



SQUAMISH - LILLOOET REGIONAL DISTRICT RGS MONITORING REPORT 2020-2024

Prepared by:

WCS engagement
+ planning

For:



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INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth monitoring report to track progress on the regional goals established within the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), as reviewed and amended in 2025, and the Integrated Sustainability Plan (ISP) of 2013. The purpose of this monitoring report is to build on the 2012, 2013, 2014/15 and 2016-2020 reports so that progress toward or away from the RGS and ISP goals is continually evaluated. The report also incorporates indicator changes for Goals 1,2,3, and 11. This report should be used alongside an evaluation process that includes: 1) opportunities for stakeholders to add additional insights on regional progress and 2) conversations about efforts to support regional goals.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring is the process of collecting information, analyzing trends and gauging progress toward goals. Evaluation involves reviewing the monitored data, adding insights into progress, and determining whether the efforts to support regional goals have been appropriate. Monitoring and evaluation are typically conducted together and should be used constructively to assess progress and inform improvements to the efforts directed at regional goals. Used on a regular basis monitoring and evaluation can provide a point of conversation and reignite efforts toward regional goals and implementation of the RGS.

PROCESS

The RGS and ISP each contain a list of recommended indicators that were developed to monitor the progress with respect to the goals of each plan. An indicator in this case is a numerical representation of some observation that is monitored over time. The indicators for the RGS were selected through collaborative planning processes involving SLRD citizens, staff and board members using the following criteria:

- Validity – that the data measures progress toward the goals as well/directly as possible
- Reliability – that the data can be consistently measured over time
- Resource intensity (including information availability) – that valid/good quality data can be regularly measured with existing/reasonable resources
- Comparability – that the data can be compared/benchmarked against other communities as much as possible

To create a more efficient monitoring system for the SLRD, indicators that measure progress toward the RGS and also meet the ISP's monitoring requirements were selected.

METHODOLOGY

Data collection for the 2020-2024 report occurred in 2025. While specific targets related to the RGS and ISP goals have yet to be defined, for this monitoring report, the assumed target is continuous improvement of results. In some cases, data was available for multiple time periods, allowing an initial assessment of year-to-year and three-year rolling-average trends. These trends are highlighted in the summary progress table on page 2. The most recent data point was used for analysis, even though some of the information is

somewhat dated due to monitoring and reporting cycles, such as the National Census, which is conducted only every 5 years.

Results/Performance Legend:

Where sufficient data exist, results are presented as the 1-year/period change and the 3-year/period rolling average change.

Icon Colour	Meaning
	= Right direction: Trend moved in the right direction
	= Stable/mixed: Trend is stable or mixed
	= Wrong direction: Trend moved in the wrong direction
	= No trend results: Trend data is not currently available; baseline data available only

RESULTS SUMMARY

In 2024, progress toward the SLRD regional goals is mixed, though the majority (31 indicators) are either stable or improving, which is encouraging. Data is not yet sufficient to identify trends for 2 of the indicators, as this is only the fourth monitoring report and because new baseline data have been included for a few indicators. Six indicators are moving in an undesirable direction away from regional goals.

RGS Goals	Indicators progressing	Indicators stable/mixed	Indicators regressing	Insufficient data	Total
1. Compact, complete sustainable communities		2			2
2. Transportation linkages and options	1	2	2		5
3. Generate a range of quality, affordable housing	2		1		3
4. Sustainable economy	3	3			6
5. Natural ecosystem functioning	1	1		1	3
6. Sustainable use of parks and natural areas	1	1			2
7. Healthy and safe communities	2	3			5
8. Indigenous relations	1				1
9. Collaboration		1		1	2
10. Food Systems	3	1			4
11. Climate action	1	2	3		6
TOTAL	15	16	6	2	39

RESULTS DISCUSSION

The following section provides an overview of regional progress and a brief discussion of results. The data used in the report represent the most recent available at the time of reporting, as noted in the date in brackets following the indicator name. Some of the information is somewhat dated due to lengthy monitoring and reporting cycles, such as the National Census, which is only completed every 5 years.

RGS GOAL 1: FOCUS DEVELOPMENT INTO COMPACT, COMPLETE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Data Representation:
Moderate

1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator
		Pop. Density (2024)	☑	☑	Non-Settlement (2024) New!

Year-over-year trends to 2024 (the most recent year for which data are available) show stable growth in the size of non-settlement areas, which is positive. Population increases, coupled with redevelopment in existing developed areas and no expansion into non-settlement areas, mean that density is growing over three measurement periods in all communities except Lillooet. A slight decrease in the estimated 2024

population base across all communities except Squamish led to a slight year-over-year decrease in Whistler, Pemberton and Lillooet.

RGS GOAL 2: IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION LINKAGES AND OPTIONS

Data Representation: High

1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator
☒	☒	Highway Safety (2023)	☒	☒	Vehicle Number (2024)
☒	☒	Transit Commutes (2021)			Visitor Travel (2024) New!
☒	☒	Active Commutes (2021) New!			

Fatalities on the highways decreased year to year and over the three-year average, and the number of injuries on major SLRD highways is virtually stable. Transit commutes by bus or as passengers decreased in the SLRD as a whole between census periods and over the longer term to 2021. Active commutes also decreased between census periods, yet increased slightly on the three-period average. The number of vehicles year over year and over the three-year average to 2024 is growing along with the SLRD population, albeit somewhat faster, leading to more vehicles and slightly more cars per person. While both summer and winter visitors' shared travel modes from Vancouver to Whistler are showing signs of improvement, winter rates decreased somewhat year over year.

RGS GOAL 3: GENERATE A RANGE OF QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Data Representation: High

1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator
☒	☒	Housing Affordability (2023)	☒		Non-market (2024) New!
☒	☒	Housing Diversity (2021)			

Despite rising income levels, the assessed value of single-family homes increased faster from 2020 to 2023 in each community, thereby decreasing housing affordability across all SLRD communities. There was an increase in the percentage of occupied home types in the SLRD that were multi-residential (generally more affordable) between 2016 and 2021. The number of non-market dwellings in the SLRD increased from 2023 to 2024.

RGS GOAL 4: ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Data Representation: Moderate

1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator
☒		Diversity of industry (2021)		☒	Population (2023)
☒	☒	Median income (2023)	☒	☒	Connectivity (2024)
☒	☒	Employment Income (2023)			
☒	☒	Room Revenue (2024)			

As of 2021, the industry's diversity in the SLRD has continued to improve slightly. Based on the year-over-year and three-year rolling trend results, incomes indicate a positive trajectory for the SLRD economy. While the year-over-year room revenue decreased slightly, it more than recovered from the recent low in 2020. The population in the SLRD continues to increase, largely driven by Squamish's growth and the population demographics indicate healthy economic ratios between ages. While people in urban areas may

have access to high-speed broadband and cellular connectivity, access to services in some rural, remote and Indigenous communities is improving as connectivity projects are completed.

RGS GOAL 5: PROTECT NATURAL ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING

Data Representation: Low*

1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator
		Water Use (2024)			Regional Air Quality
		Species at Risk (2024)			Quality (2024)

*Accurately tracking the protection of natural ecosystem functioning is a complex endeavour. Without comprehensive mapping tools, ecosystem assessments, and resource-intensive surveying, it isn't easy to assess progress toward the goal. Therefore, the data representation level for this goal, based on the current indicators, is 'low'. Future reporting should endeavour to improve reporting in this area.

The air quality in the Sea to Sky region of the SLRD is generally good and performing better than in previous years. Fires in the area or nearby often degrade air quality. The number of species at risk at the provincial level that also reside in the SLRD is based on a newer method, but continues to provide good data that raises awareness of at-risk species. Potable water use decreased year over year; however, it increased on a three-year average.

RGS GOAL 6: ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS

Data Representation: Low*

1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator	1 period	3-year.	Indicator
		Recreation Facilities (2024)			Commercial Rec. Operator (2024)

*Accurately tracking the full intent of this goal is a complex endeavour. Including indicator results from the Creating Healthy and Safe Neighbourhoods Goal helps to round out our understanding. The data representation level for this goal remains 'low' even though it now includes two indicators instead of one. Future reporting should continue to improve reporting in this area.

All SLRD member municipalities support active indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities through trails and recreation facilities. There were additions to outdoor field and amenity facilities in Pemberton and some minor additions to Meadow Park Recreation Centre in Whistler. That said, the area per capita is decreasing over time and not keeping up with population growth. The number of commercial recreation operators (with tenure) in the Sea to Sky Forest District has increased since the last report in 2020, indicating this is a growth area in the SLRD and that operators are taking appropriate steps to obtain tenure to operate.

RGS GOAL 7: CREATE HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

Data Representation: Moderate

1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator
		Child Development (2013-2022)			Trail Length (2024)
		Safe Drinking Water (2024)			Physical Activity (2024) New!
		Youth Wellbeing (2024) New!			

Indicators of healthy and safe communities now have multiple data points for reporting trends, and there are some interesting highlights. The child development indicator for 2022 shows a stable year-to-year trend and a decrease in performance relative to the three-year average (Sea to Sky only). Past results show a relatively large gap between the low vulnerability in the southern part of the region (School District 48) and the high vulnerability in the north (School District 74). On measures of safe drinking water, extensive

municipal and SLRD-operated water systems (300+ service connections) are obtaining “low” hazard ratings, whereas the medium-sized systems (15-300 serviced connections) as a whole are registering an increase in hazard ratings to 2024. When it comes to youth well being and physical activity, results for wellbeing are increasing and physical activity remained similar to previous years. Trail length continues to increase over time.

RGS GOAL 8: ENHANCE RELATIONS WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Data Representation: Med

1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator
		SLRD & Indigenous meetings (2024)

This fifth SLRD RGS Monitoring report builds on baseline results from 2015 and the estimates for 2016-2020 in this area. Progress is improving year over year and in the longer term. The increase in recent years is due to requirements from the BC Emergency and Disaster Management Act- Indigenous Engagement Requirements project and preparation of SLRD Truth & Reconciliation Guide.

RGS GOAL 9: IMPROVE COLLABORATION AMONG JURISDICTIONS

Data Representation: High

1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator
		Voter Turnout (2022)			RGS Collaboration (2024)

Municipal election results for 2022 showed mixed trends in voter participation, and in the SLRD unincorporated areas, there was no voting, as all directors ran unchallenged. Pemberton and Whistler participation rates grew somewhat in 2022, while participation decreased in Lillooet and Squamish. RGS Collaboration remained stable over time at a relatively lower level. This reflects the completion of the RGS Review and the shift from an extensive project-specific engagement period to ongoing collaboration, with meetings taking place on an as-needed basis.

RGS GOAL 10: PROTECT AND ENHANCE FOOD SYSTEMS

Data Representation: High

1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator
		Working Farm Land (2021)			Urban Agriculture (2025)
		Agricultural Land Reserve (2024)			Farm Matching (2024) New!

The amount of working farmland in the SLRD increased between 2016 and 2021, but decreased over the longer term. Most of the increase is due to an increase in the area of field crops, while the areas of vegetables, berries/fruits, and nuts decreased from 2016. The agricultural land reserve size has remained stable over the past few years, with no approved exclusions during that time. Recent years have seen the demand for community gardening grow despite fewer plots due to the closure of the community gardens in downtown Squamish. Recent farm land matching programs have resulted in 36 ha of land being put into production.

RGS GOAL 11: TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Data Representation: High

1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator
		GHG (2022)			Energy Use (2022)
		GHG – Transport (2022)			Electric Vehicle Charging (2025) New!
		Landfilled Waste (2024)			Building Energy Use (2022) New!

Year-over-year and three-year trends reveal growth for both energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation and building greenhouse gas emissions increased over the same time frame, however, year

over year and longer per capita emissions decreased. Energy use also decreased on a per capita basis. Electrical vehicle charging stations revealed 252 stations in the SLRD, and just over 1,400 registered electric vehicles of 20,477. Landfilled waste decreased slightly, though not enough to indicate a short term trend. Over the longer term landfilled waste has decreased dramatically along with per capita waste.

DETAILED RESULTS

LEGEND AND DETAILED INDICATOR REPORTING PAGE LAYOUT

Page layout

RGS GOAL			
RGS Goal Preamble			
INDICATOR SHORT NAME			
What is being measured?		Why measure this?	
Describes the indicator and context.		Provides a rationale for use of the indicator.	
Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Indicator long name
Icons indicate trends over one period and the rolling three year average.		Source: Sources of data and survey name if applicable.	
		Trend Sensitivity: Indicates the % change trigger for indicating a positive or negative trend for the year to year results.	Time Frame: Indicates the time frame that the indicator data represents. i.e. snapshot in time, or year.
		Availability: Indicates the availability of data.	

Latest Analysis

- Contains basic descriptive analysis of the current results, trends, comparisons, and by SLRD community if possible.

Chart

Results/Performance Legend:

Where enough data exists, results are presented by the 1 year/period change and the 3 year/period rolling average change.

Icon Colour	Meaning
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	= Wrong direction: Trend moved in the wrong direction
	= No trend results: Trend data is not currently available; baseline data available only
-	= Data forthcoming

RGS GOAL 1: FOCUS DEVELOPMENT INTO COMPACT, COMPLETE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The RGS aims to encourage compact, complete sustainable communities as the basis for land use planning throughout the region. ‘compact, complete, sustainable communities’ refers to settlement that takes a long-term view of the quality of life for future generations, promotes the efficient use of land at higher population densities with greater transportation choices, protects agriculture, natural areas and open spaces, and provides an opportunity to live and work in the same community. Focussing settlements into compact, complete, sustainable communities or nodes moves us toward a vision of sustainable, highly liveable communities with accessible services, public spaces, parks, and cultural and recreation amenities.

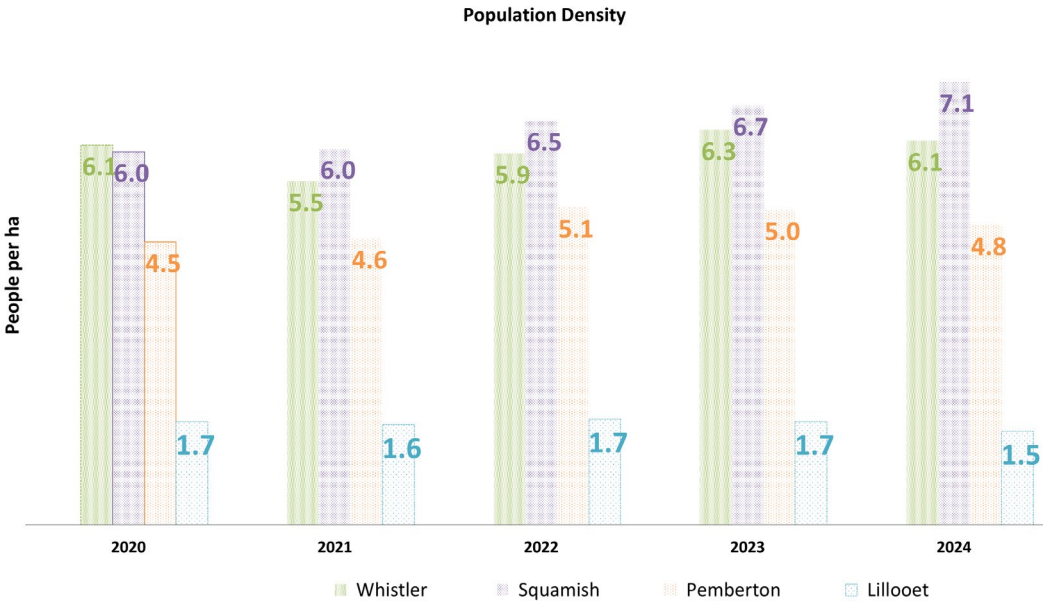
POPULATION DENSITIES

What is being measured? This indicator tracks the number of people per hectare of developable/settlement land in the four incorporated SLRD municipalities.	Why measure this? Maintaining smart development patterns, as supported by the RGS policy, recognizes the need to increase the concentration of SLRD residents in key settlement urban areas and master planned communities.
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Trends	1 period	3 period	Indicator: Number of people per developable hectare
			Source: 2020 – SLRD, Census 2021, BC Statistics.
			Trend Sensitivity: 3% +or- Time Frame: Snapshot Availability: Variable

Latest Analysis

- In 2024, residential density in the incorporated SLRD settlement areas was as follows: Whistler 6.1- people/ha, Squamish – 7.1 people/ha, Pemberton – 4.8 people/ha, Lillooet – 1.5 person/ha.
- The general trend for the majority of the incorporated SLRD settlement areas is increasing residential density based on population growth and static settlement areas.
- There were no new settlement areas from 2016-2024 and the non-settlement remained the same size.



