



Climate
FUTURE

action
TOOLKIT

share knowledge
inspire action
create change



ABOUT THIS TOOLKIT

In 2019, the District of West Vancouver declared a state of climate emergency. The Library's response is Climate Future—an initiative that invites the community to come together to deepen knowledge and take action around the climate crisis.

Climate Future is an ongoing initiative that includes events, a reading challenge, and this toolkit. For more information and resources, visit wvml.ca/climate-future.

This toolkit is filled with actions you can take to reduce your carbon footprint in five categories: food, stuff, transportation, buildings, and nature. We've also included a section called Acting Together with tips on how to work with your community and government to advocate for bigger changes. At the end of the toolkit, you'll find a reading challenge with curated fiction and non-fiction titles, including films, and a place to make your personal climate commitments.

We live, work, and learn on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and Musqueam Nations. We recognize and respect them as nations in this territory, as well as their historic connection to the lands and waters around us since time immemorial. We must look to Indigenous leadership and stewardship as we work towards a better climate future together.



FOOD

Did you know that 25 – 30% of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions come from the food system? These are from agriculture and land use, storage, transport, packaging, processing, retail, and consumption.¹

ACTIONS

- **Follow a low-GHG diet:**
 - Choose organically grown when possible
 - Eat fewer animal products, which often have a heavy GHG impact
 - Eat local fruits and vegetables when they're in season
 - Grow some food at home or in a community garden
- **Limit food waste:**
 - Make a weekly meal plan and buy only what you need
 - Create an "eat soon" shelf in your fridge for foods about to expire—that way you'll remember to use them before they go bad

Advocate for a national food policy, sustainable farm and fishing guidelines, and low-waste grocery stores.



TRANSPORTATION

The way we move people and goods produces a significant amount of greenhouse gases—21% of Canada's national carbon footprint in 2016, according to Natural Resources Canada.²

ACTIONS

- Walk or bike—it not only reduces your GHG emissions, but also improves your health!
- Take public transit instead of driving—more time to read or listen to a Library book
- If you need to drive, consider carpooling or investing in a hybrid or electric vehicle
- Plan local vacations and enjoy nearby attractions to reduce air travel
- Support local shops and services that you can walk, bike or bus to

According to the David Suzuki Foundation, the impact of the total GHG emissions of a single flight is so high that avoiding just one trip can have the same impact as going gasoline car-free for a year.³

Advocate for better public transit, more charging stations, car share programs and telecommuting when possible.



BUILDINGS

Did you know that half of West Vancouver's GHG emissions come from our homes and businesses? ⁴ Natural gas used for space heating, cooking and heating water is the largest source, while electricity also uses a lot of energy. Making our homes more energy-efficient not only reduces emissions, but also saves money.

ACTIONS

- Switch to LED light bulbs and Energy Star appliances
- Unplug your phone charger and other electronics when you're not using them
- Update your heating system from fossil fuels to a heat pump
- Keep your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer by sealing leaks, insulating windows, and using curtains or blinds to keep heat in or out
- Complete energy audits and retrofit your home—many upgrades can be paid for with rebates, government incentives, and energy bill savings over time

Advocate for green building incentives and rebates, community energy like solar or wind power, and "complete communities" to live, work, and play in.



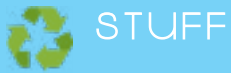
NATURE

The District of West Vancouver says: "Our community is lucky to have clean creeks, intact forests and abundant wildlife, both on land and in the water. Yet, more than ever, residents are experiencing the effects of a changing climate, such as shoreline flooding from sea level rise, more storm events, forest fires and summer droughts, and these will likely continue."

ACTIONS

- Plant smart: pick trees that create shade and flowers that attract pollinators
- Replace ornamental lawns with clover or moss
- Volunteer with local conservation groups like Lighthouse Park Preservation Society, Streamkeepers, or The Coho Society (find a list of other local environmental groups at westvanlibrary.ca/climate-future)

Advocate for better environmental protection and regulation, and alternatives to pipelines and unsustainable resource extraction.



