



## REQUEST FOR DECISION

To: Mayor & Members of Council

Title: Senior Planner – 2024 Local Government Climate Action Program Survey

Date: July 14, 2025

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### **Motion for Consideration:**

THAT: Council endorse the 2024 City of Salmon Arm Local Government Climate Action Program Survey, attached as Appendix 1 in the staff report dated July 14, 2025.

### **Background:**

The purpose of this report is to present the City's 2024 submission for the provincial *Local Government Climate Action Program* (LGCAP) to fulfill the public reporting requirements of this annual provincial grant.

Under the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the LGCAP initiative began in 2022, building on the previous Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) which was the key implementation program rolling out from the 2008 B.C. Climate Action Charter. These provincial programs are intertwined with the City of Salmon Arm's history of climate initiatives, as further described below.

#### *2008 British Columbia Climate Action Charter*

Along with the majority of local governments across the province, in 2008 the City voluntarily signed the B.C. Climate Action Charter, a non-legally binding agreement between the provincial government, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and local governments that acknowledges that climate change is a reality and establishes a number of goals going forward. Of particular relevance to local governments was the agreement to achieve the following goals:

1. *Being carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012;*
2. *Measuring and reporting on their community's greenhouse gas emissions profile; and*
3. *Creating complete, compact, more energy efficient communities.*

While operations have not been carbon neutral for previous reporting years, the City has been annually measuring and reporting on emissions and has completed several projects to reduce emissions and create a more compact and efficient community.

#### *Reserve Accounts*

There are two reserve accounts that the City has maintained to support climate action: the Climate Action Reserve and the LGCAP Reserve.

The City claimed a carbon tax rebate via CARIP from 2008 until 2021, intended towards expenditures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The funds received have been placed in a Climate Action Reserve which has directly financed various projects. This Climate Action Reserve fund (balance as of December 2024 - \$115,354) can support projects that allow the City to continue making progress towards carbon neutrality as determined through the budget process. Planned expenses in 2025 include:

- MUA/Glycol Loop Upgrade at the Shaw Centre - \$60,000
- Universal LED Street Lighting – Residential - \$25,000

Initiated in 2022, the LGCAP program funds have been placed in an LGCAP Reserve account to support climate initiatives. As of December 2024, the LGCAP Reserve balance was \$581,443. The funding allotment received in 2024 included both the 2025 and 2026 allotments. The annual allotment for all three years is therefore \$143,653 per year for 2024-2026.

Planned operating expenses in 2025 include:

- Climate Action Plan - \$40,000
- EV Readiness Assessment - \$75,000
- Transportation-Public Works Xeriscape Project - \$33,000

Planned capital expenses in 2025 include:

- Electric Remote Control Mower - \$60,000

#### *2008 Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Study*

In October of 2008 the City received an Energy and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Study, providing a description of initiatives that the City could undertake to reduce emissions and energy consumption and how the Climate Action Reserve may be best directed. The full report is available on the City's website. Over time, the City has acted on several of these recommendations for initiatives funded through the Climate Action Reserve.

#### *2010 Facility Reports*

In June 2010, following the broad direction of the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Study, four specific facility energy studies were completed to analyze the public works building, recreation centre, arena, and RCMP building. These buildings are the City's largest producers of GHG emissions. The arena and recreation centre produce roughly 40% of the City's emissions. Following the recommendations of these reports has guided efforts towards projects to enhance the efficiency of these facilities.

#### *2010 – 2020: CARIP Reports*

As a participant in the CARIP program, the City completed annual reports detailing emissions and actions, posted on the City's website and provided to the Province in support of the City's application for the annual CARIP grant. Annual CARIP reports are available on the City's website. CARIP grants to the City were allocated to a reserve account and subsequently brought forward through the budget process for GHG emissions reduction projects. The CARIP program ended in 2021.

### *2019 Climate Emergency and Community Energy Association*

In September 2019 City Council declared a climate emergency and engaged the Community Energy Association (CEA) to prepare a Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) and also became a member of the CEA. The CEA provided support to staff through the CARIP process, reviewing reporting details and highlighting updates in the CARIP program.

