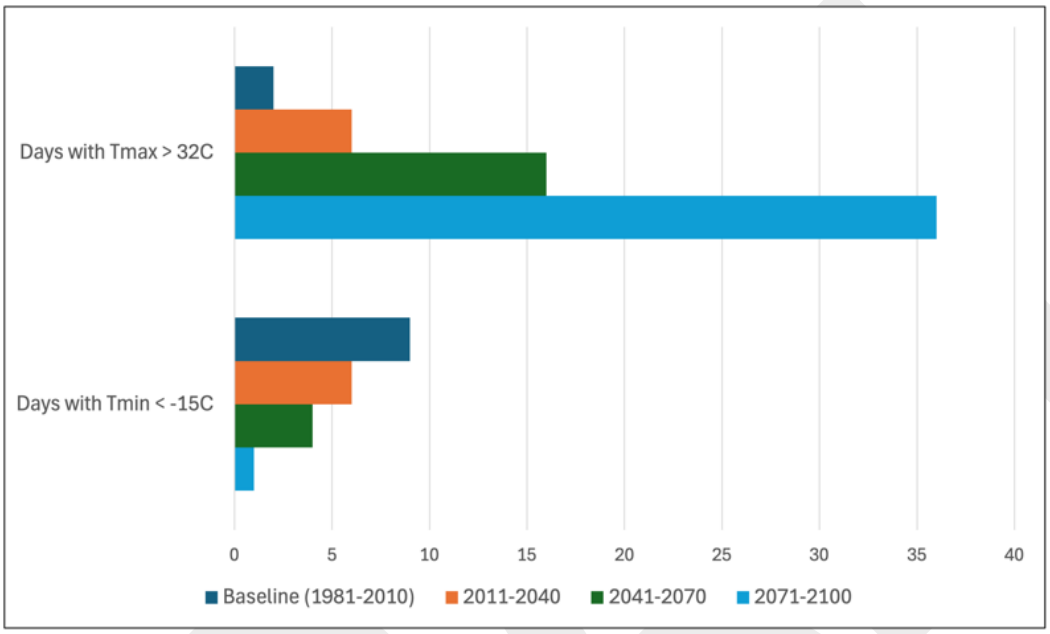

Figure 5: Projected Hot and Cold days.
Source: https://retooling.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/region_thompson-okanagan.pdf

More hot days and fewer cold days create conditions that can lead to Peachland experiencing more climate hazards. The following table provides a summary of climate hazards that we have experienced and are expected to experience more here in Peachland, as well as changes in key climate measures that will affect the severity or likelihood of each hazard occurring.

Table 1: Climate Hazards
Source: Integrated Asset Management and Climate Change Planning, District of Peachland, 2025

Climate Hazard	Climate Indicator Influence on Severity/Likelihood
Wildfire	Increasing summer temperatures, drier summers and an increasing frequency of very hot days will contribute to conditions conducive to wildfires.
Extreme Heat	Rising summer temperatures and an increasing number of very hot days indicate an increasing frequency of extreme heat events, especially towards the latter part of the century.

Drought	Rising summer temperatures and decreasing summer precipitation will increase the likelihood of conditions conducive to drought.
Flooding * Landslides & Erosion	Precipitation indicators and IDF curves (intensity, duration and frequency) data show that the intensity, duration and frequency of extreme rainfall events are estimated to increase which may lead to more flooding events. (*Note that extreme rainfall events can also lead to landslides and erosion)
Extreme Wind	Research indicates an increased frequency of high-speed wind events in the future for the District.
Freeze/Thaw Cycles	Global Climate Models (GCMs) show that while warming weather is causing a decrease in the number of freeze/thaw cycles, they will still comprise enough days per year over future time periods to be considered a relevant hazard.
Extreme Cold	While GCMs show extremely cold weather being less frequent and of lower magnitude, very cold days still comprise enough days per year over future time periods to be considered a relevant hazard.

* - added by Climate Action Task Force

What is a Split Polar Vortex?

In mid-January 2024, the Okanagan experienced temperatures as low as -30°C. Because of that, the 2024 crops of grapes, cherries, and other stone fruit were almost completely wiped out. A similar, though not quite as severe, event in December 2022 caused extensive damage to the 2023 crops. These events were the result of what's known as a disrupted or split polar vortex, a phenomenon that brings cold arctic air much further south than normal.

FOCUS AREAS

The following sections cover the nine focus areas of this Plan. In each of those focus areas, the Plan includes recommended actions to be taken by the District and by residents. The actions are classified using up to six features: type of action, related objectives, timeline, contribution to reducing emissions, contribution to developing resilience, and investment. These are described below.

TYPE OF ACTION

This refers to the type of action according to the following categories.

- **Plan:** plans or strategies to either establish new direction, or embed climate readiness into existing plans or strategies
- **Assessment:** analysis or research to gather additional information about potential climate changes, impacts or solutions
- **Policy:** establishing or updating rules and regulations to provide direction for projects, initiatives, or programs, through a policy, guideline or standard
- **Procedure:** develop and implement new operational procedures or adapt existing practices and procedures
- **Program:** develop new programs to advance climate readiness
- **Project:** implement projects to advance climate readiness ranging from operational upgrades to asset improvements, including green and hard infrastructure projects
- **Partnership:** establish new or strengthen existing partnerships with key stakeholders (both internal and external)
- **Engagement:** conduct outreach and engagement within the IAP2 Spectrum
- **Resourcing:** establish new positions, hire new staff, and/or modify job descriptions or roles

RELATED OBJECTIVES

This refers to the specific numbered objectives for the focus area.

TIMELINE

This refers to the time frame over which the action will be initiated/implemented according to the following categories.

- **Ongoing:** (occur on a continuous basis)
- **Short-term:** implemented in the next 1-2 years
- **Medium-term:** implemented in the next 3-5 years
- **Long-term:** to be implemented in 5+ years

CONTRIBUTION TO REDUCING POLLUTION

This one-to-four-star ranking refers to the approximate contribution of the action towards reducing climate pollution (whether by reducing emissions or storing CO^2 in healthy ecosystems), with one star being a small contribution and four stars being a large contribution.

CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPING RESILIENCE

This one-to-four-star ranking refers to the approximate contribution of the action towards developing resilience, with one star being a small contribution and four stars being a large contribution.

INVESTMENT

This refers to a rough estimate of the investment required to implement the action in the following ranges.

- **N/A** cost is unknown
- **$ Very Low** ($0 - 10,000)
- **$$ Low** ($10,000 - 25,000)
- **$$$ Medium** ($25,000 - $100,000)
- **$$$$ High** ($100,000+)

1. HEALTH & WELLNESS

About this Focus Area

Peachland is recognized for the pleasant lifestyle it offers, with its relative ease of access to an incredible environment, healthy foods, and activities supporting wellness. Peachland has a range of health and wellness service providers, including a medical clinic, dental office, one medical lab, two pharmacies, physiotherapists, the Peachland Wellness Centre, massage therapists, and links to virtual and in-person counsellors in the region. Additionally, the Community Centre is supported by a generator and could function as an emergency cooling center. When we refer to health and wellness, we mean more than lifestyle or available services, but also the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual aspects of our wellbeing.

Less obvious are the health and wellness challenges faced by our community and individual residents. Climate change, combined with existing structural challenges (particularly energy and transportation), directly affect health outcomes. As in many communities across Canada, socio-economic realities and disparities in access to healthcare, housing and transportation increase the likelihood that members of our community will experience the negative impacts of climate change. In this way, Peachland is typical of the many British Columbia communities looking for solutions to health and wellness challenges in a changing climate: it offers a lifestyle rooted in nature, recreation, and community, while at the same time navigating environmental risks and systemic barriers that affect long-term health outcomes.

Peachland also faces some more unique health and wellness challenges. Many Peachland residents pointed out the cumulative health impacts of reliance on a single route, Highway 97, and a single electric power line into the community. Public transit connections to larger centres like Kelowna and Penticton are limited, creating barriers to emergency medical care, specialist services, and wellness resources. For residents without cars, this can mean delayed treatment, reduced access to healthy food, or difficulty participating in community programs. Seniors who can no longer drive may face social isolation, while youth and young adults may struggle to access education, jobs, and social supports outside Peachland. These infrastructure gaps reinforce inequities, reduce opportunities for regional connections, and may contribute indirectly to poorer physical and mental health.

Climate Considerations

Climate change is shaping the lives of Peachland residents. Hotter, longer summers, and more frequent extreme heat events increase the risks of dehydration, heat exhaustion, cardiovascular strain, insect-spread illnesses, and respiratory illness - especially for vulnerable populations like seniors, children, and those with pre-existing health conditions. Our community is experiencing heightened wildfire risk, with smoke and poor air quality aggravating asthma and other respiratory problems. Beyond the physical health impacts,

recurring wildfires and heat emergencies take a toll on mental health, contributing to stress, anxiety, and a sense of instability in daily life. The wildfire season of 2025, with associated evacuations, road closures, and confusing and delayed emergency communications, is an unfortunate example of the risks and stressors to physical and mental health and wellness that Peachland residents can expect with a changing climate.

Extreme climate events can worsen existing transportation and power challenges by interfering with the electricity supply and transportation routes. More frequent power outages and road closures during extreme weather can interrupt access to timely health care, essential medical devices like CPAP machines, and refrigeration for medications. Risks are heightened for vulnerable residents, especially seniors and those with chronic conditions.

For those who spend extended periods outdoors or who work in professions that require physical labour, higher temperatures in the summer can increase the risk of injury from accidents due to mental confusion. Heat stroke can cause permanent damage to the heart, brain, and kidneys, and can even be fatal. Heat can amplify the damaging effects of UV radiation, increasing the prevalence of skin cancer, and can expand the range, survivability, and breeding of mosquitoes and ticks, accelerating the spread of illnesses such as West Nile virus, and Lyme disease.

Vision for Resilience

Peachland is a safe, healthy, and desirable place to live, with strong links to wellness. Peachland has the necessary infrastructure and capacity to support healthcare, physical activity, wellness, and a strong sense of community belonging.

