



Lookbook 2024-2025

Ontario Resource Centre for Climate Adaptation

Our mission is to equip municipalities, communities, and leaders with the information and support they need to increase climate resilience in the Great Lakes basin and throughout Ontario.

A screenshot of the ORCCA website homepage. The top navigation bar includes "About ORCCA", "Services", "Adaptation Resources", "Support Desk", and "News & Events". The main header features a large image of a city waterfront with the text "Supporting Climate Resilience in the Great Lakes & Ontario" and a "Find Your Adaptation Solution" button. Below this, the text reads "ORCCA is The Ontario Resource Centre for Climate Adaptation" next to the ORCCA CRACO logo. A "Learn More" button is positioned below the text. The lower section is titled "Empowering Climate Action with ORCCA" and contains four circular icons with corresponding text: "New to Adaptation?", "Support for Climate Leaders", "Accelerating Your Adaptation", and "Connections and Information". An "Explore Our Services" button is located at the bottom right of the page.

Staff Capacity Projects



Outreach & Engagement Projects



City of Cornwall

Tree Protection By-law Engagement & Draft By-law



Fast Facts:

- **+500** Survey responses
- **11** By-laws reviewed & compared
- Conference presentation to **+100** attendees (OUFC)

Objective	To create a Tree By-law that will lead to the evaluation of the subdivision manual, site plan agreements, and use of natural wetlands for site drainage.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal engagement with key staff and decision-makers.• External engagement with community and industry.• Jurisdictional scan of relevant and comparable By-laws.• Phase 1 engagement summary report published.• Phase 2 research and engagement planning initiated.• Presented at the Ontario Urban Forest Council Conference (OUFC).• A draft By-law has been developed.
Outcome	Following successful community engagement with over 500 participants, a draft tree protection by-law has been developed.

City of St. Catharines

Extreme Heat & Vulnerability Mapping



Fast Facts:

- **8** Interviews
- **2** Presentations
- **13** Mapping principles
- **25** Data types identified

Objective	To develop a city-wide map demonstrating where vulnerabilities are within the City so staff can strategically implement services and strategies to improve community resilience to extreme heat.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jurisdictional scan of extreme heat and vulnerability mapping tools.• Interviews with key map creators and users across Canada.• Presentation and feedback workshop with internal working group.• In depth research report and interview summaries for internal use.• Shareable resource summarizing the project and outlining mapping principles and the data to be collected and their possible sources.• Presentation updating the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee on the City's Adaptation Plan action item progress.
Outcome	Developed a set of principles and data needs to inform the development of a municipal Heat Risk Mapping tool.

Township of Huron-Kinloss

Climate Adaptation Plan Action Updates



Fast Facts:

- **26** actions reviewed & updated
- **7** interviews
- **14** workshop attendees & working group members

Objective	To create procedures and terms of reference for future staff to help keep climate work moving forward.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interviewed adaptation action leads & reestablished the Climate Change Working Group with a pilot process (presentation, action update, prioritization, site tours, feedback survey).• Documented action item progress and next steps in a spreadsheet.• Produced two reports; action item interview insights and a working group meeting in-depth summary.• Shared updates and a short summary with Council.• Procedure developed for annual Climate Working Group meetings.
Outcome	Developed and tested a streamlined process for annually tracking and updating progress on adaptation actions outlined in the Township's Climate Change and Energy Plan.

Staff Capacity Program 2024-2025

Region of Durham

Resilient Home Retrofit Program Research & Design



Fast Facts:

- **75** Retrofits & resources documented
- Feedback session with **~50** Municipal and Conservation Authority staff
- **+60** panel presentation attendees (OPPI)

Objective	Increase resilience and equitable climate risk mitigation in homes across the Region through appropriate and effective climate resilience retrofit measures.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Created a risk, retrofit, and community research hub that will inform communications and implementation.• Interim presentation and feedback session with Durham staff, Local Area Municipalities and Conservation Authorities.• Audience research and development of 4 key personas.• Funding application support and prepared responses for future funding application use.• Cross-sectoral panel presented at 2024 OPPI conference.
Outcome	Advanced program design and draft funding applications for Durham's Resilient Home Retrofit Program.

