

boundaries. Note that this annual inventory does not account for GHG emissions that occur outside of Whistler's municipal boundaries such as due to inter-community travel or air travel.

The Climate Action Big Moves are focused on the transportation, buildings and waste sectors. The vast majority of Whistler's emissions are from vehicle transport and the built environment. Personal transport within Whistler is the biggest source of GHG emissions, accounting for 54 per cent of total GHG emissions in 2019. Emissions have declined by 6 per cent in the buildings sector since 2007 but natural gas usage still accounts for 35 per cent of Whistler's emissions, with commercial buildings representing 25 per cent and residential buildings 10 per cent of Whistler's total GHG emissions. While the waste sector is Whistler's best performing sector reducing emissions by 90 per cent since 2005, it is still included in this strategy for consistency with others using the Big Moves approach and to recognize that more can be done. The specific targets and main initiatives within the six proposed Big Moves are as follows:

<p>1. Move beyond the car By 2030, 50% of all trips in Whistler are by transit and active transport modes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase transit options and usage• Enable more active transportation• Develop compact and low carbon neighbourhoods
<p>2. Decarbonize passenger and commercial transport By 2030, 50% of all vehicle km travelled are from zero-emission vehicles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scale up EV infrastructure for visitors and residents• Support the shift to EVs through awareness and outreach initiatives• Facilitate electrification of private and public fleets
<p>3. Reduce visitor travel emissions By 2030, Whistler demonstrates leadership in redefining tourism in a low carbon world</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with partners to define low carbon tourism• Strengthen partnerships with resort and tourism industry• Purchase high quality carbon offsets
<p>4. Build zero emission buildings By 2030, all new buildings achieve the top step in B.C.'s Energy Step Code, use only low carbon heating systems, and embodied carbon emissions drop by 40%.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advance BC Energy Step Code implementation• Develop a roadmap for GHG emission limits• Increase capacity building, education, and RMOW leadership
<p>5. Make existing buildings better By 2030, reduce emissions from residential buildings by 20% and from large commercial buildings by 40%.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advance retrofit incentives and remove barriers• Focus on large commercial building retrofits• Increase capacity building, education, and RMOW leadership
<p>6. Close the loop and shift toward lower carbon consumption By 2030, reduce waste sector emissions by 95% and reduce embodied emissions from products and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase landfill diversion from commercial and multi-unit residential buildings• Divert construction waste• Advance waste reduction and sustainable consumption

Whistler's 2030 Climate Target

The new Climate Action Big Moves strategy is an ambitious strategy and with successful implementation and uptake will get Whistler within 30 per cent of achieving its current GHG reduction targets and the IPCC target of reducing GHG emissions by 45 per cent compared to 2010 levels by 2030. Whistler must stay alert and be proactive, as well as nimble to incorporate new opportunities, as progressive thinking and initiatives will be needed in the coming years to close the shortfall, including additional financial investments locally, and support and tools from other levels of government to help further action at the municipal level.

Even with the increased urgency to address climate change, Whistler is not on track to achieve its existing climate targets which are set at achieving reductions of 33 per cent by 2020, 80 per cent by 2050, and 90 per cent by 2060 – all below 2007 levels. To motivate action and increase accountability, a new 2030 target is recommended to provide greater focus on more near term deliverables.

The recommended 2030 target for Whistler is a 50 per cent GHG reduction below 2007 emissions, meaning that by 2030, emissions are capped at 66,500 t-CO₂e. This target is in line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommendations of achieving 45 per cent reduction below 2010 levels and is even more proactive than the target set by the Province of British Columbia, i.e. 40 per cent reduction below 2007 levels. Achieving 50 per cent reduction below 2007 levels means reducing 2019 GHG emissions by 65,000 t-CO₂e in just ten years – a formidable challenge.

