

Township of Georgian Bluffs Corporate Climate Action Plan Progress Update

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The Township is Committed to Change Corporate Climate Action Plan ([CorCAP](#)), approved by Council in 2023, identifies municipal corporate targets of greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction of 40% by 2030, 70% by 2040, and 80% by 2050, relative to 2018 levels.

The CorCAP takes a dual-action approach to climate action through mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation efforts reduce or prevent GHG emissions by improving building energy efficiency, adopting new technologies, and changing management practices or consumer behaviour. Adaptation actions include efforts to adjust policies and actions because of observed or expected changes in climate.

In 2020, the Township of Georgian Bluffs joined the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. The PCP program supports the Township in reducing GHG emissions through a five (5) Milestone Framework, through creating a baseline emission inventory and forecast, setting emission reduction targets, developing a local action plan, implementing the local action plan, and monitoring progress to report results.

Baseline Progress

The Township of Georgian Bluffs' 2018 corporate inventory serves as the baseline against which future climate mitigation and adaptation progress is measured. Changes in GHG emissions, energy consumption, and climate resilience indicators are reported relative to 2018 values. The CorCAP utilized 2021 values to compare climate progress against 2018. The Township of Georgian Bluffs reduced corporate GHG emissions from 729 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalents (tCO₂e) to 571 tCO₂e. This is a 22% overall reduction in a period of 4 years, with streetlights (-50%), corporate buildings (-49%), and water and sewage (-22%) being the main drivers in this GHG emissions reduction.

The Township's 2024-2029 Energy Conservation and Demand Management ([ECDM](#)) Plan reported a 23% reduction in CO₂ emissions and an 11% reduction in energy consumption between 2019 and 2023. Reductions resulted largely from converting several municipal heating systems from oil or propane to electricity and divesting facilities no longer required for operations. Changes in facility use during COVID-19 and the 2022 divestment of the Wiarton-Keppel International Airport also affected energy consumption.

Corporate Climate Action Plan Current Update

The Township of Georgian Bluffs CorCAP is separated into seven (7) Focus Areas: Buildings, Corporate Fleet and Equipment, Corporate Actions, Streetlights, Waste, Water and Sewage, and Nature-based Solutions. Key progress updates include:

1. **Buildings.** Work is underway to improve energy efficiency through energy monitoring, audits, LED lighting, heat pumps, solar panels, Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations, and climate-focused facility retrofits. Most actions are ongoing or in progress, while net-zero building standards are on hold as no new Township of Georgian Bluffs building are planned.
2. **Corporate Fleet and Equipment.** A Green Fleet tool has been developed, with the Township's first EVs expected in early 2027. Fleet management improvements, an anti-idling policy, and low-carbon standards for contracted services are being advanced. Climate considerations have not yet been incorporated into the corporate asset management plan (AMP).
3. **Corporate Actions.** The Township of Georgian Bluffs is integrating climate considerations into community groups, public education, policies, Council reports, staff training, and onboarding. Most actions are ongoing or completed, while GHG inventory updates and extreme-weather training and closure policies remain future work.
4. **Streetlights.** This climate action Focus Area includes reviewing municipal streetlighting, completing LED and Dark Sky upgrades, and establishing low-energy lighting standards for new developments. Both actions are listed as not started.
5. **Waste.** Corporate and community waste initiatives include recycling, FoodCycler and organics programs, reusable water systems, waste education, and expanded waste diversion opportunities. The corporate waste review and broader collection review are in progress, while implementation of formal waste-review recommendations has not yet begun.
6. **Water and Sewage.** Planned actions address energy management, LED conversions, climate-focused retrofits, asset management, water conservation, and facility metering. Water conservation education is being developed, but several actions in this focus area depend on broader building and asset management initiatives that are ongoing.
7. **Nature-based Solutions.** Ongoing work supports tree planting, tracking environmental projects, protecting natural carbon sinks, enhancing biodiversity, and reducing emissions. Progress includes 760 trees planted in 2026, additional trees at playgrounds, a tiny forest and pollinator gardens at the Administration building, and updated lawn maintenance practices

