Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

Attachment 3

Seven Bold Steps and Environment Key Performance Indicators 2024 Report

Land Acknowledgement

“We recognise and respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. We acknowledge that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. As a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.”

Overview

The City of New Westminster declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 which set an overarching goal of moving the City towards a zero carbon future by 2050. To this end, Council adopted the Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action, along with ten-year targets (Attachment 1), and approved the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, highlighting climate action and the environment as a key focus for implementation. To measure progress towards the City's climate action and environment goals staff developed a suite of key performance indicators (KPIs) which were endorsed by Council in July 2021. Since then, staff have been establishing monitoring and tracking processes, collecting data, refining KPIs and observing trends.

Overall, progress is being made across each Bold Step and community-wide carbon emissions decreased by 10.7% from 2010 to 2022. However significant sustained emission reductions, enabled by the application of a climate lens in decision-making, are needed to achieve the 2030 and 2050 targets and overarching climate and environment goals.

Key Metric[1]	Units	Baseline	Current Conditions		Target/Desired Trend	Notes
			Status	Progress Towards Target/Desired Trend		
Bold Step 1 - Carbon Free Corporation						
City's Corporate Carbon Emissions	**tCO_2e/year[2]**	**4,227 (2010)**	**2,968 (2023)**	**-29.8%**	**-100% by 2030**	
Bold Step 2 - Car Light Community						
Sustainable Transportation Mode Share	**Percentage (%)**	**35.50% (2017)**	**-**	**-**	**60% by 2030**	**An update to TransLink's Trip Diary is expected in early 2025.**
Length of Cycling Lanes (Total)	Total length in km	58.60 (2020)	53.41 (2024)	-	Increase	The 2020 baseline is based on outdated methodology. A more accurate assessment of the existing cycle network was completed during the development of the Active Transportation Network Plan, reflected in the 2024 update.
Bus Service Hours	hours per year	392,892 (2019)	384,319 (2023)	⬇	Increase	Boardings dipped during the COVID-19 Pandemic but are beginning to return to pre-pandemic levels.
SkyTrain Boardings	Number of boardings per year	12,640,000 (2019)	11,214,000 (2023)	⬇	Increase	
Bold Step 3 - Carbon Free Homes and Buildings						
Buildings and Homes Carbon Emissions	**tCO_2e/year2**	**134,353 (2016)**	**148,770 (2022)**	⬆	**Decrease**	**Baseline updated to reflect the Community Energy and Emissions Inventory from the Province.**
Buildings and Homes Carbon Emissions per Capita	tCO_2e/person/year2	1.8 (2016)	1.79 (2023)	⬇	Decrease	
High Performance Homes	Number of homes completed	4 (2020)	68 (2021 - 2023)	⬆	Increase	Homes that were built above building code requirements
Carbon Emissions Savings in Existing Buildings	tCO_2e/year2	216.70 (2020)	385.00 (2023)	⬆	Increase	
Energy Savings in Existing Buildings	GJ/year	263.38 (2020)	5,929.00 (2023)	⬆	Increase	
Bold Step 4 - Pollution Free Vehicles						
Vehicle Kilometers Driven by Zero Emission Vehicles	**Percentage (%)**	**1.13% (2020)**	**1.75% (2021)**	**1.75**	**50% by 2030**	**Baseline updated to reflect the Community Energy and Emissions Inventory from the Province.**
City-Owned Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (Total)	Total Number of Stations	24 (2020)	30 (2023)	⬆	Increase	
City-Owned Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Usage	Usage hours/year	42,796 (2020)	46,385 (2023)	⬆	Increase	
Percentage of EV Ownership	Percentage (%)/year	1.55% (2020)	4.27% (2023)	4.27%	Increase	If all vehicles travelled the same distance, this indicator would translate to the stated target. Hence, this indicator is expected to serve as the strongest indicator of progress.
Bold Step 5 - Carbon Free Energy						
Electricity Distributed	**megawatt hour (MWh)/year**	**463,716 (2020)**	**480,203 (2023)**	⬆	**Increase**	**The ability to meet increasing electricity demand reflects the necessary investment in the electrical grid.**
Bold Step 6 - Robust Urban Forest						
Tree Canopy Cover	**Percentage (%)**	**18% (2015)**	**-**	**-**	**27% by 2030**	**Update will be provided when Urban Forest Management Strategy is being updated.**
Net New Trees on Public Lands	Cumulative number of net new trees	371 (2020)	2,464 (2024)	⬆	Increase	Baseline updated to reflect internal data collection practices.
New Trees on Private Lands	Cumulative number of replacement trees	539 (2020)	1,627 (2024)	⬆	Increase	Baseline updated to reflect internal data collection practices.
New Trees on Private Lands	Cumulative number of new trees	284 92020)	1,420 (2024)	⬆	Increase	Baseline updated to reflect internal data collection practices.
Bold Step 7 - Quality People Centred Public Realm						
Road Space Reallocation	**Total Percentage (%)**	**-**	**1% (2023)**	**1%**	**10% by 2030**	**Baseline was established in 2023. Projects included road spaces reallocated to spaces like pedestrian plazas and cycling lanes.**
New Gathering Spaces Added	Number of new spaces added per year	5 (2020)	21 (2021-2023)	-	Increase	
New Stormwater Interventions in Public Spaces	Number of Interventions added	1 (2020)	5 (2021-2023)	-	Increase	Five green infrastructure projects that support the City's stormwater management plan were completed between 2021 and 2023.
Natural Land Area	Total Hectares	61 (2020)	37.15 (2024)	-	Increase	A natural areas inventory was created in 2024, which provides a more accurate inventory of our natural areas going forward.
Conversion of Invasive Species to Native Species	Total Hectares	0.0023 (2020)	0.53 (2024)	-	Increase	
Environment						
Water Use Per Capita	L/capita/day/year	277 (2020)	272 (2023)	⬇	Decrease	
Single Family Waste Diversion	Annual Percentage (%)	62.7% (2019)	68.5% (2023)	⬆	Increase	
Sewer Separation	Percentage (%) of total combined sewer separated per year	1.5% (2020)	1.5% (2023)	1.5%	1.5% per year	Aim to separate 1.5% of combined sewers per year. More than 50% have been separated as of 2023.