Strategy Development and Engagement Insights

Engagement activities with the following expert groups were held during the strategy development using a range of digital engagement tools including survey monkey, google docs, and zoom:

- **CECAP Advisory Group** – a zoom workshop was held with the goal to gather input and advice on a new 2030 GHG reduction target and the proposed Big Moves. Breakout rooms were created to allow for in depth discussions. Feedback on the GHG reduction goal and all Big Moves and key initiatives was considered and incorporated to into the strategy.
- **Transportation Advisory Group** – the Climate Action Big Moves strategy was distributed via google docs to welcome comments and was presented during one of the regular meetings. Feedback on transportation related Big Moves and key initiatives was considered and incorporated to into the strategy. In addition, it was explored how the strategic goals from the Transportation action plan can be aligned with the new Climate Action Big Moves strategy.
- **AWARE and the Climate Ambassadors** – the strategy was distributed via google docs for comments and was presented during a meeting dedicated to this strategy. The main goal of this meeting was to review and identify further climate action opportunities in collaboration with community groups. Feedback on all Big Moves was considered and incorporated to into the strategy.
- **Zero Waste Committee** - the strategy was distributed via google docs to welcome comments and was presented during one of the regular meetings. Feedback on Big Move 6 and related key initiatives was considered and incorporated to into the strategy.
- **Building experts via the Whistler chapter of the Canadian Home Builders Association** – representatives of all building related areas (architects, local builders, building science engineers, energy advisors, energy advisors, etc) participated in a zoom workshop that was organized with the goal to gather input and advice on all building related Big Moves and key initiatives. A prioritization excel sheet was created and distributed as to participants beforehand

to gather ideas and comments in the most efficient way. All feedback was considered and incorporated into the strategy.

- **RMOW staff** – internal meetings were held on numerous occasions to discuss specific key initiatives, how to advance them, and how to best collaborate on climate action within the RMOW. In recent meetings with Facilities Management, opportunities for RMOW leadership in own building retrofits have been identified, meetings with Fleet Services have revealed opportunities to improve data collection to incorporate GHG emissions considerations into RMOW fleet management decisions, and alignment on Transportation Demand Management has also been sought. Opportunities to advance all building related initiatives were discussed in meetings with the Building department which led to further alignment on advancing the Step Code implementation and updating the RMOW Green Building Policy. In addition, ‘all staff meetings’ have been organized in recent weeks to engage departments in identifying opportunities in their respective areas. Numerous actions have been identified and staff recognized that all actions combined will be a big step towards achieving the RMOW’s and Whistler’s GHG reduction targets.

In addition to the expert engagement, a **Climate Big Moves Survey** was developed with the goal to gather community member input to inform strategy implementation by improving information about how best to support community uptake of each Big Move.

In total, 602 respondents took the survey, representing a response rate of about 4% based on Whistler’s 2019 permanent resident population. The survey had two distribution channels, the Resort Municipality of Whistler communications channels and Tourism Whistler’s community research panel. The survey was open for three weeks, from September 29 to October 18, 2020.

Highlights from the survey for each Big Move are listed in the Table below.

Table 1: Climate Big Moves Survey Results

Big Move	Respondents Group	Top 3 initiatives to aid the respondents to achieve this goal
Big Move #1 – Move beyond the Car	Currently own or lease a vehicle or are planning to own/lease a car within the next ten years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased transit frequency on all routes (38%) ➤ Highway shoulder safety improvements for cyclists (43%) ➤ Additional and improved connection between valley trail and highway (36%)
Big Move #2 – Electrify passenger and commercial transport	Currently own or lease a vehicle or are planning to own/lease a car within the next ten years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Financial rebates/assistance to purchase an EV (61%) ➤ Expand the public EV charging network (30%) ➤ Financial incentives to install EV chargers on private property (26%)
Big Move #3 – Reduce visitor travel emissions	Currently own, manage or operate a local business or organization that puts them in a position to influence visitor travel decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Partnerships with car rental agencies to make EVs available for visitors (34%) ➤ Marketing about the benefits of longer duration visits (34%) ➤ Resort-wide program to offset GHG emissions from visitor travel (33%)

Big Move #4 – Build zero emission buildings	Work in the building/construction sector and by those expecting to build a new residential or commercial building in the next 10 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provincial incentive top-ups for low carbon heating (e.g. heat pumps) (43%) ➤ Financial incentives/rebates for testing air tightness during and after construction (33%) ➤ Information on low carbon heating system incentive/rebate programs (32%)
Big Move #5 – Make existing buildings better	Own a home or own, manage or operate an existing hotel or other commercial building in Whistler, or expect to in the next 10 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lowered initial investment for retrofitting (47% - 49%) ➤ Retrofit toolkit for commercial buildings (27% - 30%) ➤ Access to energy assessment service professionals to identify best retrofit opportunities (27 - 30%)
Big Move #6 – Close the loop and shift toward lower carbon consumption	All respondents who indicated that they wanted to continue to the waste/consumption Big Move	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bulk or zero packaging consumer products (64%) ➤ More compost bins throughout the community (32%) ➤ Sustainable purchasing information specific to Whistler (25%)

