



2021 Climate Action Report



About the City of West Kelowna

West Kelowna offers abundant recreational amenities and world class attractions, with warm, sunny summers and short, mild winters, making our community a desired place to live, work and play. Situated in the traditional territory of the syilx/Okanagan People, on the central, western hillsides of Okanagan Lake, the community is the gateway to a valley resplendent with orchards, vineyards, beaches, parks and trails.

Explore our outstanding outdoors by kayaking along the spectacular shores of Okanagan Lake, mountain biking, hiking and snowshoeing through centuries old pine forests, touring award-winning wineries, picking impeccable local produce at farms and farmers markets and exploring the treasure trove of unique shops, cafes and artisan studios off the beaten paths.

Enjoy more than 130 athletic fields, beaches, boat launches, parks, sports courts, and trails, two arenas, an air-supported multi-sport facility, an indoor aquatic centre and four community centres.

The City is steadily growing and rapidly modernizing and the municipality must balance these demands with preservation of its rural roots and protect the agricultural values that are part of the charm that draws people here. The City's goals and objectives reflect our efforts to achieve this balance with priority projects informed by Council's Strategic Priorities.

By the numbers



Population
38,311 (BC Stats)



Households
14,150



Parks and trails
139



Linear kms of sidewalk
92.69



Lane kms of road
92.69



**New active transportation
in 2021**
3.5 kms



of transit routes
9

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Introduction

The Local Government Climate Action Report is a requirement of all BC municipalities that have become signatories to the BC Climate Action Charter, and provides a means of tracking the progress our municipality has taken in meeting our commitment to reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, and in adapting to climate change.

About the reporting

Corporate initiatives and actions are those that directly benefit or offset GHG emissions from City operations. A community action, while still initiated by the City, has the benefit of reducing or offsetting emissions in a particular area or neighbourhood or the entire municipality.

The B.C. Climate Action Charter

The B.C. Climate Action Charter is an agreement that the Province of British Columbia, Union of BC Municipalities and local governments have signed to commit to take action on climate change. Local governments are not obligated to sign onto the charter; however, the City of West Kelowna has been a signatory since shortly after incorporation in 2007.

The City will continue to work towards a goal of reducing community greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050 as compared to levels established in 2007 when the B.C. Climate Action Charter was first created.



Council's 2022 Strategic Priorities



INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE

We will invest in building, improving and maintaining quality infrastructure to meet the needs of, and to provide a high quality of life for, current and future generations.



ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

We will work with our partners on the Westside and throughout the region to advocate for and support efforts aimed at helping West Kelowna businesses prosper. With a focus on the future, we will advance opportunities to expand our economy, increase employment, and develop the community in ways that contribute towards prosperity for all.



STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY

We will provide opportunities for the residents of West Kelowna to build connections, celebrate successes, embrace the community's strengths and diversity, address shared needs, and contribute to shaping the community's future.



FOSTER SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

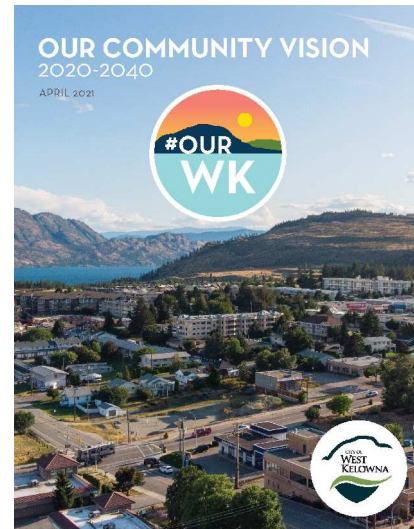
We will pursue through direct action, advocacy, and partnerships with Westbank First Nation and local service providers, investments in community health, needs-based housing, emergency preparedness, policing, and other services that foster safety and well-being in West Kelowna.

Our Community Vision

In 2021, together with our community, we established West Kelowna's Community Vision, which captures the values that are most important for the next 20 years.

The vision is the foundation for the City's plans (Official Community Plan, Transportation Master Plan and others).

West Kelowna celebrated a big win as the OurWK Community Vision earned the 2021 Community Excellence Award in Governance from the Union of BC Municipalities. We are humbled and grateful to our residents in helping create West Kelowna's first Community Vision for the next 20 years.



With this Community Vision as our guide, we will create an amazing quality of life for all the people of West Kelowna – those who are here today and those yet to come.

The City of West Kelowna's [Transportation Master Plan \(TMP\) Update](#) will set the direction for how the community will walk, cycle, drive and take transit through the City over the next 20 years. The TMP is a long-range plan that will connect people to the places that matter to them and help move goods and services through the community.

The TMP is being developed in conjunction with the City's [Official Community Plan \(OCP\) Update](#). The City's OCP defines policies for land use and development that meet the long-term vision of the community. West Kelowna's OCP Update will guide the City's housing, business, infrastructure, and parks decisions for the next 20 years.

Together the OCP and the TMP will help create the community's vision of a vibrant, walkable and connected West Kelowna.

While we cannot predict every change that will come our way in the next 20 years – setting and sticking to our bold Community Vision gives us a powerful lens for making thoughtful decisions.

"In West Kelowna...

We live in harmony with these lands and waters, with one another, and with our neighbours.

We maintain a deep connection with our agricultural roots and we celebrate the one-of-a-kind character of our community.

We prepare for and welcome change through innovation and collaboration.

We are inclusive and supportive of one another, and we are ready to create our future together."