RGS GOAL 1: FOCUS DEVELOPMENT INTO COMPACT, COMPLETE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

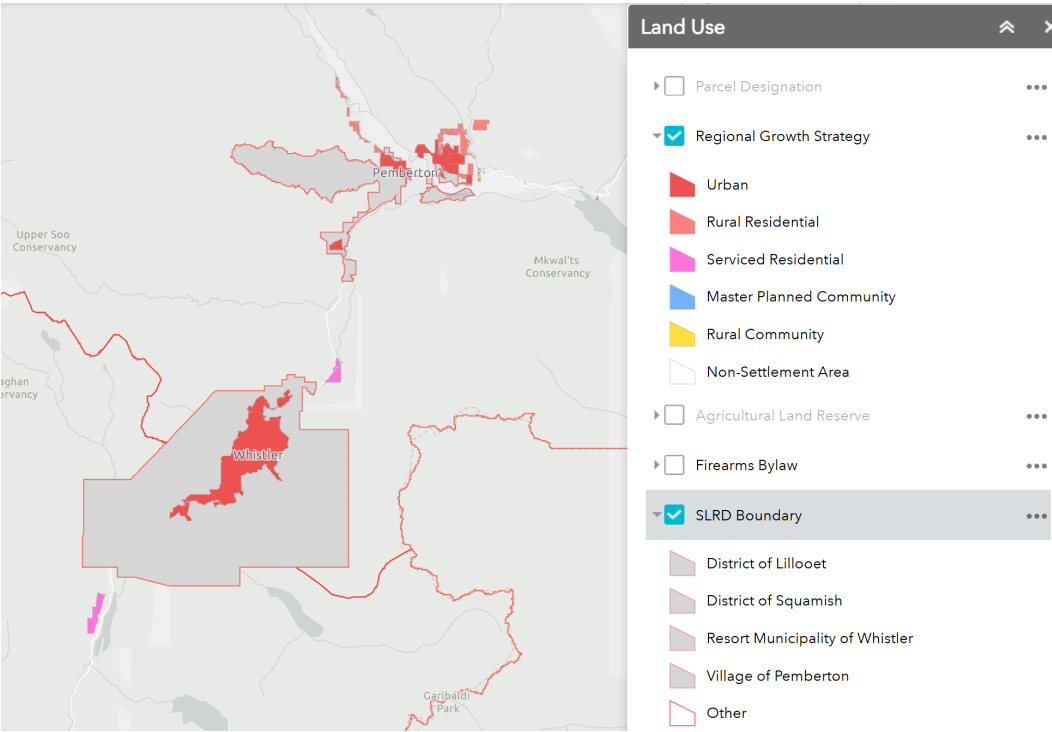
NON-SETTLEMENT AREAS

What is being measured? This indicator tracks the non-settlement land base in the SLRD. Settlement Area means an area of predominantly residential use at varying densities. Non-settlement represents the area outside of settled areas.	Why measure this? Maintaining smart development patterns, as supported by the RGS policy, recognizes the need to focus development in existing settlement areas as opposed to expanding settlement areas into natural areas, agricultural land or resource lands where conflict may result in diminished outcomes for communities.
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Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Ha of non-settlement lands		
	No change	No change	Source: SLRD		
			Trend Sensitivity: 1% +or-	Time Frame: Snapshot	Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- The total amount of non-settlement areas since the adoption of the RGS has not changed.
- Mapped settlement areas are indicated in red, orange, pink, blue and yellow depending on the type.
- The image to the right provides an example of settlement and non-settlement areas.



RGS GOAL 2: IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION LINKAGES AND OPTIONS

The RGS intends to promote safe and efficient transportation choices across the region and to support an improved regional transportation system that sustains compact, liveable communities, economic vibrancy and a healthy environment.

HIGHWAY SAFETY

What is being measured?

This indicator reports on road crash statistics for Hwy 99 between Furry Creek and Pavilion; Hwy 12 between Hwy 99 junction (Duffy Lake Rd), Lillooet and Fountain Creek Rd, Lytton. Total crashes includes both where there is only property damage and where an injury or fatality occurred. Fatalities includes road users who died within 30 days after the date when the injury was sustained. * Results from 2016 onward are not exactly comparable to earlier data due to minor methodological factors.

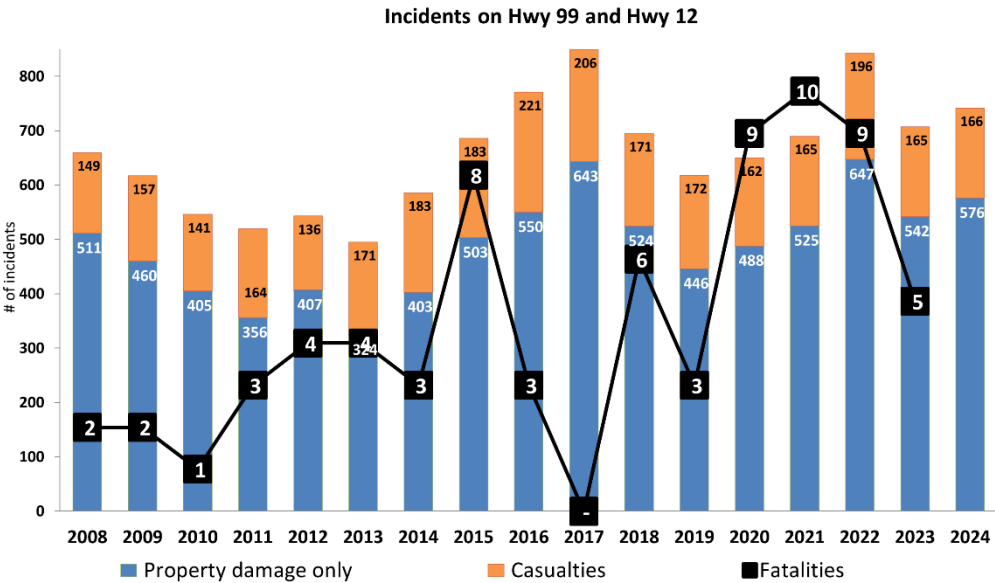
Why measure this?

Safe transportation routes are important in maintaining the flow of people and goods between and beyond SLRD communities. Highway safety measures allow for annual tracking of both minor and major incidents in the region.

Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Fatalities on major SLRD highways
			Source: 2008-2015: ICBC custom report. 2016-2024: ICBC public data
			Trend Sensitivity: 1% +or- Time Frame: Year Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- In 2024, there were 742 total crash incidents on Highway 99 and Highway 12 combined, with the large majority on Highway 99.
- During that same year, 166 of the incidents resulted in human injuries (casualty).
- Fatalities (2020-2023) is based on fatalities in SLRD communities (not specific highway segments) and it decreased on the three-year average.
- Of the 36 fatalities between 2019-2023, 10 occurred in November and 6 in July. Two thirds of the victims were drivers, three were pedestrians. *2024 fatality data was not available.



RGS GOAL 2: IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION LINKAGES AND OPTIONS

TRANSIT COMMUTES

What is being measured?

This indicator tracks the percentage of SLRD employed residents commuting to work via transit/carpool or active transport modes, with a special emphasis on Squamish residents as a proxy for the performance of regional transportation systems.

Why measure this?

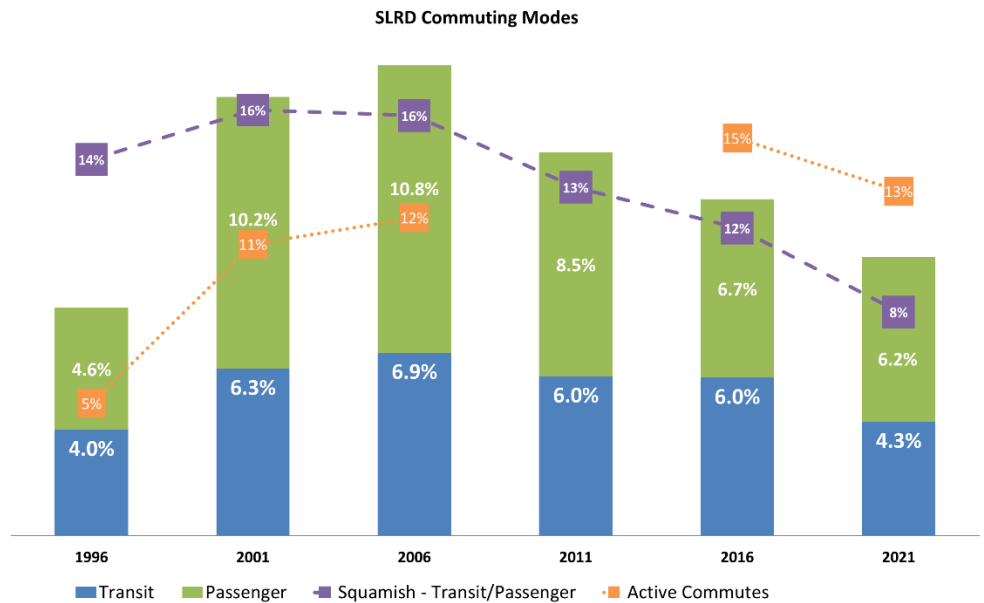
Improving transportation linkages amongst communities includes an emphasis on increased transit like ridership in the region. The linkages best poised for improvements include those in and north and south of Squamish where there is currently very little public transit, yet up to 1,800 regional commuters from the major population centres. Active transport modes reflects healthier commuting and proximity of housing to work.

Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Percentage of SLRD residents commuting to work via transit/carpool		
	-2% points	-2% points	Source: Statistics Canada, Census, National Household Survey		
			Trend Sensitivity: 1% +or-	Time Frame: Snapshot	Availability: Every 5 years

Latest Analysis

- In 2021, 4.3% of SLRD commuters traveled to work via transit and 6.2% were carpool passengers.
- In 2021, 13% of SLRD commuters traveled to work using active transport modes – walking/biking.
- Transit results decreased by 1.7 % points from the 2016 Census, and continue the downward trend. Active modes decreased from a recent high of 15%.
- Squamish commuters taking transit/as passengers in a carpool decreased annually and over the three-period average to 2021.

- * public transit service existed between Whistler and Squamish in 2011. Shared transport decreased across BC after 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



RGS GOAL 2: IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION LINKAGES AND OPTIONS

VEHICLE NUMBER

What is being measured?

Vehicles in British Columbia are required to carry insurance when in use. This indicator reports on the total number of vehicles registered with insurance in the SLRD. *New method data is from the ICBC online data portal tool. The method is different enough from early reports that it cannot be compared.

Why measure this?

Residents require transportation to, from, around and within the SLRD. While convenient at times, of all transportation options vehicles, especially older and larger models, tend to be a more resource intensive and costly mode of transportation than other options such as walking, biking, or transit. A reduced level of vehicles in the SLRD may also help to track the success of the transportation systems – both regional and municipal.

Trends 1 year

+3.1%

3-year avg.

+2.2%

Indicator: Number of registered vehicles

Source: ICBC

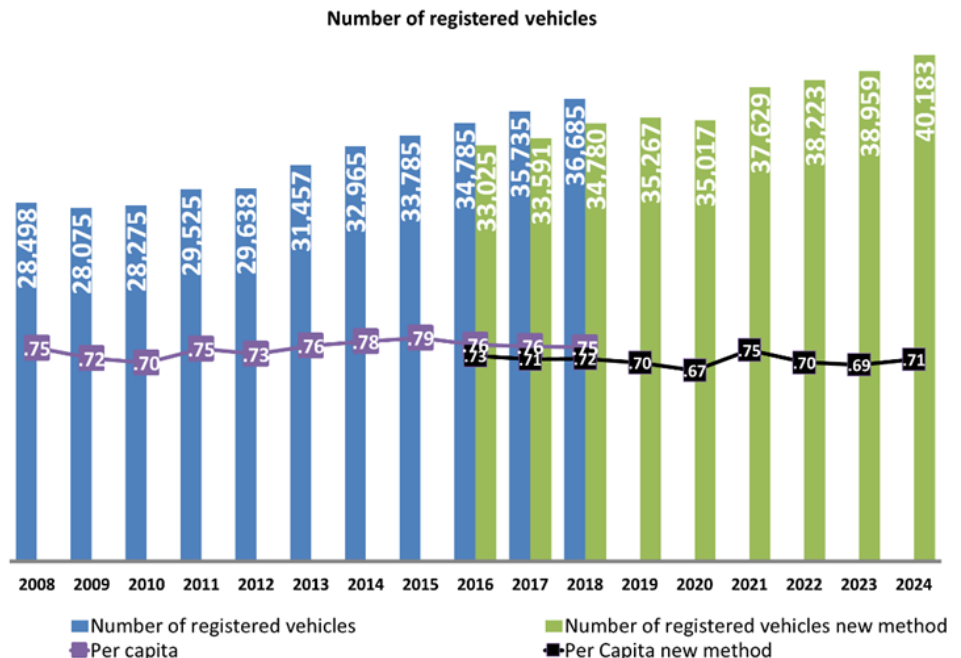
Trend Sensitivity: 1% + or -

Time Frame: Snapshot

Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- In 2024, there were ICBC insurance policies for 40,138 vehicles based in SLRD communities. Just under 4% of the vehicles are pure electric vehicles, an increase from 1% in 2020.
- The number of registered vehicles increased 3.1% year over year and on the three-year average by 2.2%
- The per capita number of vehicles increased slightly year over year.
- Lillooet has the greatest number of vehicles per capita at 1.6/person and Whistler has the lowest number of vehicles per capita at .7/person.



RGS GOAL 2: IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION LINKAGES AND OPTIONS

VISITOR TRANSPORTATION

What is being measured?

This indicator tracks the percentage of visitors travelling between Vancouver and Whistler by bus or rideshare.

