



# 2022 Progress Highlights











Our  
Sustainability  
Plan  
2021-2025



VIA Rail Canada




# VIA Rail's Sustainability Plan Summary

	Priorities	Strategies	2025 goals	Contribution to the SDGs <sup>1</sup>
ENVIRONMENTAL	Climate Action	Upgrade GHG reduction targets to support 2050 net-zero emissions ambition.	Reduce GHG emissions by 30% or more by 2030, compared to 2005.  Integrate climate change risks in critical governance and decisional mechanisms.	 
		Improve fuel and energy efficiency in all operations.		
Complete review of climate change risks and implement action plan.				
ENVIRONMENTAL	Environmental Management	Reduce waste generated in our operations.	Offer a zero-waste experience on the new Québec City-Windsor Corridor fleet.	 
		Increase reuse, recycling, and organic waste collection.	Increase recycling to 60% and introduce organic waste collection in prioritized sites.	
SOCIAL	Employee Mobilization	Mobilize employees through an inclusive and sustainability centered culture.	Train 100% of employees on sustainability.	 
			Majority of employees believe sustainability is a top priority for VIA Rail.	
SOCIAL	Community Engagement	Expand active stakeholder engagement and develop strategic community investments in communities in Canada.	Align 80% of community investments with strategy.	 
			Have a national employee volunteering program in place.	
GOVERNANCE	Responsible Sourcing	Implement responsible sourcing policy and program.	Reach 80% integration of Policy by suppliers.	 
			Strengthen transparency through reporting and recognition in sustainability.	
GOVERNANCE	Credibility and Recognition	Actively contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.		

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

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	Priorities	Strategies	2025 Goals	2022 progress highlights
 <b>Environmental</b>	<b>Climate Action</b>	<p>Upgrade GHG reduction targets to support 2050 net-zero emissions ambition.</p> <p>Improve fuel and energy efficiency in all operations.</p> <p>Complete review of climate change risks and implement action plan.</p>	<p>Reduce GHG emissions by 30% or more by 2030, compared to 2005.</p> <p>Integrate climate change risks in critical governance and decisional mechanisms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Completed the initial project to reduce fuel consumption using an artificial intelligence (AI) powered application and extended the pilot project to real train operations.</li> <li>→ Launched the development of VIA Rail's decarbonization plan.</li> <li>→ Completed the initial mapping of VIA Rail's other indirect emissions (scope 3) to include in annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory.</li> <li>→ Completed strategic workshop on climate-related transition risks and launched the development of VIA Rail's first report on climate risks.</li> </ul>
	<b>Environmental Management</b>	<p>Reduce waste generated in our operations.</p> <p>Increase reuse, recycling, and organic waste collection</p>	<p>Offer a zero-waste experience on the new Québec City-Windsor corridor fleet.</p> <p>Increase recycling to 60% and introduce organic waste collection in prioritized sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Initiated changes in packaging and products to reduce waste.</li> <li>→ Completed the initial testing of waste sorting on the new Corridor fleet to improve recycling and introduce organic waste collection.</li> </ul>

## Testing artificial intelligence to reduce emissions

In 2022, a pilot program was completed in our simulators, to test EcoRail, an AI-enabled software that provides driving recommendations to locomotive engineers to reduce fuel consumption and resulting greenhouse gas emissions, without affecting travel time. The preliminary results showed significant benefits, with fuel-saving potential of up to 15%.

Building on that success, VIA Rail announced the extension of the pilot project, which started in 2023, to test the application in real train operations.

## The path to a zero-waste experience

In 2022, we progressed towards our objective to offer by 2025 a zero-waste experience on our new Corridor fleet.

We initiated changes to products and packaging served on board to reduce waste at the source. For example, we removed extra packaging for sandwiches which alone is planned to reduce waste by more than six tonnes annually. We also completed initial testing of waste collection with onboard employees using a dedicated collection trolley to increase recycling.

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 <b>Social</b>	<b>Employee Mobilization</b>	Mobilize employees through an inclusive and sustainability centered culture.	Train 100% of employees on sustainability.  Majority of employees believe sustainability is a top priority for VIA Rail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Provided three live conferences on sustainability-related topics to employees, with recordings available.</li> <li>→ Continued to formalize the integration of sustainability in VIA Rail’s internship program by presenting the sustainability plan to all new cohorts of interns and organizing volunteering activities.</li> </ul>
	<b>Community Involvement</b>	Expand active stakeholder engagement and develop strategic community investments in communities in Canada.	Align 80% of community investments with strategy.  Have a national employee volunteering program in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Supported 450+ non-profit organizations and charities across Canada, reached more than 40% alignment with strategy.</li> <li>→ Presented the sustainability plan and provided updates to hundreds of stakeholders and groups including amongst others, environmental and rail organizations.</li> </ul>

## Building engagement towards sustainability

In 2022, we partnered with Earth Day Canada, a recognized environmental organization, to host a conference on concrete, affordable solutions to help employees reduce their environmental impact on a daily basis.


Entitled *Adopting an Eco-Friendly Lifestyle*, the conference focused on concrete ways of fighting food waste, reducing personal waste, extending the useful life of belongings, and putting other cost-effective, eco-friendly tricks into use.

## Aligning our community investments with the sustainability plan

As part of our sustainability plan, we aim to further align community investments with priorities of the plan to extend our reach.

Last year, VIA Rail supported the Tulip Festival through activities aimed at raising environmental awareness on the importance of pollinators for our ecosystems. We offered an educational workshop on this subject with our partner Alvéole. Thanks to our partnership with Alvéole, our stations in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Ottawa, and Québec City host more than 400,000 honeybees, which collectively pollinate approximately 113 km<sup>2</sup>. With Alvéole, we completed eight educational workshops in 2022 aimed to encourage environmental action by reconnecting people to nature.

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 <b>Governance</b>	<b>Responsible Sourcing</b>	Implement responsible sourcing policy and program.	Reach 80% integration of Policy by suppliers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Published and implemented VIA Rail's first Policy on Supplier Conduct and Responsible Sourcing.</li> <li>→ Integrated the Policy in new contracts, reaching 15% integration of the Policy by suppliers.</li> </ul>
	<b>Credibility and Recognition</b>	Strengthen transparency through reporting and recognition in sustainability.  Actively contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.	Receive third-party recognition of sustainability performance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Published VIA Rail's first Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) index.</li> <li>→ Joined the United Nations Global Compact.</li> </ul>



**Reinforcing sustainability reporting**

In 2022, determined to continue moving forward on our Credibility and Recognition priority and to reinforcing our commitment towards responsible business practices, VIA Rail became the first land transportation company in Canada to join the United Nations Global Compact.

Our participation to the Compact represented a key foundational action that will enable us to join a global movement and advance broader sustainable development and societal goals.

