Regional Growth Strategy

Indicator Report 2020

Making a difference...together

RGS INDICATORS – AT A GLANCE

Managing and Balancing Growth

- Number of net new dwelling units in areas where more than 42% walk/ bike/bus to work (*updated 2020*)
- Hectares added to the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA) Growth Boundary (*updated 2020*)
- Percentage of net new dwellings built outside the UCPA (*updated 2020*)
- Net new dwelling units in East Sooke and Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) areas (*updated 2020*)

Environment and Infrastructure

- Percentage of Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt acquired (*updated 2020*)
- Percentage of the Regional Trail Network completed (*updated 2020*)
- Compliance with Source Control Bylaw (*updated 2020*)
- Number of discharges with a high public health concern (*updated 2020*)
- Waste stream: solid waste disposal (*updated 2020*)
- Average water consumption (*updated 2020*)

Housing and Community

- Create safe and complete communities

- Reduce core housing need
- Average rent for 2-bedroom apartment (*updated 2020*)
- Vacancy rate by rental price quartiles (*updated 2020*)
- Increase supply of affordable housing (*updated 2020*)

Transportation

- Percentage of total trips made by walking, cycling and transit in the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA)

Economic Development

- Jobs to population ratio

Food Systems

- Hectares of farmland in the GMPA
- Average age of farmer

Climate Action

- Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions (*updated 2020*)

Contents

Overview ..... i.i

Indicators

1. Managing and Balancing Growth

1.1a Number of net new dwelling units in areas where more than 42% walk/bike/bus to work 2

1.1b Hectares added to the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA) growth boundary 3

1.2a Percentage of net new dwellings built outside the UCPA 4

1.2b Net new dwelling units in East Sooke and Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) areas 5

2. Environment and Infrastructure

2.1a Percentage of Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt acquired 6

2.1b Percentage of the Regional Trail Network completed 7

2.1c Compliance with Source Control Bylaw 8

2.1d Number of discharges with a high public health concern 9

2.2a Waste stream: solid waste disposal 10

2.2b Average water consumption 11

3. Housing and Community

3.1a Create safe and complete communities 12

3.2a Reduce core housing need 13

3.2b Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment 14

3.2c Vacancy rate by rental price quartiles 15

3.2d Increase supply of affordable housing 16

4. Transportation

4.1a Percentage of total trips made by walking, cycling and transit in the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA) 17

5. Economic Development

5.1a Jobs to population ratio 18

6. Food Systems

6.1a Hectares of farmland in the GMPA 19

6.1b Average age of farmer 20

7. Climate Action

7.1a Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions 21

The Regional Growth Strategy

The 2018 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) is a framework developed by municipalities and the regional district to address how communities will work together to enhance regional quality of life and social well-being over the next 20 years.

> The provincial government created the growth strategy legislation to "...promote human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources".

The RGS includes policies, actions and targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The strategy was developed with significant public and stakeholder involvement and responds to the RGS vision of a livable community that stewards the environment and natural resources with care.

The RGS Indicator Report

A robust monitoring program helps the region measure progress towards achieving RGS goals and objectives.

Wherever possible, indicators were selected such that data would be available on an annual basis. Unfortunately, for many of the indicators, information is only available through census data and will therefore only be updated every five years.

How to use this report

For each indicator, four key questions are answered:

- What is being measured?
- Why is the indicator important?
- What is the target/desired trend?
- How are we doing?

Indicator performance is described relative to a baseline year. However, it is important to note that changes in year-to-year performance do not always equate to a long-term trend. While performance in any given year may be positive or negative, it may take many years of data to reliably identify a clear trend. Where possible, trend lines are included in the graphs to help illustrate indicator trends.

The RGS indicators evaluated in this report are shown in the following table.

2038 Targets by priority area and objective

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE	TARGETS BY 2038
1.0 Managing and Balancing Growth	1.1 Keep Urban Settlement Compact 1.2 Protect the Integrity of Rural Communities	• Accommodate a minimum of 95% of the region's new dwelling units within the Urban Containment Policy Area.
2. 0 Environment and Infrastructure	2.1 Protect, Conserve and Manage Ecosystem Health	• Acquire 100% of the Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt. • Complete 100% of the Regional Trail Network. • Reduce contaminants to fresh and marine water bodies.
	2.2 Deliver Services Consistent with RGS Objectives	• Prepare long-term capital plans for Capital Regional District utilities and major infrastructure improvements that take into consideration the conservation of land, water and energy resources and the impacts of climate change and natural hazards.
3.0 Housing and Community	3.1 Create Safe and Complete Communities	• Municipal targets for the number of people living in complete communities to be identified by municipalities in Regional Context Statements.
	3.2 Improve Housing Affordability	• Increase the supply of more affordable housing. • Reduce the number of people in core housing need. • Reduce the number of people who are homeless.
4.0 Transportation	4.1 Improve Multi-Modal Connectivity and Mobility	• Achieve a transportation system that sees 42% of all trips made by walking, cycling and transit.

5.0 Economic Development	5.1 Realize the Region's Economic Potential	• Achieve a jobs/population ratio of:
		  • 0.60 in Core Area
		  • 0.53 in Saanich Peninsula
		  • 0.36 in West Shore

6.0 Food Systems	6.1 Foster a Resilient Food and Agriculture System	• Increase the amount of land in crop production for food by 5,000 ha to enhance local food security. • Municipal targets to increase the amount of land in crop production for food and to encourage agricultural land to be identified by municipalities in Regional Context Statements.
7.0 Climate Action	7.1 Significantly reduce community based greenhouse gas emissions	• Reduce community greenhouse gas emissions by 33% (from 2007 levels) by 2020, and by 61% by 2038.

1.0 MANAGING AND BALANCING GROWTH

1.1a Number of net new dwelling units in areas where more than 42% walk/bike/bus to work

What is being measured?

This indicator tracks new dwelling units created in census Dissemination Areas (DA) where at least 42% of trips involve active transportation (walking, biking or taking transit).

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to keep urban settlement compact and directs new growth to be located where it can be efficiently serviced by transit and active transportation.

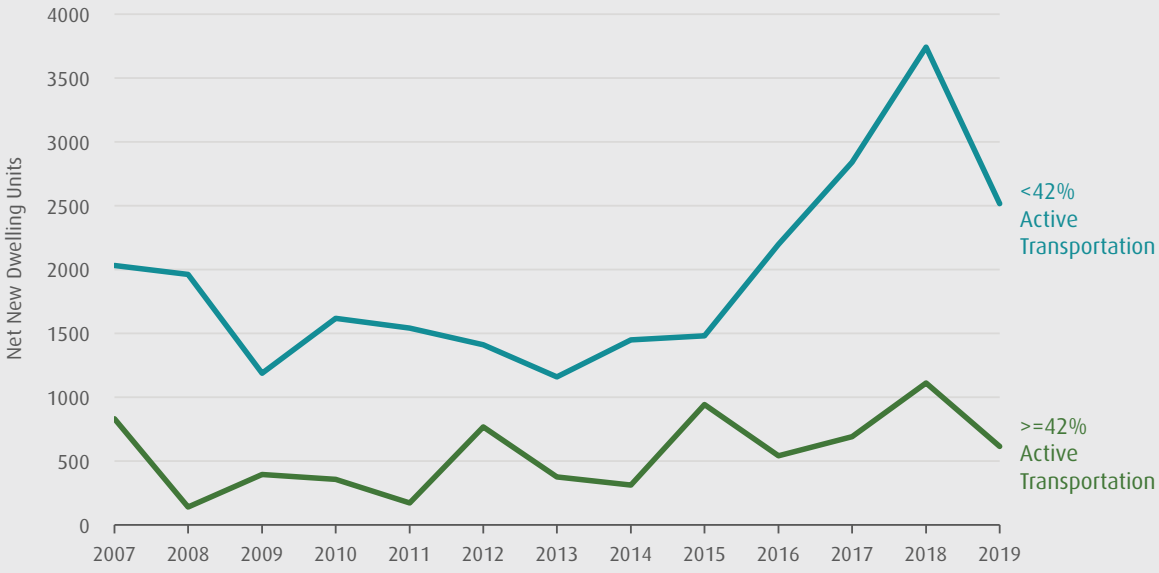
Target/Desired Trend

Place growth in areas conducive to walking, cycling and transit.