Objectives

1. To ensure the most appropriate emergency planning is in place, residents are aware, prepared and able to respond quickly and safely to emergencies, and the District has the appropriate infrastructure, communications, and staffing strategies in place to ensure resident safety.
2. To promote health and wellness, ensure Peachland residents and District employees can handle the increasing risk of heat events and poor air quality due to climate change related weather and wildfires.

District Actions

D1.1 Work with Interior Health and the Emergency Operations Centre for designation and funding of cooling and clean-air community facilities (e.g., Community Centre, 50+ Centre).

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Infrastructure; operations; partnerships	1, 2	Short–Medium		★★★★	$$–$$$

D1.2 Coordinate with other agencies to improve health communications related to climate events using multiple channels (texts, emails, physical signage)

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Engagement; communications; partnerships	1	Short–Ongoing	★	★★★★	$

D1.3 Support household-level adaptation (cooling, air filtration, energy upgrades) for example explore joining the retrofit assist program (retrofitassist.ca)

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Financial incentives; partnerships	2	Short–Medium	★★	★★★★	$$

D1.4 Ensure compliance with highest level occupational health and safety for employees working in heat / smoke. Install MERV 13 filters in District workplaces and the Community Centre for improved indoor air quality

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Infrastructure; operations	2	Short - ongoing	★	★★	$

Resident Actions

R1.1 Prepare emergency kits with medications, water, food, and backup power, and a supply of N95 masks to deal with smoke. Plan for backup power to support health-focused emergency planning.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1, 2	Immediate–Ongoing	★	★★★★	$

R1.2 Work with neighbours to develop a neighbourhood emergency communication and response program (modelled on West Kelowna's Casa Loma neighbourhood emergency network program).

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1	Immediate - Ongoing	★	★★★★	$

R1.3 Adjust activities to protect physical and mental health during climate events.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
2	Ongoing	★	★★★★	$

R1.4 Stay informed through alerts (register with www.coemergency.ca/subscribe). Check on and share information with non-digital neighbours.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1	Immediate–Ongoing	★	★★★★	$

What is a Neighbourhood Emergency Network?

In West Kelowna's Casa Loma neighbourhood, resident John Martin, a retired fire captain and Fire College Instructor, created a volunteer program that provides critical communication and basic fire response services in emergency situations to over 350 homes.

Fire Wardens are trained and operate on a system similar to an office / workplace, with each Fire Warden responsible for providing information and support to 50 households. While not funded, some money is required for some gear to identify the Fire Wardens and to safely do the job, including safety vests, flashlights, and walkie-talkies.

The benefit of this program is that it provides clear, actionable information that reduces strain on other First Responders, while empowering local residents to be proactive in times of crisis.

We could do this in Peachland.

2. FOOD & AGRICULTURE

About this Focus Area

The peach in Peachland is not just a nod to our agricultural roots; it represents ongoing activity in our community. Though we are part of a global food system that sees foods shipped here from all over the world, Peachland also produces its own local food. Peachland farms include fruit orchards (cherries, peaches, plums, etc.), vineyards, an organic produce and hay farm, and some small livestock and poultry holdings. There are small hobby farms and large commercial operations. Many residents have their own fruit trees or vegetable gardens, and some residents hunt, fish, and forage for food. Commercial cattle-grazing takes place within the watershed.

The Food and Agriculture focus area has two main concerns. The first is the impact of Peachlanders' farming activities and food choices on the climate. The second is the impacts of climate change on farming in Peachland and the supply of food to Peachlanders. This includes what is produced, how and where it is produced, how it is shipped, what is consumed, and what happens to our food waste.

Climate Considerations

Climate change is already having negative impacts on agriculture in Peachland and the Okanagan. Extreme weather events are causing the most noticeable challenges. Recently, for example, the two main commercial crops in Peachland (cherries and wine grapes) as well as stone fruit crops have suffered through hotter and drier summers, extreme heat (including heat domes), and droughts, as well as extreme winter cold spells (such as those resulting from polar vortexes). Smoke from forest fires also has had negative effects on these crops. Increasingly intense storms can bring wind, rain, and hail that are potentially damaging to crops.

Climate change is expected to bring warmer winters overall and a longer growing season, which could be beneficial to agriculture in Peachland. However, warmer winters can mean that certain pests survive in more abundance and can cause more crop damage. Moreover, most of the crops grown here would not benefit from longer growing seasons; fruits generally have one growth cycle per year.

Additionally, extreme events such as the landslides and floods of 2021 can result in blocked roads and cause other supply disruptions that inhibit the ability of food to be delivered to the Okanagan region from other areas.

Our experience in Peachland is not unique. Climate change is impacting agriculture globally, and it is causing food prices to rise for people around the world. Droughts, floods, extreme weather, and temperature anomalies have all disrupted food production in many countries.

When food production is disrupted, supply goes down and prices for those foods go up. Some examples: beef prices in BC increased by over 30% from 2023 to 2025 due to drought; coffee prices went up by around 40% in 2024 due to extreme weather in coffee bean producing countries; significant increases in olive oil prices in recent years were caused by a drop in global production of olive oil by one-third from 2021 to 2024 due to high temperatures.

Food and agriculture are not just impacted by climate change, but these activities contribute to it. Globally, more than one-third of all climate pollution comes from the production, processing, packaging and transportation of food (UN News, 2021). Residents of Peachland and commercial agricultural operators in Peachland have opportunities both to help reduce our contributions to climate change and to prepare for the climate change that is already happening and is likely to intensify. As in all the focus areas of this Plan, reducing our climate pollution will have benefits in reducing the intensity of climate change and the extreme events it produces.

When it comes to food production and consumption, there are two key considerations affecting climate pollution: choice of foods and where it comes from. Most importantly, eating a plant-based diet can potentially reduce a person's food-related climate impact by 50% or more depending on their choices (Alcalá-Santiago et al., 2025; Henriques & Gorvett, 2022). On a personal level, switching to a plant-based diet is one of the easiest and most impactful changes a person can make. We acknowledge the powerful meanings that foods have for people and their cultures; food is a sensitive topic for many. But that shouldn't prevent Peachlanders from making changes that will benefit themselves and the community. Of course, the distance food travels to get to our plates also has a proportional cost in climate pollution. Where available and practical, choosing locally or regionally produced foods is preferable. Keep in mind that driving a long way to a farmer's market may end up negating the benefit of buying "local," depending on the vehicle.

Another major source of climate pollution is food waste going into landfills. There it slowly rots and releases methane, a potent form of climate pollution. Peachland's 2021 Community Energy and Emissions Plan (Community Energy Association, 2021) found 12% of Peachland's climate pollution comes from food waste in the landfill, and diverting organic waste away from the landfill is one of the "big moves" our community can take to reduce our climate pollution. Instead of going to the landfill, food waste can be properly composted into a useful soil supplement that can enrich our gardens and farms.

Vision for Resilience

Peachland is food secure and has a diverse, resilient, and climate-friendly food system.

Objectives

1. To reduce food-related climate pollution, residents and organizations in Peachland make a big move towards a plant-based diet.
2. To improve food security and reduce food-related climate pollution, Peachland residents have ample opportunities to produce and/or obtain diverse local foods.
3. To reduce food-related climate pollution, Peachlanders minimize food waste and have the opportunity to properly compost unavoidable food waste.

District Actions

D2.1 Make climate-friendly choices for food consumed at District events.

Climate-friendly choices include serving only vegetarian or ideally vegan and locally sourced (when possible) food at District events. It should also include ensuring that all food waste from those events is separated and composted instead of going to the landfill. These are actions where the District can lead by example and ideally they would become policy.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
procedure, policy	1	short-term	★★★★	-	$

D2.2 Encourage and support residents and organizations in their efforts to grow and eat local food.

This could include steps to support local food sourcing such as home gardening; expanding community gardens to additional locations; community greenhouses; regional food initiatives; responsible foraging, hunting, and fishing; and promoting food preservation, and composting.

Potential ways to do this could include partnering with local organizations to offer workshops, offering courses through the recreation programmes, fostering associations of local gardeners, outreach via the Fall Fair, outreach to restaurants, and general community engagement.

To support people growing their own food, the District needs to make clear to residents how water restrictions relate to vegetable gardens, fruit trees, and other foods being grown.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
engagement	1,2	ongoing	★★★★	★★★	$$

D2.3 Work with the RDCO and neighbouring communities to see that organic waste (food as well as yard) is diverted from the landfill and is instead composted in appropriate facilities.

- Curbside collection of residential food waste.
- Collection of commercial food waste.
- Outreach to residents to encourage and educate them about reducing food waste.
- Make available a "transfer station" for larger quantities of yard waste which residents have typically driven to the landfill themselves.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
procedure, partnership	1	ongoing	★★★★	-	$$

D2.4 Ensure vulnerable residents do not go hungry and can access healthy and sustainable food by supporting the Food Bank and other measures.

Additional operations could include a system for sharing excess food, and a community-led food security committee.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
partnership	2	ongoing		★★★	$$

D2.5 Encourage and facilitate local farm operations to reduce the climate pollution from their farming activities by transitioning to electric farm equipment, best practices relating to use of fertilizers and pest management, and the reduction of plastic-use in farming operations.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
engagement	1	medium-term	★★★	★★★	$

D2.6 Encourage local commercial growers to transition to sustainable and resilient crops that support local food security.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
engagement	1,2	medium-term	★	★★★	$

Resident Actions

R2.1 Transition to a plant-based diet.
It is one of the most powerful things you can do to reduce your climate pollution and will also save money.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,2	ongoing	★★★★	★★★	$

R2.2 Grow and preserve your own foods and/or to try to source local foods through farmer's markets, sharing with neighbours, responsible foraging, etc.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,2	ongoing	★★	★★★	$

R2.3 Maintain an emergency supply of shelf-stable food and water for at least 3 days in your homes, in case of an event that cuts off food supplies to the community.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
2	ongoing		★	$

R2.4 Make every effort to reduce food waste and to properly compost or dispose of any unavoidable waste.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1	ongoing	★★	-	$

3. WATER

About this Focus Area

Peachland's location in the heart of the Okanagan Valley, on the shore of Okanagan Lake, may create the impression that water is plentiful. It is not. In fact, there is less water available per person in the Okanagan Valley than anywhere else in Canada. Yet the per-person use of water in the Okanagan is higher than the rest of BC, and more than double the Canadian average.

