Sustainable Collingwood Plan

Community Climate Change Action Plan

Town of Collingwood | 2026

Town of Collingwood

Collingwood is a unique community that is a hub of year-round healthy active lifestyles. It is defined by the shoreline of Georgian Bay, with a backdrop of the nearby Niagara Escarpment – both are cherished for their natural features, historic legacy, and recreational amenities.

The entire community comes together in the Downtown, which is recognized as the heart of the community, with a mix of activities, the highest quality public realm, and connections with the waterfront, to present a distinct image of the Town to residents and visitors alike.

The residents of Collingwood aspire to live in healthy and complete communities that are inclusive, accessible, compact, and well connected for all modes of travel – and prioritizes active transportation such as pedestrians, and cyclists. Residents of all ages and abilities will continue to require access to a range and mixture of housing types, community services, and recreational amenities to support their well-being.

Collingwood wants to retain and grow its economic prosperity, while protecting its environmental assets. The local economy will continue to thrive because it is diverse, entrepreneurial, and adaptable to changing trends, just as it has been over the course of Collingwood's history.

As Collingwood grows, the success of existing neighbourhoods and its cultural heritage resources will be strengthened, and the features that make the Town unique will remain as valued assets for future generations to enjoy.

The Town of Collingwood recognizes that it plays a role in maintaining a healthy environment and a sustainable future. Collingwood Council unanimously declared a climate crisis in October 2019 to demonstrate the Town's commitment to protecting the community, economy, and ecosystems from the effects of climate change.

Message from Collingwood Council

Collingwood is a community deeply connected to nature. From our shoreline and waterways to our trails, forests, and open spaces, the natural environment is central to our identity and quality of life. It is one of the primary reasons people choose to live, work, and visit here. Council is committed to protecting these natural assets for current and future generations.

The Sustainable Collingwood Plan reflects the Town's shared responsibility to care for the environment while supporting a vibrant, resilient community. It builds on the vision and priorities established in the Town's Community-Based Strategic Plan, reinforcing Council's direction to protect our environment, support climate resilience, and foster a healthy, sustainable community. Alongside other key strategic and master plans, it provides a coordinated roadmap to guide decision-making and investment over the coming years.

A defining feature of this Plan is the strong role of community engagement in shaping its direction. Council heard clearly that residents, businesses, and community partners value environmental stewardship and expect meaningful climate action. In response, we prioritized an inclusive and transparent engagement process to ensure that diverse perspectives are reflected in the actions outlined in this Plan.

Council is proud to advance a plan that is both community-informed and strategically aligned. By connecting our shared vision with practical actions, we are taking an important step toward safeguarding the natural environment that defines Collingwood and building a sustainable future for our community.

We thank the many residents, partners, and staff whose time, ideas, and expertise helped shape a plan that reflects our shared values and priorities.

Mayor Yvonne Hamlin, Deputy Mayor Tim Fryer, Councillor Kathy Jeffery, Councillor Deb Doherty, Councillor Chris Potts, Councillor Rob Ring, Councillor Chris Baines, Councillor Steve Perry, Councillor Ian MacCulloch

Executive Summary

The **Sustainable Collingwood Community Climate Change Action Plan** is a roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen resilience to climate impacts, and support a healthier, more sustainable future for Collingwood. It advances Council's 2019 climate crisis declaration and aligns climate action with broader community priorities including affordability, infrastructure planning, environmental stewardship, economic resilience, and quality of life.

Climate change is already affecting Collingwood, and these impacts are expected to intensify in the short and long-term futures. Local projections point to warmer temperatures, more heatwaves, wetter and stormier conditions, shorter winters, leading to increased pressure on infrastructure, ecosystems, public health, and finances. Early action can reduce long-term costs, protect critical assets, and improve community well-being.

The Plan is grounded in local evidence. Collingwood's 2019 community greenhouse gas inventory found total emissions of 207,218 tonnes of CO_2e, with the largest sources coming from transportation (48.5%) and buildings (46.6%). Without action, emissions are projected to increase by more than 30% by 2030. In response, the Plan sets a community-wide target of reducing emissions by at least 55% below 2019 levels by 2040 while also advancing adaptation measures to address current and future climate risks.

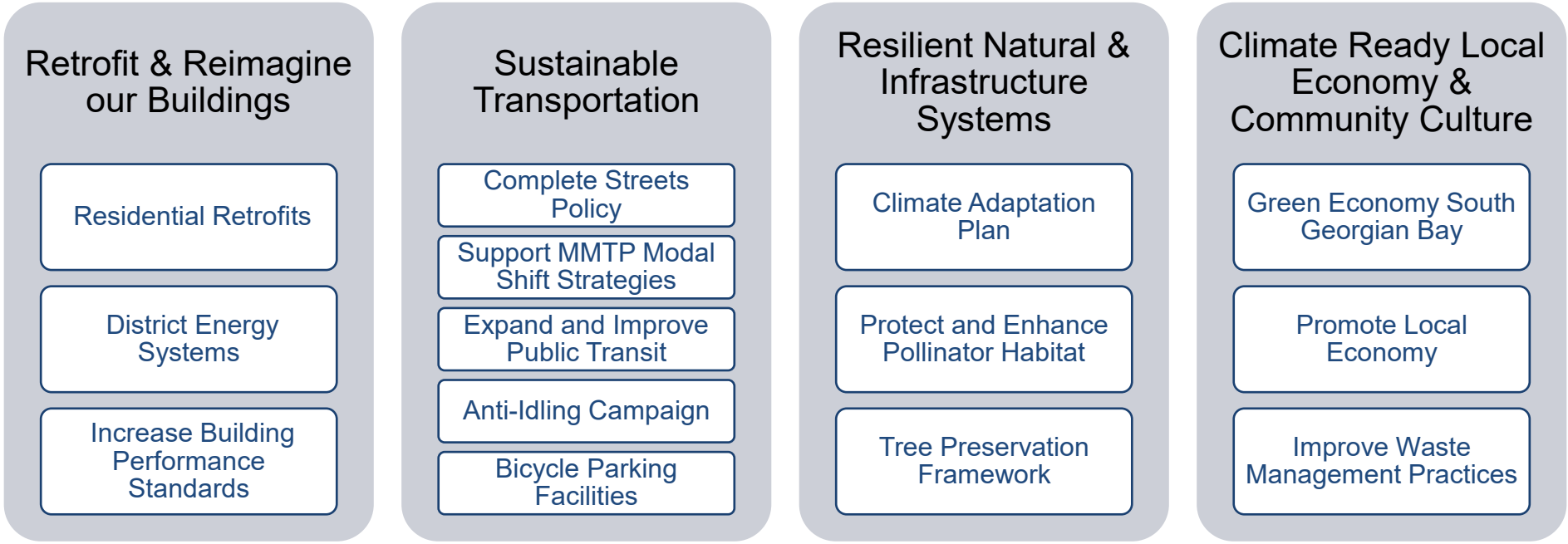
The Plan was informed by community engagement with residents, community groups, businesses, institutions, and regional partners. Participants expressed strong support for ambitious, practical climate action that delivers local co-benefits such as healthier neighbourhoods, better mobility, lower energy costs, environmental protection, and a stronger local economy.

The Plan is guided by a clear set of goals that define what the Sustainable Collingwood Plan is intended to achieve and provide the foundation for the actions that follow.

- **Reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of 55% below 2019 levels by 2040**, supported through shared leadership and partnerships that empower residents, businesses, and local organizations to take action.
- **Prepare for current and future climate risks** through coordinated adaptation planning, infrastructure resilience, and community education, ensuring climate action equitably benefits all residents including youth, seniors, low-income households, renters, and vulnerable populations.
- **Support a thriving, climate ready local economy** through sustainable business practices, operational cost saving measures, reduced risks, and green innovation.

- **Build shared responsibility and collective action**, where residents, businesses, community groups, and government collaborate to achieve community-wide climate goals.
- **Educate the community about climate action** by focusing on practical actions that align with individual's interests and daily lives.

To achieve these goals, the Plan is organized around four strategic directions: **Retrofit and Reimagine our Buildings**, **Sustainable Transportation**, **Resilient Natural and Infrastructure Systems**, and **Climate Ready Local Economy & Community Culture**. These are supported by a cross-cutting focus on **Climate Education and Community Capacity Building** to ensure long-term participation, awareness, and shared responsibility. The graphic below provides a high-level overview of the actions that will support the community in achieving the Sustainable Collingwood Plan's goals.



Overall, the Sustainable Collingwood Plan provides a clear and actionable foundation for coordinated climate action. By focusing on priority areas and working collaboratively across the community, Collingwood can make meaningful progress toward its climate goals. Acting now will help Collingwood reduce emissions, strengthen resilience to climate impacts, protect the assets that define the community, and build a more sustainable, connected, and thriving future for generations to come.

Acknowledgements

Land Acknowledgement

For more than 15,000 years, the First Nations walked upon, and cared for, the lands we now call home. Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Ojibwe, and many others have lived here as families, friends, and communities, much as we do today. The Town of Collingwood acknowledges the Lake Simcoe-Nottawasaga Treaty of 1818 and the relationship it establishes with the original inhabitants of Turtle Island. We acknowledge the reality of our shared history, and the ongoing contributions of Indigenous people within our community. We seek to continue empowering expressions of pride amongst all the diverse stakeholders in this area. We seek to do better, and to contribute to recognize, learn, and grow, in friendship and community, Nation-to-Nation.

Community Acknowledgements

The Town of Collingwood also recognizes the invaluable contributions of the community throughout the development of the Sustainable Collingwood Plan. Engagement ranged from informal discussions at pop-up events to in-depth workshops, analyzing strategies that could lead to transformational cultural shifts. We extend our sincere thanks to the community members and stakeholders who dedicated multiple hours of their time, sharing perspectives and helping shape this project.

Community Groups

- Bianca Creek, Collingwood Climate Action Team (CCAT)
- Catherine Daw, CCAT
- Dave Ohrling, CCAT
- Jamey Hubbs, CCAT
- Jeanette Beck, Safe Streets Collingwood
- Jarvis Strong, Escarpment Corridor Alliance
- Kim Clarke, RTO7
- Kerri MacDonald, Environment Network
- Jessica Lehr, Pollinate Collingwood
- Maureen Smithers, Breaking Down Barriers

Community Members

- Connie Beukeboon
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- Jen Sims
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- Owen Gray
- Peter Sharpe
- Shalea Shackleton
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- Ted Crysler

Public Sector

- Chris Hamilton, Enbridge
- Ian Ockenden, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
- Leah Murray, Collingwood Public Library
- Nathan Westendorp, County of Simcoe
- Sarah Warren, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
- Shannon Saunders, Collingwood General Marine Hospital

Private Sector

- Amanda Kellett, Tatham Engineering
- Amanda Stellings, MacPherson Builders
- Amy Duff, Eden Oak
- Andrew Dixon, Tatham Engineering
- Brenda Burman, Georgian College
- Chris Lawson, MacPherson Builders
- Durgham Darwazeh, Sustainable Globe
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A special thanks goes out to the project team who worked to design and develop an engagement process rooted in community collaboration. The project team included Lisa Attygalle and Yas Hassan from the Tamarack Institute, Laura Vermander from the Collingwood Climate Action Team, and Dave McNalty and Nicole Yardy from the Town of Collingwood.

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1 Introduction

Climate change is recognized by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and governments worldwide as one of the most pressing challenges of our time, demanding immediate and collective action to safeguard our communities. Scientific evidence confirms that human activity is driving changes in global temperatures, weather patterns, and ecosystems, posing serious risks to health, infrastructure, and local economies.

For Collingwood, climate change presents a range of interconnected risks, including:

- Increased flooding
- Biodiversity loss
- Public health impacts
- More variable weather patterns
- Social equity challenges
- Invasive species
- Reduced water quality
- Infrastructure damage
- Shoreline erosion

In October 2019, Town of Collingwood Council unanimously declared a Climate Crisis affirming our commitment to take bold and meaningful action to protect residents, ecosystems, and the local economy from the risks posed by a changing climate.

The 2019 Climate Crisis declaration set the stage for the Town of Collingwood to join the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program, hire a Climate Change Specialist, complete baseline corporate and community greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, and adopt the Greener Collingwood Corporate Climate Change Action Plan (2023). In addition, the Town of Collingwood's 2024-2028 Community Based Strategic Plan included a "Sustainable" pillar that emphasizes people-focused development and a commitment to partnering with the community to take action on climate change.

1.1 Collingwood's Community Climate Change Action Plan

The Sustainable Collingwood Plan is a roadmap to reduce community GHG emissions and build resilience in Collingwood. It reflects the community's shared vision for a sustainable future and was developed through extensive community engagement to ensure that local priorities, values, and aspirations are embedded in each strategy. By reducing emissions and preparing for future impacts, Collingwood can help to ensure future generations have cleaner air, safer neighbourhoods, and stronger local economies. This Plan is not just about reducing emissions; it is about creating a healthier and vibrant community for future generations.

Developed in collaboration with residents, businesses, and regional partners, the Plan outlines actionable strategies across key sectors. It aims to empower individuals and organizations to take collective responsibility and foster a culture of sustainability and innovation across the community.

1.2 Local Climate Projections

Understanding how Collingwood's climate is expected to change over time is essential for planning a resilient and sustainable future. Climate projections provide a scientific estimate of how key variables, such as temperature, precipitation, and seasonal patterns, may change under two different future scenarios:

1. The **Low-Carbon Projections** assume that GHG emissions are significantly reduced. In this scenario, global emissions continue to increase until 2050, then rapidly decline. These projections are based on Representative Concentration Pathway 4.5 (RCP4.5), a scientific model that shows what the future could look like if we take strong action to reduce emissions.
2. The **High-Carbon Projections** assume that GHG emissions continue to increase at current rates with little or no action to reduce them. This "business as usual" future is based on RCP8.5, a scientific model showing what happens if emissions continue to increase without intervention, leading to the highest levels of warming by 2100.

Table 1 compares historical climate conditions with projected changes under both low and high-carbon scenarios to illustrate the range of potential future outcomes.

Table 1: Collingwood's 2050 and 2080 Climate Projections in Low and High Carbon Scenarios compiled from the Climate Atlas of Canada.

