Committee Report

To:	Warden Matrosovs and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	April 10, 2025
Subject / Report No:	CAOR-CW-11-25
Title:	Climate Change Adaptation Plan: Project Update and Public Engagement
Prepared by:	Megan Myles, Climate Change Outreach and Engagement Coordinator
Reviewed by:	Linda Scott Swanston, Climate Change Initiatives Manager & Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO

Recommendation

1. **That report CAOR-CW-11-25 regarding a climate adaptation plan update be received for information.**

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on *Climate Resiliant Grey*, Grey County's Climate Adaptation Plan – based on the work completed to date and the next steps in the process, including public engagement activities scheduled to occur between April to May 2025. Creating a climate adaptation plan was identified as a priority in *Going Green in Grey*, Grey County's Climate Change Action Plan as well as Grey County's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan.

The climate adaptation planning process, guided by the Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) framework, considers both corporate and community impacts across built, natural, and socio-economic systems. It is informed by previous climate adaptation research and lived experiences, through a series of Working Group workshops as well as public and targeted stakeholder engagement. Based on the Climate Science Report and guidance from the cross-sectoral Climate Adaptation Working Group, a public engagement process will confirm the top priority climate hazards in Grey County and begin to identify possible actions in response.

Background and Discussion

A Grey County-led community-wide climate adaptation plan will identify infrastructure and services that are impacted by climate change, what those impacts are likely to be, and prioritized actions to help focus attention and resources where they will be most impactful.

In September 2024, Council received Report CAOR-CW-20-24 with a recommended approach to the climate adaptation planning process. Council directed staff to proceed with the Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) framework to guide this process, including coaching and facilitation support from ICLEI Canada.

In 2020, the Ontario government launched the Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment to better understand where and how climate change is likely to affect communities, critical infrastructure, economies and the natural environment so that municipalities, and others, can make more informed decisions on planning and investments to keep our communities healthy and safe.

Climate Change Projections for Grey County

From rising temperatures to more intense rain events and extreme weather, Grey County is already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate. While climate change mitigation aims to slow climate impacts by reducing greenhouse gas pollution, climate adaptation aims to adjust how we do things, so the impacts will be less disruptive to our everyday lives. In other words, adaptation and resilience actions help prepare for and recover from the impacts of the changing climate. In Grey County, climate change is causing warmer, wetter, and wilder conditions. A summary of these projections can be found in Appendix B – Grey County Climate Change Projections.

Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Process

In October 2024, Grey County Climate Change staff convened the Climate Adaptation Working Group to participate in a series of workshops to collaboratively develop a draft climate adaptation plan. This community-based approach, involving both internal and external partners, helps ensure that the final plan will address the needs of different sectors of the community. The Working Group includes representatives from the agriculture sector, public health, municipalities, utilities, social services, local conversation authorities, economic development, and Indigenous groups (see Appendix A – Climate Adaptation Working Group Terms of Reference).

In October 2024, Grey County hosted Workshop #1 which introduced the Working Group to the Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) process and future

climate projections for Grey County (as shown in Appendix B). There were 27 Working Group members in attendance and through this workshop, 44 climate impact statements were identified for Grey County.

In December 2024, Working Group members completed an online vulnerability survey to assess the community's vulnerability to harm or damage if the impact were to happen today. Participants were asked to consider *sensitivity* (i.e., how would the listed climate impact affect the community/department's ability to function if the impact occurred today) and *adaptive capacity* (i.e., could the community/department recover to its previous functionality with minimal cost or disruption after the impact?).