City of Toronto

Cost of Doing Nothing (CODN) Report



Fast Facts:

- **5** Impact statements developed
- **17** next steps & recommendations

Objective	To quantify the costs of climate change in Toronto, analyze major climate impact areas, their risks and financial implications, and provide recommendations to inform future municipal policies.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comprehensive review of Toronto's climate resilience strategies, adaptation plans, and key programs and initiatives.• Collected costing data from multiple City of Toronto departments, which included both direct and indirect climate-related costs.• Identified five major climate-related risks to serve as a framework for future risk analysis.• Assessed the financial implications of each impact area, evaluating associated costs and economic projections.
Outcome	The Cost of Doing Nothing (CODN) report provides the City with guidance on assessing the financial and societal costs of inaction on climate change, using local data to compare proactive action vs. the status quo.

Staff Capacity Program 2024-2025

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Health and Health Equity Lens for Adaptation



Fast Facts:

- **27** partners engaged
- **7** interviews with external partners and SMDHU staff
- **7** topic-specific guidance materials created

Objective	To develop a set of accessible guidance materials that can aid regional partners with incorporating health and health equity considerations into their climate adaptation activities.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background research was conducted and municipal, community, and internal partners were engaged through a survey and interviews, contributing to a draft primer and guidance materials.• Feedback was gathered from internal and external partners.• The Health and Health Equity in Adaptation Toolkit includes a Primer and Guidance Materials and was developed to address both general and sector-specific considerations (Urban Planning & Community Design, Housing, Transportation, Energy & Communication Systems, Water Resources, Natural Environments, Parks & Outdoor Recreation, and Food Systems).
Outcome	Developed a climate health equity lens to support municipal partners in centering health equity in adaptation planning and action.



Staff Capacity Program 2024-2025

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Water Quality Monitoring Program Review

Fast Facts:

- **26** next steps & recommendations developed
- **45** documents reviewed with **109** metrics identified

Objective	To provide recommendations to the UTRCA for tailoring water quality monitoring efforts toward adaptation-focused outcomes in future program updates and activities
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewed UTRCA Water Quality Monitoring Program protocols including recommendations on how to leverage current data.• Literature review of adaptive monitoring best practices & high-level gap analysis.• Recommendation of next steps including areas for future research.• Preparation of resource companion document and report.
Outcome	Final report including overview of current UTRCA water quality monitoring efforts, recommendations for leveraging currently-available data, literature review & gap analysis key takeaways, and recommendations for possible next steps. A companion document was prepared that includes resources to support the implementation of next steps.

Dufferin County

Resilience Hub Community Engagement & Visioning



Fast Facts:

- **26** organizations & committees engaged
- **250** community members engaged
- **64** survey responses
- **20** resources reviewed

Objective	To create a versatile, accessible, and dynamic community hub that enhances climate resilience, fosters social connections, and strengthens emergency preparedness.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engagement and project plan developed.• Community and stakeholder engagement activities spanned forming a Community Advisory Group including three workshops, conducting a workshop with Municipal Library Staff, organizing a pop-up event, and distributing a community survey.• Phase 1 engagement resulted in a report summarizing activities and key feedback insights.• A report on <i>Building the Case for a Community Resilience Hub</i>, covers the financial impacts of climate risks, the cost of inaction, Climate Hub case studies, and a literature review.• Connection made with a design team and initiated hub design plans.
Outcome	Advanced design of an equitable Community Resilience Hub, informed by engagement & best practices, to guide the County's partnership with an architect to initiate the design process.

Staff Capacity Program 2024-2025

East Gwillimbury

Completion of Milestones 1 & 2 of BARC Framework for Adaptation



Fast Facts:

- **17** working group members
- **1** Climate Science Report
- **1** Future Projections Infographic
- **2** workshops designed and facilitated
- **1** Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Output Report created
- **1** Action Recommendations Summary

Objective	Identify climate-related impacts across East Gwillimbury and undertake a vulnerability and risk assessment to qualitatively determine the level of risk. The project implemented the BARC adaptation planning framework.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review existing conditions in East Gwillimbury; Assemble Adaptation Working Group and key additional stakeholders to engage.• Develop a Climate Science Report and relevant infographics.• Identify impact statements (workshop) and distill results.• Assess vulnerability to impacts (online survey) and distill results.• Assess risk to impacts (workshop) and distill results.• Develop a Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (VRA) Summary Report with Action Recommendations.• Advise on engagement & next steps to transition from VRA to action planning.
Outcome	Assembly of Working Group, Climate Analysis of East Gwillimbury (Climate Science Report) & development of a Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Report.