The higher water use by Okanagan residents compared to other Canadians is partly explained by the arid and hot climate of the valley, but Peachland appears to use a lot more water per person than other towns in the Okanagan. In 2024, 2,250,347,000 litres of water passed through the District's water treatment plant. With a population of approximately 6,300 people, this works out to roughly 980 litres used per person per day. This is very high compared to Okanagan residents in general, who use an average of 675 litres of water per person daily (see the sidebar for responsible goals). Most of this is household use, but some is agricultural/industrial, and some is leakage from the system.

Peachland's water situation is also unique in other ways. Most of the other communities in the Okanagan get their water directly from Okanagan Lake. Peachland does not. Peachland's water source is Peachland Lake located in the hills almost 30 kilometres from downtown. The lake collects rain and snowmelt from the surrounding watershed and stores it. Peachland Lake not only provides all the town's domestic and irrigation water, but it also supports fish and other wildlife.

The District of Peachland determined years ago it wasn't cost-effective to pump water up from Okanagan Lake and throughout neighbourhoods on the hills. While Peachland's central business district is directly on the shore of Okanagan Lake, the majority of household, agricultural, and industrial water-users are located up on the hill sides. The new water treatment plant is about 200 metres above Okanagan Lake, making it more efficient for a gravity-flow upland water source like Peachland Lake. However, the primary emergency water infrastructure for the District of Peachland is the Okanagan Lake Pump Station, which serves as a critical back-up supply serving one-third of the community.

The Peachland Lake watershed is on Crown Land and unceded syilx territory. The District of Peachland has no legal jurisdiction to manage its water source or any of the watershed lands beyond the District boundary. The life of the town depends on the land for water, yet the town cannot control or take care of its own water source. In other parts of BC, watershed managers often completely ban or severely limit residential, industrial, recreational, and agricultural activities in watersheds to protect the health of the watershed and the quality of the water. Peachland Lake's watershed is impacted by clear-cut logging, mining, cattle ranging, dirt

biking, boating, campfires, and other recreational activities that the District has no authority to regulate.

Despite having no control over its water source and surrounding watershed, the District is responsible for providing safe drinking water to residents and supplying water for irrigation, fires, and emergencies. To inform its decisions and to meet its obligations, the District gathers information, performs studies, and makes investments. The new water treatment plant is an example of an investment the District has made to meet these commitments. The District is also taking some initiatives to address the unusually high level of water use in Peachland, such as the installation of reliable water meters and adjusting water pricing. In addition, the District is taking steps to reduce losses caused by system leakages.

Climate Considerations

Climate change is impacting all aspects of the water supply: quantity, quality, and timing. The 2019 Government of British Columbia Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment determined that one of the greatest climate risks to BC is water shortages. Peachland has also commissioned several studies over the past two decades to evaluate climate and other risks to its water supply. The most recent report, a 2024 water supply study by Urban Systems, states that the "Peachland Reservoir is vulnerable to a combination of climate change and demand growth," with modelling showing increases in frequency, duration, and magnitude of drawdowns. Climate projections suggest freshet flows are likely to begin and peak earlier in the season, with much of the flow occurring prior to the withdrawal window currently specified in the water licenses Urban Systems also expressed the view that "the main threat to the reservoir is municipal growth, not climate change or high system losses." While such discrete studies are valuable, the District has never done a multi-disciplinary study of the cumulative effects of all activities on the watershed.

As the increasing effects of climate change are added to impacts from commercial, industrial, and recreational activities on the ecological integrity of the watershed's forests, managing Peachland's water supply will become more challenging. Water quality, quantity, and timing of flow is a delicate balance easily upset by industrial activities and exacerbated by climate change. Low snowpack, such as we are experiencing in 2026, reduces the overall supply of water. Warm weather or a sudden temperature spike early in the year can lead to the snowpack melting fast, with less groundwater- and reservoir-recharge, resulting in floods. Droughts arrive later, in the hot summer months. 2017 and 2018 were good examples of this cycle – the spring floods were followed by a drought and subsequent wildfires.This cycle will become more common as the climate warms.

Dry conditions and droughts make wildfires more intense and unpredictable, which further contributes to climate pollution. Loss of forest cover, whether from logging or wildfires, causes soils to dry out and become less able to absorb water. The result is water runs off the

surface instead of being absorbed. These changes upset the water cycle, producing more droughts and more extreme floods.

Peachland's water quality will be degraded by ash and fallen trees from wildfires, soil run-off, and effluent from fire-scorched ground. Water quality influences the water treatment plant's ability to provide clean and safe water. Additional turbidity and sediment in the water from fires or landslides requires more treatment, increasing costs, and causing more wear and tear on plant infrastructure. These costs will impact Peachland residents' property taxes.

Vision for Resilience

The Peachland watershed is healthy, resilient to climate change hazards such as wildfires, and able to provide reliable high-quality water in the right amount at the right time for fish, wildlife, and humans while Peachland and its residents demonstrate leadership in watershed protection and restoration, water conservation, and water-use innovation.

Objectives

1. To preserve and protect the water supply, become a town with a "water-first" culture where water supply, use, and conservation are top level priorities for all District projects and are prioritised by residents and businesses.
2. To preserve and protect water supply, Peachlanders reduce daily personal water consumption to below 250 liters/day by 2030
3. To preserve and protect the Peachland Lake watershed, the District advocates for the establishment of a Watershed Council which gives the District of Peachland a voice in the stewardship of the watershed along with the Province and syilx Nation.

District Actions

D3.1 Continue to support and participate in the Peachland Watershed Governance Project, a process that included engaging with the Province, syilx nation, and stakeholders to design a local governance model with the mission to protect, manage, and restore the health and functioning of Peachland's Watershed and ecosystem.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Plan	3	Short term	★★★	★★★★	$$

D3.2 Adopt the syilx Water Declaration as the foundation for water policy and management in the District of Peachland.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Policy	3	Short-term	★★	★★★★	$

D3.3 Conduct a watershed cumulative effects study, using attribution science which more accurately describes the true state of the watershed, and its ability to support a reliable water supply; mitigate flood events, turbidity, landslides and wildfires; and more robustly predict the probability and intensity of floods and landslides.
This will provide base-line data that will inform next steps for watershed preservation and resilience.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Assessment	1	Medium-term	★★★	★★★★	$$$

D3.4 Take advantage of the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund to help develop a water and watershed protection plan and incorporate it into the District's Annual Strategic Plan.
Report progress annually to the community.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Plan		Med term	★★★	★★★★	

D3.5 Take the lead in creating a water-centred culture in Peachland.
Start with a review of by-laws and policies to ensure they prioritise land-use that supports water conservation. For example, limiting the area of grass lawns in new residential lots and developments. Ensure that the District's watering of parks and streetscaping is efficient and effective, and in alignment with water conservation priorities and target reductions.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Program	1	Short term	-	★★★★	$$

D3.6 Provide District incentives to support industrial and residential water conservation practices.

Providing rebates, tax credits, or discounts on rain barrels, retrofit low flush toilets and showerheads, and other water-saving devices.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Program	1,2	Short term	-	★★★	$$

D3.7 Implement by-laws for funding to assist residents in WaterSmarting their homes and yards (see Kelowna's WaterSmart Program).

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Program		Med term		★★★	$$

Resident Actions

R3.1 Conduct water audits to uncover leaks in your home/on your property and discover how to minimize water use and costs.

- Calculate how much water you use (see sidebar)
- Aim for using less than roughly 250 L/person/day

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,2	Short term	-	★★	$

R3.2 Install rain barrels/cisterns to collect water for gardening and outdoor landscapes.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,2	Short term	-	★★	$

R3.3 Replace grass lawns with xeriscapes using shrubs and trees to maintain shade and create rain gardens using native species.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,2	Med term	★	★★★★	$$$

R3.4 Switch to drip irrigation, which uses 30%-50% less water, and avoid sprinkling on windy days.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,2	Short term	-	★★★	$$

R3.5 Book a free tour of the District's water treatment plant to see how Peachland's drinking water is captured, cleaned, and disinfected.

Understanding how our drinking water is made safe will give you a new appreciation for the water that flows from your tap.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,3	Short term	-	★	$

R3.6 Become better informed on water issues by seeking out information on the Peachland Lake watershed from the District and local groups like the Peachland Watershed Protection Alliance.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,3	Short term	-	★	$

Daily Water Conservation Goals

The Okanagan Basin Water Board recommends the following daily water conservation goals per person:

- Target (Excellent): Under 100–120 liters (approx. 25–30 gallons) per person, per day.
- Average Efficient Usage: 100–150 liters (26–40 gallons).
- High Usage: Over 200+ liters (50+ gallons) per person, per day.

To reach these conservation goals, focus on reducing usage in high-consumption areas:

Showers: Limit to 5 minutes, which uses about 35–40 liters (9–10 gallons) with a low-flow showerhead. A 10-minute shower can use 75+ liters.

Toilets: Modern, low-flow toilets use 4.8–6 liters (1.2–1.6 gallons) per flush. Avoid using the toilet as a trash can.

Laundry: Use high-efficiency machines only when full to use roughly 45–60 liters (12–16 gallons) per load.

Dishwasher: A full, modern dishwasher uses about 15–40 liters (4–10 gallons) per cycle.

How to Calculate your Daily Water Usage

On your quarterly water bill from the District, find the "Total Consumption" in cubic meters. Multiply that number by 11 then divide by the number of people in your household. That will give you the average number of litres used per person each day.

4. BUILDINGS

About this Focus Area

Peachland has mostly residential buildings, with very few commercial or industrial buildings. About 69%, or 1,855, of residential buildings are single-detached homes. Almost all of Peachland's buildings are old, with 68% having been built between 1960 and 2000. Several new developments were recently completed, such as the Peachland Seniors Support Society apartments, which embody Net Zero building methods, along with a handful of newer townhome/condo complexes and other multi-family projects.