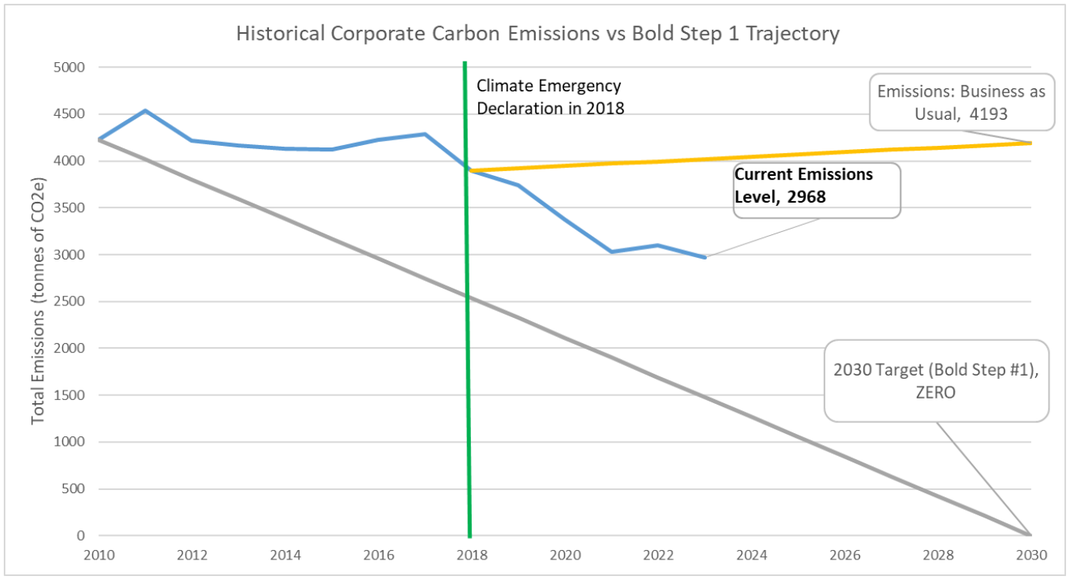
Bold Step 1: Carbon Free Corporation

Commitment: The City of New Westminster will reduce its overall carbon footprint and will strive to achieve net zero carbon emissions[3] by 2030.

Summary: Guided by the Corporate Energy and Emissions Reduction Strategy (CEERS), the City is making progress on Bold Step 1. City operations produce carbon emissions in five key sectors: buildings and facilities, fleet vehicles, streetlights and traffic signals, water and wastewater, and contracted services. Carbon emissions from these areas are combined to track the City's progress. Continued and accelerated action across these sectors is needed to meet the goals of this Bold Step.

Our Progress: City operations account for 1.1% of total community-wide emissions, primarily from services like emergency response, waste management, recreation, parks, trails, and road maintenance. From 2010 to 2022, carbon emissions from City operations dropped by 29.8%. While emissions from City operations have decreased, greater efforts are needed to meet the 2030 net-zero target.

Key Metric[1]	Units	Baseline	Current Conditions		Target/Desired Trend	Notes
			Status	Progress Towards Target/Desired Trend		
City's Corporate Carbon Emissions	**tCO_2e/year**[2]	**4,227 (2010)**	**2,968 (2023)**	**-29.8%**	**-100% by 2030**	



Projects that have helped reduce emissions from city operations include:

- The Corporate Energy and Emissions Reduction Strategy (CEERS) was adopted in 2020 and implementation is ongoing.
- Undertook deep energy retrofits and energy efficient upgrades for several civic facilities.
- Increased percentage of fleet vehicles that are hybrid or fully electric to 8% by replacing light- and medium-duty fleet vehicles with hybrid and fully electric vehicles.
- Increased percentage of City-operated small equipment (blowers, trimmers, etc.) running on electrical power instead of gas to 60%.
- Replaced street lighting with LEDs and upgraded lighting controls in City facilities.

