



# **Climate Governance, Accountability, and Implementation - Summary**

Clean Air Council Series

Presenters:

**Desi Stefanova, CAP**

**Devanshi Kukadia, CAP**





## Financing

What is lacking in existing mechanisms to fund your climate action?

Hypothetically, if you have all the money you need, how will you spend it? What will be your priorities?

What is “low hanging fruit” in terms of actions so that implementation can happen even when budget or resources are limited?

## Carbon

How do you allocate resources effectively to implement carbon reduction initiatives?

## Other

What do you wish to implement in 2024?

From what you heard, what is applicable in your municipality?

What other questions you might have to CAP or to the CAC network related to climate implementation?

**\*please write the name of your municipality with your answer**

# 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.





We need to  
decolonize the way  
we interpret  
Indigenous methods  
& practices video by  
Zhaawnong Webb





- To summarise what we have heard thus far from this series and before
- Brainstorm together if what we heard is applicable to your municipality
- Collect further questions



2019-2020 – The Commitment - municipal climate emergency declarations

2020-2022 – The Roadmap - create/update climate action plans

2023 – Implementation of Action Plans with

- Climate lens
- Carbon budget
- TCFD



## Governance

**What difference does governance make for climate ambition, resources, and implementation?**

## Accountability

**What does municipal council and departmental accountability look like?**

**What informal accountability structures lead to climate action implementation?**

## Implementation

**What processes support climate implementation?**

# Summary of Your Responses



What climate accountability and governance questions are running through your minds? What would you like to see covered as part of this series?

How do we track climate implementation across municipal decisions? Can a carbon budget/TCFD help in that?

Where is the money going to come from to implement climate projects? How much is available?

What are good interdepartmental approaches?

In which department is the climate team located and what difference does it make?

What is “low hanging fruit” in terms of actions so that implementation can happen even when budget or resources are limited?

What is the role of municipal data collection and how is it shared across divisions to support climate action?

How to incentivize other divisions to act on climate?



## **Governance**

- Structures
- Factors that matter

## **Accountability**

- Leading Practices
- CAP tools

## **Implementation**

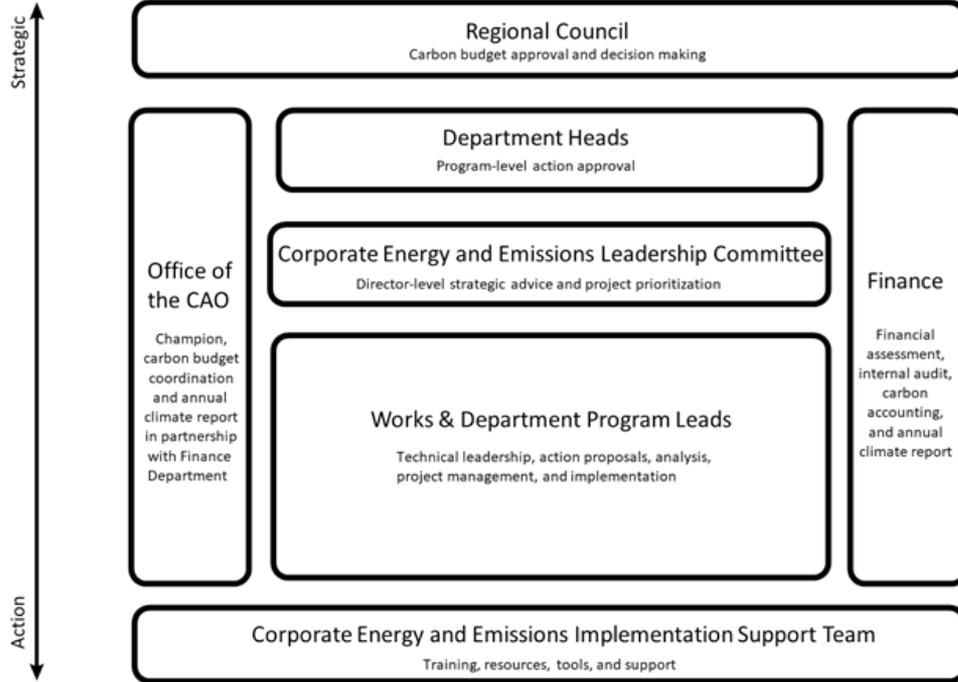
- Financial mechanisms



In which department is the climate team located and what difference does it make?

