

Community Climate Action Plan June 8, 2023 | Webinar FAQs

What is a “Ten-Minute City” and why is it in the Community Climate Action Plan?

The Ten- (or Fifteen-) Minute City strategy (also known as [complete communities](#)) is an urban planning concept that strives to support the integration of daily needs amenities in existing neighbourhood centres and, wherever possible, to concentrate housing near existing and planned transit, cycling, and walking networks.

When people live in close proximity (i.e. within 10 minutes) to active transportation and transit networks, they are less reliant on personal automobiles to access their daily needs, which tends to reduce transportation emissions and household expenditures on transportation. Increasing access to daily needs also has the potential to reduce inequities in the community by improving walkability for all.

The Ten-Minute City strategy will not restrict people’s freedom of movement between neighbourhood centres. It’s all about providing residents with more transportation choices to travel in our city.

Why were webinar participants not able to turn off their mute and/or post comments during the June 8, 2023 webinar?

The purpose of the Community Climate Action Plan webinar was to provide Kamloops residents an opportunity to learn the facts about the Community Climate Action Plan. This was in response to a flyer being distributed to residents that was designed to appear as though it was produced by the City of Kamloops and that contained false and misleading information about the Community Climate Action Plan.

The Community Climate Action Plan webinar’s Q&A feature was available, and all participants could see the questions once City staff posted answer to the questions. Questions that contained offensive or derogatory language were not posted as they were not answered. Questions may have been answered privately if more clarity was required.

How much additional electricity generation and infrastructure is required to convert all of the existing (or even just 30%) of the vehicles in Kamloops to electric vehicles (EVs)? Is this actually achievable?

Though electricity generation is not within our municipal jurisdiction, BC Hydro has been planning for increased adoption of EVs for years and has [publicly](#) stated that they will be able to meet the demand from the increasing electrification of vehicles and building energy systems. This is a key focus of BC Hydro’s [Electrification Plan](#).

To augment BC Hydro’s grid, the Community Climate Action Plan notes that increasing local renewable energy generation and storage will make the grid more flexible and resilient, which will become more important as electricity demand increases due to the switch to EVs; the installation of heat pumps, etc.; and the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events due to the impacts of climate change.

How will people be able to afford all-electric heating (e.g. heat pumps)? What economic assessment has been conducted to understand this?

According to their [website](#), BC Hydro is currently exploring options to update its residential rate structure, which has remained the same since 2008. New potential rate options will consider the changing ways British Columbians are using electricity, from smart home products to EVs and heat pumps, while also ensuring affordability and fairness for all customers. Any change to BC Hydro rates requires an application and approval from the BC Utilities Commission.

The Community Climate Action Plan aims to significantly reduce personal transportation emissions (i.e. by 2050, 85% of kilometres driven by Kamloops-registered passenger vehicles will be by zero-emission vehicles). How does the City intend to achieve these reductions?

The Community Climate Action Plan's emissions reductions modelling on personal transportation considered the Province of BC's *Zero-Emission Vehicles Act*, which is predicted to have the largest effect on reducing emissions in this sector. In light of this, the Community Climate Action Plan—guided by the City's [EV & E-Bike Strategy](#)—includes actions to help residents prepare for the transition to electric transportation, including supporting access to EV charging at home, which is a key driver to accelerating EV adoption, and encouraging private sector investment in publicly accessible EV charging.

How was the community involved in the process to develop the Community Climate Action Plan?

Public engagement took place at various points in the Community Climate Action Plan's development. There were in-person open house events when public health restrictions permitted and online engagement sessions when meeting in person was not an option. For more details, including Community Climate Action Plan engagement summary reports, visit [Let'sTalk.Kamloops.ca/ClimateAction](https://letstalk.kamloops.ca/climateaction).

Where can people view the economic assessment that was completed during the development of the Community Climate Action Plan?