Climate Considerations

According to the CEEP, Peachland's buildings are responsible for 27% of the climate pollution generated within the District. Buildings are the second largest source of climate pollution, behind transportation. The main cause of this is the burning of fossil fuels for space and water heating. Because of their age, many of Peachland's buildings don't meet today's energy efficiency standards for heating and cooling due to inadequate insulation and weatherproofing. Reducing climate pollution created by buildings is one of the most effective ways for Peachland to mitigate climate change.

The age and wood-construction of buildings in Peachland, as well as the general lack of FireSmarting and the fact that much of Peachland is in the forest interface area makes them vulnerable to damage or destruction due to wildfires and extreme weather events. In fact, all of Peachland is potentially within range of embers from a forest fire near town. This exposes residents and building owners to risks and costs for major repairs, higher insurance premiums, and potential housing insecurity. Buildings on the Trepanier Creek and Deep Creek flood plains, including many mobile homes, as well as those on or near Beach Avenue, are vulnerable to flooding as well.

Many older buildings will need to be fully retrofitted to ensure that they are energy-efficient and resilient to wildfires and extreme weather risks.

Vision for Resilience

Peachland's new buildings are made with fire resistant materials on FireSmart properties. They are built to resist extreme weather and to meet high energy efficiency standards, with no use of fossil fuels. Existing buildings and properties have been upgraded to be more fire and extreme weather resistant, energy efficient, and free from fossil fuels.

Objectives

1. To reduce climate pollution and make buildings safer, by 2030 all builders will construct new buildings that are energy efficient, all-electric, and resistant to wildfire and other projected climate impacts and hazards.
2. To reduce climate pollution and make existing buildings safer, the District and residents will redouble efforts to meet the CEEP Report objective that 25% of Peachland's existing building stock will have undergone a deep energy retrofit by 2035.
3. To make existing buildings safer, the District and all Peachlanders will understand which climate events their properties are most at risk of experiencing (e.g., wildfires, floods, wind events) and will take steps to reduce those risks by 2030.

District Actions

D4.1 Develop a strategy to incentivise the implementation of the higher steps of the BC Energy Step Code in advance of the provincial schedule, and mandate that District buildings exceed the Energy Step Code.

This strategy should include education and identify sources of additional funding for developers and residents.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Policy, Engagement	1	short-term	★★★★	★★★	$$

D4.2 Adopt a by-law or incentivize new builds to implement the Provincial BC Zero Carbon Step Code emission reduction targets for new buildings and houses.

Work with developers and contractors to ensure they are following the BC Zero Carbon Step Code for all applicable buildings.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Policy	1	medium-term	★★★★	★★★★	$

D4.3 Provide easy access to construction information on the District website including federal, provincial, and utility programs.

Have links to funding source/program to assist residents in implementing energy renovations and upgrades.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Program	2	medium-term	★★★★	★★★	$$

D4.4 Lobby provincial and federal governments to develop strong information campaigns (e.g. building materials, ambient air quality, comfort) and provide this information to the building community and residents.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Program	1	Short term	★★	★★	$$

D4.5 Continue to lobby for provincial funding to assist in offsetting costs for residential FireSmarting activities for homeowners.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Program	2,3	Short-term	★	★★★★	$

D4.6 Recommend new builds have EV charger ready infrastructure.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Program	1	Short-term	★★	★★	$

D4.7 Ensure all new and existing District properties and grounds are FireSmart.

As District buildings are renovated to FireSmart standards, use them as "demonstration projects" for FireSmart construction enabling residents to better understand and embrace FireSmarting their own homes. The protective services building is a potential example.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Project	3	ongoing	-	★★★★	$-$$$

RESIDENT ACTIONS

R4.1 Become familiar with energy efficient retrofits and their benefits, including FireSmart building upgrades, landscaping, and available grants.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
2,3	short-term	★★	★★	$

R4.2 Develop an inventory of projects for renovations and net-zero retrofits such as adding insulation or installing new windows, solar panels, and heat pumps.
Plan on implementing one each year.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
2	ongoing	★★★	★★★★	$$$

R4.3 Start FireSmarting yards and grounds now and join or start a FireSmart community.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
3	short-term	-	★★★★	$$

R4.4 Transition to electric landscaping equipment, best practices relating to use of fertilizers and pest management, and the reduction of plastic-use in gardening.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
3	short-term	★★	★★	$

What is a Climate-Aware Building?

It's a building that is built (or renovated) for optimal energy efficiency to minimize climate pollution and to withstand risks from wildfires, floods, and extreme weather events (heat, cold, rain, wind, etc.). Such buildings have extra insulation, high-performance windows, and excellent airtightness to minimize heating and cooling needs. Appliances, lighting, and mechanical systems are all electric and as energy efficient as possible. No fossil fuels are used for heating, hot water, drying, or cooking. Heat pumps provide both heating and cooling. The advantages of such buildings include lower utility costs, improved comfort, durability, and climate protection.

Climate-aware buildings use fire-resistant materials such as non-combustible siding (fibre cement, stucco, brick, metal), metal soffits, fire-proof decking, Class A-rated roofing materials (metal, slate, clay, concrete, asphalt composition shingles), and tempered glass windows. Just as importantly, their landscaping is FireSmart as well.

For more information, see the *Climate Resilience Guide Housing Design Catalogue:* https://assets.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/sites/housing%20catalog/resources/climate-resilience-guide-housing-design-catalogue-en.pdf

5. ENERGY

About this Focus Area

The issue of energy has long roots in Peachland. The District was created in 1909 in order to obtain provincial government funding for the construction of a local electric power system. The funds were used to dam Trepanier Creek and to construct power distribution lines. Some 40 years later, the local power system was sold to what is now BC Hydro. Today, most Peachlanders use a variety of energy sources to keep our homes warm in winter and cool in summer; to power our TVs, computers, and phones; to preserve and cook our food; for transportation; and for leisure activities like barbecuing and boating. These energy sources include electricity, gas, gasoline, diesel, heating oil, propane, and wood. Other than firewood, none of the sources of power that we depend on for daily living in Peachland are generated and supplied locally. We rely on vast networks of pipelines, power lines, and fuel trucks to supply energy to us. In 2022, Peachland residents and businesses consumed over 37,000 MWh of electricity delivered by BC Hydro. Peachlanders used another 220,000 GJ of gas delivered by Fortis BC, as well as smaller amounts of wood, heating oil, and propane for its buildings. Peachlanders also burned millions of litres of gasoline and diesel for transportation and leisure activities.

The Energy focus area concerns the climate impacts on Peachland's energy supply, and steps we can take individually and collectively to ensure we have a more secure energy future. We focus specifically on steps needed to secure our electricity supply. This is because the move away from using fossil fuels in daily life will make us more dependent on electricity. Peachland's remote location makes reliable delivery of electricity a challenge. Peachland, together with the rest of the west side of the Central Okanagan, is the single-largest populated region in British Columbia without a dedicated redundant power supply. Our electricity supply is delivered by a single BC Hydro 138 kV transmission line from the Nicola substation near Merritt through remote and rough terrain to the Westbank substation, which serves approximately 70,000 people including Peachland. Having a single electric power supply route means if there is a fire, flood, or wind event along that route, we lose utility-supplied power. Depending on the severity, Peachland could be without power for days or weeks. Construction of a redundant power line to improve reliability has been under study for more than a decade. Currently, the leading project alternative is for a BC Hydro interconnection under Okanagan Lake to Fortis BC's electricity grid. Construction of new transmission lines requires consultation with the impacted communities including First Nations, impacts the environment, and is costly. We are dependent on the large utility companies to construct this connection and the timing remains uncertain, with current projected completion not until 2033.

Climate Considerations

Climate change is affecting the demand for energy generally. Milder winters reduce our demand for heating, while hotter summers and heat domes increase demand for electricity used for cooling. Peak demand may shift from winter to summer, and new supplies will need to be able to meet spikes in demand caused by extreme cold and extreme heat events. Climate change also threatens the supply of power. Severe weather events such as intense storms, droughts, floods, and wildfires can threaten the availability and disrupt the delivery of any power resources to Peachland.

As we have discussed in earlier focus areas, nearly all the climate pollution we generate comes from burning fossil fuels for transportation and buildings. The transition to electricity will reduce harmful climate pollution because ninety-eight percent of the electricity produced by BC Hydro is generated from hydroelectric dams, which makes electricity a clean, renewable alternative. However, BC's hydroelectric generating capacity is vulnerable to water shortages from reduced snowpacks and increased droughts. Shortages of electricity can cause brownouts during peak demand periods.

Supply concerns affecting all of BC are compounded by Peachland's remote location. Even if a redundant power line is constructed, so long as electric power sources remain far from Peachland, we will remain more vulnerable to outages whether due to supply shortages or power delivery disruptions. As we are exposed to heightened risk of wildfires or extreme wind events, electric utilities may also intentionally cut power temporarily as a preventative measure to avoid fire ignition by energized power lines. In 2025, the BC Utility Commission authorized Fortis BC's Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) policy that allows the utility to shut off electricity temporarily to reduce potential ignition sources during periods of extreme wildfire risk. While BC Hydro has not adopted a similar policy to date, the company will disconnect power when there is an immediate threat to its infrastructure or concern for the safety of the public or emergency responders.

Extended or frequent power outages pose health risks, potentially leaving us without air conditioning or lifesaving medical devices. They can be costly in other ways, making us all vulnerable to the loss of refrigerated and frozen foods and medicines, and leaving local businesses unable to operate. Our ability to communicate with emergency services may be affected during outages.

The electricity sector is moving towards smaller scale, more decentralized sources of renewable power. For Peachland, having access to closer sources of renewable power would increase our energy security, however renewable projects, if not properly designed and operated, can have adverse impacts on the environment and wildlife.

Vision for Resilience

Peachland has become energy efficient, minimally reliant on fossil fuels, securely and sustainably served by local and regional renewable electric power sources, and resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Objectives

1. To reduce climate pollution and become more energy secure, Peachland has developed local or regional, renewable electricity supplies.
2. To reduce climate pollution and become more energy secure, the District and its residents and businesses have implemented individualized plans to become energy efficient, to reduce reliance on fossil fuels to lower emissions and to be prepared to face at least a 72-hour power outage.

