

Municipalities
for **Climate
Innovation**
Program



Building National Momentum for Local Climate Action

Year 4 in Review (2019–2020)

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Success to Date

MCIP's Momentum on Local Climate Action

The Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (MCIP) is a five-year, \$75 million program funded by Infrastructure Canada and delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

Effective climate change action must be approached in an integrated way, with a focus on both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and responding to climate vulnerabilities.

MCIP supports projects across the climate change response spectrum in communities across Canada. Many municipalities are applying a low-carbon resilience¹ lens to address their challenges and explore the opportunities for innovation that climate change presents.

In this report you'll find sector trends and an overview of our program activities from April 2019 to March 2020.



A bike share docking station in Montreal, QC. MCIP has delivered on a number of municipal bike lane projects.

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\$57M
supporting local
climate action

\$33M
distributed
directly to
municipalities

\$7M
supporting
employment in
smaller towns

////////////////////
133
(of 322) projects
completed to date

8/28
partner grants
completed this
year

430/910
events & activities
delivered this year

////////////////////
7K+
(of 16K+) individuals
benefitted from climate-
focused programming

330
hours of coaching
provided to local
climate staff

59+
training resources
developed for
municipalities

¹Adaptation to Climate Change Team, SFU (2019) Low Carbon Resilience Interventions: Case Studies at the Building, Neighbourhood and Community Levels <https://act-adapt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ACT-LCR-Interventions.pdf>



Year 4 Results

Municipal Success in 2019-20

Our Impact



We're funding municipalities and helping them overcome barriers so they can move forward with climate-related planning and action. MCIP grants support the development of plans, the identification and testing of solutions and the implementation of capital or operational changes.

By March 2020, 133 of MCIP's portfolio of 322 projects had been completed. To date, MCIP has approved over \$57.3 million in grant funding and has disbursed \$33 million, reaching over 700 municipalities.

Vancouver Skytrain. Public transportation allows communities to adapt to a changing climate and reduce GHG emissions.

Throughout the report, MCIP activities are grouped in two broad categories:



Climate Change Adaptation

The process and actions that reduce the negative impact of climate change, while taking advantage of potential new opportunities.

