CALGARY CLIMATE HUB

Upzoning to R-CG

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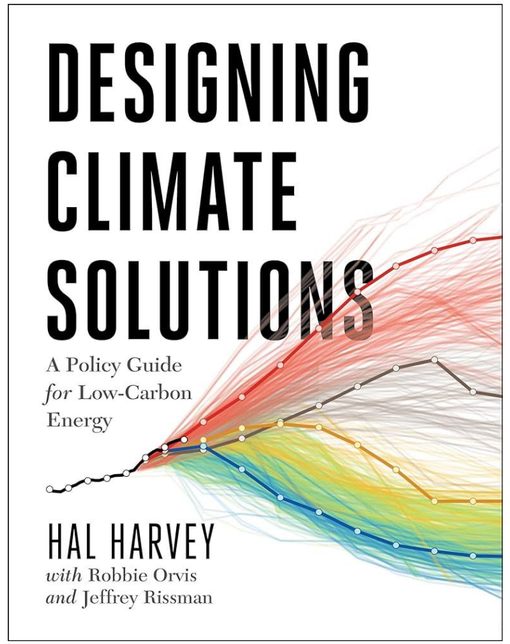
Calgary Climate Hub

- Volunteer-led municipal climate action group
- Educate and empower Calgarians to become active climate citizens
- Advocate directly and proactively for climate action in Calgary
- Represent the perspective of climate action and provide reactions to Calgary’s government and media

Is rezoning to R-CG a good move for the Climate?

YES!

“Zoning and building codes should be designed to enable high-density, transit-oriented, mixed-use development without causing individual projects to seek waivers (for use, height, setbacks, and so on).”



Rezoning: Climate Priority

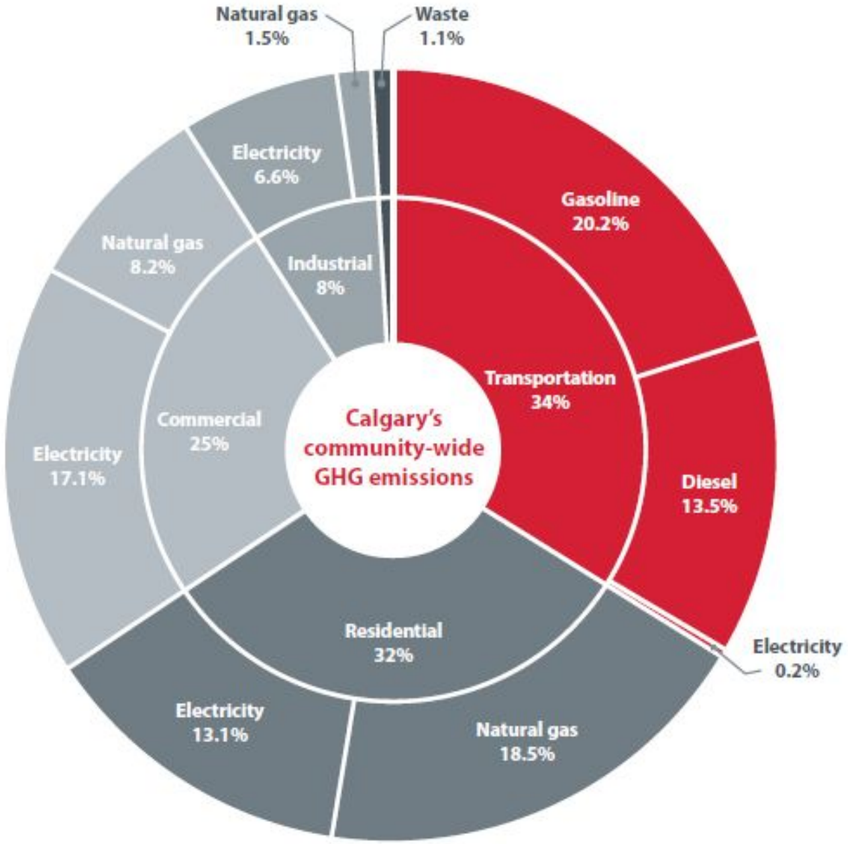


Figure 6: Breakdown of Calgary community-wide GHG emissions by percentage

34% of Calgary's emissions come from gas and diesel burned in our vehicles

We have over 1,000,000 vehicles on the road in Calgary

All of these vehicles will need to be replaced with other modes, such as:

- transit
- active transportation
- zero emission vehicles

Legalising a denser city is city-wide energy efficiency!

