

# Highlights

## COMMUNITY ENERGY AND EMISSIONS ACTION PLAN

City of  
**NELSON**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

### BUILDING RESILIENCE



Like all communities across the globe, Nelson is vulnerable to the risks of global warming and steadily rising, volatile energy prices. In order to proactively address these pressing issues, City Council commissioned, and has received, the Community Energy and Emissions Action Plan.

The plan builds on Nelson's compact character to recommend specific strategies that will strengthen the resilience of the community by minimizing these threats. It looks at all major energy sectors, including land use, transportation, buildings, energy supply, solid waste and community-wide priorities.

It also recognizes the economic opportunities that come with greenhouse gas reduction strategies. Currently, the majority of the \$30 million spent annually on energy in Nelson leaves town. Action steps aim to keep a larger portion of this spending in the community, stimulating the local economy.

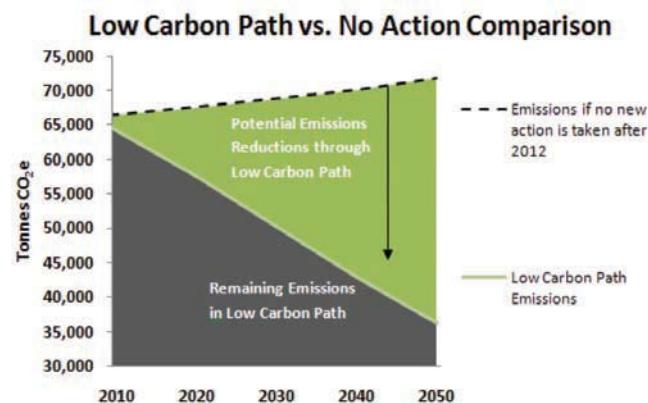
The plan was completed by HB Lanarc, with funding from the Union of BC Municipalities, the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada. The project was guided by a steering committee made up of City Councillors, staff, and community experts.

### TARGETS

Like most communities in BC, Nelson's largest source of **emissions** is transportation. Buildings, followed by transportation, are the largest source of **energy use**.

Currently, Nelson residents are spending approximately \$5,150 per household on energy up from an estimated \$2,100 per household in 1980. While future energy prices are difficult to predict, most long-term projections show large increases, with the price of fuel and electricity increasing by up to 200% by 2030. Rising costs, combined with increasing population, could bring annual energy costs to an average of \$15,000 per household by 2040.

*The steps outlined in the plan could reduce total energy spending by residents and businesses by at least 50% below what it would be in a "no action" scenario.*



By following the steps outlined in the plan, Nelson will be able to achieve the following targets, over a 2007 baseline, by 2040:

- 57% reduction in per capita GHG emissions
- 43% reduction in community-wide GHG emissions
- 26% reduction in community-wide energy use.

These targets were adopted into the City's Official Community Plan on November 7, 2011.

## THE CITY'S ROLE

Decisions and policies at the City level can have a significant impact on land use, transportation patterns, building energy use and solid waste management – all of which are large emission sources.

Some recommended actions that fall under the scope of City work include:

- encouraging secondary suites and infill cottages
- enhancing public transit both locally and regionally
- establishing a home and business energy retrofit program
- low carbon local business advising
- low carbon community pledge
- continuing to investigate the possibility of a district energy system
- putting in place policies that will move developers to construct buildings that exceed BC Building Code performance requirements.

## FINANCING INNOVATION

*"We are really in a unique position. We already have the Nelson Hydro billing infrastructure in place. We can do this easily, and this kind of program can have a great influence."* - Mayor John Dooley

Nelson has a much older building stock than many other communities. As a result, there is a lot of room to increase energy efficiency through retrofits. Improvements such as increasing insulation or installing energy efficient windows can go a long way to reducing energy use. However, the upfront cost of an energy retrofit is a major disincentive to most building owners.

The plan identifies that the City is in a unique position to help in this situation. For example, if installation costs \$10,000, a homeowner might be able to access \$3,000 through various rebate programs, but would still need to come up with the \$7,000 difference before moving forward.

By partnering with the Municipal Finance Authority, the City is looking into offering homeowners low-interest loans, which would be repaid by adding the loan payment to their Nelson Hydro bill. The bulk of the payment would be covered by the energy they are saving through the retrofit.

The City currently has secured seed funding to develop the program through Natural Resources Canada and is pursuing additional funding partners. The City is confident that it will be able to launch this exciting pilot program in early 2012.



## PARTNERSHIP

The successful implementation of this plan will rely on our community's most critical resource: our enterprising residents, businesses, workforce, community organizations, municipal staff and Council.

The plan outlines a series of priority actions to be implemented over the next five years, outlining costs, lead departments, key stakeholders and potential sources of funding. Council and staff have already initiated discussions with potential funding partners, and are hearing strong support for the plan from regional, provincial and national agencies.

The plan introduces the Low Carbon Community Pledge, as a tool for getting the whole community involved from the outset. The pledge invites community members to specify how, and by when, they will take action to decrease energy use and reduce emissions. Details of how you can get involved, coming soon.

The complete plan can be downloaded from the City's website at [www.nelson.ca/sustainability](http://www.nelson.ca/sustainability).

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

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**NELSON**