



Climate Accountability Toolkit: A Roadmap for Municipalities

Clean Air Council Webinar

Presenters:

Desi Stefanova

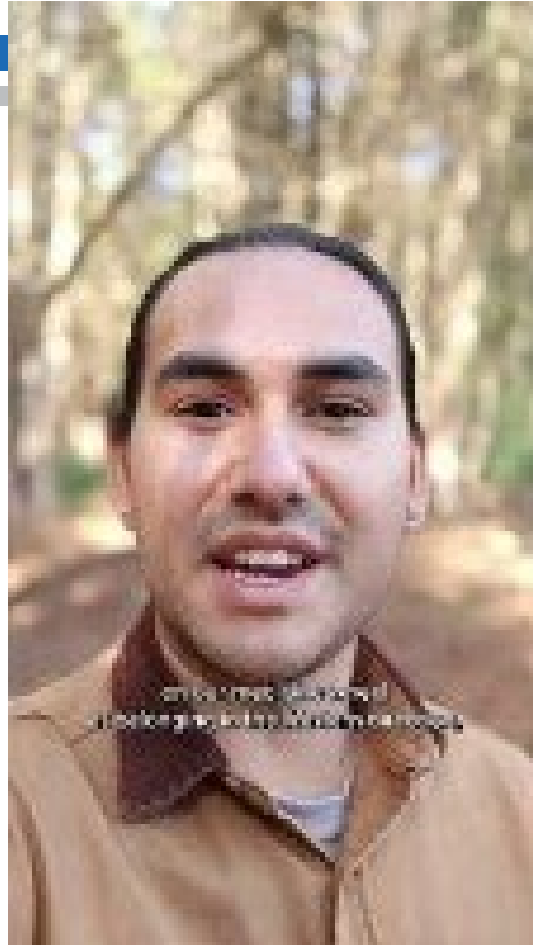


Land Acknowledgement



Clean Air Partnership acknowledges that the land on which we operate is the traditional territories of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.







Taking ownership of decisions impacting climate and transparency on emissions, actions for net-zero, challenges, and monitoring progress.

On-Ramps to Climate Accountability



Climate
Emergency
Declaration

Climate Action
Plans

Climate Lens
Application

Carbon
Budgeting

Climate-related
Financial
Disclosures (TCFD)
for Municipalities





Climate Emergency Declaration



Climate Emergency Declaration



- Municipal commitment to climate leadership
- Acknowledges the urgency of the climate crisis
- Cites the scientific consensus on the severity and urgency of the climate crisis



Climate Emergency Declaration – Benefits



- ✓ Increased awareness and understanding
- ✓ Increased municipal climate accountability
- ✓ Greater political will
- ✓ Improved collaboration
- ✓ Enhanced reputation
- ✓ Sets GHG emissions targets
- ✓ Outline actions





- Roadmap to meet municipal climate commitments
- Components:
 - ✓ Vision
 - ✓ Governance and accountability models
 - ✓ Baseline data
 - ✓ Objectives and targets
 - ✓ Related policies to accomplish the actions
 - ✓ Budget to implement the plan,
 - ✓ Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting frameworks

What Makes a Climate Action Plan Accountable?



1. Strong governance and oversight
2. Standardized data and reporting
3. Clear outputs and outcomes
4. Detailed action identification, identifying leads, and budget allocation
5. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting



What Makes a Climate Action Plan Accountable?



1. Strong governance and oversight
 - Formalizing climate governance structures and processes
 - Clearly defining roles and responsibilities
 - Assigning responsibility to specific entities or departments
 - Ensuring leadership support

What Makes a Climate Action Plan Accountable?