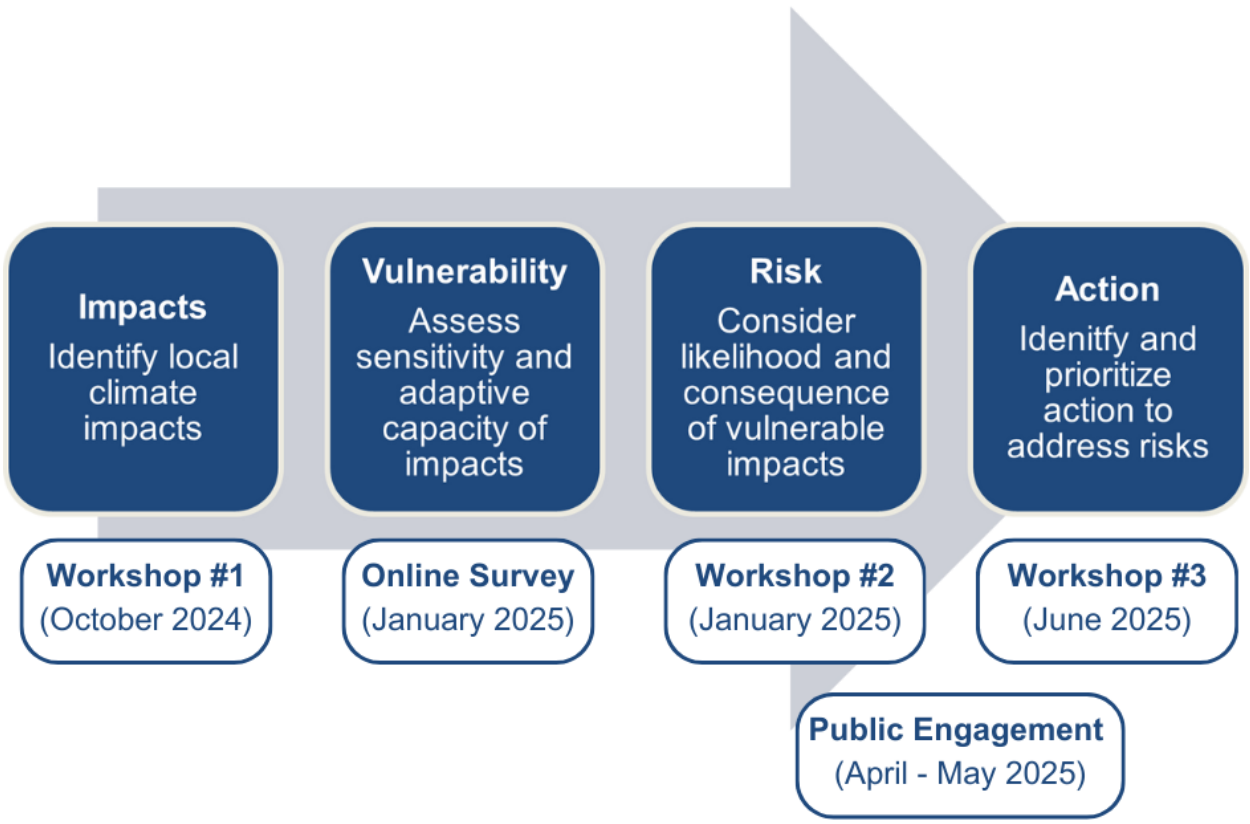

Figure 1. *How Climate Impacts Inform Risk Assessment and Action Planning Corresponding to Working Group and Public Engagement Milestones*

In January 2025, the County hosted Workshop #2 to complete the risk assessment. There were 31 working group members who participated in this workshop (hosted online due to inclement weather) and used a consequence scoring matrix to evaluate twelve (12) social, economic, and environmental criteria.

Priority Impacts for Action Planning

Through the vulnerability and risk assessment process as well as additional validation from an internal, cross-departmental team, 21 priority impacts were identified to move forward for action planning (the complete list of priority impacts can be found in Appendix C – Priority Climate Impacts for Grey County). Specific priority impacts for Grey County operations are identified where climate change will impact our assets and operations, while also recognizing that all community impacts will affect our corporate operations to varying degrees. The priority impact statements fall into four main categories:

1. **Corporate Impacts** – The impacts that will most significantly impact Grey County and municipalities. Some examples include:
    - More extreme weather and freeze-thaw days resulting in faster deterioration and increased maintenance to public infrastructure (i.e., roads, winter maintenance, culvert flooding/washouts);
    - More lake-effect snowfall causing disruptions such as school cancellations and road closures.