Climate Variable	Baseline (1976-2005)	Low Carbon Projections 2021-2050	Low Carbon Projections 2051-2080	High Carbon Projections 2021-2050	High Carbon Projections 2051-2080
Mean Annual Temperature	7.2°C	9.1°C	10.2°C	9.3°C	11.5°C
Number of Heatwaves*	1.1	3.2	4.5	3.5	6.0
Very Hot Days (+30°C)	9.5	23.2	33.3	25.2	48.6
Frost Free Season (days)**	167.7	188.7	197.2	191.3	215.3
Number of Winter Days***	22.5	12.4	7.7	11.3	3.9
Annual Freeze-Thaw Cycles****	65.2	59.9	56.7	58.9	51.7
Days that stay below 0°C	63.7	46.2	37.8	45.2	28.3
Total Annual Precipitation	907 mm	950 mm	980 mm	964 mm	994 mm
Days of Heavy Precipitation (+10mm)	23.0	24.7	26.0	25.7	26.9

*Heatwaves are defined as three or more consecutive days with the maximum temperature equal to or above 30°C.
**The number of days between the date of the last spring frost and the date of the first fall frost. Indicates the number of consecutive days above 0°C.
***A Winter Day is a day with a minimum temperature less than or equal to -15°C.
****Total number of days per year when temperatures fluctuate between freezing (temp. less than or equal to -1°C) and non-freezing (temp. above 0°C).

Why It Matters – Impact of Climate Change

Table 1 provides the scientific foundation for understanding how Collingwood's climate may change under different carbon scenarios. Under the high-carbon, or "business as usual" pathway, these projections translate into real-world conditions that will shape the community.

Hotter Summers Ahead	Shorter, Warmer Winters	Wetter, Stormier Conditions
By 2080, Collingwood could experience more than triple today's very hot days (up to 48 days over 30°C) and up to 6 heatwaves per year. Hotter summers can lead to increased water contamination, higher cooling costs, and increased strain on vulnerable populations.	By 2080, winter days below -15°C could decrease from 22 per year to fewer than 4, and days below freezing decrease from 64 to 28. Shorter, warmer winters can affect infrastructure maintenance, mental health stress, and Collingwood's tourism and seasonal economy.	By 2080, annual precipitation could rise by nearly 90mm, along with an additional 3.9 days of heavy rainfall events (over 10 mm per day). More precipitation increases the risk of flooding, stormwater system overload, infectious diseases, and property damage.

Impact on Health

Physical health and climate change are closely linked. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that under all climate scenarios, health risks will increase throughout the century leading to injuries, loss of life, impacts on physical and mental health, damage to ecosystems, disruption of healthcare access, and more.

Cultural Impacts

A changing climate can also threaten the culture and livelihoods of people in the South Georgian Bay Region by disrupting traditions, practices, and connections to land that are central to community well-being. Commercial fishers from the Saugeen Ojibway Nation have observed rising wind speeds and temperatures on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay that reduce the number of safe fishing days on the water.[1][2] Similarly, warmer winters and less reliable snowfall can shorten the time families spend participating in outdoor winter activities together, impacting seasonal traditions and outdoor recreation.

[1] Warren, F. and Lulham, N., editors. 2021. Canada in a Changing Climate: National Issues Report. Chapter 3: Rural and Remote Communities; Government of Canada. https://changingclimate.ca/national-issues/chapter/3-0/.
[2] The Bagida'waad Alliance. 2024. https://bagidawaad.ca/about-us/.

Costs of Climate Change: Economy, Health, and Infrastructure

Economic Costs: Climate change is projected to significantly slow economic growth in Canada, causing substantial losses across sectors such as forestry, public health, and tourism, with costs projected to reach from hundreds of millions to tens of billions annually by mid-century. For communities like Collingwood, this means potential impacts on waterfront infrastructure, winter recreation, and local businesses that depend on tourism, underscoring the need for a proactive approach to climate action.[3]

Health Costs: Climate change is expected to increase health-related costs for Collingwood driven by more frequent heatwaves, poor air quality, and the spread of vector-borne diseases which could result in added strain on local healthcare systems. Mental health impacts, including stress and anxiety linked to extreme weather events and loss of seasonal traditions, will further increase the demand for services. Collectively, these factors will raise healthcare costs and reduce productivity, underscoring the need for proactive adaptation and public health planning.[4]

Infrastructure Costs: Climate change will increase infrastructure costs in Collingwood through more frequent flooding, shoreline erosion, and storm damage to roads, bridges, and waterfront assets. Rising temperatures and freeze-thaw cycles will accelerate wear on pavement and water systems, while extreme weather events will require costly upgrades to stormwater management, wastewater facilities, and shoreline protection. These impacts place significant financial pressures on municipal budgets and long-term asset management plans. Ontario's Financial Accountability Office projects that climate hazards could add $4.1 billion annually to provincial and municipal infrastructure costs, a 16% increase over a stable climate scenario.[5] Shoreline protection along the Great Lakes is another major expense, with communities expected to spend nearly $2 billion Canadian dollars over five years to combat erosion and flooding.[6]

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[3] Sawer, D., R. Ness, D. Clark, and D. Beugin. 2020. Tip of the Iceberg: Navigating the Known and Unknown Costs of Climate Change for Canada. Canadian Institute for Climate Choices. https://climateinstitute.ca/reports/the-costs-of-climate-change/.

[4] Health Canada. 2022. Canada's Changing Climate: Implications for Health and Well-being, Health of Canadians in a Changing Climate: Science Assessment 2022. Government of Canada. https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2023/sc-hc/H129-123-2022-eng.pdf.

[5] Financial Accountability Office of Ontario. 2023. Costing Climate Change Impacts to Public Infrastructure (CIPI): Summary Report – Estimating the budgetary impacts of changing climate hazards on public infrastructure in Ontario. https://fao-on.org/en/report/cipi-summary/.

[6] Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. 2021. Great Lakes and St. Lawrence communities to spend nearly $2 billion over next five years combating coastal damages from climate change. https://glslcities.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Damages-Survey-Final-7.8.21.pdf.

Local Benefits of Climate Action

Co-benefits are the positive side effects that occur when communities take action on climate change. By reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and preparing for unavoidable climate impacts (adaptation), we can improve health, strengthen the economy, and protect the environment. These co-benefits work to enhance quality of life for all members of the community.

Benefits for People

- ✓ **Better Health and Well-being**: Cleaner air reduces respiratory illness, while access to green spaces and active transportation networks improves physical and mental health.
- ✓ **Comfortable, Energy-Efficient Homes**: Retrofits can lower heating and cooling costs and improve indoor comfort.
- ✓ **Cleaner Air and Water**: Reducing emissions and runoff improves air quality and protects water sources.
- ✓ **Food Security**: Supporting local agriculture and resilient food systems ensure reliable access to healthy food.
- ✓ **Reliable Energy**: Renewable energy and increased efficiency reduce outages and stabilize costs.
- ✓ **Enhanced Quality of Life**: Safer, greener neighbourhoods encourage outdoor activity and community connection.

Benefits for the Environment

- ✓ **Healthier and Climate-Resilient Ecosystems**: Protecting and restoring natural spaces helps maintain biodiversity and strengthen ecosystems against extreme weather and invasive species.
- ✓ **Preserved Green Spaces and Waterfronts**: Nature-based solutions reduce flooding and erosion while supporting safe and accessible recreation areas.
- ✓ **Improved Water Quality**: Stormwater management and reduced contamination protect local watersheds.

Benefits for the Economy

- ✓ **Lower Long-Term Infrastructure and Disaster Recovery Costs**: Every dollar spent on adaptation can save up to $13-$15 in future damages.[7] (Canadian Climate Institute, 2021).
- ✓ **Boosted Tourism**: Cleaner air, green spaces, and resilient waterfronts attract visitors year-round.
- ✓ **Reduced Energy Bills**: Efficiency upgrades can help reduce monthly operating costs for households and businesses.
- ✓ **Economic Resilience**: Diversifying energy sources and strengthening infrastructure protects against climate shocks.
- ✓ **Green Innovation and Jobs**: Investments in renewable energy, retrofits, and nature-based solutions create local employment and support a competitive local economy.
- ✓ **Access to Funding:** Proactive planning increases access to grants and funding for projects addressing climate change.
- ✓ **Climate Leadership:** Early action positions Collingwood as a regional leader in sustainability.

[7] Canadian Climate Institute. 2022. Damage Control: Reducing the Costs of Climate Impacts in Canada. https://climateinstitute.ca/reports/damage-control/

2 Our Approach

The Sustainable Collingwood Plan was developed using a balanced approach that combined data-driven analysis with meaningful community input. This ensures the Plan is both evidence-based and grounded in local priorities, making it practical, achievable, and locally relevant. This approach is grounded in two key components: data and community engagement.

Data

The Plan follows the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program framework, delivered by ICLEI Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). The PCP framework provides municipalities with a structured, five-milestone approach to climate action. This includes developing a greenhouse gas inventory, setting reduction targets, creating an action plan, implementing initiatives, and monitoring progress.

The Town of Collingwood first applied the framework through the development of the Greener Collingwood Corporate Climate Change Action Plan. The corporate plan includes 19 actions for the municipality to meet the visions of integrating climate change into corporate culture, reduce GHG emissions by a minimum 30% below 2019 levels by 2030, and becoming a corporate and municipal leader in sustainability initiatives.

Figure 1: The Partners for Climate Protection program's 5-milestone framework.

Community Engagement

In addition to the PCP framework, the Town incorporated a robust community engagement process to inform target setting and action development (Milestones 2 and 3) This ensured the final plan reflects the community's values, priorities, and level of ambition. By involving residents and stakeholders directly in shaping strategies, the design team hoped to strengthen interest, ensure practical and locally relevant actions, and empower everyone to contribute to a resilient, sustainable Collingwood.

The following sections summarize the key data and engagement findings that informed the Plan.

2.1 Data: Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory

In 2022, the Town of Collingwood completed a community greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, establishing a baseline for emissions and identifying key sources. This baseline is essential for setting reduction targets, prioritizing actions, and tracking progress over time.

Figure 2 and Table 2 summarize the results of Collingwood's 2019 community baseline GHG inventory.

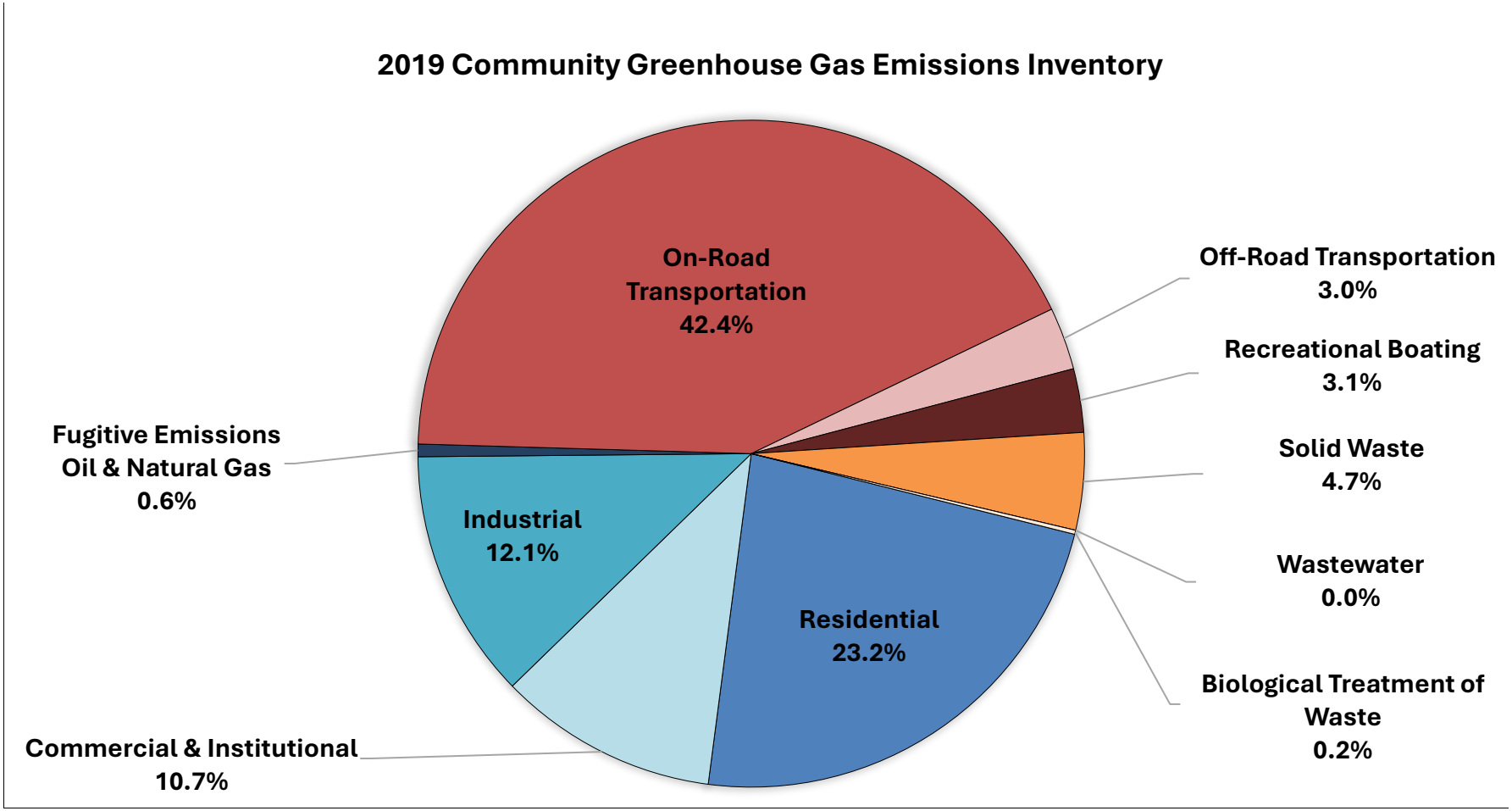


Figure 2: Town of Collingwood's 2019 Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Table 2: Town of Collingwood 2019 Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Sector	Emissions (tCO_2e)	Percentage (%)
Stationary Energy	**96,509**	**46.6 %**
Residential	*48,021*	*23.2 %*
Commercial & Institutional	*22,090*	*10.7 %*
Industrial	*25,134*	*12.1 %*
Fugitive Emissions Oil & Natural Gas	*1,264*	*0.6 %*
Transportation	**100,540**	**48.5 %**
On-Road Transportation	*87,878*	*42.4 %*
Off-Road Transportation	*6,278*	*3.0 %*
Recreational Boating	*6,384*	*3.1 %*
Waste	**10,169**	**4.9 %**
Solid Waste	*9,761*	*4.7 %*
Wastewater	*0.1*	*0.0 %*
Biological Treatment of Waste	*408*	*0.2 %*
Total Community Emissions	**207,218**	**100.0 %**

Collingwood's total 2019 community emissions are estimated to be 207,218 tCO_2e. On-road transportation is the largest contributor to community emissions in Collingwood, accounting for 42.4% of GHG emissions, followed by stationary energy from the residential sector which accounts for 23.2% of community emissions.

The community greenhouse gas inventory provides a clear picture of where emissions come from, allowing the community to set realistic actions and measurable GHG reduction targets. By identifying major sources, such as on-road transportation and residential energy use, priority can be given to actions that will deliver the greatest impact.

Business as Usual Forecast

As part of Community Milestone 1, the Town of Collingwood also forecasted GHG emissions to 2030 based on permanent-resident population growth. Figure 3 shows Collingwood's expected GHG emissions growth under a business-as-usual scenario.