1. Strong governance and oversight – example from City of Toronto

Applying the framework

POLICY



New By-Law in Toronto Municipal Code



New Carbon Offset Credit Policy

PROCESS



New "climate lens" requirements in existing Capital/ Operating Budget Process



Setting Emission Budgets for Community & Corporate Emissions

TOOLS



Carbon Budget Report

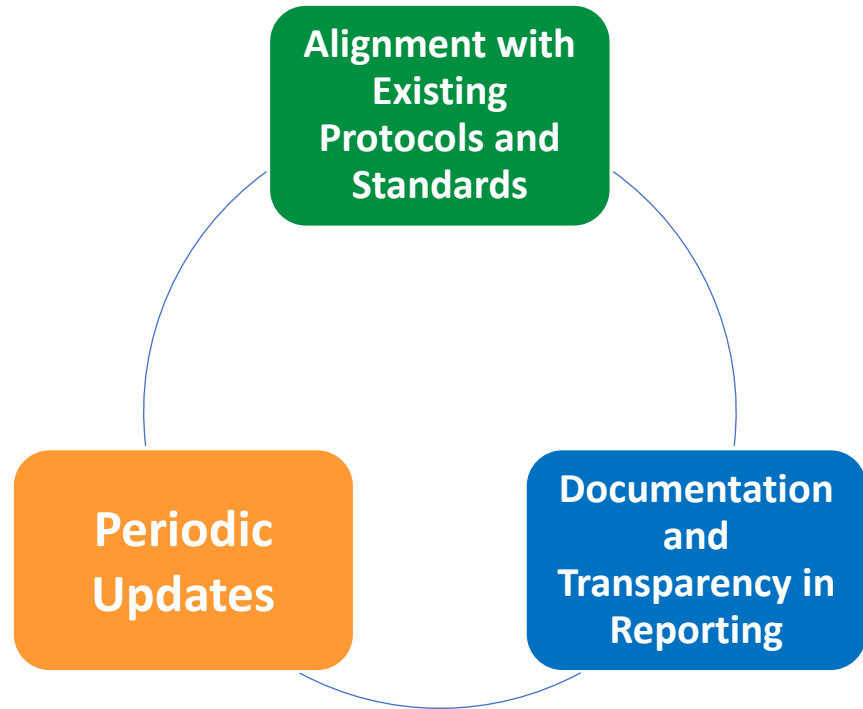
- CAPTOR tagging
- Operating Budget Excel template
- Climate Lens Guide
- Climate Hub
- Dashboard
- Modelling Tool

What Makes a Climate Action Plan Accountable?



2. Standardized data and reporting

- Greenhouse Gas Inventories
- Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessments





3. Clear outputs and outcomes

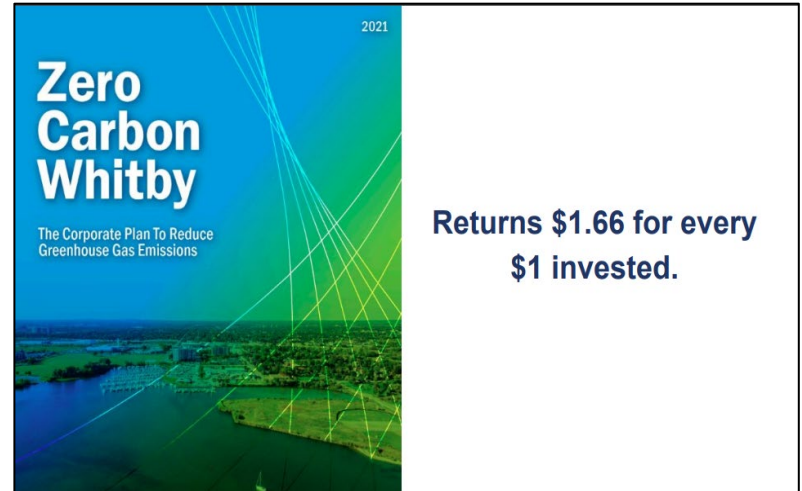
- Specific
 - ✓ Implementation of renewable energy projects
 - ✓ Enhancement of green infrastructure
- Broader
 - ✓ Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
 - ✓ Enhanced community resilience

What Makes a Climate Action Plan Accountable?



4. Detailed action identification, lead responsible, and budget allocation

- Identifying Actions
- Financial Accountability →
- Human Resources (Staffing and Partnerships)