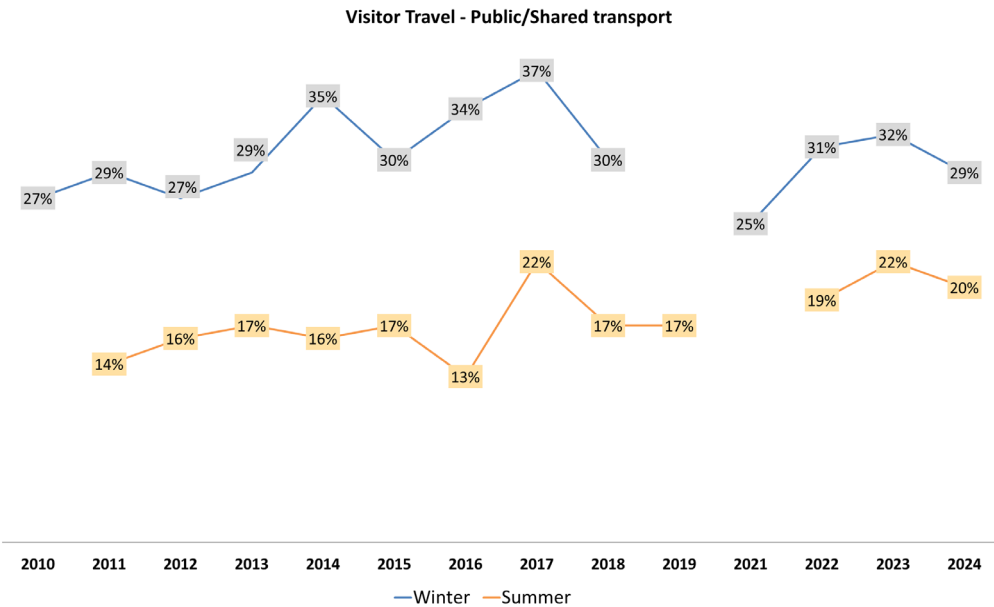
Why measure this?

Tourism is an important part of the overall SLRD economy and visitors from the region or further abroad make transportation choices for travelling along Highway 99 which may impact air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and traffic.

Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Percentage of visitors travelling to Whistler by bus		
	-2% points	0%	Source: Tourism Whistler		
			Trend Sensitivity: 3% + or -	Time Frame: Season	Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- In 2024, 29% of winter visitors and 20% of summer visitors to Whistler traveled by shared transport from Vancouver.
- The percentage traveling by shared transport decreased from 2023 for both summer and winter.
- Winter transport fell slightly below average and summer transport was slightly above average.
- Regional visitors tend to avoid shared transport with only 8% using shared transport compared to destination visitors at 47% in Winter 2024/25.



RGS GOAL 3: GENERATE A RANGE OF QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

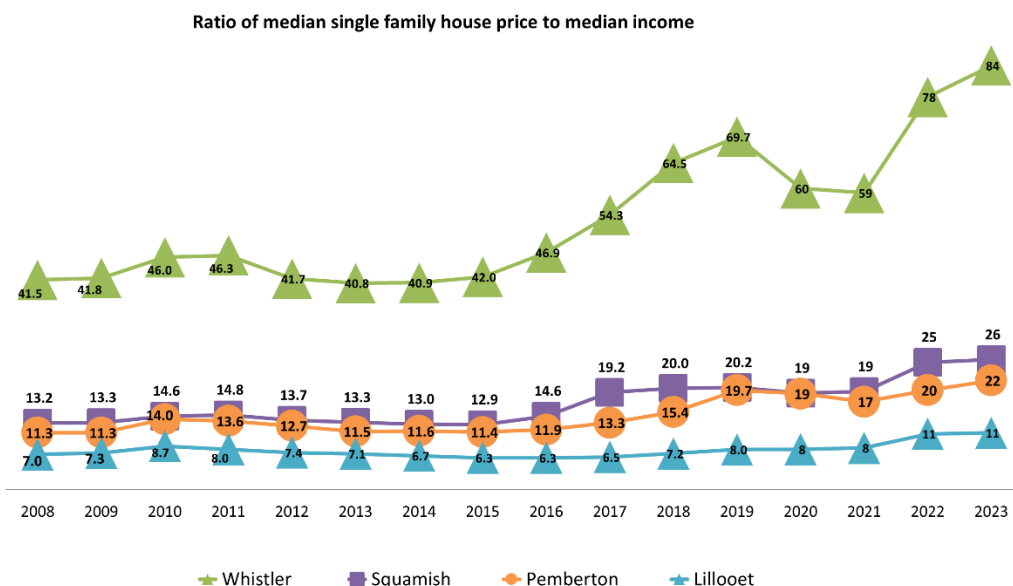
The RGS aspires to improve the provision of quality affordable housing and support a range of housing types in the region. Affordable housing means rental or ownership housing priced so that monthly payments are less than 30% of gross household income. In the south, especially, affordability is an issue even with above-average household incomes. Also, with increasing numbers of seniors in the region, it will be crucial to create a variety of housing options that meet these particular needs. Affordable housing is recognized as a regional issue, needing cooperative approaches that build upon a common strategy to support a range of quality affordable housing across the region.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

What is being measured? This indicator tracks the changes in relationship between median income levels and the averaged assessed value of single family homes. An increasing number implies a rising cost of housing relative to median incomes. Figures are not available for the SLRD as a whole.			Why measure this? Housing costs compared to incomes are a consideration in determining whether people choose to live in the region and the financial stress they may experience from housing costs. It is one standard measure of housing affordability.		
Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Ratio of median single family house price to median income		
			Source: BC Stats, Statistics Canada		
			Trend Sensitivity: 1% +or-	Time Frame: Snapshot/Year	Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- After a few years of increasing affordability in 2020 and 2021, all member municipalities experienced major decreases in affordability.
- Whistler's housing was most out of reach for local income earners as of 2023. Whistler's average priced home of \$3.6 million is 84 times the Whistler median income, up from 60-times in 2020.
- Lillooet homes are still the most affordable at only 12 times the local median income at \$393,649.
- Squamish is slightly less affordable than Pemberton at 26- and 22-times local incomes respectively in 2023.



RGS GOAL 3: GENERATE A RANGE OF QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HOUSING DIVERSITY

What is being measured?

This indicator portrays the proportion of duplex, multi-family, townhouse and moveable dwellings amongst all dwellings. Analysis also provides commentary on any new development areas added to or outside the current settlement areas during the current reporting year.

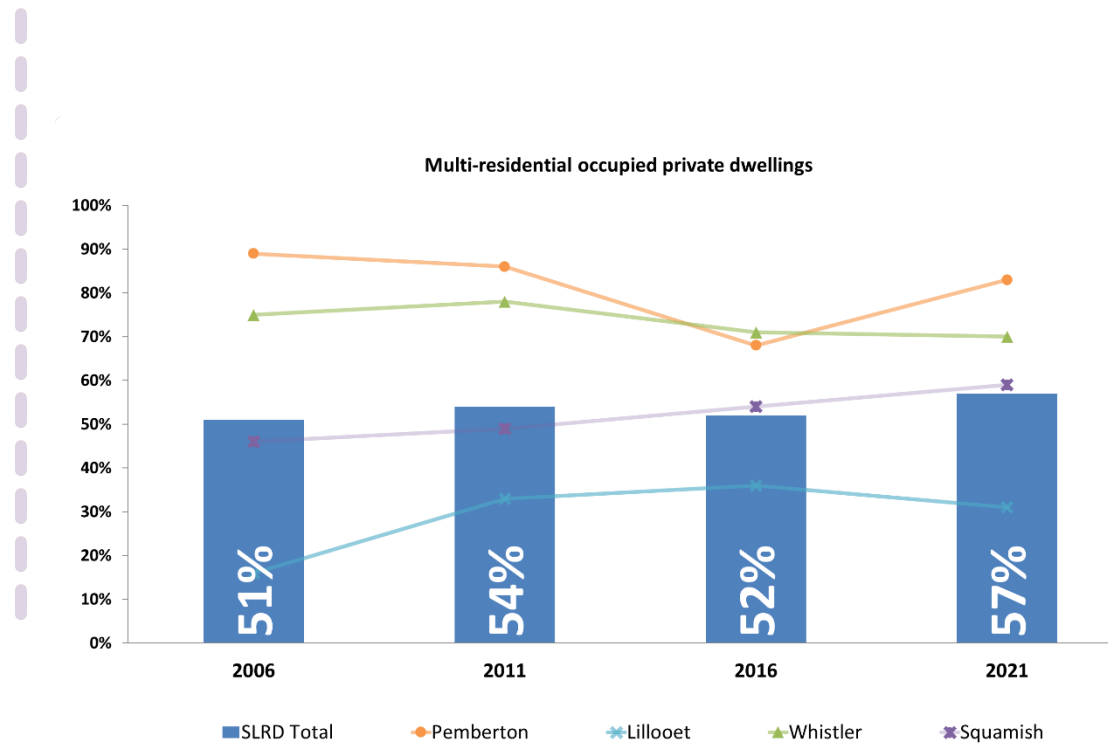
Why measure this?

With settlement areas designated as the prime locations for development, it will be important to provide both a range of housing types and increased density in order to support more affordable housing for various income levels and successful growth. Despite that the size of a residential dwelling is often correlated with the cost of that dwelling, housing prices may still be out of range for residents.

Trends	1 period	3 period	Indicator: Proportion of multi-residential occupied private dwellings		
	+5% points	+2% points	Source: Statistics Canada, Census		
			Trend Sensitivity: 1% +or-	Time Frame: Snapshot	Availability: Every five years

Latest Analysis

- In 2021, 57% of the dwellings occupied by full time residents were considered multi-residential, reflecting a gradual increase of this type of dwelling over time.
- The results increased by 5% points from the last census results in 2016.
- Pemberton boasts the largest percentage of lived in multi-residential housing at 83% followed by Whistler at 70%, Squamish 59%, Lillooet 30%.
- Both Squamish and Pemberton increased from 2016. Lillooet and Whistler results both declined from 2016 levels/
- Whistler has experienced declines since 2011.



RGS GOAL 3: GENERATE A RANGE OF QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

NON-MARKET HOUSING

What is being measured?

This indicator portrays the number of perpetual non-market dwelling units built within the SLRD. Non-market means housing which has some type of control on it to help maintain more affordable (non-market) prices over time. The control could be based on income/wealth levels, local resident rules, minimum employment rules, price caps or a combination. Perpetual means that there is a contract connected to the property title or lease agreement to keep the non-market rule in place over time.

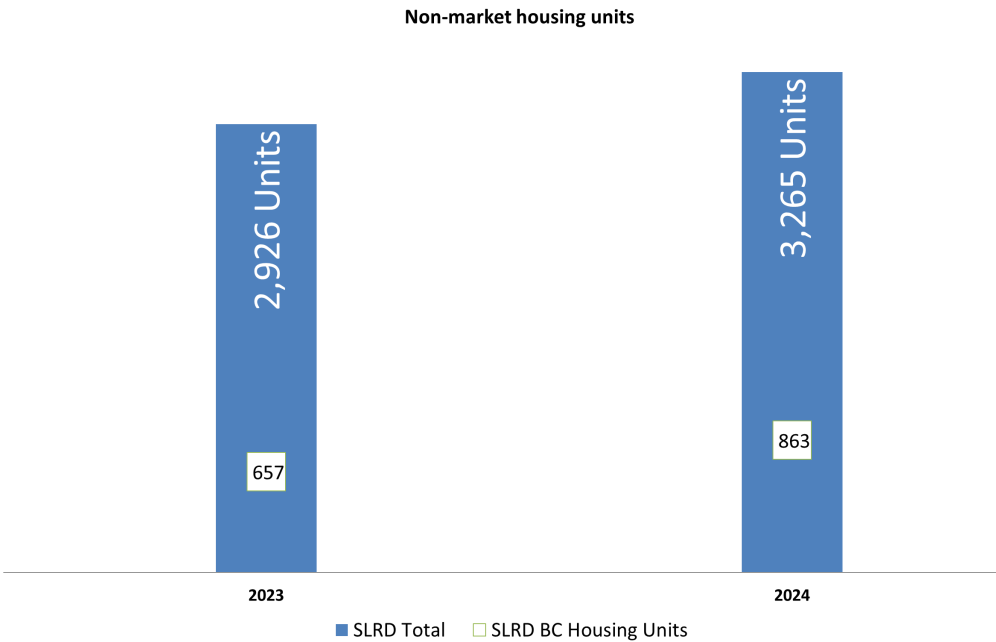
Why measure this?

Given the significant gap between regional incomes and housing prices, especially in Whistler, governments in the region began to develop non-market housing. Non-market housing has proven to be one of the more effective strategies for housing residents in inflated housing markets.

Trends	1 period	3 period	Indicator: Number of perpetual non-market dwelling units		
	11.5%		Source: Whistler Housing Authority, BC Housing and Squamish Community Housing Society		
			Trend Sensitivity: 1% +or-	Time Frame: Snapshot	Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- In 2024, there were 3,265 non-market housing units in the SLRD.
- The results increased by 11.5% points from 2023, mostly due to additional BC Housing Units, units with the Whistler Housing Authority and Squamish.
- Whistler has the most significant inventory of non-market housing at 2,397 as of the end of 2024.
- As of 2025, more housing units are in development or being planned in Pemberton, Whistler and Squamish.



RGS GOAL 4: ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

The RGS supports the development of a healthy economy as a vital component of a liveable, sustainable region. Fostering economic development throughout the regional district, where social, economic, environmental, and community values are addressed in a balanced and sustainable manner, is of particular importance. Sustainable economic development will contribute to the liveability of the region, helping to sustain the quality of life we all desire and will help reverse the economic decline in the northern part of the region. Throughout the region, economic development efforts need to be proactive and collaborative, identifying economic partnerships and opportunities and implementing workable strategies to achieve them.

DIVERSITY OF INDUSTRY

What is being measured?

This indicator provides a labour force concentration in industries that bring in outside money to the region. For example, tourism, primary industry such as logging, and building homes for part-time residents all bring in money from outside the region and into the SLRD. A decreasing trend means more diversity amongst these export like industries.

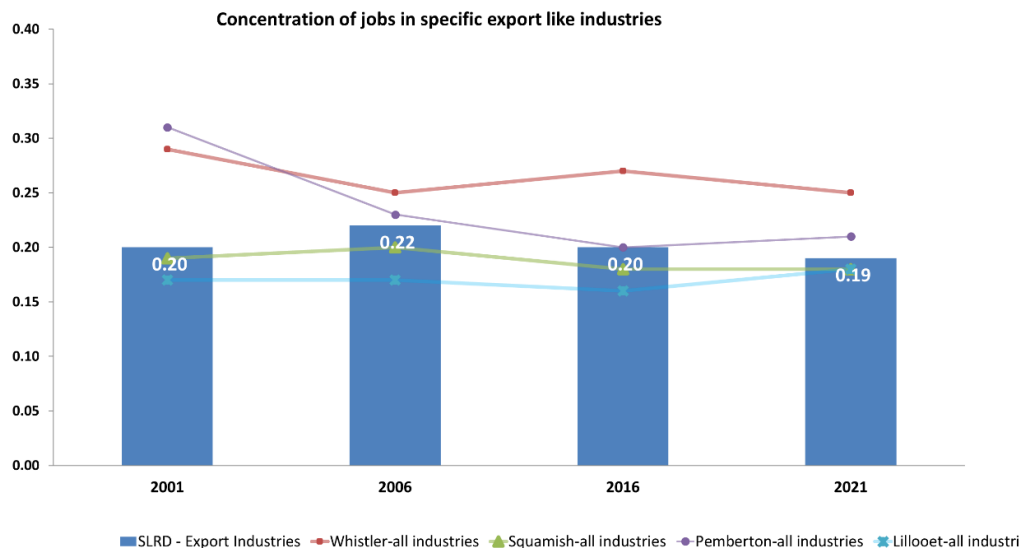
Why measure this?

A diverse export industry based economy is one key strategy to build a more resilient economy that over time is less impacted by negative events targeting one sector of the economy.