2. **Community Temperature Impacts** – Impacts related to temperature shifts that will impact the broader community. Examples include:
    - More very hot days (over 30 °C) and heatwaves causing health and safety risks, especially to vulnerable populations (including long-term care residents, outdoor workers) as well as livestock.
    - More very hot days causing more stress on forests and biodiversity, increased blue-green algae, and proliferation of vector-borne diseases and invasive species.

3. **Community Precipitation Impacts -** Impacts related to increased precipitation that will impact the broader community. Examples include:
    - Increased precipitation causing rising lake levels and flooding, and damage to public and private assets, reducing property values and increasing insurance premiums.
    - Droughts impacting agriculture sector, food security and source water protection.

4. **Community extreme weather impacts -** Impacts related to increased extreme weather that will impact the broader community. Examples include:
    - More frequent and intense storms causing infrastructure and property damage, reduced mobility, power outages, declining mental health among residents and farmers due to property damage and economic challenges.

Public Engagement Plan

In addition to the multi-sectorial engagement through the Climate Adaptation Working Group, there will be two public engagement phases to engage the broader community. Climate change affects residents in a variety of ways, so staff have designed the public engagement to both provide input into the plan, as well as to inform residents about the impacts and ways to become more resilient at a household, neighbourhood, and community level.

To understand how climate change affects different groups and demographics in our community, we have created ‘Climate Avatars’ - fictionalized profiles informed by real concerns, lived experiences and Grey County demographic data. These avatars help illustrate the ways different people in our community are impacted by climate risks and how they think about adaptation. As residents participate in the public engagement activities, they will be asked to consider these avatars as they provide input.

The first public engagement phase will occur in Spring 2025, from April 11 to May 9, 2025. During this period, there will be three main engagement activities:

- **Interactive in-person booth engagement** at community events (i.e., Earth Day, Sustainability Summit, and Home and Cottage Expo).
- **Climate conversation kits** to encourage families and groups to engage in a conversation about climate change, then share what they discussed.
- **An online public survey** posted on the project webpage, distributed by Grey County email newsletters, and promoted on social media.

To reach a broad cross-section of the community, staff will engage local municipalities to support and promote events and activities through their communication channels. Municipal staff would also be invited to host a climate conversation with their staff, Council, or residents.

Additional details of the Spring 2025 Public Engagement Plan can be found in Appendix D – Spring 2025 Public Engagement Plan. The second public engagement touchpoint will occur after the draft plan is presented to Council in early 2026.

Next Steps

The following table identifies the next steps in the Climate Ready Grey planning process, with a draft plan expected to be presented to Council in Q1 of 2026.

Table 1. *Key Milestones Remaining for the Climate Adaptation Planning Process*

Q2 2025	Q3 - Q4 2025	Q1 2026
Public Engagement to Confirm Priority Impacts and Brainstorm Actions (April – May 2025) Workshop #3: Vision, Goals and Action Brainstorm (June 2025)	Compile Engagement Findings Prioritize Actions/Plan Implementation Write Draft Plan	Present Draft Plan to Council Public Comment Period on Draft Plan

Legislated Requirements

Asset Management Planning

In response to existing infrastructure degrading faster than it being repaired or replaced, the Province implemented the Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure Regulation, O. Reg. 588/17 (2018) .

Grey County has identified the need "to consider vulnerabilities, caused by climate change, to the municipality's infrastructure assets" in our Corporate Strategic Asset Management Policy, as required in the regulation, and the Climate Adaptation Plan work will advance our ability to make these strategic asset management plans.

Emergency Management

The Ontario Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act establishes the legal framework for managing emergencies and requires all ministries and municipalities to have emergency management programs.