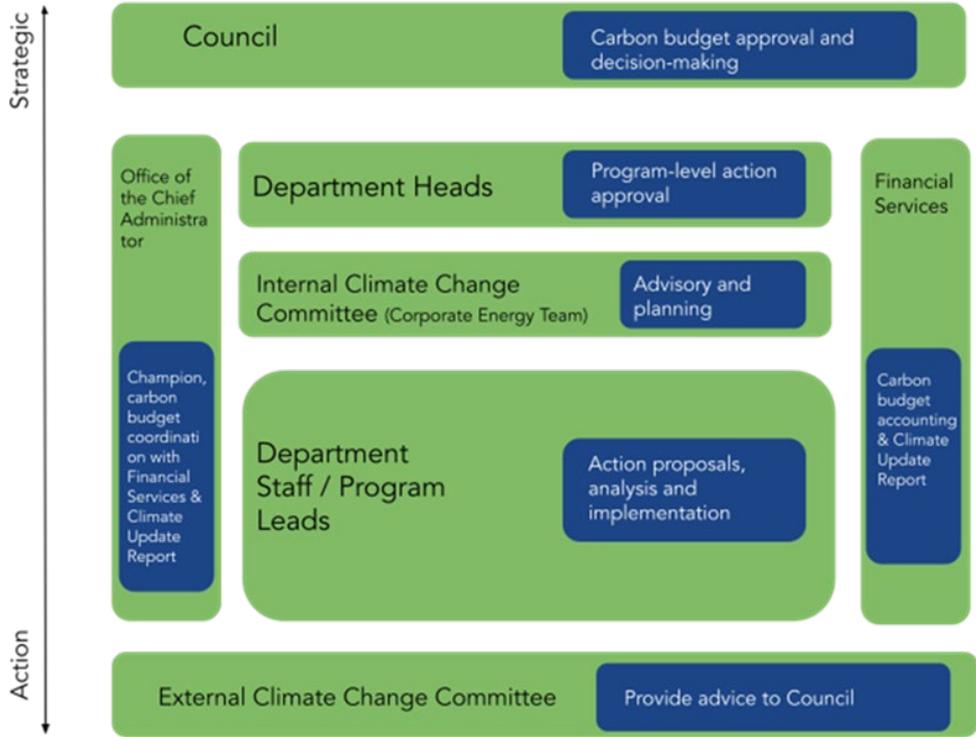
What are good interdepartmental approaches?

How are inter-departmental teams set up, managed, tracked, and maintained?