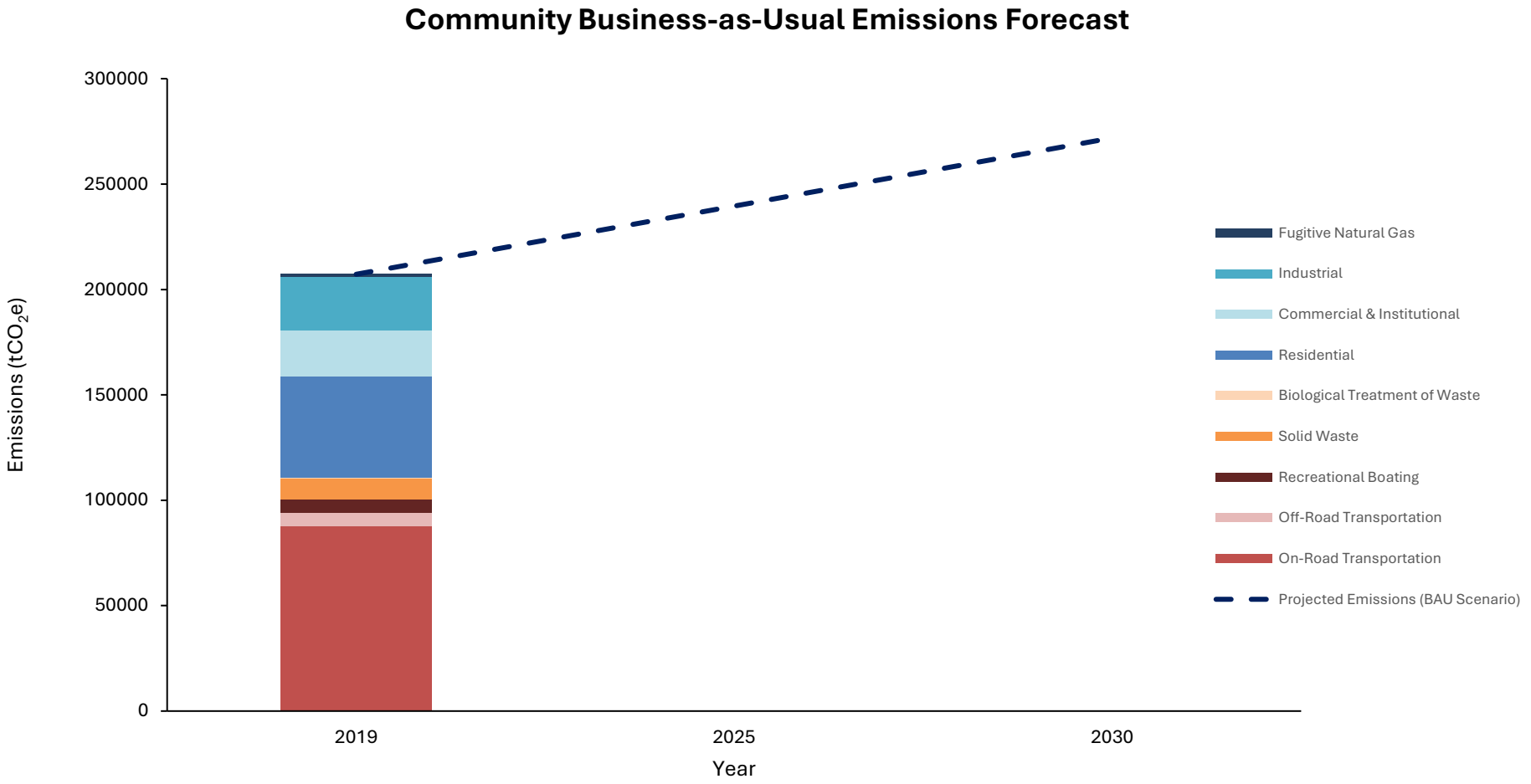


Figure 3: Town of Collingwood's Community Business as Usual Forecast 2019-2030.

With a 2.5% annual population growth rate, the Town of Collingwood's community GHG emissions are expected to increase 31.2% by 2030 if no actions are taken to reduce GHG emissions. This will result in community GHG emissions totaling 271,888 tCO_2e in the year 2030.

Scope and Methodology

The greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory captures scope 1 and 2 community GHG emissions produced within the Town of Collingwood's municipal boundaries in 2019. Scope 1 emissions are the direct GHG emissions produced within Collingwood's municipal boundaries from sources the community directly controls (e.g., gasoline burned by vehicles), while scope 2 emissions are indirect GHG emissions generated from the generation of purchased electricity. A baseline year of 2019 was selected to be consistent with the corporate GHG inventory and future projections submitted by the Town of Collingwood to PCP's Corporate Milestone 1.

Data presented in the 2019 community baseline inventory is the most accurate available information as of July 2022. If more information becomes available in the future, or emission calculation methods change, there is potential for Collingwood's community 2019 baseline and forecast to adjust in response.

Where possible, data was retrieved from a reputable source such as service providers, government agencies, open-source databases, and private organizations. While undergoing data collection for Collingwood's community GHG emission baseline it was discovered that energy consumption data gaps existed. These data gaps largely stemmed around the inability to acquire relevant statistics for common recreational activities, such as transportation emissions, boating emissions, and propane usage. As a result, assumptions were applied, and supplemental sources were consulted to support estimates.

2.2 Public Input: Community Engagement Process

Community involvement was a key component in creating the Sustainable Collingwood Plan. By partnering with the Tamarack Institute, the Town designed an inclusive process to capture local perspectives, build shared understanding, and ensure the Plan reflects community priorities.

By engaging residents and stakeholders, the project team worked to ensure the plan reflects local priorities, builds trust, and fosters shared responsibility. While the Town provides policy direction and resources, meaningful climate action depends on the choices of residents and businesses. Engaging the community helps build trust, strengthen shared responsibility, and support long-term implementation.

The following sections summarize key findings from the engagement process. The full Engagement Report is available on the Engage Collingwood webpage.

Engagement Goals and Process

The three key goals that anchored the engagement process:

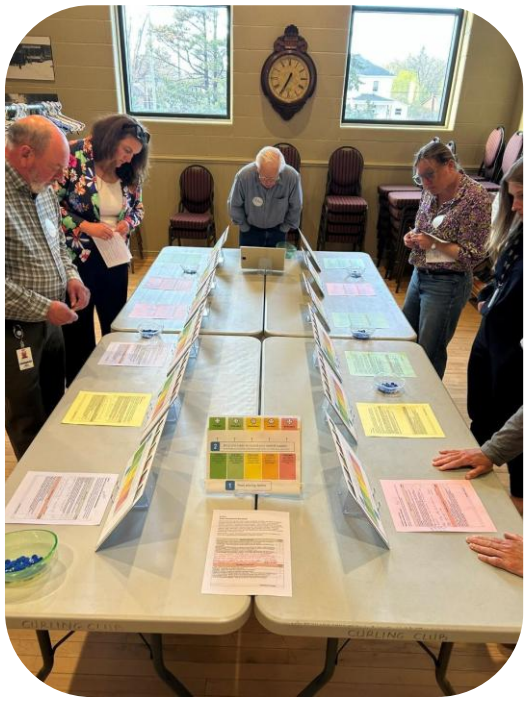
1. **Increase Awareness and Understanding**: Enhance public understanding of climate change and the urgency of action at the local level.
2. **Develop Community-Informed Strategies**: Co-create a robust set of climate strategies by engaging directly with residents, experts, and stakeholders.
3. **Gauge Community Support and Ambition**: Assess the community's level of commitment, concerns, and aspirations to ensure alignment between the plan and public expectations.

The engagement process included three main components:

- **Focus Area Working Groups** brought together 39 cross-sectoral local field experts to evaluate and recommend high-potential climate strategies across five key sectors.
- **People's Panel** included 19 residents in an in-person session and 69 residents through an **online survey** to evaluate the community impact and level of support for each strategy. They also explored a vision for Collingwood's future and voted on how ambitious they felt the Community Plan should be.
- Through **Pop-up Engagements**, 129 residents shared their vision for Collingwood's future, voted on how ambitious they felt the Community Plan should be, and engaged in conversation about climate action.

Key Takeaways from Community Engagement

Community engagement in Collingwood revealed strong support for an ambitious, collaborative climate strategy. Key recommendations Included:



Community Desire for Ambitious Climate Action

- ✓ Take significant action: The majority of 198 respondents support Scenario 2: Accelerated Action and Scenario 3: Ambitious Action, showing strong interest in bold and transformative climate strategies.
- ✓ Broad Support: Climate strategies received high levels of support and consensus. There are no silver bullet solutions, and strategies ranging across all sectors will need to be implemented to achieve the impact Collingwood hopes for.
- ✓ Key Insight: Climate action is not seen as competing with other priorities (like housing or poverty); rather, community members favor integrated solutions that address multiple challenges simultaneously and have significant co-benefits and value to the community.
- ✓ Community Vision: A Sustainable Collingwood. Residents are motivated by the term “Sustainable Community,” aligning with Collingwood’s Community-Based Strategic Plan.

Investment, Timeline & Climate Impact

- ✓ Investment: Community support ranged from $5M to $200M, assuming shared funding sources and use of existing budgets.
- ✓ Timeline: Residents expect action within 10–25 years, with a desire to see early progress.
- ✓ Potential Impact: Community expectations range from 50% to 80% GHG reductions.

Shared Accountability & Collaborative Leadership

- ✓ Community members envision the Community Climate Change Action Plan as a community-wide effort, with leadership from community groups, businesses, and government.
- ✓ Success hinges on shared leadership and co-development, not just municipal planning.
- ✓ Clarity for leadership and action: Assign clear roles and responsibilities for each action.
- ✓ The plan should be strategically linked to other municipal strategies (e.g., housing, economy, transportation, etc.).

Continued Education and Awareness

- ✓ Clearly define what sustainability (environmental, social, and economic) means for Collingwood.
- ✓ Public Education: Embed education throughout all strategy implementation. Counter misinformation and emphasize co-benefits (e.g., public health).
- ✓ Community dialogue and education: For strategies with the widest spread in levels of support and lowest support averages, more community dialogue and education are recommended to build more consensus before proceeding.
- ✓ Messaging: Plain language; Avoid “doom and gloom;” Inspire small, achievable changes.

Implementation

- ✓ Collaborative Development: Co-create the plan with cross-sector leaders and partners.
- ✓ Governance: Form a working group and assign clear responsibilities. Use a structured approach with shared leadership, ongoing engagement, and accountability mechanisms like dashboards or reporting processes.
- ✓ Pilot High-Impact Clusters to show visible early wins and gain momentum.
- ✓ Build Trust Through Transparency in process and outcomes.

Overall, engagement results demonstrate strong community support for ambitious, collaborative climate action, providing a strong foundation for implementation of the Sustainable Collingwood Plan.

Financial support for the community engagement portion of this project was provided by Enbridge’s Municipal Climate Action Offer (MCAO).

3 Sustainable Collingwood: Vision and Direction

Through the engagement process, the community expressed broad support for an ambitious, collaborative climate strategy that focused on strategies that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide co-benefits to residents.

By naming the plan the Sustainable Collingwood Plan, the Town emphasizes that climate action builds a stronger and more connected community, delivers multiple co-benefits, and reflects the collective vision residents shared throughout the engagement process. It also aligns with the **Sustainable** pillar of Collingwood's 2024-2028 Community Based Strategic Plan, reinforcing sustainability as a core value guiding growth, planning, and decision making, with a specific goal to work with partners to take action on climate change. The preparation of a Community Climate Change Action Plan is a key action under this goal.

3.1 Vision Statement

With respect to climate action, Collingwood aims to be a sustainable, connected, and resilient community where residents, businesses, organizations, and local government work together to protect the natural environment, strengthen community well-being, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These collective efforts help ensure the community remains healthy, vibrant, and prosperous for generations to come.

Through shared leadership, informed decision-making, and ongoing collaboration, Collingwood is creating a future defined by energy efficient homes, sustainable transportation, thriving natural spaces, and inclusive participation, supported by a strong, equitable, and climate-aware community.

3.2 Directions: Our Compass

The Sustainable Collingwood Plan is organized around four overarching directions, collectively "Our Compass," that reflect the priorities and emission sources identified through the analysis of local data and community engagement. These directions provide clear pathways for reducing emissions, strengthening resilience, and supporting healthier, more sustainable neighbourhoods.

1. **Retrofit and Reimagine our Buildings** – Transform Collingwood's homes, workplaces, industry, and community spaces into high performing, climate resilient buildings powered by efficient systems and clean energy. Support homeowners, industry partners, and developers in implementing upgrades and designing buildings that reduce energy use, lower emissions, and improve comfort and affordability.

2. **Sustainable Transportation** – Shift toward a transportation system that is safe, reliable, connected, and low carbon. Expand active transportation networks, enhance public transit options, support electric mobility, and create conditions where residents and visitors can confidently choose sustainable travel modes for everyday trips.
3. **Resilient Natural and Infrastructure Systems** – Protect, restore, and enhance Collingwood's natural assets to strengthen ecosystem health, reduce climate risks, and safeguard residents and infrastructure. Advance adaptation planning, nature-based solutions, shoreline protection, and community preparedness will be used to ensure all members of the community are ready for a changing climate.
4. **Climate Ready Local Economy and Community Culture** – Support businesses, institutions, and residents in transitioning to sustainable practices that reduce emissions, build resilience, and strengthen economic vitality. Foster a circular, low-carbon economy where buying local, reducing waste, reusing materials, and participating in climate action becomes part of the community culture.

3.3 Goals

The goals of the Sustainable Collingwood Plan reflect community priorities identified through engagement and align with Collingwood's commitment to a healthy, sustainable, and thriving future:

- ✓ **Reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of 55% below 2019 levels by 2040**, supported through shared leadership and partnerships that empower residents, businesses, and local organizations to take action.
- ✓ **Prepare for current and future climate risks** through coordinated adaptation planning, infrastructure resilience, and community education, ensuring climate action equitably benefits all residents including youth, seniors, low-income households, renters, and vulnerable populations.
- ✓ **Support a thriving, climate ready local economy** through sustainable business practices, operational cost saving measures, reduced risks, and green innovation.
- ✓ **Build shared responsibility and collective action**, where residents, businesses, community groups, and government collaborate to achieve community-wide climate goals.
- ✓ **Educate the community about climate action** by focusing on practical actions that align with individual's interests and daily lives.

Achieving the goals outlined in the Sustainable Collingwood Plan relies on collaboration across the entire community, with residents, businesses, and organizations, together with regional, provincial, and federal partners playing essential roles alongside the Town.