- 2020-2040 Community Vision Document

Broad planning, policy and land use

Plans and policies should establish goals and objectives to protect the environment, conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Examples include Official Community and Community Energy and Emissions Plans. Land use plans and policies that focus on smart growth principles - compact, complete, connected, and centered - play key roles in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

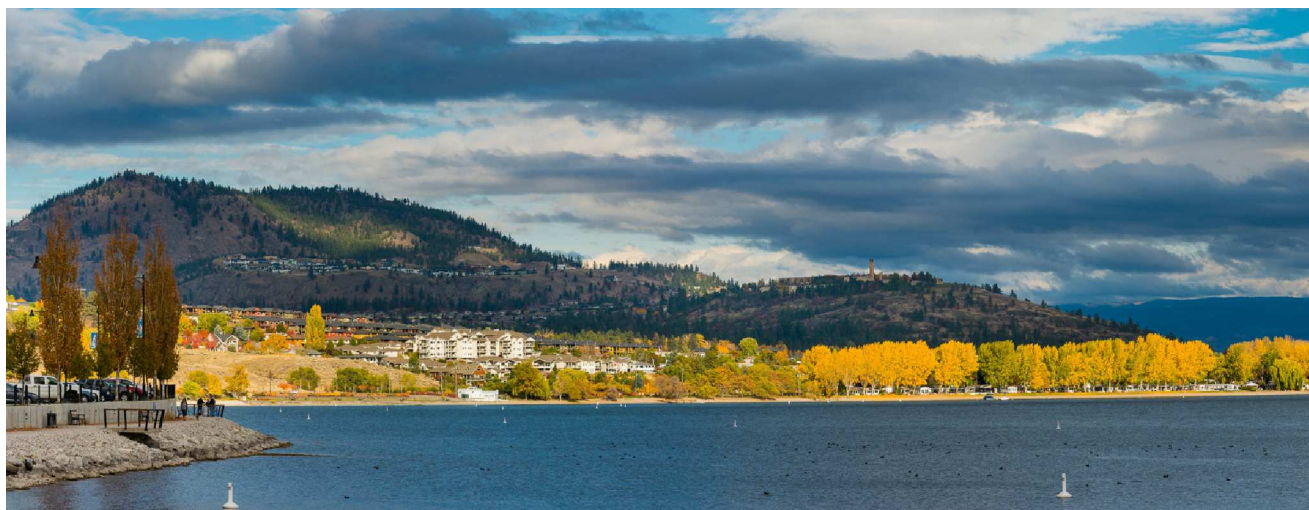
Community Actions

2021 Completed	2022 Proposed
<p>West Kelowna Council officially endorsed its first-ever community-inspired Community Vision which will be put into action to shape our future through our Official Community Plan. The Community Vision establishes the direction for the next 20 years and beyond with a focus on such things as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use • Climate change • Growth management • Transportation • Protection of the environment 	<p>The City will update the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) which will help us work towards key directions identified through the Community Vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shifting to sustainable transportation options • Creating streets for people • Taking bold action to address the impacts of climate change • Planning ahead for future infrastructure needs • Being prepared to face future emergencies
<p>Our current Official Community Plan, which will be updated in 2022, states: Growth Management Designations (GMDs) conceptually illustrate the City's growth management policies and priorities, and in particular, identify growth priority areas and ensure their broad attributes and characteristics are in line with the Community Vision. The Westbank Centre and Neighbourhood Centre GMDs in the OCP generally speak to complete, compact communities through denser mixed-use development that concentrates growth in urban areas with greater access to transit, green space, works and services, thereby reducing emissions.</p>	<p>West Kelowna's Official Community Plan Update will guide the City's housing, business, infrastructure, and parks decisions for the next 20 years.</p> <p>The City's updated OCP will focus on a Growth Concept that identifies key areas including two Urban Centres and five Neighbourhood Centres to become complete communities, incorporate greater densities, a variety of services for residents and diverse housing options.</p>
<p>In 2021, staff began work on a Zoning Bylaw Update and a Housing Strategy, which will be completed in 2022. The City also provided input into the Regional Housing Strategy, which is also scheduled to be completed in 2022.</p>	<p>Council will consider adoption of the amended Development Cost Charge Bylaw that accounts for inflation and establishes the investments that growth must contribute towards building the City's active transportation and roads, parks, sanitary and storm sewer and water distribution and treatment infrastructure.</p>

Broad planning, policy and land use

Corporate Actions

2021 Completed	2022 Proposed
<p>Council adopted its 2021 to 2022 Strategic Priorities, which reflects significant investment in priority projects under all four pillars, which are Invest in Infrastructure, Economic Growth and Prosperity, Strengthen our Community and Foster Safety and Well-Being.</p>	<p>Council will adopt the 2022 Strategic Priorities pillars, which are Invest in Infrastructure, Economic Growth and Prosperity, Strengthen Our Community and Foster Safety and Well-Being.</p>
<p>Council adopted the 2021 Budget and Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw, containing a variety of climate actions outlined in this report.</p>	<p>City Council will adopt the 2022 Budget and Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw, which will include further investments in community and corporate climate actions.</p>
<p>Council approved the Emission Reduction Policy that will implement carbon neutral strategies for the replacement of City-operated equipment. This policy follows the Province of BC's Zero-Emission Vehicle Act and supports Council's priority for energy efficiency, and reduced carbon emissions.</p>	<p>The City will continue its efforts to create an inventory of the City's natural assets, which would complement similar work done for the City's infrastructure. The process identifies natural resources or ecosystems and their locations, risks, challenges and opportunities. From the inventory, a Natural Asset Management Plan could be created to ensure sustainable municipal operations.</p>



Building and lighting

Low-emissions buildings and efficient lighting and streetlights, such as LEDs, use the least energy and natural resources to provide comfort and safety and reduce operating expenses, particularly over the long term. Green buildings use renewable energy sources, such as solar and geothermal, for heating, cooling and power.

