

OUR COASTAL CITY

An Introduction to Nanaimo's Sea Level Rise Management Plan Project

The City of Nanaimo has over 30 km of coastline. As climate change causes sea levels to rise, we will need to develop resilient strategies to protect what's important to us along Nanaimo's shore. **Our Coastal City** is about starting conversations, planning ahead, and taking action to prepare our City's coastal areas for climate change.

Coastal impacts are already happening today, often during high tides, King Tides, or storm surges, leading to flooding and shoreline erosion. As sea levels continue to rise, these events are expected to become more frequent, more severe, and affect larger areas.

Impacts Today

- Damage to homes and businesses as well as cultural, parks, and recreational assets.
- Damage to critical infrastructure like roads, bridges, sewer, water, and communications.
- Destruction of plant and wildlife habitat.
- Temporary flooding of communities.

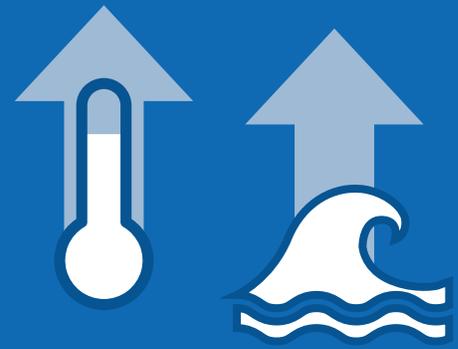
Impacts Tomorrow

- Longer periods of flooding and recovery.
- Increased threats to human health and safety.
- Interruptions to businesses, and economic loss.
- Increasing insurance costs.
- Loss of intertidal habitats.

Adaptation to sea level rise isn't a single solution. It is a combination of many actions we can take over time to stay ahead of increasing risks.

- **Protect.** Strengthening shorelines through natural solutions (such as restored beaches or wetlands) and, where appropriate, engineered structures to reduce flooding and erosion.
- **Accommodate.** Designing communities to live with water, including elevating buildings, using flood-resistant materials, and preserving space for wetlands and floodwaters.
- **Avoid or Retreat.** Reducing exposure by avoiding new development in high-risk areas or gradually relocating existing development away from vulnerable shorelines.

SEA LEVEL RISES AS GLOBAL TEMPERATURE RISES



Imagine filling a bathtub faster than you can drain it — that's what's happening to our oceans.

What happen next?

There are many types of values a community might hold related to coastal adaptation.

Does the community want to prioritize natural systems? Is access to shorelines for enjoyment and recreation important? How do we feel about protecting built infrastructure and cultural elements? Understanding what these values are will be critical to deciding what path we take.

We are looking forward to connecting with you!



Opportunities to engage with the project will be advertised over the coming months. Stay connected at:
www.getinvolvednanaimo.ca/sea-level-rise

