

OFFICIAL PROGRAM STANDARDS NOTICE (OPSN)

Issued: August 7, 2026

Program: Landscape Horticulturist

To: SkilledTradesBC Training Providers
Articulation Committee Chair
System Liaison Person
Youth Train in Trades School Districts

Subject: **Landscape Horticulturist Program Outline and Program Profile Update**

OPSN No.: OPSN 2026 015

Effective Date: January 1, 2028

Summary of Change: Please be advised that a revised Program Outline and Program Profile have been posted to the SkilledTradesBC [website](#) for implementation January 1, 2028.

Details: The Landscape Horticulturist Program Review was conducted in February 2026 and align BC's Landscape Horticulturist Program Outline to the 2025 Red Seal Occupational Standard (RSOS). The review process resulted in revised content to meet the current industry standard.

There are no changes to the trade name, total training hours, or number of training levels. Some updates have been made to the sequencing of technical training, and new content has been added as outlined in the attached competency migration chart.

All levels of the revised program will be implemented on January 1, 2028. For details, including information about Standardized Level Exams (SLEs), please view the attached implementation plan.

Attachments: Landscape Horticulturist Implementation Plan
Landscape Horticulturist Competency Migration Chart

For more information contact: Program Standards Team:
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cc: All SkilledTradesBC Staff

Implementation Plan

Harmonization Overview

The Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship (CCDA) is responsible for the Red Seal Program, which develops common interprovincial standards and examinations. The CCDA Harmonization Initiative was introduced with the goal of substantively aligning apprenticeship systems across Canada by making apprenticeship training requirements more consistent in the Red Seal trades.

The 4 Harmonization Priorities are:

1. Use of Red Seal **trade name**
2. Consistent **total training hours** (in-school and on-the-job)
3. Same number of **training levels**
4. Consistent **sequencing** of training content, including use of most recent Red Seal Occupational Standard (RSOS).

The Landscape Horticulturist program was initially reviewed as part of the harmonization initiative in 2018.

After initial harmonization, the Red Seal Occupational Standard (RSOS) is reviewed periodically to ensure continued national alignment and to capture current trends, technologies, and practices in the trade.

The Landscape Horticulturist RSOS was subsequently reviewed in 2025 and published in 2026; a revised BC Program Outline was updated and is now being implemented on **January 1, 2028**, to align to these revisions.

Summary of Program Changes

There are no changes to the **trade name**, **total training hours**, or **training levels**. They remain:

Trade Name	Landscape Horticulturist
Technical Training (TT)	720 hours
Work-Based Training (WBT)	5,280 hours
Total Training Hours (TT + WBT)	6,000 hours
Training Levels	4 Levels

There are some changes to the sequencing of training content, which are captured in the Gaps and Overlaps section starting from page 5. In addition, new content introduced during the national review is identified in the Competency Migration Chart starting from page 9.

Program Development Timelines

Activity	Timeframe
Program Outline Workshop	February 2026
Program Outline/Profile Draft Review	March - April 2026
Standardized Level Exam (SLE) redevelopment	March 2026 – August 2027
Launch Date	January 1, 2028

Program Transition Summary

The SkilledTradesBC Program Standards team consulted with the post-secondary training providers that deliver the Landscape Horticulturist program and considered the input of our internal and external partners in determining the impact of implementing the revised program. The impacts are determined to be minimal and can be mitigated without the requirement for formal mechanisms such as gap training or training provider support.

All levels of the revised program will be implemented on the same date.

Year 0 01/27	2018.L1	2018.L2	2018.L3	2018.L4
Year 1 01/28	2028.L1	2028.L2	2028.L3	2028.L4

Exams for the 2028 Program

Revised Exams

Revised Standardized Level Exams (SLEs) and Foundation Exam are undergoing development and validation to align with the revised program.

What is the final mark for apprentices based on if there is no SLE?

For classes that end before the launch of the revised SLE, the final mark for the level will be based solely on in-school assessments.

How will training providers be informed of the launch of an SLE?

An OPSN will be sent to announce the launch of the revised SLEs.

