



2023 - 2027 INTERGOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

1 - PREAMBLE

Problem Statement

Climate change is a dire challenge. Extreme weather events cost Canadian municipalities millions and harm public health, infrastructure, industry, food production, and natural resources. Immediate action is imperative to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and minimize these impacts.

Ontario municipalities are working to address climate change while strengthening their economies. The policies needed to fight climate change can produce health benefits and economic growth, reduce costs, and improve social equity in our communities. The Clean Air Council (CAC) presents an opportunity to take a cohesive approach, pooling research findings, expertise, and lessons learned while enabling actions that benefit our communities and beyond.

Parties

Clean Air Partnership (CAP) is a registered charity that works to transform cities into more sustainable, resilient, and vibrant communities where resources are used efficiently, the air is clean to breathe, and greenhouse gas emissions are minimized. CAP serves as the secretariat for the CAC.

The CAC is a network of municipalities and health units that work collaboratively to combat air pollution and climate change. Since 2001, CAC members have worked to make our communities more livable, competitive, and resilient through actions that reduce energy use, minimize greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions, and make the movement of people and goods more efficient.

CAP would like to acknowledge and thank the City of Toronto, CAC member jurisdictions and provincial, federal and other partners for providing financial and in-kind support for the CAC. These partners have provided invaluable assistance in developing, implementing and reporting on progress on actions listed in the various CAC Intergovernmental Declarations on Climate Change.

Goals

1. Address climate change challenges through a dynamic network that enhances knowledge and encourages practical policies and action implementation;
2. Promote a better understanding of climate change challenges and opportunities among municipalities and public health units to improve their ability to address them efficiently;
3. Explore opportunities for joint initiatives to scale up mitigation and adaptation actions;
4. Develop and report on the progress of climate change action across member jurisdictions; and
5. Liaise with municipalities and other partners to share efforts and best practices for reducing GHG emissions and increasing community livability and resilience.

2 - STATEMENT OF COMMON UNDERSTANDING & COMMITMENT

1. Climate change adversely affects human health, the economy, and quality of life through its impacts on health, degradation of the environment, and damage to buildings and property.
2. Climate change projections predict increased extreme weather events in Ontario, such as floods, forest fires and heat waves – all of which increase health risks and economic costs to Canadians.
3. Municipalities have a significant influence over development, land use and transportation and are key drivers in achieving our local, provincial and national GHG emission reduction targets.
4. Greater authority and support from provincial and federal governments are needed to enable municipalities to reduce GHG emissions and advance climate action.
5. CAC members aim to improve the health of their residents through a collective Eco Health approach, reducing GHGs and increasing resilience, while protecting green infrastructure and biodiversity.
6. Recognizing that socially and economically disadvantaged community members are at the forefront of the climate crisis, CAC members commit to applying an equity lens to climate action.
7. CAC members commit to participating collaboratively in network activities to save staff time and resources.
8. CAC members commit to monitoring and reporting on present and past CAC declaration actions.

3 - CALL TO ACTION

CAC members commit to advancing the development of a sustained collaborative process with the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to advance the actions and policies listed below. Under each action, there are suggested steps to support the implementation.

** Resources developed by CAP have been linked below. As municipalities continue to advance actions in more areas, CAP will continue developing additional resources and link it to this declaration.*

1. **Aligning Municipal Operations with Climate Commitment** – Municipal decisions (ex. Operations, growth management, transportation planning) have energy, GHG, and cost implications for local governments, businesses, institutions, and residents. Below are key mechanisms to support achieving this action:

- » Corporate Adaptation Plan
- » Corporate Net Zero Plan
- » [Fleet Electrification Plan](#)
- » [Corporate Net Zero Emission Buildings Standards \(New Builds/Existing Buildings\)](#)
- » [Revolving Fund/Net Zero Costing Plan/Business Model for Net Zero Plan](#)
- » [Green Procurement](#)
- » Circular Economy Projects

2. **Advancing Climate Accountability** - Climate accountability identifies a pathway to achieve long-term emissions targets. It enables—or even requires—course correction by mandating clear and accessible progress reporting. Below are examples of emerging practices in this area:

- » Climate Emergency Declaration/Statement
- » [Climate Implications Section in Council Reports](#)
- » [Climate Integration into Official Plans and across Municipal Plans](#)
- » [Climate Lens Requirements/Implementation](#)
- » [Carbon Budgeting](#)
- » [Climate Integration into Financial Statements](#) (TCFD Disclosure, ISO Standard, etc.)

3. Maximizing Emission Reductions from Buildings - Buildings are a significant source of carbon emissions in Ontario, accounting for 25% of the total emissions in the province and 44% of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Below are key mechanisms to achieve building emissions reductions and net zero emissions by 2040.

- » [Community Green Development Standards](#)
- » [Residential Retrofit Financing Program](#)
- » Commercial Retrofit Financing Program
- » [Energy Carbon Disclosure](#)
- » [Energy/Climate Labelling](#)
- » Low Carbon Energy Planning with Developers at a Neighborhood Scale

4. Developing Value Propositions and Business Cases for Green Infrastructure - Green Infrastructure includes natural vegetative systems and green technologies that collectively provide ecosystem services with a multitude of economic, environmental, health, and social benefits. Below are key mechanisms through which natural assets can be integrated in municipal strategies for asset management and climate change.

- » Storm Water Plans Incorporating Climate Change
- » LID (Low Impact Development) Standard (Corporate Buildings, Road Right of Ways, etc.)
- » [Green Roofs Bylaw](#)
- » [Tracking Non/Permeable Surfaces](#)
- » LID Installations
- » [Use of Cost Benefit Analysis Tool/Natural Capital Valuation](#)

5. Maximizing Transportation Emission Reductions - Supporting the shift to more energy-efficient transport modes and reducing private and commercial vehicle trips through urban design and planning initiatives. Emerging practices in this area include:

- » AT Plans/Implementation Status
- » [Vision Zero](#)
- » [Cycling Hubs](#)
- » [Complete Street Framework/ Installations/Rebuilds](#)
- » Zero Emissions Zones/Car Free Programs
- » Electric Mobility (Including Micro E-mobility)
- » Shared Mobility Programs (Vehicles, Bikes, E-mobility)
- » Public Transportation

6. Developing and Implementing Corporate/Community Climate Resilience - Increasing municipal resilience change by identifying the risks and vulnerabilities to community and actions to address these risks. Emerging practices in this area include:

- » Vulnerability/Risk Assessment
- » Economic Analysis/Measure of the Economic Cost of Climate Change
- » Cost of Doing Nothing Analysis
- » Natural Assets Inventory
- » Best Practices in Thematic Based Adaptation Programs (Heat, Power Outage, Food Security, Flooding)

4 - SIGNATORIES







