

Burnaby 2050 Policy Directions

Infrastructure

Overview

Infrastructure is the foundation of our city and helps keep our community healthy and functioning properly. The policies in this section specifically relate to infrastructure that distributes drinking water, removes wastewater, drains stormwater, and manages solid waste and recycling.

By 2050, Burnaby is expected to grow by more than 100,000 people. Our city will need new and upgraded infrastructure to support this population growth. As we expand infrastructure to meet increased demand, we need to consider ways to:

- Pay for ongoing and proactive infrastructure upgrades and maintenance.
- Adapt to climate change such as hotter temperatures, flooding and more extreme storms.
- Conserve drinking water to meet the demands of a larger population while summers are getting hotter and drier.
- Find alternative and sustainable sources of energy to meet demand and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges:

- Costs of maintaining and replacing aging infrastructure while also having to pay for new infrastructure to accommodate growth.
- Climate change impacts on infrastructure, such as more extreme storms that can overwhelm stormwater drainage systems.
- Provide enough water for people to drink and for agricultural irrigation and other uses.
- Find ways to divert larger amounts of waste produced from a bigger population.

Opportunities:

- Coordinate infrastructure upgrades with redevelopment to cover costs.
- Use innovative ways to reduce the impact of storm water run-off on sewers, capture and re-use water, and convert waste into energy.
- Educate the public so there is greater awareness of water conservation, waste reduction, and how growth and climate change impacts infrastructure.

Engagement Findings

- Concern about infrastructure keeping up with the pace of growth and potentially limiting new development.
- The community wants to find ways to have developers pay for community infrastructure.

Policy Directions

Utility Service Provision	
Policy Directions	Why We Are Proposing These Policies
1. Prioritize new infrastructure in areas of high growth to keep pace with demand.	

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<p>2. Work with Metro Vancouver Liquid Waste Services and Metro Vancouver Water Services to provide information about how development could impact the regional water or sewer system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building new infrastructure in areas that are growing the fastest will ensure community members have the services they need. • Metro Vancouver needs to know where there will be high demand for regional water and sewer services so they can plan for infrastructure upgrades before the system reaches capacity.
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Funding for Utility Provision	
Policy Directions	Why We Are Proposing These Policies
<p>3. Implement and update asset management plans to ensure budgets include plans to accommodate growth and maintain existing infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset management plans are a tool that help ensure there is enough funding, staff and resources to maintain infrastructure over the long-term.
<p>4. Use new financing tools that require developers to cover the cost of infrastructure needed to service new developments, including roads, water, sewer and storm water infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-maintained infrastructure prevents expensive and disruptive breakdowns. • The City doesn't need to spend taxpayer dollars on infrastructure if developers fund the cost of new or upgraded infrastructure for new developments.

Stormwater Management	
Policy Directions	Why We Are Proposing These Policies
<p>5. Design and develop infrastructure to manage the amount of stormwater runoff quantity and improve water quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater runoff can include pollutants that impact water quality and the environment. Improving infrastructure to manage and filter stormwater will help protect our water sources.
<p>6. Raise public awareness about how run-off and pollution impacts stormwater and the environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members have a role to play in protecting our water quality, and need to know how to dispose of pollutants and chemicals so they don't impact our waterways.
<p>7. Require private properties to have stormwater management infrastructure, such as rain gardens, surfaces that allow water to infiltrate into the ground, landscaping that captures and filters rainwater and more.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater management infrastructure helps slow down the flow of run-off, which helps prevent erosion in rivers, creeks and streams. • Stormwater affects public and private land, and managing runoff needs to be a joint effort to prevent erosion and water pollution.

Climate Mitigation and Adaptation	
Policy Directions	Why We Are Proposing These Policies
<p>8. Support the development of infrastructure, buildings and neighbourhoods that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from buildings and

<p>9. Design and build infrastructure that can withstand, accommodate and adapt to the effects of climate change, such as extreme heat and more storms.</p> <p>a) Work with host Nations to incorporate Indigenous perspectives on traditional land management and environmental protection into the City’s climate change work.</p>	<p>infrastructure will help address climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we use materials, designs and construction methods that consider the impacts of climate change, our infrastructure, buildings and neighbourhoods will be more adaptable to higher temperatures and more extreme weather. • Host Nations have valuable knowledge on how to care for the land that should be considered in how the City adapts to climate change. • Working with host Nations can build stronger relationships and advance reconciliation.
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Water Conservation	
Policy Directions	Why We Are Proposing These Policies
<p>10. Reduce water consumption.</p> <p>a) Require high-efficiency plumbing fixtures in all new buildings.</p> <p>b) Require water-metering in all new developments.</p> <p>c) Develop a strategy to convert existing services to water meters.</p> <p>d) Promote low-water, drought resistant landscaping.</p> <p>e) Capture and re-use water for agricultural and landscape irrigation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summers in Burnaby are getting hotter and drier, and we will need to conserve water to make sure there’s enough for everyone as the city grows. • Water metering helps ensure people pay fairly for the water they use, understand the cost of water and reduce their water use. • Landscaping that doesn’t use as much water and irrigation with wastewater will help save drinking water.

Solid Waste	
Policy Directions	Why We Are Proposing These Policies
<p>11. Educate community members about how to reduce waste through programs and partnerships with schools and other organizations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with schools and community organizations would help teach people how to separate and throw away different types of waste correctly. • If everyone makes small changes in how they throw away waste, it will make a big difference over time. • Because Burnaby’s population is growing, our community is creating more waste and needs more energy. • New technology makes it possible to generate energy from food waste, which could heat homes, produce compost for gardens and farms, and reduce thousands of tonnes of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions every year.
<p>12. Explore technology and processes to generate energy from food and yard waste.</p>	