Program *Data*

Training Providers

- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Burnaby School District - 41
- UBC Botanical Garden
- Thompson Rivers University
- Camosun College
- Coast Mountain College
- Vancouver Island University

APPRENTICES

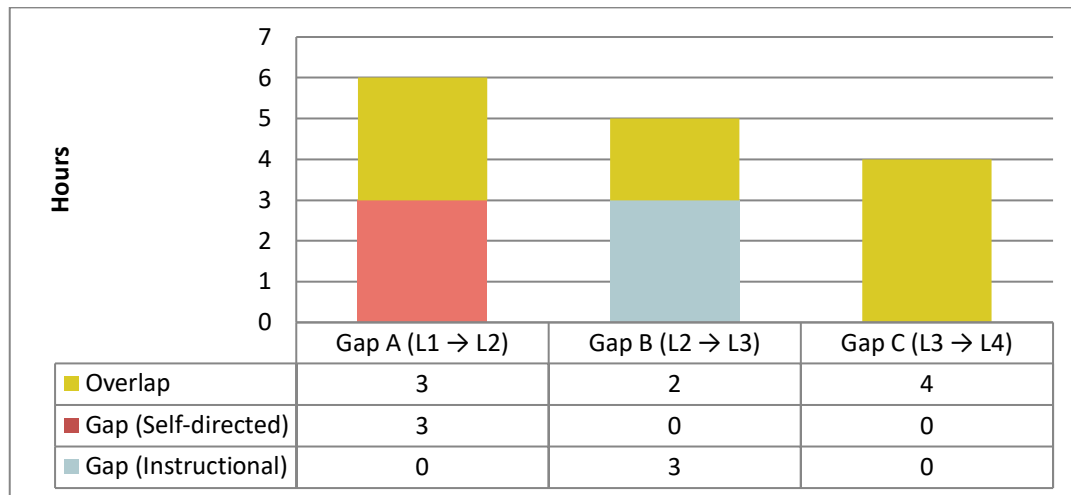
Program Registrations as of April 1, 2026

Program	Status	0TT	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
Landscape Horticulturist	Active	136	59	129	64	34	422
	Inactive	345	170	43	15	6	579
	Total	481	229	172	79	40	1001

Notes:

1. **0TT:** Apprentices who are registered with SkilledTradesBC but have **not** completed any technical training.
2. **Active:** Apprentices for whom activity has been logged with SkilledTradesBC within the last 18 months.
3. **Inactive:** Apprentices for whom **no** activity has been logged with SkilledTradesBC within the last 18 months.

Gaps and *Overlaps*



A Gap is an estimate of the hours of technical training content **that an apprentice will be missing if they transition** from the 2018 program to the 2028 program (**2018→2028**) at a specific level. An apprentice who is unable to finish their training in the current program will be transitioned to the revised program. An apprentice will only transition to the 2028 program once so will only face a gap in their training at that one point.

Gap A (2018.L1→2028.L2) is the technical training content that an apprentice who has completed Level 1 will be missing if they transition into 2028 Level 2.

Gap B (2018.L2→2028.L3) is the technical training content that an apprentice who has completed Levels 1 and 2 will be missing if they transition into 2028 Level 3.

Gap C (2018.L3→2028.L4) is the technical training content that an apprentice who has completed Levels 1, 2 and 3 will be missing if they transition into 2028 Level 4.

An Overlap is an estimate of the hours of technical training content that an apprentice will be repeating if they transition from the current program to the 2018 program (2018.L→2028.L) at a specific level.

INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS AND SELF-DIRECTED HOURS

Instructional Hours consist of the missing content that requires instructional time to address. It is critical to the apprentice's success and is unlikely to be learned without intervention.

Self-Directed Hours consist of the missing content that an apprentice will likely learn in the context of other tasks or levels in technical training, on the job, or through self-study. It is **not** considered critical to the apprentice's success.

GAP A: 2018.L1 → 2028.L2

This table lists the content that an apprentice will be **missing** if they have completed Level 1 (2018.L1) and then take the revised Level 2 (2028.L2).

