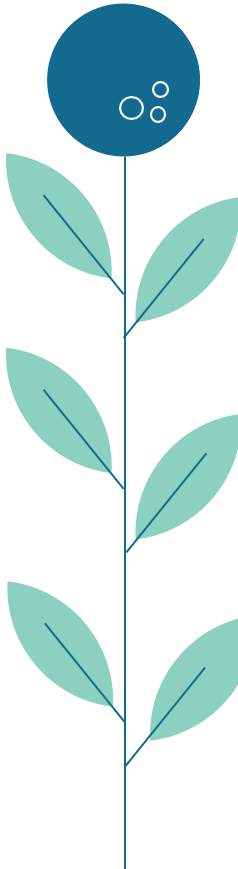


# Climate Lens Integration in Ontario Municipalities

An examination of the  
development and  
application of Climate  
Lenses



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# Our Team



**EMILY TERPSTRA**



**BROOKE NORTHEY**



**SANDRA LEUTRI**



**CAMERON MCDONALD**



**EVAN GRANT**



**Masters of Environment  
and Sustainability**

# Key Findings from Municipal Interviews

1. More than **half of the municipalities interviewed** are currently using a **Climate Lens** (in-house or CAP Climate Lens 1.0) and the **majority have a standard “Climate Implications” section in their council report** template
2. The **“Climate Implications” section in staff reports is often not completed** in a way that can inform project decisions
3. **Engaging with staff** during the development of a Climate Lens is crucial to ensure it is used effectively
4. **Collaboration and sharing of resources** between municipalities is beneficial in the development and advancement of Climate Lens tools



# Key Findings from Municipal Interviews

5. A **Climate Resource Database** would be a helpful tool to advance municipal climate knowledge for the development and use of a Climate Lens
6. **Environmental education, staff and political support, capacity of staff, and cost are all barriers** that need to be overcome to properly implement a Climate Lens tool
7. **Climate Lens champions**, such as council, senior level staff, and the public, may be essential for the decision-making process
8. Applying a Climate Lens to municipal projects can be **challenging due to staff willingness and limited resources**, however, it can be effective in influencing decision-making



# 1

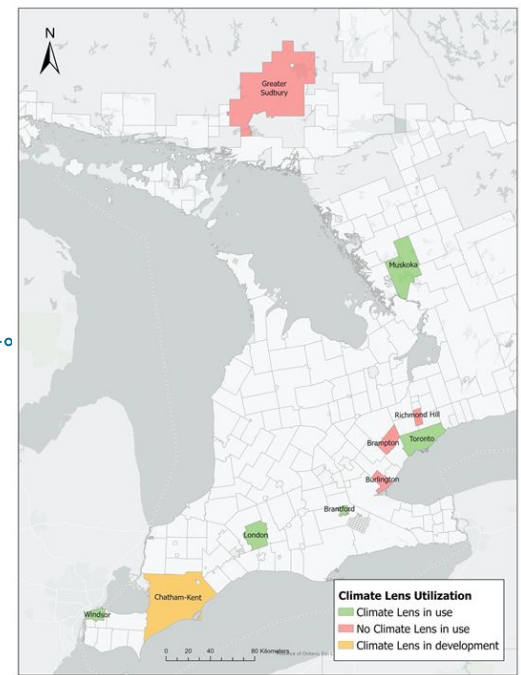
More than half of the municipalities interviewed are currently using a Climate Lens (in-house or CAP Climate Lens 1.0) and the majority have a standard “Climate Implications” section in their council report template

- Reported council action or support of climate action
- 8/11 municipalities have a “Climate Implications” section

# 2

The “Climate Implications” section in staff reports is often not completed in a way that can inform project decisions

- Staff answered “N/A” for projects that had climate impacts





• 3

Engaging with staff **during the development** of a Climate Lens is crucial to ensure it is used effectively

- 50% of municipalities introduced staff to the concept of a Climate Lens prior to development
- Capacity and knowledge gaps reported if staff is not included

• 4

**Collaboration and sharing** of resources between municipalities is beneficial in the development and advancement of Climate Lens tools

- There can be a lot of transferable knowledge with municipalities of similar sizes and budgets

5





## A Climate Resource Database

would be a helpful tool to advance municipal climate knowledge for the development and use of a Climate Lens

- Addresses an education gap and lack of climate knowledge
- Individual resource bases may not be feasible, therefore it can be shared

6

Environmental education, staff and political support, capacity of staff, and cost are all barriers that need to be overcome to properly implement a Climate Lens tool

Category	Resource Name	Links
	<p><b>Green Infrastructure Ontario</b> Information on how green infrastructure can be included in municipalities such as bioswales, urban forests, green roofs, natural and engineered wetlands. A strong resource for considering alternatives for typical grey infrastructure or to increase climate resilience.</p>	<a href="#">Green Infrastructure Ontario</a>
	<p><b>Federation of Canadian Municipalities</b> A national network of over 2000 municipalities and 30 provincial and territorial municipal associations, representing over 90% of Canadians. The FCM has a Green Municipal Fund with specific programs municipalities can apply to for funding green initiatives. The website contains shared resources of webinars, reports, and trainings, many of which addressing building sustainable, resilient cities.</p>	<a href="#">FCM</a>
	<p><b>ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability</b> A global network of over 2500 local and regional governments promoting sustainable urban development. Their five pathways provide a framework for designing integrated solutions that balance the patterns of human life and the built and natural environments, disrupting the norm. ICLEI has multiple publications which include case studies and sample frameworks, action plans, and challenges in reporting and verification.</p>	<a href="#">ICLEI</a>
	<p><b>Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee</b> The Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (PIVEC) Protocol is a free to use Canadian resources whose protocol has been internationally applied. The Protocol is used to assess the impacts of climate to infrastructure and identifies vulnerability. A technical resource that can support the development of, or supplement an existing, Climate Lens.</p>	<a href="#">PIVEC</a>





