

# We Are Resilient

An outdoor, travelling exhibition presented by  
Environment & Museums of Mississauga





**Exhibition Launch**

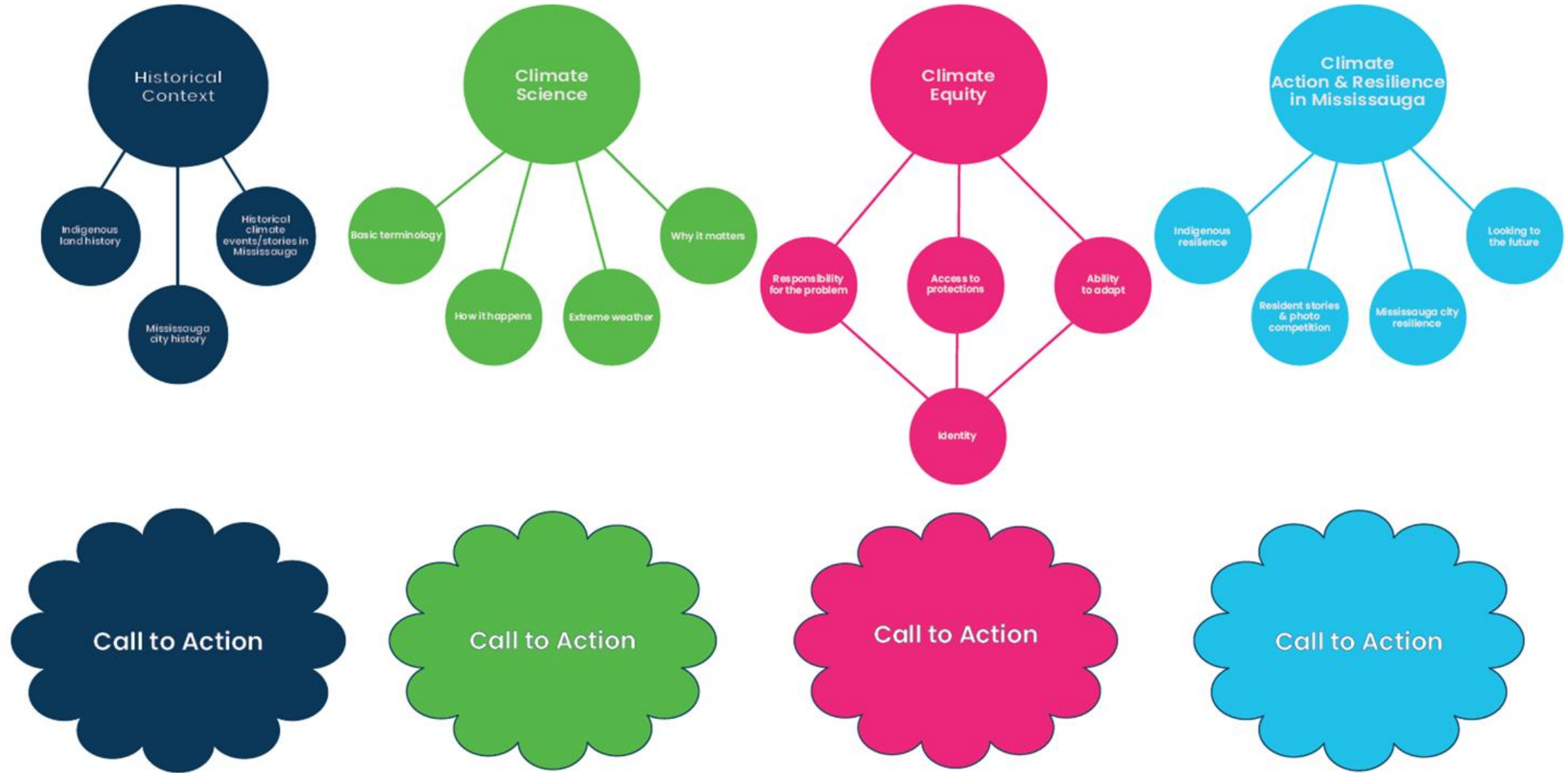
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**Exhibition on Tour**

## Objective and Outcomes

- Create awareness and understanding of climate change in Mississauga (and globally);
- Explore resident experiences with climate change in our backyard through storytelling and photography;
- Showcase climate action projects in Mississauga to demonstrate the resilience of our community through engaging exhibitions and public programming;
- Engage with the public on climate change using culture as a medium to ignite dialogue and participation;
- Empower residents to take climate action and work towards creating a sustainable community.