### *2019 FCM-ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program*

In 2019, aligned with CEA membership, the City joined the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program. The PCP program supports municipalities in taking action against climate change by reducing emissions, and consists of a five-step Milestone Framework, recognizing efforts that make a significant contribution to reducing Canada's GHG emissions. The City has been recognized for achieving PCP Milestone 1 for corporate GHG emissions, which is the creation of a baseline inventory and forecast.

### *2025 – Climate Resiliency Plan*

The City initiated the development of a Climate Resiliency Plan in mid-2025 designed to address both the causes and impacts of climate change in our community. Aligned with the requirements of British Columbia's Emergency Management legislation, it is expected to detail mitigation strategies to reduce environmental impacts, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and adaptation actions to minimize the effects of severe climate-related events while reducing our community's vulnerability to these risks.

### *2022 – Present: Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP)*

Announced on May 16, 2022, the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) provides funding to support the implementation of local climate action that reduces emissions and prepares communities for the impacts of a changing climate. As a signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter, the City is eligible for LGCAP funding subject to requirements primarily including GHG emissions reporting. As previously detailed, LGCAP funding is allocated to a reserve account for future emission reduction projects, similar to the previous CARIP / Gas Tax Grants, and managed through the budget process in the same way.

### *Corporate Emissions Inventory*

The City's corporate emissions inventory tracks energy consumption from corporate operations and quantifies the corresponding GHG emissions. The service areas and required scope of a corporate emissions inventory are defined by guidance documents produced by the Green Communities Committee – a partnership between the provincial government, the Ministry of Environment and the UBCM. The City's corporate emissions inventory was prepared by staff using these guidance documents, which are available on the BC Climate Action Toolkit website at [www.toolkit.bc.ca](http://www.toolkit.bc.ca). A summary of the City's 2024 inventory is shown in Table 1 below.

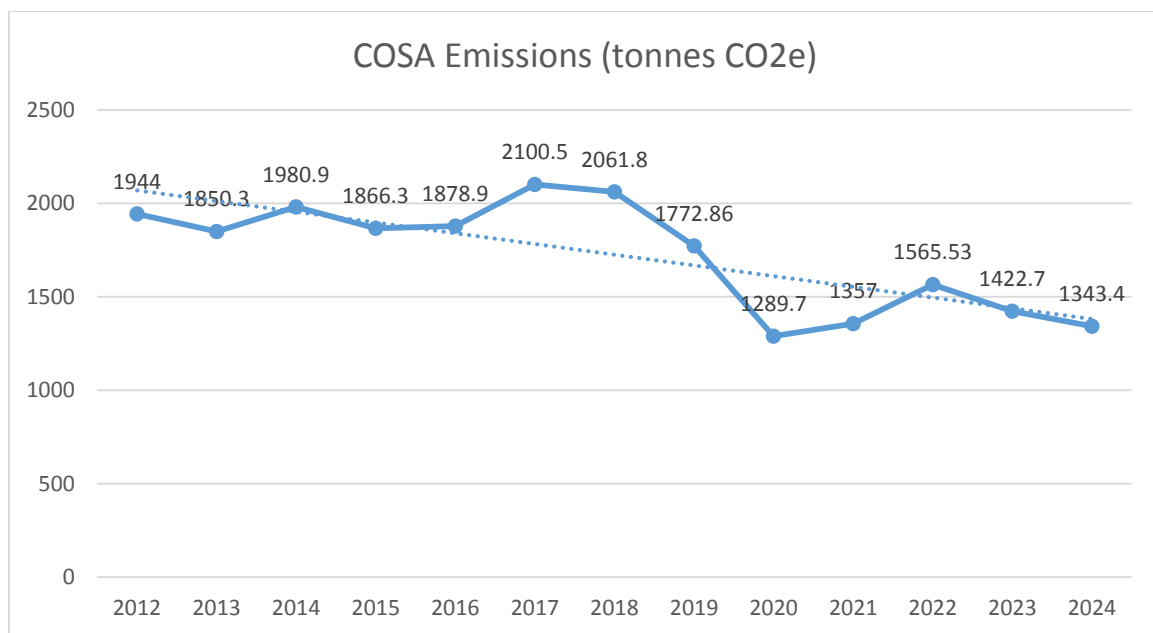
*Table 1. Summary of the 2024 City of Salmon Arm Corporate Emissions Inventory*