Trends	1 period	3-period	Indicator: Concentration of jobs in specific export like industries		
	-5%	-1.6%	Source: BC Stats		
			Trend Sensitivity: 3% + or -	Time Frame: Snapshot	Availability: Every 5 years

Latest Analysis

- In 2021, the concentration of export industries in the SLRD was .19.
- The 2021 results were 5% or .01 points lower than in 2016, indicating slightly more diversity in export industries.
- Amongst the larger SLRD communities, the results based on all industries varied somewhat with Whistler at .25 and Squamish and Lillooet at .18. Pemberton's concentration was .21 for all industries.



RGS GOAL 4: ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

MEDIAN INCOME

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the median individual income as tracked by annual tax returns.

Why measure this?

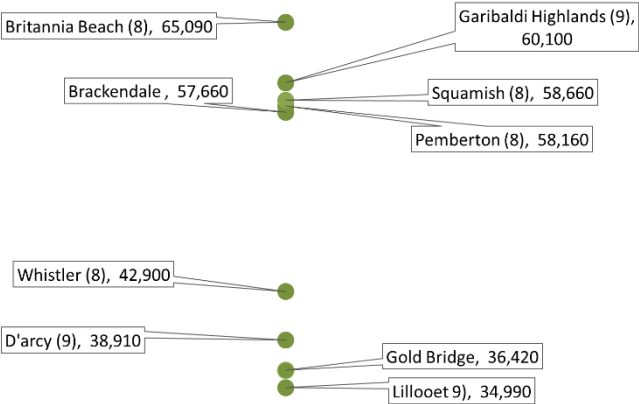
Median individual income can help reflect a community's overall economic wellbeing. Maintaining purchasing power by having incomes keep up with inflation, is one measure contributing to individual quality of life. Median income is a commonly measured indicator and is readily comparable across communities.

Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Median income of SLRD based tax filers		
	4%	4%	Source: BC Stats, Neighbourhood Tax file Income Data, BC Consumer Price Index		
			Trend Sensitivity: 1% + or -	Time Frame: Year	Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- In 2023 the median income of SLRD based taxfilers was \$50,100, 4% greater than 2022.
- All of the median incomes for SLRD communities grew faster than recent inflation from 2006 to 2023. *
- Incomes for SLRD member municipalities in 2023 show significant variation between the southern communities and the northern communities, with the exception of Pemberton.

Median taxfiler income - 2023



*Whistler, Squamish, Lillooet and Pemberton use 2006 as a base year whereas the other communities use 2012 (due to data availability)

RGS GOAL 4: ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

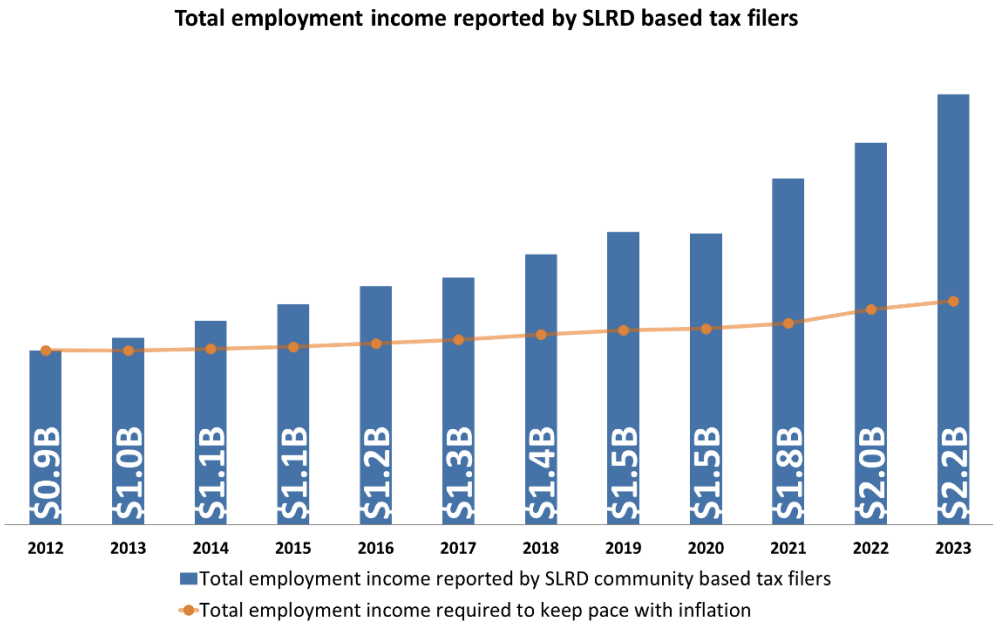
EMPLOYMENT INCOME

What is being measured? Total tax filer employment income measures the sum of reported employment incomes from all tax filers in nine key SLRD communities and is meant as a proxy for the overall size of the economy.	Why measure this? Total tax filer employment income, along with other economic indicators, helps to provide a sense of the SLRD's economic health and overall size of the economy.
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Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Total employment income reported by SLRD based tax filers
	+13%	+13.6%	Source: BC Stats, Neighbourhood Tax file Income Data
			Trend Sensitivity: 1% + or - Time Frame: Year Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- In 2023, the total reported tax filer employment income for the SLRD area was \$2.2 billion.
- Results increased 13% year over year and continued to outpace inflation.
- Squamish area residents account for 56% of the total employment income in the SLRD area, followed by Whistler at 29%, Pemberton at 9% and Lillooet at 4%.



RGS GOAL 4: ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

ROOM REVENUE

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the total room revenue compiled by all the accommodation providers in the region. It may omit some smaller operators. Estimates are made for years where data is lacking for areas outside of Squamish and Whistler.

Why measure this?

As there is no region wide visitor survey, this indicator is a proxy for on-going visitor satisfaction with the region. It also helps to somewhat track the economic performance of the tourism industry.

Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Room Revenue for the SLRD tourism communities		
	-1%	25%	Source: BC Stats		
			Trend Sensitivity: 1% + or -	Time Frame: Year	Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- In 2024, room revenue for properties in the SLRD totaled \$594 million, representing a significant recovery from 2020 and 2021.
- Results decreased year over year by 1%, yet increased 25% over the three-year average.
- Whistler continues to be the main room revenue generator in the SLRD at \$535 million in 2020.

Room revenue in the SLRD



RGS GOAL 4: ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

POPULATION

What is being measured?

Total population in the SLRD and a variety of population ratios help to provide a sense of the sustainability of the region's population base.

*The dependency ratio accounts for the number of generally non-working population for every 100 of the generally working population (15-64 years). The rejuvenation ratio accounts for the number of seniors for every 100 children/youth (0-14 years). The substitution ratio provides a sense of a community's current economic opportunity and workforce attraction as it follows the number of people at the age of generally entering the workforce for every 100 generally leaving the workforce.

Why measure this?

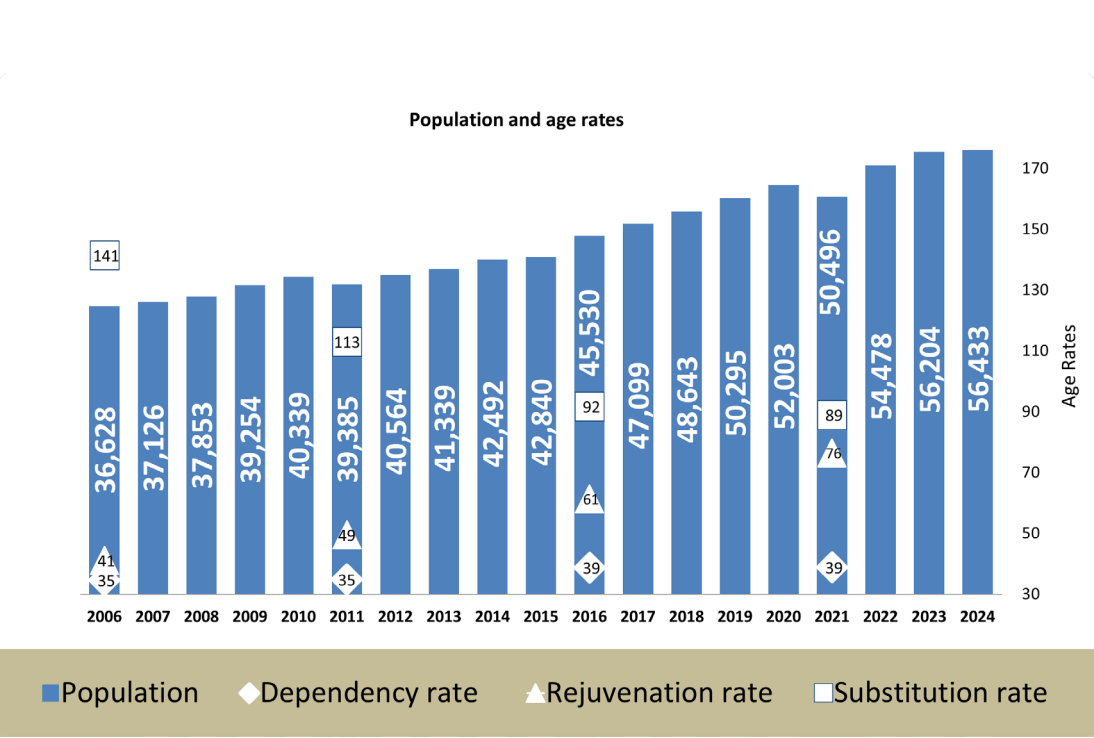
Population growth reflects optimism and attractiveness of the living and working conditions in the region. Population size also influences demand for goods and services while supporting greater common infrastructure. Measuring diversity helps to measure whether communities are attractive to a range of age groups and improves our understanding of the economic implications of age demographics.

Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Population and Sustainable Population Ratios		
	0%	4%	Source: BC Statistics Estimates and Statistics Canada, Census Age Counts.		
			Trend Sensitivity: 1% + or -	Time Frame: Snapshot	Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

*Census year figures don't always match BC Statistics Estimates for those years.

- In 2024, BC Stats estimated the SLRD population at 56,433. After a few years of about 3% growth per year, results were virtually the same in 2024 as 2023.
- Dependency rate: In 2021, there were 39 non-working population members for every 100 working. The rate varies from a low in Whistler of 21/100 to a high of 72/100 in Lillooet.
- Rejuvenation rate: In 2021, there were 76 seniors for every 100 children/youth, increasing from 61 in 2016, reflecting a relatively young, but increasingly aging demographic. This trend is most evident in Lillooet, where there are 276 seniors for every 100 children/youth.



- Substitution rate: There were about 89 people entering the workforce (aged 15-24) for every 100 leaving it (aged 50-65) decreasing from 2016 and 2021, albeit slower than previous periods. It is the first time that the substitution rate was less than 100. This result varies widely from 42 in Lillooet to 116 in Whistler.

RGS GOAL 4: ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

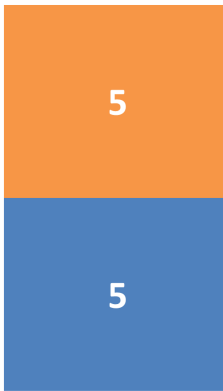
CONNECTIVITY

What is being measured? Number of geographic areas benefiting from SLRD area connectivity projects, which have been allocated and funded by the Connecting British Columbia and Connecting Communities BC programs.			Why measure this? Availability of communications and connectivity technology can enable a higher quality of life and greater economic competitiveness and resiliency. Citizens in rural and remote areas, including First Nations, require the same access to technology as their more urban counterparts if they are to access information and services to improve their health, education, economic opportunities and public safety.		
Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Number of geographic areas benefiting from SLRD area connectivity projects		
			Source: Industry Canada Broadband Maps, BC Funded Connectivity Projects		
			Trend Sensitivity: N/A	Time Frame: Snapshot	Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- It is estimated that 96 per cent of households in B.C. have access to target speeds of 50/10 Mbps.
- Only 74 per cent of households in rural B.C. and 82.9 per cent of households on First Nation reserves and Modern Treaty Nation lands have access to the recommended internet speeds.
- Projects in the SLRD include Whistler to Cache Creek (complete), Indigenous Gap 2 and Lytton-Boston Bar Fibre Backbone.
- Some level of satellite access is available for virtually 100% of the population.
- Search [here](#) for the connectivity in your region and projects [here](#).

Number of areas benefiting from connectivity projects



RGS GOAL 5: PROTECT NATURAL ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING

The RGS seeks to protect ecosystem functioning and to conserve and steward its natural assets. These assets include both renewable and non-renewable resources, including living organisms, water, air, land, vegetation and the habitats and ecological processes that support living organisms. The quality of life in the region is directly dependent on maintaining our natural assets. Population growth in the SLRD is based in large part on the quality of life offered by the region, and with future opportunities in the tourism industry dependent on the natural environment, the RGS intends to protect environmental quality and retain its spectacular natural assets.

WATER USE

What is being measured?

Water use measures the total of water extracted and then delivered from municipal and SLRD water systems to end users in the SLRD. Water uses that are not intended to be captured within this measure include private purpose uses, such as for regional golf courses and well water. Some smaller SLRD managed water systems (i.e Bralorne) do not have metered data available.

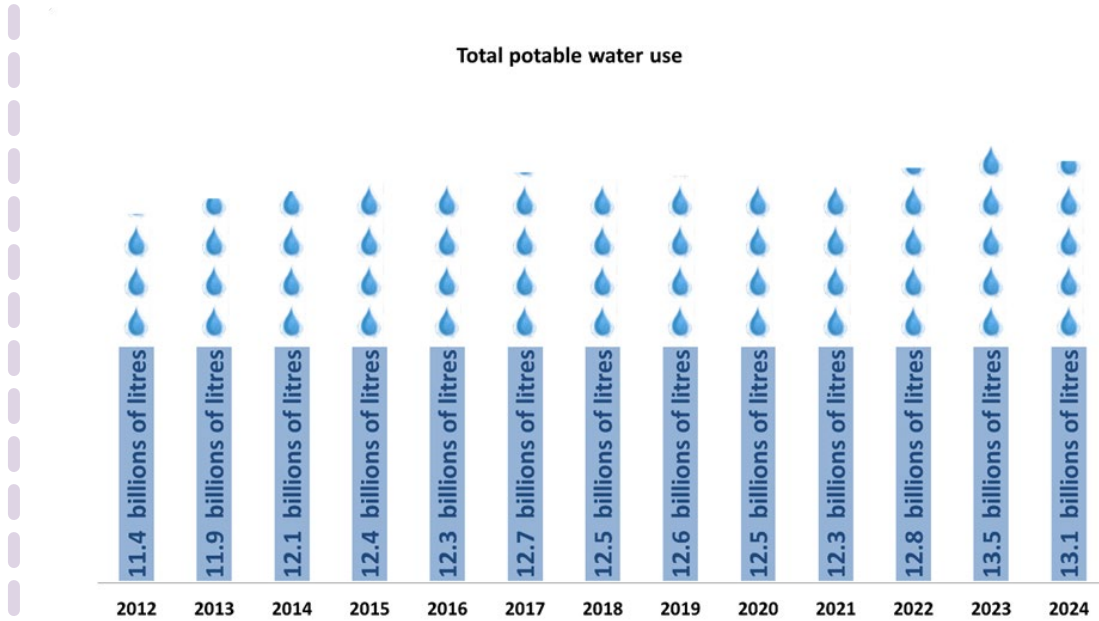
Why measure this?

Water is one of the region's most important assets, supporting natural areas, wildlife, residents and visitors. Using water resources wisely is fundamental to an environmentally responsible approach to living. This issue relates not only to the availability of the resource but also to an infrastructure priority that can translate into millions of dollars spent or saved.

Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Total potable and non-potable water flows		
	-3%	+2%	Source: SLRD		
			Trend Sensitivity: 1% +or- Time Frame: Year Availability: Annually		

Latest Analysis

- In 2024, the municipal and SLRD managed drinking water systems treated and sent out 13.1 billion litres of water, which is 3% lower than in 2023.
- Per capita per day water use continued the trend of more efficient use, dropping from 663 litres in 2023 to 636 litres in 2024. The high was in 2013 at 789 litres.
- Whistler’s municipal water represents 44% of the water use, with Squamish at 36%, Lillooet* at 12%, Pemberton at 5% and SLRD electoral areas (with meters) at 4%.



*Estimated from earlier data

RGS GOAL 5: PROTECT NATURAL ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING

SPECIES AT RISK

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the number of provincial species found in the SLRD that are listed as red or blue on the provincial species ranking list. A "Red Listed Species" is an indigenous species or subspecies that is extirpated (no longer exists in BC), endangered or threatened. A "Blue Listed Species" is an indigenous species or subspecies that is of special concern or vulnerable to becoming threatened or endangered. *The BC Conservation Data Centre updated their methodology to be more inclusive and data in 2020 is not comparable to earlier years. Refinements are ongoing and will need to be considered annually.

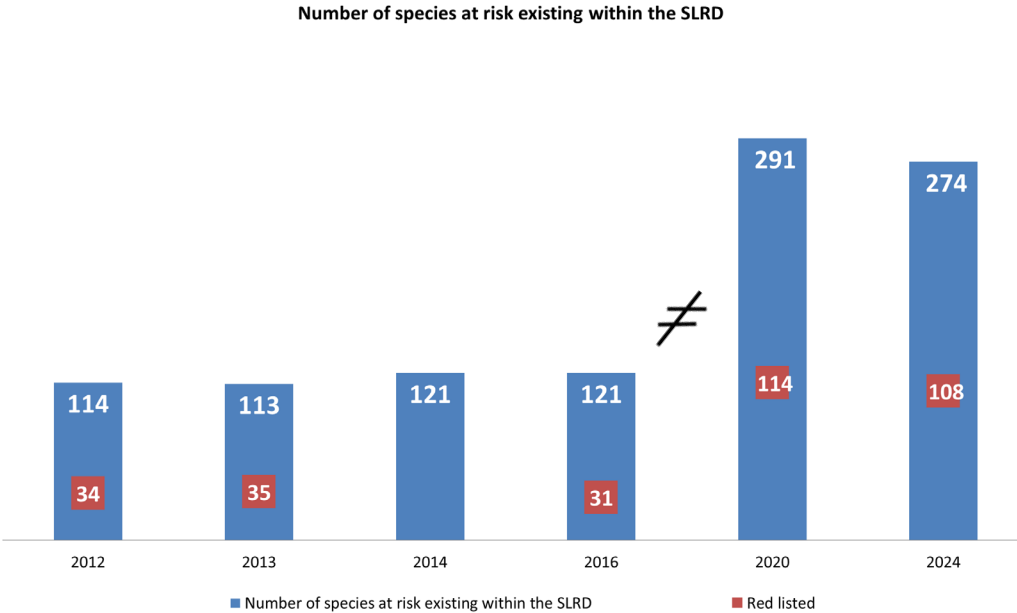
Why measure this?

This indicator highlights the importance of biodiversity in the region. A key factor in protecting biodiversity is habitat; therefore, this indicator reflects the importance of maintaining, restoring and protecting habitat and critical areas within the SLRD.

Trends	1 period	3 period avg.	Indicator: Number of species at risk within the SLRD		
			Source: BC Ministry of the Environment		
			Trend Sensitivity: N/A	Time Frame: Snapshot	Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- There are 274 species at risk found in the SLRD as of the end of 2024.
- Of the 274 species, 108 are considered “red listed” and 166 are considered “blue listed”
- Changes from period to period may result from reclassification, more accurate naming and possibly other data base enhancements.
- Results are more conservative than in the past due to enhancements. Accurate species reviews in the coming years may reduce these results.



RGS GOAL 5: PROTECT NATURAL ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY

What is being measured?

The provincial Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) Risk for Whistler and Squamish measures the number of days that the provincial Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) Risk for Whistler/Squamish is worse than "low". Whistler and Squamish are the only SLRD communities with on-going air quality monitoring.

Why measure this?

Good air quality is critical to the health of regional residents as well as the success of the region as a tourism destination.

Trends 1 year

3-year avg.

Indicator: Number of hours where the AQHI for Whistler and Squamish is worse than low

Source: BC Ministry of Environment

Trend Sensitivity: 1% +or-

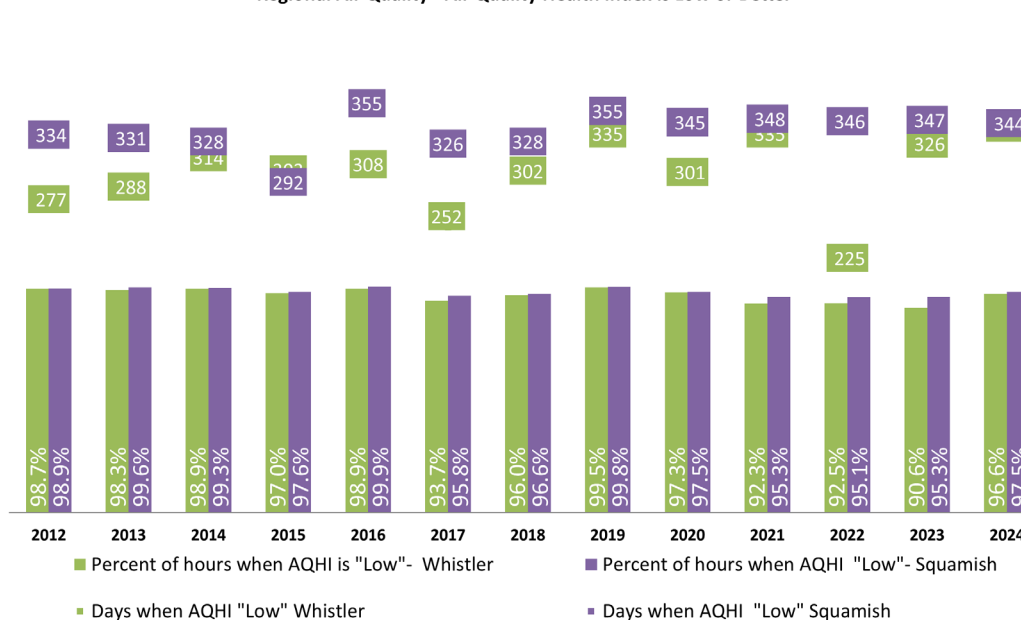
Time Frame: Year

Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- Overall, regional air quality is relatively good, but pressures from mobile, area and point source emissions – both existing and proposed – could result in poor or deteriorating air quality.¹
- Smoke is likely the most common factor driving changes in this indicator from year over year.
- [Air Quality Measurement](#)

Regional Air Quality - Air Quality Health Index is Low or Better



¹ Air Quality Management Plan Implementation Framework Report, 2015 – Sea to Sky Clean Air Society

RGS GOAL 6: ENCOURAGE THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS

The RGS advocates the sustainable use and appropriate management of parks and natural areas, to protect wildlife habitat and corridors and to maintain open space for active and passive recreation. The RGS promotes the sustainable use and management of parks and natural areas on a regional level in context with the Provincial Land and Resource Management Plans. Promoting the sustainable use and management of parks and natural areas on a regional level will contribute to their management by other levels of government. Defining areas for new local and regional parks and green space will create a legacy for future generations and ensure a diversity of recreational opportunities.

RECREATION FACILITIES

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the area of local government publically managed (or co-managed) indoor and outdoor recreation facilities within the SLRD. It includes playing fields, gymnasiums, pools, and ice surfaces.

Why measure this?

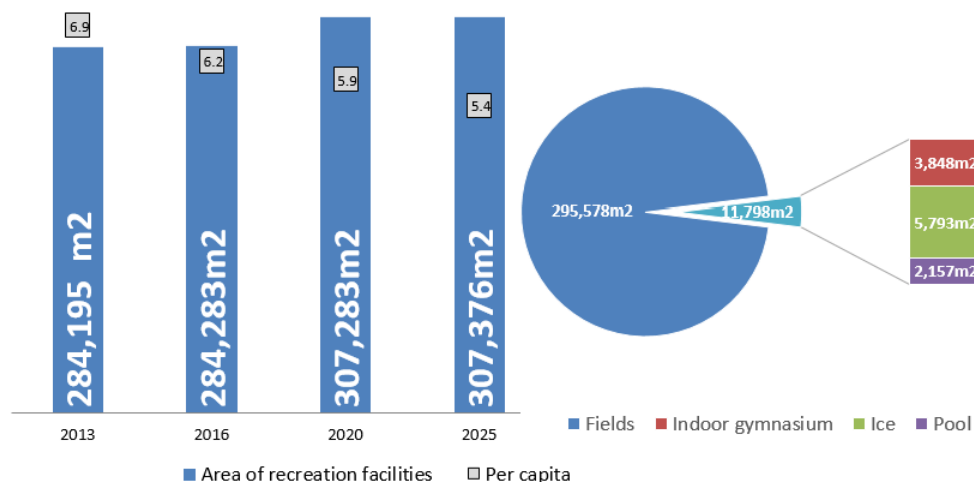
Recreation and healthy lifestyles are important values for residents in the SLRD. Managed recreation facilities, parks and fields play an important role in facilitating recreation activities, social gathering, team activities and celebrations.

Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Recreation facilities and parks/fields area		
			Source: SLRD Member Municipalities, School Boards		
			Trend Sensitivity: 3% +or-	Time Frame: Snapshot	Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- In 2025 there was approximately 307,000 m² of managed recreation facilities in SLRD member municipalities. Per capita space has decreased as the population in the SLRD has increased.
- As one would expect, fields make up the most significant portion of playing surfaces.
- Increases to 2020 include additional fields in Pemberton and increased gym space at Whistler Meadow Park, 2025 increases included gym space in Pemberton.
- Squamish has the most significant total area mostly due to the playing fields.

Area of recreation facilities



RGS GOAL 6: ENCOURAGE THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS

COMMERCIAL RECREATION OPERATORS

What is being measured?

This indicator aims to represent the commercial recreation activity in the SLRD by accounting for the number of operators in the region. The results only include operators in the Sea to Sky Forest District.

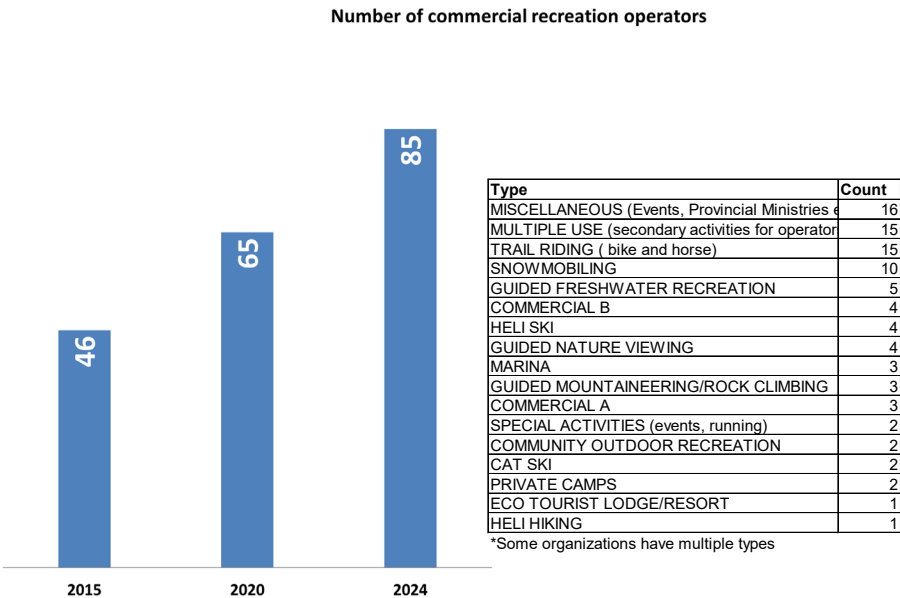
Why measure this?

Commercial recreation is a large part of the regional economy and reflects the quality of outdoor experiences available in the region. Ideally, commercial participant numbers and non-commercial participation would be included, and as data sources develop, this could be explored.

Trends	Since 2015	3-year avg.	Indicator: Number of commercial recreation operators		
			Source: Forest Lands and Natural Resources, Sea to Sky Forest District		
			Trend Sensitivity: 1% +or-	Time Frame: Snapshot	Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- In 2025 there were 85 unique commercial recreation organizations operating in the SLRD region (Sea to Sky Forest District). This does not include the two alpine skiing tenure holders.
- The number of organizations operating in the area increased from 65 to 85. Much of the increase is related to mountain bike operators.
- The total tenure area for the organizations is 1.5 million hectares and includes any parcel within or connected to the Sea to Sky Forest District. Overlapping tenures inflates land coverage results somewhat and the total area decreased from 1.9 million hectares in 2021, mostly due to less area for heli-skiing and cat-skiing.



RGS GOAL 7: CREATE HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

The RGS supports the creation of healthy, secure, safe and accessible communities. A healthy community approach is one that is continually improving the physical and social environments that people live, learn, work and play in. They are mutually supportive and allow individuals the opportunity to live in a healthy, safe and meaningful society.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

What is being measured?

This indicator reports the proportion of Sea to Sky SD#48 and Gold Trail-West SD#74 kindergarten children considered provincially vulnerable based on the Early Childhood Development Instrument (EDI). The EDI, administered in BC school districts, assesses children’s school readiness through measuring the following five scales: physical health and wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive development; communication and general knowledge. ‘Vulnerable’ refers to a child scoring within the bottom 10% of the population.

Why measure this?

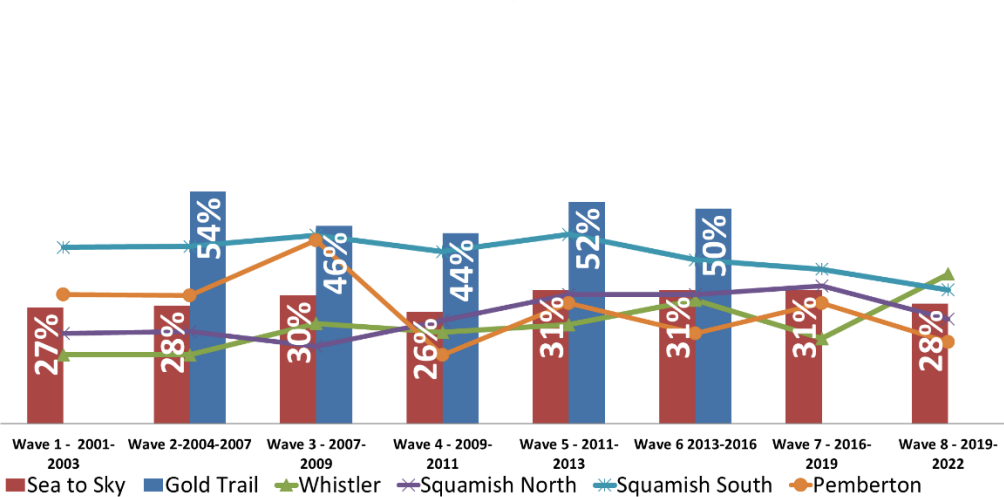
Childhood development tends to reflect the social and economic environment in which a child lives, and relates to overall community health. Research also shows that a person’s capacity for learning, coping and overall wellbeing is shaped in the first five years of their life. The frequent use of the indicator in other jurisdictions and background research support for the metric provides validation and opportunities for comparison.

