



Building our collective future: Partnerships for equitable climate action

February 12th, 2025

Dr. Amelia Clarke, University of Waterloo

Housekeeping

Bienséance



- Simultaneous interpretation is available to listen in French or English. Grab a headset.
- Use Slido to ask questions in the Q&A




- L'interprétation simultanée est disponible pour écouter en français ou en anglais. Prenez un casque audio.
- Posez vos questions dans le Q&R via Slido

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land in which we gather today is the traditional unceded and unsurrendered territory of the Wəlastəkwiyyik/Wolastoqiyik (WOOL-ah-sto-gway) Peoples. This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Wəlastəkwiyyik, Mi’kmaq and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The Treaties did not deal with surrender of lands or resources but in fact recognized Mi’kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyyik title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between equal nations

AGENDA



 AT	Item / Activity	Article / Activité
10:45	Welcome & Agenda	Mot de bienvenue et ordre du jour
10:55	Warm up	Accueil
11:00	Introduction to Collaborative Governance for Equitable Climate Action	Introduction à la gouvernance collaborative pour une action climatique équitable
11:10	Panel: Partnerships in Practice	Table ronde : Partenariats dans la pratique
11:50	Debrief activity and closing	Activité de compte rendu et clôture
12:00	End of workshop	Fin de l'atelier

Municipal Net-Zero Action Research Partnership (N-ZAP)



N-ZAP Goals



Main Goal

To support Canadian municipalities to monitor, measure, and achieve their GHG mitigation goals.

Aim

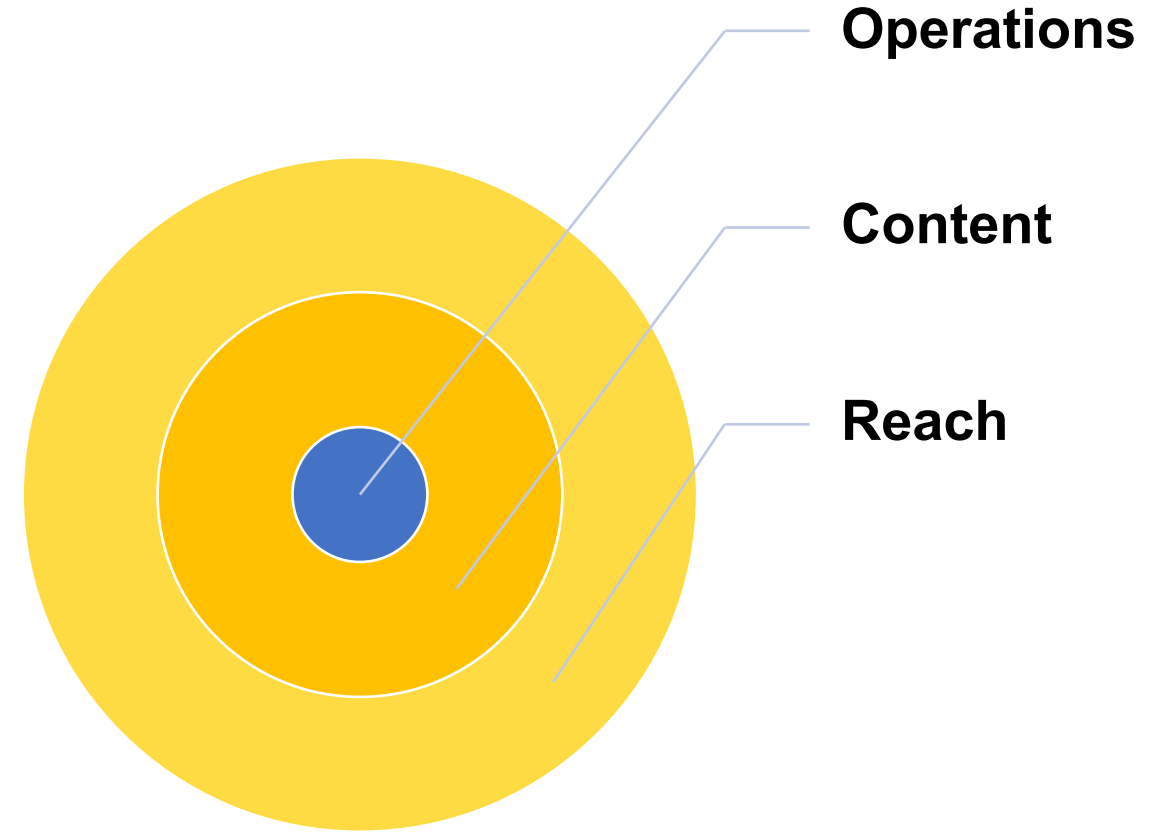
Ensure municipal emissions reduction projects, policies and programs are aligned with Canada's national reduction commitments.

Intervention

Study and create improved measurement, analysis and monitoring systems for both municipal and community-wide GHG emissions

N-ZAP Equity Statement

- N-ZAP strives to embed an equity lens into all proposed actions and solutions.
- N-ZAP has three overarching goals:
 - **Operationalize** EDI principles within our operations and procedures.
 - Emphasize the importance of inclusion and reconciliation within the **content** of N-ZAP outputs.
 - Evaluate the **reach** and accessibility of the content and outputs we deliver that target diverse municipalities and populations.



N-ZAP Working Groups

WORKING GROUP 1

CANADA-WIDE
SURVEY & OPEN
ACCESS DATABASE

Determine the current state of GHG mitigation plans, targets and strategies in Canadian municipalities.