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Emissions (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>
Administration and Governance	46
Drinking, Storm and Waste Water	416.2
Solid Waste Collection, Transportation and Diversion	133.4
Roads and Traffic Operations	323.4
Arts, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Services	738.7
Fire Protection	102.3
Organic Waste Diversion	-416.6

<b>Total</b>	<b>1343.4</b>
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An expanded inventory is attached as Appendix 2. A detailed multi-department analysis could more accurately explain the annual variation in emissions, but in general changes may be attributed to weather (including snowfall and extreme temperature events), specific capital works projects, demand on programs and facilities (fluctuating service demands), as well as improved efficiencies.

The total reported for 2024 represents the second lowest emissions total to date, following 2020, as illustrated in the graph below. The significant reduction in emissions initiated in 2020 can be most significantly attributed to the Organic Waste Diversion program and reduced service levels during the COVID pandemic. As well, the City has experienced generally milder annual temperatures in recent years.



### *Trends*

Over 13 years of tracking and reporting, some observable trends can be noted. In terms of highlighting what has worked, staff note that:

- the average corporate GHG reduction over the past 5 years is approximately 29%;
- the Curbside Organic Waste Diversion provides the most significant emissions reduction;
- the conversion of street and facility lighting to LED lights has produced a reduction; and
- the introduction of electric and hybrid fleet vehicles has also contributed reductions.

Areas noted for improvement or future action towards emissions reduction include:

- the recreation centre and arena building's mechanical / plant systems are the largest producers of emissions within the City's corporate buildings, and can be improved with upgrades and life cycle replacements; and
- the operation of heavy fleet equipment related to road maintenance, once the technology is available.

It is important to note that an increasing population supports a trend towards increased service provision which generally equates to increased emissions. As previously noted, general emission

changes and annual fluctuations may be attributed to the climatic conditions, specifically snowfall and temperature (which affect heavy fleet equipment use).

#### *Carbon Neutrality*

The City's corporate operations produced a total of 1,760 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2024. Including an offset of 416.6 tonnes from organics diversion, the City's total emissions are 1,343.4 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e. In order to be carbon neutral, the City would need to purchase 1,343.4 carbon offset credits from a provider of certified offsets.

Past quotes for carbon offset credits have ranged from \$16.00 to \$25.00 per tonne. To offset 1,343.4 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e to become carbon neutral for the 2024 reporting year would cost in the range of \$21,000 to \$33,600 (not including associated administrative costs). For the reporting years up to and including 2023, the City has not opted to purchase offset credits to achieve carbon neutrality, and staff have not recommended the purchase of such offsets.

#### *Provincial Context*

The Province has regularly published summary reports detailing Local Government Climate Actions under this program. The majority of participating local governments have not been carbon neutral, including Salmon Arm: for example 73% of 2018 CARIP participants (136 reporting local governments) were not carbon neutral. Staff have regularly monitored reports from comparable communities and have observed a somewhat predictable trend where communities with the coldest climates show relatively high emissions, while those in warmer climates report lower emissions. Of the carbon neutral communities, approximately one-third achieve carbon neutrality through their own actions (primarily landfill gas capture or through organic recycling programs), while approximately two-thirds purchase offsets (note that while the City contributes to the CSRD's landfill gas capture, the CSRD maintains all associated carbon credits).

#### *Climate Actions*

Local governments are required to report their emissions for the 2024 year to be LGCAP eligible and all provincial funding received is to be used towards climate actions. These climate actions are not strictly operational (with directly reduced GHG emissions) and may include corporate and community level initiatives and plans, such as building standard programs and upgrades, transportation plans and installations, community climate planning and related investments, and climate resilience planning and management.

