

Championing Climate Action: Municipalities' Crucial Role in Shaping Net Zero Cities

Hon. Catherine McKenna
Principal of Climate and Nature Solutions
August 21st, 2023





Climate Change: The Impacts

Ottawa

Residents, councillors concerned about climate in wake of flash floods



More than 77 mm of rain fell on Ottawa: matter of hours Thursday

CBC News

Posted: August 11, 2023



Toronto

Climate change could cost municipalities \$700M more a year to maintain pipes, sewers, report says



Report looks at effects of extreme rainfall on Ontario stormwater, wastewater infrastructure

Muriel Draaisma - CBC News

Posted: Decer

Last Updated:

Ontario municipalities not ready for climate migration boom: study



Four new wildfires reported Friday in northeastern Ontario

WEATHER

Ontario music festival forced to briefly evacuate due to severe thunderstorm

By Isaac Callan • Global News

, 2023 3:40 pm EST

WEATHER

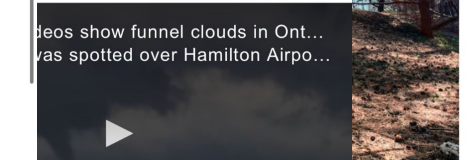
Extreme heat warning issued for most of Ontario

By Ben Harrietha • 980 CFPL

Posted July 4, 2023 1:54 pm EST



Environment Canada has issued a multi-day heat wave alert for most of Ontario, including London-Middlesex. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Nathan Denette



media videos show possible funnel following powerful storm

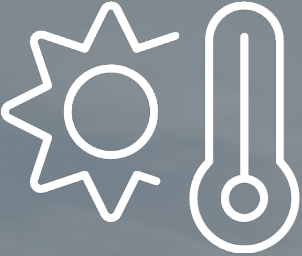


**CITIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 75%
OF GLOBAL CO₂ EMISSIONS**

HUGE OPPORTUNITY TO:

- HELP TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE**
- CLEANER AIR, CLEANER WATER**
- GREENER, MORE LIVABLE CITIES
FOR ALL**

Climate Change: The Solutions



1.5
DEGREES

EMISSIONS
↓ 50%

BY 2030

NET-ZERO BY
2050

MUNICIPALITIES BUILD AND MAINTAIN

60%

OF THE CORE PUBLIC
INFRASTRUCTURE THAT
SUPPORTS OUR ECONOMY
AND QUALITY OF LIFE

- MUNICIPAL ROADS
- PUBLIC TRANSIT
- ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
- RELIABLE WATER AND WASTE SYSTEMS
- SOCIAL HOUSING
- RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
- PARKS

UN Report on Net Zero:

- ✓ LONG-TERM NET ZERO GOAL
- ✓ SHORT-TERM SCIENCE BASED TARGETS
- ✓ REAL ACTION VS CREDITS
- ✓ CLEAR TRANSITION PLAN
- ✓ POSITIVE CLIMATE LOBBYING
- ✓ NO NEW FOSSIL FUELS
- ✓ NATURE POSITIVE
- ✓ TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
- ✓ SUPPORT JUST TRANSITION

CITY JOURNEY



GLOBAL COVENANT
of MAYORS for
CLIMATE & ENERGY



All experiences are different! This is a path of reference that you can adapt to your own situation.

What Municipalities Can Do: Mitigate

- Net zero buildings and retrofits
- Better public transit and active transit
- Decarbonizing grid, Reducing energy consumption, energy efficiency
- Protecting green spaces
 - E.g. Greenbelt
- Regulations or incentives to limit industrial emissions
- Positive climate lobbying for action with other levels of government
- Municipal zz (OMERS): Climate plan aligned with Net Zero



What Municipalities Can Do: Adapt

- Conduct climate risk assessments (people/infrastructure); develop clear emergency response plans; build climate resilient infrastructure
- Extreme heat: cooling centres/measures; urban forestry/green canopies; Chief Heat Officer
- Poor air quality: Raise awareness re: air quality; encourage installation of high efficient filters/proper ventilation; clean air refuges
- Flooding/heavy rains: Updating stormwater/sewage; green areas; natural floodplains
- Adaptation Changemakers
 - E.g. Town of Caledon, City of Windsor, City of Peterborough



FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS

- ✓ Canada Community Building Fund
- ✓ Zero Emission Transit
- ✓ Rural Transit
- ✓ Active Transportation
- ✓ Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation
- ✓ Housing Accelerator Fund
- ✓ Smart Cities Challenge

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

**We need all Municipalities to
be Climate Leaders!**

There's no time to waste.