4 From Vision to Action: Turning the Plan into Progress

The Sustainable Collingwood Plan turns our community's climate action vision into practical, measurable actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen resilience, and improve quality of life for everyone. These actions reflect the priorities identified through community engagement and are designed to deliver multiple co-benefits, including improved public health, more affordable and energy-efficient living, cleaner transportation options, thriving natural systems and necessary infrastructure, and a strong, sustainable local economy.

Climate action is strongest when it is rooted in collaboration. No single organization or level of government can address the challenges of climate change alone. The actions in this section identify the roles that stakeholders can play together, including the roles of residents, visitors, Indigenous partners, community organizations, local businesses, developers, and governments. This shared approach ensures that climate action is accessible, achievable, and aligned with the community's level of ambition.

Action Prioritization

The actions are organized around the Plan's four Directions of our Compass: **Retrofit & Reimagine our Buildings, Sustainable Transportation, Resilient Natural & Infrastructure Systems, and Climate Ready Local Economy & Community Culture.** Each Direction includes targeted actions designed to reduce emissions, build resilience, and deliver immediate and long-term benefits.

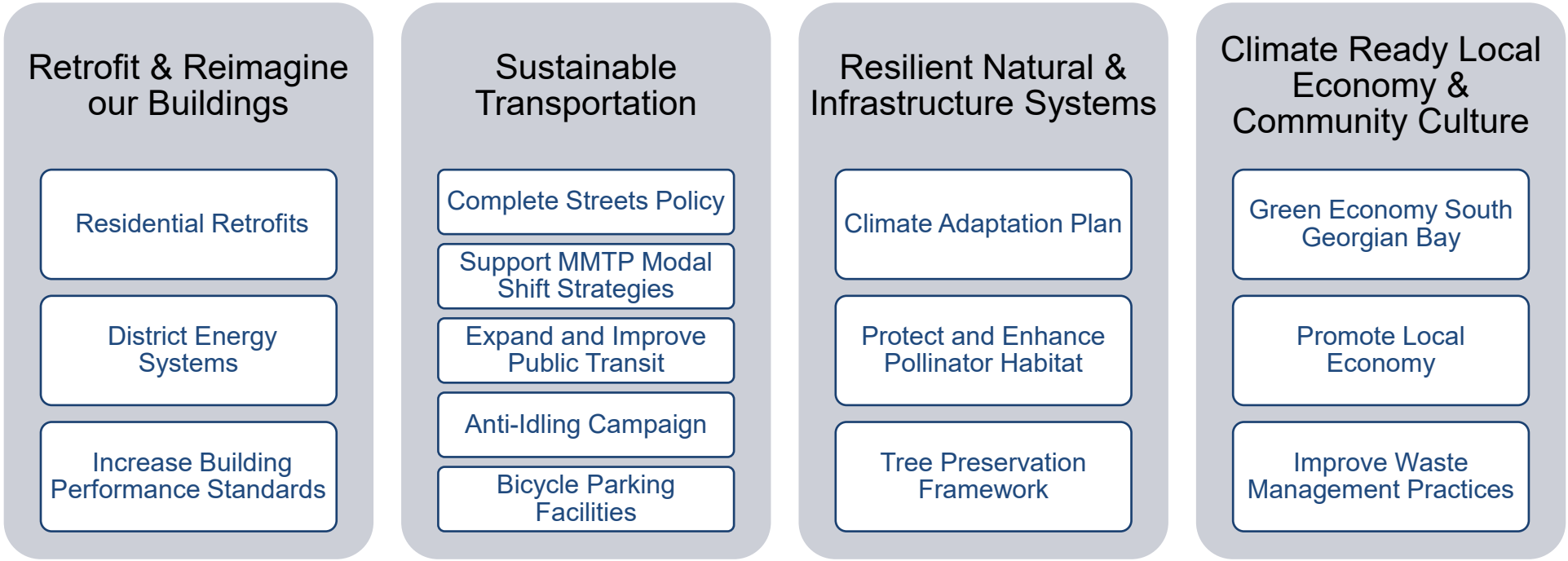
Actions were included based on the following criteria:

1. **Impact:** Actions were prioritized based on their ability to reduce community-wide GHG emissions. The data collected through the 2019 Community GHG inventory, identified Collingwood's largest emission sources, buildings and transportation, as key opportunities for reductions. Actions targeting these sectors offer the greatest potential to help the community achieve long-term climate goals.
2. **Feasibility:** Community feedback emphasized the need for actions that balance urgency with practicality. Feasibility considerations included the investment required, community, staff and partner capacity, available technologies, policy readiness, and opportunities to align with existing programs. Actions that can be initiated quickly, leverage regional, provincial, and federal partnerships, or build upon existing municipal processes were prioritized to demonstrate early progress.
3. **Co-benefits:** Actions were also evaluated based on their ability to deliver multiple benefits beyond emissions reductions. Co-benefits, such as improved public health, reduced household costs, safer streets, improved biodiversity, increased climate resilience, and enhanced community well-being, were essential in aligning climate action with broader community priorities.

4. **Community Support:** Actions with strong existing momentum from residents, community groups, businesses, or partner organizations were intentionally included to reflect and amplify local leadership. Where the community had already demonstrated interest, advocacy, or early action, these efforts were recognized as catalysts for broader change. Factoring in the level of community support ensures that climate action remains collaborative and community driven.

Summary of Actions

The following graphic below provides a snapshot of all actions included in the Plan, organized by strategic direction.



Action Organization

To make the plan easy to understand and implement, each action in this plan follows a consistent structure to clearly describe what the action is, why it matters, who is involved, project resources, and how progress will be observed and measured. This structure provides clarity, transparency, and accountability while offering flexibility for partnerships and innovation.

How Actions are Organized:

- **Description:** Explains the purpose of the action, the problem it addresses, and why it is an important step toward a sustainable and climate ready Collingwood.
- **Leadership Profiles:** Identifies the roles different partners can play, recognizing that meaningful climate action requires shared leadership across the community.
- **Timeline:** Indicates when the action should begin and how long it may take to implement, helping the community understand what will happen in the short, medium, and long term.
- **Investment:** Summarizes the level of effort and resources required. This section highlights potential funding sources, partnership opportunities, and the scale of investment needed to achieve meaningful outcomes. The following scale is used to provide a consistent way to understand the relative effort required for each action:
    - **$ — Up to $50,000:** Represents low-cost initiatives that can often be delivered through existing municipal resources, community partnerships, or small operational budgets. Examples may include communications campaigns, training sessions, or pilot scale outreach tools.
    - **$$ — $50,000 to $100,000:** Indicates moderate investment for program development, technical studies, equipment purchases, or expanded outreach. These actions may require modest new funding, support from grants, and/or community partnerships.
    - **$$$ — $100,000 to $500,000**: Reflects higher-scale investments, such as feasibility studies, technology upgrades, infrastructure improvements, or the launch of multi-year programs. These actions often require external funding, partnerships, and/or phased implementation.
    - **$$$$ — Over $500,000:** Represents major investments, typically associated with new infrastructure, large-scale capital projects, or long-term community programs. These actions likely require collaboration with multiple partners, grant funding, and/or staged implementation over several years.
    - **TBD — Explore further to quantify costs:** Additional research, feasibility work, or partner engagement is required before determining the appropriate investment level.
- **Community Co-Benefits:** Describes how the action could improve quality of life for the community, such as better health, stronger neighbourhoods, lower household costs, improved mobility, or healthier natural systems.
- **Measurable Indicators:** Outlines indicators that will be used to track progress, helping the community see what success looks like and holding the Town and partners accountable through transparent reporting.

4.1 Retrofit and Reimagine our Buildings

Buildings shape community life in multiple ways, both as physical spaces where residents live, work, learn, and gather, and function as meaningful places where identity, community connection, and a sense of belonging are formed. With buildings accounting for 46.0% of community emissions, and nearly a quarter coming from homes alone, this sector presents one of the strongest opportunities for meaningful community-led climate action. Improving both industry and residential building stock performance can lower utility costs, enhance comfort, reduce emissions, and strengthen resilience to heat, storms, flooding, and winter extremes.

Future Vision: Collingwood's buildings are designed to work in harmony with people and places. Thoughtful architecture and site design provide the community with low emissions buildings, powered by energy efficient, connected, and clean energy systems in areas that are integrated with nature, amenities, and transportation networks.

Homeowners are educated and empowered to complete retrofits that improve comfort, reduce energy costs, and contribute to community-wide climate goals, openly sharing their successes and challenges with neighbors to inspire broader action.

Both new buildings and retrofits are designed to withstand a changing climate, ensuring that spaces remain safe, comfortable, and affordable during heatwaves, storms, flooding, and winter extremes. Together, these principles create a built environment that is resilient, inclusive, and vibrant for generations to come.

Leadership for Reducing Building Emissions: Achieving widespread residential retrofits in Collingwood requires coordinated leadership across residents, developers, community groups, and government. Each plays a distinct but complementary role in empowering homeowners, increasing access to resources, and advancing energy-efficient, climate-resilient homes.

Action 1: Residential Retrofits

Residential buildings account for 23.2% of Collingwood's community greenhouse gas emissions, making homeowners essential stakeholders in reducing community emissions.

Average Annual Household Emissions	Average Annual Energy Consumption	Average Annual Home Utility Costs
3.61 tCO_2e	**134 GJ**	**$3,230**
+0.58 tCO_2e from Ontario average	+44.6 GJ from Ontario average	+$1,102 from Ontario average

On average, Collingwood residents spend 4.46% of their annual income on energy, higher than the Canadian average of 3%. These figures highlight both the financial and environmental benefits of improving home energy efficiency.

Providing a combination of education, resources, and shared learnings from implementing home retrofits will support residents in doing upgrades to increase efficiency.

Leadership Profiles for Encouraging Residential Retrofits:

- ✓ **Residents:** Complete home upgrades and sharing experiences to inspire others.
- ✓ **Community Groups:** Educate residents about home energy upgrades through workshops, events, and shared resources. Advocate for accessible financing programs to improve homeowner affordability.
- ✓ **Government:** Provide resources, tools, and programs that support residents in making energy-saving upgrades.

i. Resident Education and Awareness

Description: Education through community partnerships can make it easier for residents to understand and improve the efficiency of their homes by offering seminars, tours, toolboxes, and online resources. Making more information available can help residents confidently take steps towards energy-efficient retrofits.

Enhanced learning opportunities for homeowners could include the following:

- ➢ Creation of a dedicated webpage that lists local contractors experienced in low-carbon retrofits to help homeowners find trusted professionals.

- Community seminars hosted by local partners to educate homeowners on retrofit options, technology, and home upgrades such as heat pumps, solar panels, insulation upgrades, and smart energy systems.
- Resources offered through the public library system or other distribution mechanisms offering energy-efficiency toolkits to help residents identify inefficiencies, with guides and checklists for retrofit planning.

Timeline	Kick-off in 1 to 3 Years, Ongoing programming
Investment	$ – Many components can be delivered through existing programs and partnerships. Grant funding or in-kind support from local organizations can further reduce financial requirements.
Community Co-Benefits	**Resident Confidence** – Residents feel more equipped to make informed decisions about home retrofits. **Community Engagement** – Builds a culture of peer learning through connection and shared experiences. **Improved Affordability** – Reduced monthly utility costs for homeowners who implement energy efficiency measures.
Measurable Indicators	**Program Reach** – Number of seminars delivered, resources accessed, participants engaged. **Participant Feedback** – Resident satisfaction, confidence scores, and perceived usefulness of tools and resources provided. **Awareness and Understanding** – Pre- and post-session survey results showing increased knowledge of home energy efficiency, retrofit options, and available incentives.

ii. Residential Retrofit Design and Feasibility Study

Description: A residential retrofit design and feasibility study helps a municipality determine whether a residential retrofit financing program is viable, how it should be structured, and what impact it can deliver. It provides data-driven estimates of community energy use and energy spending to identify which homes will benefit most. The final report outlines the recommended retrofits to be included in a home retrofit program, the potential financial models, and clear descriptions of the projected community-wide impacts, such as energy savings, utility cost reductions, avoided emissions, and equity considerations, giving Council a clear business case for decision-making. The study is also a necessary step to unlock future funding applications to support implementation.

Timeline	1 to 3 Years – Completed by Climate Action Partnership on behalf of the Town of Collingwood in 2025

Investment	$ – Partially funded through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund
Community Co-Benefits	**Targeted & Equitable Program Design** – The study identifies which housing types and neighbourhoods are most likely to benefit from a retrofit program, enabling future programs to prioritize high-energy-use homes and better support seniors, low-income households, renters, and other priority groups.
Measurable Indicators	**Baseline Data for Improvement** – The study quantifies the energy use in Collingwood's existing housing stock. This baseline data can be used to compare the energy efficiency of Collingwood's housing stock over time as new programs and Standards are introduced. **Greater Access to Funding** – The number of successful funding applications the Town and partners apply for using the BetterHomes Collingwood Program Design Report completed by Climate Action Partnership in October 2025. Amount of grant funding received is a measurable outcome.

iii. Implement a Residential Retrofit Program

Description: To support residents in lowering annual energy costs and overcome the upfront financial barriers to retrofitting homes, the Town of Collingwood is exploring funding opportunities to support a Residential Retrofit Program that combines low-interest financing options and incentives for homeowners to encourage action.

Building upon the results of Collingwood's Community Efficiency Financing Feasibility and Design Study published in October 2025, (BetterHomes Collingwood Program Design Report completed by Climate Action Partnership), the program, if funded, will be designed to reach homes that use the most energy, prioritizing high impact measures like insulation, air sealing, and heat pumps. By reducing upfront costs and providing structured support, this program will help residents invest in efficiency upgrades that reduce GHG emissions, lower utility bills, and strengthen resilience to climate extremes.

Timeline	1 to 5 Years
Investment	**For Municipality:** $$$$ – Initial investment for a municipality to implement a residential retrofit program begins at $500,000, depending on program size and design. A portion of these funds may be recovered through loan repayments, with additional capital required to support program launch, incentives, and ongoing operation. **For Homeowners:** $ – On average participating households invest around $30,000 to complete retrofits.

Community Co-Benefits	**Improved Comfort & Health** – Better insulation and air sealing help maintain stable indoor temperatures, lowering risks to vulnerable residents during heatwaves and extreme cold. **Lower Energy Costs** – Energy efficiency upgrades can reduce the percentage of income spent on energy, improving affordability. **Climate Resilience** – Homes become more resilient to flooding, storms, and extreme temperatures. **Accessibility Improvements** – The BetterHomes Study recommends the program include basic accessibility improvements, such as ramps, railings, and guide bars, to enhance safety and mobility. **Improved Indoor Air Quality** – Many of the energy efficiency upgrades supported by the BetterHomes Study, such as replacing windows and doors and implementing air sealing measures, can significantly improve indoor air quality, and support healthier homes.
Measurable Indicators	**Program Participation** – Number of homes retrofitted. **Energy & Emissions Impact** – Estimate GJ saved and tCO_2e reduced from retrofits initiated by program participants. It is recommended that homes being considered for funding reach a minimum 25% energy use reduction or greenhouse gas reduction to help Collingwood reach its community goals. **Equity Metrics** – Participation rates among priority groups (low-income households, seniors, etc.).

iv. Share Stories

Description: Showing real-life retrofit success stories from local homeowners will help to build momentum for climate action. These stories would highlight the benefits of energy upgrades, such as improved comfort, reduced bills, and lower emissions, and could be shared through online platforms, social media, and community events.