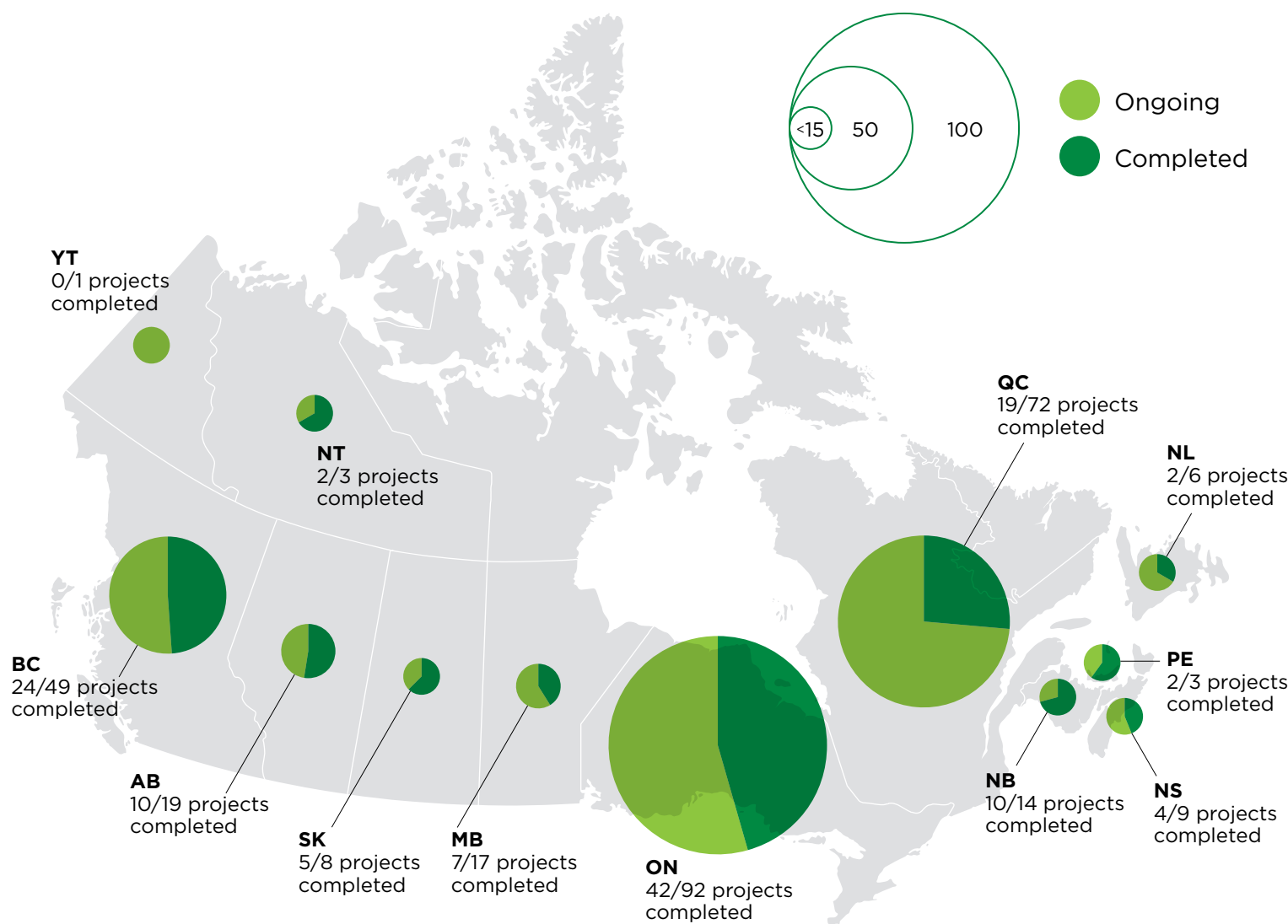


Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

The reduction, removal, or avoidance of Greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions into the atmosphere.