As part of this program, every municipality shall identify and assess the various hazards and risks to public safety and identify infrastructure that are at risk of being affected (s. 2.1(3)). This Adaptation Planning Process may help inform the Emergency Management Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) process when updates are undertaken.

Financial and Resource Implications

This project is being completed using existing staff and budget resources allocated as part of the 2025 Climate Change Adaptation Plan capital budget.

Relevant Consultation

☐ Internal

☒ AODA Compliance: All engagement materials will comply.

☒ Contribution to Climate Change Action Plan Targets: Development of a Climate Adaptation Plan was identified as a priority action in *Going Green in Grey*, the County's Climate Change Action Plan.

☒ External: Grey County Climate Adaptation Working Group

Appendices and Attachments

- Appendix A – Climate Adaptation Working Group Terms of Reference
- Appendix B – Grey County Climate Change Projections
- Appendix C – Priority Climate Impacts for Grey County
- Appendix D – Spring 2025 Public Engagement Plan

- Attachment to CAOR-CW-11-25 - Grey County Future Climate Projections Infographic
- Attachment to CAOR-CW-11-25 - Council Report CAOR-CW-20-24 – Initiating Grey County's Climate Adaptation Plan – Sept. 12, 2024
- Attachment to CAOR-CW-11-25 - Climate Adaptation Project Webpage

Appendix A – Climate Adaptation Working Group Terms of Reference

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.

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.
- 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).
- Identify an overarching vision for the Plan as well as high-level goals/objectives to help guide action planning.
- 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.
- 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.).

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 and send meeting invites.

Working group members can expect to contribute 20-30 hours to the development of the Climate Adaptation Plan over the span of this process.

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 spring 2026. Each workshop will be approximately 3 hours and will include lunch.

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.

Project Deliverables and Timeline

Project Kick off Date: July 2024
Anticipated End Date: June 2026

Milestone 1: Initiation (Q3 2024)

- Identify current conditions (i.e., existing plans, policies, historic weather events)
- Identify stakeholders & establish Climate Adaptation Working Group
- Develop a detailed work plan

Milestone 2: Research (Q3 2023 – Q1 2024)

- Identify future climate projections and complete Climate Science Report
- Impacts, Vulnerability & Risk Assessment
- Workshop #1 to introduce project and identify impacts (October 2024)
- Review, refine, and finalize impacts statements
- Conduct Vulnerability Survey (Q4 2024)
- Vulnerability assessment analysis and refinement
- Workshop #2 – Risk Assessment (Q1 2025)
- Complete Vulnerability & Risk Assessment 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 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.

Appendix B – Grey County Climate Change Projections

	Trend	Baseline (1971 – 2000)	Future Projection (2051 – 2080)
Temperature 	Mean temperatures are projected to increase annually and in every season	6.7°C	11.4°C
	More extreme heat days (above 30°C)	5 days	38 days
	Significantly less very cold days (below -15°C)	22 days	2 days
Precipitation 	Precipitation will increase annually and, in all seasons	998 mm	1128 mm
	Most significant increase in winter precipitation	294 mm	359 mm
Extreme Weather 	Higher max 1-day precipitation (i.e., wettest day of the year)	40 mm	47 mm
	Heavier precipitation (more than 10 mm)	28 days	34 days
	Longer drought (maximum consecutive dry days)	14 days	15 days
Growing Season 	Longer growing season, but also drought, soil erosion and nutrient loss	164 days	212 days

Note. Data based on climate projections for Owen Sound for a high emissions ("business as usual") SSP5-8.5 scenario, using data from ClimateData.ca. The Climate Science Report for Grey County was completed by the Ontario Resource Centre for Climate Adaptation (ORCCA).