Fast Facts:

- **24+** Collaborative members
- **15+** participating organizations
- Dedicated to **trust building** and **regional-scale collaborative action**

Staff Capacity Program 2024-2025

Southwestern Ontario Climate Collaborative

Advancing Regional Climate Relationships & Collaboration

Objective	To create a forum for dialogue between diverse cross-sectoral partners to identify and meaningfully address shared understandings of risks and opportunities for regional scale climate action.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional engagement and interviews.• Online meetings to understand perspectives and project direction.• In-person workshop to build trust, share knowledge, and advance shared understandings and values.• Collaborative drafting of 'Scope of Purpose,' including a purpose statement, shared values, and a framework for collaboration.• Launched "Southwestern Ontario Climate Collaborative".
Outcome	Established the Southwestern Ontario Climate Collaborative (SOCC), a community of practice committed to deepening relationships and advancing collaborative climate action on a regional scale.

Staff Capacity Program 2024-2025

Métis Nation of Ontario

Citizen Engagement to inform emergency management planning



Fast Facts:

- **283** survey responses
- **12** recommendations to enhance emergency response and build citizen resilience

Objective	To gather and synthesize citizen insights on emergency preparedness, experiences, response, recovery, and perceptions of emergency management planning to inform MNO planning and programs.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Info sheets on climate hazards & impacts and the emergency management cycle.• Mixed-methods Emergency Management Needs Citizen.• Assessment Survey.• Data analysis and synthesis.• In-depth survey report.
Outcome	In-depth report of survey findings, interpretations, and recommendations to inform emergency management planning.

Staff Capacity Program 2024-2025

Simcoe County District School Board

Completion of Milestones 1 & 2 of BARC Framework for Adaptation



Fast Facts:

- **21** working group members
- **1** Climate Science Report
- **1** Future Projections Infographic
- **2** workshops designed and facilitated
- **1** Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Output Report created
- **1** Action Recommendations Summary

Objective	Identify climate-related impacts across institutional facilities in the Simcoe County region and undertake a vulnerability and risk assessment to qualitatively determine the level of risk associated with those impacts. The project implemented the BARC adaptation planning framework.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review existing climate impacts with Simcoe County.• Assembled a Climate Change Working Group (CCWG).• Developed a Climate Science Report and relevant infographics.• Identify impact statements and distill results.• Assess vulnerability to impacts (online survey) and distill results.• Assess risk to impacts (workshop) and distill results.• Develop a Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (VRA) Summary Report with action recommendations.
Outcome	Developed an adaptation planning methodology to complete a comprehensive climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (VRA) in the school board context.



Staff Capacity Program 2024-2025

Lake of Bays

Development of an Adaptation Implementation Plan and Business Case template

Fast Facts:

- **5** area municipalities
- **1** Adaptation Implementation Plan
- **1** Business Case Report template

Objective	Based on the 2023 Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan (ReCAP), develop an Adaptation Implementation Plan to advance climate adaptation action across the District Municipality of Muskoka's five Area Municipalities. Draft a Business Case Report template to help municipalities advocate to Councils for additional climate change support staff.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of ReCAP and filter collaborative and municipality-specific adaptation actions• Action Prioritization Assessment of all identified adaptation actions• Development of an implementation schedule of adaptation actions for all five AMs and creation of an implementation plan• Development of a business case report template addressing the business need for additional climate change staff
Outcome	An Adaptation Implementation Plan addressing the priority levels of all identified adaptation actions as well as a business case report template to be brought forward to municipal Councils.



