

## Climate-Forward Building Guide

Note: If the proposal requires a Development Permit, the following information can be provided at that stage.

As outlined in the City's [Climate Leadership Plan](#), Victoria has both a responsibility and an opportunity to respond to the causes and impacts of climate change. To meet this challenge, the City's vision for 2050 is a vibrant, healthy and prosperous community, fueled by renewable low carbon energy systems, and designed and integrated in ways that promote a high quality of life for all Victorians.

Climate-forward buildings go above and beyond the minimum requirements to provide occupants with comfortable, healthier and lower carbon buildings and surrounding sites, which are more resilient to a changing climate.

### How to use this guide

Using the following table, applicants can consider how to align their proposal with the City of Victoria's [Climate Leadership Plan](#) goals through minimizing carbon emissions and increasing resilience to current and projected climate impacts. It also serves as a tool for staff, Council and the public to assess the merits of an application while considering the sources and impacts of climate change. Including climate-forward building features for new developments is encouraged and providing details of these features is a requirement for all rezoning applications that include new construction.

Using this guide as a reference, the applicant will provide details of the climate-forward features of their proposal in the letter to Mayor and Council or as an appendix to the letter. By submitting the rezoning application, the applicant is providing a voluntary commitment to include the building features as indicated in the letter to Mayor and Council. In the cases where the climate-forward building features are required as a condition of rezoning, further documentation may be required.

	Climate-Forward Features	Information
<b>Rating System</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue certification with a third-party green building rating system</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Zero Carbon Building Standard</a> <a href="#">Passive House</a> <a href="#">LEED</a> <a href="#">Living Building Challenge</a>
<b>Near Zero Emissions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design mechanical systems as fully electric</li> <li>Modeled GHG emission intensity meets stricter level than required</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Zero Carbon Step Code - City of Victoria</a>
<b>Energy Efficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceed the required level of the BC Energy Step Code</li> </ul>	<a href="#">BC Energy Step Code - City of Victoria</a>
<b>Building Retention and Re-use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain and re-use existing building elements and/or deconstructed building materials in excess of requirements</li> <li>Increase waste reduction and landfill diversion to exceed requirements</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Reducing Construction Waste - City of Victoria</a>
<b>Low Carbon Materials and Construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritize and specify the use of low embodied carbon materials and/or carbon-sequestering materials</li> <li>Set a project-wide embodied carbon reduction target to be verified through life-cycle assessment</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Embodied Carbon Quick Guide - Living Future Institute</a> <a href="#">Low Carbon Building Materials - City of Nelson</a>
<b>Transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embrace multi-modal design and connectivity, including access to sidewalks, bike lanes, car share services, transit stops, etc.</li> <li>Speak with City staff about transportation demand management alternatives to minimize parking</li> <li>Ensure bicycle parking includes gear storage, a repair station and heavy-duty locks, while considering all bike types, including cargo and e-bikes</li> <li>Exceed requirements for EV charging, such as providing charging for e-bikes</li> <li>Provide car share vehicle(s) with memberships and driving credits for occupants</li> <li>Provide transit passes for occupants</li> </ul>	<a href="#">GoVictoria</a> <a href="#">Walking, Riding &amp; Rolling - City of Victoria</a> <a href="#">Zoning Regulation Bylaw Schedule C - Off-Street Parking</a> <a href="#">Modo Car Share</a> <a href="#">BC Transit - EcoPASS</a>

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<b>Rainwater Management and Green Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Incorporate green infrastructure to manage rainwater and stormwater, and support urban forest, urban agriculture, native plants and pollinators</li> <li>● Include features such as green roofs, rain gardens, permeable paving, bioswales, cisterns and infiltration chambers</li> <li>● Manage road runoff through boulevard rain gardens, stormwater tree soil cells or similar</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Rainwater Management Standards</a> <a href="#">Stormwater Management - City of Victoria</a> <a href="#">Rainwater Rewards Incentive</a>
<b>Landscaping and Native Plants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Specify that plants are native to southern Vancouver Island, climate-adapted, food-bearing and/or provide pollinator habitats</li> <li>● Demonstrate steps to restore or enhance the healthy natural ecology of the site</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Downtown Core Area Design Guidelines - Section 3.3. Open Space and Landscaping - City of Victoria</a>
<b>Urban Forest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Make a significant contribution to protect, enhance and expand Victoria’s long-term tree canopy, in excess of tree minimum requirements</li> <li>● Design for healthy tree growth by maximizing soil volumes and providing unobstructed space above and below sufficient for long-term vitality; this may include increasing building setbacks, using soil cells and co-locating utilities under paved areas</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Tree Protection Bylaw</a> <a href="#">Urban Forest Master Plan</a>
<b>Urban Gardening and Food Production</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Design community-building outdoor spaces for gardening and food production, such as home, community or rooftop gardens, greenhouses and urban farms</li> <li>● Incorporate edible landscaping and pollinator gardening into landscaped areas</li> <li>● Make vacant lots or underutilized spaces available for temporary community gardens or urban farms prior to development</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Growing Food and Gardening in Mixed-Use, Multi-Unit Residential Developments</a>

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<b>Climate Change Adaptation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Minimize overheating risk beyond minimum requirements using mechanical and passive cooling techniques, including tree shading</li> <li>● Use future climate predictions to design mechanical systems and storm drainage</li> <li>● Include flood protection and risk reduction measures, including green infrastructure, to exceed minimum requirements</li> <li>● Include measures to ensure indoor air quality during forest fire smoke events</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Passive Design Toolkit – City of Vancouver</a> <a href="#">Planning for Climate Change – Climate Atlas of Canada</a> <a href="#">Projected Weather Files - PCIC</a> <a href="#">Regional Climate and Sea Level Rise Projections - CRD</a>
<b>Innovation and Inspiration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Include new or emerging technology and/or techniques to achieve higher carbon and energy performance</li> <li>● Indicate specific methods to share sustainability successes and challenges to educate and inspire others</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Leadership and Green Building Excellence Award Winners - CaGBC</a>