Community Actions

2021 Completed	2022 Proposed
Our population growth was higher than average at four per cent with record-breaking development applications and construction. 2021 had a 77 per cent increase in construction value over 2020 with development application construction valued at \$213 million.	Staff will install a new, more efficient HVAC system at Johnson Bentley Memorial Aquatic Centre.
The City replaced the 21-year old ammonia chiller at Jim Lind Arena and Royal LePage Place, thanks to a grant from the Province of BC. A modern, more efficient chiller mitigates risks of leaks and reduces operational energy consumption.	Starting in 2022, the City will consult with the community with a goal of returning the Mt. Boucherie Community Centre to residents and recreational users in 2023.
Staff processed dense, mixed-use developments with green amenity contributions to benefit the community.	The City will continue to encourage and incent efficient, mixed-use, dense development in urban centres that have robust amenity contributions such as bike facilities, electric vehicle charging stations, parks and trails, playgrounds, sidewalks and that use alternative energy.

Corporate Actions

2021 Completed	2022 Proposed
The detailed design process for a centralized Operations Yard was completed.	Operations Yard site preparations will begin.
The City completed the consultation and detailed design process and the construction tender was awarded for the City's first purpose-built City Hall and Library Building.	Construction will continue for the City's first purpose-built City Hall and Library Building, with opening slated for 2023.
The acquisition process for Fire House #30 was completed.	The detailed design process for Fire Hall #32 and the construction of Fire House #30 will be completed.
Staff continued to operate, replace, and maintain lighting with LED lights.	A more efficient pool boiler in the Johnson Bentley Memorial Aquatic Centre will be installed.

Energy generation

Renewable and low-emission energy sources for heat, air conditioning and power achieve significant GHG reductions. Renewable energy sources include recovery from waste such as biogas and biomass, geo and solar thermal, micro hydroelectricity, heat pumps and wind. Systems can be implemented to varying degrees ranging from individual homes to entire neighbourhoods via district energy.

Community Actions

2021 Completed	2022 Proposed
<p>The Brenda Creek wildfire provided a critical example of why the City needs a redundant power line. The current single transmission line poses significant risks to our community, and West Kelowna request that the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, and BC Hydro escalate this priority capital project.</p>	<p>The City will continue to lobby and work with BC Hydro to secure a second, reliable power line between Nicola and Westbank substations.</p>
<p>The City collaborated with BC Hydro on the installation of LEDs to replace 462 high pressure sodium streetlights on their wooden power poles in the City.</p>	<p>The City will continue to plan for phased LED conversions on more than 1,700 steel City lampposts. The City will also require all new lampposts to have LED lighting.</p>

Corporate Actions

Ongoing 2021 and 2022 Actions
<p>Staff continue to operate and maintain the geothermal energy system at the Royal LePage Place Arena.</p>
<p>Staff continue to operate and maintain the West Kelowna RCMP detachment's solar hot water heating system.</p>
<p>The City continues to purchase carbon offsets, as part of the annual operations at the LEED® Silver Certified West Kelowna RCMP detachment, through Bullfrog Power.</p>

Green space

Green spaces are essential to planetary climate regulation and carbon dioxide and oxygen cycles. Green spaces can be protected through the creation of parks, green ways and land conservancy trusts, community forests, and land use covenants and regulations. Brownfields, contaminated sites and clearcuts can be remediated and wetlands, waterways and other naturally occurring features can be protected to aid in global GHG emissions reductions. Bylaws and policies can be implemented to protect green space and prosecute and penalize polluters.

Community Actions

2021 Completed	2022 Proposed
<p>Carate Park was developed to provide greenspace within the densely populated Westbank Centre neighbourhood.</p>	<p>The City will invest \$1 million to enhance and upgrade nine parks across the city including playground equipment, upgraded irrigation systems, enhanced landscaping and more.</p>
<p>Staff hosted the second year of the Urban Re-Leaf Program, which invited homeowners to purchase at-cost trees, to be planted on their property or in the community. Urban Re-Leaf makes our community greener and more beautiful by encouraging residents to purchase one of 200 trees to expand the city's urban canopy and help curb climate change</p>	<p>The third year of the Urban Re-Leaf Program will be held with 500 trees available for purchase.</p>
<p>West Kelowna Council, together with community partners Westbank First Nation and Okanagan Regional Library, marked the opening of the new Skatepark at Memorial Park to provide close-to-home recreational opportunities within the urban core. The site is transit accessible.</p>	<p>The City will continue to plant trees in parks and along boulevards to expand the urban canopy.</p>



Carate Park

...a community and bees' delight

Adding to the City's extensive park system remained a priority in 2021.

Within the Westbank Centre area, the development of Carate Park incorporated features not seen in any of our other green spaces.

In 2021, the unique upgrades to Carate Park, valued at \$170,000, included:

- A nature path meandering between two pollinator gardens
- Shade trees and benches
- Picnic area
- A unique natural wooden play structure

With this park, we aimed to create a special place to walk, breathe, play and enjoy in our urban core, which will offer wide open spaces to everyone living in and visiting the Greater Westside.

Did you know?

Playground replacements were also completed at Last Mountain Park and Devon Park in 2021, creating close-to-home recreational spaces.



Solid waste

Diverting waste from landfills and preventing illegal dumping on public lands improves air and water quality, lowers greenhouse gas emissions, reduces environmental impacts and supports sustainable land management. The primary goals of solid waste management continue to be reduction and reuse with recycling being the next preferred option and disposal being a last resort.

