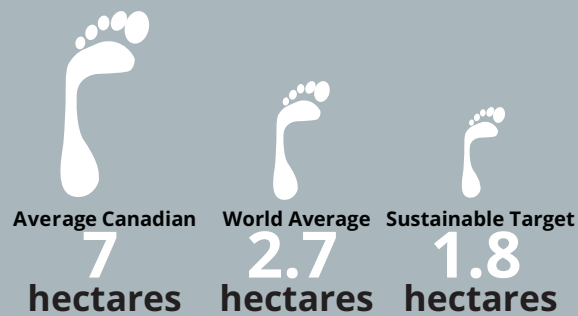


STATE ^{OF} THE ENVIRONMENT 2013

A Sustainable Community maintains economic and social wellbeing, without overburdening the environment's ability to provide resources and services. A healthy environment contributes to our quality of life. **How is Courtenay doing?**



our ecological footprint



An ecological footprint measures people's impact on the environment through natural resource consumption and waste generation. It is measured in hectares per capita – the amount of land and sea needed to support each person's current needs.

Humans collectively are consuming resources much faster than the earth can produce them. We can help reduce our ecological footprint by considering the environment in our every day decisions, both at a corporate and personal level.

City of Courtenay

BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA





Air

Target set by World Health Organization

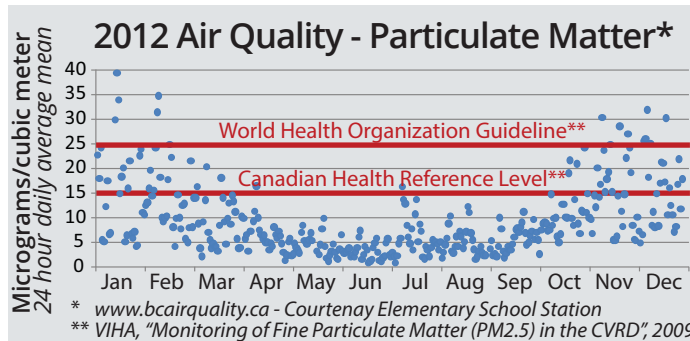
Currently there are no significant industrial sources of pollution in the Comox Valley, but there are numerous sources of fine particulate matter (PM2.5). These include vehicles, residential wood burning, open burning including debris from land clearing and construction, pesticides, agricultural burning, and forestry burns and wildfires.

Where are we now?

2012 measurements taken in Courtenay range from 1 to 39 micrograms per cubic meter (daily average mean). The World Health Organization guideline is 25 micrograms.

Did you know?

Municipalities are uniquely positioned to act on improving air quality. Cities around the world have used their capacity for public and industry educational campaigns, purchasing practices, infrastructure investments, bylaws, and other targeted initiatives to make a positive impact on local air quality.



How are we reaching our targets?

- Open burning has been banned in the City since 2008
- Pesticides have been banned in the City since 2007

What can you do to help?

- Avoid idling your vehicle; walk, cycle or take public transit
- Limit the use of gas or diesel-powered equipment



Water

Target: Reduce 2008 water use levels by 40% by 2030*

Where are we now?

Today, each citizen in Courtenay uses approximately 550 liters of water per day, based on annual usage, which is the volume of three and a half bathtubs of water.

How are we reaching our targets?

In public facilities and parks, we have:

- installed faucet aerators
- replaced 56 toilets at 13 to 23 liters per flush with high efficiency 6 liter per flush toilets
- a centralized computer irrigation system for efficiency based on weather, water restrictions and other factors

Community wide, we:

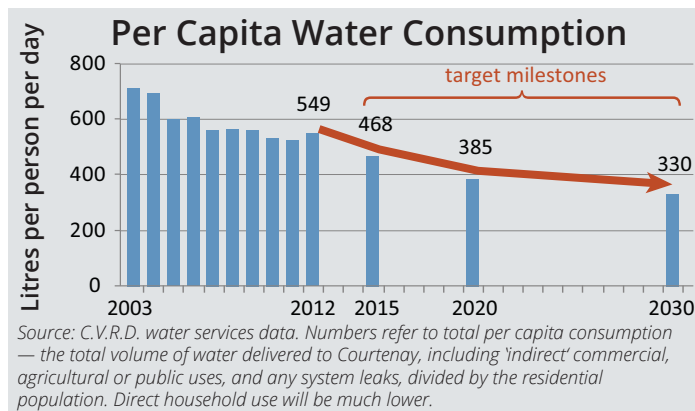
- offer \$100 grant per fixture for commercial businesses in the City of Courtenay to replace old high volume toilets with low flow efficient toilets
- require water meters in all new multi-family residential (greater than 4 units), commercial, industrial and institutional buildings

Did you know?