By highlighting what climate actions are being taken throughout the community, residents can see community momentum, learn from others, and build a shared responsibility for achieving community climate goals.

Timeline	Ongoing
Investment	$ – This is a low-cost action that relies primarily on volunteer time, storytelling, and communications support.
Community Co-Benefits	**Peer Learning** – Residents learn from real-life examples and feel motivated to take similar steps.

Measurable Indicators	**Engagement Metrics** – Number of stories published and views. **Diversity of Representation** – Number of stories featuring different housing types, income levels, locations, and types of energy efficiency strategies.

Action 2: District Energy Systems

District energy systems offer a transformative approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by connecting multiple buildings to a centralized heating and cooling network. District energy uses shared infrastructure to deliver efficient thermal energy efficiently instead of each building relying on individual furnaces and/or air conditioners. This model can significantly reduce energy waste, stabilize long-term costs, and improve resilience against climate extremes.

For Collingwood, exploring district energy represents an opportunity to future-proof growth areas, support local economic development, and create a scalable solution that aligns with our climate goals. By leveraging partnerships with developers, institutions, and utilities, district energy can become a cornerstone of a sustainable, connected community.

Leadership Profiles for Implementing District Energy Systems:

- ✓ **Town of Collingwood:** Provide resources to explore the potential of district energy systems in the community, act as a facilitator by engaging partners, and support a future district energy system by being a potential client.
- ✓ **Businesses, Industry, Institutions, and High Energy Users:** Participate in feasibility discussions and potentially act as anchor customers to support the implementation of a district energy system.
- ✓ **Utility Providers:** Participate in the planning and design of district energy systems, provide input on system capacity and demand, and explore opportunities to serve as an owner and/or operator.
- ✓ **Developers:** Support long-term success by designing energy-efficient, climate-ready buildings that can connect to shared heating and cooling systems as opportunities emerge.
- ✓ **Provincial and Federal Governments:** Support Collingwood in exploring and implementing district energy systems where appropriate through active participation, funding, and enabling policy frameworks.

i. Explore Potential: District Energy Business Case and Feasibility Study

Description: The Town is conducting a business case and aims to follow that action with a feasibility study to assess the potential for district energy systems in Collingwood. This study will examine anchor loads, technology options, governance models, and integration with growth areas. District energy systems could significantly reduce emissions and operating costs by connecting multiple private and public buildings to shared heating and cooling infrastructure.

The business case and feasibility study will identify opportunities, provide a roadmap for implementation, and identify opportunities for partnerships with developers, institutions, industry, businesses, and utilities.

Timeline	1 to 3 Years – Business Case initiated in 2025 and expected to be completed by Q2 2026.
Investment	**Business Case:** $$$ – Secured funding of 50% through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund in 2025. **Feasibility Study:** $$$ – Potential funding of up to 50% available through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund, application to be submitted in 2026.
Community Co-Benefits	**Inspire Collaboration** – Conversations with community partners and developers through the District Energy Business Case and Feasibility Study may inspire decision-makers to install their own district energy system in new developments or connect to a broader district energy system.
Measurable Indicators	**Implementation Roadmap** – Clear timeline and phasing plan for potential deployment including preferred type of district energy system, governance model, and total community impact. **Projected Energy & Emissions Impact** – Estimated community GJ savings and tCO_2e avoided compared to conventional heating and cooling systems. **Projected Financial Analysis** – Lifecycle cost comparison between district energy and individual building systems. **Identification of Anchor Loads** – Number and type of buildings suitable for connection (e.g., municipal facilities, institutions, large developments).

ii. Implement a District Energy System

Description: If the feasibility study confirms viability, the Town of Collingwood may move forward with implementing a district energy system in a suitable area with strong anchor loads. This system would deliver low-carbon thermal energy to connected buildings, reducing emissions and stabilizing long-term energy costs. Implementation would involve collaboration between the Town, private partners, developers, and institutions/industries/businesses, ensuring the system is integrated with climate resilient design. This initiative represents a bold step toward creating a future-ready energy network that supports Collingwood's climate goals.

Timeline	5+ Years

Investment	TBD – Multiple funding models will be explored. Potential funding of up to 80% available through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund. Grant up to 15% of project costs, remaining funding reflects a loan.
Community Co-Benefits	**Space Savings** – Connecting to a shared network can reduce the mechanical room requirements (i.e. no chillers/boilers), increasing usable gross floor area within buildings. **Stronger Partnerships & Local Economic Development** – Implementation encourages collaboration among developers, institutions/industry/businesses, utilities, and the Town. **Scalable System with Improvement Opportunities** – District energy systems can expand and decarbonize progressively as technology evolves. New renewable energy sources or waste-heat recovery opportunities can be added to the network over time, increasing the share of low-carbon heat and improving emissions performance.
Measurable Indicators	**Interest and Participation** – Number of businesses or other partners interested in connecting to the system. **Energy & Emissions Impact** – Estimate GJ saved and tCO2e reduced from buildings connecting to a district energy system. **Energy Fuel Mix Decarbonization (% low carbon heat)** – Share of thermal energy from low-carbon sources (e.g., lake water, geo-exchange, sewer heat, heat recovery), increasing over time as projects and technologies are added.

Action 3: Increase Building-Performance Standards

Description: New development plays a major role in shaping Collingwood's long-term energy use, emissions, and climate resilience. By encouraging builders to incorporate higher-performance design, Collingwood can help ensure that future homes and buildings are healthier, more comfortable, and more affordable to operate throughout their lifecycle.

Higher-performance practices primarily influence Collingwood's future emissions trajectory by shaping the characteristics of buildings that have not yet been constructed. Unlike retrofits on existing buildings, which reduce today's emissions, these practices slow the growth of future emissions by ensuring each new building uses less energy and produces fewer GHG emissions from day one. With buildings expected to last for over 50 years, and Collingwood's population expected to grow, improving performance in new developments helps lower the community's projected (modeled) emissions in future years and prevents long-term commitments to inefficient designs.

The Town of Collingwood intends to follow the direction of the County of Simcoe to support the voluntary adoption of Increased Building-Performance Standards that prioritize the reduction of fossil fuel use, energy efficiency, native planting, permeable surfaces, and smart design principles. Regional adoption of Standards is preferred to provide predictability for developers, who operate in multiple jurisdictions. Should the County not take on a leadership role, the Town may proceed to develop the Standards using best practices from comparable municipalities. It should also be noted that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) may produce Provincial standards, providing consistency across all municipalities.

Leadership profiles for increasing building-performance standards:

- ✓ **County of Simcoe/MMAH:** Provide regional and Provincial leadership by developing voluntary standards and implementation by lower tier municipalities, to encourage future development to use energy-efficient design, low carbon technologies, and other approaches that reduce long-term environmental impacts and decrease emissions.
- ✓ **Town of Collingwood:** Support County and Provincial frameworks by offering guidance, resources, and planning tools that help align new development with community sustainability goals and long-term climate resilience and if Standards are developed, consider adopting and implementing locally, with funding required for an incentive program.
- ✓ **Developers:** Design and build energy-efficient, climate-ready homes in accordance with the approved Standards (voluntary or incentive-based) that reduce long-term emissions.

Timeline	1 to 5 Years
Investment	**Development of Voluntary Standards:** $ to $$ – Most costs are operational and can be integrated into existing planning or building services processes, with additional investment potentially required for specialized studies or consultation. **Incentive Program:** TBD – Investment in a financial incentive program to offset increased construction costs and improve purchase price affordability is likely necessary to improve uptake and reduce impacts on affordable housing supply shortfall, multiple funding models can be explored. **Costs for developers to adopt Standards:** Research from Canadian costing studies show that higher performance building standards typically result in less than a 10% increase in capital construction costs.[89]

[8] Clean Energy Canada. 2025. Building Toward Low Cost and Carbon: Clean construction doesn't have to mean costly construction. https://cleanenergycanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Report_BuildingLowCostLowCarbon-V4-1.pdf

[9] Clean Air Partnership. 2024. High Performance Buildings Costing Studies. https://www.cleanairpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Briefing-Note-High-Performance-Building-Costing-Studies.pdf

Community Co-Benefits	**Healthier Indoor Environments** – Improved insulation, ventilation, and energy systems support comfortable, healthier homes and buildings. **Long-Term Affordability & Efficiency** – Higher-performance buildings reduce energy use, helping keep operating costs predictable and affordable for residents and businesses. **Enhanced Climate Resilience** – Improved designs to help buildings withstand extreme heat, storms, and flooding.
Measurable Indicators	**Uptake** – Share of new development applications that include energy-efficient, low-carbon technologies and climate-ready design features in line with approved Standards. **Performance** – Modeled reductions in projected energy use and emissions intensity for new builds that adhere to approved Standards compared to business-as-usual. **Resilience** – Percentage of projects incorporating heat mitigation, flood resilience, and other climate resilience features as specific subsets of the Standards.

4.2 Sustainable Transportation

Transportation is the largest contributor to community emissions in Collingwood, accounting for 48.5% of community greenhouse gas profile. It shapes how residents move, how goods circulate, and how safe, connected, and healthy daily life feels. As Collingwood grows, transforming the way people travel, by expanding active transportation options, improving transit, supporting electric mobility, and reducing dependence on single-occupancy vehicles, presents meaningful opportunities for reducing emissions and improving quality of life.

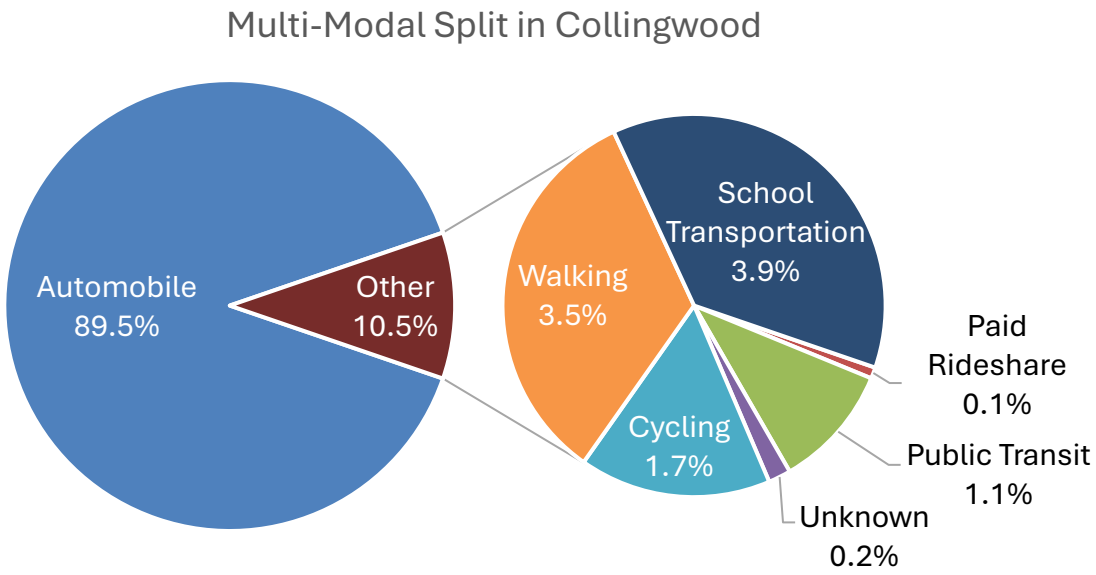


Figure 4: Transportation Mode Share in Collingwood (2016 Transportation Tomorrow Survey)

90% of trips are completed by private vehicles

Health Benefits of Sustainable Transportation:

Cleaner Air, Healthier Lungs: Reducing vehicle emissions improves air quality, lowering risks of respiratory illnesses like asthma and chronic bronchitis.

Active Living for All Ages: Walking, cycling, and using transit encourages physical activity, reducing the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and obesity.

Lower Stress Levels: Safe, connected streets and reliable transit operations reduce traffic congestion and commuting stress, being outdoors supports improved mental well-being.

Future Vision: Collingwood's transportation network is designed to support a healthy low-carbon future by providing safe, convenient, and connected ways for residents and visitors to move by foot, bike, transit, and low-emission vehicles. Streets and public spaces encourage active travel and strengthen connections between neighbourhoods, workplaces, schools, and amenities across the Town. Expanded transit options offer reliable, affordable mobility for all ages and abilities.

Residents and visitors are empowered to choose sustainable ways to travel, supported by education, infrastructure, and programs that make active and public transit easy and accessible. As more households and businesses transition to electric vehicles, shared mobility, and cycling, traffic congestion and transportation emissions decline significantly, parking standards can be reduced, freeing up land for other uses, and air quality improves throughout the community.

Leadership Profiles for Sustainable Transportation: A shift to sustainable transportation relies on shared support from residents, businesses, transportation partners, and Provincial governments to make low-emission transportation safe, connected, convenient, and accessible for all ages and abilities.

Action 4: Adopt and Implement a Complete Streets Policy

Description: A Complete Streets Policy is a comprehensive document providing a holistic approach to prioritize the creation of safe, convenient, and comfortable streets for pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and drivers. For many North American cities, Complete Streets represent a shift in road design. The approach is a transition from designing primarily for vehicles, to providing context specific, mode-inclusive street designs that actively respond to the nature and configuration of surrounding environments, while supporting the community's climate goals. While the primary goal of a complete streets policy in the context of this Plan is to encourage a modal shift away from the personal vehicle and toward active transportation and transit options to decrease emissions, there are multiple co-benefits associated with this action.

By integrating land use context, transportation needs, and public realm design, Complete Streets ensure each roadway project, from resurfacing to full reconstruction, enhances walkability, cycling infrastructure, transit access, and neighbourhood connectivity. This policy would also ensure that new development or infrastructure renewal contributes to a transportation network that is vibrant, healthy, and low carbon.

Leadership Profiles for Adopting Complete Streets:

- ✓ **Town of Collingwood:** Lead policy development and implementation. Integrate the Complete Streets Policy into planning, engineering, capital projects, and collaborate with regional/Provincial partners to align transportation networks.
- ✓ **Developers:** Design neighbourhoods that support walkability, cycling networks, and transit-oriented development in accordance with the adopted Policy.
- ✓ **Residents:** Choose active and low-emission travel options where possible, providing feedback to help shape safer and more connected and complete streets.
- ✓ **Community Groups:** Advocate for safe, inclusive mobility options and help educate residents about the benefits of Complete Streets.