Grants to Municipalities

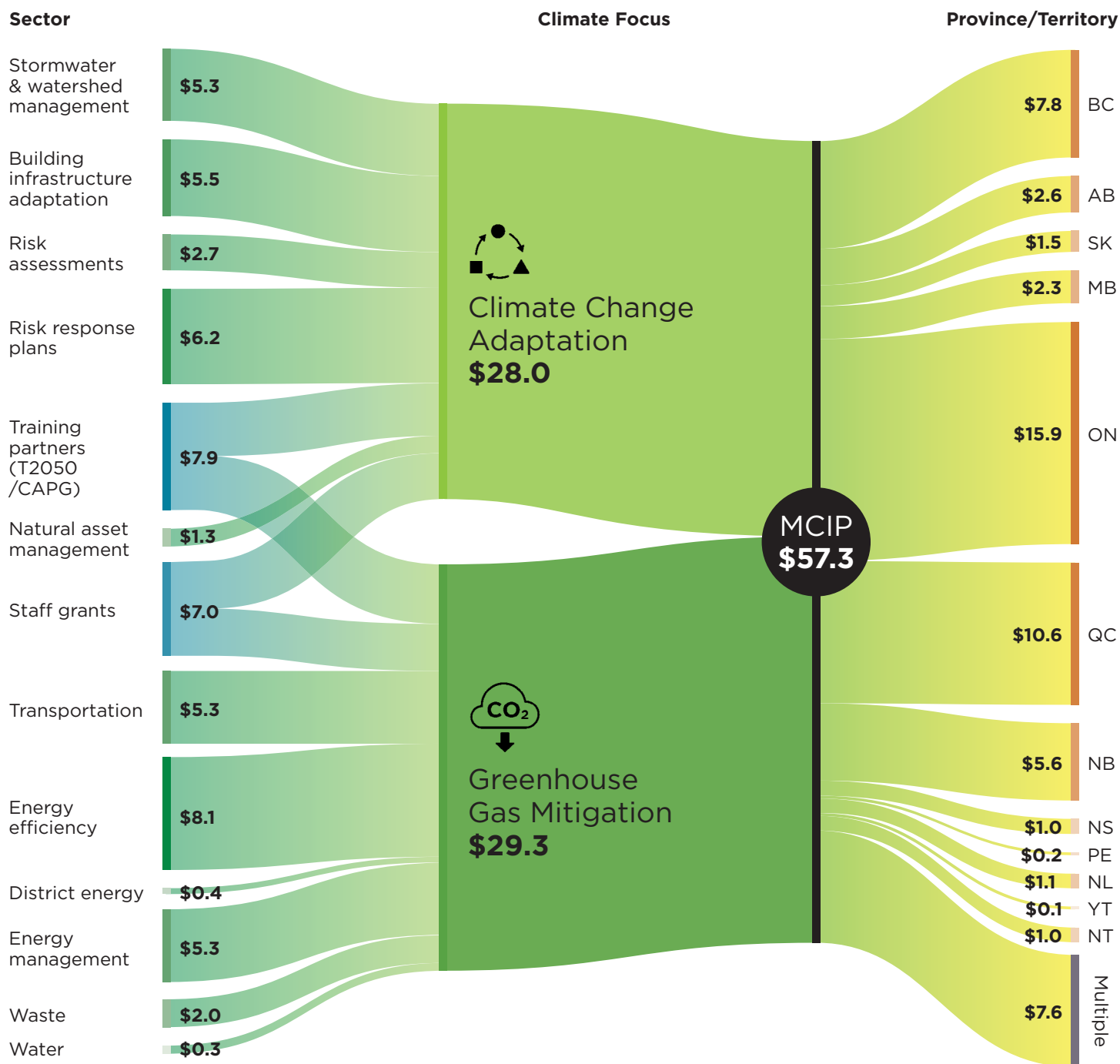
Projects by Province/Territory



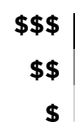
Fund Allocation by Province/Territory

Province	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU	Mul- tiple	Total
Approved Amounts (Millions)	\$7.8	\$2.6	\$1.5	\$2.3	\$15.9	\$10.3	\$5.6	\$1	\$0.2	\$1.1	\$0.1	\$1	\$0	\$7.6	\$57.3
Value (%)	14	5	3	4	28	18	10	2	0	2	0	2	0	13	100

MCIP's Portfolio: Flow of Funds (Millions of Dollars)



Darker colour bars indicate a larger amount of funds.



Inspiring Climate Solutions: Case Study Examples



All this activity has resulted in some inspiring success stories, a few of which are shared here. MCIP has funded projects in a diverse range of sectors impacted by climate change, including energy, stormwater and watershed management, building infrastructure, waste, water, natural assets and transportation.

An outdoor community garden. MCIP has supported the development of shared green spaces across Canada.

From active transportation plans to low-impact stormwater management, from feasibility studies to planning exercises, MCIP has been there to help municipalities across Canada take their next steps forward.

Town of Malartic, QC

Developing an active transportation plan

Like many communities across Canada, the Town of Malartic, Quebec, wants to create the best quality of life for its residents while reducing its environmental footprint. Malartic is taking an interest in active transportation in order to provide an alternative to automobiles and a better living environment for its population.

[Read the project case study](#)



With support from MCIP, Malartic, QC, was able to invest in an active transportation plan for its community.

239

residents, parents
and high school
students consulted

28

active transport
solutions proposed

Port Burwell, ON

Resiliency in stormwater management infrastructure

Like many municipalities, the Municipality of Bayham, Ontario, had a tight budget, but didn't want that to stand in the way of local environmental stewardship. With the support of MCIP, Port Burwell phased in the reconstructions of its storm sewer network using low-impact development (LID) methods.

[Read the project case study](#)



Residential stormwater drains help reduce urban flooding by minimizing surface water.