Strategy Updates based on Engagement Activities

The following general changes have been made to the Climate Action Big Moves Strategy draft to develop the final 2020 Climate Action Big Move Strategy based on the feedback that was being heard throughout all engagement activities and was implemented:

- The language has been strengthened by adding more explicit, tangible, and measurable outcomes to the Key Initiatives
- Actions and Key Initiatives that Whistler/RMOW has direct control over were listed first before actions on individual behavior changes
- Aspects of equity have considered in the strategy so that all of Whistler’s residents, workforce, and visitors have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from climate action initiatives.

Climate Action Big Moves Communication

Climate Action in Whistler is being communicated through several channels and is consistent with last year’s key messaging that 1.) Whistler takes climate change seriously and is committed to reducing its community’s footprint and 2.) Whistler has a strong history of climate actions about there is still much effort needed to achieve our targets.

The Climate Action Big Moves Survey has been launched with a news release to raise awareness of the Climate Action Big Moves Strategy.

A Climate Action Big Moves Infographic has been developed and to coincide with all visual channels such as website promotion, social media, Pique advertisement and Whistler Today.

A Climate Change “Did You Know” Communications Campaign was run to reinforce the message that

all of Whistler's actions combined will have a big impact towards achieving our target.

Implementation and Next Steps

A robust implementation and monitoring plan is critical to ensure that the Climate Action Big Moves Strategy becomes effectively operationalized. The RMOW will lead by example on climate in its own planning and projects, as well as aligning its land use, community and transportation planning policy and processes to deliver the climate targets. Successful implementation of this strategy will include the following planning priorities:

- A comprehensive 5-year multi-departmental implementation and financial plan will be developed for the proposed Big Moves and the related Key Initiatives. When developing the strategy, the available regulatory, financial and advocacy tools within the RMOW will be assessed and financial impacts (costs and savings) for RMOW residents and businesses will be taken into account. Local actions within direct RMOW authority will be prioritized in the 5-year financial plan to reflect RMOW's commitment to act on climate change; the implementation plan will be finalized by summer 2021 and presented to Council together with the annual Energy and GHG performance report.
- Whistler's annual Energy and GHG Inventory Report will continue to be used as a key monitoring tool. Progress towards achieving the Climate Action Big Moves goals will be combined with the report on the annual GHG emissions and energy performance report. Note that the CECAP mitigation actions are incorporated into the Big Moves strategy and it is recommended that future reporting share progress focussing on the Big Moves implementation;
- Accountability will be ensured by embedding climate action into municipal decision making in alignment with the OCP goal 10.1. A GHG impact tool will be developed to inform on climate strategy alignment of proposed RMOW projects and processes, and to embed climate action into the annual RMOW budget process;
- An RMOW staff Climate Innovator Working Group will be formed with the purpose to provide a vehicle of communication between departments on actions that strategically support the implementation of the Climate Action Big Moves Strategy and its specific objectives;
- The Carbon Neutral Operations Plan will be updated to align RMOW action with the Big Moves strategy and demonstrate RMOW leadership;
- The Green Building Policy will be updated to align RMOW action with Big Moves 4 and 5;
- The RMOW procurement policy will be updated to include climate and consider social procurement guidelines to demonstrate RMOW commitment to developing, and embedding social and environmental/climate values articulated in the OCP into procurement processes.
- The 2030 target outlined above will be included as one of the metrics tracking progress towards the vision in the Official Community Plan; and
- Strategic partnerships will be formed to lobby the provincial government for additional municipal jurisdiction to implement climate – and environment-related regulations and bylaws.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Official Community Plan

Community Vision

Whistler's vision is to be a place where the community thrives, nature is protected, and guests are inspired. This Climate Action Big Moves Strategy aims to achieve Whistler's climate goals. Therefore, this strategy is in full alignment with Whistler's vision.