Trends	1 Wave	3-Wave	Indicator: Proportion of total kindergarten children considered vulnerable based on the Early Childhood Development Index (EDI)		
			Source: Human Early Learning Partnership UBC		
			Trend Sensitivity: Variable	Time Frame: Snapshot	Availability: Variable

Latest Analysis

- In Wave 8, 2019-2022, the proportion of children vulnerable in the Sea to Sky District was 28%. Gold Trail data is not available for this period.
- The Sea to Sky District results are stable with the most recent Waves, though increased slightly across the three-wave average.
- The Gold Trail-West results, though higher than other SLRD areas experienced a meaningful decrease in vulnerability from Wave 2 to Wave 6.

Proportion of total kindergarten children considered vulnerable based on the Early Childhood Development Index (EDI)



[EDI Dashboard](#)

RGS GOAL 7: CREATE HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

YOUTH WELL-BEING

What is being measured?

This indicator reports the proportion of SLRD school districts’ youth considered to be thriving based on the Middle (School) Development Instrument (MDI). The MDI survey, administered in BC school districts, assesses youth’s well-being across components including optimism, happiness, self-esteem, absence of sadness and general health. Thriving refers to youth who score in the high range on at least 4 of the 5 measures of well-being and have no low-range scores.

Why measure this?

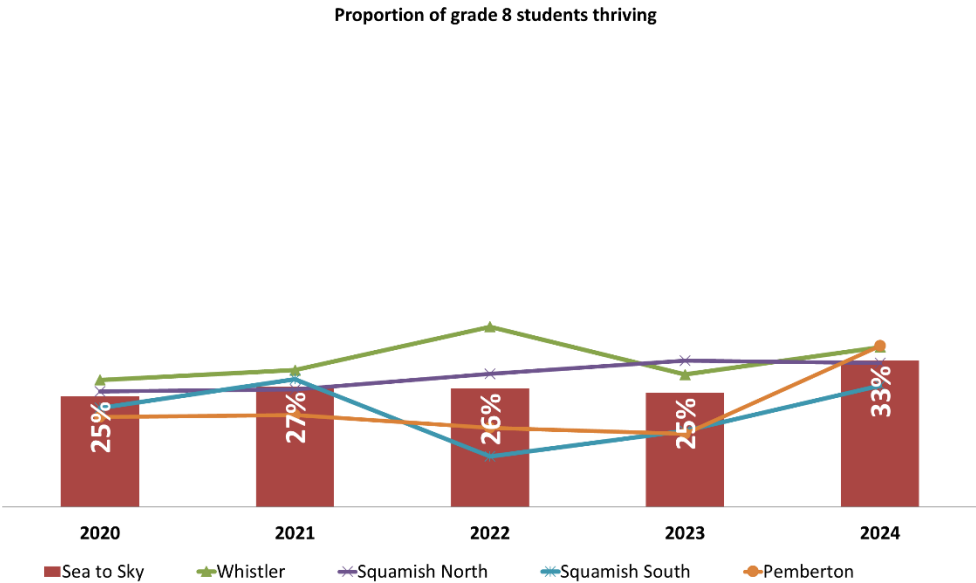
Middle childhood and early adolescence – ages 6 to 13 – is an important phase of life that includes physical, emotional and cognitive changes as well as shifts in peer and adult relationships. It is a window of opportunity in which positive development can be supported to set the stage for successful development in adolescence and adulthood. The frequent use of the indicator in other jurisdictions and background research support for the metric provides validation and opportunities for comparison.

Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Proportion of grade 8 students thriving on the MDI well-being index		
	+8% points	+2% points	Source: Human Early Learning Partnership UBC		
			Trend Sensitivity: Variable	Time Frame: Snapshot	Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- During 2023-2024, the proportion of Sea to Sky School District grade 8 youth thriving on the index of well-being was 33%. Gold Trail School District data is not available for this period.
- The Sea to Sky School District results reveal an increase from year to year and over the three-year average.
- Importantly, the proportion of grade 8 students with “low” well-being decreased from 49% in 2020/21 to 35% in 2024/25.

[MDI Dashboard](#)



RGS GOAL 7: CREATE HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

SAFE DRINKING WATER

What is being measured?

This indicator measures quality of drinking water in the SLRD by taking into account the hazard level ratings for medium and large SLRD water systems in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) area. **Low hazard** ratings generally comply with health requirements although there may be some minor deficiencies to resolve; may have outstanding conditions on Operating Permits; or may have some minor administrative deficiencies (ie lack of an annual report). **Moderate hazard** ratings may indicate incomplete treatment (ie not enhanced disinfection), there may be more serious deficiencies or deficiencies have not been corrected in a timely manner; not meeting conditions of Permit, or more serious administrative deficiencies. Most **high hazard** ratings are attributed to untreated surface water sources. Water systems can also have a high hazard rating due to chemical concentrations in the water, such as elevated arsenic levels.

Why measure this?

Access to clean, healthy drinking water is a basic health requirement for people living in or visiting the SLRD. It is also important to economic growth and overall well being of communities.

Note: Bralorne, Gold Bridge, Lillooet water systems are not included for the 2020-2024 report.

Trends 1 year

3-year avg.

5%
points

Indicator: Proportion of systems reporting low hazard rating

Source: Vancouver Coastal Health, more details here: <http://www.healthspace.ca/vch>

Trend Sensitivity: 6% + or -

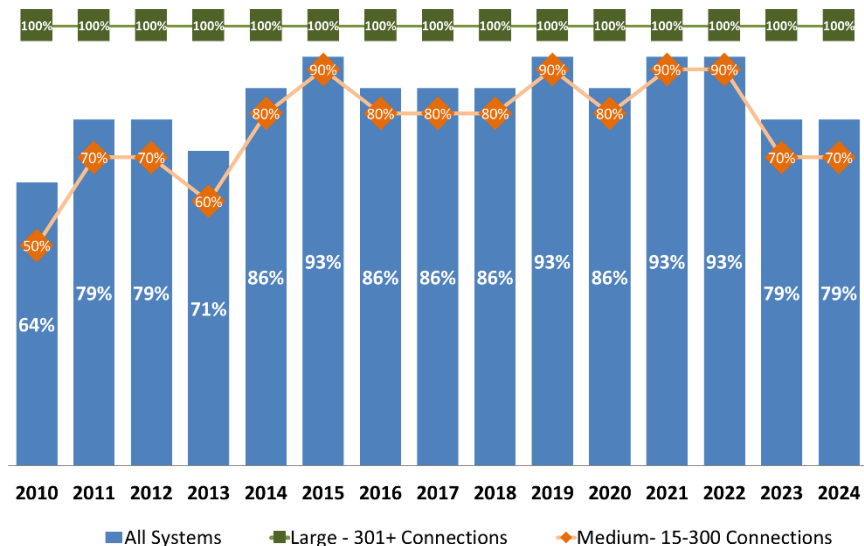
Time Frame: Year

Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- In 2024, 79% or 11 of 14 of the medium to large water systems in the VCH jurisdiction in the SLRD achieved low hazard ratings.
- Results remained stable year over year, but decreased on the three-year average.
- All (100%) of the larger systems in Whistler, Squamish and Pemberton continued to achieve low ratings during the year.

Proportion of water systems reporting low hazard ratings



- Of the medium sized systems, 7 of 10 or 70% of systems achieved low ratings during the year. Pinecrest, Cedar Grove Estates and D'arcy water systems all experienced moderate hazard conditions for 2023 and 2024.

For more detailed water quality reports on specific water systems please go to: <http://www.healthspace.ca/vch>

RGS GOAL 7: CREATE HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

What is being measured?

This indicator reports the proportion of SLRD school districts' youth being physically active everyday based on the Middle (School) Development Instrument (MDI). The MDI survey, administered in BC school districts, assesses physical activity by asking ""In a normal week, how many days are you physically active for a total of at least 60 mins or one hour per day?"

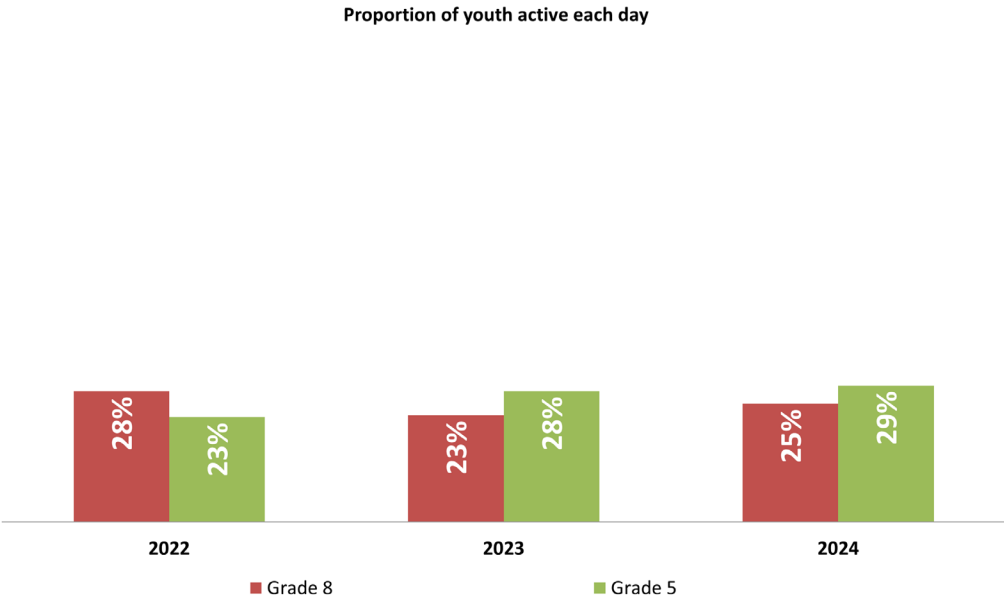
Why measure this?

Recreation, leisure and exercise are important aspects of life for residents of the SLRD. The frequent use of the indicator in other jurisdictions and background research support for the metric provides validation and opportunities for comparison.

Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Proportion of youth reporting at least 60 mins of activity each day		
			Source: Human Early Learning Partnership UBC		
			Trend Sensitivity: 6% +or-	Time Frame: Snapshot	Availability: Variable

Latest Analysis

- 29% of Grade 5 students from the Sea to Sky School District reported being physically active for at least 60 mins every day. 25% of Grade 8 students reported the same.
- Results show a decreasing directional trend for grade 8 students and increasing one for grade 5 students.
- Gold Trail School District data is not available for this period.
- Importantly, the proportion of grade 8 students reporting no days with 60 mins of physical activity is decreasing.
- [MDI Dashboard](#)



RGS GOAL 7: CREATE HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

TRAIL LENGTH

What is being measured?

The trail length indicator is intened to track the length of official commuter trails as well as recreation trails that are generally accessible to a large segment of the population (lower grade, wider, gravel or paved). Member municipalities provided trail distances based on this description.

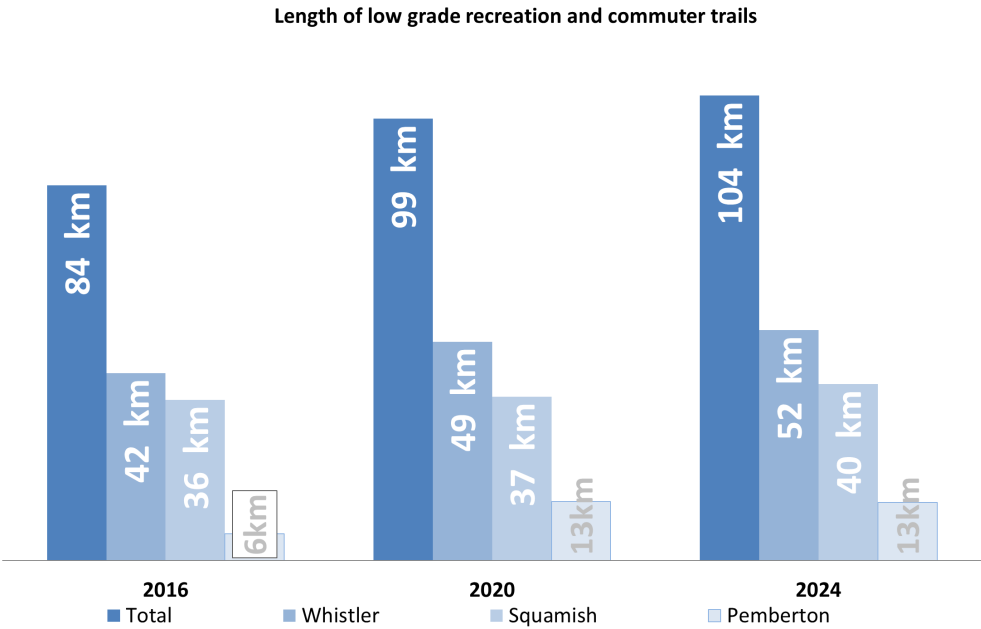
Why measure this?

Recreation and commuting trails are important infrastructure for the achievement of both transporation and outdoor recreation utilization goals. Commuter and other trails are generally more accessible and therefore can appeal to a greater diversity of users and demographics.

Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Length of generally accessible and commuter trails		
			Source: SLRD Member Municipalities		
			Trend Sensitivity: 6% + or -	Time Frame: Snapshot	Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- Total trail length in 2024 was 104 km, an increase of 5 km from 2020.
- Whistler’s 52 km of trails account for just over half of all the trails and half of the new trail length. Squamish’s 40 km and Pemberton’s 13 km combine for just over half of the trails.
- Pemberton’s recent low-grade trail additions include the important Friendship Trail between the Village and Mount Currie.
- All communities reported having many more km’s of official and unofficial recreational hiking and biking trails as well as commuter routes on low speed (30km/h) roads.



RGS GOAL 8: ENHANCE RELATIONS WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

The RGS seeks to enhance our working relationships with the Squamish, Lil’wat and St’át’imc. The SLRD recognizes the significant opportunity to build constructive and enduring relationships with indigenous communities. The RGS, through the RGS process, provides a foundation for continued constructive dialogue into the future on regional land use and growth management issues. In addition to land use planning, building strong and respectful working relationships with First Nations is especially important given the many development pressures and challenges in the region and the complexity of issues facing all levels of government.

