

The Opportunity of Here and Now

Local Governments and a Green
Recovery

Background material for an
online dialogue:

May 14, 2020



Community Energy
Association

Preparing for a Dialogue on Local Governments and the Green Recovery

Community Energy Association is developing a supplement to the [BC Climate Leaders Playbook](#) focused on leveraging local climate action for economic recovery and community resilience.

The CLIMATE LEADERS PLAYBOOK

The resource is grounded in a **positive vision of the future**, in which our communities support thriving local economies while advancing bold climate action and improving equity, health, and resilience.

We are exploring ten actions across five themes through the lens of economic recovery and intersecting community priorities. For each of the actions we are aiming to identify the immediate next steps for local governments, role(s) of Provincial and Federal Governments, job creation potential, GHG reduction potential, social and health benefits, and contribution to community resilience. We will also highlight examples and guidance for communicating these actions during this time of economic restart and recovery.

The Playbook Supplement will link to the key sections of the Playbook website while also working as a stand-alone summary document that is easily shared.

Intersecting Priorities

The Playbook Supplement will highlight key action areas that contribute to economic recovery while maintaining momentum on local government climate action. However, the economy is not the only topic on the minds of our community members and decision makers. The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on the importance of boosting social equity and justice, public health, and resilience.



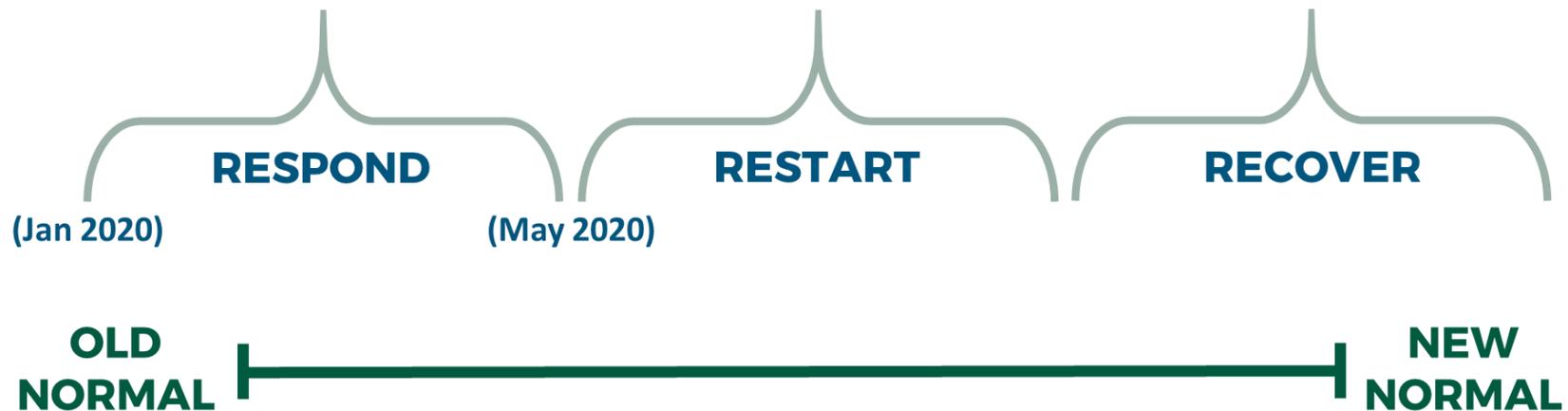
May 14 Dialogue

Agenda

- 1:00 Welcome and opening remarks
- 1:10 Presentations:
 - The Opportunity of Now – Andrea Reimer
 - Big Moves for Economic Recovery and Resilience (overview of actions in this document) – Maya Chorobik
- 1:25 Breakout group dialogues
- 2:00 Reflections from the dialogues
Discussion of next steps and support needed
- 2:20 Closing remarks
- 2:30 End

Discussion Questions for Breakout Groups

1. Roundtable Introductions
 - a. Your name, organization and role
 - b. What is your community's status on the path to recovery?
2. How do you know when your community has recovered?
3. What is one opportunity (from the following list or another idea) that could make the biggest impact on recovery in your community?



Action Areas - The Big Moves for Economic Recovery and Resilience

Local Climate Action in the Time of COVID-19

Over 500 communities across Canada (over 30 in BC) have declared climate emergencies. These and many others have climate and energy plans committing to ramping up their climate action initiatives meeting ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets.

All BC communities have been impacted by COVID-19 and the economic shutdown. Job losses initially affected workers in the service industry including accommodation and food services, retail, and educational services. However, between March and April there were significant job losses in construction and manufacturing. Across all sectors, job losses have disproportionately affected younger workers: From February to April, employment among Canadian youth declined by over 34%, and another quarter of young people are working reduced hours. Overall, more than a third of Canada's labour force is out of work or working reduced hours.

