

Regional Greenhouse Gas Study

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Capital Regional District | January 2024

1. Why did the CRD measure regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?

This GHG emission inventory will help the CRD and municipalities to:

- understand the breakdown of greenhouse gas emissions in the capital region
- plan for effective climate action
- monitor progress
- meet reporting requirements as signatories of the BC Climate Action Charter

2. What methodology was used to create the inventory?

The CRD used the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GPC) Inventory protocol. GPC is an internationally accepted and credible emissions and reporting practice supported by the [Global Covenant of Mayors](#) and the [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#) promotes the use of the GPC protocol.

3. Why did the CRD create a community greenhouse gas inventory?

Several municipalities in the capital region have expressed desire to have a resource that builds upon previous community-level emissions data provided by the Province of BC to create a more complete estimate of community emissions, including estimates of transportation related emissions in our region.

4. What does the GPC BASIC + Inventory measure?

The inventory measures emissions related to:

- stationary energy (e.g., buildings, construction, energy industry)
- transportation (including airport and marine emissions)
- waste
- industrial process and product use
- agriculture, forestry and other land use

5. Are there other inventories that have been created for the capital region?

Prior to the completion of the regional inventory, the City of Victoria and District of Saanich both completed municipal inventories using the GPC BASIC + protocol. For more information about these inventories, please contact these municipalities directly. Victoria (sustainability@victoria.ca) and Saanich (sustainability@saanich.ca).

6. How does the provincial government's Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) differ from the CRD GPC BASIC + Inventory?

Each of these inventory protocols have different parameters for measuring emissions.

The GPC protocol has a broader scope that includes emissions related to:

- stationary energy (e.g., buildings, construction, energy industry)
- transportation
- waste
- industrial process and product Use
- agriculture, forestry and other land use
- data is published for 2007, 2010, 2012, 2018, 2020, and 2022
- inventories were not produced for 2013 through 2017 because data was incomplete for those years

THE CEEI protocol includes emissions related to:

- buildings
- on-road transportation
- solid waste
- land-use change from deforestation
- data is published for 2007-2021

In January 2024, the province released the CEEI data for 2007-2021. Transportation data was published for the first time since 2012, alongside buildings and waste data. Please note there will be differences between the CEEI results and the CRD GPC BASIC + Inventory. This is because the two inventories have different scopes, and used different methodologies for estimating emissions. This is particularly evident for the transportation-related emissions where the provincial estimates indicate transportation emissions are far higher than CRD estimates. CRD staff believe that the new CEEI transportation emissions are likely overestimates resulting from emissions in

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other areas of the province being allocated to the capital region. [Learn more about the CEEI here](#). If you have questions about the CRD's recent inventories, please contact climateaction@crd.bc.ca

7. What information was learned from conducting the inventory?

The results of the inventory indicate the following:

- On-road transportation (vehicle travel) remains the biggest opportunity for the region to reduce emissions.
- Emissions from heating buildings are the second biggest emission reduction opportunity (i.e., heating homes with fossil fuels like fuel oil and natural gas).
- As a result of the reduction in estimated heating oil use in buildings, natural gas accounted for the majority of building emissions in 2022. Natural gas use also increased by 10% between 2020 and 2022.
- There has been significant progress made on waste-related GHG emission reductions in the capital region since 2007, through initiatives such as landfill methane capture and the kitchen scraps ban.
- The capital region's population grew by more than 24% between 2007 and 2022, but emissions decreased, demonstrating that per capita emissions have gone down.
- Carbon pollution in the region remains persistent and significant work remains for the region to meet its 2038 target.

Better data for land-use changes, transportation, natural gas and fuel oil use is needed in order to draw more specific conclusions from emission inventories.