How are we doing?

Currently, we are not meeting the target.

In the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA) between 2012-2015, we saw as much as 39% of growth in net new dwelling units in areas with greater than 45% active transportation. In the period of 2016-2019 we saw 20% of growth in net new dwelling units in high active transportation areas and high growth of net new units in areas with less active transportation.



Source: CRD Building Permit Database and Statistics Canada Census of Population 2016

1.0 MANAGING AND BALANCING GROWTH

1.1b Hectares added to the Urban Containment Policy Area growth boundary

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the net change in the land area of the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA). The UCPA is intended to hold a land supply that will accommodate the region's population and employment growth.

Why is this indicator important?

This indicator aligns with the RGS objective to keep urban settlement compact. The Regional Growth Strategy includes a policy that generally permits amendment to the UCPA only as an outcome of a comprehensive 5-year review of the RGS.

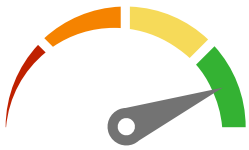
Target/Desired Trend

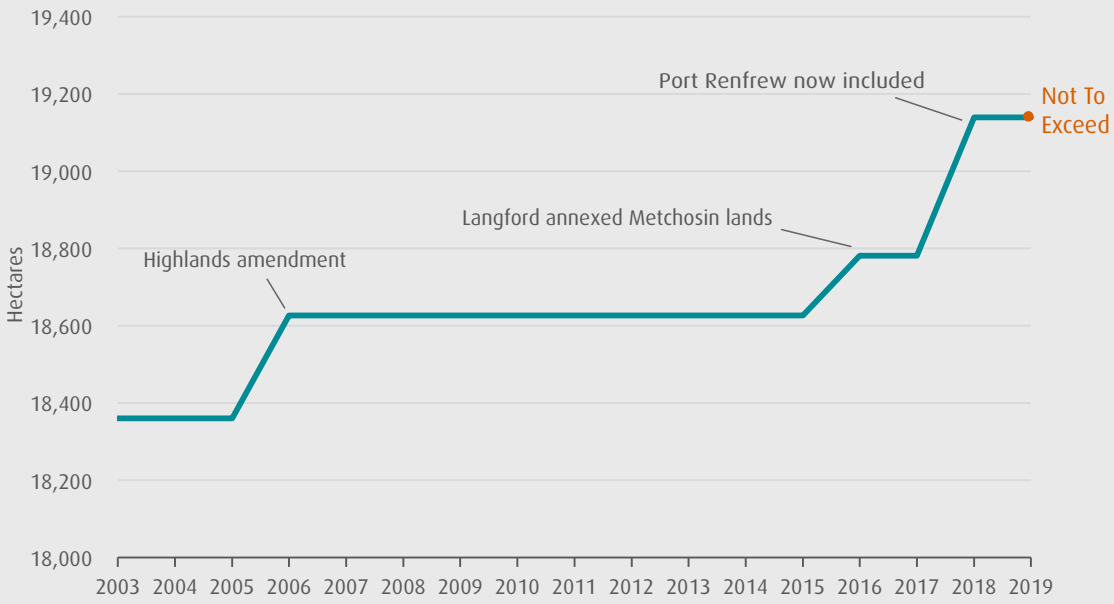
Minimize change to the UCPA from the date of adoption of the 2018 RGS.

How are we doing?

We are meeting the target.

Since the March 2018 adoption of the RGS, there have been no changes to the UCPA.





Source: CRD Regional Planning

1.0 MANAGING AND BALANCING GROWTH

1.2a Percentage of net new dwellings built outside the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA)

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the annual share of net new dwelling units located outside the UCPA.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to keep urban settlement compact and protect the integrity of rural communities.

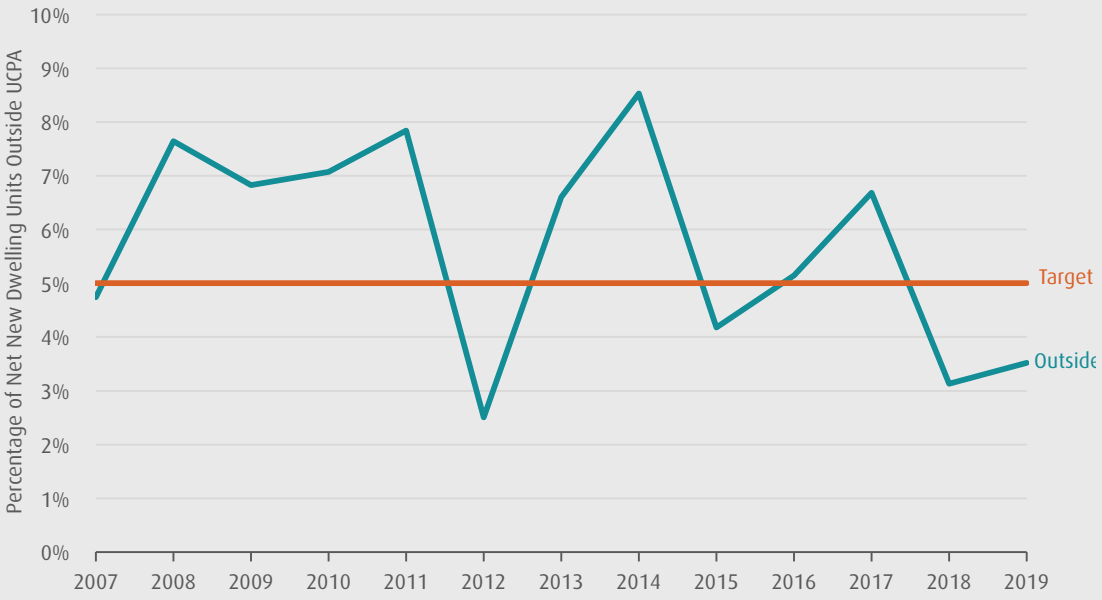
Target/Desired Trend

Accommodate a maximum of 5% of the region's net new dwelling units outside the UCPA (for a minimum 95% of net new dwelling units within the UCPA, as per RGS target).

How are we doing?

We have me the target in the last two years.

In the past ten years the average percentage growth outside the UCPA has been 5.6% and the standard deviation was 1.9%.



Source: CRD Building Permit Database

1.2b Net new dwelling units in East Sooke and Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) areas

What is being measured?

This indicator measures annual net new dwelling units located in the East Sooke and Otter Point OCP areas of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to protect the integrity of rural communities.