Climate action projects and related initiatives completed in 2024 and expected in 2025 include:

#### *Ongoing Services and Climate Action Initiatives*

- Ongoing Universal LED Street Lighting Project - Residential
- Ongoing Universal LED Lighting Projects – Parking Lots
- Ongoing Organic Waste Diversion program (weekly)
- Ongoing residential yard waste pick-up (bi-annual)
- Ongoing Water Conservation initiatives (universal metering implementation plan, source protection plan, education, implement staged water restrictions)
- Ongoing fleet vehicle (EV) replacements
- Ongoing Public Works electric small tool and equipment replacement

#### *Parks*

- Ongoing park enhancements (Klahani, Blackburn, and Canoe Beach Parks):
- Ongoing park washroom light LED upgrades

- Ongoing Park Tree Planting including BC Hydro Community ReGreening program, Canoe Beach, Blackburn, and Pileated Woods Tree Planting (2025)
- Wildfire Fuel Load Management projects:
  - Pileated Woods (2024)
  - Completing Little Mountain treatment (2025)
  - Park Hill prescription plan (2025)

#### Transportation

- Universal LED Street Lighting Project - Cobra Heads (2024)
- Ongoing greenways enhancements:
  - 2024: Sunset Ridge project, Lambs Hill construction, and Turner Creek repairs
  - 2025: SD 83 Jackson Campus, Byers View greenway connection
- Various sidewalk and Active Transportation upgrade projects including:
  - 16 Street/11 Avenue Sidewalk Replacement with Multi-Use Path (2025)
  - 10 Ave SW – multi use path west of Piccadilly (2024)
- Design Stage projects:
  - Lakeshore Road Improvements including multi-use path
  - Auto Road Connector project including multi-use path
  - West Bay Connector

#### Facilities

- Ongoing LED office conversions:
  - City Hall
  - Recreation Centre
- Rec Centre: heat exchanger, expansion tank, and gas valve (2025)
- Arenas: desuperheater and heat recovery, and control programming (2025)

#### Planning

- Complete Communities assessment (2024)
- Tree Protection Bylaw (2024)
- Official Community Plan update (2025)
- Climate Resiliency Plan (2025)
- EV Readiness Assessment (2025)

The future projects listed are generally optional and suggestions by City staff, subject to Council's consideration through the annual budget process. LGCAP program funding is to be fully allocated to support climate action initiatives.

#### Legislative authority / plans / reports:

X	Official Community Plan	X	Climate Resiliency Plan
X	Corporate Strategic Plan		

The Official Community Plan contains current GHG policies. The new OCP is expected to update these policies to reflect current goals.

The Climate Resiliency Plan initiated in 2025 is expected to detail mitigation strategies.

The Corporate Strategic Plan provides five strategic drivers for the City, including protecting and enhancing the environment, reducing greenhouse gases and noting climate action initiatives as a short term priority.

**Financial Considerations:**

The purpose of this report is to present the submission for LGCAP to fulfill the public reporting and eligibility requirements of this annual provincial grant. The annual allotment for all three years (2024-2026) is \$143,653 per year. LGCAP program funding is to be fully allocated to support climate action initiatives.

**Alternatives & Implications:**

The purpose of this report is to present the submission for LGCAP to fulfill the public reporting and requirements of this annual provincial grant. Should Council opt out of the program or fail to meet the program conditions, the City would not be eligible to receive future grant funding.

**Communication:**

The LGCAP survey will be placed on the City's website to communicate the City's ongoing efforts to reduce GHG emissions.

Prepared by: Senior Planner  
Reviewed by: Manager of Planning & Building  
Reviewed by: Director of Planning & Community Services  
Reviewed by: Manager Financial Services  
Approved by: Chief Administrative Officer

**Attachments:**

- Appendix 1: 2024 LGCAP Survey
- Appendix 2: 2024 GHG Summary