Community Actions

2021 Completed	2022 Proposed
<p>The City continued to partner with the Regional Waste Reduction Office in reduction, reuse, and recycling programs and incentives (such as the Fix-it Cafe, the annual Trunk Sale and Create Memories not Waste).</p>	<p>The City will continue to provide curbside collection of recycling, waste and yard waste, thus reducing trips to the landfill.</p>
<p>Bear aware signage was placed at entry points to forest adjacent neighbourhoods to educate residents about proper controls for waste and fruit tree fall and cleanliness of barbecues.</p>	<p>Council will direct staff to proceed with the first step in becoming a Bear Smart Community by undertaking a Bear Hazard Assessment. Bear aware tactics will be used to educate residents about proper controls for waste and fruit tree fall and cleanliness of barbecues.</p>

Corporate Actions

Ongoing 2021 and 2022 Actions
<p>The City participates in the Commercial Waste Diversion Program.</p>
<p>Staff actively participates in the Solid Waste Technical Advisory Committee (SWTAC).</p>
<p>Agendas, annual reports, seasonal recreation guides and other traditionally paper intensive products are produced digitally.</p>

Transportation

Cycling, electric bikes and e-vehicles, public transit use, ridesharing and walking significantly reduce GHG emissions and create more breathable and livable communities. Moving goods and people in an efficient manner and providing varying modes of transportation are key means of reducing emissions. Providing new infrastructure for walking and cycling are among the approaches the City of West Kelowna is taking to tackle climate change and create a more livable community.

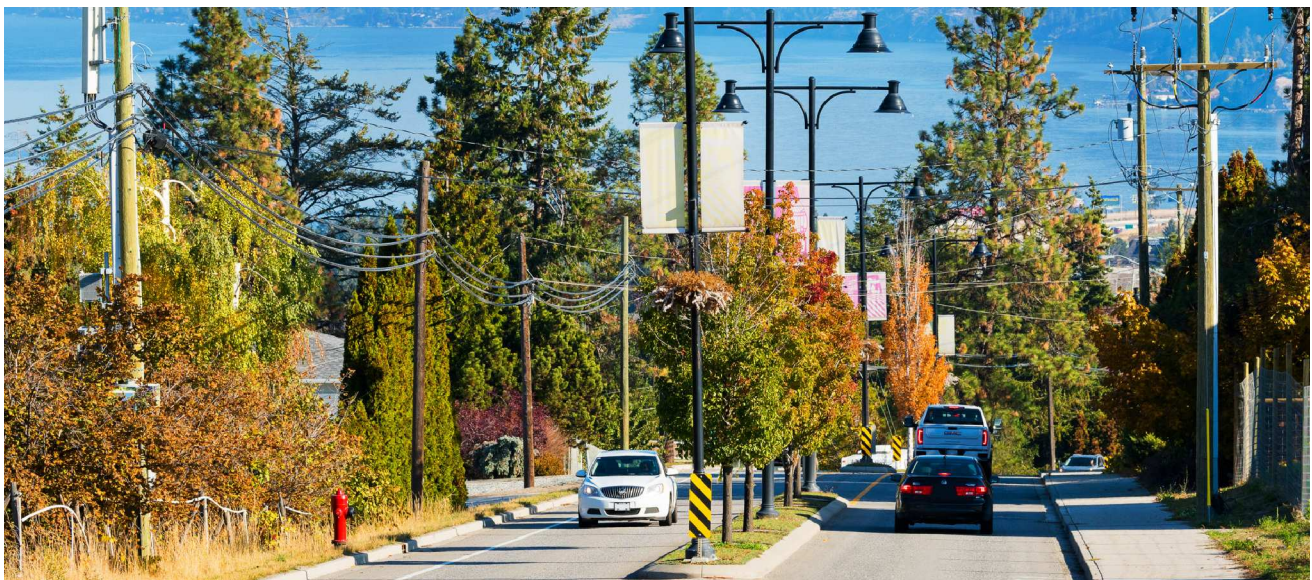
Community Actions

2021 Completed	2022 Proposed
<p>The City started construction of Shannon Lake/Bartley/Stevens active transportation improvements along Shannon Lake and Stevens Roads from McDougall Creek Bridge to Westlake Road, including bike lanes, sidewalks, new underground services and a roundabout at the Bartley/Stevens intersection.</p>	<p>Construction will continue on Shannon Lake/Bartley/Stevens active transportation improvements. Additional sidewalk and cycling lane construction will be completed on Stevens Road between Dominion and Westlake Roads with full funding provided from the provincial and federal governments.</p>
<p>The City completed the Gellatly-Carrington Roundabout Project, which included a three-metre-wide, paved multi-use path between Witt and Boucherie Roads, connecting Westbank Centre and the waterfront.</p>	<p>The city will complete the 2022 Pedestrian Infrastructure Program, funded in part by the Canada Community-Building Fund and capital reserves, including Old Okanagan Highway within Westbank Town Centre.</p>
<p>The City completed road improvements in Glenrosa, including sidewalks along the Glenrosa Middle School side of McIver between Glenrosa and McTaggart Roads.</p>	<p>Design of active transportation improvements on Shannon Lake Road, from Shannon Way to Swite Road, will be completed.</p>
<p>Repaving of Old Okanagan Highway between Butt and Gossett Road was completed.</p>	<p>We will construct a 1,300-metre delineated path on Westlake Road from West Kelowna Road to Pettman Road and a 700-metre bike lane on Parkinson Road to Pettman Road.</p>
<p>Roads and infrastructure throughout the community were improved as part of the Road Rehab Program.</p>	<p>Crews will install a new paved multi-use path on Whitworth Road to connect Pebble Beach and Goats Peak Trail to existing sidewalks. In 2022 and 2023, crews will construct a new multi-use paved pathway along Boucherie Road between Ogden and Green Bay Roads in two phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1: Fall 2022/Winter 2023 - Gregory Road to Green Bay Road • Phase 2: 2023 – Ogden Road to Gregory Road

Transportation

Corporate Actions

2021 Completed	2022 Proposed
<p>The City awarded a contract to HDR Corporation for the Transportation Master Plan update. The Plan will identify network demands, infrastructure improvements and land use and transportation integration over the next 20 years.</p>	<p>Staff will continue work to update the Transportation Master Plan.</p>
<p>The City's first electric Zamboni went into operation at West Kelowna's ice rinks.</p>	<p>The City of West Kelowna will continue to promote and participate in Go By Bike Weeks.</p>
	<p>The City's Vehicle and Equipment Acquisition, Replacement and Disposal Policy will be updated. It was more than 10 years old and will account for the purchase of models with electric, hybrid and other alternative sources of power</p>



Gellatly/ Carrington Roundabout

and multi-use pathway

Council's 2021-2022 Strategic Priorities Invest in Infrastructure objectives included upgrades to the Gellatly-Carrington intersection to enhance safety, access and traffic flow.