Local governments can contribute to stimulating the economy through job creation and reducing energy spending, saving residents money. They can do this while making progress on climate mitigation and adaptation goals and preparing for infrastructure funding opportunities.

We have identified ten actions for consideration. The May 14th online dialogue will be an opportunity to discuss these as well as suggest other actions for investigation. In our initial scan we are estimating the impact of the action on 6 goal areas:

- **Job Creation:** Immediate job creation potential for workers in greatest impacted sectors (service, retail, food and hospitality)
- **Cost Savings:** Energy cost savings including reduced electricity and gas bills and less reliance on mobility fuels.
- **GHG Reductions:** Long-term GHG reductions and/or foundational action for future deep reductions
- **Health:** Contributions to improved public health due to air quality benefits, reduced isolation, and others.
- **Social Equity:** Support for vulnerable populations and increased affordability.
- **Resilience:** Climate adaptation benefits as well as other resilience goals.

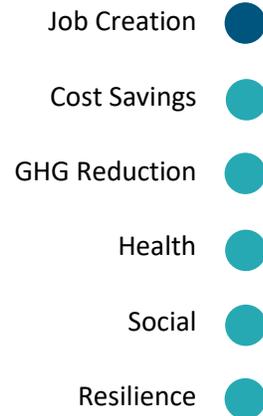
As we build out the resource we aim to quantify specific impacts. For now, the impacts for each of these goals are classified as:

 High  Medium  Low

Buildings

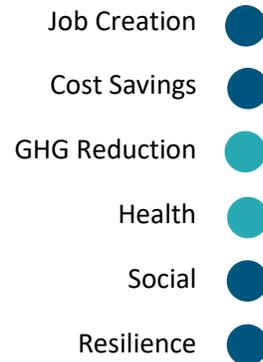
1. Scaled-Up Basic Building Retrofits

Demand creation and training to complete to scale-up simple home energy retrofits of insulation and weatherization. Align stimulus funding with on the ground marketing, coordination, partnerships, and local training offerings, building capacity for future deep energy retrofits.



2. New Construction of Wood-Frame Affordable Housing

Collaboration of all orders of government to accelerate construction of emissions-free affordable wood-constructed housing units that support value add forest product innovation.



Transportation

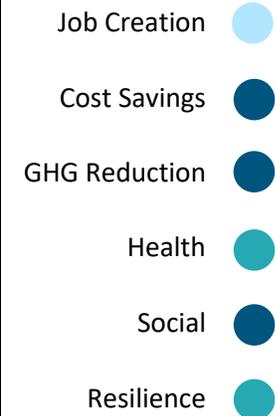
3. Road Space Reallocation to Support All Ages and Abilities (AAA) Transportation Networks

Reallocate street space from cars to cycling, walking, assisted mobility, and other forms of micro mobility. Enable physical distancing, and safe routes for commuting to work and school.



4. Supports for Remote Working

Actively promote, remove barriers to, and potentially incent working from home in your community. For economically challenged small communities this can be part of a resident attraction strategy.



Energy and Resource Recovery

5. Energy Production and Resource Recovery Infrastructure

Investigate and prepare shovel-ready / shovel-worthy infrastructure projects eligible for ICIP funding streams related to renewable energy production and resource recovery.

- Job Creation ●
- Cost Savings ●
- GHG Reduction ●
- Health ●
- Social ●
- Resilience ●

6. Organics Diversion Programs

Collaborate to launch employment programs for organics diversion and outreach, including recycling concierge services in multi-unit residential buildings, sorting facilities, and depots.

- Job Creation ●
- Cost Savings ●
- GHG Reduction ●
- Health ●
- Social ●
- Resilience ●

Adaptation and Green Spaces

7. FireSmart Treatments

Develop FireSmart programs that include training for wildfire assessment specialists and workers to remove wildfire risks.

- Job Creation ●
- Cost Savings ●
- GHG Reduction ●
- Health ●
- Social ●
- Resilience ●

8. Green Infrastructure and Urban Green Space

Conduct an urban tree inventory (student employment opportunity) and adopt a tree protection bylaw. Undertake an analysis of equitable access to greenspace. Collaborate with partners for greenspace governance.

- Job Creation ●
- Cost Savings ●
- GHG Reduction ●
- Health ●
- Social ●
- Resilience ●

Local Food Production

9. Backyard Rentals and Access to Land

Provide opportunities for young farmers to access unused or under-used land for local food production. Work with existing non-profits to implement.

- Job Creation ●
- Cost Savings ●
- GHG Reduction ●
- Health ●
- Social ●
- Resilience ●

10. Support for Farms

Include local food production in community plans and leverage tax incentives to support local farms. Regulate land use regarding local agriculture, processing and distribution facilities. Support farmer's markets in the community.

- Job Creation ●
- Cost Savings ●
- GHG Reduction ●
- Health ●
- Social ●
- Resilience ●