Appendix G: Monitoring and Reporting Framework

New Westminster Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan

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The purpose of the monitoring and evaluation framework is to help track progress toward achieving the vision of the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan. The framework highlights initial progress indicators which we will use to monitor and track the progress of the Plan's implementation and effectiveness. The initial adaptation indicators are not linked to any one action; rather, they are intended to reflect the overall advancement of the Plan.

It is important to note that adaptation is not an objective in itself. Instead, it is an ongoing process that requires continuous adjustment and refinement in response to changing conditions and emerging risks. Measuring progress can be challenging, as it is difficult to determine how much worse the consequences of a climate-related hazard event would have been in the absence of adaptation and resilience actions. In many cases, the success of adaptation is reflected in the avoidance of significant harm during climate-related hazard events.

Therefore, the monitoring and evaluation framework presents the initial adaptation indicators as "potential" progress indicators, so we can adjust them as we proceed with implementation of the Plan. These initial indicators will help the City understand if it is moving in the right direction and provide a foundation for measuring progress toward increased climate resilience.

Potential Progress Indicator	Indicator Description	Hazard(s) Addressed
Number of program participants that feel more prepared for climate-related impacts (via survey)	Public opinion surveys can provide a valuable snapshot of community perspectives, including level of awareness, preparedness, and concern related to climate-related hazards. Post-program survey results can help the City better understand the perceived effectiveness of programs and	All climate-related hazards – specifically those addressed by respective programs

	initiatives. This information can be used to inform and refine education and programs from the City.	
Updated Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA, every 5 years – based on new Provincial EDMA legislation)	Local authorities must prepare and maintain a hazard risk assessment such as the City's HRVA (Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment). HRVAs need regular updating because community demographics, climate realities, and development footprints constantly change. Frequent updates ensure that emergency plans, resource allocation, and mitigation strategies accurately reflect current risks and prevent outdated responses.	All climate-related hazards
Number of staff that complete trauma-informed training	Trauma-informed training equips staff with the knowledge and skills to respond appropriately to the impacts of trauma with a focus on safety, trust, empowerment, and cultural sensitivity. During climate-related hazard events, front-line staff may interact with individuals experiencing a variety of stressors and trauma. Providing trauma-informed training helps ensure staff are prepared to support community members effectively and compassionately. The City is always in the process of mapping the learning and development needs across departments to build capacity.	All climate-related hazards
Species Richness, Diversity, and Community Composition	The composition and species that live within the City of New Westminster can help to understand ecosystem function. For example, bird populations are a measure of urban forest condition and climate resilience, as they reflect the condition of local habitats, vegetation and food sources.	All climate-related hazards
Progress on CCARP actions	This indicator will help us report on the progress of starting and completing the actions in the Plan.	All climate-related hazards
The total funding received from senior levels of government for climate resilience-related projects	This indicator will track the number of applications submitted and the funding amount received from senior levels of government and other external funding sources to support climate adaptation. This indicator will demonstrate the municipality's alignment with senior government priorities	All climate-related hazards

	in order to access funding. To note, this indicator may vary year to year depending on funding available.	
Number of supports to enable personal cooling	Different community members may have various needs to support them in staying cool during extreme heat events. For example, cooling kits contain essential items to help individuals manage extreme heat and wildfire smoke. Kits can support some populations at higher risk of extreme heat illness, such as renters without access to cooling spaces or those who are unhoused. There are other personalized cooling supports that can be proactive or reactive, but are important to support thermal life safety, and will be tracked.	Extreme Heat, Wildfire Smoke
Number of new buildings with permits for thermal safety	The purpose of this indicator is to measure the number of buildings where people could shelter at home, whether homeowners or renters. Staying cool at home is the priority risk reduction measure.	Extreme Heat
Increase in tree canopy cover percentage	Tree canopy cover is the layer of leaves, branches, and stems of trees that obscure the ground when viewed from above. Trees provide many benefits to communities by improving water quality, saving energy, lowering ambient temperatures, reducing erosion, reducing air pollution, providing wildlife habitat, facilitating social and educational opportunities, and providing aesthetic benefits. New Westminster's Urban Forestry Management Strategy aims to increase the 2016 baseline of 18% cover to the North American average of 27%.	Extreme Heat, Heavy Rainfall, Wildfire Smoke, Slope Failure, Drought, Storms
Increase in urban forestry health counts	The purpose of this indicator is to monitor the health of the overall urban forest. For example, storm-related and heat-related tree failure are anticipated to increase with climate change impacts, so it’s important to track tree failures when they occur. Another health measure would be to continue monitoring invasive plant species coverage and growth across the city, as with changing climate, they can outgrow native species.	Extreme Heat, Heavy Rainfall, Slope Failure, Drought, Storms

Number of City facilities operating during extreme weather events, and that offer extended hours during extreme weather	This indicator is in reference to City facilities that can offer cooling in the summer, clean air (filtration) during wildfire events, and heating during the winter. It also includes facilities that can extend hours into the night or early morning to continue to offer refuge.	Extreme Heat, Wildfire Smoke, Extreme Cold
Increase of off-street pathways, protected bicycle lanes, and local street bikeways with climate resilient design.	The total length of all greenways, bikeways, and separated bike-lanes in the city is a reflection of the City's efforts to develop a safe, accessible, and connected active transportation system. Expanding and improving this network with consideration of climate change, supports climate resilience by providing reliable alternatives for getting around the City.	Extreme Heat, Heavy Rainfall, Storms
Number of new green infrastructure stormwater interventions by the City	Green infrastructure stormwater interventions support water quality, reduce water volume and flooding, provide resilience to climate change, enhance biodiversity, and reduce overall infrastructure costs.	River Flooding, Heavy Rainfall, Storms