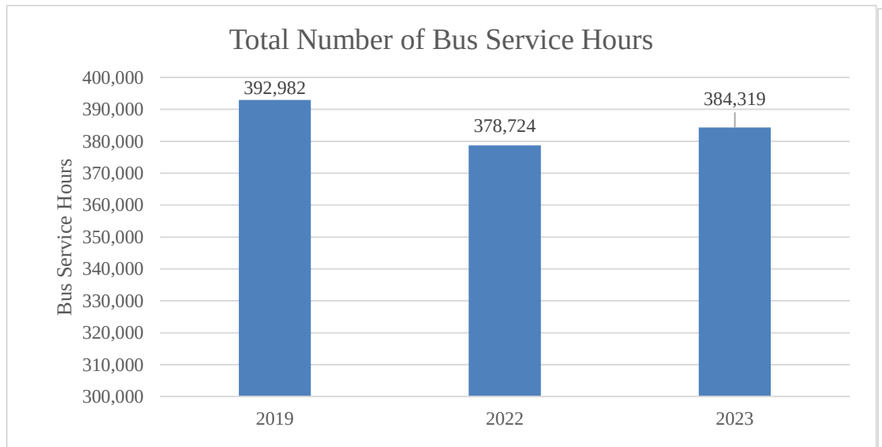
Bold Step 2: Car Light Community

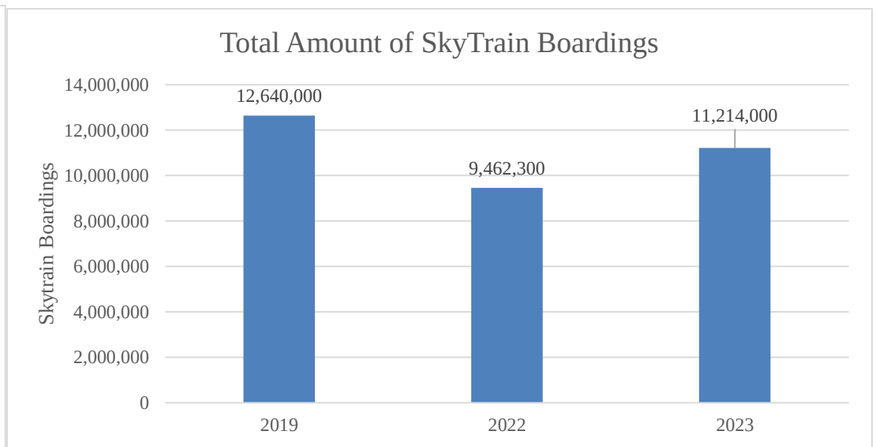
Commitment: Accelerate the Master Transportation Plan mode split target: 60% of all trips within the City will be by sustainable modes of transportation (walk, transit, and bike) by 2030.

Summary: Bold Step 2 aims to create a vibrant, transit-oriented and walkable community, where it is easy to access daily needs without a vehicle. Our community has already increased walking, cycling, and public transit use, which has helped make progress towards the Bold Step 2 2030 target. Supporting this shift to sustainable transportation modes has additional benefits such as improvements to human health, better air quality, equity, and more efficient use of land, energy, and resources.

Our Progress: Transportation is the second-largest source of carbon emissions in the community, primarily from personal vehicle use. To help curb emissions, the City aims for 60% of all trips to be made by sustainable modes - walking, transit, and cycling - by 2030. Between 2011 and 2017 sustainable trips increased from 27.9% to 35.5%. While supportive indicators like SkyTrain boardings and bus service hours dipped during the COVID-19 pandemic, they have generally rebounded back to pre-pandemic levels. Significant shifts in how we move around the community are needed to achieve this Bold Step target.

Key Metric[1]	**Units**	**Baseline**	**Current Conditions**		**Target/Desired Trend**	**Notes**
			Status	**Progress Towards Target/Desired Trend**		
Sustainable Transportation Mode Share[4]	**Percentage (%)**	**35.50% (2017)**	**-**	**-**	**60% by 2030**	**An update to TransLink's Trip Diary is expected in early 2025.**
Length of Cycling Lanes (Total)	Total length in km	58.60 (2020)	53.41 (2024)	-	Increase	The 2020 baseline is based on outdated methodology. A more accurate assessment of the existing cycle network was completed during the development of the Active Transportation Network Plan, reflected in the 2024 update.
Bus Service Hours[5]	hours per year	392,892 (2019)	384,319 (2023)	⬇	Increase	Boardings dipped during the COVID-19 Pandemic but are beginning to return to pre-pandemic levels.
SkyTrain Boardings[5]	Number of boardings per year	12,640,000 (2019)	11,214,000 (2023)	⬇	Increase	





Some of the steps the City has taken to advance this Bold Step include:

- Completed walking and cycling network improvements, including accessibility improvements, school zone traffic control, and creation of new greenways.
- Enabled remote working for City staff in response to COVID-19 which is ongoing.
- Expanded e-services at City Hall

