

 <h2 style="margin: 0;">THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">COUNCIL POLICY</h3>	
<p>Effective Date April 27, 2026</p> <p>Amendment Date(s):</p>	<p>POLICY NO. 25.ADM</p>
<p>SUBJECT: Climate Adaptation</p>	
<p>Category: Administration</p>	
<p>File No: 0340-50-2021</p>	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- establish clear Council oversight and accountability for climate risk management;
- confirm that staff planning and decision-making are demonstrably informed by District of Central Saanich *Climate Risk Framework* (Appendix A).
- ensure climate risk considerations are embedded into plans, reports, and recommendations brought to Council; and
- support a consistent, defensible approach to climate risk mitigation, adaptation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

This Policy does not restate technical analysis or prescribe specific actions but instead establishes expectations for how climate risk is to be incorporated into municipal operations and decision-making.

APPLICATION:

This Policy applies to all District departments and functions and is implemented through the District’s Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework.

Climate risk considerations are to be explicitly addressed, where relevant, within:

- corporate and departmental plans.
- service planning, service reviews, and operational decision-making.
- asset management and capital planning.
- emergency management and business continuity planning; and
- staff reports and recommendations presented to Council.

Climate risk is to be integrated into existing processes rather than treated as a separate or parallel activity.

REFERENCE:

This Policy is informed by and operates alongside the following documents and frameworks:

- Climate Action / Climate Leadership Plan (mitigation focus);

- Official Community Plan.
- Long-Term Financial Strategy.
- Asset Management Plan; and
- Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework.

DEFINITIONS:

Climate Risk

The potential for adverse impacts to people, property, infrastructure, ecosystems, essential services, and community well-being resulting from climate-related hazards, including the interaction of hazard, exposure, and vulnerability.

Priority Climate Risks

The *Climate Risk Framework* identified the following hazards as presenting the greatest risk to the District:

- extreme heat (including extreme heat emergency, heat dome)
- wildfire, and wildfire smoke,
- drought and water shortage, and
- severe storms and stormwater flooding.

Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R)

The District's governance framework for aligning planning, decision-making, implementation, and reporting across departments to support accountability and strategic outcomes.

POLICY

The District of Central Saanich recognizes that climate-related hazards present increasing risks to community safety, public health, infrastructure, ecosystems, and the continuity of essential services. Council affirms that climate risk must be addressed through a consistent, evidence-based approach across municipal planning, decision-making, and reporting.

This Policy establishes Council's expectations for accountability for climate risk outcomes, grounded in the district's priority climate risks including extreme heat/heat dome, wildfire/wildfire smoke, drought/water shortage, and severe storms and stormwater flooding.

Accountability for Climate Risk Outcomes

Council directs staff to deliver climate risk outcomes aligned with the District's *Climate Risk Framework*, including reducing harm; protecting life safety; maintaining and replacing essential services, and supporting equitable recovery. Staff will demonstrate this accountability through established planning, decision-making, and reporting processes.

Evidentiary Basis

Council affirms that climate risk accountability must be grounded in evidence. Staff planning, analysis, and reporting are expected to be demonstrably informed by the District's identified *priority climate risks* unless and until updated through future Council-endorsed risk assessment work. These risks form the baseline climate risk context for planning, trade-offs, and reporting.

Reporting to Council

Council directs that staff report annually, on how climate risk is being addressed across the organization.

Annual reporting should identify:

- how priority climate risks have informed plans, decisions, and investments; and
- emerging risks, gaps, or trade-offs requiring Council direction.

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every ten (10) years, or earlier if required to reflect changes in climate science, risk assessment, legislative requirements, or Council direction.

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