

# Ontario Climate Caucus 2022 Workplan



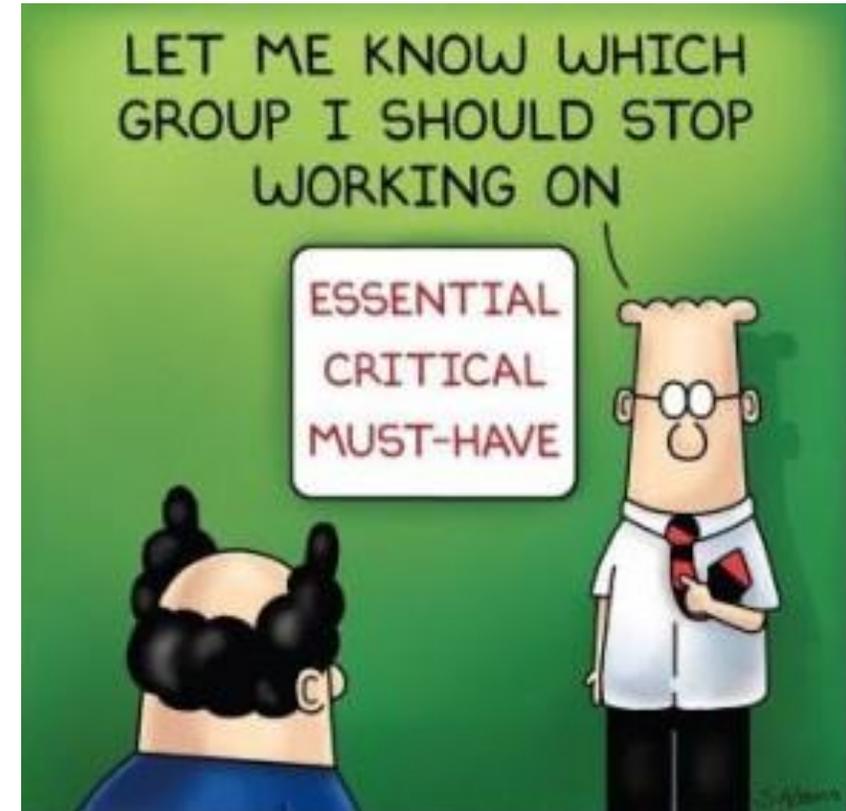
## About the Ontario Climate Caucus and its Scope

- The Climate Caucus is a non-partisan network of almost 150 Ontario Mayors and Councillors working collaboratively alongside 300 additional Mayors and Councillors across Canada to build equitable, regenerative, and resilient communities.
- The premise of the Climate Caucus is that elected officials benefit from opportunities to work collaboratively with other municipalities on climate action planning and implementation to drive implementation and scale up and achieve science based GHG reductions.
- The National Climate Caucus leads network, capacity building and advocacy at the national level.
- The Ontario Climate Caucus works on Ontario specific action items as determined by Ontario Climate Caucus members.
- The participant list for the Ontario Climate Caucus is available [here](#).
- More information on the Climate Caucus is available [here](#).
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- This slide deck serves as a compilation of input received from OCC participants regarding 2022 priority actions (as of February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022)

# High Priority 2022 OCC Activities



Planning Changes in Ontario	Climate Accountability	Provincial Energy Decisions and their GHG Implications
Municipal Climate Authorities – What do municipalities need the authorities to do?	Lower Carbon New Buildings	Lower Carbon Existing Buildings
OCC Working Groups to advance top priorities	Climate Resilience (Urban Forestry, Natural Capital, Flood and Heat Protections)	Active Transportation





- **February:** Collective Climate Lens Review of the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force Report, Ontario Building Code Update, OCC Working Groups Discussion and OCC actions post June input
- **March:** Municipal Climate Accountability: Where we are, where we need to go and what we need to go to get there, experiences from Ontario municipalities thus far
- **April:** National and Ontario Building Codes, Municipal Green Standards & Climate Change By-laws: What is needed to make them the climate holy trifecta they can and must be
- **May:** State of Knowledge on rehabilitation of infrastructure costs from different land use archetypes, what we know, what we need to know, who has done what
- **June:** Climate Change and Official Plan Integration (state of knowledge and leading practices from Ontario municipalities thus far)
- **Post June: How do we handle OCC activities during the municipal election time frame? Need feedback from OCC network on that. Will be an agenda item on the February OCC meeting.**

# Priority # 1 – Municipal Planning and Climate Change



## Priority Actions:

- Education and sharings on municipal approaches to make the connection between growth management, climate change and municipal financial sustainability.
- Bringing Climate Change into Official Plans – what does that look like, why is it important and what is an emerging leading practice?
- Climate Change Integration across municipal plans – approaches and what makes for “good” climate change integration? Sharing approaches and leading practices across Ontario municipalities. Sharing opportunities and approaches to advance this discussion and climate and planning connections across Ontario councils.
- What the needed progress on all the above looks like from different types of communities (urban/suburban/rural)
- We still need to have more discussions re: what progress looks like and what tracking and monitoring is possible/important/valuable?