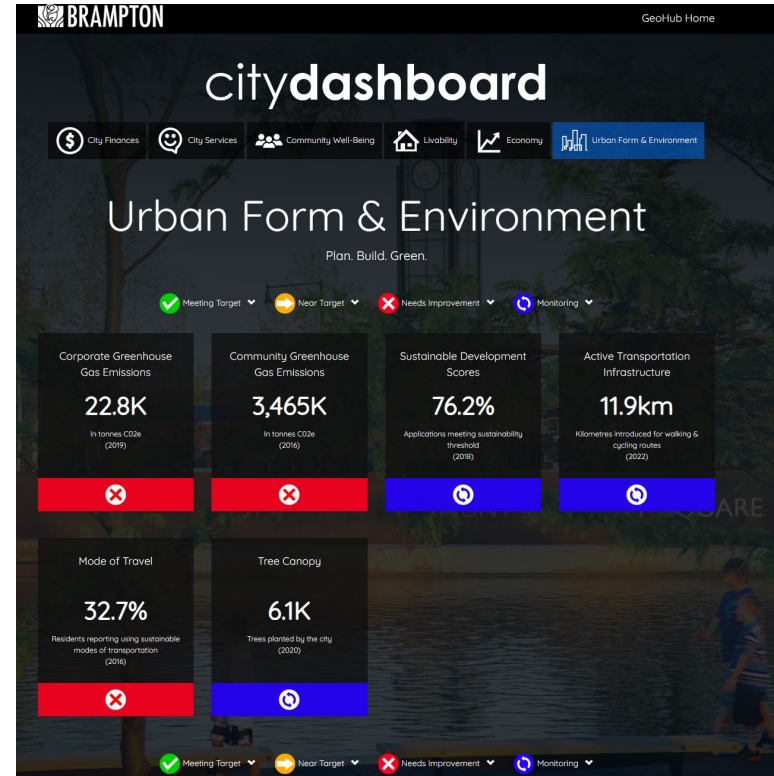
[Zero Carbon Whitby Costing Study](#)

What Makes a Climate Action Plan Accountable?



5. Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting

- Periodical community newsletters
- Annual or biennial progress reports
- Sustainability reports
- Case studies
- Data dashboards
- 5-year reviews and updates



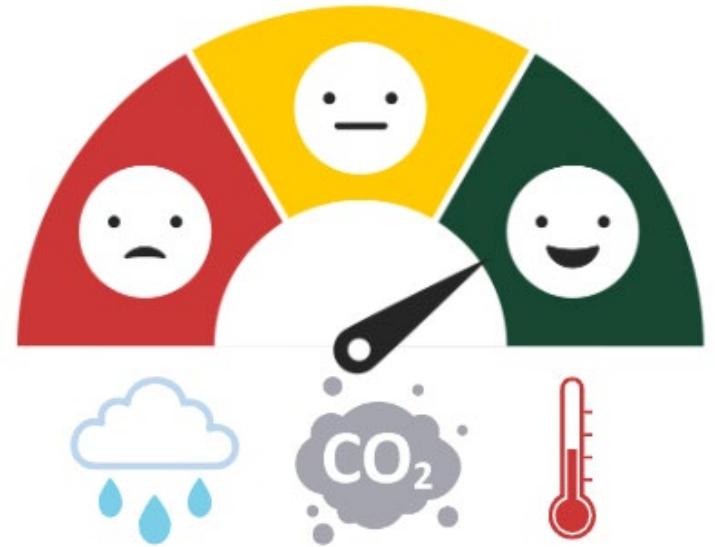


- **Climate Lens Application**
- **Identification of Climate Implications**
- **Climate Integration in Municipal Plans**





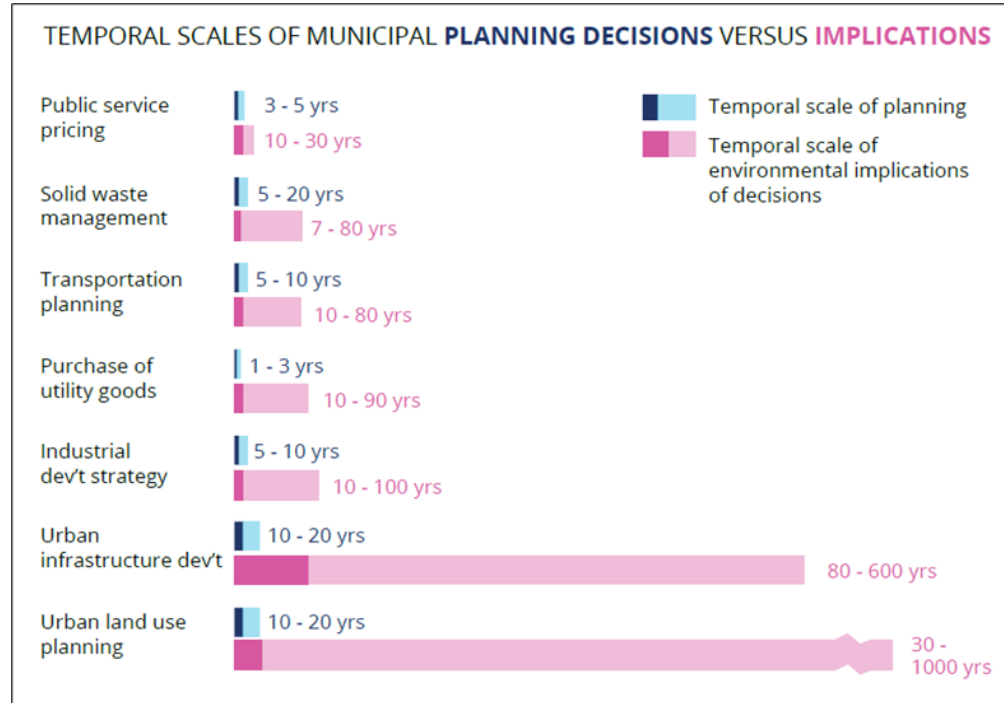
- Deliberate consideration of climate change across all municipal decisions
- Helps identify potential positive and negative impacts on emissions and climate risks of each decision