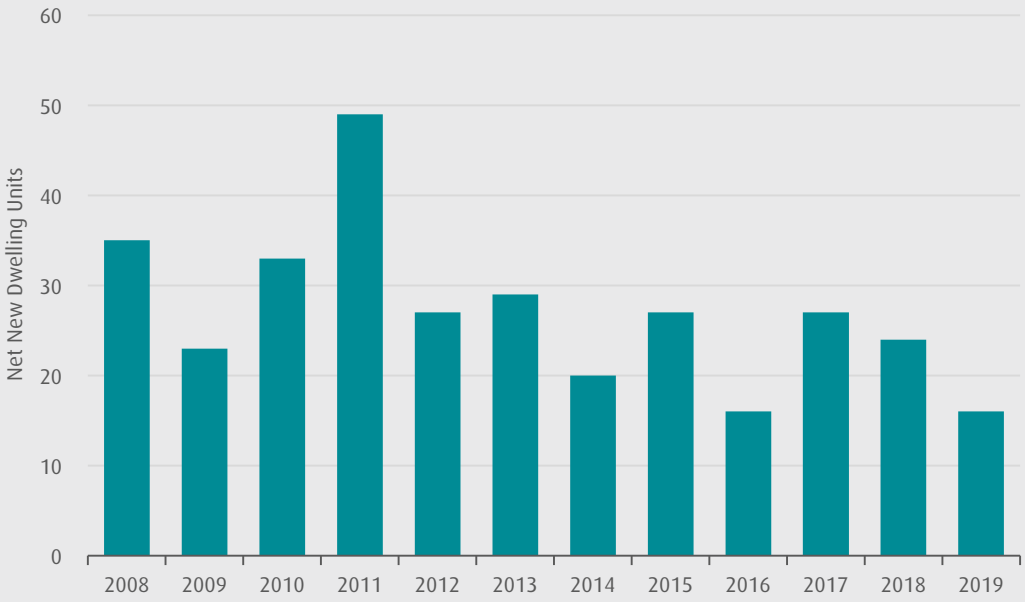
Target/Desired Trend

The total number of units in East Sooke and Otter Point is not to exceed 3,384 units. This includes both existing and new units.

How are we doing?

We are meeting the target.

As of 2019 there are 1,633 dwelling units in East Sooke and Otter Point. There has been minimal expansion, with an average of 26 net new units per year over the past 10 years.



Source: CRD Building Permit Database

2.0 ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

2.1a Percentage of Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt acquired

What is being measured?

This indicator tracks the percentage of land within the regional Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt that has been protected. Acquisition of additional land required to meet the target is to be undertaken by CRD and/or other levels of government.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health. The protection of the Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt will provide a continuous connected greenbelt network from Tod Inlet to the Sooke Basin.

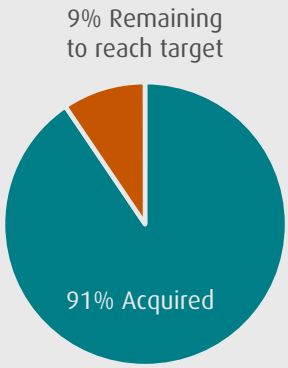
Target/Desired Trend

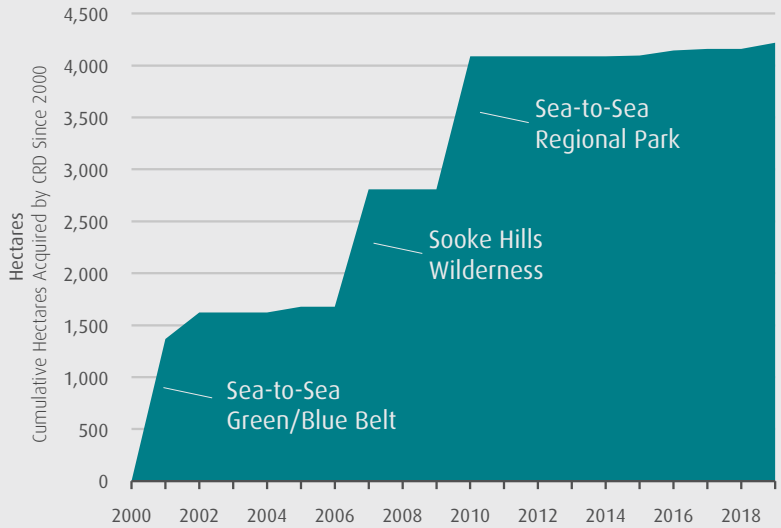
Acquire 100% of the Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt.

How are we doing?

We have yet to fully meet the target.

As of September 2020, 91% of the proposed 11,310 hectares has been acquired.





Source: CRD Regional Parks

2.0 ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

2.1b Percentage of the Regional Trail Network completed

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the percentage of the Regional Trail Network that has been completed.

Why is this indicator important?

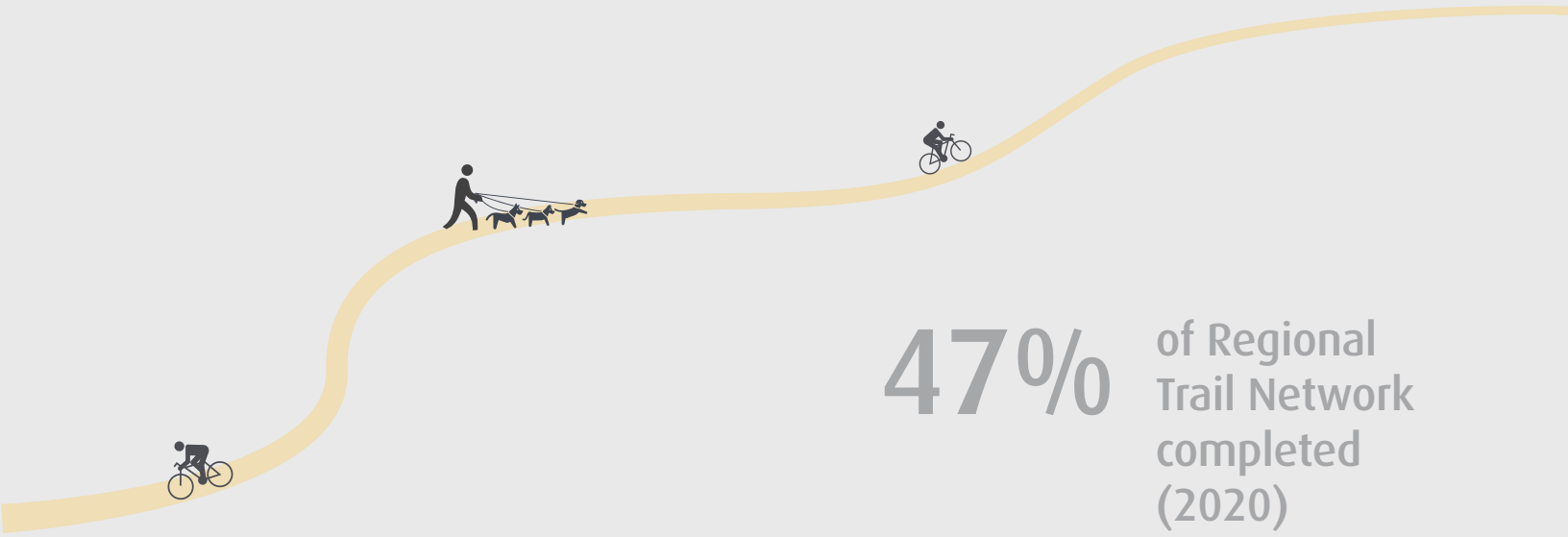
The RGS aims to protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health. The Regional Trail Network represents an integrated trail and linear park system linking urban areas to rural green space and is a key element of the Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy.

Target/Desired Trend

Complete 100% of the Regional Trail Network as identified in the 2011 CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan.

How are we doing?

We are making progress towards the target. As of October of 2020, 47% of the proposed 390 kilometres of the Regional Trail Network has been completed.



47% of Regional Trail Network completed (2020)

Source: CRD Regional Parks

2.1c Compliance with Source Control Bylaw

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the percentage of businesses in compliance with Source Control Bylaw standards.

Why is this indicator important?