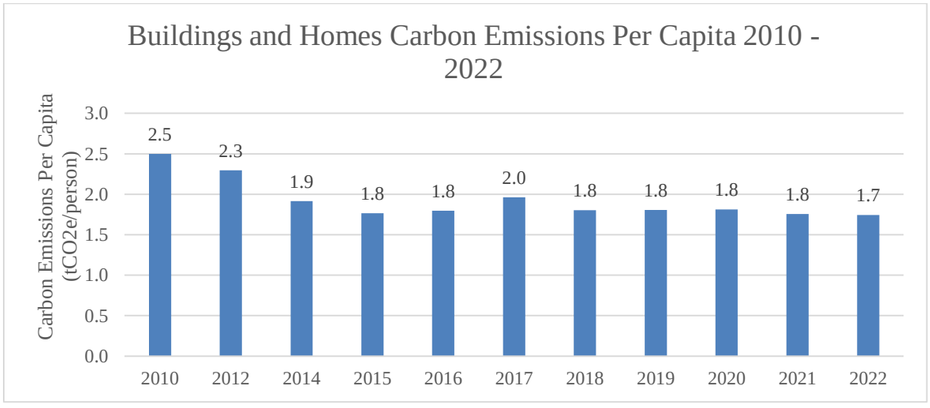
Bold Step 3: Carbon Free Homes and Buildings

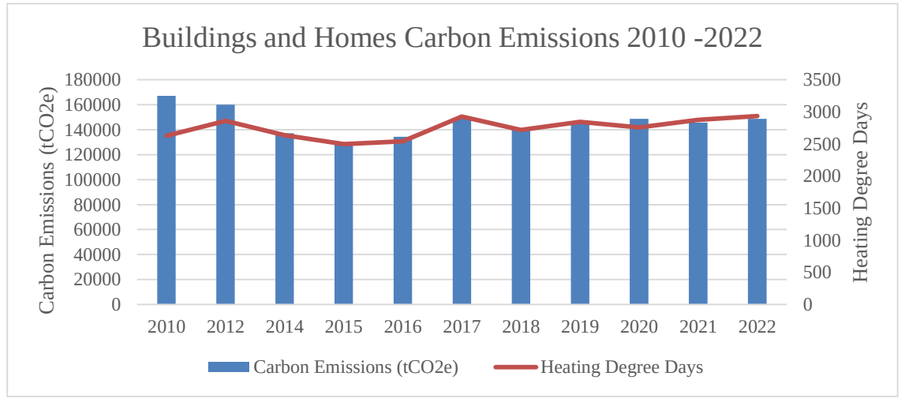
Commitment: Carbon emissions from all homes and buildings in the community will be reduced significantly. By 2030, all new and replacement heating and hot water systems will be zero emissions.

Summary: Buildings generate nearly 50% of the community's annual carbon emissions. Bold Step 3 recognizes the need to reduce emissions in these buildings by increasing their energy efficiency and supporting the transition to clean energy systems. The City's ongoing efforts to mitigate the risks of climate change is guided by the Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP 2050) , which outlines actions and strategies to help conserve energy and reduce carbon emissions in the areas of buildings, transportation and solid waste.

Our Progress: Fossil fuels used to heat, cool, and operate buildings remains the community's largest source of carbon emissions. Emissions from buildings are strongly linked to energy source (e.g. electricity or natural gas) and total energy use (influenced by factors such as weather, energy efficiency, etc.). Building carbon emissions per capita are reducing, demonstrating that energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction practices, and the transition to cleaner energy sources are having a positive impact. Policy efforts, such as the implementation of upper tiers of the Energy and Zero Carbon Step Codes will show their impact in the data over time.

Key Metric[1]	Units	Baseline	Current Conditions		Target/Desired Trend	Notes
			Status	Progress Towards Target/Desired Trend		
Buildings and Homes Carbon Emissions[6]	**tCO_2e/year2**	**134,353 (2016)**	**148,770 (2022)**	↑	**Decrease**	**Baseline updated to reflect the Community Energy and Emissions Inventory from the Province.**
Buildings and Homes Carbon Emissions per Capita[6,7]	tCO_2e/person/year2	1.8 (2016)	1.79 (2023)	↓	Decrease	
High Performance Homes[8]	Number of homes completed	4 (2020)	68 (2021 - 2023)	↑	Increase	Homes that were built above building code requirements
Carbon Emissions Savings in Existing Buildings[8]	tCO_2e/year2	216.70 (2020)	385.00 (2023)	↑	Increase	
Energy Savings in Existing Buildings[8]	GJ/year	263.38 (2020)	5,929.00 (2023)	↑	Increase	





The City has been working to reduce emissions from both new and existing buildings through initiatives such as:

- Continued to expand Energy Save New West a program that provides services, training, and incentives to residents to support energy efficiency, fuel-switching, and carbon emission reductions for new and existing buildings.
- Worked with Empower Me since 2021 to offer a free education and energy conservation program that helps diverse and multilingual communities save energy, understand and lower utility bills, and improve the comfort and safety of the their homes.
- Accelerated BC Energy Step Code and Zero Carbon Step Code implementation.

