

Youth Voices: Catalyzing Climate Action and Policy Reform

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2024 UBCM Convention
September 17, 2024

**YOUTHFUL
CITIES**



CityHive



SQUAMISH

City of
NELSON
BRITISH COLUMBIA

YOUTHFUL CITIES

Curious

Connected

Dynamic

Open

Inventive

Playful

how we do it:

DEVIlab Project- “Dynamic, Engaged and Vital”



The state of the young in any city is the litmus test for the city's level of sustainability and vibrancy.

- Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director UN Habitat



CityHive

Our mission is to transform the way that young people are engaged in shaping their cities.



Youth have important perspectives to contribute but lack the knowledge, tools & connections

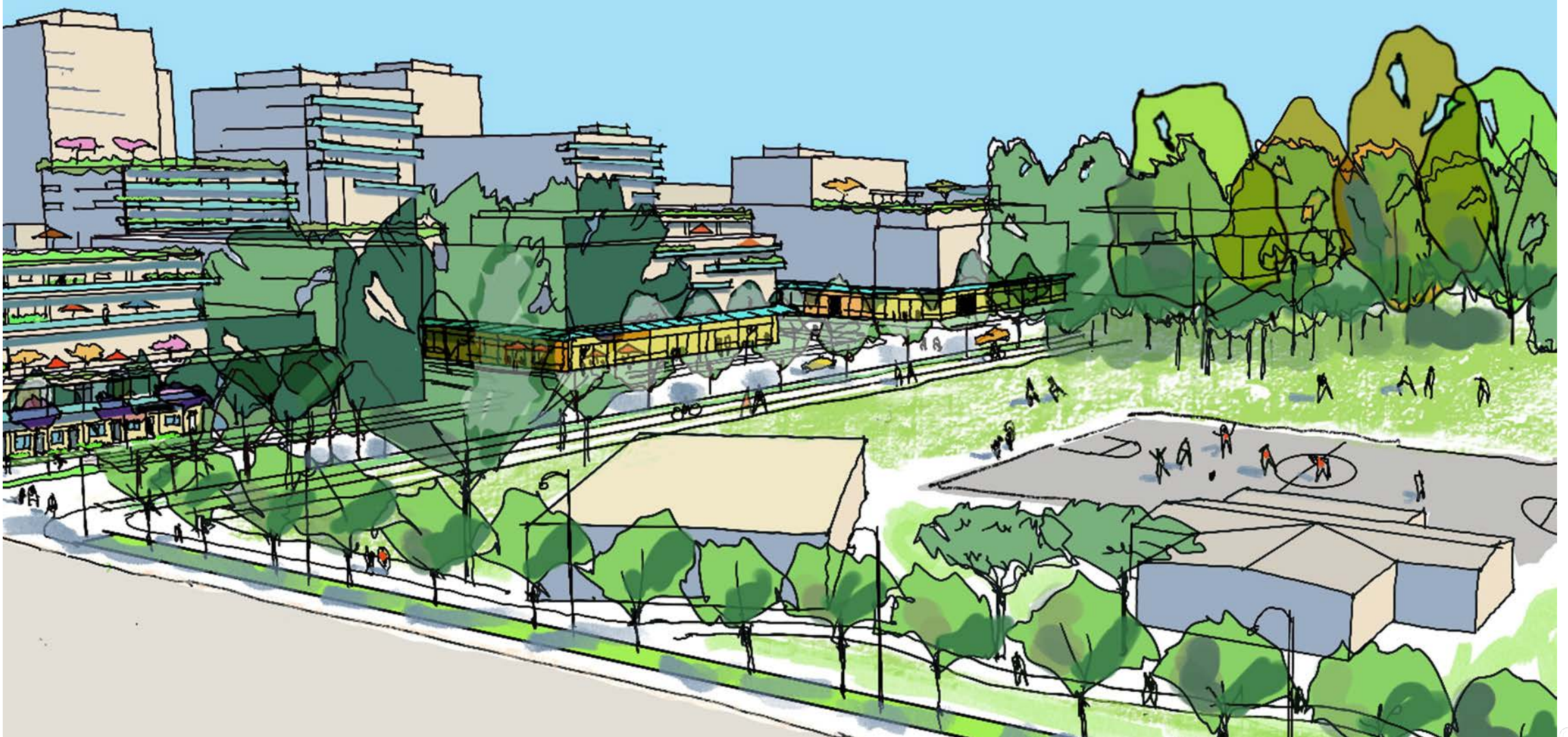


CityHive



Local government have real problems that need new energy and ideas but don't know how to engage youth

Clayton Corridor Engagement





Sea2City Youth Adaptation Lab

**RISE
TO
THE
CHALLENGE**







Transport 2050 Youth Advisory Council



TRANSPORT
2050

Shape the future of
how we move. And live.