446

metres of stormwater
sewer installed

1,000+

residents protected

Springfield, MB

Groundwater vulnerability mapping

The Rural Municipality of Springfield, Manitoba, has long been concerned with the security and availability of its groundwater, which it relies on to meet all of its domestic, commercial and industrial water needs. Springfield completed a planning exercise to help it keep its water system sustainable, clean and safe for consumption.

[Read the project case study](#)



Draining stormwater is key to reducing pollution and slowing infrastructure erosion. MCIP has delivered on a number of stormwater management projects across Canada.

4

aquifers were included in the vulnerability study

\$85,000

total project cost

Montreal, QC

Mitigating the impacts of intense rainfall in urban Quebec

The borough of Le Plateau-Mont-Royal conducted this feasibility study to determine if it was possible to build a multifunctional public space that could sustainably manage rainwater and improve citizen quality of life.

[Read the project case study](#)



St. Louis Square Park in Montreal, QC. With MCIP funding, the City of Montreal is building a new public water square in The Plateau Mont-Royal, improving the neighbourhood's climate resilience.

1,000 m²

surface area that would be covered by water square

19 mm

of rainwater could be absorbed, reducing the risk of overland flooding

Grants to Training Partners

MCIP's national network of over 50 training partners continues to support municipalities with expertise in deeply reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapting to climate change. Through this network of national and regional organizations, MCIP has increased its reach to municipalities of all sizes across Canada.

Our partners deliver education and practical support for municipal staff and decision-makers, ensuring they have the skill set and tools for planning and action.

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203

educational activities
by the Regional Climate
Advisors

////////////////////////////////////

221

hands-on training
activities delivered by
MCIP partners and staff

////////////////////////////////////

96%

of community of practice
members reported an
increase in skills related
to climate adaptation

////////////////////////////////////

86%

of respondents said
they felt more aware
of opportunities or
resources to help
reduce GHG emissions
in municipalities

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153

municipal staff
participated in asset
management workshops



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82%

of workshop participants
reported an increase in
skills in integrating climate
change considerations into
their asset management
plans

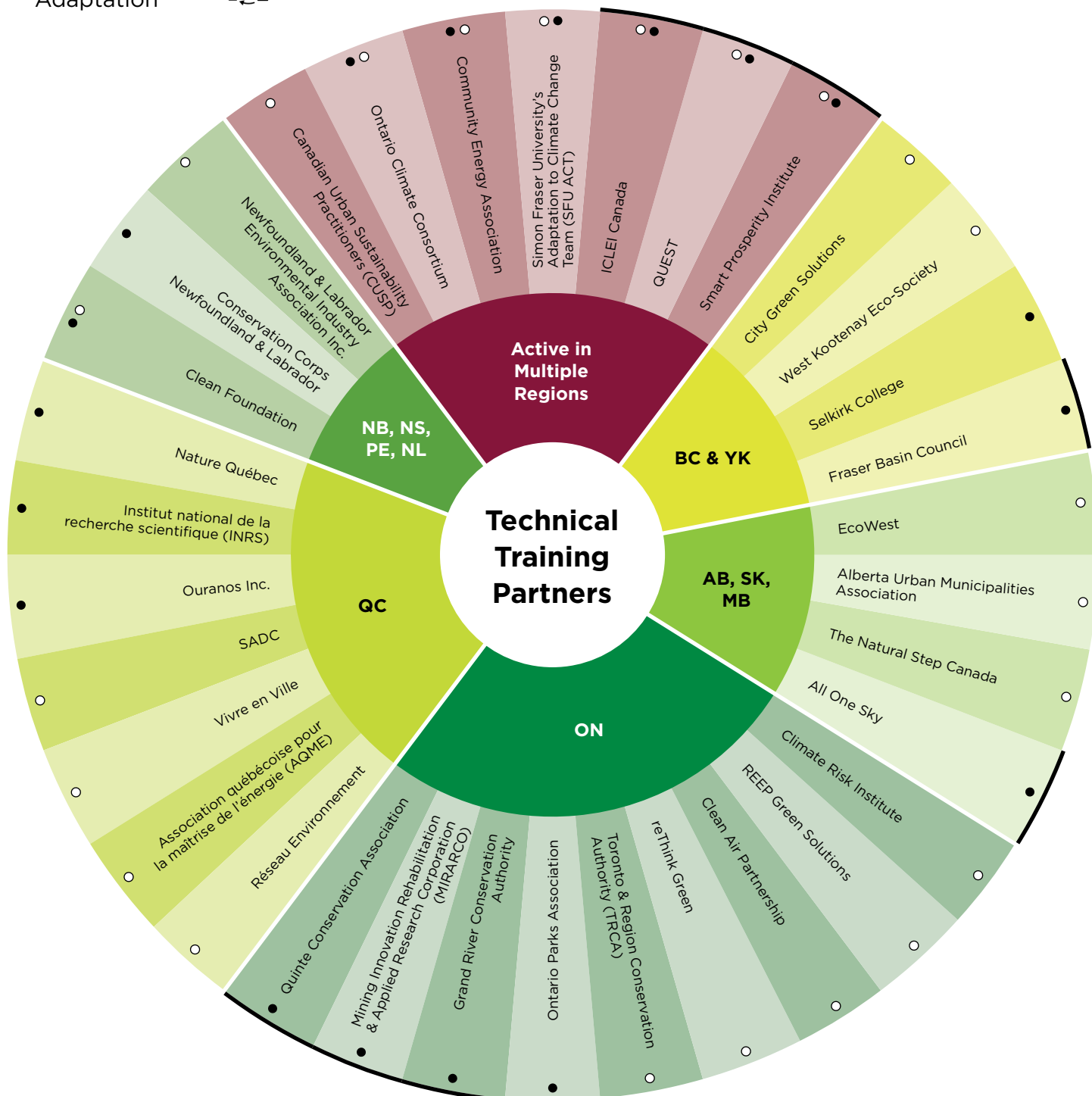
Technical Training Partners by Program Component & Province/Territory