Table 1. Township of Georgian Bluffs Corporate Climate Action Plan (CorCAP) October 2026 Progress Update

Action		Status	Progress and Next Steps
1. Buildings			
1.01.	Complete Energy Audits for all buildings by 2030	In Progress	Real-time energy monitoring at Shallow Lake Community Centre and Administration building. Other facilities captured at a whole-building level. Energy Audit application on file for Shallow Lake Community Centre.
1.02.	Implement operational and technological changes to reduce energy utilization	Ongoing	Items are changed to energy efficient options as they need replacement
1.03.	Develop energy management plans with targets by 2030	In Progress	Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan created in 2024 for 2024-2029. An updated energy management plan with specific targets to be completed in 2029.
1.04.	Transition buildings to low energy LED by 2030	Ongoing	Administration building, Kilsyth and Shallow Lake Community Centre all LED lighting. Kemble Arena and shops are converted to LED as lights need replacement.
1.05.	Review facilities with a climate lens for retrofit opportunities	Ongoing	Motion and occupancy sensor lighting to be completed by end of 2026. Energy Audit grant application on file for Shallow Lake Community Centre. Permeable pavement was used for two parking lots to provide resilience to heavy rainfall. Business Plan requests for Council consideration as part of 2027 budget.
1.06.	Replace heating systems to eliminate gas and propane by 2035	In Progress	Sarawak Shop changed to a heat pump in 2026. Other facility heating systems will be replaced as they reach end of life.
1.07.	Install 50kw solar capacity to offset electricity usage	In Progress	Solar panels are currently located at Shallow Lake and Kilsyth arenas, and Derby shop to generate energy for the energy grid. Exploring options and feasibility to install solar panels at Administration building.
1.08.	Add EV charging stations at township buildings	In Progress	Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers installed at Township office and Sarawak Shop for public use. One EV charger planned for install at the Administration building for two EVs.
1.09.	New Township buildings meet NetZero standards	On Hold	No new Township buildings planned for construction.
1.10.	Complete corporate Asset Management Plan (AMP) with climate considerations by 2026	Ongoing	A Corporate AMP with climate considerations is in progress.
1.11.	Apply climate adaptation measures to facilities through capital planning	Ongoing	Projects are assessed as they are developed.
1.12.	Use Low Impact Design principles in retrofits and new builds	Ongoing	Consideration of low impact designs in all facility retrofits.
2. Corporate Fleet and Equipment			
2.01.	Develop a Green Fleet Strategy	Completed	Green Fleet tool has been developed. First EVs will be added to the fleet early 2027.

Action		Status	Progress and Next Steps
2.02.	Complete corporate AMP with climate considerations by 2026	Ongoing	Covered under the Building Action Focus Area. See 1.10.
2.03.	Apply best management practices for efficient fleet management	In Progress	Scope and timing to be determined.
2.04.	Develop Anti-Idling policy for staff	In Progress	In progress and will be completed in early 2027.
2.05.	Consider low-carbon standards for contracted services	Ongoing	Repurposed a playground structure instead of purchasing new, sourced alternative materials other than asphalt, planted additional trees at playgrounds. Township purchased two EVs rather than gasoline. Business Plan Requests (pending Council approval) for 2027 that include low carbon standards for building retrofits.
3. Corporate Actions			
3.01.	Lead community climate change initiatives through collaboration	Ongoing	Collection and diversion of 204kg of batteries and 3781kg of textiles . Collaborate with various groups to support Fishing Line Recycling , Repair Café , Other Waste Disposals (Household Hazardous, Electronic, Tires, Medications, and Scrap Metal). Supported climate exhibit at Grey Roots Museum & Archives. New programs planned for 2027 pending Council approval.
3.02.	Engage community in education and awareness activities	Ongoing	Promote pollination , turtle stewardship , #TrashTagGB Community Clean-Up , social media campaigns for climate and waste education. Developed an invasive species resource to help operators and residents with identification. New programs planned for 2027 pending Council approval.
3.03.	Ensure financial sustainability of climate actions	Ongoing	Repurposed safe playground equipment, replaced heating systems with heat pumps, and applied for an energy audit for Shallow Lake Community Centre to inform future renovations and retrofit options.
3.04.	Align climate actions across all Township policies	Ongoing	Township policies are reviewed for alignment with climate objectives.
3.05.	Update GHG and energy usage to CorCAP in 2028 and every 5 years	Planned	Updates will commence in 2027/2028.
3.06.	Apply a climate change lens into Council decisions	Ongoing	There is a section in all reports to Council that provides a climate lens.
3.07.	Provide staff education on climate initiatives	Ongoing	Spring 2026 staff participated in an education session on climate change and the importance of mitigation/adaptation efforts.
3.08.	Develop an Introduction to Climate Change to all new staff at onboarding	Completed	All new staff must complete Climate Change information session during onboarding with the option to express interest in joining the internal staff Green Team.
3.09.	Assess staff training needs to extreme weather response	Planned	Scope and timing to be determined.
3.10.	Develop extreme weather facility closure policy	Planned	Scope and timing to be determined.