1 The Province of B.C. has developed a comprehensive plan for sustainable management of all freshwater (surface and groundwater), protection of aquatic ecosystems and encouraging water smart behaviour and community development practices. To learn how to be Water Smart, visit www.livingwatersmart.ca

What can you do to help?

- Trace the water you use on a daily basis. Is it mostly for cooking, cleaning, washing the car or watering the garden?
- Water consumption spikes in summer when people are watering lawns and gardens. Let your lawn go brown or plant drought-resistant and native plants instead



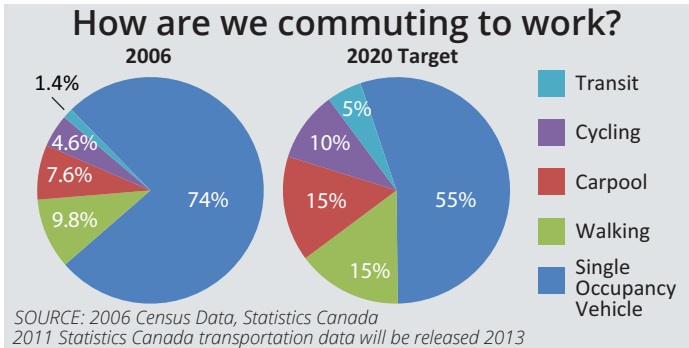
* Comox Valley Regional Growth Strategy

2 Comox Valley local governments and other stakeholders are part of **CAVI (Convening for Action on Vancouver Island)**, which protects watershed health while providing sustainable rainwater management services. Team members develop consistent approaches to land development based on scientific evidence and through partnership and collaboration. www.waterbucket.ca



Transportation

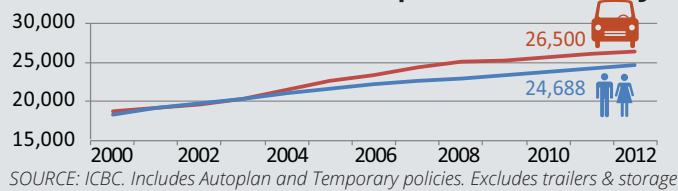
Target: Reduce single occupancy vehicle trips from 74% to 55% by 2020*



Did you know?

In Courtenay there are more cars than people, yet 70 per cent of people live less than 5km from their work.

Number of Cars and People in Courtenay



How are we reaching our targets?

- The City is creating a Transportation Master Plan to ensure that our decisions and investments are reflecting more transportation choices
- The Comox Valley Cycling Task Force continues to raise the profile of safe cycling, and is working with School District 71 to promote active transportation options in local schools
- Cycling lane, sidewalk and greenway opportunities are being explored for key linkages in the City

What can you do to help?

- There is a fine line between smooth traffic flow and gridlock, and reducing a small fraction of the cars on the road can help ease congestion for everyone. Try switching one of your weekly drives to a walking, cycling, transit or carpooling trip

Did you know?

Transportation accounts for most of the increase in Courtenay's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions since 2007. See Energy section for details.

* City of Courtenay Official Community Plan

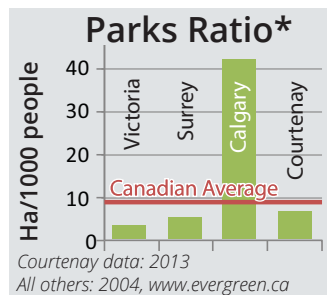


Land Use

Target 1: Ensure all residences are within 400 meters of a public park*

Where are we now?

- 96 per cent of residences are within 400 meters of a City park
- Courtenay has about 163 hectares (ha) of park land, 5.5 per cent of the City's total area



* City of Courtenay Official Community Plan

How are we reaching our targets?

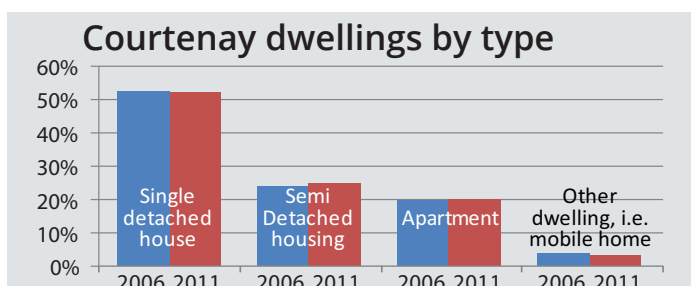
- The City will begin a Parks and Open space management plan to ensure parks continue to meet resident needs

What can you do to help?