Completed in Year 4

- Greenhouse Gas Mitigation 
- Climate Change Adaptation 

349

municipalities reached





Publications & Resources

MCIP's Knowledge Mobilization

One important way that MCIP is building momentum for climate action is by developing a body of knowledge and tools that municipalities across Canada can easily access. In Year 4, MCIP and its partners finalized over 50 tools, factsheets and reports featuring lessons learned and promising practice.



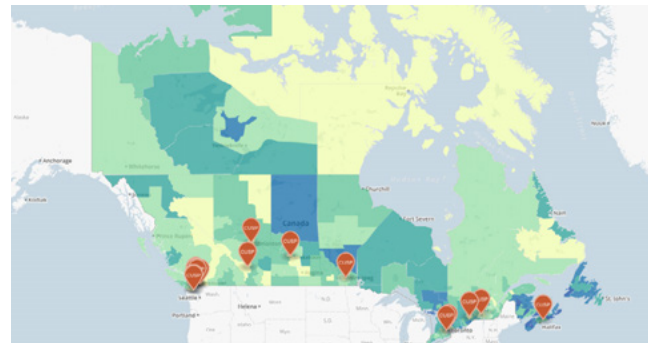
Learning Journey: Climate resilience and asset management



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This learning journey helps municipalities understand how to deal with climate-related risks to infrastructure assets that support critical services. Municipalities can manage these risks and sustain levels of service by building climate resilience into asset management policies, plans and practices. The learning journey consists of four resources designed specifically to help municipalities learn and evolve their community's approach to infrastructure.

[Start your learning journey](#)



Energy Poverty and Equity Explorer



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Canadian Urban Sustainability Practitioners (CUSP) developed the Energy Poverty and Equity Explorer, a pan-Canadian, neighbourhood-scale energy poverty and equity mapping tool. It draws from custom Statistics Canada datasets down to the most disaggregated scale available (neighbourhood level) in major centres. The tool helps municipalities develop energy programs that achieve deep emissions reductions while meeting the needs of low-income people who struggle to pay their energy costs.