Appendix C – Priority Climate Impacts for Grey County

Corporate/Public Infrastructure Impacts

Climate Hazard	Impacts
More extreme weather events (i.e., snowstorms, thunderstorms, freezing rain, and tornadoes)	Extensive damage to public infrastructure, assets (e.g. buildings, signs, streetlights, roads, power infrastructure, communications infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, coastal infrastructure, trees, parks, etc.), underground servicing (wastewater and stormwater management systems) and increased maintenance (e.g., more rounds of maintenance, changing schedules, etc.) and emergency service requirements (#38)
More freeze-thaw days	Faster deterioration and damage to public infrastructure (especially roads), increasing the need for frequent repairs and maintenance (#19)
More frequent and intense winter precipitation events (e.g. snowfall, freezing rain, etc.),	More damage to public assets and infrastructure (i.e. stormwater infrastructure, buildings), more winter maintenance (e.g. snow ploughing, road salt, etc.), and more transportation disruptions (i.e., road closures, snow days, accidents) (#22)
Increased frequency and/or intensity of precipitation events	Rising lake levels and overland, riverine, and basement flooding, resulting in greater damage to public buildings, assets, and infrastructure (e.g. roads, sidewalks, parks, signs, trails, stormwater infrastructure, and shoreline infrastructure). (#20)

Note. In addition to the above corporate impacts, there are several community impacts that will also have a corporate impact (i.e., #11 disruption of outdoor work due to heatwaves).

Community Impacts – Temperature

Climate Hazard	Impacts
More very hot days (>30 °C), heatwaves and reduced air quality	• Health and safety risks (e.g. heat stress) especially to vulnerable populations (#1) • Disruption and challenges to working outside (e.g., farming, construction) (#11) • Health risks for domestic and wild animals (e.g., heatstroke, dehydration, and vector-borne diseases such as lyme disease and west nile virus), negatively affecting livestock (e.g., lower productivity, higher mortality) and biodiversity (#8)
Warmer average annual temperatures	• More stress on forests, changing distribution of tree species, and causing the potential die-back of tree canopy and loss of biodiversity (#5)

Warmer average annual temperatures	• Warmer water temperatures and lower water levels, causing more blue-green algae, declining fish populations and biodiversity, which in turn posing food insecurity and cultural impacts on Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities (#15)
Warmer average winter temperatures	• More pests and invasive species surviving winter, causing loss of plant biodiversity and crop failure (#18) • Less ice cover, leaving shorelines exposed and causing more coastal erosion, damage to shoreline infrastructure and nearshore habitats (#14)

Community Impacts – Precipitation

More precipitation causing rising lake levels and flooding	Increased damage of private assets and infrastructure (e.g. homes, shoreline properties), reducing property value and increasing insurance premiums (#21)
Rainfall variability (i.e., droughts then heavy rain) and reduced ability to absorb rain, increasing surface run-off and flash flooding	More damage to agricultural lands, reducing crop yields, and increasing runoff and threatening water quality and ecosystem health (#37) Reduced quality and quantity of groundwater, limiting water availability and increasing pressure on already strained groundwater resources (#9)
Increased rainfall variability and increased average annual temperatures	Prolonged drought and disturbed small water cycles, degrading water quality, damage to natural ecosystems, stress on native species, all threatening habitats, biodiversity, and ecosystem services (e.g., carbon sequestration) (#35) Shifting of natural cycles damaging natural ecosystems, with significant implications for Indigenous traditional harvesting and non-indigenous communities who hunt and fish (#36)

Community Impacts – Extreme Weather

More frequent and intense extreme weather events	• More damage to private assets and increased insurance premiums (i.e., due to falling utility poles and trees) (#39) • Reduced mobility (i.e., walkability, road closures), disrupting everyday activities, essential services and land-based livelihood activities like commercial fishing, agriculture, forestry, tourism, particularly affecting Indigenous communities (#40) • Declining mental and physical health from hazardous travel and living conditions, damage to homes, displacement, power outages, especially for vulnerable populations (#41)

	• Damage to local crops, resulting in economic loss and mental stress for farmers, business owners, and community members (#42)
More frequent and severe winter extreme weather events	More frequent flooding events on frozen ground, frazil ice and ice jams on waterways that block and damage channels and nearby properties (#29)