Competency	Missing Content	Achievement Criteria	Content Migration	Instructional Hours*	Self-directed Learning Hours**
G4 Prune Plant Materials	- Describe shrub, vine and groundcover pruning considerations - Select and use tools and equipment - Establish pruning objectives - Describe shrub, vine and groundcover pruning considerations - Perform pruning techniques for young and established shrubs, groundcovers and vines - Describe timing of pruning shrub, vine and groundcover - Demonstrate safe working practices and operation of common pruning equipment and tools - Organize and dispose of pruned material	No	2028.L1 ← 2018.L2	0	3
			Total	0	3

***Instructional Hours** are hours of content that an apprentice would need dedicated instruction to cover.

****Self-Directed Learning Hours** are hours of content that an apprentice would be able to cover through self-study, on the job or in the context of other tasks/levels.

OVERLAP A: 2018.L1 → 2028.L2

This table lists the content that an apprentice will be **repeating** if they have completed 2018.L1 and then take 2028.L2.

Competency	Repeating Content	Content Migration	Hours
I3 Perform grading	- Select and use tools and equipment - Describe the considerations for grading - Perform calculations - Perform site grading - Describe the effects of grading	2018.L1→2028.L2	0
I4 Install drainage systems	- Select and use tools and equipment - Describe the considerations for drainage system selection - Perform drainage system installation	2018.L1→2028.L2	0
Total			0

GAP B: 2018.L2 → 2028.L3

This table lists the content that an apprentice will be **missing** if they have completed 2018.L2 and then take 2028.L3.

Competency	Missing Content	Achievement Criteria	Content Migration	Instructional Hours*	Self-directed Learning Hours**
M8 Practice snow and ice removal	- Select and use tools and equipment - Describe snow clearing - Describe application of ice control products - Describe installation of protective structures - Describe weather monitoring factors	No	CL3 -> HL2	3	0
Total				3	0

OVERLAP B: 2018.L2 → 2028.L3

This table lists the content that an apprentice will be **repeating** if they have completed 2018.L2 and then take 2028.L3.

Competency	Repeating Content	Content Migration	Hours
J2 Install surface materials	- Select and use hand and power tools - Select and use equipment - Prepare for installation - Install surface materials - Clean-up site	CL2->CL3	1
M3 Maintain surface materials	- Describe surface defects and hazards - Describe maintenance procedures for surfaces	CL2 -> CL3	1
Total			2

OVERLAP C: 2018.L3 → 2028.L4

This table lists the content that an apprentice will be **repeating** if they have completed 2018.L3 and then take 2028.L4.

Competency	Repeating Content	Content Migration	Hours
C4 Participate in job planning activities	- Participate in job planning activities - Consider safety requirements - Verify materials - Identify and schedule clean-up	CL3 -> CL4	1
D1 Control inventory	- Describe the process for identifying and counting inventory - Describe the process for sorting, and maintaining inventory - Describe the considerations for restocking orders	CL3 -> HL4	1
D2 Sell products and services	- Describe considerations for client education and advising - Describe merchandizing and marketing of products and services - Describe considerations for handling payments for products and services	CL3 -> HL4	1
D3 Maintain customer relations	- Describe methods of maintaining customer relations - Describe methods of maintaining customer records - Identify stakeholders for future inquiries	CL3 -> HL4	1
		Total	4

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COMPETENCY MIGRATION CHART

This chart shows where content from the current Landscape Horticulturist program (CL) moved to in the Harmonized Landscape Horticulturist program (HL) and includes details of content that was moved or split across levels.

KEY

CL = Current Level

HL = Harmonized level

Black Text = No change to level

Blue Text = Content moved to lower level

Purple Text = Content moved to higher level

Green Text = New content added

CURRENT LEVEL 1 TO HARMONIZED LEVEL 1

CURRENT LEVEL 1 (CL1)		HARMONIZED LEVEL 1 (HL1)		MIGRATION	DETAILS
Line A	PERFORM SAFETY-RELATED FUNCTIONS	Line A	PERFORM SAFETY-RELATED FUNCTIONS		
A1	Use personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety equipment	A1	Use personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety equipment		
A2	Maintain safe work environment	A2	Maintain safe work environment		
		A3	Participate in healthy and respectful workplace practices		New content (RSOS)
Line B	USE TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES	Line B	USE TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES		
B1	Use hand tools	B1	Use hand tools		
B2	Use power tools	B2	Use power tools		
B3	Use measuring equipment	B3	Use measuring equipment		
B4	Use vehicles and motorized equipment, trailers and attachments	B4	Use vehicles and motorized equipment, trailers and attachments		
Line C	ORGANIZE WORK	Line C	ORGANIZE WORK		
C1	Perform site assessments	C1	Perform site assessments		
C2	Use documentation and reference material	C2	Use documentation and reference material		