- The spread of invasive species is a growing problem in public parks. Dumping landscape clippings in parks makes it worse, and can bury native plants
- If you see illegal activities occurring in parks, such as dumping any kind of waste, plant and tree destruction, or any other vandalism, please contact City Hall

Target 2: Promote sustainable development through increase housing density**

Where are we now?



How are we reaching our targets?

- The City will continue to explore incentives for compact forms of development

What can you do to help?

- Consider "right sizing" your home to your needs
- Look into creating a secondary suite in your single family home

** City of Courtenay Official Community Plan
Comox Valley Regional Growth Strategy



Waste

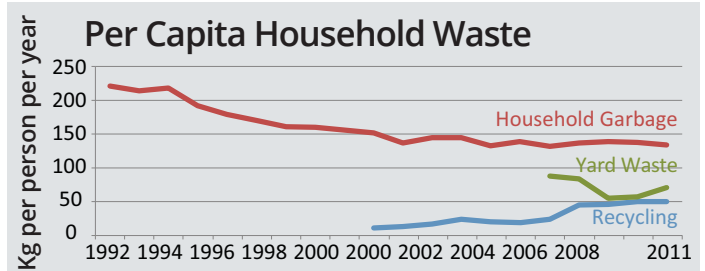
Target: Achieve 75% waste diversion rate from the landfill by 2035*

Where are we now?

As Courtenay's population increases, and landfill capacity decreases, diverting solid waste from landfills through recycling and other methods becomes more important. Currently, solid waste represents 13% of total GHG emissions in the City of Courtenay.

How are we reaching our targets?

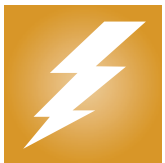
- The City offers residential curbside recycling and yard waste pick-up, and in October 2012 launched a curbside recycling Toter program to multi-family and apartment complexes; this program diverted 46 tonnes of recyclables from the landfill in its first four months - equivalent to six and a half school buses!
- The City has installed in-ground recycling containers in most major parks



What can you do to help?

- Remember the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Take advantage of the City's weekly curbside yard waste and biweekly recycling pickup service. Unlimited amounts are accepted; visit www.courtenay.ca for details

* Comox Valley Regional Growth Strategy



Energy

Target: Reduce community wide GHG emissions 20% by 2020*

Where are we now?

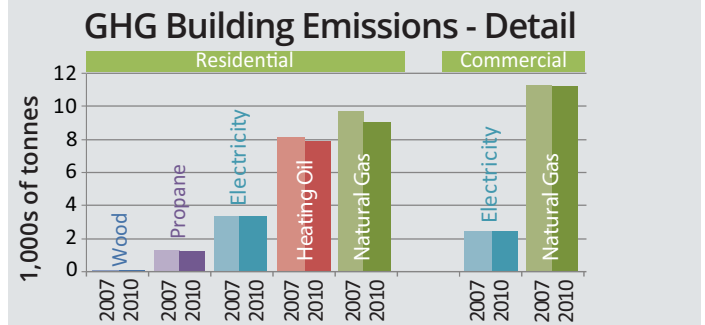
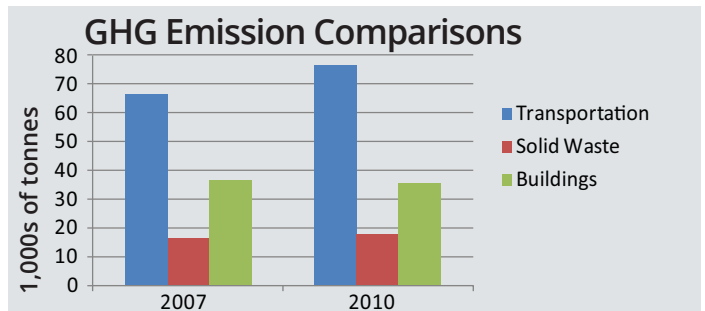
In 2010, Courtenay's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were 10.16 per cent higher than in 2007. The population increased by 4.97 per cent over the same period.

How are we reaching our targets?

- In 2009, the City created a Climate Action Plan to reduce GHG emissions
- The City added climate change targets to the OCP in 2010
- Civic buildings have been retrofitted with energy efficient technologies and all new civic buildings must meet LEED™ Silver standards

What can you do to help?

- Buildings account for 27 per cent of GHG emissions in Courtenay. By taking a proactive approach at home, you will reduce emissions and save money. BCHydro and FortisBC offer funding for residential retrofits
- Given that transportation emissions are our greatest source of GHGs, anything you can do to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips will help us achieve our target



Source: Province of BC Community Energy & Emissions Inventory Report

* City of Courtenay Official Community Plan

Other resources

Visit www.courtenay.ca/climateaction.aspx for links to carbon footprint calculators, incentive programs, and much more

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