Rezoning: Climate Priority

"Our communities will transition to compact, mixed-use neighbourhoods with abundant natural infrastructure and where transit and active modes of transportation (e.g., walking, cycling) are the preferred mobility choice."

- Calgary Climate Strategy, Page 46

$
< $1 million

$$
$1-$5 million

$$$
$5-$20 million

$$$$
> $20 million

Program Pathway H: Focus land use planning to prioritize zero emissions city design

Calgary is expected to grow to a population of two million people over the next 50-60 years . It is crucial that a variety of low carbon climate-resilient housing types and transportation options in a variety of communities are available to Calgarians to support net zero goals. Rapid suburban growth and the removal of natural and agricultural landscapes for development can have significant impacts on Calgary's carbon emissions and can result in the loss of key ecosystem services that buffer communities from the impacts of climate change. Building a net zero and climate-resilient city will require balancing many considerations, some of them competing. Holistic approaches to city-building must include new frameworks for urban planning, changes to building and infrastructure design, and measures to enhance overall resilience. Our communities will transition to compact, mixed-use neighbourhoods with abundant natural infrastructure and where transit and active modes of transportation (e.g., walking, cycling) are the preferred mobility choice. Calgary's future communities must link sustainability to social equity. Reducing emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change requires a shift in the way our communities are built and function. These changes can also bring benefits to Calgarians' social wellbeing, physical health, economic vitality, and sense of community. Land use planning is a key function of municipal governments, and The City of Calgary has significant authority to influence the type and quality of the urban form in Calgary. This Program Pathway identifies how The City can tailor plans and policies to develop existing and future neighbourhoods in such a way to prioritize net zero emissions communities. As Calgary moves towards a denser urban form, maintaining the availability and quality of parks, green spaces, and natural areas is also critical.

H4.2 Through the land use bylaw update, enable increased housing types and support uses in residential areas to facilitate complete communities and reduce dependency on private vehicles.

SHORT TERM — NOT STARTED — $ LOW

H4.3 Consider viable options for removing and/or reducing motor vehicle parking minimums in residential areas, to allow for more compact development, more efficient use of land and encourage alternate modes of transportation.

SHORT TERM — NOT STARTED — $ LOW

...but what about the trees?

Climate Myth: R-CG is bad for trees

Climate Myth: R-CG is bad for trees

*"83. **When focusing on the loss of the highest quality agricultural land** (LSRS class 2) between 2019 and 2021, industrial sites (including thermal power plants) were responsible for 731.7 hectares of land loss, **urban residential for 393.4 hectares**, and mine sites for 303.8 hectares. In comparison, wind turbines were sited on 62.5 hectares of LSRS class 2 land and solar projects were not sited on any class 2 agricultural land. Overall, between 2019 and 2021 the gross loss of LSRS class 2 lands from all drivers was 1,964.1 hectares (which is approximately 7.6 sections of land) or approximately 0.03 to 0.04 per cent of LSRS class 2 lands."*

- AUC inquiry into the ongoing economic, orderly and efficient development of electricity generation in Alberta, Page 21

Climate Myth: R-CG is bad for trees

"This study shows that indirect forest losses, through cropland displacement, far exceed direct losses from urban expansion. On a global scale, urban land increased from 33.2 to 71.3 million hectares (Mha) between 1992 and 2015, leading to a direct loss of 3.3 Mha of forest and an indirect loss of 17.8 to 32.4 Mha. In addition, this urban expansion led to a direct loss of 4.6 Mha of shrubland and an indirect loss of 7.0 to 17.4 Mha. Guiding urban development towards more sustainable trajectories can thus help preserve forest and other natural area at a global scale."

Direct and indirect loss of natural area from urban expansion

van Vliet, J.

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Climate Myth: R-CG is bad for trees

Leads To

Conclusion

- We fully support the implementation of base R-CG zoning
- Upzoning is like energy efficiency for our cities transportation
  - It will help cut our transportation related emissions
  - It will make biking, transit and other low carbon modes much easier
  - It will ease our transition to electric vehicles
- Concerns from others raised over tree displacement should be view skeptically at best