CURRENT LEVEL 1 (CL1)		HARMONIZED LEVEL 1 (HL1)		MIGRATION	DETAILS
C3	Maintain records	C3	Maintain records		
C7	Transport materials	C7	Transport materials		
C8	Transport equipment	C8	Transport equipment		
Line E	USE COMMUNICATION AND MENTORING TECHNIQUES	Line F	USE COMMUNICATION AND MENTORING TECHNIQUES		
E1	Use communication techniques	F1	Use communication techniques		
Line F	APPLY HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES	Line G	APPLY HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES		
F1	Practice basic plant science	G1	Practice plant science		
F2	Identify plants and plant requirements	G2	Identify plants		
F3	Manage plant health and growing conditions	G3	Manage plant health, soil and growing conditions		"soil" added to HL task
		G4	Prune plant materials	HL1<-CL2	Some content from CL2 was moved to HL1. Additional introductory "Pruning" content added to task at CL1. Pruning now covered levels 1,2 and 3.
Line G	APPLY ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES	Line H	APPLY ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES		
G1	Practice environmental stewardship	H1	Practice environmental stewardship		
G3	Practice soil stewardship	H3	Practice soil stewardship		
Line H	PERFORM PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES	Line I	PERFORM PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES		
H3	Perform grading	I3	Perform grading	CL1->HL1 & HL2	CL1 Content split between HL1 and HL2
H4	Install drainage systems	I4	Install drainage systems	CL1->HL1 & HL2	CL1 Content split between HL1 and HL2
Line J	INSTALL SOFTSCAPE	Line K	INSTALL SOFTSCAPE		
J1	Install growing media	K1	Install growing media		
J5	Install turf from seed	K5	Install turf from seed		
J6	Install sod	K6	Install sod		
Line M	MAINTAIN SOFTSCAPE	Line N	MAINTAIN SOFTSCAPE		
M1	Maintain exterior softscape	N1	Maintain exterior softscape		
M3	Maintain turfgrass	N3	Maintain turfgrass		

CURRENT LEVEL 2 TO HARMONIZED LEVEL 2

CURRENT LEVEL 2 (CL2)		HARMONIZED LEVEL 2 (HL2)		MIGRATION	DETAILS
Line B	USE TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES	Line B	USE TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES		
B1	Use hand tools	B1	Use hand tools		
B2	Use power tools	B2	Use power tools		
B3	Use measuring equipment	B3	Use measuring equipment		
B4	Use vehicles and motorized equipment, trailers and attachments	B4	Use vehicles and motorized equipment, trailers and attachments		
Line C	ORGANIZE WORK	Line C	ORGANIZE WORK		
C1	Perform site assessments	C1	Perform site assessments		
C2	Use documentation and reference material	C2	Use documentation and reference material		
C3	Maintain records	C3	Maintain records		
C6	Organize materials and equipment	C6	Organize materials and equipment		
C7	Transport materials	C7	Transport materials		
C8	Transport equipment	C8	Transport equipment		
Line F	APPLY HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES	Line G	APPLY HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES		
F1	Practice basic plant science	G1	Practice plant science		
F2	Identify plants and plant requirements	G2	Identify plants		
F3	Manage plant health and growing conditions	G3	Manage plant health, soil and growing conditions		
F4	Prune plant materials	G4	Prune plant materials		
Line G	APPLY ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES	Line H	APPLY ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES		
G1	Practice environmental stewardship	H1	Practice environmental stewardship		
G3	Practice soil stewardship	H3	Practice soil stewardship		
G4	Practice water stewardship	H4	Practice water stewardship		
Line H	PERFORM PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES	Line I	PERFORM PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES		
H2	Prepare construction site	I2	Prepare construction site		
		I3	Perform grading	CL1->HL1 & HL2	CL1 Content split between HL1 and HL2
H4	Install drainage systems	I4	Install drainage systems	CL1->HL1 & HL2	CL1 Content split between HL1 and HL2
Line I	INSTALL HARDSCAPE	Line J	INSTALL HARDSCAPE		
I2	Install surface materials	J2	Install surface materials		
I3	Install steps and retaining walls	J3	Install steps and retaining walls		