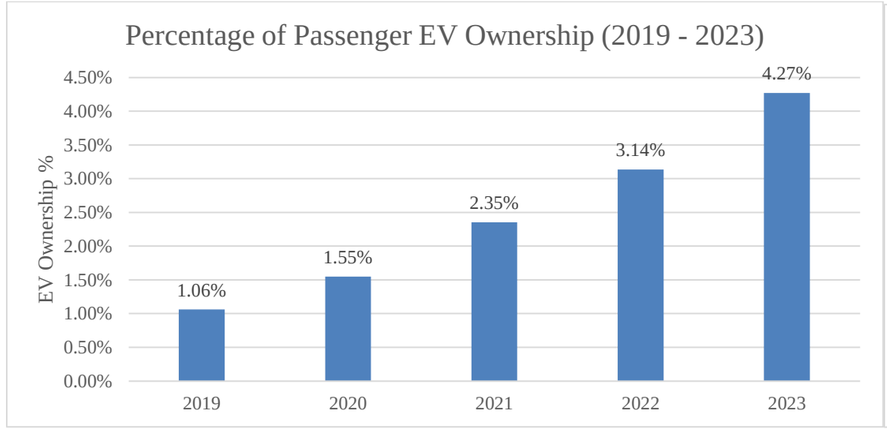
Bold Step 4 – Pollution Free Vehicles

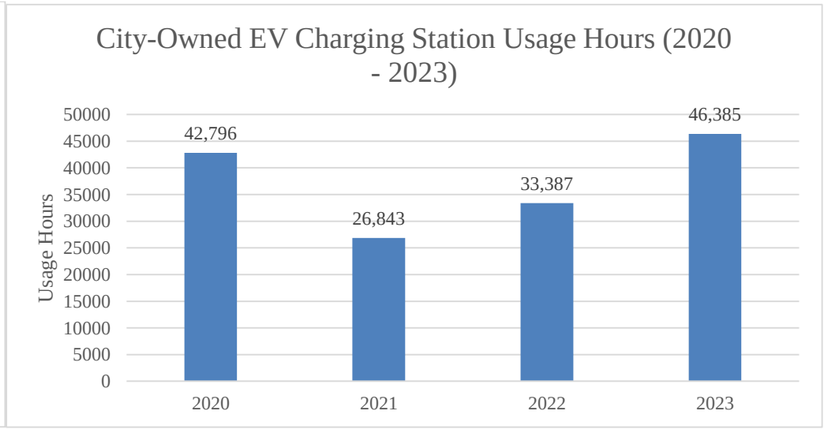
Commitment: By 2030, 50% of kilometers driven by New Westminster registered vehicle owners will be by zero emission vehicles.

Summary: Most carbon emissions from transportation come from the use of personal vehicles. Committing to making less trips by personal vehicles, reducing overall kilometers travelled, and using sustainable modes is the ideal approach to managing transportation-related emissions. Recognizing that some trips will still need to be made by vehicles, zero emission vehicles (ZEVs), including electric vehicles (EVs), are a low-carbon option. More residents are switching to EVs and hybrid vehicles to reduce carbon emissions and air pollution, and are experiencing the benefits such as lower fuel and maintenance costs. Electric vehicle sales have increased rapidly over the past five years as more EV models have become available. Access to charging is key when deciding to purchase an EV. To support residents in choosing EVs over gasoline vehicles, New Westminster is expanding public charging infrastructure.

Our Progress: Electric vehicle (EV) sales have rapidly increased over the past five years as more EV models become available. The percentage of kilometres driven by zero emission vehicles registered to New Westminster residents increased from 1.13% to 1.75% between 2020 and 2021. Access to charging is key when deciding to purchase an EV. To support residents in choosing EVs over internal combustion engine vehicles, the City is continuing to expand public charging infrastructure and enable private charging opportunities. Supporting access to charging and continuing to implement the eMobility strategy is crucial to reaching the Bold Step target of 50% of kilometres driven by New Westminster registered vehicle owners to be by zero emissions vehicles by 2030.

Key Metric[1]	Units	Baseline	Current Conditions		Target/Desired Trend	Notes
			Status	Progress Towards Target/Desired Trend		
Vehicle Kilometers Driven by Zero Emission Vehicles	**Percentage (%)**	**1.13% (2020)**	**1.75% (2021)**	**1.75**	**50% by 2030**	**Baseline updated to reflect the Community Energy and Emissions Inventory from the Province.**
City-Owned Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (Total)	Total Number of Stations	24 (2020)	30 (2023)	⬆	Increase	
City-Owned Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Usage	Usage hours/year	42,796 (2020)	46,385 (2023)	⬆	Increase	
Percentage of EV Ownership[9]	Percentage (%)/year	1.55% (2020)	4.27% (2023)	**4.27%**	Increase	If all vehicles travelled the same distance, this indicator would translate to the stated target.





Initiatives that the City has taken include:

- From 2020 to 2023, the City installed 18 publicly accessible EV charging stations at various locations including parking lots for civic facilities and curbside locations.

- Continued maintenance of EV chargers throughout the City to ensure reliability.
- The eMobility Strategy was adopted in 2022, supporting the adoption of pollution free vehicles.

