



Climate **Leadership Plan**

Frequently Asked Questions



Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the City developing a Climate Leadership Plan?

Demonstrating leadership on climate action is a strategic priority of Kingston's City Council. Council directed staff to develop a climate change management strategy, known as the Climate Leadership Plan, that combines the City's corporate and the community-built action plans, including the addition of climate adaptation planning. The City recognizes that, in order to be truly sustainable and resilient, we must adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

What is climate change mitigation?

Climate change mitigation is how we reduce and stabilize greenhouse gas emissions. Examples of climate change mitigation could include adopting active transportation or reducing food waste at landfills or planting trees. Science has shown that greenhouse gas emissions contribute to climate change, and it is within our power to reduce them.

What is climate change adaptation?

Climate change adaptation is how we adjust our lifestyle, infrastructure, policies and actions to reduce the negative impacts of climate change, while taking advantage of potential new opportunities. Some examples of climate change adaptation include updating infrastructure to protect from flooding, or modifying building codes for changing conditions, and increasing our preparedness for extreme weather events. Source: Richardson, G. R. A. (2010). *Adapting to Climate Change: An Introduction for Canadian Municipalities*. Ottawa, Ont. Natural Resources Canada, 40 p.

What are greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)?

Greenhouse gases, or GHGs, are naturally occurring in the atmosphere, however carbon-intensive human activity has caused them to increase to the detriment of our environment and our way of life. Some of the most common GHGs are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. These gases were dubbed as GHGs because of their ability to trap heat emitted from Earth's surface and radiate it back, creating a warming effect.

How will the Climate Leadership Plan measure GHGs?

The CLP will include an analysis of GHGs by sector in order to target and reduce major emission sources. The sectors explore emissions from: Waste, Transportation, Agriculture, and Buildings. This will include community emissions and corporate emissions.

What are the City's GHG reduction targets and what do they mean?

GHG reduction targets are a goal to work toward to reduce emissions.

Corporation of the City of Kingston targets:

- Reduce GHG emissions by 15 per cent below 2018 levels across the City's operations by 2022.
- Achieve carbon neutrality by 2040.

Community targets:

- Reduce GHG emissions by 15 per cent below 2011 levels by 2020.
- Reduce GHG emissions by 30 per cent below 2011 levels by 2030.

What is carbon neutrality / carbon neutral?

Carbon neutrality is when a person, business, organization or community traps or sequesters as many greenhouse gas emissions from the environment as they produce. It can be understood as balancing the scales. We might produce GHGs by operating a building, driving a car or taking a plane, however we can sequester them by planting trees, or by investing in naturalized landscapes like wetlands which trap carbon!

Will the Climate Leadership Plan be impacted by COVID-19?

Recognizing the financial impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our community and the economy, the Climate Leadership Plan will be developed so that it considers climate actions that promote economic development and prosperity. The pandemic may also influence how public engagement is conducted. The City will ensure residents are able to contribute to the process both on and offline, when in-person public engagements are not possible.



How can I participate in the Climate Leadership Plan?

The City's [Get Involved](#) website provides an overview of how residents will be engaged in the Climate Leadership Plan. The tools that will be used include a survey, a video, and an opportunity to attend a virtual meeting presentation. There are also opportunities to contact the project team (see contact info above) to request a printed copy of online resources. Over 2020-21, the City will also hold a series of meetings with various stakeholder groups and community leaders across Kingston. Resources from these meetings will be made available in 2021, summarized in a 'What we Heard' Report, and shared at a community event.