STUFF

Less waste in the landfill means less methane—one of the most potent GHGs. Less waste also means less GHG emissions from producing and shipping new items.

- **REFUSE:** Say no to single-use plastics, mail flyers and freebies you don't need, and use your consumer power to purchase items from companies with sustainable practices and policies
- **REDUCE:** Declutter and donate items you no longer need to thrift stores, and wait a few days before buying any non-essential items to decide if you really need them
- **REUSE:** Switch from single-use to reusables, shop at secondhand stores and online marketplaces, and repurpose what you can't reuse
- **RECYCLE:** Learn to clean and sort your recycling, but avoid plastics, which are difficult to recycle, in favour of cardboard

Advocate for the "right to repair" (laws that give consumers the right to ask the manufacturer for a repair manual and tools to fix their own products), less packaging, and a ban on plastic bags.



ACTING TOGETHER

This toolkit recommends individual actions, but our success in responding to the climate emergency needs action from everybody, including residents, businesses, and governments.

Here are some ideas for community climate action:

- Stay informed by attending District Council meetings
- E-mail, call or write to your councillor, MLA, or MP:
 - Be polite and courteous
 - Find common ground and shared values
 - Describe the problem and potential solution(s)
 - Ask to meet or discuss further

Use one of the e-petition links at westvanlibrary.ca/climate-future

- Make or sign an online petition advocating for change. Learn more about online petitions at westvanlibrary.ca/climate-future
- Start conversations with friends, family and neighbours
- Support local environmental organizations (find a list of local organizations at northshoreclimatehub.org)
- Indigenous peoples have been stewarding these lands and waters since time immemorial—look to your local Indigenous leaders for guidance and respond to their calls for action



CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

Now what? Look back through this toolkit and make your own three personal climate action commitments:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Submit your commitments online at wvml.ca/climate-future or email them to info@westvanlibrary.ca to be entered to win a prize! We'll (anonymously) share these commitments online to inspire our community.

¹ ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2019/08/2f.-Chapter-5_FINAL.pdf

² nrcan.gc.ca/science-data/data-analysis/energy-data-analysis/energy-facts/energy-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions-ghgs/20063#L4

³ davidsuzuki.org/project/sustainable-transportation/

⁴ westvancouver.ca/environment/climate-change

ADULT BOOKS

Non-Fiction

*Citizen's Guide to Climate Success :
Overcoming Myths That Hinder Progress*
Mark Jaccard

*Food Fix: How to Save Our Health, Our Economy, Our
Communities, and Our Planet—One Bite at a Time*
Mark Hyman

A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency
Seth Klein

*Groundswell: Indigenous Knowledge and a Call to
Action for Climate Change*

*How to Break up With Fast Fashion: A Guilt-Free Guide to
Changing the Way You Shop—For Good*
Lauren Bravo

*Inconspicuous Consumption: The Environmental
Impact You Don't Know You Have*
Tatiana Schlossberg

*Living without Plastic: More Than 100 Easy Swaps for Home,
Travel, Dining, Holidays, and Beyond*
Brigette Allen

*"My Fear is Losing Everything" The Climate Crisis and First
Nations' Right to Food in Canada*

The New Climate War: The Fight to Take Back Our Planet
Michael E. Mann

No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference
Greta Thunberg

*Not on My Watch: How A Renegade Whale Biologist
Took on Governments and Industry to Save Wild Salmon*
Alexandra Morton

*The Right to Be Cold: One Woman's Story of Protecting
Her Culture, The Arctic, And the Whole Planet*
Sheila Watt-Cloutier

Fiction

American War Omar El Akkad

Blaze Island Catherine Bush

The Marrow Thieves Cherie Dimaline

The Ministry for the Future Kim Stanley Robinson

War Girls Tochi Onyebuchi

Weather Jenny Offill

ADULT DVDS

2040

The Biggest Little Farm

The Condor and the Eagle

Kiss the Ground

Living in the Future's Past

This Changes Everything