Timeline	**Ongoing:** Policy development and adoption within the first 1–2 years, followed by phased integration into capital projects and implementation through ongoing road upgrades.
Investment	TBD – Project level implementation varies by street corridor and scope. The policy is designed to be applied routinely as part of standard project delivery and tied to existing design guidance, enabling many improvements to be bundled into scheduled road works and supported by external grants when available.
Community Co-Benefits	**Safer, More Accessible Streets** – Streets designed for all ages and abilities improve navigation, comfort, and safety for pedestrians and cyclists. **Improved Connections** – Better links between homes, schools, parks, transit stops, businesses, and downtown support reduced travel times. **Health Benefits** – Encourage residents and visitors to choose walking, cycling, and public transit that promote healthier, more active lifestyles. **Reduced Congestion & Emissions** – More residents choose active travel and transit when safe, connected options are available. **Vibrant Public Spaces** – Streets that prioritize people create more welcoming, attractive, and economically active neighbourhoods.
Measurable Indicators	**Integration in Capital Projects** – Percentage of road projects that incorporate Complete Streets elements in accordance with the adopted policy. **Active Transportation Improvements** – Increases in kilometers of sidewalks and cycling facilities. **Safety Outcomes** – Reductions in vehicle speeds and collision risk in areas improved through Complete Streets design. **Mode-Shift Metrics** – Increases in walking, cycling, and transit use over time, measured through counts, surveys, or monitoring. **Community Engagement** – Public awareness, feedback, and satisfaction with improved street designs.

Action 5: Support Master Mobility Transportation Plan Strategies that Support Modal Shifts

Description: The Master Mobility Transportation Plan (MMTP) is underway and is anticipated to outline key strategies to shift Collingwood toward a safer, more connected, and lower carbon transportation system. This action strengthens the alignment between the Sustainable Collingwood Plan and the MMTP by advancing transportation approaches that encourage residents to

choose active, shared, and low emission modes of travel over single occupancy vehicles or shorter vehicle trips when combined with active transportation, transit or ride sharing. Supporting modal shift requires integrating MMTP recommendations into planning, operations, asset management, and capital investments, ensuring Collingwood's transportation network evolves in a way that supports climate goals and responds to the needs of all ages and abilities.

Modal shift is most successful when the transportation network provides safe, predictable, and attractive options for walking, cycling, rolling, and transit. By coordinating policy, infrastructure, programs, and partnerships, the Town can create an environment where sustainable modes are convenient and preferred. This includes aligning road designs with Complete Streets principles, improving multi-modal connections, supporting expanded regional transit and trail networks, reducing barriers to non automobile travel, and coordinating with partners across the region to ensure seamless travel across municipal boundaries.

Leadership Profiles for Supporting Modal-shifts:

- ✓ **Town of Collingwood:** Lead implementation by integrating MMTP recommendations into planning, operations, capital projects, and asset management. Coordinate cross-departmental work, apply Complete Streets and Vision Zero principles, expand public transit routes, and ensure infrastructure upgrades support long term modal shifts.
- ✓ **Regional & Inter-Municipal Partners:** Collaborate on cross-boundary travel needs, transit connections, trail linkages, and corridor improvements. This includes Simcoe County, Town of The Blue Mountains, Wasaga Beach, Clearview, and regional transit providers who help align investments and improve multimodal connectivity across municipal boundaries.
- ✓ **Developers:** Incorporate multi-modal design elements into new neighbourhoods and commercial areas, such as cycling facilities, sidewalks, transit-oriented design, and connections to active transportation networks. Support implementation by adhering to MMTP aligned policies and standards such as Complete Streets, and traffic impact study guidelines.
- ✓ **Residents, Businesses and Visitors:** Choose active and low emission travel options where feasible, participate in engagement processes, and provide feedback to help refine infrastructure priorities and route designs. Community uptake and behaviour change are critical drivers of modal shifts.
- ✓ **Community Groups, Advocacy Organizations and Transportation Committees:** Help build awareness and education around sustainable transportation, safety, and active mobility. Contribute local insights, promote behaviour change, and help validate the design of safer multimodal infrastructure.
- ✓ **Student Transportation Partners:** Support safe routes to school, participate in planning around crossings, traffic calming, and active transportation access, and help integrate MMTP priorities into school zone planning.

Timeline Ongoing – MMTP underway and when endorsed will lead to integration of MMTP priorities through capital projects, annual transportation projects, and policy/standards updates. Modal shift initiatives will evolve

	with data, network performance, and community needs, with early wins achieved through corridor improvements, intersection upgrades, and active transportation connections.
Investment	$ to $$$$ – Costs vary by initiative. Low- and moderate-cost elements include signage, road markings, traffic-calming measures, and operational improvements. Larger investments include corridor upgrades, intersection redesign, and multimodal infrastructure.
Community Co-Benefits	**More travel choices** – Expanded active mode links and more flexible transit make nonauto trips viable for more residents and destinations. **Healthier, more active residents** – Improved walking and cycling conditions make short trips safer, easier, and more appealing, supporting both physical and mental wellbeing. **Safer streets and neighbourhoods** – MMTP aligned designs are intended to support lower speeds, fewer conflict points, and safer crossings for vulnerable road users. **Regional connectivity** – Partnerships with neighbouring municipalities and the County enhance travel between communities, benefiting workers, students, and visitors. **Affordability** – Reduced costs associated with personal vehicle ownership (e.g. maintenance, fuel, etc.).
Measurable Indicators	**Mode shifts** – Increases in walking, cycling, and transit use Town-wide and/or on MMTP priority corridors/stops. **Reduced congestion**– Reduced congestion and access to parking spaces in the downtown core. **Safety outcomes** – Fewer high severity and vulnerable road user collisions at treated locations. **Reduced community emissions** – Mode shift away from single occupancy vehicles reduces transportation related greenhouse gas emissions, Collingwood's largest emission source.

Action 6: Explore Opportunities to Expand and Improve Public Transit

Description: Public transit provides a low-emission transportation option while delivering co-benefits such as easing congestion, improving mobility, and supporting equity by providing affordable and reliable transit for the community**.**

While Collingwood continues to develop and refine its local transit system, opportunities exist to further increase ridership and reduce emissions through expanded transit services, improved route efficiency, and enhanced service frequency. Strengthening route design and connectivity can make transit more convenient and reliable, helping to better meet community needs and support a shift toward lower-emission travel options.

In addition, expanding subsidized transit programs can help reduce barriers to access. These could include discounted monthly passes, free transit days, employer-supported programs, or focused subsidies for youth or seniors. Together, service improvements and targeted subsidies can improve system performance, increase ridership, and support a shift away from single-occupancy vehicles.

Leadership Profiles for Expanded and Improved Public Transit:

- ✓ **Town of Collingwood:** Lead transit planning, service improvements, and program design, including evaluating route efficiency, service frequency, and expansion opportunities in collaboration with regional transit partners. Explore targeted subsidized transit programs and pilot initiatives while integrating transit improvements to support residents in choosing sustainable transportation options.
- ✓ **Residents & Visitors:** Use transit services, participate in pilot programs, provide feedback on routes, frequency, and barriers to help improve system design and accessibility.
- ✓ **Community Organizations & Social Service Agencies:** Help reach priority populations, promote subsidy options, and support expanded access for residents who face financial, social, or mobility barriers.
- ✓ **Local Businesses:** Encourage transit use for employees, participate in employer-subsidized transit-friendly commuting patterns, and consider transit sponsorships/ads for business promotion.

Timeline	1 to 5 Years – phased implementation of service improvements, route optimization, and pilot programs, based on collaboration with regional partners, funding availability, and ridership analysis.
Investment	**Route Improvements:** $ to $$$ Costs vary depending on the scale of service expansion and route optimization **Subsidy Program Delivery:** $ – Minimal investment from the Town to support the delivery subsidized transit from a policy and staff resourcing perspective. **Subsidy Program Sponsor (financial):** TBD – More exploration required to outline costs associated with transit subsidization.
Community Co-Benefits	**Improved Service and Connectivity:** Enhanced routes and increased frequency make transit more reliable and convenient, supporting greater ridership and access across the community. **Equity, Affordability & Accessibility:** Reduces transportation cost burdens, especially for youth and seniors while improving access to employment, schools, services, and amenities. **Reduced Congestion & Emissions:** Increased transit use leads to fewer vehicles on local roads, contributing to measurable reductions in transportation-related emissions that impact air quality.

Community Wellbeing: Improves mobility options for residents without access to a personal vehicle, supporting inclusion and overall quality of life.

Measurable Indicators

Ridership Growth: Increase in overall transit ridership and the number of new or frequent riders.
Service Performance: Improvements in route efficiency, service coverage, and frequency.
GHG Reductions: Decreases in vehicle kilometres travelled and associated community emissions.
Improved Affordability: Demonstrated transportation cost savings for residents participating in the subsidy program.

Action 7: Anti-Idling Campaign

Description: Reducing unnecessary vehicle idling is an effective way to lower greenhouse gas emissions, with the co-benefits of improving air quality and creating healthier public spaces. Collingwood's existing Idling Control By-Law limits vehicles to no more than three (3) consecutive minutes of idling within a 60-minute period.

A community-wide anti-idling campaign will build awareness of the existing by-law, encourage behavior change, and help residents, visitors, and businesses understand how small actions, like turning off an engine while parked, supports community health and climate goals.

Leadership Profiles for Anti-idling Campaign:

- ✓ **Town of Collingwood:** Enforce and support the By-law by providing clear information and signage, leading campaign delivery, and educating the public about the rationale behind the Idling By-law.
- ✓ **Residents and Visitors:** Lead the change by turning off their engines while parked and modelling responsible behavior throughout the community.
- ✓ **Community Groups and Businesses:** Strengthen the effort by posting additional signage, expand outreach by supporting educational materials, and positively engaging with the community.

Timeline

1 to 3 years with ongoing education to support long-term behavior change.

Investment

$ – Investment includes communications materials, signage, outreach activities, and staff time. Costs can be minimized by integrating messaging into existing programs and community partnerships.

Community Co-Benefits	**Improved Air Quality & Healthier Public Spaces** – Reduces exposure to pollutants that contribute to asthma, heart issues, and respiratory irritation, especially children and seniors. **Reduced Noise** – Creates quieter, more pleasant streetscapes. **Community Awareness** – Builds understanding of how everyday choices support climate action.
Measurable Indicators	**Awareness Reach** – Number of signs installed, materials distributed, and digital engagement metrics. **Behaviour Change Indicators** – Observed reductions in vehicle idling at key locations (schools, arenas, commercial areas

Action 8: Bicycle Parking Facilities

Description: Bicycle parking facilities support a more sustainable transportation system by making cycling a convenient and reliable option for everyday travel, resulting in decreased emissions and air pollution when bicycle travel is a safe and viable alternative to the personal vehicle. Secured, easy to use, and strategically located bicycle parking facilities can help residents replace short vehicle trips with cycling trips, reduce traffic congestion, and improve local air quality. Expanding bicycle parking at key destinations, such as workplaces, commercial areas, transit hubs, parks, and community facilities, creates a more connected network that encourages people of all ages to choose active transportation.

Leadership Profiles for Implementing Bicycle Parking Facilities:

- ✓ **Community Groups:** Expand awareness by approaching local businesses, promoting existing locations, and spreading the messaging through outreach and local networks.
- ✓ **Local Businesses and Institutions:** Encourage sustainable commuting by installing and supporting bicycle parking at workplaces, storefronts, transit areas, and community destinations.
- ✓ **Residents and Visitors:** Lead the change by choosing active and low-emission travel options whenever possible, helping to reduce traffic, improve air quality, and support a healthier community.
- ✓ **Town of Collingwood:** Support broader adoption by expanding publicly available bicycle parking, improving connections to cycling routes, updating policies, regulations and standards to set minimum requirements for bicycle parking as part of private developments, and providing clear guidance and resources for partners who wish to install their own facilities.

Timeline	1 to 5 years with ongoing opportunities to expand as the network and key destinations grow.
Investment	$ to $$ – Costs will vary depending on number and types of facilities, signage, and site preparation. Grant funding options will be explored to support installation into existing facilities and new capital projects.

Community Co-Benefits	**Healthier Residents** – Increased cycling supports physical activity and improved health and wellbeing. **Reduced Traffic & Parking Congestion:** When secure bike facilities are available, it can support more residents to choose bikes as their method of transportation rather than vehicles for short trips, reducing the need for vehicle parking and traffic congestion. **Improved Air Quality:** Cycling produces no emissions and supports cleaner, healthier neighbourhoods. **Support for Local Businesses:** Bike parking increases access and encourages economic activity at local destinations. **Safer, More Vibrant Streets:** Visible and easy to use bike parking creates more welcoming, people focused public spaces.
Measurable Indicators	**Number of Bicycle Parking Installations:** Total new racks, secure stations, and covered facilities. **Usage Metrics:** Frequency of bicycle parking use at high traffic locations, measured through counts or observation. **Mode Share Impact:** Growth in cycling as a percentage of local transportation trips.

4.3 Resilient Natural and Infrastructure Systems

Collingwood's natural assets are the foundation of our community's health, identity, and economy. Natural assets clean our air and water, cool neighbourhoods, reduce flood risk, and support biodiversity, while providing the trails, beaches, and parks that make Collingwood an exceptional place to live, work, and play.

78%
of Canadians participated in outdoor recreation activities in 2021, up from 75% in 2011. [10]

A healthy environment underpins community well-being and climate resilience. Nature-based solutions use natural systems and processes—such as restored shorelines, expanded tree canopy, and naturalized landscapes—to work with the environment rather than against it. These approaches help reduce flooding and erosion, improve water quality, and lower urban temperatures, while protecting both public health and built assets. As Collingwood grows, protecting and restoring ecosystems ensures long-term benefits including cleaner water, richer biodiversity, safer shorelines, and year-round opportunities for recreation and connection to locations that are connected to culture, identity, history, and lived experiences of the community.

In addition to natural systems, this Direction also focuses on the resilience of Collingwood's built infrastructure, including roads, bridges, stormwater systems, public facilities, shoreline structures, and essential services. These assets are increasingly exposed to extreme heat, heavy precipitation, flooding, freeze-thaw cycles, and erosion.

Actions under this section address both ecosystem resilience and infrastructure adaptation by integrating climate risk into asset management and capital investments, strengthening existing infrastructure, and ensuring new assets are designed to withstand projected climate conditions. Together, these impacts help reduce long-term repair costs, protect public safety, maintain service reliability, and support a resilient community as climate impacts intensify.

Future Vision: Our environment is healthy, connected, climate-resilient, and nature is woven into neighbourhoods through trees, parks, and pollinator-friendly landscapes. Residents, businesses, and visitors actively steward local ecosystems, strengthening a living network that supports people and wildlife alike. Sustainable growth within and adjacent to built areas limits urban sprawl and ensures there is space for nature to thrive.