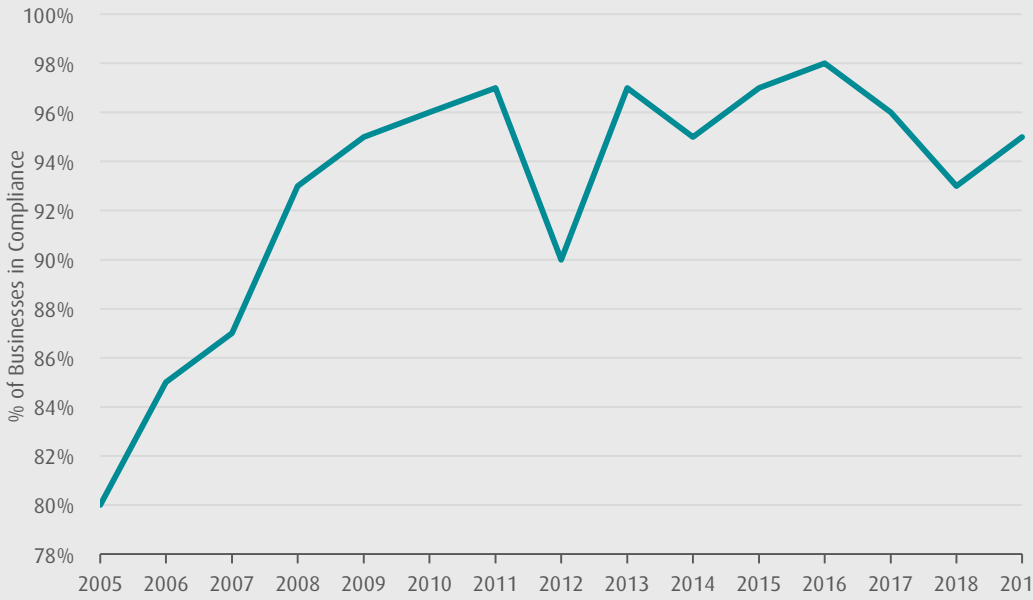
The RGS aims to protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health. A high level of compliance reduces contaminants in fresh and marine regional waterways.

Target/Desired Trend

Increase compliance of the standards established in the Source Control Bylaw.

How are we doing?

We are seeing consistently high levels of compliance.



NOTE: Prior to 2014, the indicator tracked proper waste treatment. The new measure, overall compliance, is a stricter standard indicating proper waste treatment facilities that are fully functioning.

Source: CRD Environmental Protection

2.0 ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

2.1d Number of discharges with a high public health concern

What is being measured?

This indicator monitors the number of discharges with high public health concern.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health.

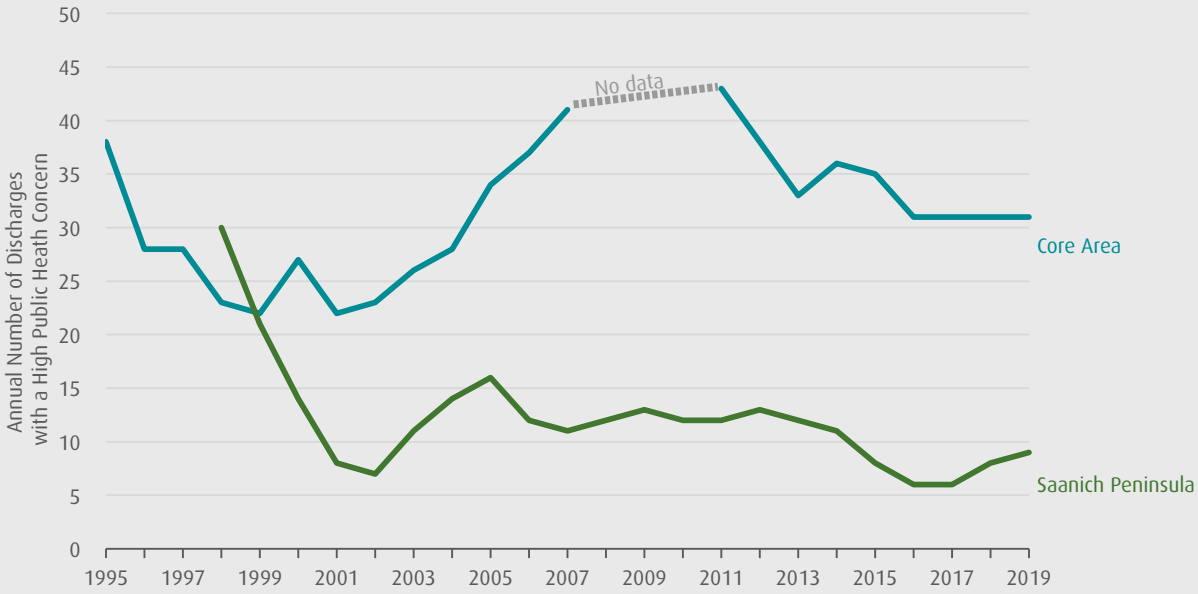
Target/Desired Trend

Reduce contaminants to fresh and marine water bodies.

How are we doing?

We are meeting the target.

The overall number of discharges with high public health concerns has decreased in the Core Area since 2012 and on the Saanich Peninsula since 2005. However, there were still 31 discharges in the Core Area and 9 in the Saanich Peninsula in 2019.



Source: CRD Environmental Protection

2.2a Waste stream: solid waste disposal

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the per capita amount of solid waste disposed of annually from both residential and non-residential sources.

Why is this indicator important?

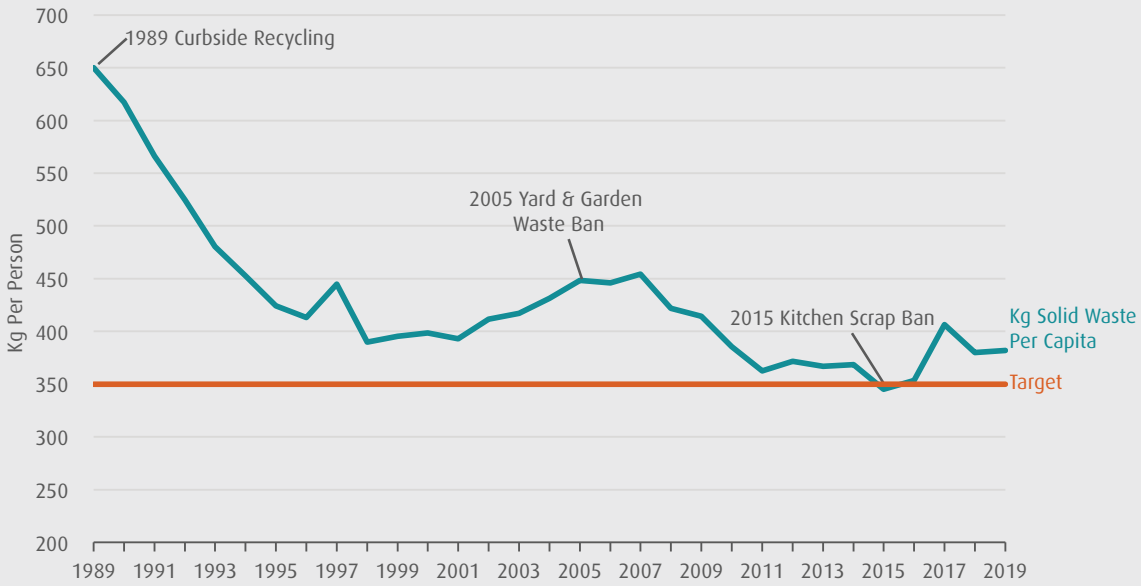
The RGS aims to minimize the consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources through efficient use and responsible management.

