



GEOG 1100 – Sustainable Development in Nanaimo

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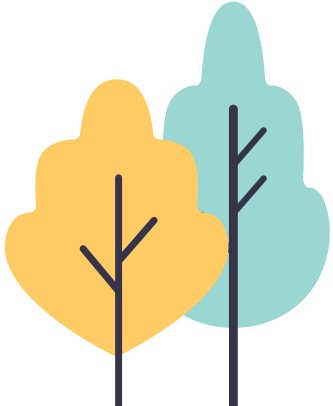


Factual Question

What percentage of greenhouse gas emissions in Nanaimo do housing and infrastructure contribute?

Introduction to Sustainable Development

- “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (IISD, 2022).
- SDG 11: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable” (United Nations, n.d.).
- Target 11.1 “By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums” (United Nations, 2023).



Introduction to Nanaimo

Geography of Nanaimo

- Estimated population of 107,865 in 2023 (State of the Nanaimo Economy, 2024).
- Located on east coast of Central Vancouver Island on Traditional Territory of Snuneymuxw First Nation (City Plan Nanaimo Reimagined, 2022).
- Bordered by the Salish Sea, mountains, and forests (City Plan Nanaimo Reimagined, 2022).
- 5 km width and 20 km length (City Plan Nanaimo Reimagined, 2022).



Figure 1: Geography of Nanaimo (City Plan Nanaimo Reimagined, 2022). 5



Introduction to Nanaimo

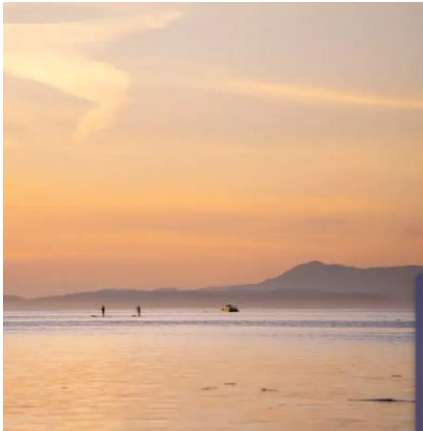
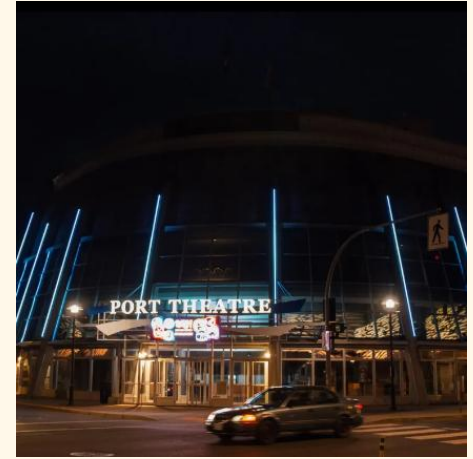
Sustainability in Nanaimo

- In 2019, Nanaimo's city council declared a climate emergency (Green Initiatives, 2024).
- Nanaimo Reimagined, won Union of BC Municipalities Excellence in Sustainability Award in 2024 (UBCM, 2024).
- City plan based on Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economics: "Striving towards a sweet spot of meeting our needs within the limits of our social foundations and environment." (City Plan Nanaimo Reimagined, 2022).



**“Nanaimo sits at the
intersection of urban and
nature, old and new.”**

(Tourism Nanaimo, n.d.)



Figures 2-7: Tourism in Nanaimo (Tourism Nanaimo, n.d.)



Housing in Nanaimo

- In 2023, 78% of new housing was multi unit (State of the Nanaimo Economy, 2024).
- City becoming more densely populated.
- Rental and housing prices increasing more than comparable areas (State of the Nanaimo Economy, 2024).
- 66% of housing is owned and 34% is rental (State of the Nanaimo Economy, 2024).
- Housing is connected to one of five city goals in city plan: A healthy Nanaimo: Community Well Being and Livability (City Plan Nanaimo Reimagined, 2022).
- 31% of Nanaimo's greenhouse gas emissions comes from housing and infrastructure (Green Initiatives, 2024).

Recommendations for Sustainable Housing in Nanaimo

- More accessible rebates, and a greater focus on renewable energy sources.
- Rebates that support purchasing sustainable items initially, in addition to supporting those switching from non-sustainable to sustainable items.
- Money and resources toward building more sustainable homes initially, rather than upgrading existing homes.





Conclusion

- Sustainable development is vital to meeting the needs of both current and future generations.
- Nanaimo's city plan has a large focus on housing, but more can be done to move toward more sustainable housing.
- Rebates and resources in support of sustainable housing could greatly improve the overall sustainability of Nanaimo.



Factual Question

What percentage of greenhouse gas emissions in Nanaimo do housing and infrastructure contribute?

31%

(Green Initiatives, 2024)



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