[10] Protect Our Winters. 2024. The Outdoor Recreation Economy in Canada: Outdoor Recreation Economic Report 2024. https://assets.nationbuilder.com/pow/pages/3124/attachments/original/1728576421/POW_Canada_Outdoor_Recreation_Economic_Report_2024.pdf?1728576421.

Complimenting this vision, Collingwood's infrastructure systems are planned, designed, and managed to respond to future climate conditions. By integrating climate risk into infrastructure renewal and investment decisions, the Town enhances public safety, maintains reliable services, and reduces long-term costs. This ensures that built systems support resilient neighborhoods, healthy ecosystems, and sustainable community growth.

Leadership Profiles for Environmental Protection: Through collaboration with residents, businesses, Indigenous partners, community groups, regional agencies, and the development community, Collingwood will advance adaptation actions that work with nature, recognizing the many co-benefits natural systems provide. By protecting and restoring ecosystems, the Town strengthens resilience to climate impacts, enhances community health and well-being, improves air and water quality, and ensures new growth contributes to a greener, more connected environment for everyone.

Leadership Profiles for Infrastructure Resilience: Collingwood will advance climate-resilient infrastructure planning and delivery through collaboration across municipal departments, regional agencies, Indigenous partners, utility providers, and the development community. By integrating climate risk into asset management, capital planning, land-use decisions, and infrastructure renewal, the Town strengthens public safety, maintains reliable services, and supports resilient neighbourhoods and sustainable community growth. This shared leadership approach supports protective adaptation to extreme heat, flooding erosion, and severe weather.

Action 9: Climate Adaptation Plan

Climate adaptation is about preparing Collingwood for the climate impacts that are already happening and those projected to intensify in the coming decades. While reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) remains essential, adaptation ensures our community can stay safe, healthy, and prosperous as conditions change. Collingwood is expected to experience hotter summers, more frequent heatwaves, and wetter, stormier conditions, which can increase risks such as flooding, infrastructure damage, shoreline erosion, and public health impacts, especially for vulnerable residents.

By planning ahead, Collingwood can reduce long-term costs, protect residents, and local ecosystems, and maintain the quality of life that makes our community unique.

Leadership Profiles for Climate Adaptation:

- ✓ **Town of Collingwood:** Lead development of the Climate Adaptation Plan, integrate actions into asset management, land-use planning, and emergency management as applicable; convene partners, coordinate implementation, and report on progress.
- ✓ **Regional & Public Sector Partners:** Provide climate, watershed, health, and infrastructure data, co-develop actions, and deliver complimentary programs and capital projects.

- ✓ **Indigenous Partners:** Guide place-based knowledge, stewardship practices, and co-development of actions that respect rights, culture, and relationships to land and water.
- ✓ **Community Groups:** Support outreach, education, and help mobilize neighbourhood-level preparedness.

i. Complete a Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment

Description: A Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment provides a clear picture of how local hazards such as extreme heat, flooding, shoreline erosion, and severe storms can affect the community, infrastructure, and natural spaces. This includes identifying areas, services, and populations that are most sensitive to climate impacts, such as extreme heat, storms, and shoreline erosion, and where proactive action can make the most positive impact.

Timeline	1 to 2 Years – Building on the existing work completed through the Town's Stormwater Master Plan, which assessed flooding risks associated with climate change, this assessment will expand to include a broader range of climate hazards and community vulnerabilities.
Investment	$ – Technical analysis, mapping, community and partner engagement. Partially funded through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund.
Community Co-Benefits	**Community Safety & Health –** Highlights health risks associated with climate impacts, especially for vulnerable groups such as seniors, children, and low-income residents, supporting better preparedness and public health planning. **Informed Decision-Making Across the Town** – Ensures that climate information guides infrastructure investments, and emergency response so the whole community benefits from a coordinated approach.
Measurable Indicators	**Improved Understanding of Community Vulnerabilities** – Completion of analysis identifying vulnerable groups and essential services most likely to be impacted during climate events. This also provides a baseline for comparison to future assessments to evaluate change and risk evolution. **Increased Access to External Funding** – Number and value of provincial or federal adaptation-related grants the Town becomes eligible for or secures using the completed assessment as required documentation. **Strengthened Collaboration with Partners** – Documented participation from regional agencies, conservation authorities, health units, Indigenous partners, and utilities contributing data, expertise, or validation to the assessment.

Improved Public Understanding of Local Climate Risks – Engagement metrics from public-facing components of the assessment demonstrating increased awareness and readiness in the community.

ii. Develop Corporate & Community Adaptation Plan

Description: Develop an implementation plan that translates the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment findings into clear, practical actions that help protect residents, visitors, businesses, infrastructure, natural spaces, and community services as the local climates change. The plan will emphasize actionable steps, clear roles and responsibilities, and integration with existing municipal plans and processes (such as the Stormwater Management Master Plan) to support effective implementation.

The Adaptation Plan will outline who needs to be involved, what actions should be prioritized, how progress will be measured, and how the Town and community can work together to strengthen resilience. It will guide decisions across departments, ensuring that climate considerations become a natural part of how Collingwood plans and invests in the future.

Timeline	1 to 2 Years
Investment	$ – Staff time, facilitation, and community engagement. Partially funded through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund.
Community Co-Benefits	**Coordinated Community Action –** Brings together Town departments, regional partners, community groups, Indigenous partners, and residents to collaboratively address climate risks using shared priorities. **Improved Public Health, Safety & Well-Being –** Ensures future projects and policies help protect residents from extreme heat, flooding, severe storms, and other climate-related hazards. **Cost Avoidance** – Integrating climate considerations into planning and investment decisions helps avoid future damage, reduce emergency response costs, and extend the lifespan of infrastructure.
Measurable Indicators	**Greater Access to Funding –** A formal adaptation plan increases Collingwood's eligibility for federal and provincial grants, supporting cost-effective implementation of climate resilience measures. Amount of grant funding received is a measurable outcome. **Implemented Actions** – Percentage of actions initiated, ongoing, and completed within the plan cycle.

iii. Community Education and Preparedness

Description: Community education and preparedness are essential to helping residents understand local climate risks and take practical steps to stay safe and healthy as conditions change. By providing clear, accessible information and hands-on learning opportunities, residents, businesses, and neighbourhoods will be empowered to build resilience together. This action focuses on improving local climate awareness, supporting vulnerable populations, and strengthening readiness for extreme weather events such as heatwaves, flooding, storms, and shoreline impacts.

Timeline	1 to 3 Years, Ongoing
Investment	$ – Materials, communications, and outreach delivered through Town channels and partnerships.
Community Co-Benefits	**Improved Climate Literacy** – Residents better understand local climate risks and protective actions for their health and homes. **Community Engagement** – Encourages the shared responsibility and participation in climate action.
Measurable Indicators	**Engagement Metrics** – Number of views, downloads, social media interactions, and resources provided.

iv. Adaptation Plan Implementation

Description: A strong implementation process ensures that climate resilience becomes embedded in everyday municipal and community decision-making, supported through partnerships, transparent progress reporting, and annual planning. By coordinating across municipal departments and working closely with regional partners, Indigenous partners, community groups, residents, and businesses, the Town or community leaders can build trust, secure funding, and demonstrate tangible improvements that reduce risk and strengthen community well-being over time.

Timeline	1 to 3 Years, Ongoing
Investment	TBD – Implementation of the Adaptation Plan will occur on a project-by-project basis, with each action requiring its own assessment of scope, cost, and funding opportunities. Many implementation actions may be eligible for external funding, including programs such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund, and will be evaluated individually as part of annual planning and budgeting.

Community Co-Benefits	**Improved Safety & Resilience** – Actions informed by risk assessments help protect residents from extreme heat, flooding, storms, erosion, and poor air quality. **Cost Savings & Avoided Damages** – Proactive planning helps prevent costly emergency repairs, infrastructure failures, and service disruptions.
Measurable Indicators	**Progress Tracking** – Percentage of Adaptation Plan actions started, in progress, and completed. **Integration in Decision-Making** – Number of municipal processes updated to include climate risk considerations (e.g., asset management, capital planning, development review). **Risk Reduction Outcomes** – Measurable improvements such as reduced heat exposure, fewer localized flooding incidents, improved water quality, and strengthened shoreline stability.

Action 10: Protect and Enhance Pollinator Habitat

Description: Pollinators play a critical role in maintaining healthy, diverse plant communities that sequester carbon, stabilize soils, and support long-term carbon storage in trees, native vegetation, and naturalized landscapes. By protecting and expanding pollinator habitat, Collingwood supports the growth and survival of native plants and urban forests that act as natural carbon sinks and reduce emissions associated with land degradation and landscape replacement.

As a certified Bee City Community, Collingwood is well positioned to advance climate-positive land stewardship through its Pollinator Protection Plan. Community actions such as increasing native plantings, reducing pesticide use, and creating connected habitat corridors help build low-maintenance, climate-resilient landscapes that require fewer fossil fuel intensive inputs like fertilizers, mowing, and irrigation, reducing emissions while increasing carbon sequestration and ecosystem stability.

Pollinator-friendly landscapes also strengthen local food systems by improving the productivity of local agriculture and home gardens, reducing reliance on imported foods and associated transportation emissions. By integrating pollinator support into municipal operations, community stewardship, development practices, and public education, Collingwood can advance a nature-based climate solution that directly supports emission reductions, biodiversity, and long-term climate resilience.

Leadership Profiles for Supporting Native Pollinators:

- ✓ **Town of Collingwood:** Lead implementation of the Pollinator Protection Plan, create and maintain pollinator-friendly public spaces, minimize pesticide use, and provide education and support programs.
- ✓ **Community Groups:** Provide education, volunteer stewardship, seed and plant giveaways, and support community habitat creation projects.

- ✓ **Residents:** Plant and maintain native gardens, reduce pesticide use, leave leaves and plant stems in fall/spring to support over-wintering pollinators, and participate in community planting programs.
- ✓ **Businesses & Developers:** Incorporate native plantings, habitat features, and pollinator-friendly design practices into surrounding landscapes.
- ✓ **Regional & Public Sector Partners:** Conservation authorities and environmental agencies provide data, technical guidance, and ecological expertise to inform pollinator-friendly practices that align with climate resilience, stormwater management, and biodiversity goals.

Timeline	Ongoing
Investment	$ to $$ – Many actions can be delivered through existing Town programs, volunteer networks, and partnerships such as Pollinate Collingwood and Bee City Canada. Larger habitat installations or maintenance needs may require moderate annual investment.
Community Co-Benefits	**Stronger Biodiversity & Ecosystem Health** – Expanded native habitats support bees, butterflies, and other pollinators essential to healthy ecosystems and climate-resilient plant communities. **Enhanced Natural Beauty** – Native gardens and flowering landscapes contribute to vibrant neighbourhoods, parks, and public spaces. **Healthier Food Systems** – Pollinator diversity supports local agriculture, home gardens, and community food production.
Measurable Indicators	**Habitat Expansion –** Number of new and maintained pollinator gardens, native plantings, and habitat corridors on public and private land. **Pollinator Health Indicators** – Increased presence of native pollinators and observed species diversity in monitored gardens.

Action 11: Tree Preservation Regulatory Framework

Description: A healthy, climate resilient tree canopy supports Collingwood's environment, public health, and neighbourhood character. Trees act as carbon sinks by absorbing carbon dioxide and thereby reducing GHGs. A single mature tree can absorb approximately 22 kilograms of carbon dioxide annually, while forests sequester about 25% of global carbon dioxide emissions. Trees also help reduce heat, improve stormwater management, support biodiversity, lower energy use, and strengthen climate resilience to extreme weather.

As Collingwood grows and redevelopment increases, the Official Plan sets goals for minimum Town-wide tree canopy and an aspirational target for canopy augmentation. The Plan calls for the “right tree, in the right place” through the restoration of a diverse range of tree species, particularly native species that are resilient to a changing climate. Updates to the Town’s tree regulatory framework will work toward achieving “no net loss” to the tree canopy, prioritize the protection of large, healthy trees over replacement plantings and compensation where possible, and support suitable growing environments to maximize survival rates.

Reviewing and updating the current approaches to urban forestry and tree canopy protection will help ensure that Collingwood’s tree canopy aligns with climate adaptation priorities, is managed sustainably, and supports ecological health.

Leadership Profiles for Completing a Tree Protection and Preservation Regulatory Framework:

- ✓ **Town of Collingwood:** Leads the review and modernization of the policy and regulatory framework, including document development, enforcement, public education, and integration with land use planning, climate adaptation, and development review.
- ✓ **Developers:** Incorporate updated tree protection and planting requirements into development plans, site designs, and construction practices. Ensure tree protection zones, replacement ratios, and climate resilient species requirements as required by Town policies, regulations or standards are followed during all phases of development.
- ✓ **Residents and Businesses:** Follow updated permitting processes for tree removal, protection, and replacement. Participate in stewardship by planting native species, maintaining healthy private property tree canopy, and supporting community-wide canopy goals.
- ✓ **Community Groups:** Provide education and stewardship programs, support community planting initiatives, and help share information about the benefits of expanding and preserving Collingwood’s tree canopy.
- ✓ **Indigenous Partners:** Share place-based knowledge, Indigenous stewardship practices, and cultural perspectives to support sustainable approaches to protecting trees, natural systems, and ecological relationships.
- ✓ **Regional Conservation & Environmental Partners:** Conservation authorities, Simcoe County, and environmental agencies provide data, technical guidance, and ecological expertise to ensure that updates reflect best practices for climate resilience, stormwater management, and biodiversity.

Timeline	1 to 3 Years, followed by ongoing implementation and monitoring.
Investment	$ to $$ – Staff time for policy review, engagement, and implementation. Additional investment may be required for supporting resources (guidelines, inspections, enforcement, canopy analysis).

Community Co-Benefits	**Enhanced Neighbourhood Character** – Protecting mature trees preserves community identity, walkability, and access to shade for residents. **Support for Sustainable Growth** – Clear guidance ensures development contributes positively to tree protection and replacement. **Improved Environmental Health** – Healthier trees support biodiversity, improve air quality, and enhance ecological function. **Longterm Cost Savings** – Increased canopy reduces infrastructure strain and can lower long term stormwater and cooling costs.
Measurable Indicators	**Canopy Coverage** – Changes in canopy coverage measured through periodic canopy assessments. **Permits** – Number of tree removal permits issued, compliance rates, and enforcement actions. **New Tree Planting** – Number of trees planted through Canopy Collingwood program on private property.

4.4 Climate Ready Local Economy & Community Culture

Collingwood's local economy is deeply connected to the natural environment, the well-being of its residents and visitors, and the character of the community. As climate change creates new challenges, such as rising operational costs, supply-chain disruptions, and shifting seasons, it also creates opportunities for Collingwood to build a more resilient, sustainable, and locally connected economy.

Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial emissions account for **22.8% of community emissions**

A climate-ready economy supports stable jobs, protects local revenues, and strengthens the sectors that define Collingwood, from engineering and manufacturing to tourism and hospitality to outdoor recreation and retail. According to Escarpment Corridor Alliance's South Georgian Bay Conservation Economy Report, 57% of businesses and organizations operate in the region because of its natural assets, with over 30% providing services related to outdoor recreation, and another 30% supporting hospitality for visitors drawn to the area's landscapes and experiences. [11] Sustainable business practices lower operational costs, support local supply chains, improve public health, and reduce environmental impacts.

In addition to businesses, consumers also play an essential role in Collingwood's climate-ready local economy. By choosing to buy local products and services, reduce waste, and participating in a circular lifestyle, such as repairing, reusing, and reselling items, residents can meaningfully reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production, transportation, and disposal of goods. These everyday choices help keep dollars circulating within the community, support small businesses and local farmers, cut down on long-distance shipping, and reduce the amount of material sent to landfill. Through mindful purchasing and waste practices, consumers help build a thriving, low-carbon economy that reflects Collingwood's values and supports long-term community resilience.

Future Vision: Collingwood's economy is resilient, low-carbon, and competitive. Powered by businesses that adopt sustainable practices, reduce energy use, and embrace opportunities in the green economy, and are supported by residents who choose to buy local, reduce waste, and participate in a circular lifestyle by reselling, reusing, and repairing items to extend their life/keep materials out of landfill. These everyday choices help, cut emissions tied to long-distance transport, keep dollars in the community, and build a thriving, circular local economy.

[11] Escarpment Corridor Alliance. 2024. South Georgian Bay's Conservation Economy Report: A vision & toolkit for an economy built around protecting, conserving & restoring local landscapes. https://myescarpment.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Conservation-Economy-Report_2024.pdf.

Leadership to Build a Climate-Ready Economy and Enhance Community Culture: Through collaboration with residents, visitors, local businesses, economic development partners, community groups, provincial and federal governments, and regional organizations, Collingwood will advance actions that support a sustainable, low carbon, and resilient local economy. Actions in this section highlight the distinct but interconnected roles each group plays in fostering sustainable business practices, expanding local economic opportunities, reducing waste, and strengthening the community's collective capacity to respond to climate change.

Action 12: Supporting Businesses: Green Economy South Georgian Bay

Description: Local businesses are essential to Collingwood's workforce, economy, and community life, but they also contribute to greenhouse gas emissions through energy use, transportation, and supply chains. Supporting businesses to reduce their emissions and adopt sustainable practices can reduce energy use, operational costs, and enhance brand reputation.

The Green Economy South Georgian Bay project is run by the Collingwood Climate Action Team and supports businesses across the Towns of Blue Mountains, Collingwood, and Wasaga Beach. The program focuses on providing education, peer networking opportunities, and creating pathways to reduce operational emissions to make sustainability practical and profitable for businesses of all sizes.

Leadership profiles for Supporting Businesses:

- ✓ **Community Groups:** Facilitate programming, expand outreach, promote the program, and help businesses connect to workshops, funding opportunities, and sustainability networks.
- ✓ **Local Businesses and Institutions:** Participate in training, measure and track emissions, implement energy and operational improvements, and share their successes to inspire others.
- ✓ **Town of Collingwood:** Support the transition to a climate-ready economy by promoting the Green Economy South Georgian Bay Program, integrating sustainability into economic development priorities, and helping businesses access tools, resources, and funding opportunities.
- ✓ **Residents and Visitors:** Support local businesses that demonstrate sustainable leadership through purchasing choices, participation in circular economy initiatives, and community engagement.

Timeline	1 to 5 Years with ongoing opportunities to grow the number of participating businesses and support deeper emissions reductions over time.
Investment	**Annual Operations:** $ – To support program operations, promotion, business engagement, and collaboration with partners. Additional funding may be required for expanded workshops, technical

	support, and development of business facing resources. **Participating Businesses:** $ to $$$ – Investment levels vary depending on the measures they pursue, but cost savings from efficiency improvements often offset initial expenses over time.
Community Co-Benefits	**Customer Loyalty & Brand Reputation** – Sustainability attracts environmentally conscious customers and strengthens community trust. Consumers increasingly prefer businesses with strong environmental commitments. **Talent Attraction & Retention** – Younger workforce values sustainability, green businesses are more appealing employers. **Community Leadership** – Positions the business as a local sustainability leader, building goodwill and partnerships.
Measurable Indicators	**Interest & Participation** – Number of businesses expressing interest and participating in programs, workshops, surveys, and/or audits. **Energy & Energy & Emissions Impact** – Estimate GJ saved and tCO_2e reduced from implemented efficiency measures across participating businesses. **Financial Savings** – Average reduction in operating costs for businesses after implementing energy efficiency upgrades.

Action 13: Promotion of Collingwood's Local Economy

Description: A resilient, low carbon economy is built by both business leadership and strong local consumer participation. Promoting Collingwood's local economy helps reduce transportation related emissions from goods, strengthens small and local businesses, keeps dollars circulating within the community, and builds a culture of sustainability and connection.

By raising awareness of the environmental, social, and economic benefits of buying local, and by making it easier for residents and visitors to identify and support sustainable businesses, the Town can accelerate the transition toward a circular, climate ready economy. Through storytelling, improved visibility, and community partnerships, this action encourages everyday choices that reduce emissions and reinforce Collingwood's unique identity and sense of place.

Leadership Profiles for Promoting Collingwood's Local Economy:

- ✓ **Local Associations, County of Simcoe & Town of Collingwood:** Organization of farmers' markets, seasonal events, buy local campaigns, artisan fairs, and community festivals that bring local businesses directly to residents and visitors. These

organizations expand awareness, provide vendor opportunities, and foster stronger relationships between businesses and the community.

- ✓ **Local Businesses:** Participate in campaigns, markets, and events to engage with residents and showcase sustainable practices.
- ✓ **Residents & Visitors:** Support local businesses, growers, artisans, and service providers by participating in farmers' markets, community events, and shopping local; choose sustainable, locally made, and low emission products whenever possible.

Timeline	Ongoing promotion as part of economic development and climate change portfolios.
Investment	$ – Costs may include communications materials, digital tools, campaign development, marketing partnerships, and support for community hosted events. Many activities can be integrated into existing Town or partner programs.
Community Co-Benefits	**Economic Resilience & Local Prosperity** – Dollars stay within the community, supporting jobs, services, and local supply chains. **Enhanced Sense of Place & Cultural Vitality** – Residents and visitors engage more deeply with local makers, farmers, and service providers, strengthening Collingwood's identity. **Support for Circular Economy Practices** – Promotion of repair, reuse, and resell programs reduces waste and supports sustainable consumption patterns.
Measurable Indicators	**Campaign Reach & Engagement** – Number of views, social media interactions, newsletter reads, and participation in local economy events (e.g. Markets). **Business Participation** – Number of businesses featured, highlighted, or engaged in sustainability focused promotions or programs. **Resident Participation** – Metrics such as event attendance, use of buy local directories, or engagement with sustainable shopping tools. **Reduced Emissions from Transportation of Goods** – Supporting local businesses helps limit emissions tied to long-distance shipping and freight movement and reduces air pollution.

Action 14: Explore and Support Improved Waste Management Practices

Description: Improving waste management practices contribute to reducing community greenhouse gas emissions, prolonging the lifespan of regional landfills, and supporting a circular, low carbon local economy. Waste accounts for 4.9% of Collingwood's

community emissions, with the majority generated from organic material decomposing in landfills and releasing methane, a greenhouse gas significantly more potent than carbon dioxide.

The following actions can be explored to support recycling and organic waste away from landfill towards appropriate streams:

- Supporting organic waste disposal in multi-unit buildings,
- Supporting organic waste disposal from high volume producers (e.g. restaurants),
- Explore opportunities to connect businesses with joint recycling contracts,
- Continue supporting the community in completing voluntary cleanups (e.g. Community Clean Up Days)

By strengthening education, supporting proper use of waste diversion programs, and collaborating with regional partners on future waste system improvements, Collingwood can support residents and businesses in reducing emissions, improving environmental health, and building a community culture of waste reduction and circularity.

Leadership Profiles for Improved Waste Management Practices:

- ✓ **County of Simcoe:** Lead garbage collection, processing, contracts, and organics management and determine long term waste infrastructure needs. Provide regional waste education and explore opportunities to address gaps in non-residential recycling.
- ✓ **Circular Materials Ontario** (Ontario's Producer Responsibility Organization)**:** Coordinate and support the delivery of residential recycling programs to expand access, reduce contamination, and improve recycling outcomes.
- ✓ **Local Businesses and Institutions:** Manage individual waste contracts, maintain and improve waste sorting practices, explore joint recycling contracts, reduce packaging, and help employees and customers participate in proper waste diversion.
- ✓ **Town of Collingwood:** Collaborate with regional partners to support residents and businesses in waste diversion through education, clear guidance, and coordinated communications. Explore opportunities for joint recycling contract and incentives to encourage low-waste businesses practices, such as recognition programs and reduced fees.
- ✓ **Residents and Visitors:** Sort waste correctly at home and in public spaces, reduce single use items, participate in recycling and organics programs (as applicable), and engage with local waste education efforts.
- ✓ **Community Groups:** Support education, host and promote workshops, and help build community-wide awareness of proper waste practices.

Timeline Ongoing – Leveraged through continuous collaboration with Simcoe County and Producer Responsibility Organization, annual education campaigns, and incremental improvements to diversion programs.

Investment	$ to $$ – Investment required for targeted supports (e.g., pilot projects, multi-unit building engagement, materials development).
Community Co-Benefits	**Reduced GHG Emissions from Landfill Waste** – Increased diversion of organics reduces methane emissions and supports community climate goals. **Cleaner Neighbourhoods & Public Spaces** – Better sorting practices lead to less litter, contamination, and overflowing bins. **Healthier Environment** – Reducing waste and improving diversion protects water quality, wildlife, and green spaces. **Cost Savings Over Time** – Improved diversion decreases long term landfill management costs and supports more efficient regional waste services.
Measurable Indicators	**Diversion Rate Improvements** – Increases in the percentage of community waste diverted from landfill (organics, recycling, reuse programs). **Contamination Reduction –** Decrease in contamination rates in recycling and organics streams. **Participation Metrics –** Number of residents reached through campaigns, event attendance, materials distributed, and digital engagement. **Number of Additional Properties Served** – Number of properties that divert recycling and organic materials from the landfill. **Waste Volume Trends –** Annual reductions in total garbage tonnage per household or business.

5 Climate Education & Community Capacity Building

Education is a foundational element of every action in the Sustainable Collingwood Plan. Community feedback emphasized that successful climate action depends on clear, accessible information presented in ways that feel relevant, practical, and aligned with residents' daily lives and interests. Strengthening climate literacy helps ensure that the actions in this plan are widely understood, achievable, and supported by the community. Education also builds confidence, counters misinformation, and empowers people to take meaningful steps toward a sustainable future, regardless of where they are on their climate journey.

Each of the actions listed throughout this plan and their progress can be shared through storytelling, workshops, local examples, practical guides, and community partnerships to ensure the community has access to clear, trusted information. This ongoing effort will help unify the community around shared goals and accelerate progress across all sectors.

By integrating education through all actions listed in the Sustainable Collingwood Plan, the following community benefits can be achieved and support more people in taking positive action:

- ✓ **Stronger Climate Literacy** – Members of the community better understand climate impacts and practical solutions.
- ✓ **Increased Participation** – Accessible, relevant education supports engagement in retrofits, transportation mode shifts, natural systems stewardship, and waste reduction.
- ✓ **Equity & Inclusion** – Tailored approaches ensure all residents, regardless of age, income, experience, or background, can participate meaningfully.
- ✓ **Community Confidence** – Practical guidance reduces uncertainty, making climate actions more approachable and achievable.

5.1 How to Get Involved: Stakeholder Archetypes

Climate action in Collingwood requires participation from a diverse network of partners, each contributing in different but complimentary ways. It is important for community members to be able to see themselves as part of the solution, and the following stakeholder archetypes help community members understand how they can meaningfully participate.

These archetypes do not limit involvement to specific individuals or groups; rather, they highlight the range of roles needed to implement the actions in this plan. Clear roles and shared responsibility were identified as essential to success throughout community engagement, with residents strongly expressing that successful climate action must be a collaborative, community-wide effort rather than the responsibility of the municipality alone.

Individuals

- **Residents:** Take everyday actions, retrofits, active travel, waste reduction, and participate in workshops, surveys, and pilot programs while sharing stories that inspire communitywide behaviour change.
- **Youth:** Bring energy, creativity, and long-term vision to climate action by participating in school and community programs, championing sustainable habits, and sharing climate messages through social media and peer networks.

Organizations

- **Community Groups & Nonprofits:** Deliver education, host events, support engagement, steward natural spaces, and act as trusted leaders who can mobilize their networks and support implementation.
- **Local Businesses & Institutions:** Adopt energy efficient practices, participate in Green Economy programs, support employees in sustainable commuting, and reduce operational emissions through strategic investments.

Partners

- **Developers & Industry Professionals:** Design and construct efficient, climate ready buildings, support district and clean energy partnerships, integrate nature-based solutions, and align projects with community sustainability goals.
- **Indigenous Partners:** Share place-based knowledge, cultural insights, and stewardship practices, guiding collaborative approaches to land, water, and ecosystem protection.
- **Regional & Public Sector Partners:** Provide technical expertise, data, funding, and alignment across transportation, energy, watershed management, public health, and emergency preparedness.

Government

- **County, Provincial, and Federal Governments:** Support climate action through legislation, funding programs, regulations, and region-wide initiatives. Collaborate with the local governments by providing data, technical guidance, and policy frameworks to advance emission reductions, adaptation planning, infrastructure investments, and community resilience.
- **Town of Collingwood:** The Town of Collingwood leads coordination, policy development, monitoring, and reporting for community climate action. By leading and bringing partners together we support the community in reaching climate goals.

6 A Call to Collective Action

Collingwood's future will be shaped by the collective choices we make today. The actions in this plan reflect the community's values, the expertise of local partners, and the commitment of residents who care deeply about protecting the place they call home. By working together, across households, businesses, organizations, Indigenous partners, and all levels of government, we can build a healthier, more resilient, and low-carbon community.

The Sustainable Collingwood Plan is a living document, one that will evolve as our community grows, technologies change, and our understanding of climate impact deepens. Its success depends on collective participation: residents making everyday changes, businesses leading by example, community groups driving education and action, and the Town enabling progress through supportive policies and partnerships. Measurable impacts that are made through implementing the actions outlined in this plan will be more clearly quantified as progress is made and program uptake is realized.

Together, Collingwood can turn ambition and a shared vision of a "*Sustainable Community*" into meaningful change. By staying engaged, learning from one another, and celebrating the progress we make along the way, Collingwood will continue to build a future where people, nature, and the local economy thrive.