Target/Desired Trend

There are no RGS targets for this indicator, however the BC Government has set a 2020 solid waste disposal target rate of 350 kg/person per year.

How are we doing?

Currently, we are not meeting the target, however we are at less than the provincial average of 505 kg/person (2018), and the CRD has the second lowest kg/person in the province. Following years of decline, recent economic activity has resulted in a short-term increase in per capita solid waste disposal. Long-term trends show we are on our way to meeting our provincial targets.



Source: CRD Environmental Resource Management

2.2b Average water consumption

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the average daily consumption of potable water per capita for residential uses.

Why is this indicator important?

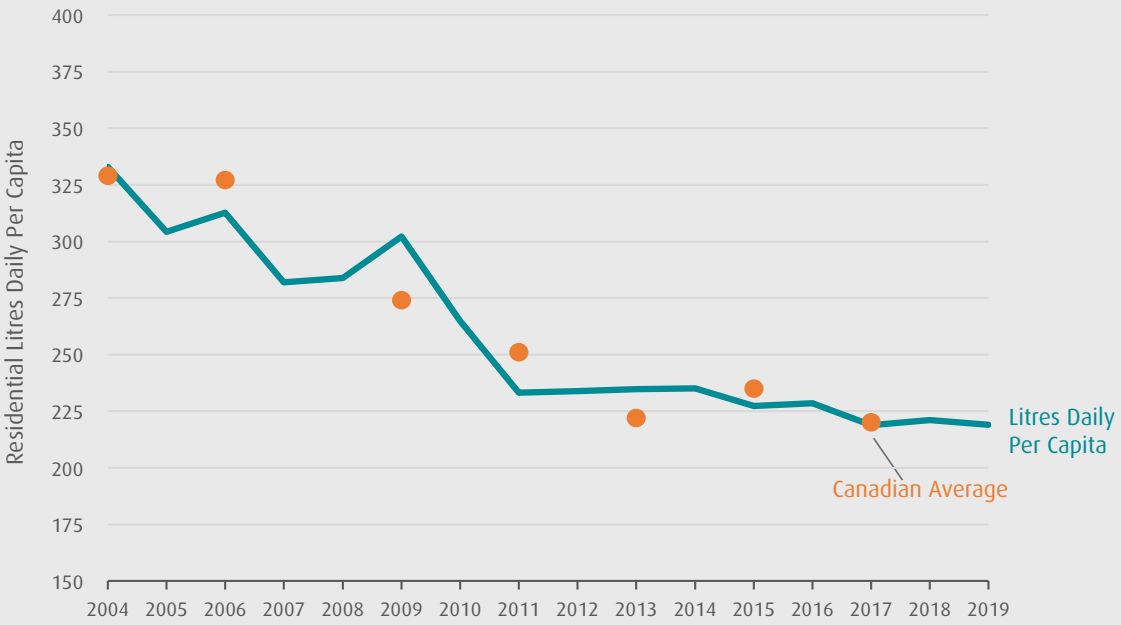
The RGS aims to minimize the consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources through efficient use and responsible management.

Target/Desired Trend

Decrease per capita consumption of potable water.

How are we doing?

Following a sizeable reduction in per capita water consumption in the region, rates have stabilized around the Canadian average.



Source: CRD Integrated Water Services, 2004-2009 Environment Canada Municipal Water and Wastewater Survey
2011-2017 Statistics Canada Survey of Drinking Water Plants

3.0 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

3.1a Create safe and complete communities

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the number of people living in complete communities identified by municipalities in their Regional Context Statements.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS supports the development of complete communities that allow residents to undertake many daily activities close to home.

Target/Desired Trend

Increase the number of people living in complete communities.

How are we doing?

Data not yet available. Tracking will commence now that all municipalities have submitted Regional Context Statements.

3.0 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

3.2a Reduce core housing need

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the percentage of households in core housing need.

A household in core housing need falls below at least one of the housing standards: adequacy (property does not require major repairs); affordability; or suitability (number of bedrooms match household size) *and* it would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent for housing that is acceptable (meets all three standards).

Why is this indicator important?

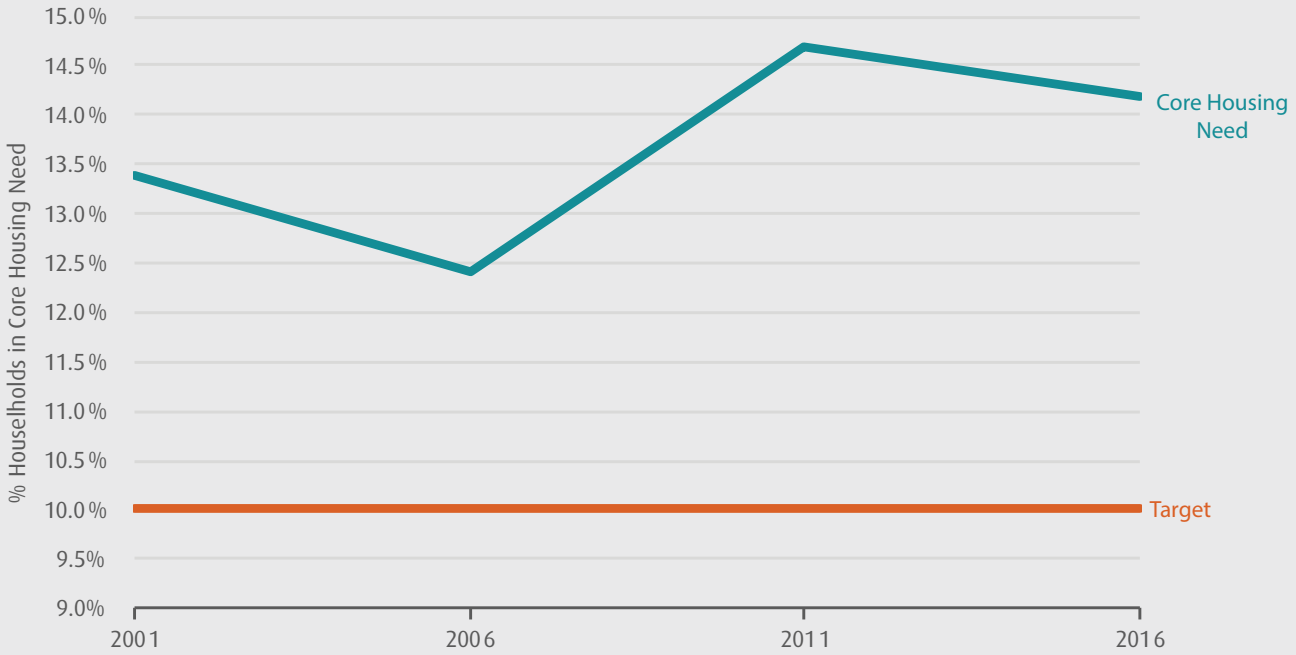
The RGS aims to improve housing affordability.

Target/Desired Trend

Reduce core housing need.

How are we doing?

Some progress has been made following a large spike in core housing need in 2011, however, we are far from our target.



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 2006 and 2016 and National Household Survey, 2011

3.2b Average rent for 2-bedroom apartment

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the average cost of 2-bedroom rental housing in the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to improve housing affordability.