Climate Lens Application - Benefits



- ✓ Long- term planning →
- ✓ Coherence and Consistency
- ✓ Cost Savings
- ✓ Climate Accountability



Halton Region's Climate Change Discussion Paper – Regional Official Plan Review (2020)



CAP's tool – Climate Lens

- 5 – 10 questions on Mitigation, Temperature, Precipitation

Climate Lens Tool

Step 2 of 2



Will this project result in the production of greenhouse gases (GHGs)? * ⓘ

- Yes
 No

Can this project be affected by temperature? * ⓘ

- Yes
 No

Can this project be affected by precipitation? * ⓘ

- Yes
 No

Previous

Finish



Provide an assessment of how proposed initiatives

- may impact the municipality's climate adaptation and mitigation work
- is aligned with climate action goals

Policy Development

Staff Training

Template
Development

Implementation
and
Monitoring



Provides municipal staff with a list of municipal decisions and their potential climate implications.

Decisions are searchable and are broken down by municipal sector.



[Climate Implications Repository](#)



Official plans



Strategic plans



Asset management plans



Water management plans



Transportation plans

Carbon Budget





A municipal carbon budget scales down global carbon budget to the community level based on population and other factors, producing an allocated maximum quantity of emissions that can be released by that community.

Carbon allocation is added to each proposed project and ongoing operational cost to assess its climate mitigation potential against the municipality's remaining carbon budget.



- ✓ Centralized and consistent decision-making
- ✓ “Whole of government” approach: climate action and accountability are spread throughout government, where all departments are accountable for their emissions.
- ✓ Enhanced accountability and transparency
- ✓ Highlights importance of intergovernmental collaboration

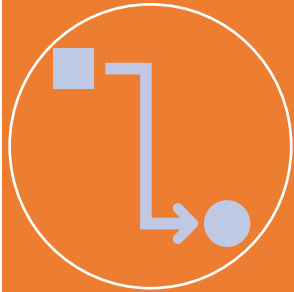
Carbon Budgets – Implementation & Operationalization



Establish the baseline emissions and time-period for the first carbon budget



Consider how each subsequent budget fits into long-term emissions reduction planning



During the regular budget cycle, assess the emissions of all budget requests



Delegate responsibility for implementing the requests to the relevant municipal entities



Present carbon budget for Council review



Report on carbon budget



Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)





Improves the understanding and disclosure of climate-related financial risks and opportunities by organizations within their annual financial filings.

Provides a framework to assess and disclose climate-related information, helping municipal governments effectively manage these challenges and make informed decisions.