WORKING GROUP 2

MEASUREMENT &
INDICATORS

Advance standardized measurement systems and tools that can also be used to identify mitigation opportunities and further social equity.

WORKING GROUP 3

CLIMATE RISK
DISCLOSURE &
CLIMATE BUDGETS

Enhance municipal monitoring & disclosure, and integrate climate budgets into municipal level decision making,

WORKING GROUP 4

COLLABORATIVE
GOVERNANCE

Enhance community-wide action and ensure equitable, diverse and inclusive engagement.

WORKING GROUP 5

KNOWLEDGE
MOBILIZATION

Mobilize knowledge resources and tools to diverse audiences using accessible and inclusive formats.

N-ZAP Report from Canada-wide Survey



Canadian municipalities are making progress towards reducing emissions

- 52.3% of participating municipalities have officially adopted a GHG emissions reduction target
- 63.2% of participating municipalities have developed climate action or equivalent plans addressing a diverse range of activity sectors
- Meaningful external engagement with local rightsholders and other levels of governments is an area for improvement in climate action planning and implementation

Download our report here



Our Open Source Research Database



[View Data](#)

[View Map](#)

[FR](#)

Welcome to the

Municipal Net-Zero Action Research Partnership

The current state of local climate action in Canadian municipalities dataset.



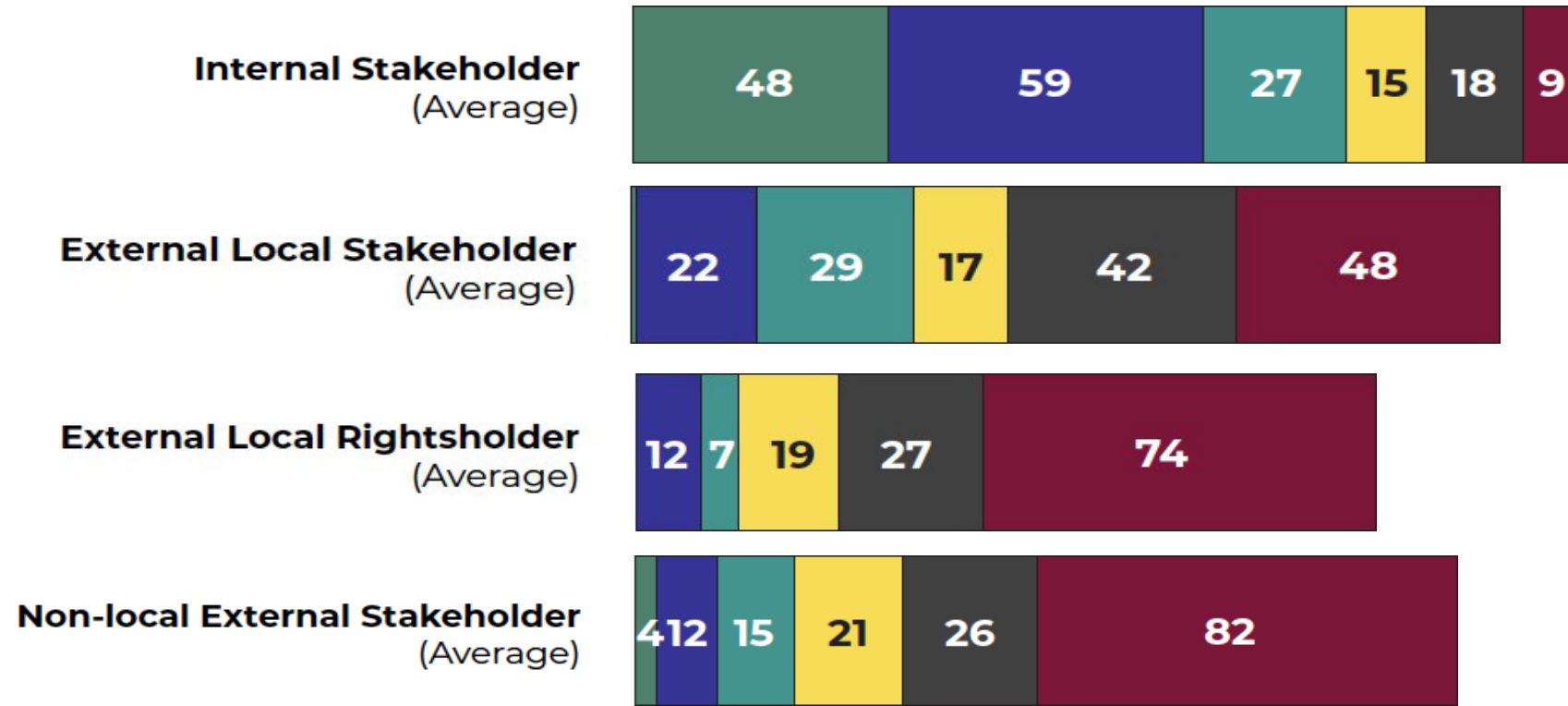
A tool for communities to benchmark themselves against the state of climate mitigation in 178 communities in Canada.



A dataset for academic research on climate action planning and implementation in Canadian municipalities.

Stakeholder and Rightsholder Engagement (n=256)

- Empower
- Involve
- Consult
- Collaborate
- Inform
- Did not engage

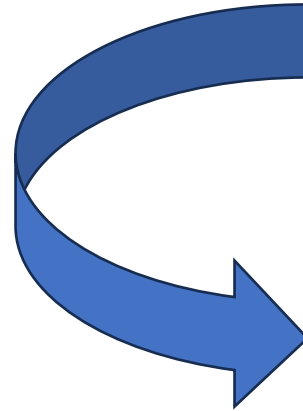


Now we want to hear from you!



