



# WEBINAR SERIES: ADVANCING COLLABORATIVE CLIMATE ACTION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

SESSION ONE: Working Together – Advancing Climate Adaptation Through Strategic Partnerships



# AGENDA

- This session will include presentations from four speakers, followed by moderated Q&A
- 10:00 AM Introduction by the moderator
- 10:10 AM Presentations
- 11:10 AM Q&A
- 11:30 PM Close of the session



# Session One: Working Together – Advancing Climate Adaptation Through Strategic Partnerships

## SPEAKER PROFILES

June 1, 2020 | 10 am PT/1 pm ET



**Hana Lapp**  
Climate Change Program  
Manager, ICLEI Canada



**Amy Daca**  
Stormwater Management  
Technologist, City of  
Burlington, ON



**Andrea Byrne**  
Environmental Coordinator,  
City of Prince George, BC



**Julie Cayley**  
Executive Director, Severn  
Sound Environmental  
Association



# The Power of Partnerships: Many hands make 'lightish' work

**I.C.L.E.I**  
Local  
Governments  
for Sustainability

Together for Climate – National Webinar Series  
**Hana Lapp**, Climate Change Program Manager  
ICLEI Canada



# BREAKING NEWS

- Partnerships are necessary and good.
- They can also be:
  - Hard to identify
  - Hard to secure
  - Hard to engage meaningfully
  - Hard to maintain long-term
- Need to consider who are we partnering with, how are we engaging them, and who is still being left out.



# What do I mean by partnerships?

A few definitions:

- Coordinated grouping of actors from two or more sectors, working collaboratively to achieve a common goal – usually involving a commitment of resources from the partners
- Social, non-hierarchical, and voluntary inter-organization
- Collective strategies focused on a shared vision, with specific commitments to address a common problem

# Why are deeper partnerships on climate change so important?

- Climate change challenges are too large and complex to be addressed by a single organization alone
- Limited jurisdictional capacity of individual organizations
- Source of funding and expertise
- From a municipal perspective, partnerships can ground climate change plans in community needs and interests, increasing the legitimacy of plans

**“** The issues we face are so big and the targets are so challenging that we cannot do it alone. When you look at any issue, such as food or water scarcity, it is very clear that no individual institution, government or company can provide the solution. **”**

*– Paul Polman, CEO, Unilever<sup>1</sup>*

An illustration at the top of the slide shows a group of people in a collaborative office environment. On the left, a person's hands are shown holding a smartphone. In the center, a woman with long dark hair is writing on a whiteboard. To her right, another person is seated at a desk with a laptop. On the far right, a person is also seated at a desk, looking at a laptop. The background is a soft, colorful wash of light blues, yellows, and oranges, suggesting a bright and positive atmosphere.

# Think of your own organization...

- Are you already working with partners on climate change?
- Who are your partners?
- How long have you been partnering your organizations?
- How involved are your partners?



- Commercial**
- Exchange of goods, services, and payment for the performance of specific activities.
  - Partner interaction is based on contractual terms such as those commonly found in major infrastructure public-private partnerships (PPP).

- Philanthropic**
- Focus on charitable donation of funds, time, or in-kind resources.
  - Partner interaction typically limited to accountability on how funds are spent but can include limited joint planning of priority areas.

- Collaborative**
- Organizations share information and coordinate efforts but do not share decision-making power.
  - Limited transfer or combining of resources and programs.
  - High degree of partner autonomy with no permanent organizational commitment.

- Strategic**
- Partners share decision-making power and exposure to risk.
  - Involves co-creation of partnership objectives, resource sharing, and joint management of a partnership function.
  - Partners leverage core competencies to achieve partnership aims.

- Integrative**
- Strategically designed to achieve sustained impact and scale.
  - Results in learning-based transformation at the partner and partnership level.
  - Addresses systemic issues and has the potential to enable catalytic change across geographies and sectors.





# Who are possible partners?

## Community Partners:

- Higher education institutions
- NGOs
- Community Organizations
- Unions
- BIAs and Economic Development Agencies

## Private Sector:

- Major industries and businesses
- Construction industry and homebuilders
- Real estate developers
- Cooperatives
- Trade and industry associations