Staff Capacity Program 2024-2025

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

Climate Change Engagement Guidebook

Fast Facts:

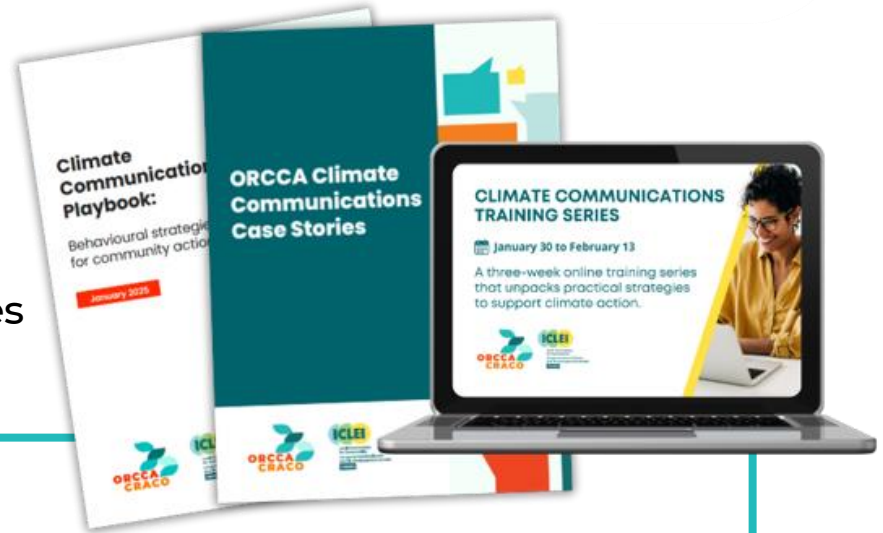
- **29** outreach & engagement actions identified in LSRCA's climate plans
- Engagement 101 workshop with **20** staff across **10** teams
- **1** Climate Change Engagement Guidebook

Objective	To enhance staff engagement competencies to effectively advance outreach and engagement efforts tied to specific actions in LSRCA's climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify outreach and engagement related actions in LSRCA's Climate Adaptation and Climate Mitigation strategies.• Engage departmental staff and managers to update progress and prioritization of actions.• Conduct staff "Outreach and Engagement" training session.• Create a Climate Change Engagement Guidebook to support staff in planning effective engagements.
Outcome	A prioritized list of climate-related outreach and engagement actions, a Climate Change Engagement Guidebook, and a renewed staff commitment to LSRCA's climate strategies.

Climate Communications Toolkit



The Climate Communications Toolkit is designed to help you use communications to support the implementation of climate action and build better, more resilient communities



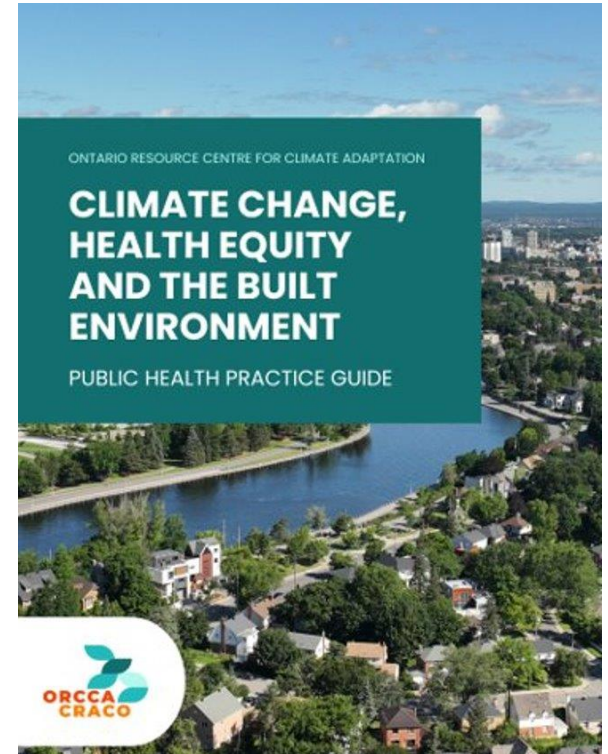
Access the free Toolkit here:
icleicanada.org/project/climate-communications-toolkit/

Climate Change, Health Equity and the Built Environment

This practice guide aims to equip public health professionals with concise information and actionable tools to advance knowledge, communication, and action at the intersection of climate change, health equity, and the built environment.



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Climate Change Adaptation Practice Guide For Planners

This guide was created to support professional planners and individuals from related fields with climate change adaptation work.

Co-created by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) and Climate Risk Institute (CRI) with support from the Ontario Resource Centre for Climate Adaptation (ORCCA).



Register for the webinar here:

bit.ly/ORCCAPlannersGuide