The \$1.32 million project included construction of a roundabout at the Gellatly-Carrington Roads intersection and a three-metre-wide multi-use paved path from Witt Road to Boucherie Road.

As part of the design for the Gellatly-Carrington intersection, a thorough review of current and future traffic demands, for all modes of transportation was completed. This independent review addressed needs for the next 20 years.

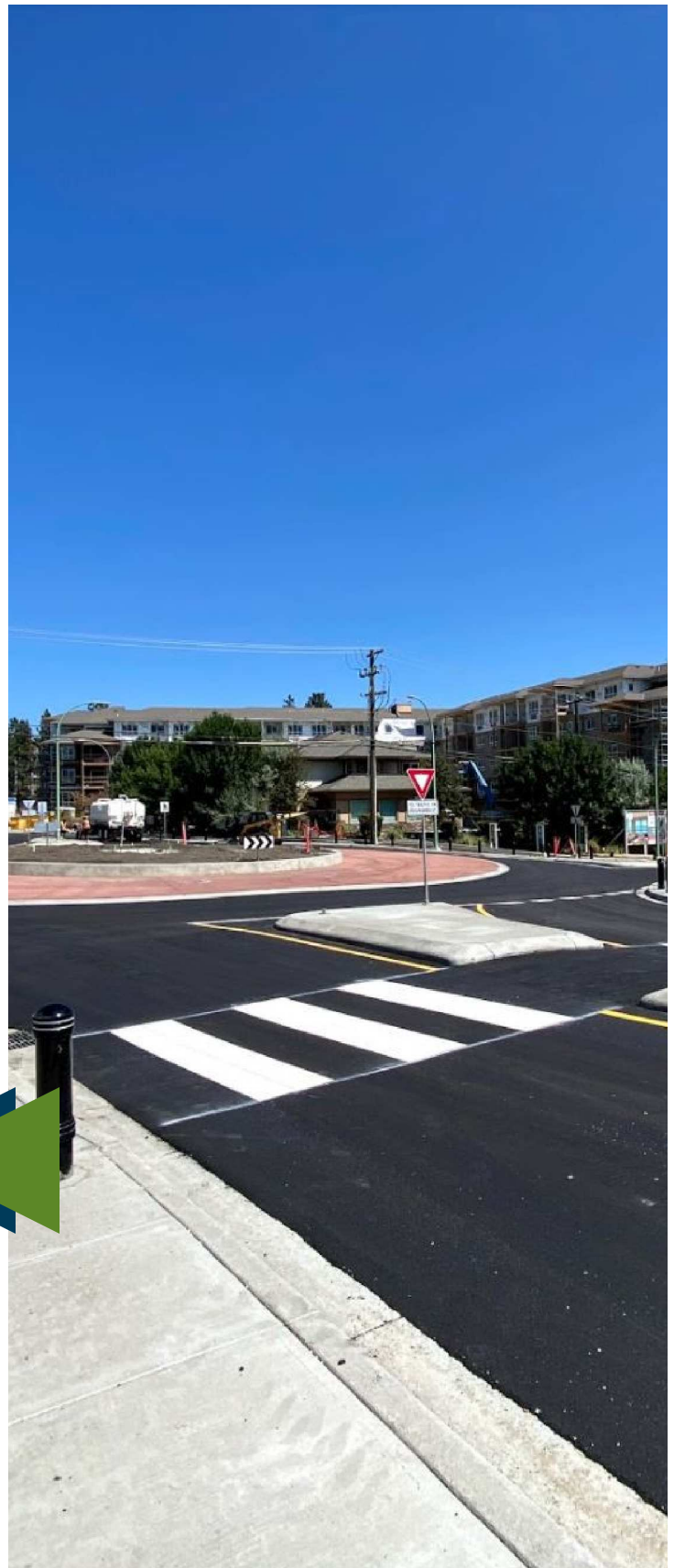
Benefits of the project include:

- A significant reduction in vehicle idling and fewer emissions.
- All vehicles traveling in the same direction reducing the number of serious crashes.
- Slower speeds providing drivers with more reaction and decision-making time.
- Traffic calming and improved flow.



Did you know?

The City uses annual federal gas tax contributions to improve roads and expand active transportation corridors.



Water, stormwater and wastewater

Efficient and sustainable water and wastewater systems provide the necessities of life in ways that encourage conservation, guard public health, protect watersheds and watercourses and reduce GHG emissions. The most efficient systems draw water from undisturbed watersheds, which requires less treatment, and are fed by gravity and naturally occurring hydrology, requiring considerably less equipment and energy than those networks that must pump water.

Community Actions

2021 Completed	2022 Proposed
<p>Tender for primary construction was awarded and construction continued on the Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant.</p>	<p>Construction of the Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant will continue throughout 2022 along with other major projects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transmission mains to tie into Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant • Design upgrades for Powers Creek Water Treatment Plant • Replacement of the Stevens Road Lift Station
<p>Construction began on a new \$3.2 million water reservoir to meet existing and future potable water storage demands in the Glenrosa area.</p>	<p>The entire Glenrosa reservoir project will be complete by summer 2022.</p>
<p>The Inverness Road Lift Station was decommissioned.</p>	<p>The City team of approximately 20 water and sewer operators will continue daily monitoring of water quality throughout the four water systems in the community.</p>
<p>Drought conditions prompted Stage 2 Water Restrictions, which reduced use within our service areas by up to 30 per cent.</p>	<p>The City will become full partners in the valley-wide Make Water Work program to promote water conservation. Make Water Work is an initiative of the Okanagan Basin Water Board's Okanagan WaterWise program.</p>