The Community Climate Action Plan Economic Analysis Summary (Attachment "B" to the December 8, 2020, report to Council) can be viewed at [Let'sTalk.Kamloops.ca/ClimateAction](https://letstalk.kamloops.ca/climateaction) or by clicking this [link](#).

How will actions in the Community Climate Action Plan be funded?

City Council established a Climate Action Levy of 0.35% to civic taxation beginning in 2022, which will generate approximately \$24 million over the first 10 years and grow to an annual investment of \$4.44 million thereafter. These funds, along with revenue the City receives through the Province's [Local Government Climate Action Program](#), will be used to support the implementation of municipal- and community-based climate action initiatives as prioritized in the Community Climate Action Plan.

The Community Climate Action Plan recommends developing a strategy to support increased use of low-carbon energy systems like heat pumps. Do heat pumps work in Kamloops' climate?

Yes. With advancements in heat pump technology, there are heat pump models available in BC that can operate in temperatures as low as -30°C. A contractor may recommend supplemental heating to help meet demand during periods of extreme chill. In 2022, a UBC Sustainability Scholar conducted local research and developed case studies on the experiences of Kamloops households that have made the switch from gas heating to electric heat pumps, which will be posted soon on [Kamloops.ca/GoElectric](https://kamloops.ca/GoElectric).

What indisputable scientific evidence have you assessed to support reasons for such an initiative? Where does it state that carbon dioxide is bad for the environment? What is the current level of carbon dioxide in the environment?

The City commissioned a consultant with expertise in energy and emissions policy development to provide technical support throughout the Community Climate Action Plan's development. Information in the Community Climate Action Plan regarding climate change draws on a body of research assessed by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), including comprehensive reports on the state of scientific, technical, and socio-economic knowledge on climate change; its impacts and future risks; and options for reducing the rate at which climate change is taking place.

How does the Community Climate Action Plan address the impact of mining from extracting raw materials used in low-carbon technologies, such as batteries and solar panels? Will it be worse for the environment than fossil fuels?

The process of mining renewable-energy materials like lithium and cobalt have social and environmental impacts, as does the production and combustion of fossil fuels. Given society's dependence upon energy and the need to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions to address climate change, the vast majority of scientists agree there is an urgent need to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. It is widely accepted that society must support a just transition to a low-carbon economy for workers and communities. This includes advocating for higher sustainable mining practices, both at home and abroad.

What will happen to batteries for electric vehicles at their end of life?

With EV adoption on the rise, demand for the materials used in EV batteries will increase. Leading battery recyclers, including some Canadian companies, are showing that up to 95% of the materials used in lithium-ion batteries can be recycled and put back into the supply chain.

What do the terms zero carbon and net zero mean?

These terms are sometimes used interchangeably, but, in general, zero carbon means that no operational carbon emissions are being produced from a product or service (e.g. a zero-carbon building produces no emissions from space, water, or process heating). Net zero, on the other hand, means cutting carbon emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions being offset through carbon credits and/or carbon capture and storage.

Big Move 5 is a great initiative; however, I would like more see more energy on this subject. How many pounds do you think an average family home throws into the garbage in Kamloops?

Based on a recent waste audit, on average, Kamloops households produce 18.11 kg of garbage per week, with 52% of that being organic waste. The forthcoming Curbside Residential Organic Waste Collection program has the potential to divert ~5.8 million kg of organic waste from the landfill each year.

What is our current tree canopy (cover percentage)?

According to the City's [tree mapping program](#), our tree canopy is currently 15.77%. The City's [Urban Forest Management Strategy](#) (2016) includes a goal to establish an overall tree canopy target of 20%.

Are any City staff currently using E-bikes for their work?

Yes. The Community Service Officers are integrating E-bikes into their operations, and the Civic Operations Department is using E-bikes for specialized tasks like sidewalk inspections.

Will there be more sidewalks built to encourage walking?

Yes. The City is actively building new sidewalks throughout the community through the Active Transportation capital budget, including multi-use paths, which provide a high-quality pedestrian facility that is wide and often lit. In addition, new development may trigger the construction of new sidewalks.