## Government/Institutional:

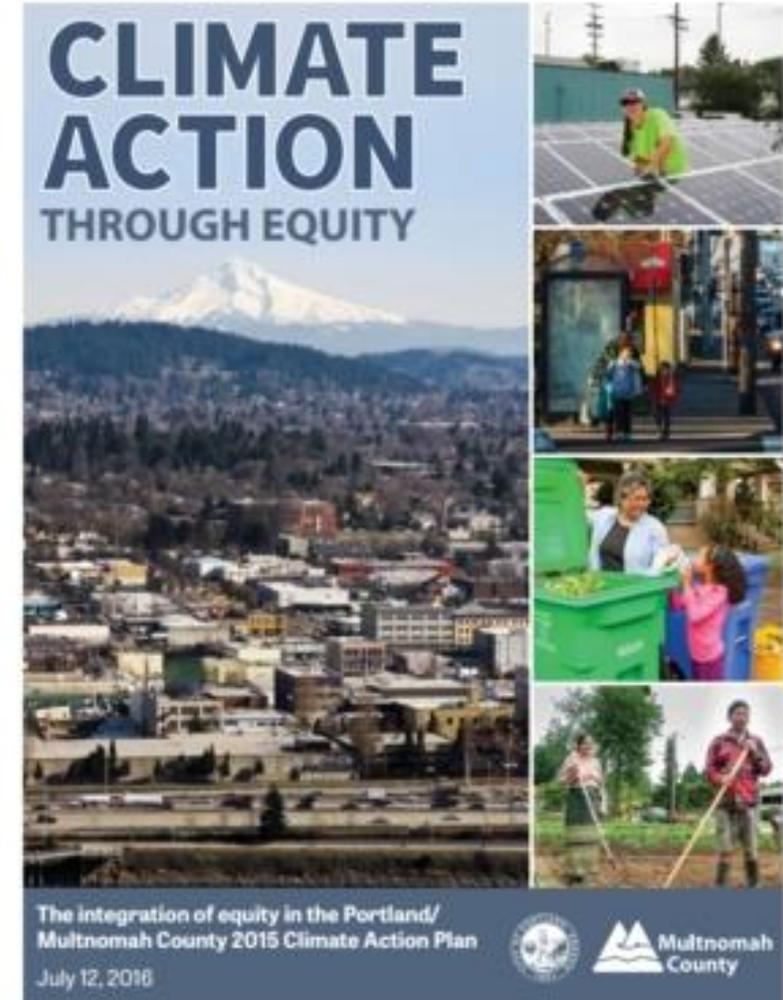
- Federal and Provincial governments
- Regional Governments
- Neighboring municipalities and First Nations
- Utilities and Energy System Operators
- School Boards

# Keys to successful partnerships



# Partnerships and equity

- Consider which groups are not being effectively engaged in the planning and implementation of climate actions
- Consider how climate actions can contribute to equity
- More equitable distribution of benefits includes more broadly shared access to co-benefits including health, economic development opportunities, lower energy costs, improved standard of living
- To do this must partner with groups that are not being effectively engaged to understand how they can benefit from climate solutions



# City of Burlington - Lighthouse project

- City of Brampton noticed a significant gap in outreach to vulnerable populations during extreme weather events
- They realized that 90% of Brampton residents had a religious affiliation – with all major faith groups represented
- Developed a community engagement program centred around emergency mitigation and preparedness
- Citizen and community awareness on climate change impact and solutions



# ICLEI – Together for Climate project

- Funded by the Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC)
- Working with 8 local and regional governments across British Columbia
- Municipally convened & community focused adaptation planning
- Purpose: develop a community climate change adaptation plan that is coproduced and implemented by municipalities and their stakeholders
- Following ICLEI's Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) Framework



# Collaborative & Coproduced Plans

- Actions and risks in the plan are owned and implemented by community partners
- Municipality acts as a coordinator and champion of the plan
- Stakeholders are involved from the beginning in impact identification, risk assessment, planning, and implementation.