Appendix D – Spring 2025 Public Engagement Plan

Overview

Grey County is developing a comprehensive Climate Adaptation Plan to address the impacts of climate change and strengthen community resilience. The Spring 2025 Public Engagement will validate findings from the Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (VRA) and gather community input on preferred actions. Running from Friday, April 11, to Friday, May 9, 2025, his engagement aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Validate the results of the vulnerability and risk assessment.
- Identify and understand community priorities for addressing climate risks.
- Gather feedback on the types of actions residents want to see in the Climate Change Adaptation Plan or participate in directly.

Engagement will take place both online and in-person, through interactive pop-up booth activities, conversation kits, and an online survey.

Using Avatars to Understand Climate Concerns

Climate change affects everyone differently, depending on where they live, their work, their family situation, and their daily experiences. To understand these differences, we've created 'Climate Avatars' - fictionalized profiles informed by real concerns, lived experiences, and local demographic data. These avatars help illustrate the ways different people in our community are impacted by climate risks and how they think about adaptation. As residents participate in the public engagement activities, they will be asked to consider these avatars as they provide input.

1. Jack, The Adaptable Farmer
2. Maggie, The Aging Homeowner
3. Riana, The Concerned Small Business Owner
4. Jason, The Outdoorsy Young Professional
5. Eva, The Family Focused Homebuyer

1. Jack, The Adaptable Farmer

- Farmer
- 51 years old
- Divorced/ Single
- Worried about the droughts, too much rain, and yield

Hello, I'm Jack. I live on my family's farm where I grow apples, hay, and have a small herd of cattle. I've been running it on my own since my divorce a few years ago. The

income from the farm changes a lot depending on the year. Lately, the weather has been unpredictable - too much rain or not enough. Some years, the orchard does great; other years, we lose a lot of crops. The hay and livestock help me diversify my income, but they're affected by weather as well. Hot summers make the cattle sick, and too much rain leads to mud, which causes parasites.

I've got good neighbors, and we help each other out, but in the end, it's up to me to keep the farm running. I'd love to have more support to make sure that this farm survives, and I have something to pass down to the next generation.

2. Maggie, The Aging Homeowner

- 75 years old
- Retired
- Widowed
- Owns their home and wants to age in place

Hi, I'm Maggie. I live in an old house that was built around 1900. It has a lot of charm, but it's starting to need a lot of repairs. After my husband passed away a few years ago, it's tough keeping up with everything on my own. One of my biggest concerns is the heat. My house doesn't have air conditioning, and the summers are getting hotter. I can't afford to install AC, and some days, I feel trapped in my own home. My health isn't what it used to be. Some days are harder than others, and I've started thinking more about what the next few years will look like. I would love to be able to upgrade my home to keep cool throughout the summer!

3. Riana, The Concerned Small Business Owner

- 59 years old
- Married
- Owns a local business downtown
- Enjoys local arts and culture

Hi, I'm Riana. I own a small gift shop in downtown that sells local art, handmade jewelry, and unique gifts. My shop has been here for over 15 years, and I've really enjoyed being part of this community.

Lately, I've been worried about the damage from storms and flooding. When there's heavy rain, I worry about my shop getting flooded or losing power. I've already had to make repairs a few times, and the costs keep adding up. Every time there is a big storm, I wonder if this will be the one that forces me to close. I would love to see more support for small business owners like me so that I can continue to showcase Grey County's incredible local makers and artists.

4. Jason, The Outdoorsy Young Professional

- 24 years old
- Anishnabek
- Apprentice electrician
- Walks to work
- Rents
- Worried about conservation

Hello, I'm Jason. I work as an apprentice electrician. I rent a small apartment and usually carpool to job sites with a coworker because I don't own a car. Being able to walk and bike around town safely is important to me. I am Anishnabek from the Saugeen Ojibway Nation. Growing up, I was told stories about our deep connection to this land. Now, I see changes happening before my eyes. The fish stocks aren't what they used to be. Algae blooms are appearing in lakes where we never saw them before. Some of our elders say that the forests are changing. My friends and I really love the outdoors and try to get out to hunt and fish as often as possible, so I hope that we protect the land and water, so we have something to explore and enjoy for generations to come!