Bold Step 5 - Carbon Free Energy

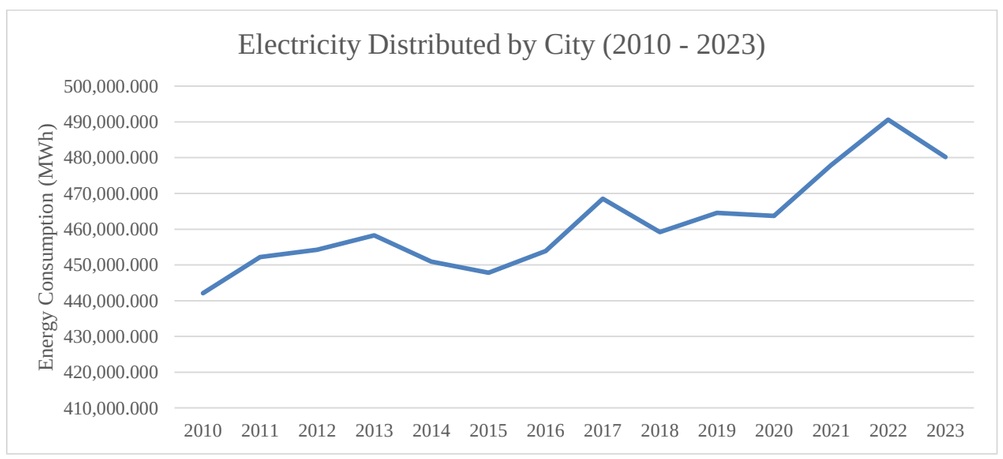
Commitment: The City of New Westminster will invest in a smart electrical grid in order to accommodate the required rapid conversion to building and vehicle electrification.

Summary: The City has a unique advantage in supporting the supply of carbon free energy, as the Electrical Utility is owned by the City. This allows the City to engage customers in innovative energy management and utility initiatives related to energy use and align on decisions related to electrification.

Enabling residents to switch from fossil fuels to clean energy such as electricity to power their homes and vehicles will play a key role in achieving carbon emission reduction targets. This will require the City to explore investment in renewable energy sources such as solar, district energy, and optimize the electrical grid through the use of smart technologies and demand side management to manage the increased capacity and incremental load expected from building and vehicle electrification.

Our Progress: New Westminster is uniquely positioned to enable the transition to low carbon energy through our municipal electric utility, which provides 100% clean energy to the community. The total amount of electricity distributed by the Electrical Utility in 2023 was 480,202 MWh, an increase of 3.56% since the 2020 baseline year. This reflects a growth in the demand for carbon-free energy as the population grows and buildings and vehicles are electrified. The City will continue investing in a smart electrical grid to support future demand and work towards the goal of a zero-emissions future by 2050.

Key Metric[1]	Units	Baseline	Current Conditions		Target/Desired Trend	Notes
			Status	Progress Towards Target/Desired Trend		
Electricity Distributed[10]	**megawatt hour (MWh)/year**	**463,716 (2020)**	**480,203 (2023)**	↑	**Increase**	**The ability to meet increasing electricity demand reflects the necessary investment in the electrical grid.**



Some of the actions taken by the City to advance this Bold Step include:

- Began the process to upgrade electric utility meters to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) to deliver cost effective, reliable power to consumers.
- Completed the construction of the new Queensborough substation and associated electrical infrastructure. The added capacity is supporting the switch from fossil fuels to electricity to power homes and vehicles.
- Urban Solar Garden Program – The program provides local residents, businesses and non-profit organizations with easier access to renewable energy generated by community-owned solar photovoltaic arrays within the City, and the City is currently looking at opportunities to expand its solar generation on other City buildings and have community involvement where possible.

Bold Step 6 – Robust Urban Forest

Commitment: New Westminster's Urban Forest Canopy cover will be increased to 27% by 2030 to support the removal of 4,050 tonnes of carbon pollution every year and increase our forest's carbon storage capacity by 50%.

Summary: Urban forests are an important community asset that provide a range of benefits. These include improving the quality of air and ground water, minimizing erosion and storm water runoff, providing habitat to wildlife, provision of shade, and positive mental health impacts for the community. Bold Step 6 serves to improve the urban forest and measures direct indicators of healthy urban areas, such as new trees planted and increasing tree canopy cover; both of which contribute towards community health and well-being.

The urban forest continues to face challenges from urban development, population growth, and extreme weather events. To reach the 27% canopy target by 2030, it is important to protect and enhance the urban forest. Planting more trees on public and private land is one of the simplest ways to help bolster climate resilience and adaptation in the city.

Our progress:
Since the implementation of the Urban Forest Management Strategy in 2016, the City has added 2,464 new trees on public land through tree planting and by preventing unnecessary removal of healthy mature trees. An additional 1,420 new trees have been sold to residents through City tree sales over the same period. Furthermore, following the implementation of the Tree Protection and Regulation Bylaw, at least 1,627 trees have been planted to compensate for the loss of protected trees on private properties. It is important to note that there were additional replacement trees planted prior to 2019 which are not included in the aforementioned count. These trees have yet to be recorded in the GIS database due to resource limitations. City staff intend to incorporate these trees into the database and enhance the accuracy of our replacement tree inventory through re-inspection and assessment as additional resources are allocated for this initiative. Accelerated and sustained tree planting initiatives will be required to reach UFMS tree planting targets by 2030. Achieving planting targets supports the goal of growing the City's urban forest to reach a canopy cover of 27%.

