Regional Greenhouse Gas Study

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Capital Regional District | July 2020, updated March 2022

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 if 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 and 2020
- 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, 2010, and 2012 (2012 excludes transportation)

As well, the GPC inventory was created by the CRD specifically for the region, while the CEEI inventories demonstrate the provincial perspective. Learn more about the CEEI here.

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).
- There has been significant progress made on waste related GHG emission reduction 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 14% between 2007 and 2018, but emissions did not increase, demonstrating that per capita emissions have gone down.
- The region is not currently on track to meet the Regional Growth Strategy 2020 or 2038 emission targets. Significant additional reductions are required to achieve the 2038 reduction target of 61%.

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.