[Learn more and use the tool](#)



Towards Low Carbon Communities Toolkit



Clean Air Partnership collaborated with eight municipalities to develop a toolkit to help communities develop and implement green development standards (GDS) for new residential buildings. The tool helps municipalities achieve GHG reduction targets, and goals related to sustainability, health and economic development.

[Check out the standards](#)



Using Better Data Case Study Series



MCIP, Public Sector Digest (PSD), Canadian Water Network and the **Canadian Water and Wastewater Association** developed a case study series that helps municipalities learn how to identify the risks of climate-related damage, such as flooding, and identify strategies and approaches that can increase a municipality's system resilience.

[Discover the series of case studies](#)



Municipal Flood Risk Assessment Tools



The **Institut national de la recherche scientifique** (INRS, or national institute for science and research), developed a series of flood risk assessment tools in partnership with the Organization of Watersheds of the Rouge, Petite Nation and Saumon Rivers and several Quebec municipalities with the aim of reducing the vulnerability of municipalities to flooding caused by climate change. The partnership developed two tools (available in French only): the GARI tool and an interactive map to assist in sustainable stormwater management.

[Read the case study and use the tools](#)
(tools available in French only)



Integrating Climate Considerations Factsheets



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This suite of resources explores different ways municipalities can include climate change resiliency in broader operations and planning. Each of the three web-based factsheets explains a concept, provides examples of what other municipalities are doing, and offers steps and resources to help municipalities get started.

Factsheet 1: Community Planning

Discover how addressing climate change risks, such as flooding, in community plans can help you better manage the impacts on residents and businesses.

[Read the factsheet](#)

Factsheet 2: Service Delivery Planning

Learn to assess the impacts of climate change on your municipality's ability to deliver municipal services to your community and find ways to manage both risks and costs.

[Read the factsheet](#)

Factsheet 3: Governance and Operations

Find ways for elected officials, community partners and staff in all departments to embed climate considerations in their daily activities.

[Read the factsheet](#)



Climate Resilient Home Adaptation Tool



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The Climate Resilient Home online tool was developed as part of a project led by the **All One Sky Foundation** and involving eight municipalities in Alberta. It helps municipalities identify how to make both new residential constructions and existing retrofitted homes more resilient to wildfire, floods, extreme weather and a changing environment.

[Learn more and use the interactive tool](#)



Data Analysis

Evaluating Climate Change Action

We know that what gets measured gets managed. To support self-reflection and effective assessment, our program continues to measure municipal progress with a series of self-assessment maturity scales.

A **maturity scale**, also known as a readiness scale, is an evaluation tool that helps municipalities identify areas to improve capacity for achieving emissions reductions or responding to climate change vulnerabilities.

Municipalities assess themselves based on three competencies:



St. John's, NL. MCIP has funded a number of coastal flooding studies in the Atlantic provinces.

1. Technical Capacity	Preparing the tools needed to reduce GHG emissions, deliver adaptation initiatives, manage operations in a way that minimizes climate risk (e.g. with software, hardware, maps, models, etc.) and track progress.
2. Human Resources and Governance	Ensuring that staff and council are equipped with the mandate, understanding, skills and knowledge needed to support reducing municipal GHG emissions and to plan for local climate adaptation.
3. Policy	Putting in place policies and objectives related to the development of an environment and vision that supports climate action, either to reduce local GHG emissions or to adapt to climate change.

MCIP requires municipalities to complete the scales at the start (baseline) and end (endline) of their interventions to assess the change in capacity within a municipality.² Through the combination of support provided through MCIP, 55 municipalities are reporting that they are better equipped to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change. 44 municipalities completed the adaptation and 11 completed the GHG emissions reduction assessment.