Goals, Objectives and Policies

The recommended resolutions included within this report are particularly strongly aligned with the Goals listed below and all associated Objectives and Policies included within the Climate Action and Energy Chapter 10 and Transportation Chapter 11 of the current OCP.

10.1 Goal - Municipal decision-making is well-structured to achieve energy efficiency goals and GHG reduction targets.

10.2 Goal - Substantially reduce GHG emissions from vehicles and transportation.

10.3 Goal - Substantially reduce GHG emissions from buildings and infrastructure.

10.4 Goal - Substantially reduce GHG emissions associated with solid waste management

11.2 Goal - Integrate the transportation system with land use planning to minimize the need for travel by motor vehicle.

11.3. Goal - Minimize GHG emissions created by the transportation system.

11.4 Goal - Support the increased use of preferred modes of transportation for all travel purposes to reduce dependence on private motor vehicles.

11.7 Goal - Ensure the transportation system respects Whistler's natural environment, minimizes climate impacts and improves the livability of the resort community.

12.3 Goal - Move progressively toward zero waste.

5.4. Goal - Reduce the environmental and energy impacts of residential neighbourhoods to improve the quality of life and sustainability of the resort community.

6.5. Goal - Support sustainable diversification compatible with the tourism economy.

7.4. Goal - Air quality is protected.

Other Relevant Policies

The Climate Action Big Moves Strategy also aims to inform the Whistler Transportation Action Plan 2018 - 2028, the Green Building Policy, and the Solid Waste Management Strategy which will be reviewed to ensure alignment with the 2020 Climate Action Big Moves Strategy

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Projects and initiatives identified for action in 2021 are funded through the Energy and Climate Program (Project P079) which has a proposed budget of \$203,700 for 2021 and is drawn from RMOW's Climate Action Rebate Incentive Program (CARIP) reserve. The RMOW CARIP reserve is funded by a Provincial grant program available to local governments that have signed the B.C. Climate Action Charter. The CARIP grant equals 100 percent of the carbon taxes paid by the RMOW each year. All projects are supplemented with outside funding as much as possible. For example, the RMOW was successful in securing \$120,000 from Natural Resources Canada to fund 50 per cent of the 28 EV chargers installed in 2020 and has submitted a funding application to the CleanBC Communities Fund for 73.33% fund matching for a further expansion of The Sea to Sky EV charger network.

From 2021 onwards, additional budgetary considerations will also be developed in collaboration with other RMOW departments who are leading the key initiatives. One goal of this strategy is to embed climate action into each RMOW department and as such, climate action must become part of every department’s budgetary considerations.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

The engagement strategy and processes that have been implemented so far are explained in detail above and outlined in the table below. Further engagement activities on individual initiatives will be planned throughout the implementation on the strategy.

Phase / Stakeholder group	Timeline / Tactics	Objectives
Phase 1: Internal RMOW staff and SMT	January to June 2020 Individual meetings	Develop first strategy draft to prioritize CECAP actions
Phase 2: Expert engagement CECAP Advisory Group, Transportation Advisory Group, Zero Waste Committee, Canadian Homebuilder Association, AWARE	June to October 2020 Online Workshops, google docs, survey monkey	- Gather expert advice and feedback on first strategy draft in terms of feasibility, impact, and potential challenges. - Seek expert agreement
Phase 3: Public/ Community member engagement	September/October 2020 Public Survey and social media campaigns	- Increase public awareness of climate action urgency, Whistler’s Big Moves and ambitious targets - Gather community member input to inform strategy implementation

SUMMARY

The 2020 version of Whistler’s Climate Action Big Moves Strategy reflects the input and feedback received by key stakeholders, subject-matter experts and residents. The strategy is ambitious and it is estimated that, if successfully implemented, it will achieve a 34 per cent reduction from 2007 emissions – 70 per cent of the way to the new 50 per cent GHG reduction target by 2030.

Strong commitment to delivering all Climate Action Big Moves and continuing to incorporate new opportunities is necessary to ensure that Whistler can meet its GHG reduction targets and contribute to provincial, national and global climate action.

Respectfully submitted,

Luisa Burhenne
 CLIMATE ACTION COORDINATOR

for
 Jessie Gresley-Jones
 GENERAL MANAGER OF RESORT EXPERIENCE