## We are Resilient

*We Are Resilient* was an online contest hosted by the City of Mississauga that asked residents to submit photos and stories that demonstrate the impacts of our changing climate.

The quality and diversity of the submissions was incredible and clearly show that Mississauga's residents are future-thinking, fully engaged, and ready to act.

Enjoy the images and words submitted by your neighbours and friends across Mississauga.



### Make M1Way YourWay

Cities like Mississauga have historically been designed for cars. Our car-dependent lifestyles are not climate friendly and passenger vehicles are a large contributor to GHG emissions. M1Way, Mississauga's public transit system runs a fleet of 500 fully-accessible buses and has over 3,400 stops across the city. Getting to net zero will require fewer cars on the road, which means more bodies on the bus!

Image credit: Aya Rasouizadeh  
We are Resilient resident submission



### Storms Don't Last Forever

I have travelled far away to get a glimpse of those big storm clouds that always loom in the distance. But one fine day just happened to be in the backyard to witness such a beauty. Let's get together to get the city to net zero and be resilient to enjoy the beauty of nature.

Image and story credit: Harshil Bhatt  
We are Resilient resident submission



### Warmer Winters are Here to Stay

Many of the residents who submitted photos and stories to the *We Are Resilient* contest spoke fondly about their memories of former winters. It seems that everyone is noticing that we have longer, warmer winters with less snowfall and fewer days in a deep freeze. Due to climate change, in comparison to the global average, Canada is warming up at twice the rate of the rest of the world.

Image credit: Sarin Audevys  
We are Resilient resident submission



### Why all the Attention?

A few years ago I put our struggling lawn out of its misery and created a native wildflower garden that expanded to the boulevard strip. I learned that these drought- and salt-tolerant perennials, which were planted to change with the seasons, attract butterflies, bees, and birds. Neighbours shared my delight and established boulevard gardens of their own. Soon I was chatting with dog-walkers, stroller-pushers, school kids and joggers. Why all the attention? Finally I figured it out: an accessible garden, seen up close, allows passersby to touch silo petals and woolly leaves, smell fragrances, collect seeds, and spot a monarch chrysalis. I made the garden and tend it with care, but it's not mine: it belongs to our Mississauga community.

Image and story credit: Jeanne McLight  
We are Resilient resident submission



### Look to the Sky

It was the birds who first told me that something had changed. Mississauga is aged with vast, if sometimes overlooked or undisturbed, gems of nature right here at home. It is impossible to look here long without gawking and listening to the seasons of the birds who either migrate through or adjust their lives in accord with the broad spectrum that is our climate.

When the patterns changed, when strange illnesses and injuries appeared, when one snowy day it was clear that a perennial neglected winter would never return—that is when I knew that something had changed.

Image and story credit: Matt Hunter  
We are Resilient resident submission



### Don't Wait for Tomorrow

Year after year, we are faced with the same facts, climate change is real. That fact never changes, our actions barely change, yet our natural environments does.

It isn't all doom and gloom, we still have time to take action. We can all learn to adapt and lessen the impacts of our climate. We can become resilient.

Image credit: Lanco Aquino  
We are Resilient resident submission

Story credit: Aya Rasouizadeh  
We are Resilient resident submission



### Immigrant Seeds

We sow these immigrant seeds to thrive in new soil. Take pieces of our homes to feed our families.

In this plot, you'll find our roots.

Don't take for granted the land that welcomes all, regardless of where you come from.