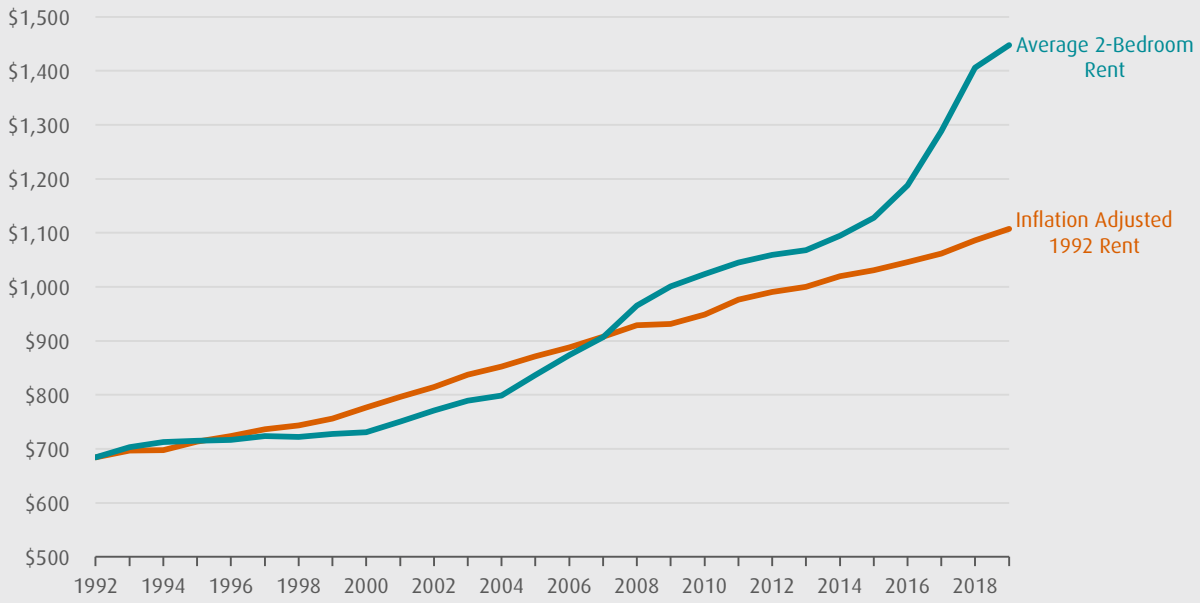
Target/Desired Trend

There is no target for the average cost of rental housing, however, cost increases at or below the level of inflation are preferable.

How are we doing?

We are currently not meeting this target.

The price of a 2-bedroom rental has outpaced inflation since 2008.



Source: CMHC Rental Market Survey

3.2c Vacancy rate by rental price quartiles

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the rental vacancy rate by rental price quartiles in the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) over time.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to improve housing affordability in the region. The rental vacancy rate by rental price quartiles is an indicator of housing supply and housing affordability in the region. Recommended vacancy rates range between 2-4%.

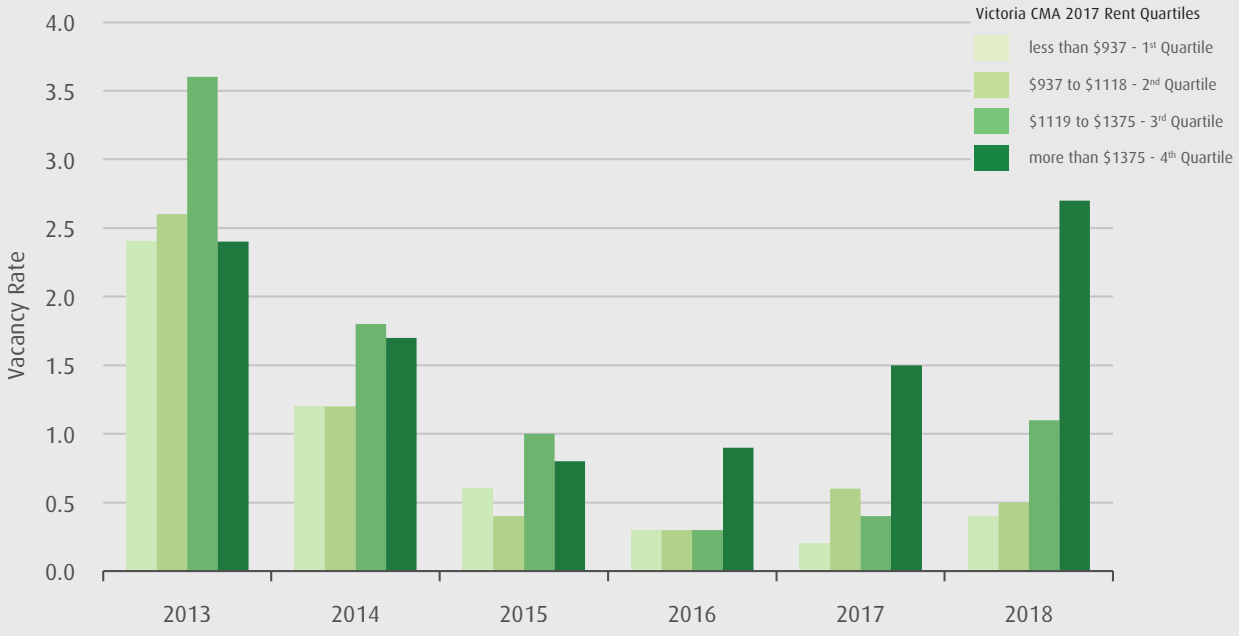
Target/Desired Trend

The RGS does not have a specific target for the vacancy rate by rental price quartiles.

Higher vacancy rates across all prices are preferable.

How are we doing?

We are currently not meeting this target. There has been a general trend of very low vacancy rates in the region, especially at the lower price quartiles. The most recent data from 2018 shows a marginal increase in vacancies, most significantly in units renting for more than $1,119.



Source: CMHC Rental Market Survey

3.2d Increase supply of affordable housing

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the cumulative number of subsidized housing units in the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA) that have a financial relationship with BC Housing. The units include emergency shelters, housing for the homeless, transitional and supported housing and assisted living, independent social housing and rent assistance in the private market.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to increase the supply of affordable housing and to reduce the number of people who are experiencing homelessness.

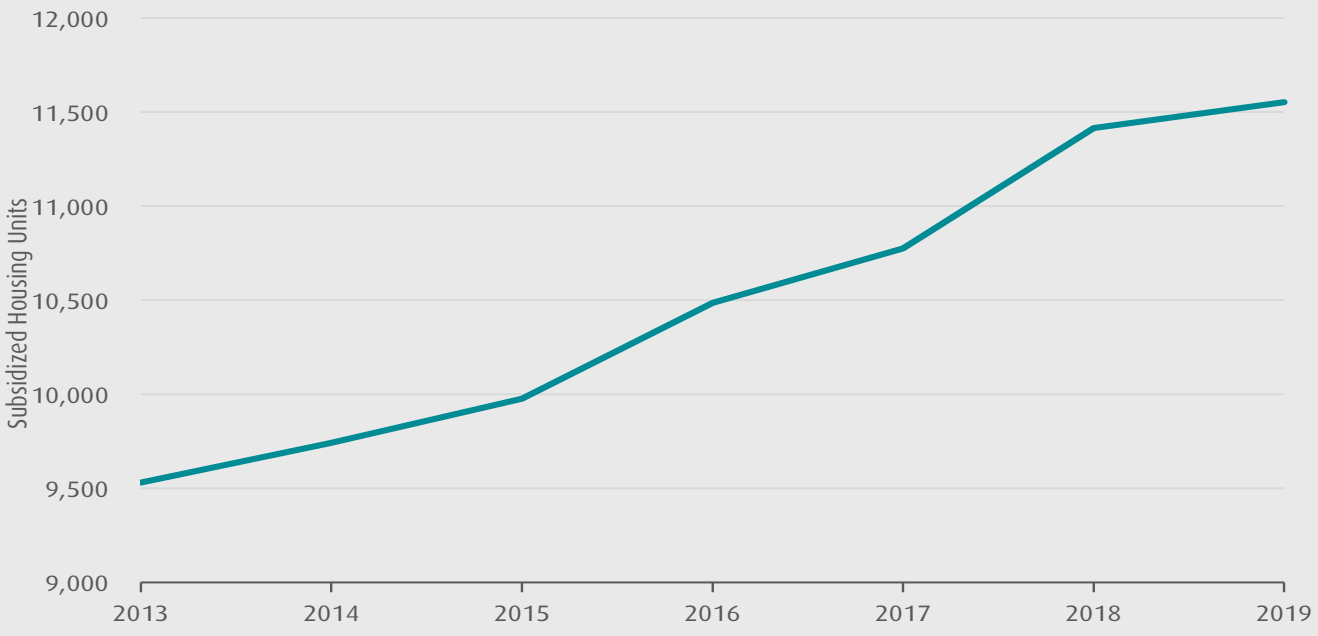
Target/Desired Trend

Increase the cumulative number of subsidized housing units that have a financial relationship with BC Housing.

