



VERNON Climate Action Plan

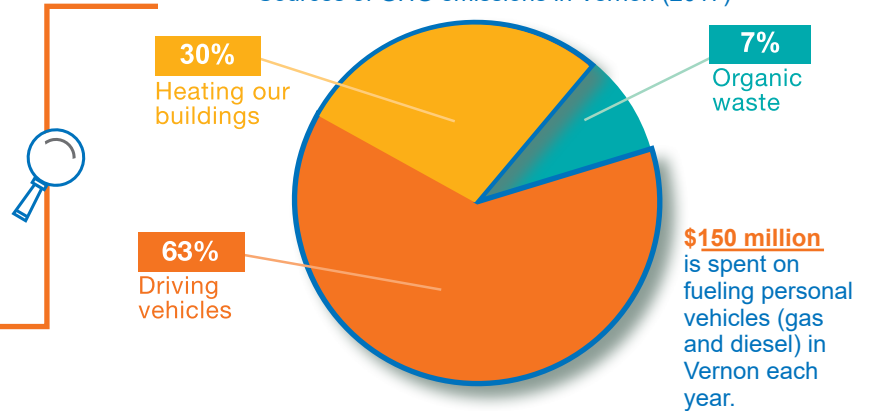
WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER

We can achieve our vision of a Vernon that has no GHG emissions and is resilient to the changing climate by making choices as a community in alignment with the Climate Action Plan.

Reaching our community target to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 100% by 2050 requires change in many areas, especially how we move around and how we heat and cool our buildings.

This is because most of the emissions in Vernon are from burning fossil fuels - diesel and gas to drive vehicles and natural gas or propane to heat buildings.

Sources of GHG emissions in Vernon (2017)



The choices we make in *how much* energy we use, and *the type* of energy we use will make a big difference.

Let's take a look at some actions that individuals can take to get us on track to create a healthy, fair, vibrant Vernon.

- ✓ Reduce energy use
- ✓ Use energy more efficiently
- ✓ Switch to renewable energy sources

How we move	Where we live & work	What we do with waste
Individuals: • Replace one or more of your gas or diesel cars with an electric vehicle or e-bike. • Walk, bike or take the bus more often instead of driving. Organizations: • Review fleet policy and ensure vehicles are matched for use and prioritize use of efficient and electric fleet vehicles. • Provide EV charging for employees who don't have access to home charging. • Provide change rooms and secure parking for people who bike to work.	• Convert fossil fuel-based heating and hot water systems (natural gas, propane, heating oil) to efficient electric sources (e.g., an air source heat pump for heating and cooling). • Bolster attic insulation and seal air leaks. • Upgrade to higher efficiency windows. • If you're building a new home, prioritize using high efficiency design and meeting the higher steps of the BC Energy Step Code. • Continue to replace lights with LEDs.	• Start a backyard composting bin. With just your organic waste like fruit and vegetable peels, coffee grounds and egg shells along with garden waste like leaves, you can create quality compost ("black gold") for your garden. • Consider what you buy - are their options that are lighter on waste? Repair, rent, borrow, share and buy used - all these choices reduce what your household sends to the landfill.



VERNON Climate Action Plan

WHAT CAN INDIVIDUALS DO?

Meeting Vernon's 2050 target of 100% emissions reduction by 2050 means everyone reducing their GHG emissions about 3% per year. For the average Vernon resident, what could this look like?



It can be difficult to see what you can do to reduce your emissions. Here are some ideas that can get you well on your way to meeting the 100% target.

I am driving less and cycling and walking to work and the store.

I am saving money on gas, feeling healthier and am more connected to my neighbourhood.

I compost some of my waste and am working to compost more when possible.

I now have compost for my garden!

I replaced my natural gas furnace with an electric heat pump.

I took advantage of incentives to switch to electric heat and now the air in my home is healthier. My heat pump also provides air conditioning in the summer.

I replaced my personal vehicle with a battery electric vehicle.

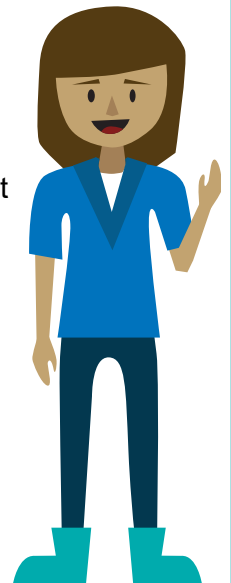
I can charge my car at home, which is cheaper than gas, and I am saving money on maintenance.

GHG emissions savings

What about adaptation and resilience?

How can you prepare for a changing climate and extreme weather in order to protect your family and property? What can you do to build community well-being?

- FireSmart your property.
- Prepare for emergencies; have an emergency plan and a 72 hour emergency kit ready to go.
- Get to know your neighbours and connect with your community - you can support each other in emergencies.
- Know your evacuation routes.
- Prepare for wildfire smoke; improve the air tightness of your home with caulking and buy a HEPA filter to remove particulates from the air.
- Plant native plant species in your garden, especially those that support pollinators.
- Install water efficient irrigation in your yard (e.g., drip systems).
- Collect rainwater for use outside.
- Prepare for flooding; contact the City to find out if your home is in a flood risk area and to get guidance on what actions you can take to mitigate flood damage.
- Buy local food and support local agriculture.
- Engage with City initiatives through engagevernon.ca and support local projects that support climate action targets.



Whether you start with smaller actions or move right to big impact changes, what's important is that we all start now and commit to ramping up our actions each year.