Image and story credit: Crystal Zhu  
We are Resilient youth resident submission



### Taking Care of the Garden

The garden at my house spans the entire width of our backyard. As kids, my sister and I would take turns standing under my grandfather, listening to his guidance on when the leaves would need to be plucked off the mint stems, and the right amount of fertilizer that's required for the greenest chills.

Over the years, the backyard has changed just as much as we have. It's been 16 years since we first stood under his hoist, but what hasn't changed in all this time is our love for the garden.

Image and story credit: Kanessa Uthayakumar  
We are Resilient youth resident submission

### Now is the Time to Listen, and Hear

Working with the exhibition team, Peter Schuler, a Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation elder and knowledge keeper, reminded us that nature has been here since before anyone can remember and that humans are the newcomers to that relationship. Nature has never stopped speaking with humans, but we have forgotten how to listen.

When discussing the history of the Mississauga region, we are reminded that the reason we can't imagine how it used to be is because very few of us have seen or experienced untouched land. Other than some pockets of the earth that are uninhabited or explored, humans have altered the environment where they live to suit their needs. This whole area would have been covered in forests, waterways, and rock formations. Our history is the same as every place on earth; before this area was farmland and then a mega-city, it was pristine.



LEARN MORE!



Scan the QR code to learn more about the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.



# "Nature has never stopped speaking with humans, but we have forgotten how to listen."

— Peter Schuler



### Back to Basics

If you're a scientist, you might know all about climate change! But if not, here's some background on the big ideas.

- Adaptation**  
actions that adjust to new environmental conditions
- Mitigation**  
actions that reduce the amount of greenhouse gas going into the atmosphere
- Greenhouse gases**  
natural gases that trap heat on our planet and contribute to the warming of the atmosphere  
The 4 main greenhouse gases are:
  - Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)
  - Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)
  - Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)
  - Water vapor (H<sub>2</sub>O)
- Greenhouse effect**  
natural phenomenon that keeps Earth habitable, caused by greenhouse gases trapping heat in the atmosphere and warming the planet and its organisms
- Fossil fuels**  
energy resources such as coal, oil, and natural gas that have been formed over millions of years from dead plants and animals, and release carbon dioxide when used for energy
- Climate change**  
big shifts in the weather conditions in a part of the world, lasting for years
- Climate**  
the long-term pattern of weather conditions typically recorded over 30 years
- Weather**  
day-to-day conditions of the atmosphere, like temperature, rain or snow, on a specific day
- Paris Agreement**  
a climate agreement between 196 countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming to 1.5°C
- Carbon neutral**  
the amount of carbon dioxide emitted is fully offset by the amount removed from the atmosphere
- Net zero**  
greenhouse gases emitted are equal to the amount removed from the atmosphere
- Renewable energy**  
energy from natural resources that are replenished naturally and do not produce greenhouse gas emissions

# "There is overwhelming evidence that human activity is the primary cause of climate change."

— Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



### The Science of Climate Change

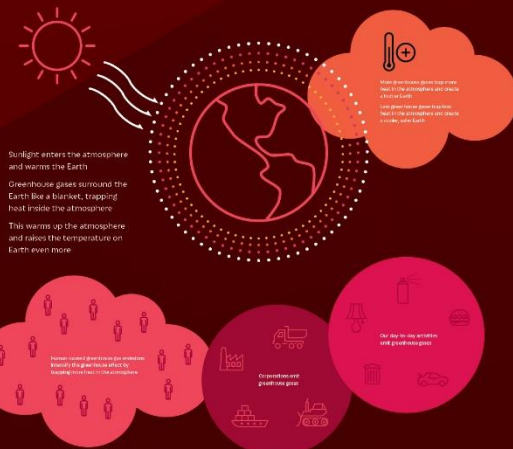
There is overwhelming evidence that human activity is the primary cause of climate change.

Ever since the Industrial Revolution in the 1800s, we have relied mainly on fossil fuels to produce everything from the electricity in our homes, to the food we eat, to the clothes we wear. Burning fossil fuels release vast amounts of greenhouse gases into our atmosphere. Greenhouse gases stay in the air for a long time and trap heat — slowly increasing the average temperature on Earth. A global temperature increase of 1.5°C might seem small, but it would have disastrous consequences on infrastructure, ecosystems, and weather events all over the world.