Governance



Strategy



Risk
Management



Metrics and
Targets



 Enhanced understanding of climate risks

 Improved risk management

 Enhanced financial planning

 Stakeholder engagement and trust

 Alignment with global standards

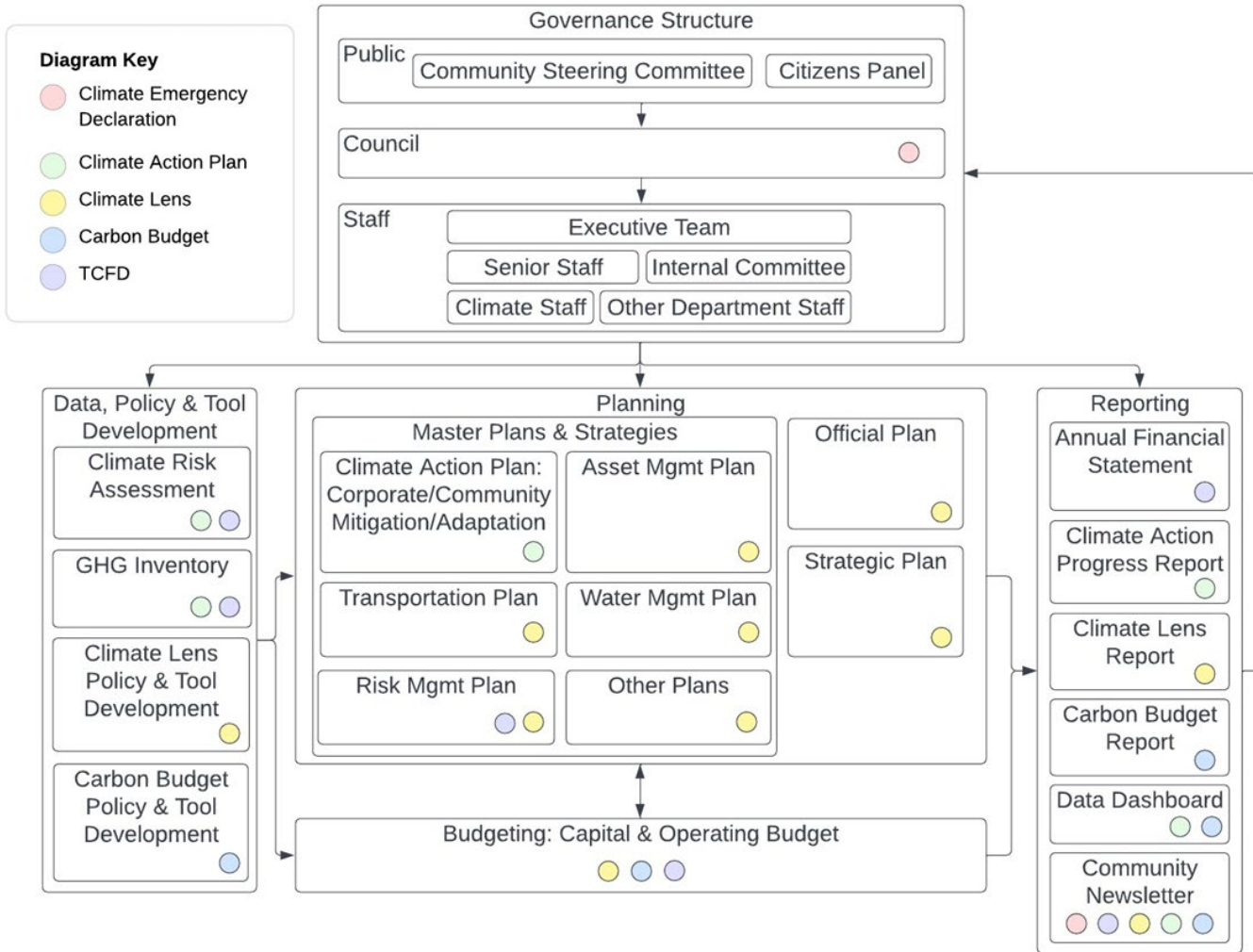


1. Research TCFD Recommendations
2. Assess Current Alignment with TCFD via TCFD Maturity Assessment Framework
3. Develop a Governance and Implementation Team
4. Identify and Evaluate Climate-Related Financial Risks and Opportunities
5. Determine Materiality of the Climate-Related Issues
6. Develop a Plan to Manage Climate-Related Issues →
7. Integrate Climate Disclosures into Financial Reports



Develop a Plan to Manage Climate-Related Issues - seven climate-related metric categories developed by TCFD:

1. GHG Emissions
2. Transition Risks
3. Physical Risks
4. Climate-Related Opportunities
5. Capital Deployment
6. Internal Carbon Prices
7. Remuneration



Thank you!



You got this! CAP is here to help! 😊





1. New Design Resources for Embodied Carbon Targets

Nov 28, 1:00 PM



NEW DESIGN RESOURCES FOR EMBODIED CARBON TARGETS

NOVEMBER 28
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

2. Climate Governance, Accountability, and Implementation Series – City of Calgary’s Adaptation and Resilience Implementation

Nov 30, 1:00 PM



CLIMATE GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND IMPLEMENTATION SERIES – CITY OF CALGARY’S ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE IMPLEMENTATION

NOVEMBER 30
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM