

Executive Summary

The health, economic well-being, and safety of community members in the West Kootenay Region are of great concern for our local governments. Recognizing that transitioning to 100% renewable energy is a powerful way to address these priorities, eight municipalities and the Regional District of Central Kootenay have passed resolutions pledging to reach 100% renewable energy by 2050 across community-wide energy use in transportation, heating & cooling, electricity and waste management. The *West Kootenay 100% Renewable Energy Plan* is the result of a collaborative effort to identify pathways for participating communities to make progress toward these renewable energy goals. As the political and technological context changes over the coming years, of course, it will be necessary to update the plan with new actions. Read more about how the plan was created and why in Part 1.

West Kootenay 100% Renewable Energy Communities
City of Castlegar
Village of Kaslo
City of Nelson
Village of New Denver
Regional District of Central Kootenay (unincorporated)
City of Rossland
Village of Silverton
Village of Slovan
Village of Warfield

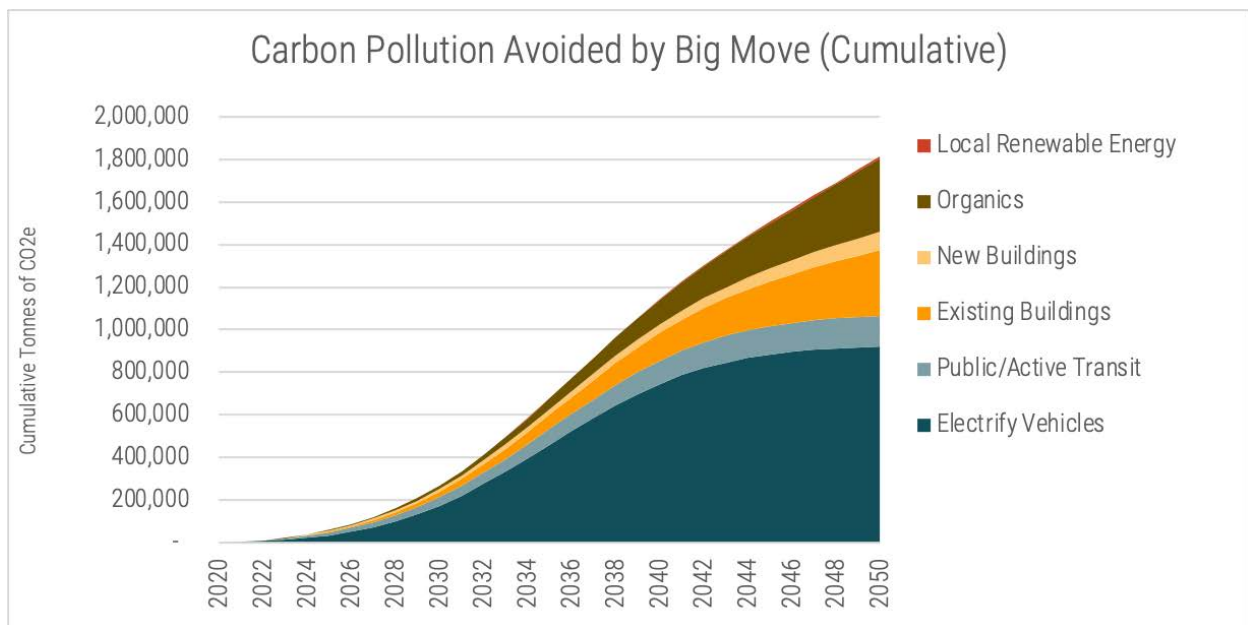
Our local governments have a critical role to play in moving local communities toward renewable energy. Local governments shape daily behaviour with policy and infrastructure, and elected leaders make decisions in the interest of diverse constituencies. Collaborating with other local



governments to develop the *West Kootenay 100% Renewable Energy Plan* has allowed our local governments to share resources, build capacity, and reduce costs.

The plan is built around four *Big Moves*, each of which includes a variety of policy, infrastructure, and outreach actions to help community members save money and reduce pollution in their daily lives. Learn about the Big Moves in Part 2 (pg XX). The Big Moves address:

- How we move around, including electrification of passenger vehicles, public transit, walking, biking and other modes of active transportation, and decarbonizing commercial vehicles;
- The buildings where we live, work and play;
- What we use (and throw away), including composting, landfill gas capture, and landfill diversion; and
- How we generate energy.



For each Big Move, each community has created a list of actions which reflect the priorities of their community members. The actions will make it faster, easier, and cheaper for local residents and businesses to save energy in their transportation and shelter if they choose to. **Local governments can prevent 1.8 million tonnes of carbon pollution by 2050 by implementing these actions.** That's about the same amount of pollution as 10,000 railcars of coal, or 30 years of



driving 13,000 cars. Each community’s context and action list is unique, and the plan includes a section for each community in Part 3.

Community	Projected reduction in carbon pollution (from 2020 levels)		Remaining pollution is from...		
	Tonnes	Percent	Mobility fuels (commercial vehicles)	Natural gas, propane, wood, and heating oil	Solid waste
Castlegar	34,630	63%	28%	63%	4%
Kaslo	5,092	68%	69%	27%	2%
Nelson	43,219	54%	27%	69%	4%
New Denver	1,783	53%	76%	10%	5%
RDCK	108,279	58%	55%	38%	5%
Rossland	17,289	69%	30%	57%	11%
Silverton	397	71%	25%	42%	15%
Slocan	1,280	61%	59%	36%	3%
Warfield	8,437	74%	26%	62%	11%

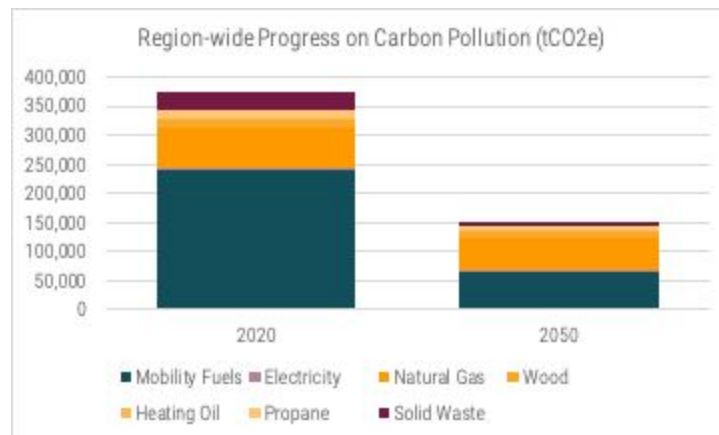
There are a few trends throughout the region:

- Because many people rely on their personal cars for daily mobility needs, shifting to electric vehicles saves the most money and carbon pollution. Increases in active and public transportation also help reduce gasoline use.
- Improving the efficiency of existing buildings with improved insulation, air sealing, and more efficient appliances is the second greatest potential impact for several communities.
- Over time, benefits of reducing organic waste and capturing landfill gas become more substantial.
- Upcoming provincial regulations for new buildings make local changes less significant in the short term, but early adoption has multiplier effects over time.



- Renewable generation makes a smaller impact because our region already has abundant renewable electricity to meet current electricity needs and local renewable natural gas is not yet available.
- Switching transportation and building energy to electricity is complicated by the electrical grid's vulnerability to weather events which are becoming more frequent due to global warming, such as wildfire, wind-, and snowstorms.

Although the plan makes big strides toward 100% renewable energy, gaps remain for all communities. The remaining non-renewable energy is mostly fuel for commercial vehicles and for heating existing buildings, where local governments have less direct influence and attractive replacements don't exist. Nevertheless, technology for electric commercial vehicles and renewable natural gas is evolving rapidly and it is likely that the opportunities to transition these uses to renewable energy will expand over the next few years. Local communities will work together to advocate for policies at the provincial and federal level that will accelerate these changes and fill these gaps.



Through this collaboration, our communities are taking an important next step on the long journey to 100% renewable energy. Each community will move at its own pace, and our regional collaboration will help us identify and share resources. The coronavirus pandemic has brought unexpected challenges to the region, but it has also revealed strengths and created opportunities to recognize our shared needs and values: well-being, resilience, and community. Our local governments will draw on communities' strengths to adjust timing and priorities to adapt to these and other challenges as we work to implement the plan over the next several years.



By 2025, the assumptions, impacts, and actions in this plan will need to be reevaluated to integrate lessons learned and changes in context and technology. The Big Moves framework and the related data analysis will be an important asset in maintaining our course and assessing progress on the path toward 2050. The sooner the West Kootenay region starts transitioning to 100% renewable energy, the sooner its residents will start to enjoy the benefits of improved health, economic opportunities, and increased community safety.