How are we doing?

Progress is being made toward the target.

As of March 31, 2019 there were 11,551 subsidized housing units in the GMPA. The GMPA contains 10% of BC's subsidized housing units and 8% of BC's population.



Source: BC Housing's Research & Corporate Planning Department Unit Count Report March 2019

4.0 TRANSPORTATION

4.1a Percentage of total trips made by walking, cycling and transit in the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA)

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the percentage of total trips made by cycling, walking and transit in the RGS GMPA.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to improve multi-modal connectivity and mobility. Mode share percentages provide the necessary data to track transportation choices over time.

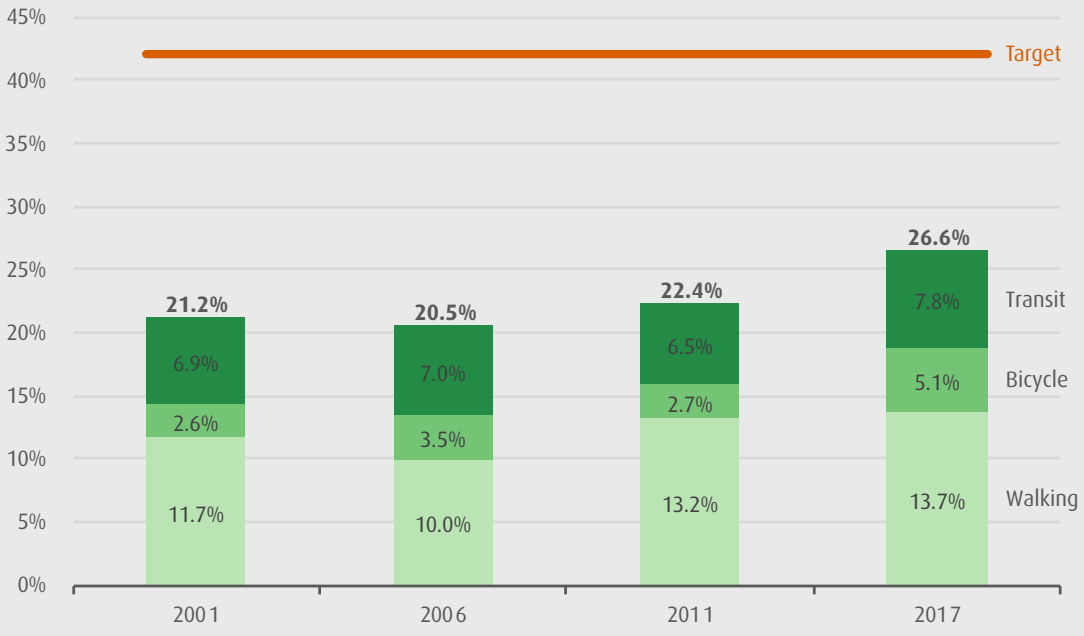
Target/Desired Trend

Achieve a transportation system that sees 42% of all trips made by walking, cycling and transit by 2038.

How are we doing?

Progress is being made toward this target.

The past three Origin Destination Surveys show steady increases in active transportation and transit mode share over the past decade.



Source: CRD Origin Destination Survey 2001, 2006, 2011, 2017

5.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5.1a Jobs to population ratio

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the ratio of employment to population in each CRD sub-region.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to realize the region's economic potential. A balanced distribution of employment and jobs indicates economic opportunities spread across the region.

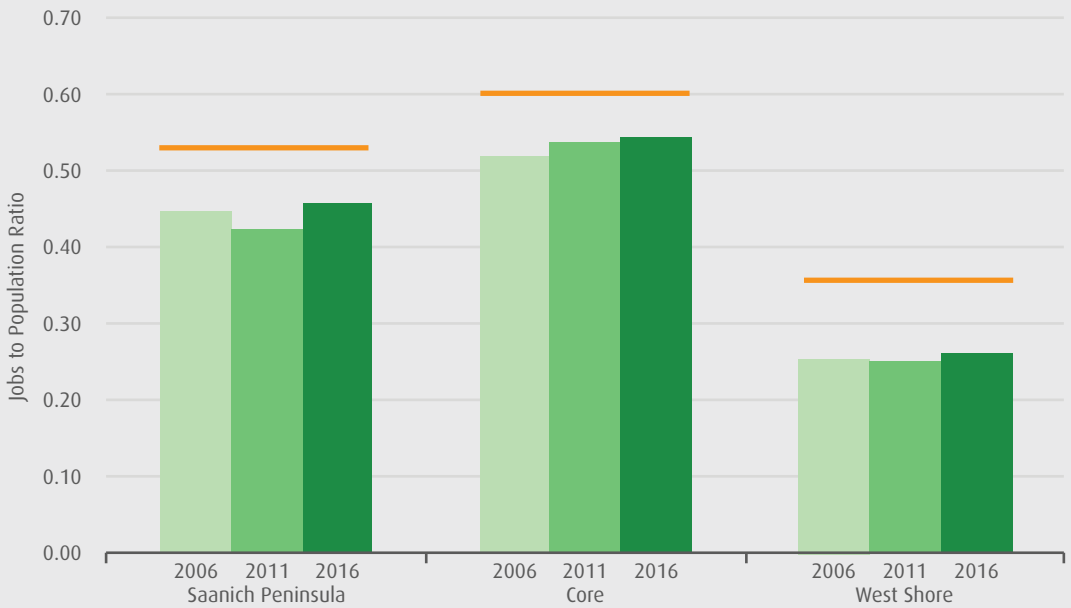
Target/Desired Trend

Achieve a jobs to population ratio of:

- 0.60 in the Core Area
- 0.53 in the Saanich Peninsula
- 0.36 in the West Shore

How are we doing?

All three sub-regions have made minor progress towards their targets.



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of population, 2006, 2011, 2016, Place of Residence and Place of Work Tables

6.0 FOOD SYSTEMS

6.1a Hectares of farmland in the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA)

What is being measured?

This indicator measures hectares of farmland in the GMPA.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to foster a resilient food and agricultural system.