CURRENT LEVEL 2 (CL2)		HARMONIZED LEVEL 2 (HL2)		MIGRATION	DETAILS
Line J	INSTALL SOFTSCAPE	Line K	INSTALL SOFTSCAPE		
J2	Install exterior landscape plants	K2	Install exterior landscape plants		
J3	Transplant plants	K3	Transplant plants		
J4	Install mulch	K4	Install mulch		
Line L	MAINTAIN HARDSCAPE	Line M	MAINTAIN HARDSCAPE		
L1	Maintain drainage systems	M1	Maintain drainage systems		
L3	Maintain surface materials	M3	Maintain surface materials		
L4	Maintain steps and retaining walls	M4	Maintain steps and retaining walls		
		M8	Practice snow and ice control	CL3->HL2	All content moved down from CL3 to HL2
Line M	MAINTAIN SOFTSCAPE	Line N	MAINTAIN SOFTSCAPE		
M1	Maintain exterior softscape	N1	Maintain exterior softscape		
M4	Propagate plant materials	N3	Maintain turfgrass		

CURRENT LEVEL 3 TO HARMONIZED LEVEL 3

CURRENT LEVEL 3 (CL3)		HARMONIZED LEVEL 3 (HL3)		MIGRATION	DETAILS
Line B	USE TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES	Line B	USE TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES		
B1	Use hand tools	B1	Use hand tools		
B2	Use power tools	B2	Use power tools		
B3	Use measuring equipment	B3	Use measuring equipment		
B4	Use vehicles and motorized equipment, trailers and attachments	B4	Use vehicles and motorized equipment, trailers and attachments		
Line C	ORGANIZE WORK	Line C	ORGANIZE WORK		
C1	Perform site assessments	C1	Perform site assessments		
C2	Use documentation and reference material	C2	Use documentation and reference material		
C3	Maintain records	C3	Maintain records		
C4	Participate in job planning activities			CL3&CL4 ->HL4	Content was in CL3 & CL4. All content moved only to HL4
C5	Order materials	C5	Order materials		
C6	Organize materials and equipment	C6	Organize materials and equipment		
Line D	PARTICIPATE IN MARKETING AND SALES	Line D	PARTICIPATE IN MARKETING AND SALES		
D1	Control inventory			CL3->HL4	Content moved up from CL3 to HL4
D2	Sell products and services			CL3->HL4	Content moved up from CL3 to HL4
D3	Maintain customer relations			CL3->HL4	Content moved up from CL3 to HL4
Line F	APPLY HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES	Line G	APPLY HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES		
F2	Identify plants and plant requirements	G2	Identify plants		
F4	Prune plant materials	G4	Prune plant materials		
F5	Manage pests, diseases and invasive species	G6	Manage pests, diseases and invasive species		
Line G	APPLY ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES	Line H	APPLY ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES		
G1	Practice environmental stewardship	H1	Practice environmental stewardship		
G4	Practice water stewardship	H4	Practice water stewardship		
Line I	INSTALL HARDSCAPE	Line J	INSTALL HARDSCAPE		

CURRENT LEVEL 3 (CL3)		HARMONIZED LEVEL 3 (HL3)		MIGRATION	DETAILS
I1	Install landscape structures	J1	Install landscape structures		
		J2	Install surface materials	CL2->HL2 & HL3	CL2 split between HL2 & HL3
I4	Install irrigation systems	J4	Install irrigation systems		
I5	Install water features	J5	Install water features		
I6	Install low voltage landscape lighting	J6	Install low voltage landscape lighting		
Line J	INSTALL SOFTSCAPE	Line K	INSTALL SOFTSCAPE		
J7	Install interior landscape plants	K7	Install interior landscape plants		
Line L	MAINTAIN HARDSCAPE	Line M	MAINTAIN HARDSCAPE		
L2	Maintain landscape structures	M2	Maintain landscape structures		
		M3	Maintain surface materials	CL2 ->HL2 & HL3	CL2 split between HL2 and HL3
L5	Maintain irrigation systems	M5	Maintain irrigation systems		
L6	Maintain water features	M6	Maintain water features		
L7	Maintain landscape lighting	M7	Maintain extra-low voltage landscape lighting and other extra-low voltage electrical systems		Sub-task title updated to emphasize “extra-low voltage,” better reflecting the scope of work within the trade.
L8	Practice snow and ice control			CL3->HL2	CL3 moved down to HL2
L9	Repair hardscape	M9	Repair hardscape		
Line M	MAINTAIN SOFTSCAPE	Line N	MAINTAIN SOFTSCAPE		
M2	Maintain interior softscape	N2	Maintain interior softscape		
M5	Repair softscape	N4	Repair softscape		