District Actions

D5.1 Explore opportunities for developing community sources of renewable power.

Some examples include:

- Solar panels. Enable community net metering so that multiple customers can contribute to – and benefit from– the same generation project
- Wind turbines.
- Battery storage systems connected with the renewable projects or independently installed to create a "virtual power plant" and provide a clean alternative to diesel generators for backup.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Assessment	1	Short-term to medium-term	★	★★★★	$-$$$

D5.2 Consult with other communities and First Nations on the potential for regional renewable energy projects.

Summerland has installed solar and battery facilities. Westbank First Nation is the majority owner of the planned K2 Wind Project. BC Hydro plans to upgrade existing hydro-electric generation, add other types of renewable energy projects, and prepare alternative sources such as large-scale battery installations.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Assessment, Partnership	1	Short-term	★	★★★★	$

D5.3 Support and facilitate the responsible development of small-scale renewable energy projects including on residential and business properties.

Actions can include identifying and promoting available incentive programs offered by BC government and utilities, making any needed changes to zoning by-laws and building codes to support these installations.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Policy, Program	1	medium-term	★★	★★★	$$

D5.4 Investigate the feasibility of establishing the local renewable facilities on a community microgrid that can disconnect from the main grid and operate as an independent energy island in Peachland to support essential services and/or District-wide power supply in the event of a utility grid outage.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Assessment	1	medium-term	-	★★★★	$$

D5.5 Provide funding or encourage community resources to assist vulnerable residents with development of their individualized climate action plans to be ready for power outages.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Project	2	Short-term	-	★★★★	$

D5.6 Review existing emergency notification methods to improve visibility and outreach to residents in case of power outages.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Procedure	2	Short-term	-	★★★★	$

Resident Actions

R5.1 Plan to reduce your personal/business reliance on fossil fuels and energy generally by taking the steps that the other chapters of the Climate Action Plan recommend related to transportation, buildings, etc.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,2	short-term	★★★★	★★★	$-$$$

R5.2 Be prepared for power outages of at least 72-hours in length.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
2	short-term	-	★★★	$

R5.3 Replace fossil fuel powered back up power (diesel generators) with renewable options like solar with batteries.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,2	medium-term	★★	★	$

What are some Recent Small-Scale Renewable Energy Projects?

In 2023, the District of Summerland completed construction of the Summerland Energy Centre, a renewable energy project to support its community. It has 412kW solar power capacity and 1MW of battery storage. The project was funded primarily with a federal grant as well as the District's own capital funding. "Summerland Energy Centre."

https://www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/climate-action/solar-and-battery-facility

In 2024, the West Bank First Nation and Innergex announced they had signed a 30 year contract with BC Hydro for electricity to be generated by the K2 Wind Project, a 160 MW wind farm to be located in the Pennask Mountain area about 50 kilometres west of Peachland. With an estimated annual generation of 500 GWh, this wind farm is expected to provide enough renewable electricity to power approximately 50,000 households. "Westbank First Nation and Innergex Announce Signing of Electricity Purchase Agreement with BC Hydro for the K2 Wind Project."

https://files.innergex.com/files/documents/INE_PPA_K2_EN.pdf

In 2025, BC Hydro launched virtual power plant projects with the installation of 200 residential batteries in homes located in Sun Peaks, near Kamloops, and Harrison Mills in Mission. These batteries will provide backup power during outages and supply stored energy during peak demand. Lessons learned from these projects will help BC Hydro plan for the possibility of deploying batteries in other areas that experience frequent outages. "BC Hydro debuts advanced virtual power plant project in B.C. homes."

https://www.bchydro.com/news/press_centre/news_releases/2025/virutal-power-plant.html

6. TRANSPORTATION

About this focus area

Who doesn't love Peachland's location, nestled on the steep hillsides between rugged forests and the vast Okanagan Lake, with those spectacular views that make Peachland famous? We enjoy the natural beauty, but as Peachlanders know too well, there is a trade-off. Of necessity, transportation plays a significant role in our daily lives, and yet our transportation options are limited – both within town and beyond. While historically Lake Okanagan provided the main transportation infrastructure for traveling between towns, its current use is almost exclusively recreational. Today, we are very car dependent. Peachland's primary connectivity to the outside world is to the north and south via Highway 97 and a connection at the north end of Trepanier Road to Highway 97C. Upper Princeton Ave. provides access to forest service roads leading to Summerland and Princeton, and there is an entrance to the Brenda Mine property with potential connectivity through to Highway 97C.

This focus area considers all modes and purposes of transportation including personal vehicle transportation, active transportation such as walking or biking, public transit and school buses, pleasure crafts, shipment of goods, and air travel. Transportation-related infrastructure such as roads, biking and hiking trails, airports, train and bus stations, bus stops, gas and EV charging stations are also part of this focus area.

In Peachland, our active transportation options are impacted by our hilly and rural reality. Our steep topography limits walkability and the use of standard bikes to the flat areas, or to the young and very fit. Peachland has limited sidewalks – mainly along Beach Ave. south of Trepanier Creek, on 13th St., Clements Cres., and two small stretches up Princeton Ave. Narrow roadways and a lack of sidewalks negatively impact the safety of walking and cycling outside of these areas. To begin to address these challenges, in 2023 Peachland adopted its Active Transportation Network Plan, which outlines strategies to improve walking and cycling infrastructure within Peachland and to connect Peachland to West Kelowna and Summerland, enabling Okanagan-wide active transportation as advocated for by the Trail of the Okanagans Society. The Westside Trail, connecting Peachland to West Kelowna, was completed in 2025. The advent of e-bikes has opened this form of active transportation to more Peachlanders.

To encourage EV use, the District installed an EV charging station downtown in 2024, and another in March of 2026.

Our public transit options are limited. There is one local route that connects Peachland to West Kelowna; Route 22 services Huston Rd., the IGA mall, Beach Ave., and Princeton Ave., and generally runs every hour with some 90-minute gaps. There is also a Kelowna-to-Penticton route with two Peachland stops; Route 70 runs every 3 hours, only on weekdays. This level of service makes public transit a difficult option to get to Kelowna or Penticton for

appointments or work, or to reach the Kelowna airport, and unappealing for tourist-travel to wineries and other activities. Within Peachland, very few of our bus stops have benches, and even fewer are covered. It should be noted that bus benches can also serve as rest areas for those walking.

Peachland transportation options are supplemented by both Peachland Taxi and the Peachland Wellness Centre's transportation service.

Climate Considerations

With Peachlanders being heavily car-dependent, gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles are the largest source of climate pollution in Peachland. Indeed, Peachland's 2021 Community Energy and Emissions Plan found passenger vehicles account for half of Peachlanders' climate pollution. Therefore, changes in transportation will have the greatest impact in reducing Peachland's emissions. Impactful actions would include those that make active and public transportation options more accessible, convenient, affordable, and safe, as well as those that encourage transitioning to electric vehicles by both the District and residents. It should be noted that the District's Policy Objective 2 in its Contracting Authority and Purchasing Policy includes such prioritization when possible.

Because we are so dependent on transportation, anything that negatively affects our transportation networks has an adverse impact on our lives. Forest fires, landslides, heat, and floods are all climate change impacts that have the potential to disrupt our transportation systems. These types of disruptions could restrict access to neighbourhoods within Peachland as well as potentially cut us off from travel within the Okanagan. Outcomes in other focus areas such as Health & Wellness and Food & Agriculture are also linked to the availability of transportation networks. Actions to increase the resiliency of transportation networks to the impacts of climate change will also enhance our resilience in other focus areas.

Higher temperatures increase the health risks to those taking part in active transportation such as biking and walking. Heat also increases the production of ground-level ozone from vehicle exhaust. Ground-level ozone is a greenhouse gas, and also a health-risk that impairs respiratory and cardiovascular function. High temperatures can damage transportation infrastructure as well, as we saw when Peachland sidewalks heaved and buckled during the heat dome event in June of 2021.

Vision for Resilience

Peachland has a robust transportation system including expanded and accessible active and public transportation options. Peachlanders use these options for their local transportation needs and migrate towards non-emitting vehicles for their travel beyond the Okanagan.

Objectives

1. To reduce climate pollution, residents and organizations in Peachland reduce transportation-related consumption of fossil fuels.
2. To reduce climate pollution, the District increases active and public transportation options.
3. To improve resiliency, all Peachlanders have an emergency evacuation plan that ideally includes two means of egress.

District Actions

D6.1 Prepare emergency egress plans for all neighbourhoods. Identifying both existing routes as well as new options to ensure multiple routes for each neighbourhood.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Plan	3	short-term		★★★★	$$

D6.2 Collaborate with BC Transit and communities between Vernon and Penticton to upgrade the frequency of the primary transit spine by extending route 97 north of UBCO (including the airport) and south of West Kelowna.

The goal would be to have an hourly express service with limited stops to provide a useful option for commuters and tourists.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Plan / Project	1,2	short-term	★★★★	★★	$$ - $$$

D6.3 Collaborate with BC Transit to conduct a study of a transit-on-demand system within Peachland as an effective means to expand coverage within Peachland for route 22.

The goal would be to have a dedicated bus within Peachland delivering people within Peachland and to the regional spine.

Note that with improved Okanagan transit spine (route 97) as proposed above, this local bus could be dedicated to Peachland and no longer needing to go to West Kelowna.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Plan	1,2	short-term	★★★★	★	$

D6.4 Advocate for the transitioning of transit services from diesel to a zero-emission vehicle (battery electric or hydrogen fuel cell).

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Project	1	medium-term	★★★★	★	$$$

D6.5 Add cycling infrastructure to appropriate sites around town.

Can include bike racks (with electrical outlets to facilitate e-bike charging), a bike repair kiosk, bike lockers or bike valet.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Project	1,2	short-term	★★★	★	$$

D6.6 Ensure that undertaking at least one priority infrastructure project from the Active Transportation Network Plan is included in the budget every year.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Project	2	short-term to medium-term	★★★	★	$$ - $$$$

D6.7 Install additional covered bus shelters to encourage increased ridership.