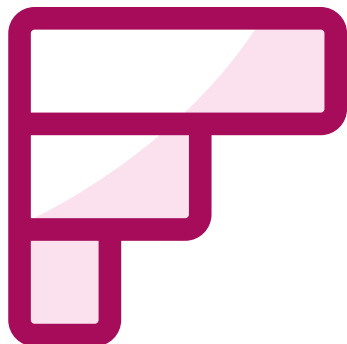
Join us on Slido for a quick temperature check by scanning the QR code

Or join us via Slido.com with the code **#SCC2025CCD**



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Please download and install the Slido app on all computers you use



Rank priority actions identified in our report / Classez les actions prioritaires identifiées dans notre rapport

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

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Icebreaker / Brise-glace

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

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Temperature Check: Partnerships for equitable climate action / Niveau de connaissances : Partenariats pour une action climatique équitable

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Value of Partnerships

- Research shows that municipalities with partnerships have higher greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions
- Ideal for implementing **community or integrated climate action plans**
 - Corporate plans = GHG emissions from municipal buildings, fleet, waste, etc.
 - Community plans = GHG emissions from within the geography, including from heating homes, private vehicles, businesses, electricity generation, etc.
- Allow you to influence community-wide emissions outside your control
- Enable **community-wide climate action**
- Leverage partner resources towards GHG reduction activities
- Can be many community-wide partners doing their part, specific sector initiatives (buildings, transportation, waste, electricity, nature-based solutions), or joint projects (e.g, low-income housing retrofits)

Cross-sector partnerships for equitable local climate action

Dr. Corrine Cash, Mount Allison University, New Brunswick

Outline

- Introduction to Cross-Sector Partnerships
- Methods and approach
- Designing climate-focused cross-sector partnerships
- Embedding equity into community-wide climate action

Partnerships Focused on Climate Action at the Local Level

Partners: Involves the public, private and civil society, including local governments, universities, NGOs, businesses, and more

Purpose: Cross-sector partnerships unite diverse skills and resources to collectively advance climate mitigation by addressing climate change



Methods and approach

Project Focus

- Climate Connection Trails project
- SNAP neighbourhood project
- Climate Change Connection

Industry Focus

- Residential Retrofit
- Nature-based solutions
- Three Nations Energy
- Schools Organics Pilot

Community-wide Focus

- Partenariat Climat Montréal
- Climate Action WR
- ICECAP
- Canmore Climate Action Plan

12 Case Studies:

- Analyzed 12 partnerships across Canada for local climate action

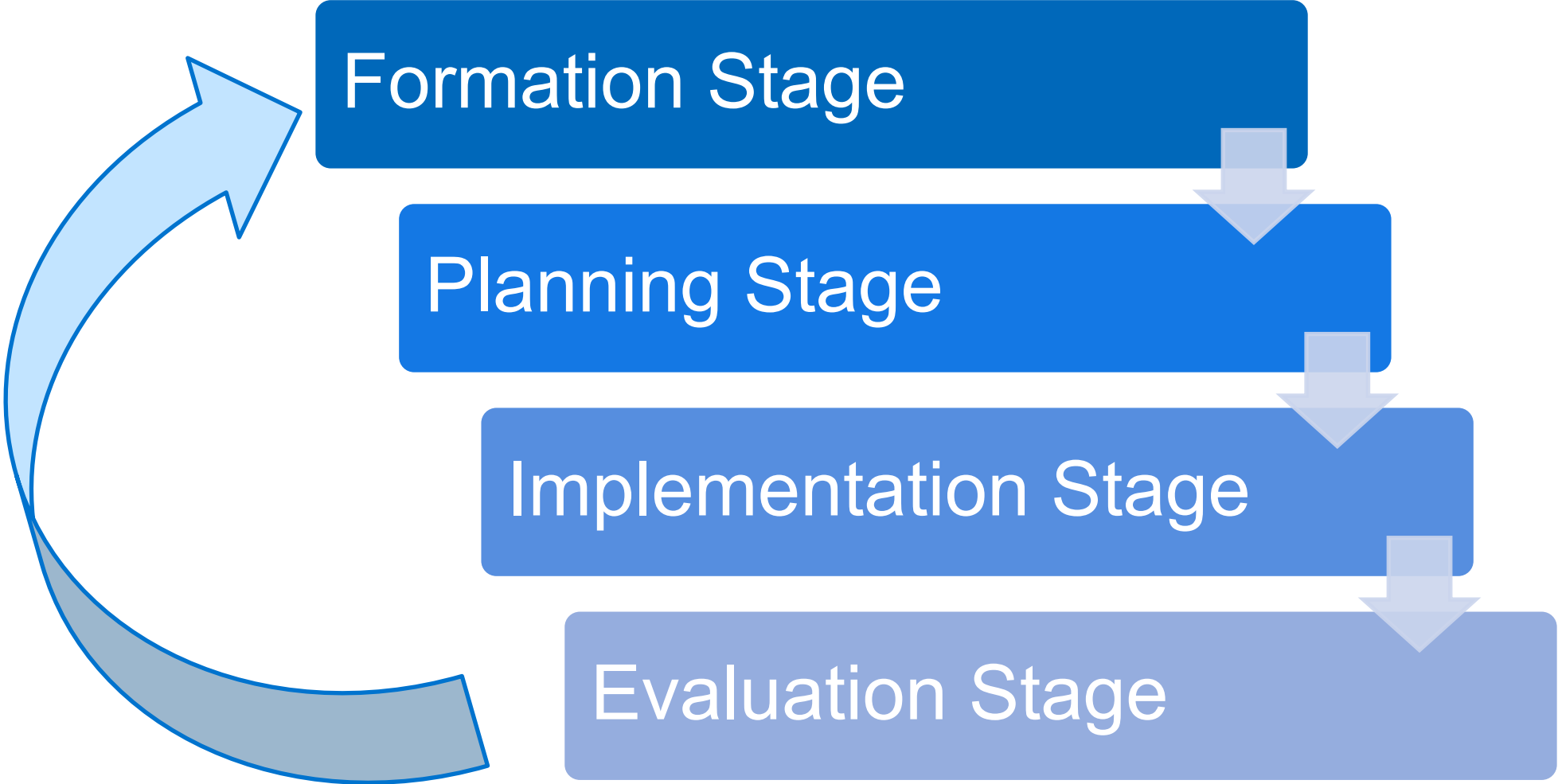
Selection Process:

- Expert recommendations
- Criteria ensured diversity in scales, partners, regions, and characteristics

Research Design: Qualitative Approach

- Interviews with 55 partners
- Analyzed structure, and equity considerations in processes and goals

Stages Involved in Climate-Action Focused Partnerships



Designing your partnership: Structural considerations



Designing your Partnership: Key Recommendations

Partnership Formation

- Explicitly design: decision-making, coordination, communication, partner engagement & resourcing
- Ensure diverse & equitable representation of partners on the oversight (decision-making) committee
- Match the design to the scale and scope of the partnership (e.g., community-wide versus a project)
- Number and type of partners should match goals, and may change over time
- Ensure core funding (at least for staffing the coordination body, typically hosted by the municipality)

Planning, Implementation and Evaluation

- Establish clear climate (and sustainable development) goals and actions for intended impacts
- Ensure partners are involved in implementation for collective action
- Track progress, and adjust actions if needed to achieve goals
- Communicate results, including partner achievements
- Provide opportunities for partners to learn, interact, and celebrate success

Equity Goals

Goal Type	Equity Goals Mentioned by Case Studies
<i>Partnership Design: Shared decision-making</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Partnership • Inclusive Leadership
<i>Impact Goals: Equitable access to opportunities and no one left behind</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable Opportunities • Poverty Reduction • Accessibility
<i>Process Goals: Diversity, inclusion and accessibility</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include Equity Deserving and Indigenous Groups • Broad Engagement • Youth Engagement

Example Equity Actions

Equity Indicators and Tools:

- Develop equity frameworks and indicators (Halifax, Vancouver, Waterloo)
- Identify underserved areas for prioritization (Vancouver)
- Implement climate justice initiatives and equity assessments (Canmore)

Engagement and Decision-Making:

- Conduct outreach to diverse groups, including Indigenous communities (Halifax, Vancouver)
- Target consultations with vulnerable populations (Markham)

Governance and Indigenous Community Collaboration:

- Co-chair governance models with Indigenous leadership (Georgian Bay Biosphere)

Working with Underserved Communities:

- Build capacity for engagement and co-creation with marginalized communities (Waterloo)
- Attend community events to foster relationships and equitable access (Canmore)

Accessibility:

- Provide multilingual information and engagement materials (Markham)
- Ensure transparency and produce diverse resources for various audiences (Montreal)

Indigenous Practices



Embedding Equity in Community-Wide Climate Action: Key Recommendations

Inclusion & Diversity

- Explicitly integrate equity into governance and decision-making processes
- Engage diverse stakeholders using an equity lens, and by removing barriers to participation
- Use wise practices for Indigenous engagement, including strengthening relationships

Accessibility & Benefits

- Address existing inequities in infrastructure and services
- Tailor programs and investments to ensure equitable access to climate actions
- Establish metrics to measure progress on equity goals
- Build capacity and skills

Accountability & Power

- Train staff on equity, diversity and inclusion, and on Indigenous knowledge and histories
- Have an equity mandate and accountability framework
- Work towards mitigating power dynamics between partners
- Ask how municipalities can support Indigenous climate work

Coming soon!

Collaborative Governance Guide for Equitable Local Climate Action

Guidebook and resources will be released in 2025

Interested in becoming an N-ZAP Pilot Community?

Training and coaching for municipalities that
want to pilot partnerships for community-wide
climate action

Scan and fill out
online form at the
end of this session

THANK YOU

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Dr. Corrine Cash
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Visit the N-ZAP website