CURRENT LEVEL 4 TO HARMONIZED LEVEL 4

CURRENT LEVEL 4 (CL4)		HARMONIZED LEVEL 4 (HL4)		MIGRATION	DETAILS
Line C	ORGANIZE WORK	Line C	ORGANIZE WORK		
C1	Perform site assessments	C1	Perform site assessments		
C2	Use documentation and reference material	C2	Use documentation and reference material		
C3	Maintain records	C3	Maintain records		
C4	Participate in job planning activities	C4	Participate in job planning activities		
Line D	PARTICIPATE IN MARKETING AND SALES	Line D	PARTICIPATE IN MARKETING AND SALES		
		D1	Control inventory	CL3->HL4	All content moved up from CL3 to HL4
		D2	Sell products and services	CL3->HL4	All content moved up from CL3 to HL4
		D3	Maintain customer relations	CL3->HL4	All content moved up from CL3 to HL4
D4	Prepare estimates	D4	Prepare estimates		
Line E	USE COMMUNICATION AND MENTORING TECHNIQUES	Line E	USE CONTINUOUS LEARNING TECHNIQUES		
		E1	Upgrade in new trade practices and procedures		New content added (RSOS)
		E2	Upgrade in emerging technologies		New content added (RSOS)
Line E	USE COMMUNICATION AND MENTORING TECHNIQUES	Line F	USE COMMUNICATION AND MENTORING TECHNIQUES		
E2	Use mentoring techniques	F2	Use mentoring techniques		
Line F	APPLY HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES	Line G	APPLY HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES		
F2	Identify plants and plant requirements	G2	Identify plants		
F5	Manage pests, diseases and invasive species	G6	Manage pests, diseases and invasive species		
Line G	APPLY ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES	Line H	APPLY ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES		
G1	Practice environmental stewardship	H1	Practice environmental stewardship		
G2	Practice biodiversity enhancement	H2	Practice biodiversity enhancement		
		H5	Practice fire safety and prevention in landscaping		New content added (RSOS)
Line H	PERFORM PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES	Line I	PERFORM PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES		

CURRENT LEVEL 4 (CL4)		HARMONIZED LEVEL 4 (HL4)		MIGRATION	DETAILS
H1	Participate in landscape design activities	I1	Participate in landscape design activities		
Line K	INSTALL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS	Line L	INSTALL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS		
K1	Select green infrastructure	L1	Select green infrastructure		
K2	Install green roofs and walls	L2	Install green roofs		CL split "Install green roofs and walls". HL L2 content includes only "Install green roofs"
		L3	Install green walls		CL split "Install green roofs and walls". HL L3 content includes only "Install green walls"
K3	Install rainwater and stormwater management systems	L4	Install rainwater and stormwater management systems		
K4	Install erosion control	L5	Install erosion control		
K5	Install biodiverse plantings and natural areas	L6	Install biodiverse plantings and natural areas		
Line N	MAINTAIN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE	Line O	MAINTAIN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE		
N1	Maintain green roofs and walls	O1	Maintain green roofs		CL split "Maintain green roofs and walls". HL O1 content includes only "Maintain green roofs"
		O2	Maintain green walls		CL split "green roofs and walls". HL O2 content includes only "Maintain green walls"
N2	Maintain rainwater and stormwater management systems	O3	Maintain rainwater and stormwater management systems		
N3	Maintain erosion control	O4	Maintain erosion control		
N4	Maintain biodiverse plantings and natural areas	O5	Maintain biodiverse plantings and natural areas		