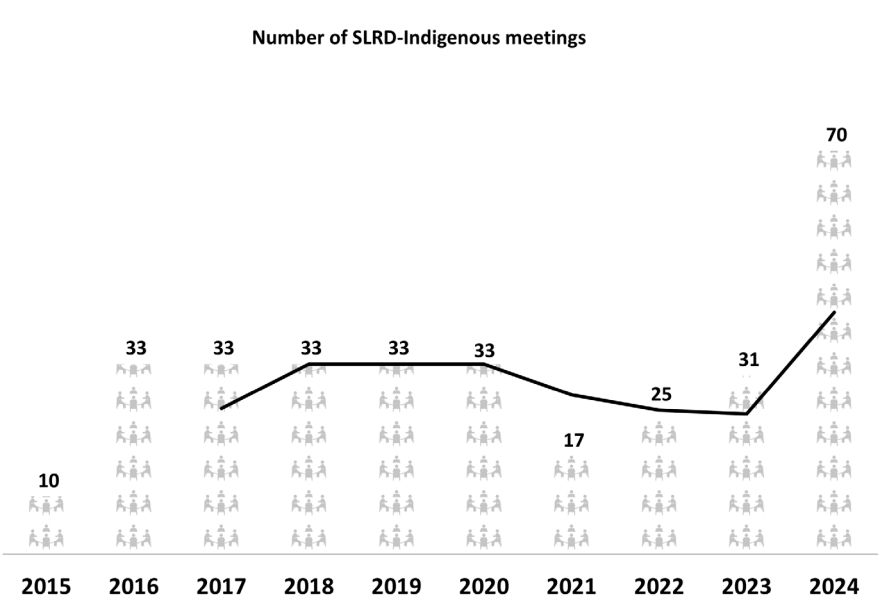
INDIGENOUS MEETINGS

What is being measured? This indicator tracks the number of meetings between the SLRD and First Nations governments on an annual basis.	Why measure this? Meetings between SLRD and Indigenous communities foster neighbour-to-neighbour relationships. These meetings may span various topics and departments and reflect organizational commitment to enhancing relations. Indigenous
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Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Number of SLRD-Indigenous meetings
	126%	73%	Source: SLRD
			Trend Sensitivity: 1% +or-
			Time Frame: Year
			Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis:

- In 2024, SLRD staff estimated approximately 70 SLRD-Indigenous meetings.
 - The increase in meetings for 2024 reflects the BC Emergency and Disaster Management Act- Indigenous Engagement Requirements project (Protective Services) and preparation of SLRD Truth & Reconciliation Guide (Indigenous Relations Advisory) as well as general increase in knowledge and capacity in this realm.
- Other recent meetings include: wildfire mitigation, fire services, land recovery – after fire.



RGS GOAL 9: IMPROVE COLLABORATION AMONG JURISDICTIONS

Decision making over land use, health, safety, natural resources, environmental protection and many other issues of concern to residents within the regional district is a shared responsibility. The RGS intends to improve collaboration between all levels of government within the region- municipal/regional, provincial, federal and First Nations – as well as citizens. Better collaboration can lead to improved coordination and cooperation, which in turn can reduce duplication and inefficiencies in local governance and improve service delivery. It also builds on the core competencies of existing jurisdictions so that limited resources are utilized efficiently.

VOTER TURNOUT

What is being measured?

This indicator tracks the relationship between the number of ballots cast and the number of eligible voters. Eligible voters is based on those 18 and over as of the most recent Census results.

Why measure this?

Voter turnout is a proxy indicator reflecting community commitment to the political system as well as involvement in decision making. Local elections determine who will be involved in regional collaborations. Poor turnout may reflect unfamiliarity with the democratic process, apathy, satisfaction, or a sense of disempowerment.

Trends 1 period

3-period avg.

Indicator: Proportion of the registered voters voting in SLRD area municipal elections

Source: Civic Info and Elections BC

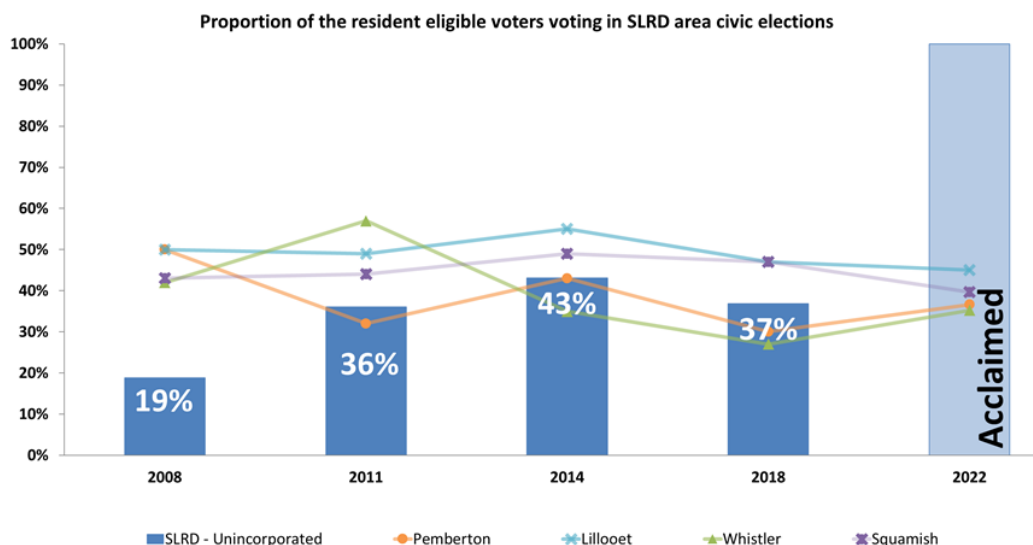
Trend Sensitivity: 3% +or-

Time Frame: Snapshot

Availability: Every 3-4 years

Latest Analysis

- In 2022, all of the SLRD directors were acclaimed, which follows 2018 when three of four directors were acclaimed.
- Two of four member municipalities experienced higher turnouts in 2022 compared to 2018, and two experienced the opposite.
- 2011 results reflect elections in Area C and D. 2008 results reflect elections in Area D only.



RGS GOAL 9: IMPROVE COLLABORATION AMONG JURISDICTIONS

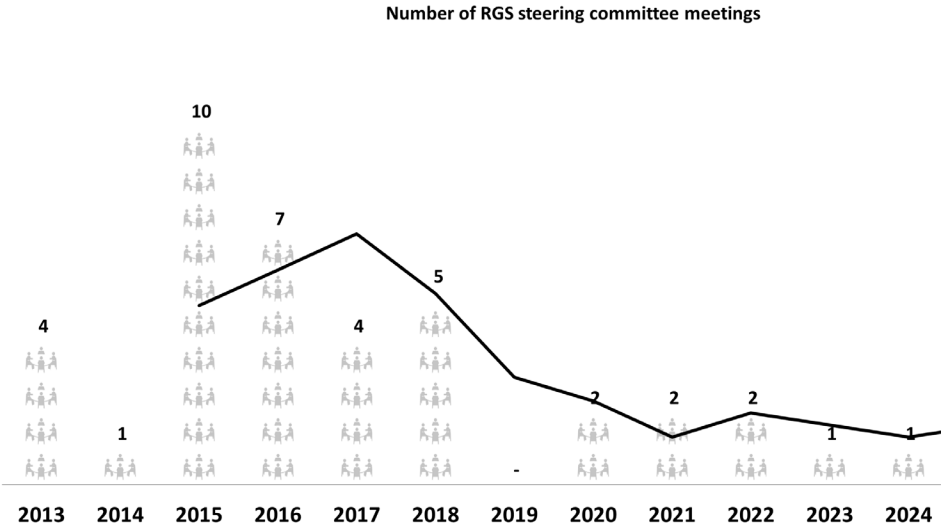
RGS COLLABORATION

What is being measured? This indicator tracks the number of RGS Steering Committee meetings that take place on an annual basis.	Why measure this? The RGS Steering Committee is comprised of the planning director, or another official appointed by the applicable Board/Council, of the SLRD, District of Lillooet, Village of Pemberton, Resort Municipality of Whistler, and District of Squamish as well as representative from Land Use, Planning, and Regional Impacts Branch. The RGS Steering Committee is integral to implementation of the RGS. All proposed amendments are reviewed by the RGS Steering Committee, with input provided to the SLRD Board to inform decisions.
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Trend	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Number of RGS Steering Committee meetings		
			Source: SLRD		
			Trend Sensitivity: 1 +or-	Time Frame: Year	Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- The RGS Steering Committee met one time over the course of 2024 which is the same as 2023.
- The frequency of RGS committee meetings has declined steadily from 2015, which reflects the completion of the RGS Review project.
- It is anticipated that the number of meetings will expand in 2025.



RGS GOAL 10: PROTECT AND ENHANCE FOOD SYSTEMS

The RGS endorses Smart Growth Principles, which includes ensuring the integrity of a productive agricultural land base. The highest and best use of agricultural land is for agriculture and the protection of agricultural land helps to promote the agricultural sector. Further, predicted changes in climate, energy costs, population growth, water availability and agricultural production suggest that protecting and enhancing the capacity of the regional food system is vital to community resilience. The ability to grow and access food is a key component of developing complete communities.

WORKABLE FARM LAND

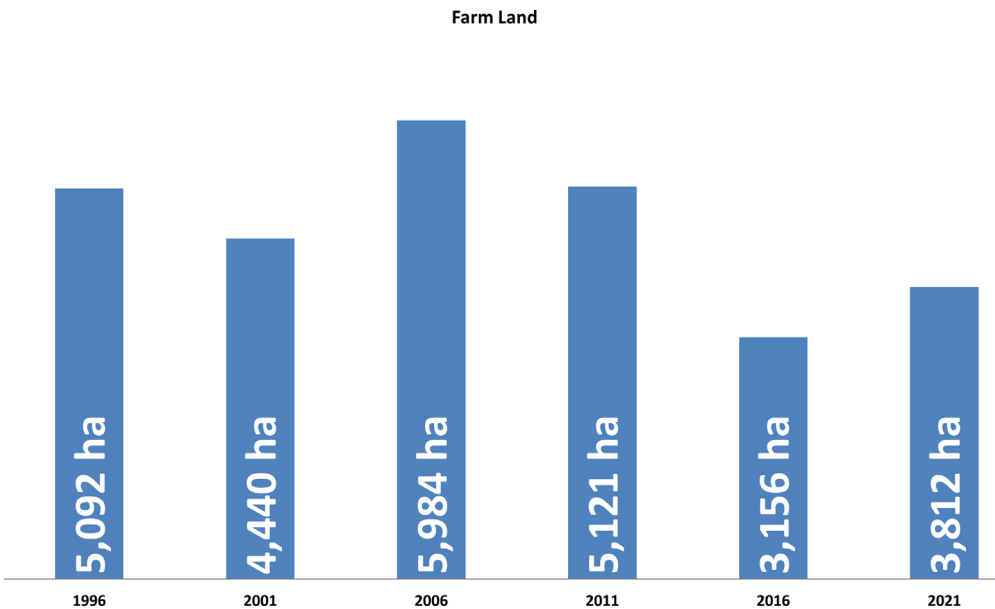
What is being measured? This indicator measures the total area of workable farm land in the SLRD. It includes all farm classified area from the Census of Agriculture excluding woodlots, natural pasture land and other land.	Why measure this? The workable farm area represents the production of food, economic health of farms, and food security in the region.
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Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Total ha of workable farms
	21%	-15%	Source: Statistics Canada - Census of Agriculture, BC Assessments
			Trend Sensitivity: 1% + or -
			Time Frame: Snapshot
			Availability: Every 5 years

Latest Analysis

- In 2021, 3,812 ha of agriculture area was considered working land.
- Results increased 21% or by about 650 ha from the last Census in 2016.
- Most of the increase is due to an increase in the area of field crops. Fruits, berries and nuts decreased by 25% to 30 ha and vegetables decreased by 20% to 40 ha.
- The number of farms decreased to 117 compared to 138 in 2016.

* The SLRD completed multiple detailed [agricultural land use inventories](#) between 2014 and 2020.



RGS GOAL 10: PROTECT AND ENHANCE FOOD SYSTEMS

AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE

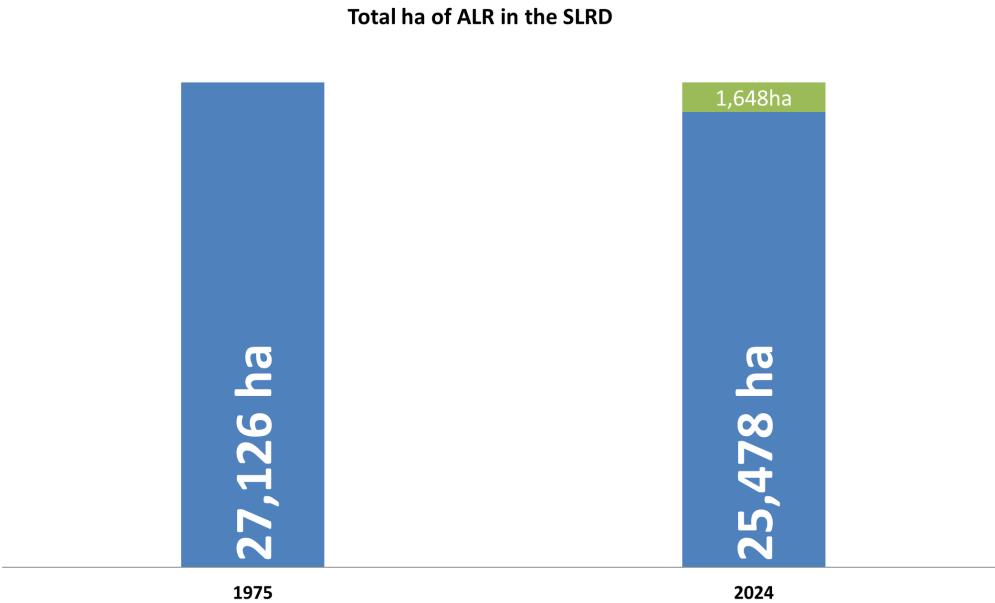
What is being measured? This indicator measures the total area Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) in the SLRD as well as the cumulative exclusions from the reserve.	Why measure this? The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is a provincial zone in which agriculture is recognized as the priority use. Farming is encouraged and non-agricultural uses are restricted. This high valued land is important to protect for food security and the regional economy.
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Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: ALR land in the SLRD		
			Source: BC Agricultural Land Commission		
			Trend Sensitivity: 3% + or -	Time Frame: Year	Availability: Yearly

Latest Analysis

- In 2020, there was 25,478 hectares of ALR in the SLRD.
- Exclusions from the reserve occurred prior to 2015, but no land has been excluded in the past five years, despite requests including as recently as 2024.
- Since the ALR was initiated in 1975 there has been 1,648 ha excluded from the reserve in the SLRD.

* The SLRD completed multiple detailed [agricultural land use inventories](#) between 2014 and 2020.



RGS GOAL 10: PROTECT AND ENHANCE FOOD SYSTEMS

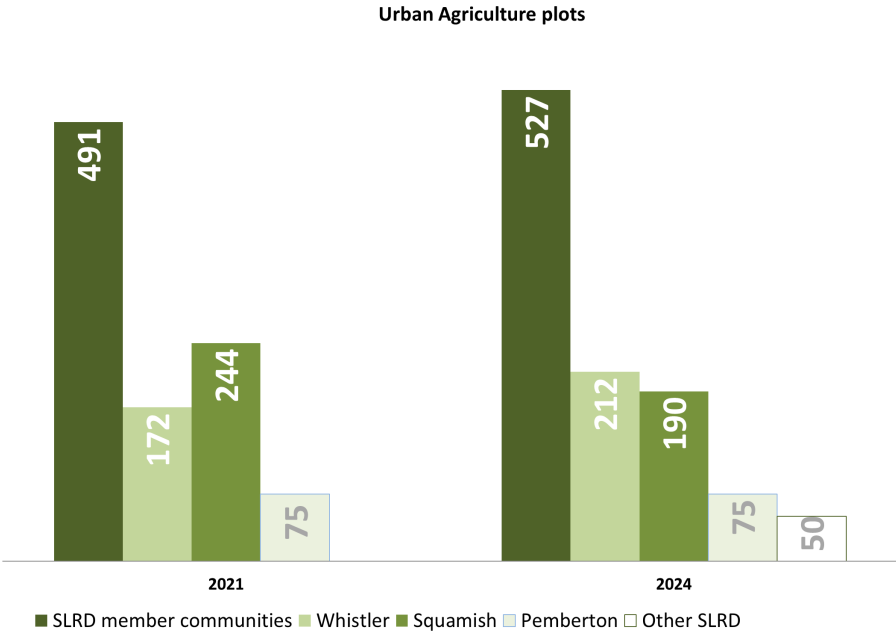
URBAN AGRICULTURE

What is being measured? This indicator measures the number of community urban agriculture plots in the larger SLRD communities.	Why measure this? Urban agriculture is encouraged in order to help people living in more settled areas to learn about food and food systems while building community with fellow urban gardeners. These activities also help reduce food costs and build the capacity for growing food and ultimately food security.
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Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Plots of urban agriculture
	+7%		Source: AWARE Whistler, Stewardhip Pemberton, Squamish CAN, Squamish Nation
			Trend Sensitivity: 3% + or - Time Frame: Year Availability: Yearly

Latest Analysis

- As of 2024, there were 527 garden plots in Whistler, Squamish, Pemberton and the Squamish Nation (other SLRD) combined.
- Whistler has the most plots at 212, followed by Squamish at 190 and Pemberton at 75. Squamish plots decreased due to the closure of the downtown garden.
- Other SLRD includes the Squamish Nation. The Lil’wat Nation also has a 17ha community working farm.