<https://uwaterloo.ca/nzap>

Panelists / Intervenants



Shannon Miedema



Jon Main



Sandy Little

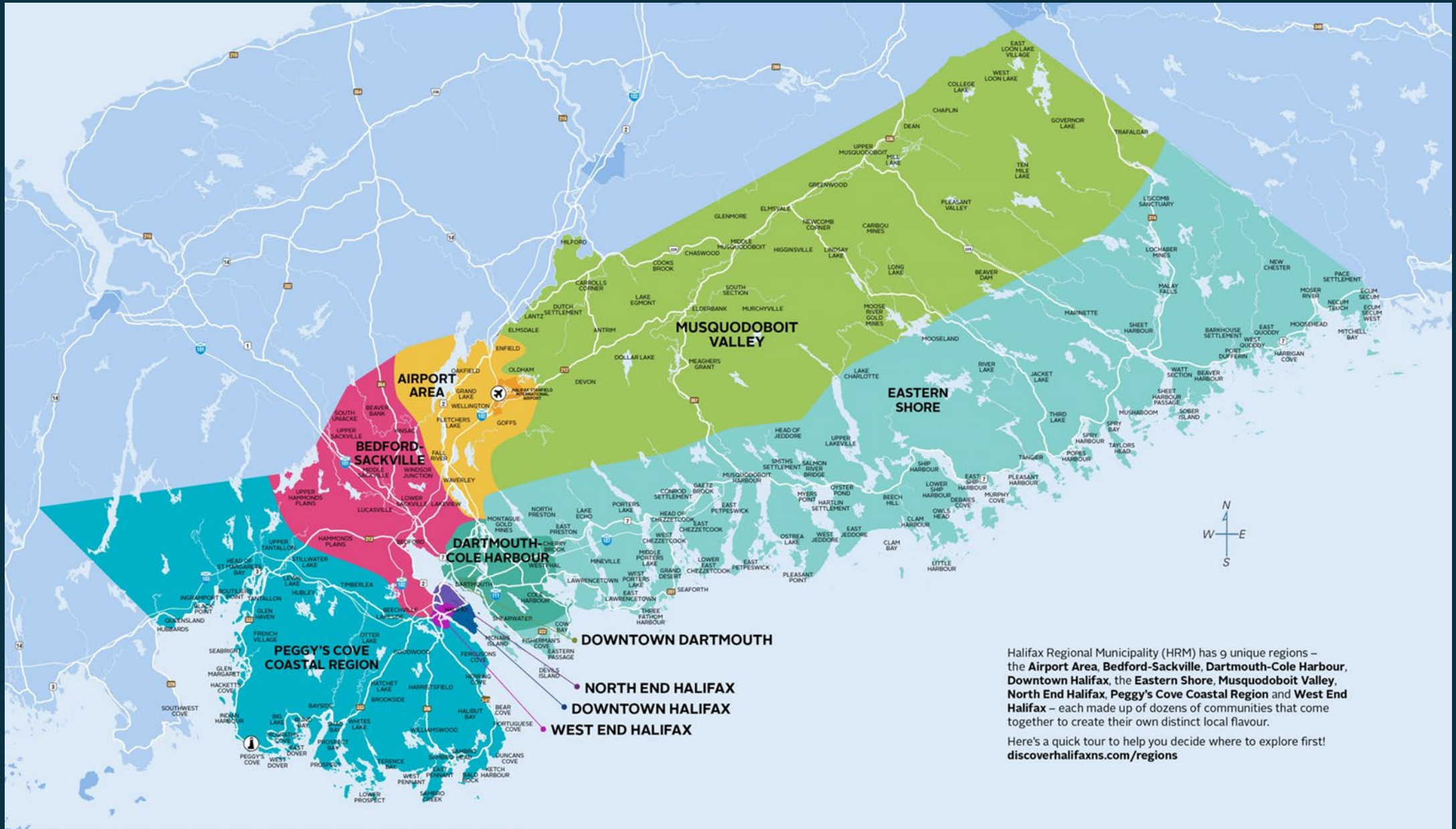


Moderated by Jennifer McKelvie, Deputy Mayor of Toronto East and Councillor for Scarborough East

HalifACT

Acting on
Climate
Together





Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) has 9 unique regions – the **Airport Area**, **Bedford-Sackville**, **Dartmouth-Cole Harbour**, **Downtown Halifax**, the **Eastern Shore**, **Musquodoboit Valley**, **North End Halifax**, **Peggy's Cove Coastal Region** and **West End Halifax** – each made up of dozens of communities that come together to create their own distinct local flavour.

Here's a quick tour to help you decide where to explore first!
discoverhalifaxns.com/regions

Engaged Community & Partners

- HalifACT Network
- Partnerships with Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotians
- CEO Climate Action Charter
- Building to Zero Exchange
- Libraries, ENGOS
- Youth engagement & climate action challenges



HalifACT in Action



HalifACT Acting on Climate Together

We are going all out to stage a greener **JUNOS** this year.