Action		Status	Progress and Next Steps
3.11.	Promote active transportation and ride-sharing	Ongoing	Encourage ride-sharing opportunities for off-site events and meetings.
4. Streetlights			
4.01.	Review municipal street lighting and complete LED Dark Sky upgrades	Not Started	Scope and timing to be determined.
4.02.	Create street lighting standard for new development using low-energy Dark Sky LED	Not Started	Scope and timing to be determined.
5. Waste			
5.01.	Conduct a corporate Waste Review and launch a recycling and diversion program	In Progress	Diversion programs including recycling and FoodCycler programs established at the Administration building, and recycling cart placements at Community Centres and Shops in early 2027. Established an internal committee to identify operational waste. Introduced large reusable water coolers for outside staff to reduce single use plastic. Development of a 2027 education campaign to reduce paper (i.e. printing of tax and water bills). Implementation plans are still in progress.
5.02.	Implement Waste Review recommendations to cut operational waste	Planned	Waste Review must be completed first.
5.03.	Review community waste collection with a climate lens, explore composting	In Progress	More than 300 Food Cyclers in use with residents. Transitioned to waste carts summer of 2026 and implemented organic collection in the Township . Waste education campaigns. Support sustainable programs including: Compost and Yard Waste , Repair Café , Battery Recycling , Other Waste Disposals (Textiles, Household Hazardous, Electronic, Tires, Medications, and Scrap Metal), and Fishing Line Recycling .
6. Water and Sewage			
6.01.	Develop energy management plans with targets by 2030	In Progress	Covered under the Buildings Action Focus Area. See 1.03.
6.02.	Transition buildings to low energy LED by 2030	Ongoing	Covered under the Buildings Action Focus Area. See 1.04.
6.03.	Review facilities with a climate lens for retrofit opportunities	Ongoing	Covered under the Buildings Action Focus Area. See 1.05.
6.04.	Complete corporate AMP with climate considerations by 2026	Ongoing	Covered under the Buildings Action Focus Area. See 1.10.
6.05.	Promote water conservation and meter corporate facilities	In Progress	Water conservation education campaign for staff and residents is being developed for 2027 roll-out, pending Council approval.
7. Nature-based Solutions			
7.01.	Support Grey County tree planting on municipal lands and partner with community for private planting	Ongoing	Direct residents to Grey County to support their living snow fence program.
7.02.	Track tree planting and environmental projects for future carbon offset	Ongoing	760 trees were planted in 2026 (mix of cedar, oak, and maple).

Action		Status	Progress and Next Steps
7.03.	Protect natural carbon sinks through Township operations and planning	Ongoing	Planted additional trees at playgrounds, tiny forest at Administration building, maintain a pollinator garden at Administration building. Updated lawn maintenance practices to reduce carbon pollution and increase biodiversity.