RGS GOAL 10: PROTECT AND ENHANCE FOOD SYSTEMS

FARM LAND MATCHING

What is being measured?

This indicator measures the hectares of farmland leased through land matching programs such as the Young Agrarians.

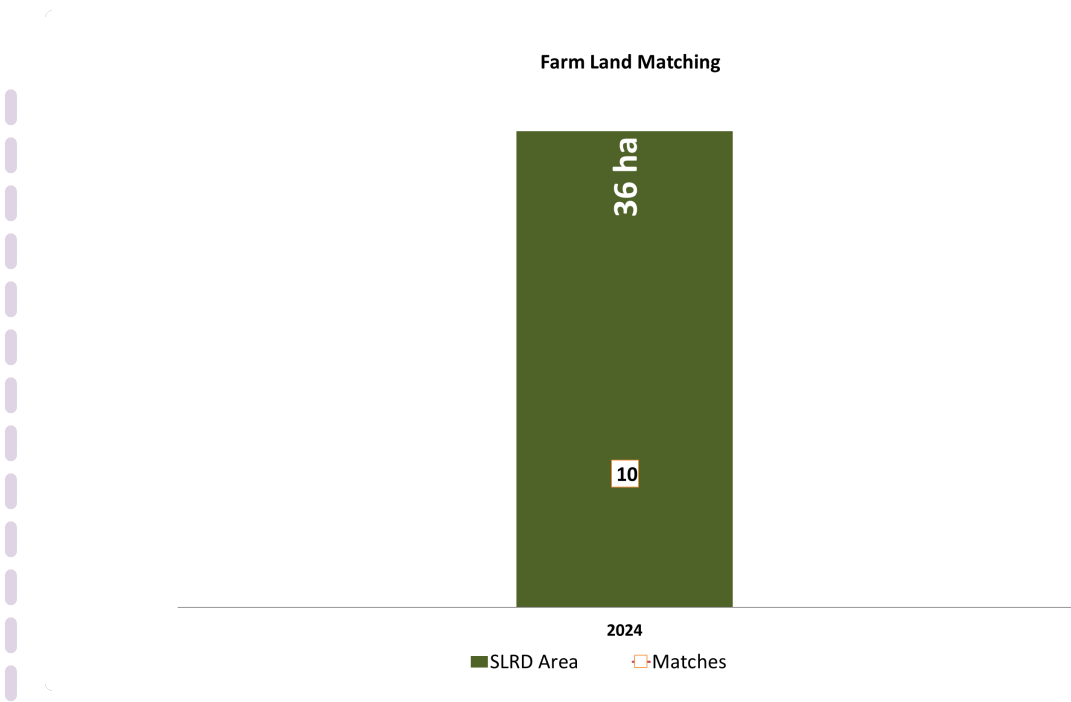
Why measure this?

Land matching makes it easier for farmers to access land to start farming or expand operations. It also provides landholders with the benefits of someone else farming their land. Ultimately land matching helps to put more farm land into production in a region. In BC this program is coordinated through the Young Agrarians Foundation

Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Hectares of farmland leased through land matching programs to 2024		
			Source: Young Agrarians BC		
			Trend Sensitivity: 1% + or -	Time Frame: Year	Availability: Yearly

Latest Analysis

- As of 2024, there had been 10 land matches in the region representing 36 ha of land.



RGS GOAL 11: TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The RGS seeks to address climate change through the directions put forth in all SLRD RGS Goals. Additionally, the RGS recognizes the need for climate responsibility and a continued commitment to climate leadership. Taking action on climate change will require provincial and federal leadership to support sector-based changes. It will also require local leadership and broad community commitment – by local governments, by community members, by business owners and entrepreneurs, and by visitors. The RGS supports taking action on climate change through mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation strategies seek to reduce GHG emissions and energy consumption, with targets being critical motivators for action on mitigation. Adaptation strategies identify and address the potential local impacts of climate change, with intention of using various methods to build community resilience.

ENERGY USE

What is being measured?

Total energy used includes electricity delivered, the energy used to generate space and water heating/cooling, as well as transportation energy. The embodied energy of the products used in the region are not included. *Transportation energy use estimated based on ICBC registered vehicles.

Why measure this?

Energy is a critical input to certain aspects of day to day living and business success in the region. Using non-renewable energy has an impact on future energy supplies as well as ecosystem and human health locally and abroad. Even large renewable projects such as hydroelectric dams have significant impacts on land and aquatic ecosystems. An ability to reduce dependence on energy resources reflects more sustainable communities and may help regional residents and businesses better adapt to future energy price increases.

Trends 1 year

+3.4%

3-year avg.

+2.5%

Indicator: Total Energy Used

Source: BC Community Energy and Emissions Inventory, ICBC

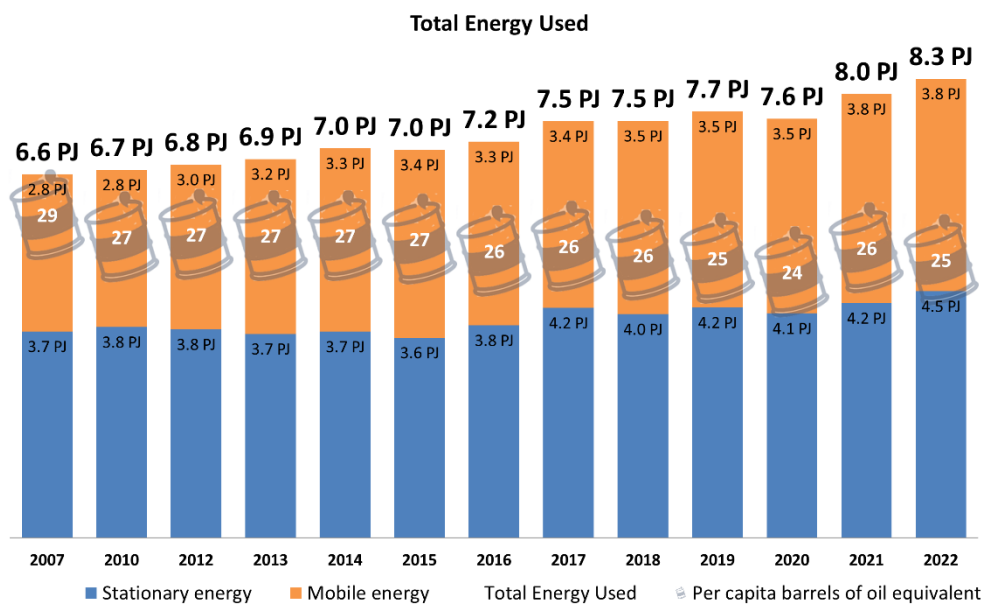
Trend Sensitivity: 3% + or -

Time Frame: Year

Availability: Variable

Latest Analysis

- In 2022, SLRD energy use totaled 8.3 petajoules (PJ).
- Per capita usage was the equivalent of 25 barrels of oil for every resident.
- Total energy use was more than any amount since 2007, however per capita usage was among the lowest years since 2007.
- Energy use for buildings and stationary uses topped 4.5 PJ in 2022, and transportation use topped 3.8 PJ.



RGS GOAL: TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

What is being measured?

Total annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions results include the emissions released from electricity generation, the energy used to generate heat/cooling, transportation energy as well as emissions resulting from landfilled waste. The embodied emissions of the products used in the region are not included. *Transportation emissions are estimated based on the number of ICBC registered vehicles.

Why measure this?

Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are contributing to global climate change and increased ocean acidification. This changing climate will have impact on the SLRD economy, community life, visitor experiences as well as directly on the local natural environment. Climate change, ocean acidification and GHG emissions are global and local issues that require solutions at all levels. Reducing the regional contribution is an important aspect of environmental stewardship as well as an opportunity to develop new business opportunities.

Trends 1 year

+3.1%

3-year avg.

+3%

Indicator: Total greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions

Source: BC Community Energy and Emissions Inventory

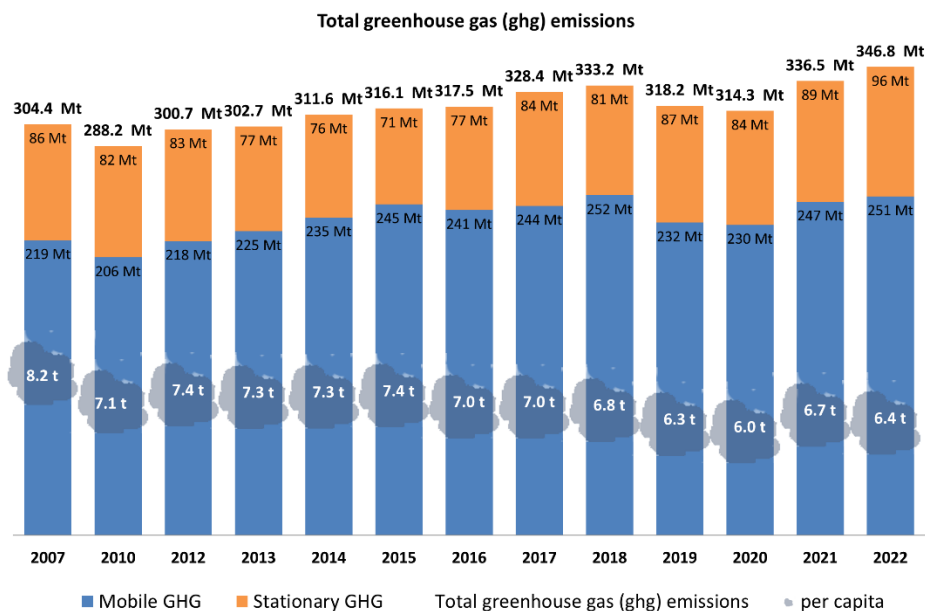
Trend Sensitivity: 3% + or -

Time Frame: Year

Availability: Variable

Latest Analysis

- In 2022, SLRD GHG emissions totaled 346.8 megatonnes, the highest total amount since 2007.
- Greenhouse gas emissions increased by 3.1% from 2021 to 2022, and the per capita emissions decreased slightly.
- In 2022, transportation contributed 72% of the total GHG emissions, which is a slight decrease from 73% in 2021, and 76% in 2018.



RGS GOAL: TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

What is being measured?

This indicator tracks the total amount of publicly available electric vehicle chargers in the regional district communities. It includes chargers in local government areas, privately run lots and/or parking garages. The number of electric vehicles is also included.

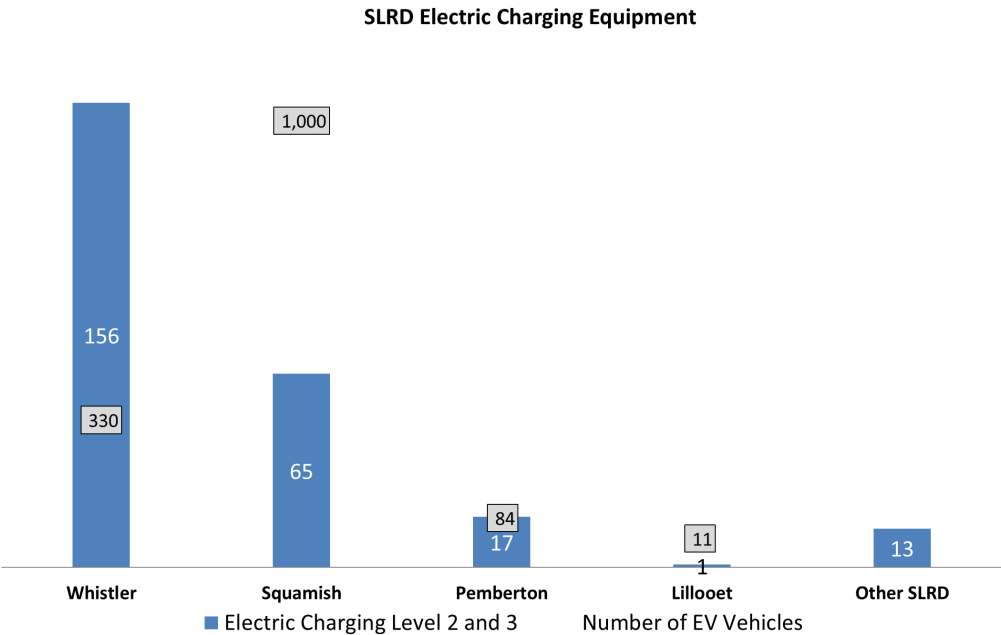
Why measure this?

The shift to electric vehicles is one of the main strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation emissions make up more than 70% of emissions from the region and vehicle users consistently indicate that a lack of charging is one of the largest barriers to purchasing an electric vehicle. Adding charging infrastructure will help to induce electric vehicle purchases and use.

Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Total number of electric vehicle chargers		
	-	-	Source: PlugShare and ChargeHub online maps, ICBC		
			Trend Sensitivity: 3% + or -	Time Frame: Year	Availability: Annually

Latest Analysis

- In 2025, there were 252 level 2 or level 3 chargers in the SLRD.
- More than 60% of the chargers are located in Whistler (152 units), followed by Squamish with 26% (65 units). Whistler’s results are reflective of investment and the significant number of visitors to the community.
- Squamish has the greatest penetration of electric vehicles at 5% or 1,000 of 20,477 vehicles, followed by Whistler at 3% or 330 of 11,009 vehicles.



RGS GOAL: TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

LANDFILLED WASTE

What is being measured? This indicator represents the total amount of solid waste sent to landfills from SLRD communities (Lillooet, Squamish Whistler)	Why measure this? Maintaining lifestyles and needs currently requires significant quantities of various materials, which in turn can quickly produce 'waste'. Landfilled waste represents materials that are often unnecessary or may have been used for something more purposeful such as composting, recycling or potentially energy use. Solid landfilled waste also takes up land space, emits greenhouse gases, and among other things can leach harmful materials into the surrounding environment.
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Trends	1 year	3-year avg.	Indicator: Total amount of landfilled waste		
	0%	+1.5%	Source: SLRD		
			Trend Sensitivity: 3% + or -		Time Frame: Year

Latest Analysis

- In 2024, SLRD tonnes of landfilled waste totaled 29,238 tonnes or .5 tonnes per full time resident.
- Per capita waste has been cut by half since 2007.
- Landfilled waste remained steady between 2023 and 2024 as did per capita waste.
- Total landfilled waste decreased steadily from a recent high in 2016 to 2021, and then began to increase to 2024.
- Squamish’s waste made up the largest source of landfilled waste in the SLRD at 12,508 tonnes in 2022, followed by Whistler at 11,432.