2024 HALIFAX | 2024 JUNOS | NOVASCOTIA | HALIFAX | Halifax County Government | Halifax Regional Municipality



halifax.ca/badges

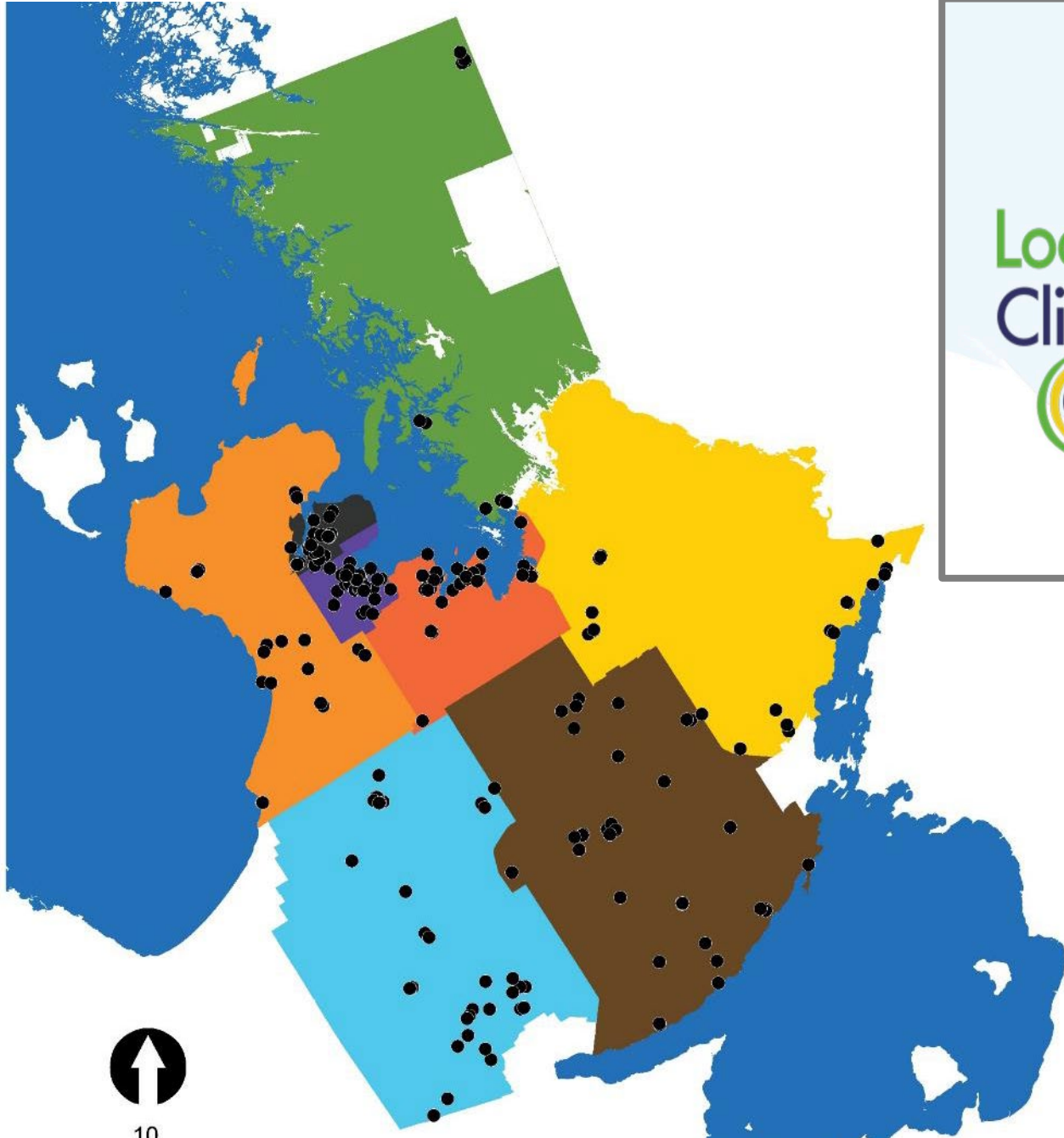


Severn Sound Environmental Association



- Formed in 2002 as a **Joint municipal service board** under the Ontario Municipal Act
- International Joint Commission: Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement establishes USA/CAN Areas-of-Concern (1987)
- Severn Sound Remedial Action Plan (1987-2003)
- Delisted in 2003 (2nd in Canada)
- 20 years since delisting: continued and expanded environmental action
- Sustainability Plan (2009) and the Sustainable Severn Sound project
- Local Climate Change Action Plans developed in 2018 following the PCP Milestone framework.



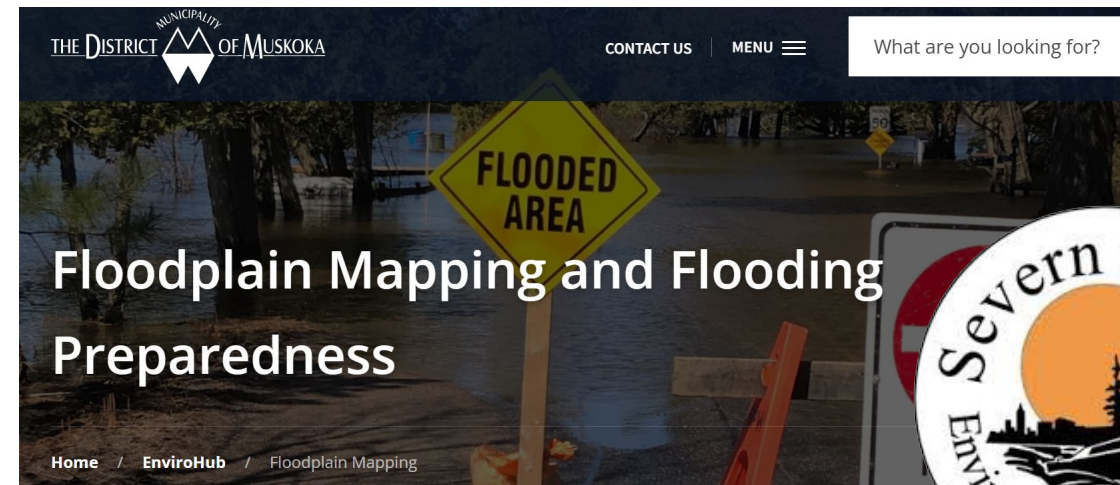


From Minesing to MacTier,
 Project Area = 2,800 km²
 Population – 115,000 and growing!
 Full spectrum of municipal facilities
 Unique Natural
 and Cultural Heritage



“What is your catalyst for collaboration”

