2ND BARC IMPACT REPORT

changing climate, changing communities

ICLEICANADA.OR
What a difference a year can make!
Since ICLEI Canada produced its first 2018 BARC Impact Report we have seen tremendous growth in the field of adaptation and resilience building. Preparing our communities for a changing climate is no longer a niche activity reserved for climate scientists, policy makers and municipal planners. It has become mainstream, engaging citizens and professionals from all disciplines and in all types of communities. Consensus among leading scientists from around the world is that we have 11 years to act before irreversible damage from climate change will occur, and we are happy to report that Canadian communities are taking up the call like never before.

While recognizing these advancements as important and necessary milestones, we cannot become complacent. Patting ourselves on the back for recognizing a problem does not build our adaptive capacity or reduce our risk. However, steadfast implementation, refinement and course correction of our adaptation and resilience plans and strategies will. In October 2019, we will wrestle with some of these new challenges amongst the experts and practitioners gathered at the 2019 Livable Cities Forum on the theme of Building Better Communities through Resilience.

As ICLEI reflects on the work of BARC and we set our sights to the future, we know that a steadfast commitment to implementation is the beacon that will guide us through the years ahead.
Building Adaptive & Resilient Communities

BARC is a national program focused on resilience and adaptation. It offers a comprehensive way to respond to the impacts of climate change, develop and implement an adaptation plan, and protect the people, property, and prosperity of communities.

BARC is a proven and widely-recognized framework that is tailored to the needs of each community. Tools and resources help support the process, as does collaboration with a network of peers and experts from across the country.
Snapshot of National Impact

- 43 BARC Program Members
- 34 BARC Framework Users
- 440+ Local Partners
- 51 municipalities > 50,000
- 26 municipalities < 50,000
- 1320+ Climate impacts identified
- 1980+ Adaptation actions identified
- 75+ Institutional collaborations
- 50+ Funding partners
Framework Users Across the Country

Ajax
Baie-Saint-Paul
Barrie
Brampton
Burlington
Caledon
Calgary
Cambridge
Candiac
Capital Regional District
Conception Bay South
Courtenay
Delta
Duoro Dummer
Durham Region
Edmonton
Edmunston
Essex
Fredericton
Gatineau
Halton Hills
Hamilton
Havelock Belmont Methuen
Huron-Kinloss
Iqaluit
Kawartha Lakes
Kenora
Kingston
Kitchener
Laval
London
Longueuil
Metro Vancouver
Mississauga
Moncton
Mount Pearl
Nanaimo
New Glasgow
Nipigon
Norfolk
North Vancouver, City
North Vancouver, District
Oakville
Orangeville
Ottawa
Peel
Peterborough, City
Peterborough, County
Portugal Cove, St Phillips
Prévost
Prince George
Qualicum Beach
Red Deer
Repentigny
Rivière-du-Loup
Selwyn
St. Catherine’s
Surrey
Thunder Bay
Toronto
Ucluelet
Vancouver
Victoria
Waterloo, City
Waterloo, Region
Wawa
Windsor
Throughout the last year, we have been working with 20+ communities, conducting applied research projects, collaborating with experts, and delivering dozens of community-based workshops. We are constantly learning and adjusting our approach. These are a few of the lessons we are currently reflecting on:

**Change happens at the speed of trust.**
Changing the way we make decisions around adaptation and leveraging the potential in our communities is hard. It takes time. It takes time to build relationships and it takes time to establish trust around collaborative decision-making. Aligning our understanding and our collective vision for what a resilient community looks like leads to long-term progress and shared ownership for implementation. Many hands will make lighter work, we just need to build in the time to bring everyone to the table.

**Make meaningful connections.**
You have likely been asked to engage stakeholders on climate issues and solutions. But how well are you doing this? Meaningful connection is about knowing your audience, tailoring your message and developing effective communications strategies.

**Plans without implementation strategies are risky.**
Strategies without clear implementation plans - outlining responsibilities, partners, funding and performance metrics, run the risk of failing to launch. Adaptation planning is not immune to the challenge of well-meaning planning processes that result in published plans that never see the light of day. Integrating detailed implementation considerations into the planning process (alongside the people who will be responsible for the implementation) is one of the ingredients for success in moving from planning to action.

**Understand that resilience is more than managing assets.**
It’s thinking about people, it’s thinking about nature, and it’s thinking about economies. Resilience is looking at our communities as integrated systems where a change in one system ripples through all others.
Improving individual and community well-being is resilience building.
Social cohesion and connection to culture are key indicators of community health and well-being. They are also indicators of resilience, and help ensure people bounce back (or forward) from crises, to feel safe in their homes and neighbourhoods and to thrive and be happy. Giving people a connection to the places they live, work, and play not only enriches the fabric of our communities, it builds resilience to the risks of climate change and other stressors (e.g. loneliness, anxiety, and crime).

Set out monitoring and measuring plans early.
Understanding whether the actions you are taking have improved your adaptive capacity can be a hard task. Setting out measurement plans early in an adaptation planning process is vital. Early inclusion of key performance metrics and indicators is an essential step in successful monitoring and evaluation.

Multi-solve to achieve multiple benefits.
Multi-solving offers a strategic approach to address interconnected problems that are facing our communities. By focusing on the interconnection between issues, a multi-solving approach looks for opportunities to solve two or more problems with the same budget and resources, and focuses on cutting across silos in order to get more people involved using their political power, voices, resources and passion – offering an opportunity to bring in other perspectives and move further faster.

Invest early to avoid future costs.
Taking proactive measures that eliminate or reduce the impacts and risks of climate change is key to building community resilience and saving money in the long-term. Public Safety Canada estimates that every dollar invested in disaster mitigation saves $3 to $5 in recover costs; such foresight can reduce disruption of local economies and communities.
Our Vision of the Future

BARC is always evolving, just like the concept of resilience itself. ICLEI Canada’s priorities for the coming year are:

1. **STRENGTHEN SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE** Infrastructure provides critical core services like clean drinking water, flood protection, and transportation—but our social assets (the people, neighbourhoods, and organizations that make up the life of our communities) often receive little focus in resilience building efforts. ICLEI Canada will continue to ensure social assets play a critical role in creating more resilient, healthy, and equitable communities.

2. **MOBILIZE CLIMATE SCIENCE** Reputable and accessible climate data must form the basis of all climate planning activities. Canada’s leading scientists and the Government of Canada have made this data available and easily accessible, via such tools as www.climatedata.ca. ICLEI Canada will continue to incorporate these climate data sources into our tools and resources, and promote them as the basis for all local climate action.

3. **ADVANCE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS** All communities, large and small, critically depend on healthy interconnected ecosystems, so it is essential that nature and nature-based solutions are fully integrated into urban planning and resilience building. ICLEI Canada will incorporate more nature-based solutions into our BARC activities and continue to promote platforms like www.CitiesWithNature.org help to recognize and enhance the value of nature-based solutions.

4. **LINK RESEARCHERS AND PRACTITIONERS** Canada is making great strides in clean growth and climate change research with the newly launched, Government of Canada funded, independent climate research institute. ICLEI Canada will work with the Canadian Climate and Clean Growth Institute to ensure local policy-makers are connected to the country’s leading researchers on clean growth and climate change.

5. **FACILITATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MULTI-SOLVING** Addressing the complex and interconnected problems facing our communities invites a multi-solving approach that serves the needs of many within the same strategic approach. ICLEI Canada will work to apply this approach by focusing on the interconnection between complex issues as we continue to work with communities to understand and facilitate opportunities for building resilience.