PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

GOAL 4:

Ensure sustainable and resilient water supply

Indicator: Regional drought conditions, number of PRRD potable water stations.

GOAL 5:

Enhance regional district infrastructure resiliency

Indicator: Number of PRRD infrastructure projects that incorporate climate resiliency measures completed annually.

GOAL 6:

Reduce corporate GHG emissions

Indicator: Percentage change in corporate GHG emissions relative to baseline year (2007).

OVERVIEW

Public infrastructure and corporate operations enable PRRD to provide essential services and support community well-being. Public infrastructure systems, such as water and wastewater, must be made resilient to climate hazards like flooding and extreme weather. Investments in climate-resilient design, critical system upgrades, and integration of climate considerations into asset management are necessary to safeguard essential services.

Water sustainability is also a priority, focusing on supporting rural water supply, promoting water conservation, and exploring non-potable water systems. By collaborating with other government organizations and interest holders, the PRRD can ensure the resilience and sustainability of its public infrastructure while also reducing its environmental impact.

As climate change presents increasing risks, the PRRD can lead by example by being environmentally responsible and taking action to enhance the resilience and sustainability of public infrastructure.

Regional district operations, including fleet operations and energy use in facilities, contribute to GHG emissions. Transitioning to low- or zero-emission vehicles, updating the corporate energy plan, and adopting sustainable procurement policies will help reduce the organization's environmental footprint and improve operational efficiency. Additionally, transitioning to a more sustainable records management system will streamline operations and reduce corporate waste.

Goal 4: Ensure sustainable and resilient water supply

REGIONAL DISTRICT SCOPE	TIMEFRAME
4.1 Water sustainability and contingency plan templates Explore the development of user-friendly templates to help rural landowners and agricultural producers create their own water sustainability and contingency plans, including drought preparedness and non-potable water systems for diverse uses.	Short (1-2 years)
4.2 Investigate new rural potable water systems Explore innovative and sustainable approaches to develop reliable potable water sources in rural areas, focusing on remote and underserved communities.	Medium (2-5 years)
4.3 Launch targeted water conservation campaigns Develop and implement water conservation campaigns aligned with the Regional Water Conservation Plan to raise awareness, reduce water waste, and promote sustainable water usage within communities.	Short (1-2 years)
4.4 Integrate water conservation policies into OCPs Incorporate specific water conservation measures, such as xeriscaping, into Official Community Plans during updates to promote long-term water efficiency.	Medium (2-5 years)

Goal 4: Ensure sustainable and resilient water supply – Continued

COLLABORATION	
4.5 Support non-potable water systems Collaborate with Northern Health to investigate and establish guidelines for new development that support incorporating non-potable water systems, such as purple pipe infrastructure, as an optional feature to enhance water sustainability.	Medium (2-5 years)
4.6 Explore the development of a regional integrated water resource management plan Collaborate with provincial agencies, member municipalities, First Nations, Northern Health, and residents to explore the development of an integrated water resource management plan across the region that integrates ecological, social, cultural considerations, along with economic development to determine holistic policies that integrate future climate conditions.	Medium (2-5 years)
4.7 Promote wastewater reuse and water conservation Collaborate with industry to develop water management strategies that promote wastewater reuse and conservation.	Medium (2-5 years)
ADVOCACY	
4.8 Advocate for rural potable water supply Advocate to the provincial government for updated policies that prioritize rural water supply for potable and agricultural uses and engage regional districts when water sources are identified and reviewed for permitting. Advocate for funding, resources, and reliable information to develop and maintain rural potable water systems.	Long (5+ years)
4.9 Advocate for adequate water resources for the agricultural sector To manage prolonged dry conditions, develop adequate water supply and distribution. Work with the farming community and Ministry of Agriculture, water stewardship branch to get support for implementing innovative water retention and storage systems. and alternative and drought-resistant crops. *[Links to RGS 3.2.a]*	Medium (2-5 years)

Goal 5: Enhance regional district infrastructure resiliency

REGIONAL DISTRICT SCOPE	TIMEFRAME
5.1 Integrate climate considerations into asset management Continue to advance asset management planning, policies, and practices with a climate lens, ensuring infrastructure resilience by addressing climate risks and readiness.	Short (1-2 years)
5.2 Ensure climate-resilient wastewater systems Assess and maintain existing wastewater systems using future climate projections to enhance resilience against extreme weather and flooding. When updating wastewater management plans and subdivision and development servicing bylaw, incorporate climate change considerations and ensure long-term infrastructure sustainability.	Medium (2-5 years)
ADVOCACY	
5.3 Support sewer systems sized for smaller communities Advocate to the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Transportation and Transit to allow sewer systems that enable infill development in small rural settlements and reduce sprawl, which may require investment in and approval of innovative wastewater treatment solutions.	Long (5+ years)

Goal 6: Reduce corporate emissions

REGIONAL DISTRICT SCOPE	TIMEFRAME
6.1 Transition corporate fleet to electric vehicles Transition the PRRD fleet and equipment to electric or hybrid vehicles wherever feasible, reducing corporate emissions and supporting sustainable operations.	Medium (2-5 years)
6.2 Update Corporate Energy Plan Review and enhance the energy efficiency of corporate facilities by incorporating renewable energy sources and implementing strategies to reduce overall energy consumption.	Short (1-2 years)
6.3 Investigate sustainable procurement policies Investigate and consider developing procurement policies that prioritize environmentally friendly products and suppliers, favouring vendors that minimize the carbon footprint of regional purchases.	Medium (2-5 years)
6.4 Transition to digital records management Investigate opportunities for transitioning to a fully digital system for filing and records management to reduce paper use, streamline operations, and decrease corporate waste.	Medium (2-5 years)