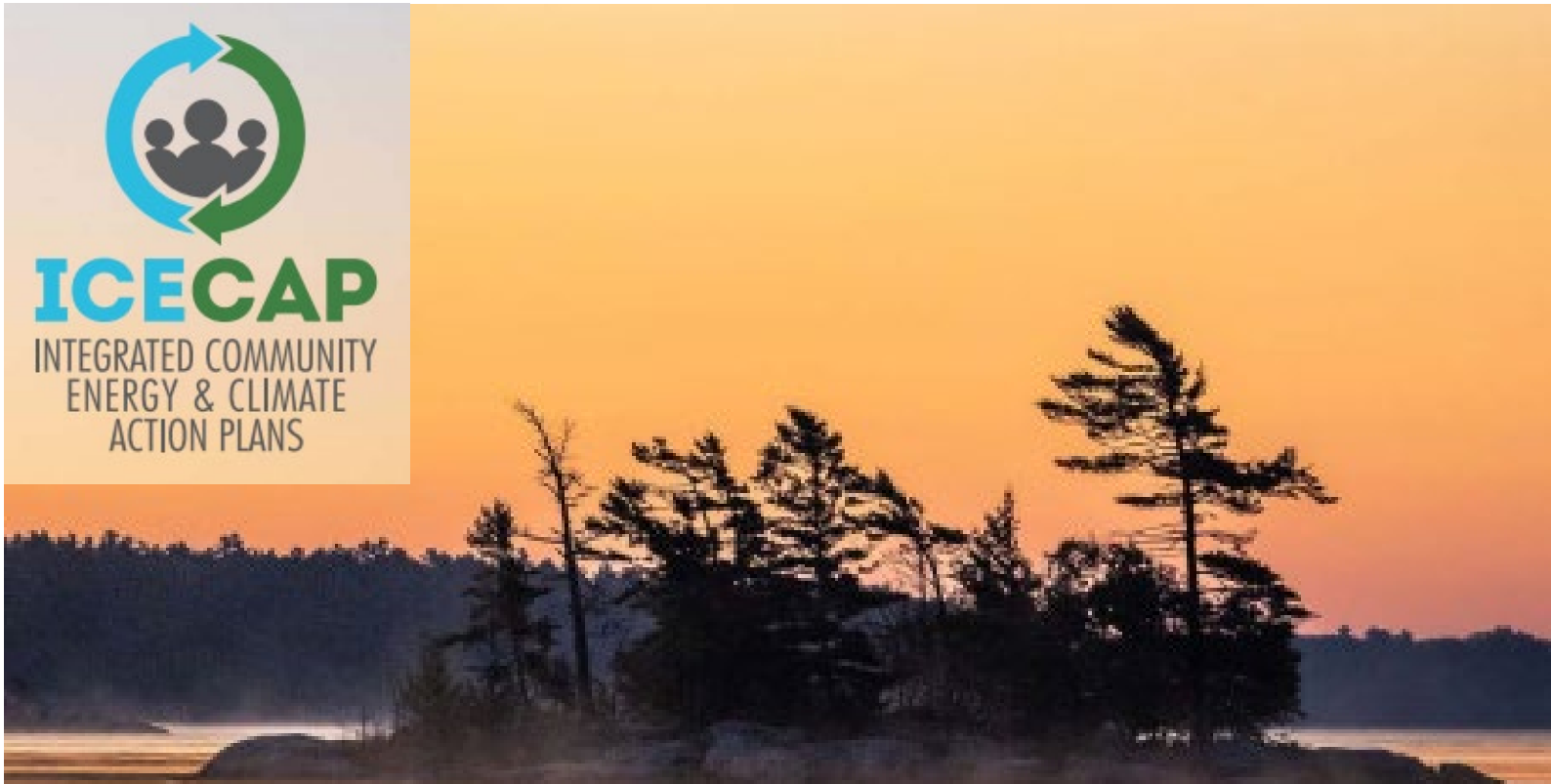
- Huntsville Mayor, Nancy Alcock
- Polluted watershed – water quality, source-water protection, sustainability
- 2019 Muskoka Flood emergency – integrated watershed management
- ICECAP – Celebration of UNESCO biosphere region, collaboration between Indigenous first nations and local municipalities
- SMDHU – 2017 climate risk and vulnerability assessment – Climate Change Exchange (informal network)
- Cost-savings (shared services)
- Climate Emergency Declarations





ICECAP

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY
ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION PLANS



Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere

REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN





GEORGIAN BAY
BIOSPHERE
MNIDOO GAMII
Spirit of the Water

Celebrating 5 years of ICECAP!