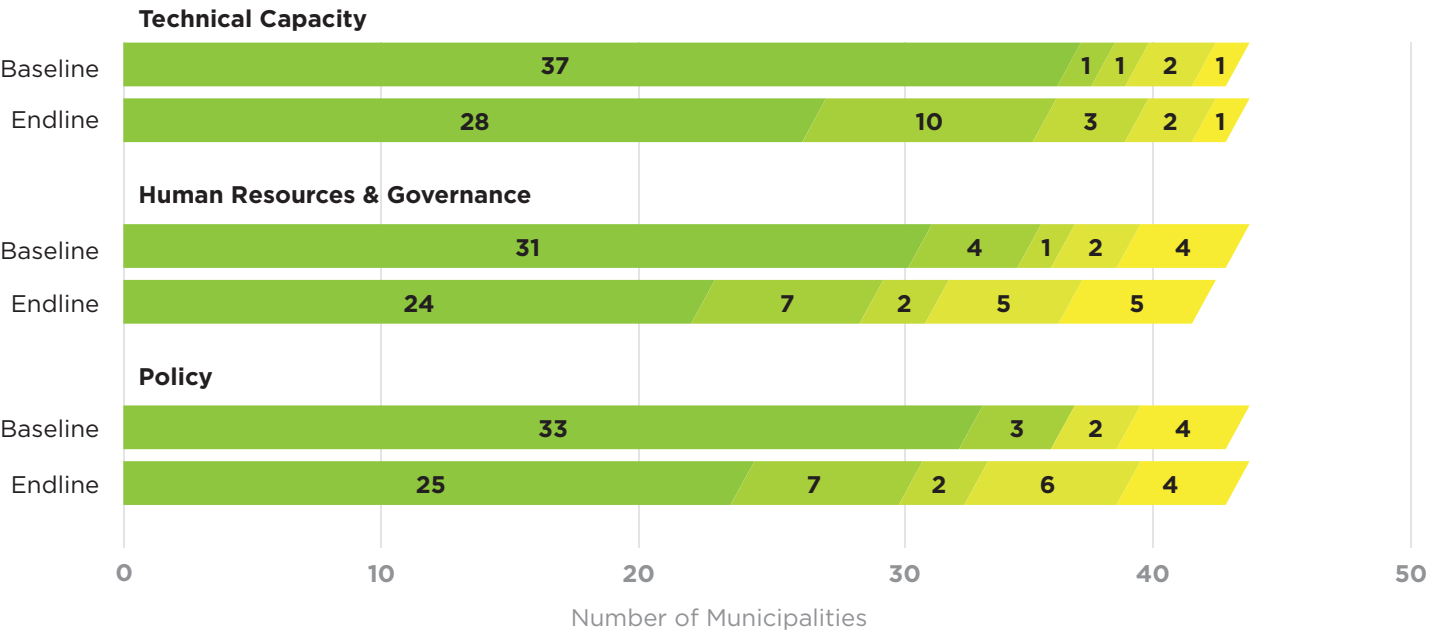
²Municipalities are encouraged to complete baseline and endline scales, however not all municipalities complete the assessments for all competencies.