## Durham Region

Climate Staff is part of the Office of the CAO

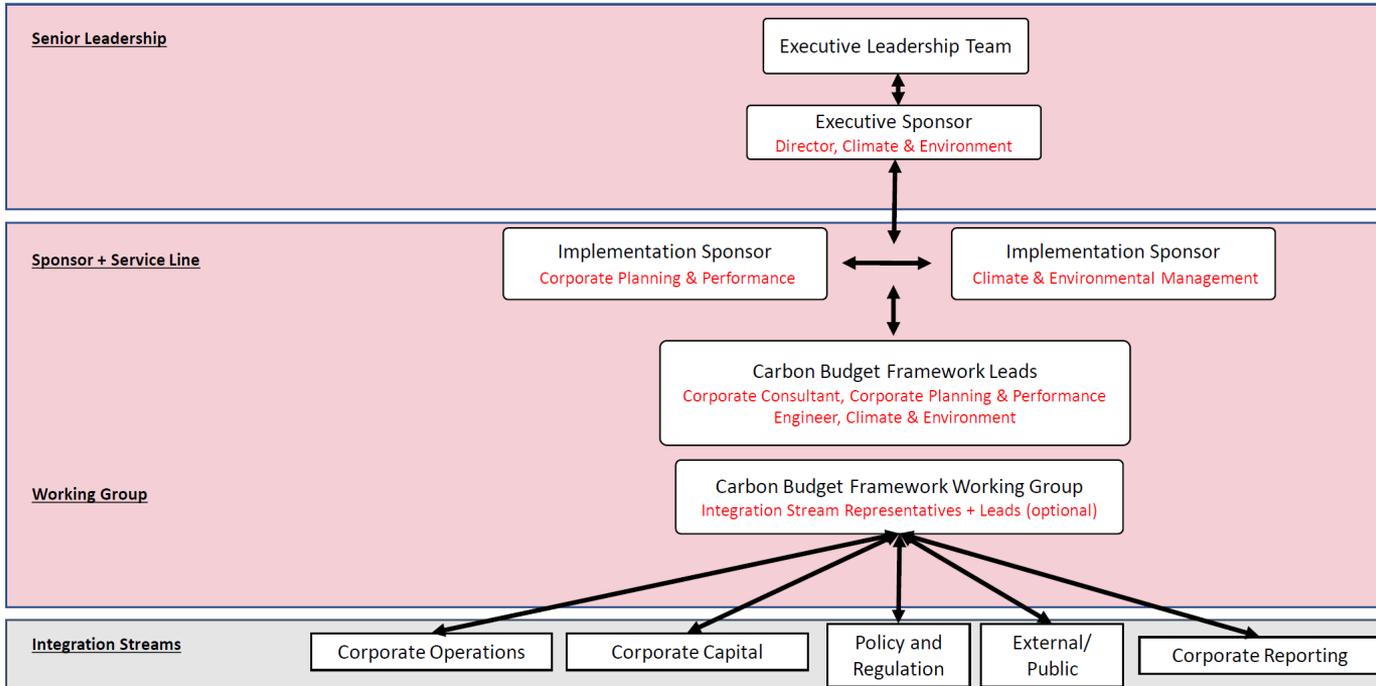


## Whitby

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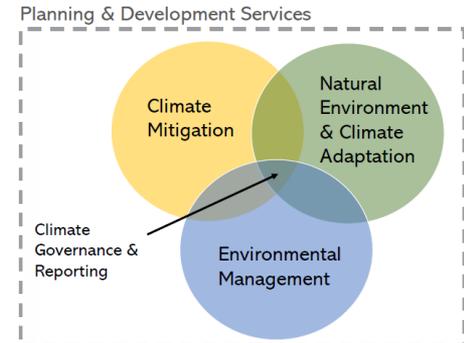


## Climate Governance at the Project-Level (Example)



## Calgary

Climate Staff is in the Planning Department



# In which department is the climate team located and what difference does it make?



## Climate team within a specific department

### Pros

- Departmental support
- Departmental support to build capacity for general climate implementation across other departments

### Cons

- Lack of authority with other departments
- Challenge with integration
- Silos
- Having to start from the ground up to raise the profile in each dept. over and over again

## Climate team in CAO/ City Managers departments

### Pros

- Broader influence and authority
- Supports: strategic intent, governance, funding, oversight, interconnectivity, increased profile, integration, help manage risks, reduce silos

### Cons

- Climate actions may get 'derailed' from perceived higher priorities (finance, politics, etc.)
- The need for climate champion CAO/ City Managers (not all CAOs have this climate leadership level)

# Governance Structures Summary - The main factors to support climate implementation are:



Council climate commitment



Climate leadership CAO, City Manager



Finance lead



Use of various advisory internal and external groups



Inter-divisional senior management staff groups



How to incentivize other divisions to act on climate?

What is the role of municipal data collection and how is it shared across divisions to support climate action and implementation?

How to track climate implementation across municipal decisions? Can a carbon budget/TCFD help in that?



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

## Climate Accountability Toolkit: A Roadmap for Municipalities





Climate Emergency  
Declaration

Climate Action  
Plans

Climate Lens  
Application

Carbon Budgeting

Climate-related  
Financial  
Disclosures (TCFD)  
for Municipalities

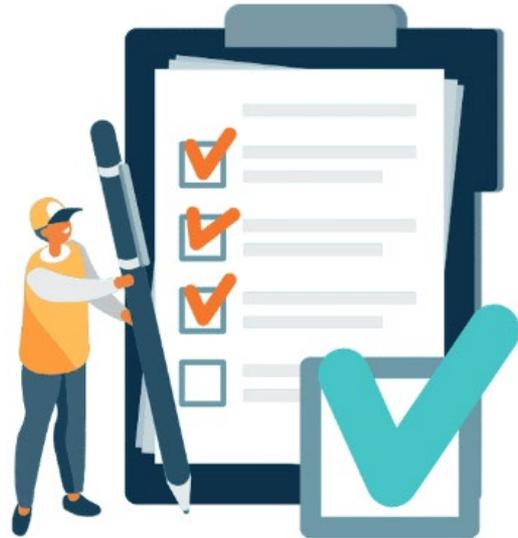




1. Strong governance and oversight
2. Climate-conscious decisions across municipal departments
3. Standardized data and frameworks
4. Detailed action identification, identifying leads, and budget allocation
5. Enhanced financial planning with integrated climate into regular financial budgeting processes
6. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting



# Leadership Practices in Climate Accountability Examples





## 1. Strong governance and oversight – Climate By-Law

### 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

## 2. Carbon Budget

### 4 KEY OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify a project/policy/program's impact on climate
2. Provides info on how much are we spending on climate
3. How will we stay within the set emission budget
4. Tells us if we are on track to achieving net zero by 2040