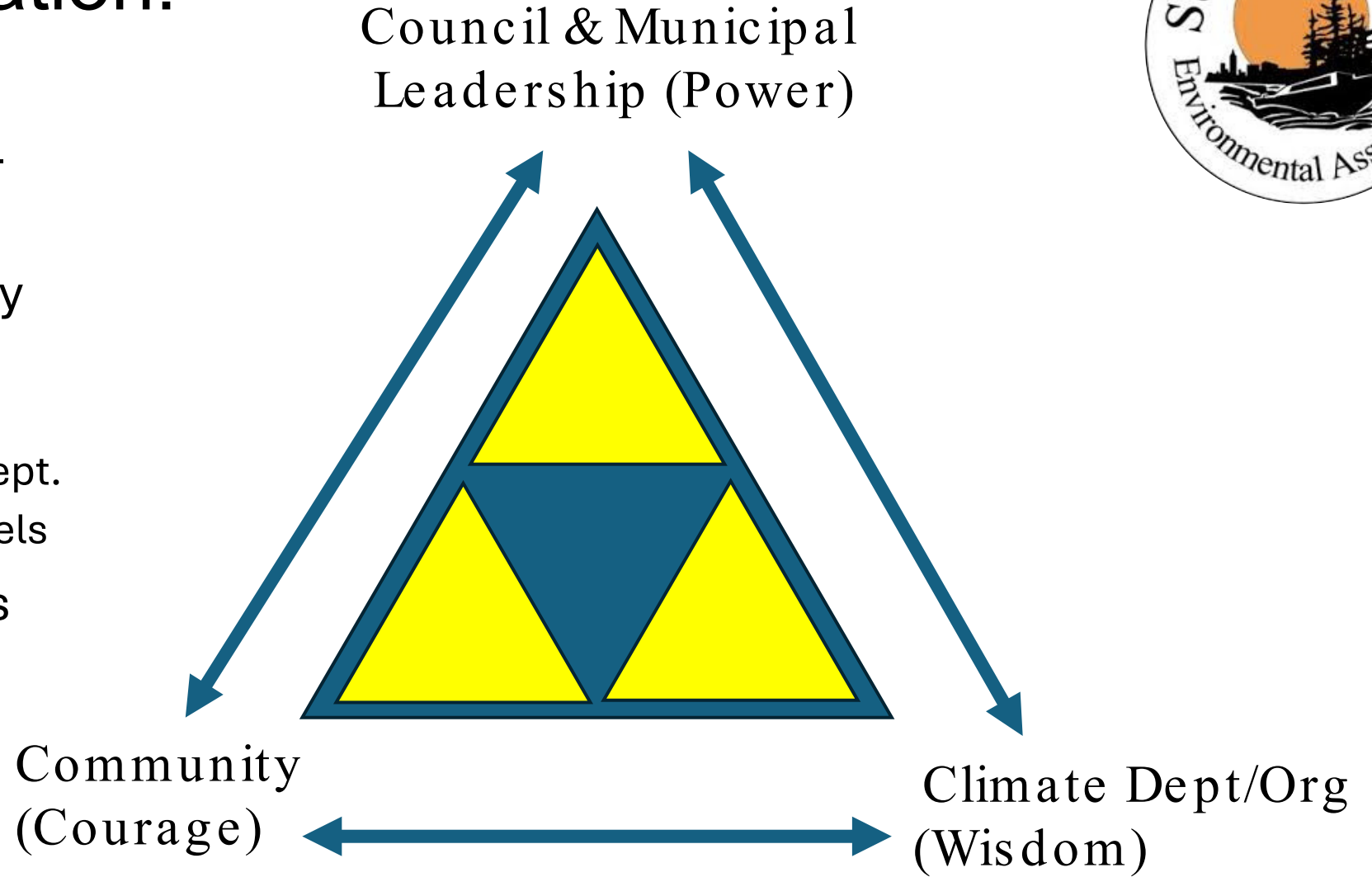
Georgian Bay Youth Climate Collective



Climate Collaboration:



- Council & government leadership and support – “top-down”
- Climate Dept/Org – policy and data assistance – “carbon accounting”
 - Internal - sustainability dept.
 - External org/various models
- Community – grass-roots level
 - Internal - committees
 - External - Climate Action Teams, Non-profits & NGOs



Coordinate

Measure

Engage





TRANSFORM^{WR}

Waterloo Region's Transition to an
Equitable, Prosperous, Resilient Low Carbon Community

Panelists / Intervenants



Shannon Miedema



Jon Main



Sandy Little



Moderated by Jennifer McKelvie, Deputy Mayor of Toronto East and Councillor for Scarborough East



Panel Contacts

Shannon Miedema
miedems@halifax.ca

Jon Main
jmain@severnsound.ca

Sandy Little
Sandy.Little@waterloo.ca

Have general questions about N-ZAP? Reach out to shlinton@uwaterloo.ca

Closing Activity Instructions

- Invite you to take a couple of minutes to jot down your answer to the following:
 - One new idea you are taking home to your community
 - One topic you would like to learn more about
 - One goal to apply what you have learned during this session

Learn more

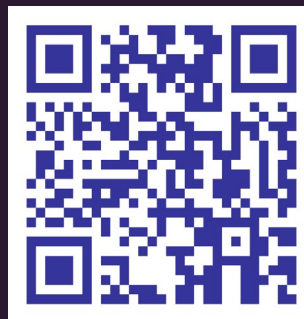
Building on the learning today, here are a few resources for you

Check out N-ZAP's Open Database



Municipality	Inventory	Corporate and Community Plan
British Columbia	Corporate: Completed Inventory Community: No Inventory	
City of Brantford	Corporate: Completed Inventory Community: Completed Inventory	
Ontario	Targets Corporate: Net-zero by 2050 Community: Net-zero by 2050	Corporate and Community Plan
2050	Inventory Combined: Completed Inventory	Combined Integr

Please register your interest to learn more about the opportunity to become a pilot community



Learning Cohort

Learning goals

- Understand the benefit of budgeting to advance progress the implementation of climate practices and identify those best your community

Disclosures Cohort

Learning goals

- Understand the landscape for climate-related financial disclosure in Canada and globally
- Identify the required initiatives for your municipality to prepare climate-related disclosures aligned to navigate evolving standards
- Articulate the importance of climate-related financial disclosure for your municipality

Corporate Governance

Learning goals

- Recognize opportunities to build into climate action work
- Understand the elements of sector partnerships across
- Identify the best practices to advance climate action through

All slide decks, worksheets and links are available to participants at bit.ly/scc-learning

2025 Livable Cities Forum: Acting on Climate Together

October 6-8, 2025 | Halifax, NS

SAVE THE DATE

HALIFAX



Local Governments
for Sustainability
Les gouvernements locaux
pour le développement durable
CANADA



Share your feedback

- Tracelyn Cornelius, PhD
Candidate in Sustainability
Management, University of
Waterloo
- Please complete the questionnaire
- Share your information so we can
contact you for a follow-up
interview