Water, stormwater and wastewater

Corporate Actions

2021 Completed	2022 Proposed
<p>Council adopted a single encompassing and comprehensive Water Regulations Bylaw replacing nine bylaws that governed five water service areas creating operational efficiencies.</p>	<p>Council will adopt Water Regulations Bylaw amendments, which promote conservation by requiring all customers to have water meters. For new residential construction, water meters must be installed in outside pits to improve operational efficiencies.</p>
<p>Staff continue to operate, replace, and maintain water saving devices inside City facilities including faucets, toilets, showers, etc.</p>	<p>Staff will implement a cross connection program to reduce backflow risks within the treated water system.</p>
<p>Staff continue to operate Distribution System Online Chlorine and Turbidity Monitoring Instrumentation to create operational efficiencies.</p>	
<p>Council adopted Sanitary Sewer Use Bylaw and related bylaw enforcement and ticketing amendments to allow staff to impose fines on anyone compromising or damaging the system.</p>	



Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant

The Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant reached major milestones with the completion of site servicing, upper reservoir construction and concrete pouring for the foundations and walls. Construction will continue into 2023.

Construction of the Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant is the single largest construction project the City has ever undertaken.

Once complete, the water treatment plant will provide clean drinking water to approximately 18,000 residents living within the Lakeview, Pritchard/Sunnyside and West Kelowna Estates Water Service Areas.

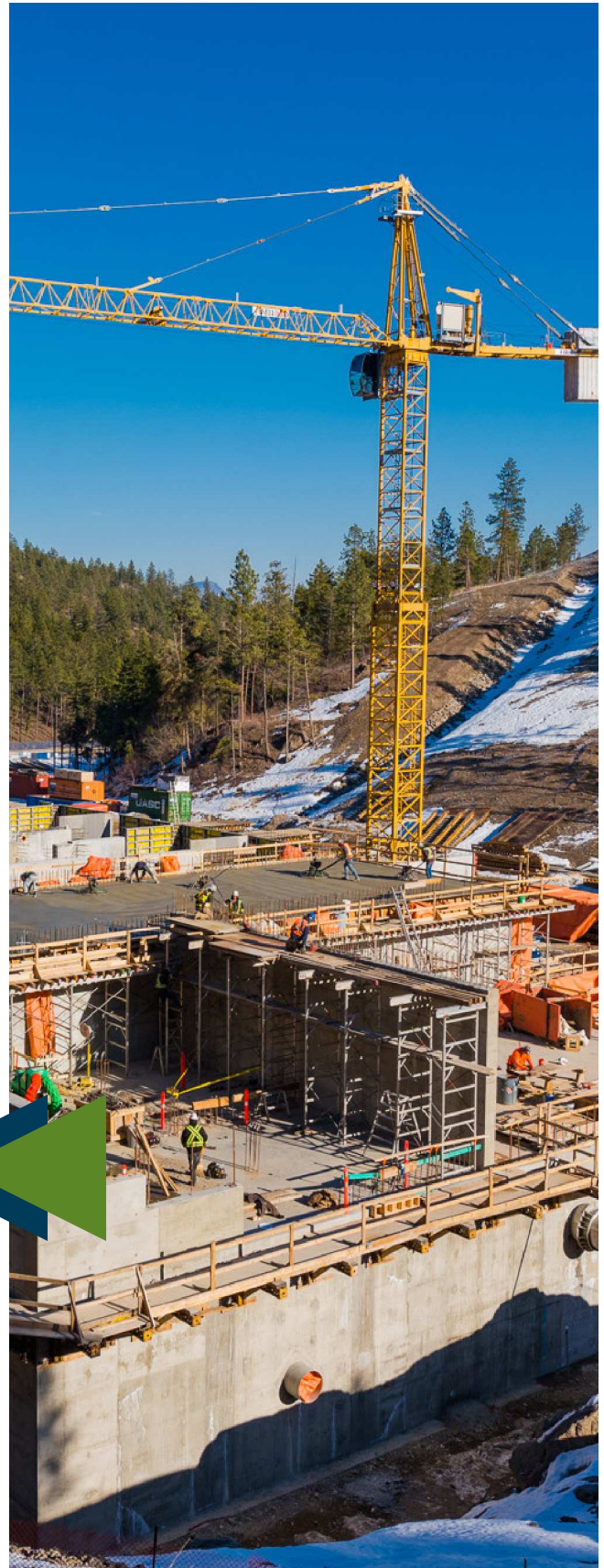
Crews began construction in March 2020 and have now completed earthworks, underground piping, the foundation for the new plant and the upper reservoir foundation, walls and columns.

In 2022, crews will continue concrete pouring for the plant's superstructure, which includes the floors and columns, installing pre-cast walls, mechanical and electrical work.

The final stage of construction will focus on area finishing such as parking and landscaping.

Did you know?

When the project is complete, coagulation, flocculation, dissolved air flotation, deep bed filtration, ultraviolet and chlorine disinfection will be used to effectively treat our water.



Adaptation and resilience

More frequent and severe events are occurring as global temperatures increase. Back-to-back, record forest fire seasons were experienced in 2017 and 2018 in British Columbia. Record flooding in 2017, that normally would have occurred in a one or two hundred year span, beat records set just 20 years earlier in 1997. Communities must be proactive and identify and mitigate risks early to avoid costlier repairs and replacement projects that can disrupt services for weeks or months and take years and cost millions to fully resolve.