These will also serve as rest stops for pedestrians.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Project	2	medium-term	★★★	★★	$$

Resident Actions

R6.1 Select an EV as your next vehicle.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1	short-term to medium-term	★★★★	★	$ - $$$

R6.2 Walk or cycle within town as weather permits.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,2	short-term to medium-term	★★★	★	

R6.3 Prepare an emergency escape plan.

Work with neighbours to prepare a neighbourhood escape plan that assists those with mobility challenges.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
3	short-term	-	★★★★	

R6.4 Use public transit when possible.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,2	short-term to long-term	★★★★	★	$

7. LOCAL ECONOMY

About this Focus Area

Peachland has approximately 800 registered businesses, most of them home-based with one employee (i.e. consulting, hairdressing, accounting/bookkeeping, accommodation services, contracting, etc.). Storefront businesses include retail shops, restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores, auto repair shops, pharmacies and other health-related services, and insurance brokers, mostly clustered downtown and in Peachland Village Mall. Much business activity is dependent on summer tourism. For those who commute for work, the average commuting time is nearly a half-hour per day.

Climate Considerations

Peachland does not have large factories that generate significant amounts of climate pollution, but its reliance on tourism does demand visitor transportation to Peachland. Longer periods of warm weather may expand the tourist season for relevant businesses, while also potentially increasing climate pollution linked to travel.

As recent history has shown, tourism-related businesses are particularly vulnerable to severe climate events. During the extreme wildfire and smoke events in August of 2023, while tourist visits to the Okanagan were already down, the Province imposed a travel ban to keep visitors away from wildfire-affected areas. This event and others, such as the 2021 heat dome and atmospheric rivers, have resulted in lost accommodation-bookings, fewer tourists at local restaurants, damage to infrastructure, supply chain interruptions, and other negative impacts. Tourists have changed their behaviour because of the increased number of extreme weather events, no longer booking well in advance.

A potential positive outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues today, is that more employers are open to having employees work remotely; a shift that benefits communities like Peachland and is likely to continue with corresponding reductions in climate pollution.

Vision for Resilience

Peachland is a leader in small-town climate action with a climate-resilient, sustainable and future-ready local economy that thrives while preserving its natural environment and community well-being. Peachland's local economy has businesses that prioritize low-carbon practices (including remote workers), renewable energy, and sustainable tourism, building on Peachland's natural assets and community values.

Objectives

1. To reduce climate pollution and build resilience, the District and the business community integrate climate change considerations into economic development planning and decisions.
2. To reduce climate pollution, Peachland's tourism operators adopt sustainable transportation and lodging practices.
3. To reduce climate pollution, Peachland's hospitality businesses adopt zero-waste and low-carbon menu practices.

District Actions

D7.1 Participate in the creation of sustainable economic development initiatives or strategies and co-develop climate ready policies and practices.

Communicate and implement outcomes of the Economic Development Strategy to District employees, clients and partners.

- Support local businesses and buy local. Participate in rebates and other buy local programming.
- Avoid damages and costs over time by helping local businesses respond to climate change.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Project, Policy	1,2,3	short-term	★	★★★★	$

D7.2 Prepare and incent businesses that prioritize low-carbon practices, renewable energy and sustainable tourism.

- Utilize Thompson Okanagan Tourist Association (TOTA) Biodiversity resources.
- Consider supporting 'remote' worker attraction through adding equipped co-work spaces in community and promoting use of the local library for resources
- Participate in networking to identify business to-business and innovation advancement opportunities through regional hubs and networks such as Accelerate Okanagan

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Policy, Partnership	1,2,3	medium-term	★★	★★★	$$

D7.3 Collaborate with local tourism operators, EV vendors and BC Transit to allow visitors to Peachland to have accessible and available low-carbon transport options (bike rentals, shuttle links, EV perks) that enable visitors to get around without relying on cars.

Collaborate with the bed and breakfast and short term rental businesses to offer low-carbon, energy efficient lodging by obtaining energy audits and making upgrades to more efficient energy use systems for their businesses (heat pumps, insulation).

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Project	1,2	long-term	★★★	★★	$$$

D7.4 Engage and enlist local restaurants to launch zero-waste practices (e.g. composting, eliminate single-use plastics) and low-carbon, local/seasonal menus.

Provide toolkits and small incentives to participating partners on the why, how to implement and where they can get support to implement.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Program, Engagement	1,3	short-term	★★	★	$

RESIDENT ACTIONS

R7.1 Support local businesses and buy local; be a local tourist.

- Plan a staycation.
- Visit a local tourism business.
- Take advantage of local or off-season rates at local tourism destinations.
- Visit local restaurants more frequently vs. driving to other locations.
- Support sustainable local tourism and look for those businesses and offerings that endorse Sustainable Tourism i.e. Biosphere Certified through TOTA.

Related Objectives	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1	Short-term	★★★	★★★	$

8. DISTRICT ASSETS & OPERATIONS

About this Focus Area

The District of Peachland is responsible for assets, infrastructure, and services that are essential to our daily lives and well-being. District assets include land and buildings, such as our municipal hall, community center, fire hall, childcare centre, the Peachland Museum, and the Peachland Historic Schoolhouse. The District also owns parklands and lakefront properties, some of which have built-amenities like playgrounds, fitness facilities, trails, and docks. District assets also include infrastructure such as the water treatment plant, streets and sidewalks, and water and sewer systems. In addition, the District owns a fleet of vehicles and other equipment used for operations and service delivery.

District Operations staff perform a wide variety of activities to operate, maintain, and repair Peachland's assets, as well as to deliver, or oversee delivery of, essential services such as Fire and Rescue, police, water, sewer, and waste and snow removal. Some services, such as police and waste collection, are contracted from regional and federal authorities.

Climate Considerations

In 2022, the District reported a total of 367 tonnes of climate pollution (greenhouse gas emissions) from District assets and operations; nearly 75% coming from mobile sources such as District vehicles, with the remainder coming from stationary sources such as buildings. These emissions are in addition to the much larger amounts generated by Peachland residents and businesses, which were last estimated in 2018 to be 42,037 tonnes.

The District has already taken some steps to reduce its emissions. The District has four electric vehicles in its fleet and is in the process of updating its street lighting with energy-efficient LED lighting.

The 2025 Asset Management Plan prepared for the District by Urban Systems determined that District assets and operations are vulnerable to the climate hazards of drought, extreme cold, extreme heat, extreme wind, flooding, freeze/thaw cycles, and wildfires. All District assets and operations were determined to be vulnerable to at least some of these climate hazards, with the greatest risks coming from flooding and wildfires. Climate hazards impacting District assets and operations can cause temporary loss of services; increase the costs to deliver service; lead to costs to repair damage to District buildings, equipment, vehicles and infrastructure; and impact the health and safety of District employees.

As more of our winter precipitation comes as rain rather than snow, we can expect to see snow removal costs go down, but with increased risk of additional costs to repair damage caused by flooding and run-off. For example, the flooding of Okanagan Lake in 2017 damaged most of the District's lakefront docks, requiring replacement and repair to

shorelines and facilities, which cost more than one million dollars and took several years to complete. In 2025, Peachland experienced three major wildfires requiring evacuations and extensive firefighting activities. One of the fires (the Munro Lake fire) threatened the water treatment plant. Among other concerns, the post-event report for the Munro Lake fire identified risks of sediment-laden runoff and shallow landslide failure that could affect Peachland's water quality. The loss or impairment of District operations and services has detrimental knock-on effects to Peachland residents' health, safety, and ability to perform daily life activities.

Vision for Resilience

Peachland has District assets and operations that are safe and resilient to a changing climate and employ low-carbon options.

Objectives

1. To reduce the District's contribution to climate pollution, climate considerations are integrated into District asset purchasing and operating decisions.
2. To become more resilient, municipal infrastructure is upgraded or adapted to withstand the impacts of a changing climate. The District has taken steps to ensure critical operations are resilient and can be maintained even during an extended electric power outage.
3. To become more resilient, natural aspects are protected, valued, assist with climate readiness and minimize the need for built infrastructure.
4. To become more resilient, emergency preparedness and response plans are updated for disaster prevention and address climate change hazards.

District Actions

D8.1 Continue to seek grants and other funding for improving the resiliency of public infrastructure guided by the priorities established in the 2025 Asset Management Plan.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Project	2, 3	short-term to medium-term	★	★★★★	$$$

D8.2 Build the new fire hall using FireSmart and energy efficient materials and designs as well as using energy-saving all-electric systems for heating, cooling, hot water, and cooking.

Then use the building to illustrate the benefits of such construction to the community.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Project	2	short-term to medium-term	★★★	★★★★	$$ over existing budget?

D8.3 Explore opportunities for developing District sources of renewable power that can be integrated into existing or proposed infrastructure.

Some examples include:

- In-pipe hydropower generated by micro-turbines installed in the District's drinking water distribution system to convert excess pressure into electric power.
- Solar panels. Consider projects with co-benefits for example such as providing shaded parking with solar panels on the roof or solar over water storage to reduce evaporation.
- Battery storage systems to provide a clean alternative to diesel generators for backup.
- Microgrid for district operations (see Energy focus area).

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Assessment	1, 2	short-term to medium-term	★	★★★★	$-$$$

D8.4 Develop a natural aspects (see side bar) inventory and plan.

Investigate training and other resources available from the Natural Assets Initiative, a non-profit that has assisted area governments including West Kelowna and RDCO.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Plan	3	medium-term	★★	★★★	$-$$

D8.5 Develop a local transport point for collecting yard waste.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Program	1	long-term	★★★	★★	$$$

D8.6 Purchase electric maintenance equipment (e.g. mowers, trimmers) and vehicles as needed and available to meet future operational demands.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Plan	1	ongoing	★★★★	★★	$-$$$

D8.7 Review emergency preparedness and response plans to make sure they are updated for disaster prevention and address climate change hazards.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
Procedure	2, 4	Short-term	-	★★★★	$

WHAT ARE NATURAL ASPECTS?

It is common in Western societies to regard wetlands, rivers, fish, forests, wildlife, and other aspects of the natural world as a collection of "resources" for human use. Through that economic lens we refer to them as "natural assets", "natural capital" or "resource stocks" and we say that they provide "ecosystem services" to society. That refers to things like drinking water, cooling, flood mitigation, recreational spaces, and cultural and spiritual enrichment.