# Input from OCC participants Climate Change, Growth Management, Official Plans and Climate Change Integration Across Municipal Plans



## What are your questions? What actions do you think are most needed? What would progress look like?

- How to bring Climate Action Plan into OPs. Need a comprehensive approach. Should this be undertaken internally or via consultants? What does “good” climate change into OP integration look like?
- When imbedding Climate initiatives into OPs and different depts... I notice that sometimes action becomes invisible to the public.... wondering how to keep that awareness up at a community level
- So far, I have not seen any significant initiatives from Ontario government to address Climate Change. Need promotion of electric cars, reduce consumption of gas. Promotion of Green Technology.
- Our comprehensive OP update is with the province. When it comes back, I am wondering how our policies on climate action will translate into our new zoning bylaw and secondary plans as we complete the update process.
- Where are the opportunities for my municipal council?
- How to develop 3p partnerships for smaller projects.
- Work with local Health Units and Conservation Authorities sharing common objectives.
- While the rules can be set into place the next step is the affordability to implement. How to address green premiums?
- What are optimum projects for smaller municipalities with small budgets. How can we identify manageable projects. I’d like to see OP changes but don’t have identified climate change actions. Staff and council are reluctant to delve into this.
- Government needs to make a stand and provide funding to the lower tiers to enable their action implementation
- Yes. EV charge stations as an example cross municipal lines but within same collection areas. Also, regional recycling and resource development



## **What are your questions? What actions do you think are most needed? What would progress look like?**

- Our biggest gap is in Development applications... we lack the tools to demand climate initiatives into each application.. .and we lack the power to say NO to applications if they AREN'T climate friendly.
- Absolutely it needs to be integrated. In our municipality we have it identified across our plans in document form. The next step is the words to actions. In some of our areas such as our engineering department we are seeing investment.
- Municipalities should be converting our public transits into electric bus.
- The challenge I am seeing is that our CCAP is now out of date compared to our transportation master plan, waste management, OP, etc. As GHG targets change it is tough to synchronize between plans so they cross reference effectively.
- Sounds important, just not on our radar as a lower tier. These are county level issues. We do spend a lot on road maintenance, however. Working together on best practices is not done.

# Do you have additional input on Municipal Planning and Climate Change Priorities?



- What are your questions?
- What actions do you think are most needed?
- What would progress look like to you?
- Even if you were not able to participate in the work planning meeting you can still provide your input....
- **Provide your input here: <https://www.menti.com/vuon2zm6p8>**



## Priority Actions:

- Learning more about the federal government net-zero emission law
- Working together with the Province to advance Province of Ontario Climate Accountability ([at present the Auditor General serves that role](#))
- Getting the Municipal House in Order – Municipal climate accountability (what are the approaches, leading practices, implementation challenges that we need to address)
- Emerging practices include: Climate Change Implications sections in Council reports, Climate Lens; Carbon Budgeting, Task Force for Climate Risk Disclosure
- Working with municipal staff to share leading approaches, practices, alignment/misalignment with climate targets, tracking of decisions. Working with OCC to share approaches and learnings.
- Progress looks like climate implications being considered in all municipal decisions making that has climate implications. Identification of decisions that are in alignment/misalignment with climate commitments. Progress towards GHG reductions targets. Increasing synergies across municipal actions ex. equity/affordability/climate/etc...



- Its important, but may not be top priority, also need to use the election year to see what government climate leadership is and educate the public on that
- Public buy in, council acceptance, staff knowledge are gaps
- Climate initiatives need to be somehow impervious to attacks at budget time
- We should have harmonized action across lower tiers. As an island, not much will happen.
- It has to be measurable. Target needs to be set so we can track our progress.
- How can we be more accountable to the public?
- Criteria to standardize EISs. I would like to know if others are doing this and what criteria they are using?
- Requests for an annual carbon budget are currently not addressed.
- Our council has moved to apply a climate lens on all reports/plans, but it hasn't happened yet. Staff are trying 2 build a criteria box
- Triple bottom line on budget lines.
- Overall...we need to clearly outlining the trends in the past years or decades on how Climate Change effected our daily lives. More general public educations is needed to drive accountability.
- Additional input?, if so please provide it here: <https://www.menti.com/vd3q7c9x1j>