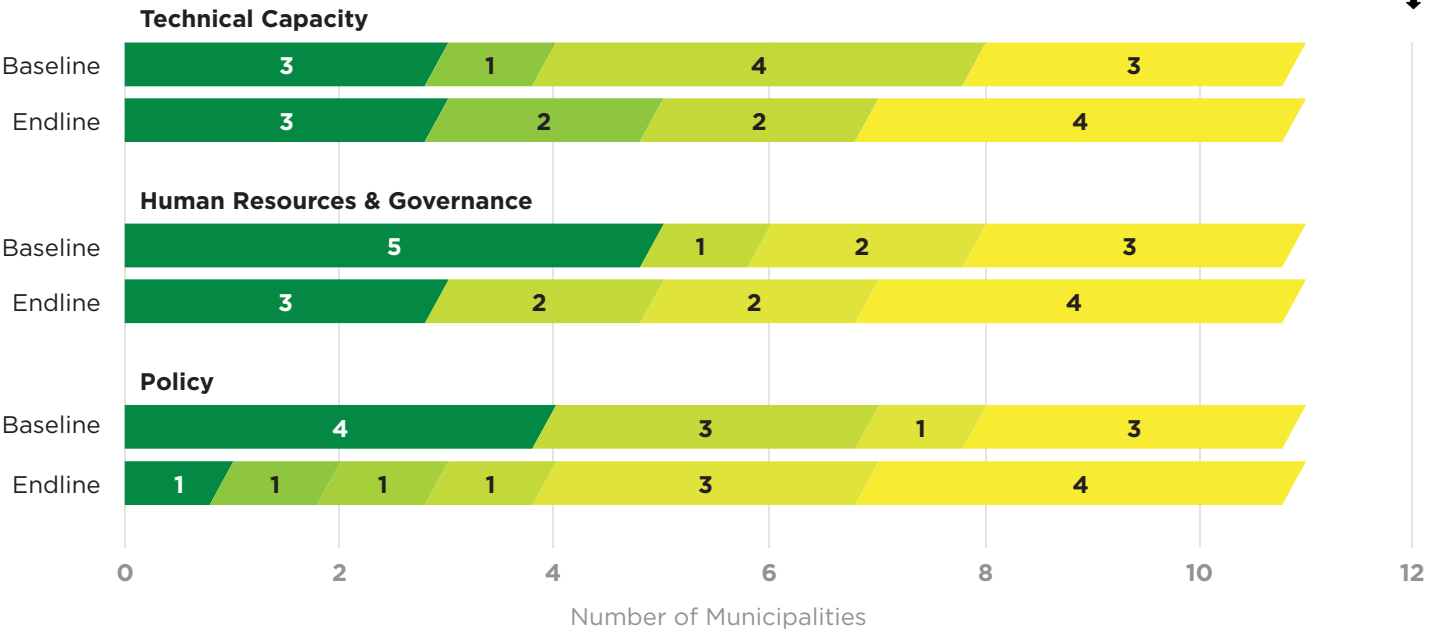
Documenting Change: Maturity Scales



Climate Change Adaptation Maturity Scale



Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Maturity Scale





Conclusion

Lessons Learned

We are learning several lessons which also reveal what makes MCIP so successful:

Municipal staff play a crucial role in identifying and preparing their communities for climate change impacts.	The key to achieving climate integration is building awareness of potential impacts among elected officials, staff and the community, and knowing where to go for help and resources.
Municipalities prefer more localized, regional and tailored support.	This is particularly true for small, rural communities and northern communities who face unique challenges.
Climate change is increasingly viewed as an integrated issue.	Projects that lead to emissions reductions and address climate vulnerabilities, and programs that encourage low-carbon resilience lens, are well-received by municipalities.
Depending on the municipality, departments may have limited experience working together.	Breaking down those barriers can be a rewarding process for the community.
Engaging project partners early and often builds ownership and generates feedback.	Our partners enrich every aspect of our work. Regular email contact is not enough—peer-to-peer exchange and learning sessions, particularly held early in the project, are important for building trust and solid relationships between communities.
Grants to partners support greater reach of the program.	With the support of local organizations more municipalities can leverage regional-specific expertise which has increased the success and reach of the program.

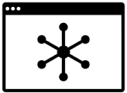
Looking Ahead

Building from this year's momentum, MCIP is focused on a number of key resources and opportunities for municipalities in the coming year. Our activities focus on helping municipalities learn, network, strengthen their leadership skills and act on local climate issues.



Climate leadership course for elected officials

This course will share knowledge and resources that have been developed by MCIP and its partners over the last several years. The course will also serve as an opportunity to enhance MCIP's engagement with elected officials, with an aim of making a lasting indelible impact on climate policy in municipalities.



Municipal Climate Action Hub website

This website will provide our community of practice with curated resources on climate change mitigation and adaptation (organized around the MCIP maturity scales) tailored to the municipality's current progress and institutional readiness.



Climate in Focus video series

Hear the story of climate action in Canadian municipalities from sector experts and municipal practitioners and elected officials. Learn about key resources and discover how applying a climate lens strengthens municipal decision-making.



Municipal Climate Services Collaborative

A collective project between MCIP, Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Canadian Centre for Climate Services, will publish a guide for having climate conversations with decision-makers in local government.



fcm.ca/climateinnovation



The Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program is a five-year \$75-million program, delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and funded by the Government of Canada.