While it is true that human society and the economy do benefit from the natural world and would not exist without it, this is a limited way of seeing and valuing the world around us. We should also (and perhaps primarily) regard the natural world as having value in and of itself. Such a view, common among Indigenous peoples, leads to more empathetic and compassionate ways of relating to the natural world. To do so requires changing the language we use to talk about the natural world. For this reason, we have chosen to refer to these features of the natural world as "natural aspects" instead of "assets".

Peachland can benefit by having a plan to protect and enhance its natural aspects. Well supported natural aspects can help build climate resilience and reduce climate pollution while enhancing the beauty of the community and the quality of life for residents (human and non-human). We address natural aspects further in the next section on Wildlife Habitat & Ecosystems.

9. WILDLIFE HABITAT & ECOSYSTEMS

About this Focus Area

Peachland is situated in a semi-arid Ponderosa Pine/Interior Douglas Fir ecosystem. We share this community with a diverse assortment of wild neighbours. Many are permanent residents (coyote, black bear, rainbow trout), some come from far and wide to make Peachland the birthplace of future generations (hummingbirds, flammulated owl, and sockeye salmon- thanks to Okanagan Nation Alliance), and some are travellers passing through (snow geese, sandhill cranes), with their timing and contributions playing important roles in the life cycles and food webs of other species. Our community's overlapping proximity to forests, lakes, streams, and other natural areas means we are both deeply reliant on, and responsible for, the health of the ecosystems that surround us; that we are a part of.

Many of us enjoy watching the kokanee spawn in Peachland Creek, Trepanier Creek, and along the shoreline downtown in the fall, and marvel at the bats emerging from the attic of the historic schoolhouse at twilight on summer evenings. But we may give little thought to how we depend on, interact with, and can impact the health of our natural neighbours and our ecosystem. Something as simple as the types of lighting we choose and the sounds we make can affect the bats' ability to keep our waterfront free from mosquitoes and our orchards and vineyards protected from a variety of pests. More broadly, when any part of our ecosystem is disrupted, whether by pollution, habitat loss, invasive species, climate shifts, illegal dumping, or other factors, the disruption can trigger ripple effects that alter the entire landscape - as many will recall from 2017, when a multitude of factors resulted in devastating flooding within Peachland.

Climate Considerations:

Healthy, natural ecosystems contribute significantly to protecting our community from the damaging effects of climate change. These natural systems can act as buffers, regulators, and stabilisers to absorb shocks, moderate extremes, and enhance the resiliency of our community. On Peachland's many hills and slopes, trees and other vegetation can reduce the risks of shallow landslides by anchoring the soil and providing protective cover that functions to intercept and redirect water, reducing surface runoff; block wind-driven erosion; and moderate freeze-thaw cycles that can lead to the devastating rockslides that have become increasingly frequent in recent years. Diversity in tree species, particularly the inclusion of deciduous species such as aspen and birch, can slow the spread of wildfires and act as natural firebreaks. Healthy vegetation draws water beneath the soil surface and moderates the melting of snow, mitigating the conditions for flooding, and builds resilience through maintaining soil nutrients, moisture, and structure, reducing the likelihood and severity of flooding, fires, landslides, and drought. The volume, variety, and health of trees, vegetation,

and soils in Peachland contribute directly to our community's capacity for carbon capture and sequestration, which is strongly enhanced by healthy soils and by diversity of species. Healthy vegetation supports natural systems that moderate microclimate conditions, reducing reliance on human technologies that contribute to climate pollution. While we are still prone to temperature extremes, trees and vegetation can help to moderate micro-climates by cooling air temperatures in the summer months, reducing surface temperatures and the accumulation of radiant heat, and deflecting and diffusing wind at ground level.

Okanagan ecosystems, already threatened by human actions, also face risks from climate change. Reduced summer precipitation combined with warmer summer temperatures, will likely result in the depletion of water bodies, loss of wetlands, and stress on several animal species including fish and other organisms residing and reproducing in our lakes and streams. Warmer temperatures and increased variability are likely to upset the timing of biological cycles and strain sensitive habitat, leading to ecosystem shifts. Warmer temperatures will also enhance the potential for increases in invasive species, pests, and pathogens, compromising the ability of indigenous species to survive, triggering a loss of biodiversity, and increasing fire risk. Extreme events such as flooding, wildfires, and landslides are likely to compromise natural landscapes, limit the normal functioning of natural processes, and reduce connections between habitats and within ecosystems.

Presently, the most significant threats to our ecosystems are invasive plant and animal species that out-compete or introduce disease among our indigenous species. Invasive species can also cause significant damage to human health, homes, buildings, properties, infrastructure, agricultural productivity, recreational opportunities, and our local economy. Significant costs are incurred by municipalities, businesses, and individuals in response to invasive species, and as with many things, prevention is less costly and much more easily accomplished than repair.

Restoring, maintaining, and enhancing healthy ecosystems is another way Peachland can help moderate and minimize the harms from extreme weather events and disasters that result from climate change.

Vision for Resilience

Peachlanders live within a thriving ecosystem that is maximised in its ability to mitigate climate impacts and enhance the adaptation capabilities of our community and natural environment.

Objectives

1. To mitigate climate impacts, maximise carbon dioxide removal, and become more resilient, Peachland takes steps to safeguard indigenous plant and animal species.

2. To mitigate climate impacts and become more resilient, Peachland takes steps to manage invasive plant and animal species.

3. To mitigate climate impacts, maximise carbon dioxide removal, and become more resilient, Peachland increases and enhances habitats that promote and sustain biodiversity in and around town.

District Actions

D9.1 Engage District Operations staff, contractors, developers, and the broader community in efforts to protect and enhance connectivity between wildlife habitats. This includes:

- establishing corridors and hedgerows.
- removing hazardous fencing or other physical barriers to wildlife movement.
- consulting with BEEPS regarding decisions related to artificial lighting or decorative flower selection within the District.
- introducing wildlife crossing signage in areas where vehicle conflicts are common.
- discouraging people and pets from entering Peachland and Trepanier Creeks between September and March through signage and public education to protect the kokanee and their contributions to the resiliency of our ecosystems.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
various	1,2,3	ongoing	★★	★★★	N/A

D9.2 Take steps to protect indigenous wildlife from human activity.

- Identify and implement a solution to end the overflow of garbage from District waste disposal bins.
- Take steps towards obtaining Bear Smart community status through the Bear Smart Community Program initiated by the BC Conservation Officer Service.
- Conduct periodic checks to monitor adherence to and enforce Bylaw 2178, Part 7: FEEDING WILDLIFE AND CONTROL OF WILDLIFE ATTRACTANTS.
- Introduce bylaws and education to protect wildlife from domestic species, such as two levels of fencing (perimeter and interior) to protect wild sheep and goats from nose-contact with domestic species, and keeping domestic cats confined to their properties or leashed.
- Introduce a bylaw to ban the use of rodenticides, preventing secondary poisoning to wild birds, coyotes, lynx, bobcats, snakes, weasels, and raccoons; along with other domestic animals.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
various	1,2,3	ongoing	★★★★	★★★★	N/A

D9.3 Take steps to manage and stop the spread of invasive species, eradicating when possible.

- Provide invasive species detection and management training to District Operations staff. Training opportunities are available through RDCO and OASISS.
- Remove invasive plant species along Peachland roadways, particularly drainage ditches, where possible during regular maintenance; identify opportunities for funding to expand invasive species management and replace with native vegetation suitable for location.
- Develop and implement a local strategy to facilitate yard waste disposal that disincentivizes illegal dumping of yard waste in Peachland's watershed.
- Enhance awareness of invasive mussels at District docks and boat launch areas.
- Develop a management plan for invasive eastern grey squirrels in the district of Peachland to protect our indigenous American Red squirrel and Douglas squirrel populations and mitigate the excessive damage they can cause to ecosystems, agriculture, homes, and other buildings.
- Utilise Integrated Pest Management process to guide management of invasive insects and plant species to reduce the use of harmful chemicals.
- Introduce District bylaw similar to RDCO's "Invasive Weed Control Bylaw" to address the growing concern of invasive plant species on private properties.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
various	1,2,3	ongoing	★★★	★★★★	N/A

D9.4 Collect more data to make better informed decisions related to ecosystems.

- Perform a biodiversity assessment that includes Peachland; seek partnership with WFN, ONA, OASISS, RDCO, and other entities with mutual interest. Funding grants may be available through Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
- Arrange to submit heads of cervids (deer, moose, elk) removed from roadways for CWD testing – as per Conservation Office directive. Nearest drop-off freezer location is by appointment in Summerland

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
various	1,2,3	ongoing	★	★	N/A

D9.5 Implement recommendations from prior reports to protect and expand sensitive habitats.

- Protect and expand the urban forest by developing policies and increasing incentives to protect existing trees and plant new trees.
- Protect areas with unstable slopes or sensitive soils from development or disturbances.
- Preserve old trees for habitat, and restrict mature trees from being removed during development.
- Review and implement where possible "Examples of Groundwater Protection Measures" provided in Report on Initial Phases in the Development of a Groundwater Protection Plan - District of Peachland, provided by Golder Associates Ltd., January 3, 2007.
- Use 2021 Update of the Central Okanagan Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory - Change Summary and Technical Report to identify and strengthen policies to protect, enhance, restore and expand critical climate sensitive ecosystems within the District of Peachland, keeping them safe from further development or disturbance.

