

## Climate Adaptation Working Group

### Purpose:

The purpose of the Climate Adaptation Working Group (CAWG) is to inform the development of the Grey County Climate Adaptation Plan. The CAWG will identify infrastructure and services from across the community that could be impacted by climate change, what those impacts are likely to be, and mitigation actions to address a changing climate.

The Grey County Climate Adaptation Plan will be developed using the Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) framework. The first phase of the project will focus on completion of BARC Milestones 1 through 3 – 1) initiation; 2) research; and 3) completion of the plan. Further information regarding the BARC framework can be found here - [BARC Program](#)

Developing a Climate Adaptation Plan was identified as Action 16 in *Going Green in Grey*, the County's Climate Change Action Plan for climate mitigation, adopted by Council in 2022. It was also identified in the County's *Corporate Strategic Plan 2024-2027* under *Priority 2 – Building Communities for the Future*, adopted in 2024.

### Scope of Responsibility:

- Identify local impacts to the built, natural, social, and economic systems in the corporation and community resulting from a changing climate (Workshop #1);
- Complete a climate change vulnerability assessment to assess the community's sensitivity and adaptive capacity (i.e. ability to cope) to the identified climate change impacts (Vulnerability Survey);
- Complete a climate change risk assessment to assess the likelihood of the identified climate change impacts occurring, as well as their consequences (to the built, natural, social, and economic systems for the County and in the community) (Workshop #2);
- Identify an overarching vision for the Plan as well as high-level goals/objectives to help guide action planning (Workshop #3);
- Identify and prioritize actions and strategies that can be taken to address the climate change risks, as well as identify existing initiatives that can be leveraged (Workshop #3);

- Identify relevant considerations related to the implementation of actions/strategies (i.e. who will implement these actions, in what time frame, what indicators can we use to measure progress, etc.) (Workshop #4);

## Membership:

The Climate Adaptation Working Group will consist of staff representatives from the County, member municipalities, as well as representatives from relevant community sectors. The following will be invited to participate:

- Grey County Planning, Community Services, Paramedic Services, Transportation, Facilities, Emergency Management, and Asset Management
- Member municipalities
- Grey Bruce Public Health
- Local conservation authorities
- Social service sector
- Local utilities
- Agriculture sector
- Community non-profit sector
- Indigenous groups

It will be important for all members of the community of practice to be active, contributing members, willing to bring energy, expertise, and enthusiasm to the group's work. When appropriate and relevant, additional representatives maybe added to the Working Group at the discretion of the Project Coordinator.

## Participation:

Grey County staff, with support from ICLEI Canada, will organize and facilitate the meetings, send meeting invites, and follow-up with meeting notes to summarize the discussions.

Working group members can expect to contribute 20-30 hours to the development of the Climate Adaptation Plan over approximately the next 18 months (until December 2025).

The working group will be engaged via email, surveys, meetings, and workshops. There is expected to be four to five in-person workshops between September 2024 and December 2025, approximately on a quarterly basis. Each workshop will be approximately 3 hours and will include food and drink.

It will be up to individual members if they choose to attend any given meeting. A formal quorum will not be required to meet. Meetings will either be held in-person or through Teams (or hybrid).

Members will receive regular project updates via email and be asked to participate in each workshop. Working Group members will be asked to review materials prior to the meetings, provide follow up contributions, as well as participate in one or more online surveys.

Once the Climate Adaptation Plan is complete, Working Group members will be invited to continue to meet on a regular basis to plan for, coordinate, support, and track progress on actions implemented, as well as lead the implementation of actions that fall under their jurisdiction.

### Accommodations:

In-person participation is preferable, however, virtual participation may be accommodated upon request.

## Deliverables & Timeline

Climate data, including local trends and projections, will guide the Climate Adaptation Working Group to identify and prioritize the climate change impacts with the greatest vulnerability and risk in Grey County. The plan will identify a vision, goals, and actions to reduce the impact of extreme weather events and climatic changes on the County's natural, built, and socio-economic systems. These actions will be aligned with County policies, programs, and strategies related to climate resilience. The plan will help envision what a climate resilient Grey County looks like and how it can be achieved.

**Project Kick off Date:** July 2024

**Anticipated End Date:** December 2025 (~18 months)

### Milestone 1: Initiation (Q3 2024)

- Identify current conditions including existing plans, policies, and previous weather events
- Identify stakeholders & establish Climate Adaptation Working Group
- Detailed work plan

### Milestone 2: Research (Q3 2023 – Q1 2024)

- Climate Projections – Local Climate Science Report
- Impacts, Vulnerability & Risk Assessment
  - **Workshop #1 - Introduce Project & Identify Impacts (October 2024)**
  - Review, refine, and draft any new impacts statements
  - Finalize impact statements
  - **Vulnerability Survey (Q4 2024)**
  - Vulnerability assessment analysis and refinement
  - **Workshop #2 – Risk Assessment (Q1 2025)**
  - Complete Vulnerability & Risk Report

### Milestone 3: Plan (Q2 – Q4 2025)

- Visioning, Action Brainstorming and Action Prioritization
  - **Workshop #3 - Visioning, Goal Setting, Long List of Actions, and Prioritization Framework (Q2 2025)**
  - **Workshop #4 – Implementation Considerations (Q3 2025)**
- Monitoring and Evaluation – Identifying Indicators
- Plan Writing

## Reporting Relationship:

The Climate Adaptation Working Group is an advisory group of County and municipal staff as well as community representatives. Input received through the Working Group will be incorporated into the draft Risk and Vulnerability Report (Q1 2025) and draft Climate Adaptation Plan (Q4 2025). Once completed, these documents will be presented to the Grey County Senior Management Team, and then finalized and presented to Grey County Council for consideration.

## Lead Staff:

- Rebecca Danard, Climate Change Initiatives Manager (Project Manager)
- Megan Myles, Climate Change Outreach & Engagement Coordinator (Project Coordinator & Primary Contact)