Focus group with UBC Students



Focus group with Muslim youth



Focus group with Surrey residents



Focus group with public health students



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- Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director UN Habitat

Youth engagement should be a non-negotiable part of local decision making processes.

Commit to it.

Prioritize it.

Invest in it.

Contact Us



Let's talk! Get in touch at info@cityhive.ca



We're also launching a new youth engagement training series. Stay tuned to learn more!

[@CityHiveVan](https://twitter.com/CityHiveVan)

info@cityhive.ca

www.cityhive.ca





YOUTH CLIMATE CORPS
BRITISH COLUMBIA

*Paving the Way with
Tomorrow's Climate Champions*

Presentation to UBCM,
September 17, 2024



A program to address the poly-crisis

- Cohort based program of 4 – 8 young people aged 17-30 working together
- Group makes a living wage for 4 – 6 months
- Focus is on scaling up climate action projects while training the next generation of leaders
- YCCBC minimizes capacity needed by local governments by leading supervision and admin work





MAP

West Kootenay - Wildsight YCC

Kimberley Cranbrook - Wildsight YCC

Kamloops - YCCBC

North Vancouver Island - YCCBC

Vancouver - YCCBC

Golden - Wildsight YCC





Focus Areas



LOCAL FOOD SECURITY



ENERGY EFFICIENCY



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



EDUCATION




WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION



ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION




**YOUTH LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT**

An aerial photograph of a coastal town at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The foreground is dominated by a large, calm body of water. In the middle ground, there's a town with several buildings and a marina area. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees on a hillside. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds.

The Kwakwaka'wakw Revitalization Project took place on unceded and traditional Kwakwaka'wakw territories in the summer of 2024

The Kwakwaka'wakw Revitalization Project is a project of the Youth Climate Corps BC, which is headquartered on unceded Sinixt, Ktunaxa, and Syilx lands and waters

We extend our gratitude to the traditional keepers of the lands and waters for allowing us to work, live and play here



I've grown in my ability to communicate thoughtfully and effectively.

Participating in Youth Climate Corps has shifted my values and worldview, and has provided me with a deep sense of purpose

I can't stress how much of a support the program has been for me over the recent years of my life and career.



Impact on the participants



92% report professional growth

86% report personal growth

75% continue work or education in
climate



YOUTH CLIMATE CORPS
BRITISH COLUMBIA

THANK YOU

Ben Simoni

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Youth Climate Corps in Squamish



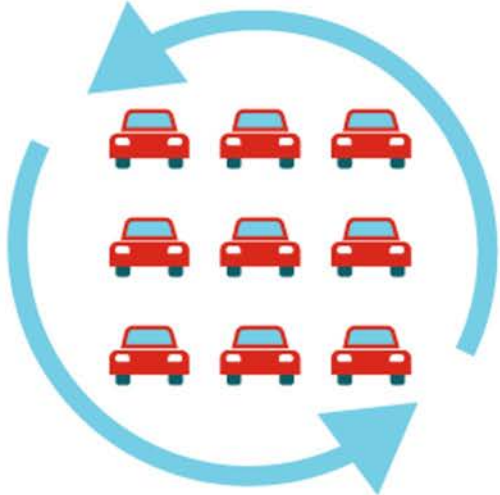
Image: Squamish
Chief

Climate Action in Squamish

BIG MOVES



GOAL: Reduce our emissions by **38,300 Tonnes CO₂e per year by 2030**



Or 2.3 million round trips from Squamish to Vancouver.

Bringing YCC to Squamish

- Created a partnering agreement
- Protocol regarding media engagements, communications, etc.
- Liability, indemnity, confidentiality, ms. congeniality,.....etc.
- Engaged with union – no conflict
- Identified potential projects
- Budget!

Budget!