Key Metric[1]	**Units**	**Baseline**	**Current Conditions**		**Target/Desired Trend**	**Notes**
			Status	**Progress Towards Target/Desired Trend**		
Tree Canopy Cover[10]	**Percentage (%)**	**18% (2015)**	**-**	**-**	**27% by 2030**	**Update will be provided when Urban Forest Management Strategy is being updated.**
Net New Trees on Public Lands	Cumulative number of net new trees	371 (2020)	2,464 (2024)	↑	Increase	Baseline updated to reflect internal data collection practices.
New Trees on Private Lands	Cumulative number of replacement trees	539 (2020)	1,627 (2024)	↑	Increase	Baseline updated to reflect internal data collection practices.
New Trees on Private Lands	Cumulative number of new trees	284 (2020)	1,420 (2024)	↑	Increase	Baseline updated to reflect internal data collection practices.

Other City actions include:
- Adopted the Master Plan for Hume Park in 2022.
- Implemented watering bag program for replacement trees, ensuring new trees are sufficiently watered for their first couple growing seasons in 2022.
- Enhanced "right tree in the right place" plan review to reduce future maintenance requirements for residents and owners in 2022.
- Ongoing involvement of the community in caring for the City's trees through the Adopt-A-Street Tree program in 2021 - 2023.
- Installed 50 new street trees and pollinator planters in the Brow of the Hill neighbourhood through the TD Green Space Grant for Innovative Urban Forestry Initiatives in 2021.
- Adopted the Biodiversity and Natural Areas Strategy in 2022, which includes actions to protect species and enhance the quality of natural areas in the City.

Bold Step 7 – Quality People-Centered Public Realm

Commitment: A minimum of 10% of today's street space that currently only serves motor vehicles, excluding transit, will be reallocated for sustainable transportation or public gathering by 2030. Green infrastructure will be integrated with the urban public realm.

Summary: Access to a quality public realm is important for an active community and an attractive and healthy neighbourhood experience. Not only will it encourage people to use sustainable transportation modes, it will also help establish a community identity and foster inclusion, local character, and sense of place. Green infrastructure, such as natural areas, permeable pavements, and rain gardens, helps absorb storm water, sequester carbon, and enhance the overall health and livability of our city.

Our Progress: Well-designed people-centred public spaces can improve urban heat resilience, stormwater management, and promote community connectedness, making cities more adaptable to climate impacts. The City continues to make progress towards reallocating street space for sustainable transportation or public gathering. As of 2024, 1% of the street space had been reallocated through projects that were supported by existing City strategies. Continued implementation of initiatives through these strategies will support the City in reaching the goal of 10% by 2030.

Key Metric[1]	**Units**	**Baseline**	**Current Conditions**		**Target/Desired Trend**	**Notes**
			Status	**Progress Towards Target/Desired Trend**		
Road Space Reallocation	**Total Percentage (%)**	**-**	**1% (2023)**	**1%**	**10% by 2030**	**Baseline was established in 2023. Projects included road spaces reallocated to spaces like pedestrian plazas and cycling lanes.**
New Gathering Spaces Added	Number of new spaces added per year	5 (2020)	21 (2021-2023)	-	Increase	
New Stormwater Interventions in Public Spaces	Number of Interventions added	1 (2020)	5 (2021-2023)	-	Increase	Five green infrastructure projects that support the City's stormwater management plan were completed between 2021 and 2023.
Natural Land Area	Total Hectares	61 (2020)	37.15 (2024)	-	Increase	A natural areas inventory was created in 2024, which provides a more accurate inventory of our natural areas going forward.
Conversion of Invasive Species to Native Species	Total Hectares	0.0023 (2020)	0.53 (2024)	-	Increase	

The projects completed from 2021 – 2023 in support of this Bold Step include:

- Completed new park spaces and amenities, including the Westminster Pier Park Play Area at Sixth Street, Ryall Park Learning Garden; Queen's Park play tower replacement, Quayside Tugger replacement, Sportsplex plaza, and Queen's Park bike skills park.
- Completed the Sixth Street pedestrian overpass and ramp, a new accessible pedestrian connection to Westminster Pier Park;
- Reallocated street space on East Columbia Street through the pavement management program.
- Facilitated the establishment of new street patios.
- Completed the construction of the City Hall rain garden and 5th Street and 8th Avenue rain gardens.
- Completed the construction of the Agnes Street Greenway, which includes a two-way protected lane for cycling and rolling, new landscaping and trees, two rain gardens, a dog parklet, seating and bike racks, a water fountain and misting station, and improvements to existing intersections and sidewalks.
- Completed the full closure of Belmont Street and the temporary plaza design in preparation for constructing the permanent Uptown Plaza; the new plaza hosted nine activations in 2023.
- Installed 13 misting stations for public cooling during extreme heat. Locations include streets, plazas, and near bus stops.
- Completed the New Westminster Secondary School Cycling Connector, which includes new protected cycling facilities, intersection improvements, and new landscaping and cycling amenities.
- Ongoing implementation of the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP) to reduce volume of stormwater runoff, improving water quality, and enhancing natural areas
- Transportation has recently completed the development of a tool to track road space reallocation projects, and are in the process of adding historical projects to the dataset.