A Message Center supported the geographic information system that was used to create this map.



### How does the greenhouse effect work?



# There is Only One Earth— A World-Wide Call to Action



To preserve a livable planet, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions need to be reduced to net zero by 2050 at the latest. This will require quick, decisive action from governments, businesses, communities...and you!

### What Does Net Zero Even Mean?

It means that we are not putting any more human-made carbon (GHG) into the atmosphere than we remove from it. Net zero is required to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, and we need to start today. According to the United Nations, there are 10 impactful actions we can all adopt right now.



### One for All and All for One

Climate change affects us all. However, some communities and individuals will be impacted differently. Here in Mississauga it is important for us to consider climate inequities. We are striving for climate equity, meaning that all communities are equally protected from environmental threats and they have access to environmental benefits regardless of nationality, income, race, and other social characteristics. Climate to equity needs worldwide consideration. Many of the countries who will suffer the worst effects of climate change have contributed the least to the emissions that have caused it. In 2019, worldwide climate-related disasters forced over 20 million people from their homes. By 2050 there will be at least another 145 million climate migrants who will need new homes. The vast majority of these individuals will be coming from an ever-expanding number of countries along the equator and in the southern hemispheres, which are on track to becoming uninhabitable.

### Shelter from the Coming Storm

Despite the dire warnings and predictions about the future, there is some very good news both globally and here at home.

There is a clear and continued commitment from countries all over the world to keep climate change as a political and regional priority.

Mississauga has a vision to become a resilient, low carbon community. This is being implemented through mitigation and adaptation actions. Mitigation focuses on reducing emissions, while adaptation focuses on increasing resilience to the expected impacts of climate change. In 2019, Mississauga joined with many Canadian cities to declare a climate emergency, which has strengthened commitment to climate action across the nation.

Explore these images and stories received in the City's *We Are Resilient* photo and story contest.



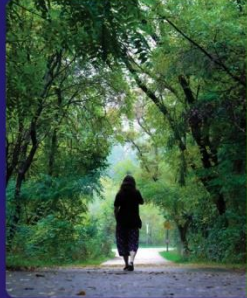
### We Are Resilient

This is a photo that encapsulates my past, the present and the future. The date is July 2021 and my toddler is standing in the garden of my childhood Mississauga home with his granddaddy. Grandpa is holding his grandson here to ease for the plants. We need to protect the environment so that the generation doesn't suffer the effects of climate change. Our wish is to educate our child to live a lifestyle that respects the environment.  
Image and story credit: Jennifer Chiu-Yan  
We are Resilient resident submission



### Forever Together

Trees are a symbol of life and resilience. They give all animals life through the oxygen that they release everyday, while absorbing the carbon dioxide from the same animals' breath. It's an endless cycle of life as it all unfolds for each and every plant.  
Trees undergo the process of transpiration, breathing oxygen and water vapor into the atmosphere. This "transpiration" has the effect of cooling the environment and the passing of time.  
Image and story credit: Tori-Jill  
We are Resilient resident submission



### Be Scared of Omnipotent Forces

To say that humans will end day destroy Earth is to be a little bit of a pessimist. Because one day after we've had our fix, the ball will be back.  
The forest will absorb carbon emissions and the water will filter back down.  
The world will find over itself and the trees will breathe.  
Let us see the forest for its true and choose to not look through them.  
But each and every tree.  
Image and story credit: Crystal Zhe  
We are Resilient youth resident submission



### Make a Splash

An summer season getting longer and as temperatures keep rising, and with the fact that right solutions to reverse climate change is great or have space to cool off. Splash pads across the City of Mississauga are great places and get the kids to have fun but also a gathering place for adults to spend quality time with loved ones. Climate change isn't just trying to control the climate in the long term, it's also finding solutions to cope with change in the short term. And that's the resilience we all need to demonstrate to make a difference.  
Image and story credit: Crystal Zhe  
We are Resilient youth resident submission



Looking forward to seeing you at  
our September launch event!

Thank you!