



April 25, 2022.

Calling all visionary leaders,

As we head into another summer, we at Wildsight Invermere, like many others, can't help feeling a bit of trepidation. Heat, drought, wildfires and smoke – what awaits us and how can we best prepare for it?

We realize there is much good work being done in various areas. For example:

- RDEK announced a Heat Pump subsidy
- District of Invermere is hiring an Environmental Planner to support implementation of climate change actions
- Radium Hot Springs is proposing the addition of EV charging infrastructure for new home builds

Imagine what we could do if we worked together!

We believe that what is required is a commitment to climate action. Golden joined 11 other Kootenay communities with Town Council's unanimous decision to commit to [transition to 100% renewable energy](#). This shows leadership in identifying a priority and setting a goal to work towards.

Although goal setting is an important step, so is implementation and progress measurement. Here we can look to the Regional District of Central Kootenay for inspiration. The RDCK publishes a [State of Climate Action in the RDCK](#) yearly update that helps them track progress, evaluate and improve initiatives, maintain public transparency and demonstrate climate action leadership.

How do we make progress on these existential issues with limited budgets and staff capacity?

- Work together for economies of scale
- Share rather than reinvent successful initiatives
- Involve community stakeholders from all sectors to work alongside government. (See the [City of Vernon Climate Action Advisory Committee](#) for an example)
- Research and take advantage of funding that supports climate action programming. ([Provincial Budget provides \\$76 Million to fund local government climate action programs](#))

Wildsight Invermere suggests that a valley wide commitment to climate change mitigation and resiliency action is needed. This can best be demonstrated by local governments publicly committing to climate action and demonstrating that commitment by planning for a 100% renewable energy future.

We stand ready to contribute and be involved in the process, and will be in contact to discuss next steps soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Wildsight Invermere Board of Directors