Environment

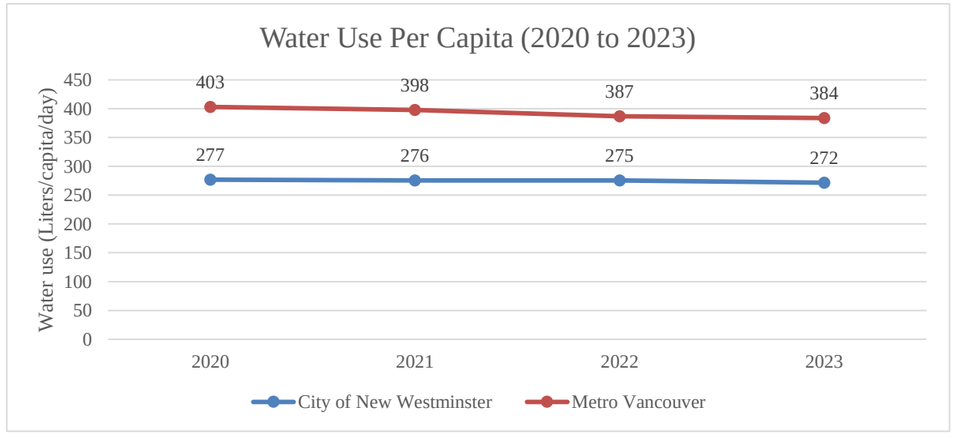
Protecting natural areas and minimizing the environmental footprint of our highly urbanized community is an important priority for the City as outlined in the Environmental Strategy and Action Plan. Environment-related KPIs focus on conserving the natural resources we have and protecting our ecosystem.

Conservation of our natural resources is crucial as we tackle a changing climate and population growth. KPIs related to the environment measure several direct indicators of our conservation efforts such as water consumption, single family waste diversion and sewer separation.

The City has been separating rain runoff from sanitary flows through the installation of new storm sewers throughout the City, and currently, more than 50% of the City's sewers are separated. Combined sewers collect both wastewater and stormwater in a single pipe. During extreme weather events, additional volumes of rain can cause the system to exceed capacity, and untreated wastewater overflows into the Fraser River. The City's daily water use per capita indicates positive trends in conservation and water use efficiency, and the City consistently uses less water capita than the Metro Vancouver region average. The most recent report from Metro Vancouver[11] indicates that in 2022, the single family waste diversion for the region was 64%, which the City surpassed in 2023 with a diversion rate of 68.5%.

Our Progress: Protecting and conserving natural resources, such as water, soil, plants, and animals is a key priority for the City. New Westminster has been replacing old storm sewers with new ones that keep rainwater and wastewater separate. Now, more than half of the City's sewer system is separated, helping prevent the system from being overwhelmed during heavy rainfall. The City's daily water use per capita continues to decline, consistently staying below the Metro Vancouver regional average. In 2023, the City achieved a single-family waste diversion rate of 68.5%, exceeding Metro Vancouver's 2022 rate of 64%.

Key Metric[1]	Units	Baseline	Current Conditions		Target/Desired Trend	Notes
			Status	Progress Towards Target/Desired Trend		
Water Use Per Capita[10]	L/capita/day/year	277 (2020)	272 (2023)	⬇	Decrease	
Single Family Waste Diversion	Annual Percentage (%)	62.7% (2019)	68.5% (2023)	⬆	Increase	
Sewer Separation	Percentage (%) of total combined sewer separated per year	1.5% (2020)	1.5% (2023)	**1.5%**	1.5% per year	Aim to separate 1.5% of combined sewers per year. More than 50% have been separated as of 2023.



Some actions that the City is taking to reduce its environmental impact include:

- Adopted the Biodiversity & Natural Areas Strategy in 2022, which will support the City's actions to halt further biodiversity loss.
- Ongoing implementation of educational and enforcement campaigns for waste diversion and reduce contamination in all recycling streams.
- Ongoing replacement of aging water mains and separation of combined sewers.
- Continue to promote water conservation through education, media outreach, and community events.

- Ongoing implementation of the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP) to reduce volume of stormwater runoff, improving water quality, and enhancing natural areas.

References and Data Sources

[1] Bolded metrics are the stated target for each respective bold step. All other metrics are indicators of progress towards the stated target.
[2] tCO2e refers to tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (also referred to as tonnes of carbon emissions)
[3] Carbon emissions are the CO2 equivalents of each greenhouse gas emitted in accordance with the B.C Best Practices Methodology for Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Emissions
[4] TransLink Trip Diary 2017. – Baseline data updated as shared motor vehicle mode is no longer included.
[5] TransLink Transit Service Performance Review Data (TSPR) – Baseline data updated based on the TSPR
[6] BC Government Community Energy and Emissions Inventory
[7] Population data from BC Government Population Estimates
[8] Through Energy Save New West Programs
[9] ICBC Vehicle Population Data
[10] Baseline data updated based on updated methodology.
[11] Metro Vancouver 2022 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (ISWRMP) Biennial Report.