Community Actions

2021 Completed	2022 Proposed
<p>West Kelowna Fire Rescue encouraged private property owners to do work to improve the survivability of their homes in case of a wildfire, which resulted in 69 FireSmart Mitigation Grants provided to those who undertook a wide variety of activities to mitigate the threat of wildfire on their properties.</p>	<p>West Kelowna Fire Rescue will hire a FireSmart Coordinator to help encourage private property owners to do work to improve the survivability of their homes in case of a wildfire, administer FireSmart mitigation grants, and coordinate a FireSmart Family Day.</p>
<p>Wildfire mitigation was completed on public properties including Rose Valley Reservoir Dam and Mt. Boucherie near the high school and City Hall.</p>	<p>Staff will continue to implement wildfire treatments throughout the community as required, and partner with various stakeholders and residents to plan and prepare for wildfires and other emergencies in various neighbourhoods including Casa Loma.</p>

Corporate Actions

2021 Completed	2022 Proposed
<p>The City received \$150,000 from the provincial Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to create a Flood Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan for McDougall, Powers and Smith Creeks, which have experienced past flooding and to identify future prevention works beyond those already completed.</p>	<p>Staff will continue to monitor and manage, through development and land use controls, the natural environment, including riparian, terrestrial, and hillside areas that are susceptible to development pressures and changing climactic conditions.</p>
<p>The City trained additional staff to be deployed as members of the Central Okanagan Emergency Operations Centre.</p>	<p>City staff will present the Flood Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan to Council for adoption.</p>

FireSmart Program

Working together to keep our community safe

West Kelowna Fire Rescue helped to protect our community's only BC Hydro transmission line from the Brenda Creek Wildfire in July 2021. Council continued to press BC Hydro to expedite efforts to provide power redundancy for 70,000 residents in West Kelowna and other Westside communities.

In August, West Kelowna Fire Rescue, regional fire departments and BC Wildfire Service suppressed the Mt. Law Wildfire. Nearly 500 homes were on evacuation order. Sadly, one structure was lost.

The provincial Community Resiliency Investment Program provided a grant to complete FireSmart neighbourhood plans in Casa Loma and Griffiths Place. Disposal bins were provided to help with wildfire fuel cleanup in several neighbourhoods.

Grants of up to \$500 were also given to homeowners conducting FireSmart work on their properties.

City staff coordinated wildfire fuel cleanup projects in Faulkner Creek, around Rose Valley Dam, and on Mt. Boucherie near the City's arenas and Mt. Boucherie Secondary School.

Did you know?

West Kelowna, Westbank First Nation, Peachland, and the Regional District of Central Okanagan collaborate on many joint services for the Greater Westside area including FireSmart initiatives.



GRANT FUNDING

\$5M TO INVEST IN A SAFER AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Grants assist with projects and initiatives that help to address aging infrastructure, road safety and improve the way we deliver services to residents – they are important means to keeping taxation low. We received more than \$5.25 million and highlights include:

- \$973,110 received through the new COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream, for the Shannon Lake Active Transportation Corridor. The federal cost share is \$778,488 with the provincial contribution of \$194,662.
- \$442,200 towards the replacement of its 21-year-old ammonia chiller at Jim Lind Arena and Royal LePage Place, thanks to the Province of BC’s Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program.
- \$157,193.50 received through the Strengthening Communities’ Services Fund to support the addition of a City Bylaw Officer through August 2022 for specialized populations to enhance connections to resources and contribute to a safer environment for all members in the community.
- \$150,000 to support Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning.
- \$30,000 received through the Housing Needs Report Program Fund to aid in the development of a Housing Needs Assessment specific to West Kelowna related to future land use, housing supply and gaps across the housing continuum.

The City thanks our federal and provincial partners for supporting our growing community.

Community Resiliency Investment Program 2021 - FireSmart Grants and Wildfire Mitigation	\$132,970.00
Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program - Ammonia Chiller Replacement	\$442,200.00
FCM Municipal Asset Management Program	\$50,000.00
BC Hydro Community Re-Greening - Westbank Centre Tree Planting	\$4,750.00
Canada Community-Building Fund - Road Rehabilitation and Pedestrian Improvements Programs	\$2,925,382.58
Strengthening Communities Fund - Peer Ambassador Initiative	\$157,193.50
Housing Needs Reports Program - Housing Needs Assessment	\$30,000.00
Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning	\$150,000.00
COVID-19 Infrastructure Resilience Stream - Shannon Lake Active Transportation Corridor	\$973,110.00
ICBC Road Improvement Program - Gellatly Carrington Roundabout	\$88,000.00
ICBC Road Improvement Program - Shannon Lake-Bartley-Stevens Roundabout	\$50,200.00
ICBC Road Improvement Program - Glenrosa-McIver Upgrades	\$19,600.00
Total	\$5,023,406.08

Community partnerships

Regional District of Central Okanagan and area local governments - partnerships include the Kelowna Regional Transit System, the Westside Waste Water Treatment Plant, the Westside waste transfer station and the Central Okanagan Emergency Operation Centre.

Westbank First Nation - partnerships include West Kelowna Fire Rescue and an agreement to provide parks and recreational facilities and services to all residents living on the Westside.

FireSmart Canada Community Recognition Program - Huntsfield Green in West Kelowna Estates neighbourhood was the first to be recognized as a FireSmart Canada Community in West Kelowna.

Emergency Management BC and BC Wildfire Service - worked with provincial ministries and agencies to provide aid to the community during times of emergency (i.e. flooding and wildfire).

Okanagan Basin Water Board - City is a member of the OBWB, which helps promote conservation through the Okanagan WaterWise and Make Water Work initiatives.

Interior Health - partnership agreement to collaborate on opportunities to improve community health and wellness, including working on city plans, policies, and initiatives.



Carbon neutral reporting

Local governments provide a multitude of services that greatly impact people’s everyday lives and they collect and spend public funds. For these reasons, local governments must be held to a high standard of accountability and transparency.

Under the BC Climate Action Charter this level of scrutiny is extended to include climate actions. As required by the Charter, the City of West Kelowna measures and reports its annual emissions. The City also posts a yearly Climate Action Report outlining its efforts to reduce emissions and curb climate change.