5. Eva, The Family Focused Homebuyer

- 33 years old
- Nurse
- Married with 2 children
- Renter, hoping to buy a home
- Worried about how climate change will affect her kids and her home

Hi, I'm Eva. I'm 33 years old, a nurse, and first generation Canadian. My partner and I have two kids, ages 5 and 8. We rent a home right now but hope to buy a house soon. The problem is, I keep thinking about climate risks - flooding, extreme weather, and the increasing risk of property damage. What if we save up for a home and then can't afford the repairs after a storm or flood? All I want is a safe, stable place where my kids can grow and thrive. I wish there were support systems in place to help if this damage does happen, so that I can feel confident in my decision to buy a house.

In-Person Booth Activities

Grey County will host interactive booth activities at several community pop-up events to gather input. The booth will feature self-guided engagement stations, allowing community members to explore information, participate in activities, and provide feedback at their own pace. Grey County staff will be available to answer questions and

encourage participation. These activities will consist of two interactive activities, helping participants identify climate risks and propose adaptation actions.

The pop-up booth engagement will take place at several community events between April 11 and May 9.

Part 1: Asset Mapping and Understanding Climate Risks

Participants will use a large map of Grey County to identify places where they believe climate impacts are occurring or could occur in the future. They will be asked to consider places and spaces they love in their community.

Part 2: Idea-Sharing and Action Proposals

After completing the mapping activity, participants will contribute ideas for adaptation actions on a large banner titled, “What Does a Climate Ready Grey Look Like?” This collaborative exercise allows participants to share creative, local, and actionable solutions for building climate resilience.

Conversation Kits and Conversation Events

The Climate Conversation Kit as a resource to help community members, the Working Group and local organizations facilitate their own climate discussions. This kit will provide an overview of Grey County’s Climate Change Adaptation Plan process, guide conversations about local climate risks, and support brainstorming of adaptation actions that reflect community priorities.

By using this kit, residents and organizations can engage in meaningful discussions, document their insights, and contribute directly to Grey County’s planning process. The conversation kit is a document with a high-level overview Grey County’s climate adaptation planning process, facilitation tips, instructions for the visioning exercise, and discussion questions, next steps, and additional climate resilience resources.

Visioning Exercise: Grey County in 2050

- Imagine it’s 2050. What does a climate-resilient Grey County look like?
- What do you want to see in our forests, lakes, neighbourhoods, and economy?
- How do people live, work, and move around in a climate-ready community?

Discussion Questions

- What places and spaces do you love in our community?
- Which 3-5 of these climate risks are you most concerned about?
- How have these climate risks affected you, your family, or your community?
- How can we work together to protect the places and people we just talked about?

Grey County-Hosted Conversation Events

To encourage participation, Grey County will host one in-person and one virtual event. These events will provide a structured setting for community members to discuss climate impacts and adaptation actions using the Conversation Kit.

Online Survey

An online survey will be open from Friday, April 11, to Friday, May 9, to gather input on climate risks and adaptation priorities for Grey County. This survey will help validate the findings of the vulnerability and risk assessment and ensure the Climate Change Adaptation Plan reflects community priorities for proposed actions. The survey invites participants to:

- Identify places and spaces they value in their community.
- Share their stories and experiences on how climate change has impacted their daily life.
- Highlight their top climate concerns from a list of high-priority climate impacts (identified through the vulnerability and risk assessment process).
- Indicate what types of adaptation actions they would like to see or participate in.
- Reflect on whether they used the conversation kit to discuss climate issues before completing the survey.

The community input from these engagement activities will be compiled, analyzed, and incorporated into the draft Climate Adaptation Plan.