- Fossil Fuel Phase Out in Ontario's Electricity System: over 30 resolutions sent to Province by Ontario municipalities.
- Follow up from that is that the [Clean Air Council \(staff level climate action network\) is working to ensure IESO transparency re upcoming Pathways study](#). Will keep OCC up to date on that.
- Municipal role in advancing an Energy Decision Matrix (within their own communities and well as working with the Province): National Building Code/Ontario Building Code harmonization, green standards, climate change by-laws, additional authorities that would be needed to enable municipalities to advance the low carbon market transformation.
- Advancing Lower Carbon Communities: sharing of new low carbon developments across Ontario (and Canada in conjunction with national CC). How the low carbon transformation is being advanced by municipalities (ex. geothermal, RNG, hydrogen, etc) sharing feasibility studies across municipalities.
- Bringing in the costs of future retrofits into the affordability discussion. Advancing business models that can address the up-front cost challenge of lower carbon new developments to address affordability and reduce future retrofit costs.
- Progress looks like: Increasing the profile of what climate implementation progress looks like, who is doing what? Progress towards decarbonizing Ontario's electricity system. An energy decision matrix being applied to energy decisions at all levels of government. Increased authorities for municipalities to act on their climate change opportunities (beyond just site plan controls). Increased construction of new low carbon developments.



- **Lower Carbon New Buildings:** The connections between National Model Building Code, Ontario Building Code, and Municipal Green Standards (how they work together, how alignment between province and municipalities is advanced?)
- Example of lower carbon buildings/communities – where are they happening, how are they happening and how can municipalities best able to support the transition
- Bringing the retrofit costs into the affordability challenge, business models that can address up front cost challenges.
  
- **Lower Carbon Existing Buildings:** The gaps that municipal retrofit programs can serve. The overall role they play in building the retrofit ecosystem, how we move towards scale up of building retrofits, how to reduce the admin burden associated with retrofit programs so the municipal burden of these programs can be managed and reduced over time.
- Seed funding for municipal programs such as [FCM-CEF](#) is critical
- The role that energy disclosure and labelling plays.
- More information on national retrofit code being developed and how that may work at the municipal scale?
- Lack of municipal authorities re: existing buildings sector. Need to look at municipal authorities beyond site plan controls.
- Sharing of learnings of retrofit programs in market across municipalities. Municipal support for community program delivery models (pros and cons of different approaches).



- Carbon neutral homes old and new should have target dates and incentives attached
- Green energy options and incentives direct to customers.
- Ontario is way behind in EV infrastructure... AND in giving more weight to Community Energy Plans. Since we are in an election year... we need to advocate to make Energy policy in the forefront of platforms
- Consideration of embodied carbon i.e., materials management.
- The provincial 'streamlining' housing initiative is going to mean less climate oversight... we have to address this
- Province needs to show more climate leadership or enable municipalities to advance climate actions. What can climate change by-laws do and what can they not do? What do we need them to do?
- Using low-carbon concrete
- Re-using materials
- Use high recycled content material
- Help with funding tools for rolling out community energy retrofit programs.
- How to attract contractors to engage with municipal energy retrofit programs.
- Getting off GAS ASAP is applicable here too. I have yet to see target dates around that that have any 'teeth'
- Additional input to provide? <https://www.menti.com/w6s5cv48yx>

# Additional Priorities: Climate Resilience, Urban Forestry, Active Transportation



- These topics were identified as future priorities, but more work will need to take place to determine what the priority actions are, what the main issues are that need to be addressed, identification of what municipalities most need to advance these priority areas.
- Future discussion will take place during OCC monthly meetings to better understand the OCC priorities in these areas. But they will be considered secondary priority areas for 2022. But there was a desire to advance these areas during 2022.
- Climate Resilience Priorities: Natural Capital, Flood and Heat protections are priorities. What does action implementation look like, examples from other communities would be of value. Will work with national Climate Caucus and ECCC to highlight [Canada's Climate Adaptation Action Map](#) bring leading examples to OCC.

# OCC Input on Climate Resilience, Urban Forestry, Active Transportation (we ran short on time to dig into this, shocking I know 😊)



## **Climate Resilience**

- Climate impacts to Ontario communities re education of climate change impacts
- Priority areas seem thus far to be flood and heat protection and the role natural capital plays in helping to build resilience to those priorities
- Nature based solutions that would be good to explore
- [LID Guidelines at the Province under consultation](#)
- Tracking permeable and impermeable surfaces over time, what that means to municipal stormwater and flood risk

## **Urban Forest:**

- I think the climate advantages to a robust urban tree canopy policy are often undervalued. You get a Big Bang for your buck with these policies, but people often don't 'see' the benefits
- A mix of strategies to maintain existing trees, treat for invasive species and disease, and new plantings. There is a need to better understand if native species or a mix with transitional species planting is best for tree longevity.

## **Active Transportation:**

- Vision Zero and Complete Streets policies; What do they do re community livability?
- Our staff are concerned that alternative mode targets are too aspirational because of the difficulty of inspiring behaviour change
- We Just passed a robust TMP plan with AT as the centerpiece

Additional Input?: <https://www.menti.com/endodxwtap>