The City also receives an annual grant through the Province of British Columbia’s Local Government Climate Action Program to help with some of these initiatives.

Service Type	2021 Reported Numbers (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent or tCO ₂ e)
Emissions based on Services Delivered Directly.	2,026.2
Emissions based on Contracted Services.	458
Emissions based on Total Corporate Emissions.	2,484.2

West Kelowna: 2022 and beyond

When we think of what our community could look like in the future we must consider how we can get there, the goals we might establish for ourselves, and the process for how we may complete them. In thinking of West Kelowna's future with respect to climate change, it is evident that we must satisfy the commitment we made as a signatory to the B.C. Climate Action Charter, beyond this, we must think of what we can do to ensure our community may continue to prosper. Below are some things we may consider to ensure that we may continue to grow in a sustainable, fiscally responsible, and desirable way.

Collaboration and Joint Action

We may consider how our goals are common amongst our neighbours; Westbank First Nation, the District of Peachland, and the City of Kelowna. How they all play a vital role in the development of the Westside are integral to the function of our community. We share businesses, facilities, natural areas, and common resources. Together we may think about how we can move forward together to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. Some initial steps may involve information and knowledge sharing. In recognition that we all share the same outcomes of climate change, we must put our collective knowledge together to work towards the same goal, and sharing information is a great way to get there. We may start to think of ways we can work together to plan our communities, as well as how we may best utilize the facilities and infrastructure we have to meet the demands of our residents' needs.

Climate Action Plan

A Climate Action Plan is essential to establishing, monitoring, and implementing objectives related to climate change. West Kelowna is working to create a Corporate Climate Action Plan in the coming years. It will establish goals and policies to achieve our Charter commitments, and may do so by identifying projects for the future.

While we are progressing towards corporate carbon neutrality and making our community more compact and sustainable, clear objectives would help establish a working plan moving forward. Furthermore, the establishment of goals in this document could be updated on a regular basis to ensure that they are still relevant as projects are completed and new issues arise.

Carbon Offsets

A traditional method for many corporations, including municipalities, is to offset their emissions and to invest in carbon offsets. The attraction is that this option provides an easy, accessible option that allows corporations to offset their emissions. However, it is important to note that the activity itself does not stop the emissions, and that as emissions increase, the amount of offsets purchased will also need to increase.

In the past, many offset programs were allocated to planting trees, more recently these programs have shifted to investing in renewable energies; however, the funds typically do not stay in the community. This can raise questions of measurement and success, and whether or not the investment is worthwhile. To avoid these complications, offsets in their traditional sense may be avoided, but the City could consider investing within the community projects that would otherwise reduce emissions.

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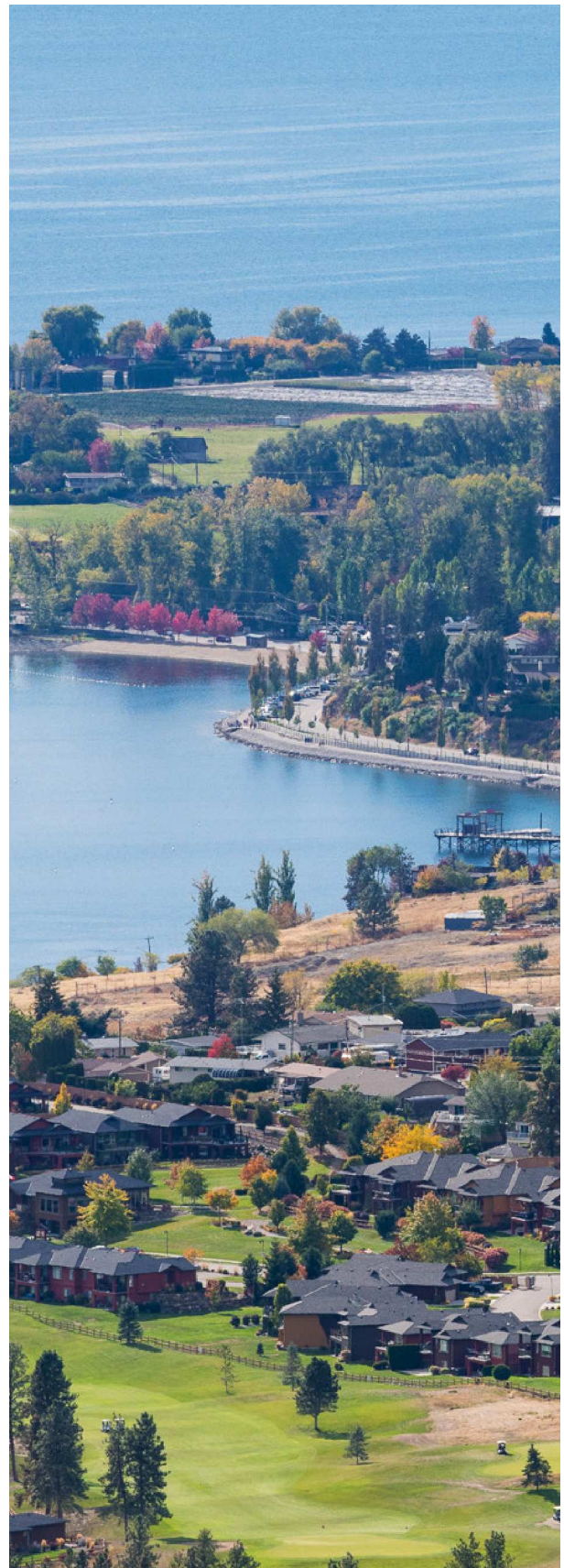
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City of West Kelowna

*Incorporated by Order of British Columbia's Lieutenant
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Disclaimer

The 2021 Climate Action Report provides highlights of programs, services and projects and is not a full representation of the City's climate initiatives. If you would like more detailed information, please contact us; we would be happy to help:

- Visit westkelownacity.ca
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