- **Total budget for YCC program: \$226,600**
- Squamish commitment: **\$115,000**
 - External support for air sealing : \$40,000
 - External support for youth well-being: \$20,000
 - Internal climate plan update outreach: \$15,000
 - Internal Active transportation programming : \$20,000
 - Internal climate operational budget: \$20,000
- Remaining amount secured by YCC **\$111,600**
 - Provincial and Federal funding

Action: Zero Waste events, waste audits and circular economy



Action. Active Transportation and EV Outreach



Action.
Supporting Home
Retrofits
Air Sealing Pilot
Project



Air Sealing project

- Low(est) hanging fruit
- Often payback is months
- Skills easy to learn
- Pre-cursor to fuel switching
- Lack of trades-people



Images from: City of Vancouver Pilot Project

**Youth education:
with a focus on
mental health
and wellbeing**



2024 CCAP Update

- Literature review regarding renewable energy
- Perform public engagements
 - Equity deserving groups
 - Schools
 - Youth
- Assist in incorporating equity as a lens

WHAT CLIMATE ACTION IN SQUAMISH LOOKS LIKE..

- 01 Use Active Transportation**
Transportation in cars accounts for over half of our community emissions in Squamish (53%). Help tackle this challenge by shifting toward the car and choosing low-carbon transportation options.
- 02 Reduce your Waste**
In Squamish, landfill waste accounts for 20% of our community emissions. We're working to capture methane from our landfill to reduce emissions. Additionally we can reduce waste, and divert the majority of our waste from the landfill. Refer to our What Goes Where Guide or the Waste Wizard look-up tool to put materials where they belong.
- 03 Promote Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems**
Cut your miles and support our local carbon-reducing activities by supporting local farmers using regenerative practices. Being a part of a CSA or buying local is crucial because it enhances food security, regenerating natural resources, and strengthens local economies.
- 04 Retrofitting your home**
Emissions from our buildings account for 27% of Squamish total greenhouse gas emissions, largely because many buildings rely on natural gas as a primary fuel source. Making our homes and workplaces more energy efficient will help us reduce emissions.
- 05 Help Ecosystems Thrive**
Help us help our ecosystems in fact by respecting local no trace standards, planting native species, protecting your pollinators, volunteering to restore invasive species, and supporting local ecosystem restoration efforts.
- 06 Eating more local food and plant-based meals**
Some foods (meats and dairy in particular) have a larger footprint than others. According to research from the World Resources Institute, beef, pork, and goat have the highest GHGs per gram of protein, while foods like wheat, beans, and corn have the lowest.
- 07 Conserving Water Resources**
Conserving water is essential because it ensures a sustainable supply for future generations, protects natural ecosystems, and reduces the energy required for water treatment and distribution.
- 08 Share Information & Get Involved**
Sharing knowledge about climate change and engaging with your community are essential for raising awareness, inspiring informed action, and fostering collaborative efforts to mitigate our impact and create a sustainable future.

HOW CARBON EMISSIONS IMPACT SQUAMISH

- FOOD SECURITY:** CLIMATE CHANGE INTERACTS WITH FOOD SECURITY THROUGH ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS, TEMPERATURE CHANGE AND EXTREME EVENTS
- HEALTH:** CLIMATE CHANGE POSES BOTH LONG-TERM HEALTH RISKS (I.E. AIR QUALITY AND DISEASE) AND SHORT-TERM HEALTH RISKS (I.E. HEAT WAVES AND FIRES)
- SEA LEVEL RISE:** THE GOVERNMENT OF B.C. RECOMMENDS THAT COMMUNITIES PLAN FOR ONE METRE OF SEA LEVEL RISE BY 2100 (NOT INCLUDING STORM SURGE FLOODING).
- INCREASED FOREST FIRES:** FOREST FIRES ARE INCREASING IN FREQUENCY AND SIZE IN CANADA DUE TO INCREASED TEMPERATURE, CHANGING PRECIPITATION, AND OTHER FACTORS.
- EXTREME PRECIPITATION:** CLIMATE CHANGE IS CAUSING MORE EXTREME PRECIPITATION EVENTS, THAT ARE OUT OF NORMAL RANGE.

YCCBC YOUTH CLIMATE CORPS

Some lessons and reflections:

- YCC enables connection (esp. with youth)
- Huge asset to have extra capacity for events
- Can be challenging to guide as work gets busy
 - Their initiative is appreciated!
 - Have more to do than can be done
- Local Government sometimes is slow



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada

In appreciation of our speakers today and with thanks for your contribution, UBCM has made a donation to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada has been championing the health and wellbeing of youth. They provide direct service to children by matching volunteers with youths in quality mentoring relationships to overcome adversities, helping them to do better in life.