7

Climate Lens champions such as **council, senior level staff, and the public** are essential for the decision-making process

- Council support often found to be necessary for project commencement
- Public support for Climate Change action can push projects along



8

Applying a Climate Lens to municipal projects can be **challenging due to staff willingness and limited resources**, however, it can be **effective in influencing decision-making**

- Staff answered “N/A” for projects that had climate impacts
- A culture shift towards climate conscious thinking increases engagement with Climate Lens tools

# Key Findings from Industry Interviews

1. There are **different motives** for applying a Climate Lens, which will **influence how it is developed and used**
2. Creating a **user-friendly Climate Lens** will increase the likelihood of it being used effectively
3. Having **accessible support resources** for users of Climate Lenses is crucial
4. A project may experience **vastly different outcomes depending on the phase** at which the Climate Lens is being applied





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## There are different motives for applying a Climate Lens, which will influence how it is developed and used

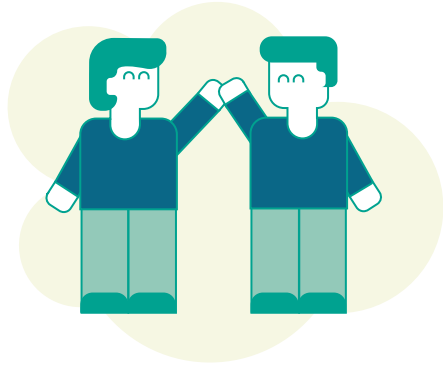
The choice to use a Climate Lens tool could be for a variety of reasons including funding requirements, mandatory council requirements, or larger municipal climate action plans to reduce GHG emissions



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## Creating a user-friendly Climate Lens will increase the likelihood of it being used effectively

- An effective Climate Lens should ask specific, targeted questions which can lead to more accurate responses
- Instead of asking :
  - “Can this project be affected by precipitation?”
- Ask:
  - “Is this project located on a floodplain?”
  - “Will flooding affect this project’s infrastructure or operational uses?”



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## Having accessible support resources for users of Climate Lenses is crucial


- Support resources can include:
  - Dedicated staff which can serve as point-people for helping others use the Climate Lens
  - Up-to-date resources and databases to access climate data



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## A project may experience vastly different outcomes depending on the phase at which the Climate Lens is being applied

Using a Climate Lens in the earlier phases of a project can influence design and propel mitigation efforts before the project is implemented, accelerating resilience





# RESOURCE GUIDE





## Municipal Best Practices

- City of Sudbury
- City of Burlington
- City of Edmonton
- City of London
- and more!

- Case studies and examples of successful Climate Lens implementation
- Useful financial, environmental, and political information for Climate Lens best practices



## Infrastructure & Climate Change

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Green Infrastructure Ontario
- Infrastructure Canada
- Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction
- and more!

- Insight on the application of sustainability, climate concepts, and climate emergencies for infrastructure projects
- Provide information regarding climate impact of projects, and major risks for infrastructure with climate hazards





## Climate Lens Implementation and Use

- University of Waterloo  
Climate Research Group
- Clean Air Partnership
- City of London
- and more!

- Aid in the development of a tool for  
decision making through a climate  
impact perspective
- Case studies on the success or  
barriers of implementation for a  
Climate Lens







## Adaptation & Mitigation

- Ontario Climate Consortium
- Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation
- University of Waterloo
- and more!

- Information on how to adjust projects based on new or existing climate risks
- Climate risk assessment or climate vulnerability assessment information
- Information for aiding in expanding scope and strengthening Climate Lens tools





## Climate Change Resources

- Government of Canada Open Data
- Ontario Data Catalogue
- ClimateData.ca
- Climate Atlas of Canada
- and more!

- Resources and databases providing climate impact information, climate change information, and other government resources
- Aid in assessing project impact, or determining climate change impacts for a region



# Implementing a Climate Lens

1

Obtain **Council directive** for the development of a Climate Lens

2

Identify a **Champion Staff Lead (CSL)** for the Climate Lens development

3

Identify a **Department Lead (DL)** to be a part of an Inter-Departmental Team

4

CSL to **set goals** and conduct Climate Lens **research**

5

CSL to **develop an implementation workplan** with feedback

6

CSL and DL to **design a Climate Lens tool** for a specific priority action area

# Implementing a Climate Lens

7

CSL and DL to **conduct department training**

8

CSL to **solicit feedback and adjust tool accordingly**

9

CSL and DL to **recommunicate available resources to staff**

10

Repeat steps 6-10 with **next priority action area**

11

**Share learnings** with other municipalities and CAP



CSL: Champion Staff Lead  
DL: Department Lead



# THANKS!

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Question & Discussion Period