Type of Action	*Related Objectives*	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
various	1,3	ongoing	★★★★	★★★★	N/A

Resident Actions

R9.1 Protect wildlife habitat and ecosystems that exist on your property by:

- removing invasive plant species using Okanagan Invasive Species Online as a resource
- keeping domestic cats indoors, in a "catio", or on a leash
- removing rodenticides (bait boxes, blocks, pellets, gels, etc.) to prevent secondary poisoning to wildlife or domestic animals
- seeking guidance from WildSafeBC to minimise negative impacts on wildlife
- treating windows with coatings or stickers to reduce bird strikes
- removing attractants such as seeds, fruits, and pet foods
- using eco-friendly alternatives to driveway salts or ice-melt (sand, wood ash, used coffee grounds, beet juice, etc.)
- reducing the use of pesticides in favour of natural alternatives
- keep garbage secured until the morning of pick-up; food scraps can be frozen to prevent from smelling
- using double-fencing or other secure barriers to prevent contact between domestic animals (poultry, sheep, goats, etc.) and wildlife
- protecting ponds or seasonal wetlands from cattle or ATV use

Related Objective	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,2,3	ongoing	★	★★★★	N/A

R9.2 Enhance the wildlife habitat and ecosystems on your property by:

- allowing leaf and organic matter from trees and vegetation to remain, unless it presents a fire hazard or acts as a wildlife attractant (fallen fruit)
- reducing or removing lawn, and/or planting trees and vegetation that are indigenous or non-invasive and require little watering
- planting vegetation that supports Peachland's bat population and other pollinator species, such as light-coloured, scented flowers or berries
- retaining dark corridors and using motion sensors for outdoor lighting, keeping lights directed downward and using amber, red, or yellow lights where possible instead of white or blue
- leaving standing dead trees (snags) intact or cut high to provide valuable habitat for a variety of wildlife

Related Objective	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,2,3	ongoing	★★★★	★★★★	N/A

R9.3 Protect wildlife habitat and ecosystems in daily life and recreational activities by:

- ensuring proper disposal of all household garbage, yard waste, electronics, aerosols, etc.
- packing out what you've packed in to natural areas, and brushing off footwear to prevent spreading seeds from invasive plant species across locations
- not releasing any domestic species including aquarium fish, turtles, rabbits, etc. into natural areas
- keeping pets out of creeks between September and March, and avoiding moving or disturbing rocks along the banks or within the creekbed
- avoiding making loud noises (revving motorcycles, honking horns, blowing whistles, screaming, or shouting) close to the maternal bat colony residing in the Old Schoolhouse (Art Gallery & OurSPACE) between May and October
- making sure to clean, drain, and dry all boats and flotation devices prior to return from locations with invasive mussel populations

Related Objective	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,2,3	ongoing	★	★★★★	N/A

R9.4 Report concerns involving wildlife habitat and ecosystems to appropriate bodies, including:

- invasive plant or animal species to the Invasive Species Council of BC through https://bcinvasives.ca/take-action/report/
- emergency wildlife concerns or unlawful attended campfires on Crown land to the BC Conservation Officers Service at 1-877-952-7277
- wildfires, illegal campfires, or abandoned campfires that you cannot extinguish to BC Wildfire at 1 800 663-5555 *5555 from a mobile phone
- illegal dumping on Crown land or environmental violations to the BC Conservation Officers Service at https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/
- abandoned garbage, vehicles, or encampments on Crown land to the Okanagan Forest Task Force using the OFTF app on Android or iOS.

Related Objective	*Timeline*	*Reducing Pollution*	*Developing Resilience*	*Investment*
1,2,3	ongoing	★★★	★	N/A

Why are Some of our Neighbours at Risk?

The **Western Painted Turtles** we watch for on the log in Gorman's Pond are threatened by habitat loss and the introduction of a destructive and competitive turtle species, the red-eared slider.

The **Western Screech Owl's** southern interior sub-species is only known to breed in the Okanagan Valley in riparian areas below 600m in elevation, with documented sightings in Peachland. Removal of standing dead trees contributes to their loss of habitat and connectivity between breeding and foraging areas. Predation from the invasive barred owl and the use of poisons for rodent control also contribute to their status as a threatened species. While population estimates are almost non-existent for Western Screech Owls, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) estimated the total population of the southern interior subspecies in 2012 to be 350-500 individuals.

The **Great Basin Spadefoot** is another among the threatened species we host. Requiring three different types of habitat (wetland, riparian, and conifer forest), this not-quite-frog and not-quite-toad species is placed at risk by vehicles, as well as cattle, horses, or ATVs entering wetlands or temporarily flooded areas. Breeding is threatened by drought and human water use such as irrigation that can cause water tables to drop. Pollution is also a big factor in their reduced numbers, as well as the presence of non-native fish and amphibian species, such as the American Bullfrog. These same threats have also made the **Tiger Salamander** an endangered species, red-listed in BC. As the majority of suitable habitat for both these species is located on private land within the Okanagan, there is plenty that individuals can do to protect (or devastate) these populations.

American Badgers are approaching extirpation status, with an estimated 25-30 individuals remaining in the entire Okanagan Valley.

NEXT STEPS

In this section we identify several priority areas where efforts can and should happen right away. We recognize that this Plan covers a lot of ground and the tasks ahead may seem daunting. Just as Rome was not built in a day, achieving meaningful reductions in the District's and the community's contribution to the pollution that causes climate change, and adequately preparing Peachlanders for the current and future impacts of climate change will take time. Recent events have shown us that time is not on our side.

The Climate Action Plan should be a long-lived and dynamic document whose implementation is reported on regularly and whose content is reviewed and updated at least every 5 years. Updates will be needed to reflect new risks, new technologies and other changing circumstances. Some of the proposed actions in the current Plan are for studies and assessments, the results of which will lead to new action recommendations to incorporate into the next version of the Plan.

For the Plan to truly be successful, the District and the citizens of Peachland will need to make a real commitment to action. This means we must make concerted efforts in implementation, monitoring, reporting, and updating the Peachland Climate Action Plan over time. Council will need to ensure that a climate lens is applied in all decisions. Senior Management will need to ensure that each division has a mandate to implement its components of the Plan. Dedicated staff resources will be needed to implement the Climate Action Plan. Our past efforts have shown these activities cannot be run from the corner of someone's desk, especially one who is already likely fully committed. **Accordingly, it is proposed that Peachland create a Climate Action Coordinator position and that this staff individual be supported by a Climate Action Task Force in the implementation, monitoring, reporting and updating of this Plan.**

CLIMATE ACTION COORDINATOR

The need for a staff person dedicated to climate action was recognized in 2020 by the Mayor's Task Force on Climate Change, and we are reinforcing that now. Most of the content from that previous Task Force's document "Climate Action Coordinator - Rationale for the Position" (attached in Appendix) applies to the current conversation.

Peachland has achieved much at the policy level, including having become a signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter in 2009, establishing the Mayor's Task Force on Climate Change in 2014, adding climate oriented goals and policies to the 2018 OCP, and joining the FCM and ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection Program in 2019. Peachland has also made achievements at the project level, including a building by building energy audit and remediation plan, a solar power demonstration project at the Community Centre, preparatory work for LED street lighting, a fleet electrification plan, public communication regarding the

importance of energy conservation, FireSmarting, and electric vehicle charging stations. However, the District took no real action that reduced its emissions prior to 2020. Since then, LED lighting has been installed and multiple EVs have been purchased.

Likewise, regarding resident actions, the District did use grant funding to produce the 2021 Community Energy and Emissions Plan (Community Energy Association, 2021), but there was no meaningful follow up.

And, while prior efforts concentrated on emissions reductions only, this Climate Action Plan has wider scope as it includes actions to enhance Peachland's and Peachlanders' resilience to climate changes that have started and that have yet to come. Attending to these needs for adaptation makes having a dedicated staff person more imperative.

This Task Force recognizes that hiring a full-time senior staff employee may be beyond Peachland's current fiscal means. We therefore suggest that Council consider two options. The first is a dedicated Peachland employee with dual roles, the Climate Action Coordinator being one. The second option is a dedicated Climate Action Coordinator shared with other jurisdictions such as the RDCO, Lake Country, West Kelowna, WFN, or Summerland.

Once hired, the Task Force suggests that the Climate Action Coordinator reach out to universities and colleges to determine if there are opportunities for grad students and/or post docs to assist in completing some of the proposed study actions in the Plan. The Coordinator should also reach out to ACET, Accelerating Community Energy Transition, and the BC Youth Climate Corps.

Future Climate Action Task Forces / Committees

Task Forces such as this are established by each new Council and their mandates expire at the end of the term of the Council that formed them. We propose that all future Councils establish a Climate Action Task Force at their first meeting to minimize the gap in support for the Climate Action Coordinator. Furthermore, future Climate Action Task Forces should have a mandate that runs for the entire 4-year period of the Council term. This will help ensure that the implementation, monitoring, reporting and updating responsibilities related to the Climate Action Plan are not neglected. Also, whenever possible, having a minimum of two members from each Climate Action Task Force carry forward to the next task force to ensure a certain level of continuity is advised.

For the next two Council periods, we suggest these 4-year mandates for the future Climate Action Task Forces:

- 2026 - 2030: working with Climate Action Coordinator to identify priority actions from Plan for each year, to identify potential funding sources for studies and projects, reviewing progress reports for Council, assisting in communications efforts
- 2030 - 2034: implementation mandate as above; additional mandate in 2031-32 to update the Plan, identifying new projects based on assessments and studies from

prior 4 years and changes in climate projections and progression of climate change and its impacts

Communicating Climate Action Effectively

Effective communication by the District will be critical to the Plan being successful. Not only in providing updates on progress on the District's suggested actions, but more importantly to ensure that Peachlanders are aware of the proposed resident actions and resources available to assist them in undertaking these actions.

To make sure all residents, including Seniors and Elders, understand and take part in these actions, the District can lead with clear, inclusive, and accessible communication. Sharing information through multiple channels like printed newsletters, community bulletin boards, phone trees, local radio, and in-person meetings ensures people without internet access still receive timely updates. Using plain language, local examples, and positive stories of neighbours helping neighbours makes climate action feel achievable. Partnering with community groups, health services, and local businesses builds trust and keeps information flowing in both directions.

Immediate Suggested Actions for 2026

As the mandate for the current Climate Action Task Force ends upon presentation of this Climate Action Plan to Council, and a Climate Action Coordinator is unlikely to be hired prior to 2027, climate action during the balance of 2026 will require a Council resolution instructing staff to pursue specific actions. Accordingly, the Climate Action Task Force has identified several specific actions we think can and should be undertaken in 2026.

The recommended actions for 2026 are:

TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL PLAN

APPENDICES

Appendices will be included in the final version of the Plan.