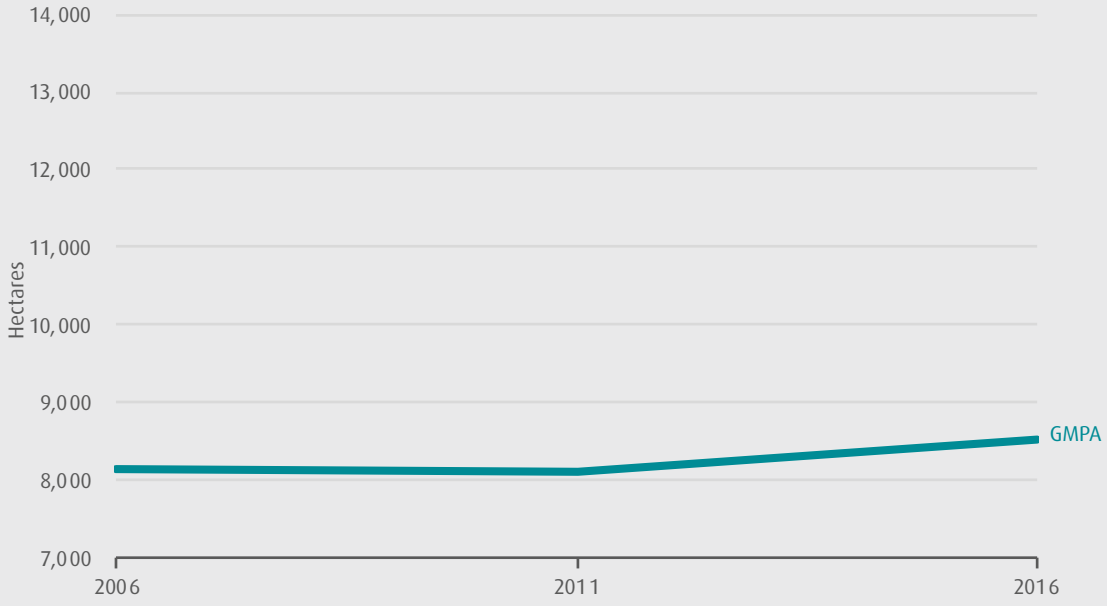
Target/Desired Trend

Increase the amount of land in food crop production by 5,000 ha by 2038.

How are we doing?

We are making some progress toward this target.

The most recent statistics from 2016 show there has been a slight increase in land being used for farming.



Source: Statistics Canada, custom tabulation of Census of Agriculture 2006, 2011, 2016

6.0 FOOD SYSTEMS

6.1b Average age of farmer

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the average age of farm operators.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to foster a resilient food and agricultural system. A higher average age of farmers represents a warning sign for the future of food production in the CRD.

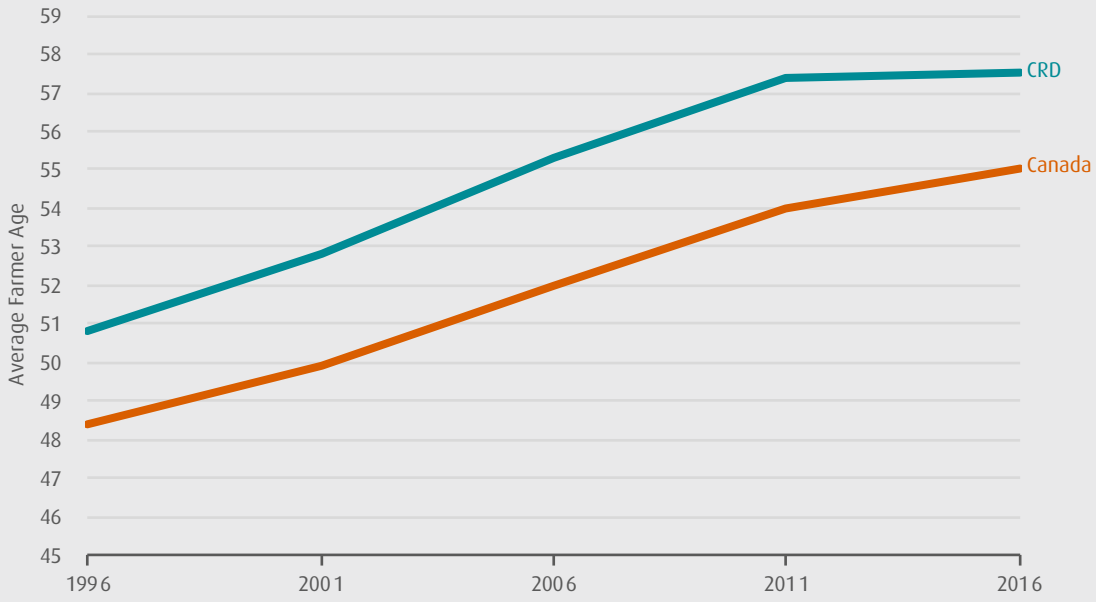
Target/Desired Trend

A lower average age of farmers is desirable.

How are we doing?

Progress toward this target remains static.

The average age of farmers in the CRD remains higher than the Canadian average but after years of steady increases, in recent years the average age has stabilized.



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

7.0 CLIMATE ACTION

7.1a Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions

What is being measured?

Community GHG emissions.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to significantly reduce community GHG emissions.

Target/Desired Trend

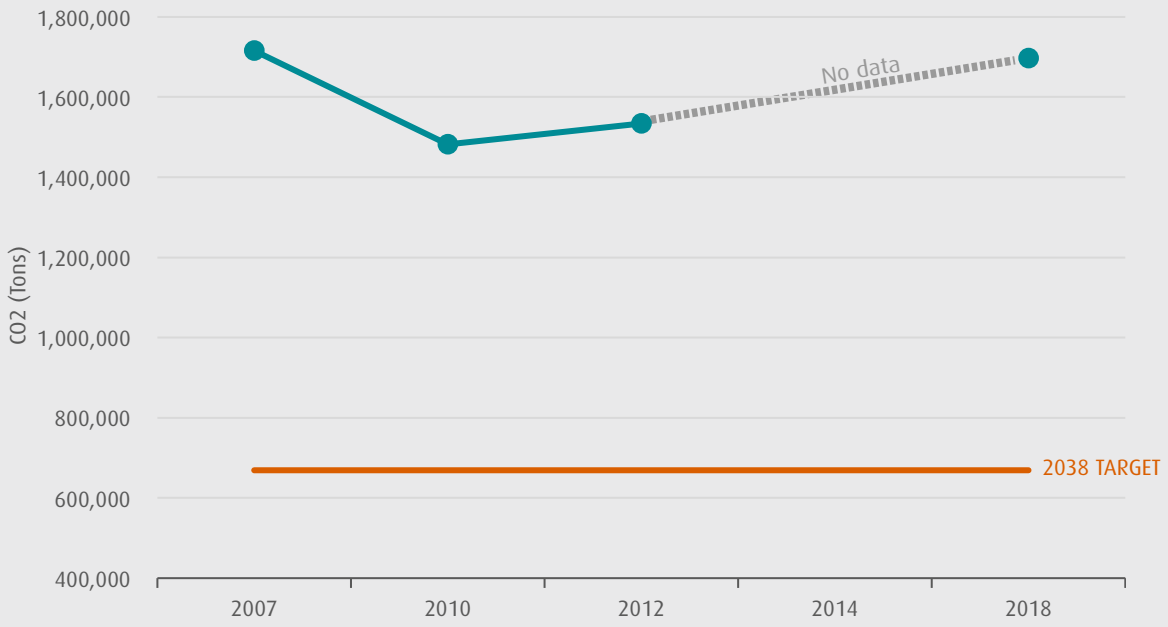
Decrease community GHG emissions by 33% from 2007 levels by 2020 and 61% by 2038.

How are we doing?

In 2018, the CRD's annual GHG emissions totaled 1,696,703 tCO2.

While this is a small decline of 1.1% from the 2007 base year GHG emissions, it is a decline of 14% on a per capita basis. Between 2007 and 2018, the CRD's population has grown 15% and thus this decline speaks to the efforts by the CRD and CRD local governments to reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions.

However, the current trend suggests that we will not meet the target by 2038 unless greater effort is taken.



Source: Capital Regional District 2018 GPC BASIC+ Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory Report

Making a difference...together