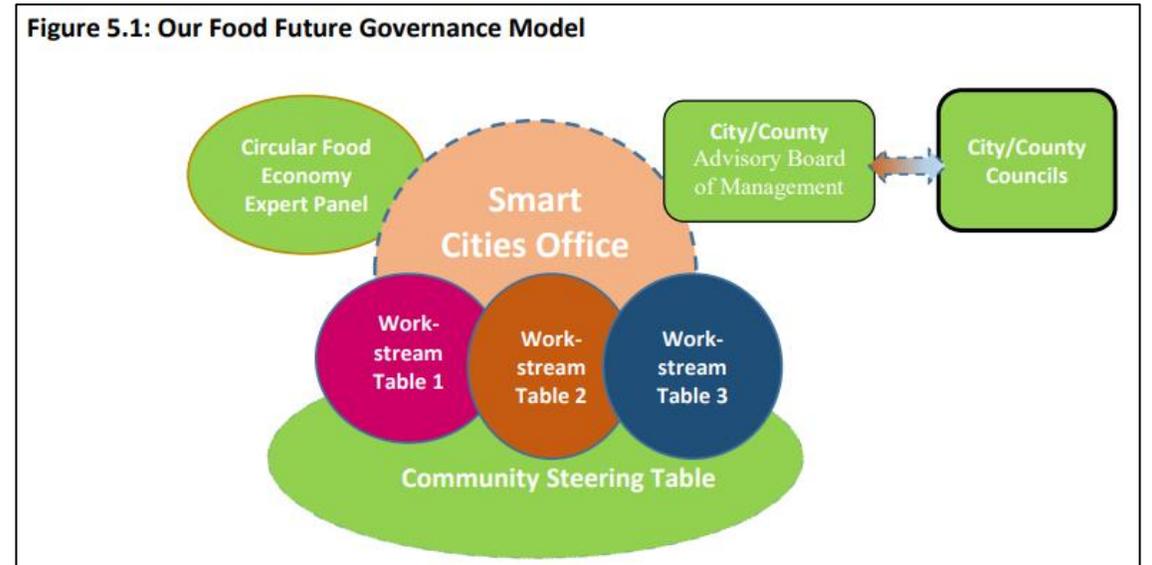
# Guelph-Wellington – Our Food Future

- Winner of the federal government’s Smart City Challenge
- Urban/rural partnership lead by the City of Guelph & County of Wellington
- “Our Food Future” plan aims to help the community create a circular food economy and move away from the current “take-make-dispose” system
- 3 goals & 9 projects involving more than 150 community partners



# Guelph-Wellington – Our Food Future

- Established “Smart City Office” hosted by the City of Guelph
- Advisory Board of Management & City/County Councils provide strategic leadership and accountability
- Circular Food Economy Expert Panel – provide national and international expert advice
- Workstream(s) - responsible for identifying problems, collecting data and developing project plans for each of Our Food Future’s three goals
- Community Steering Table - core delivery partners & organizations



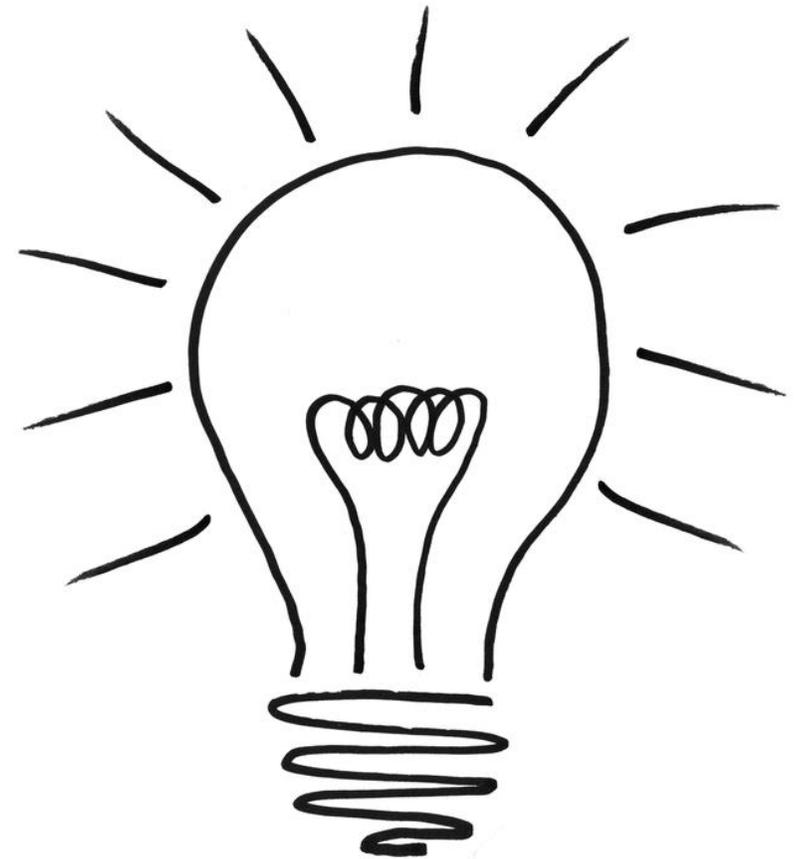
Source: City of Guelph/County of Wellington Our Food Future Final Proposal

# Take home messages

The issues that we face are so big and the challenges so complex that we cannot address them alone.

Moving to integrative partnerships means having a mechanism to formalize them and staffing these partnerships accordingly.

**Change happens at the speed of trust.**



An illustration at the top of the slide shows a group of people in a meeting. On the left, a hand holds a smartphone. In the center, a woman with long dark hair is writing on a whiteboard. On the right, a person is sitting at a desk with a laptop. The background is a mix of light blue, yellow, and orange tones.

Thanks and get in touch!

**Hana Lapp**

Climate Change Program Manager

ICLEI Canada

[hana.lapp@iclei.org](mailto:hana.lapp@iclei.org)

**I.C.L.E.I**  
**Local  
Governments  
for Sustainability**