Climate  
By-law



Process 1 : Capital  
and Operating  
Budgets

+



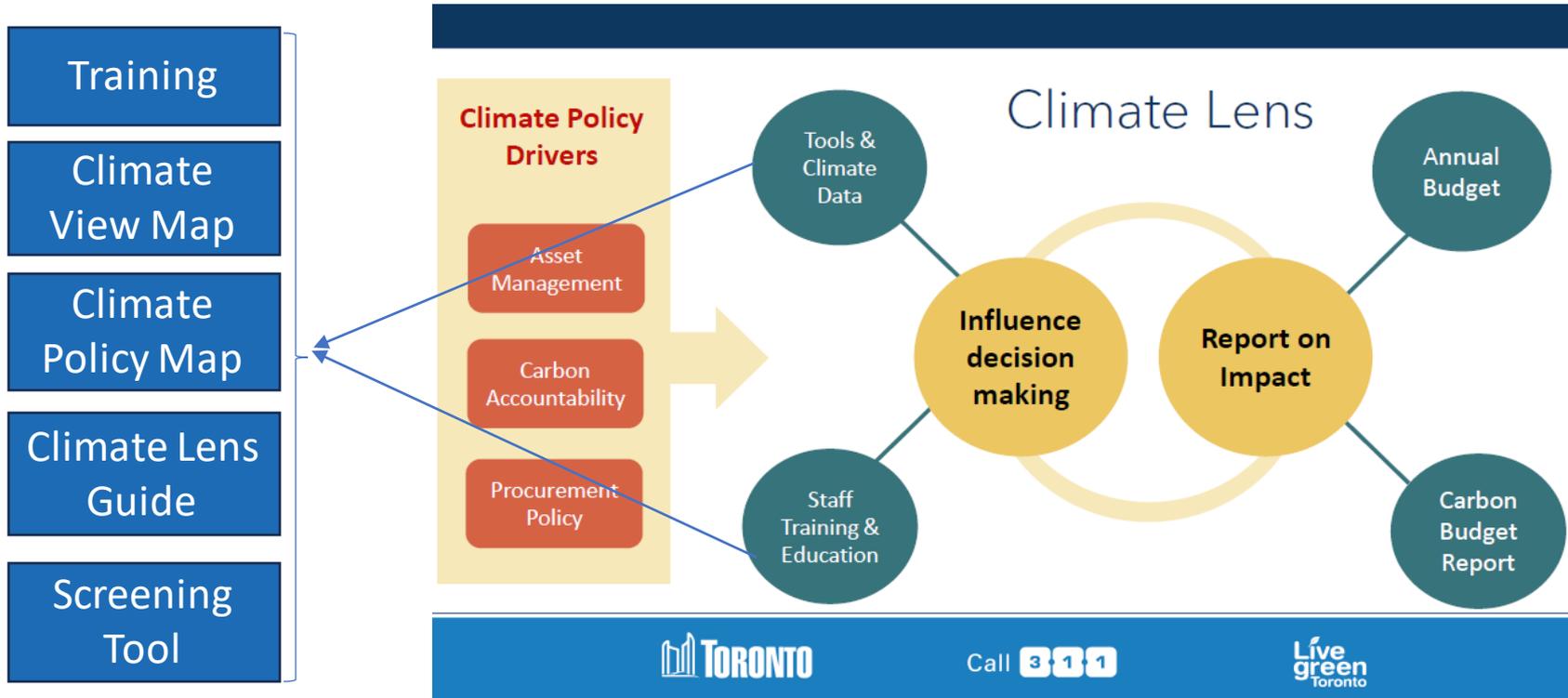
Process 2: Community/  
Corporate Emissions

=





## 3. Climate Lens Application





## 1. Climate Lens Application

Building capacity, investing, and monitoring/reporting are supportive outcomes that set the groundwork for strong governance and support removing obstacles

Change Management



### ADKAR CHANGE MODEL





## 1. Climate Lens Application

### Climate Lens Process

Two components:

1. **REPORT SECTION** in all Committee and Council reports titled “Climate and Environmental Implications”
2. **CALCULATOR TOOL** to quantify emissions and other metrics





## 1. Strong governance and oversight – Accountability Notice of Motion

### Accountability Notice of Motion

- Develop a reporting framework
- Provide ongoing expenditure reports



### Internal & External Accountability

#### External



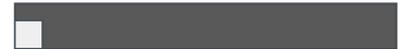
- Climate Advisory Committee of Council
- Community Development Committee of Council
- Audit Committee of Council

#### Internal



- Executive Leadership
- Corporate Performance & Reporting
- Climate & Environment Service Committee

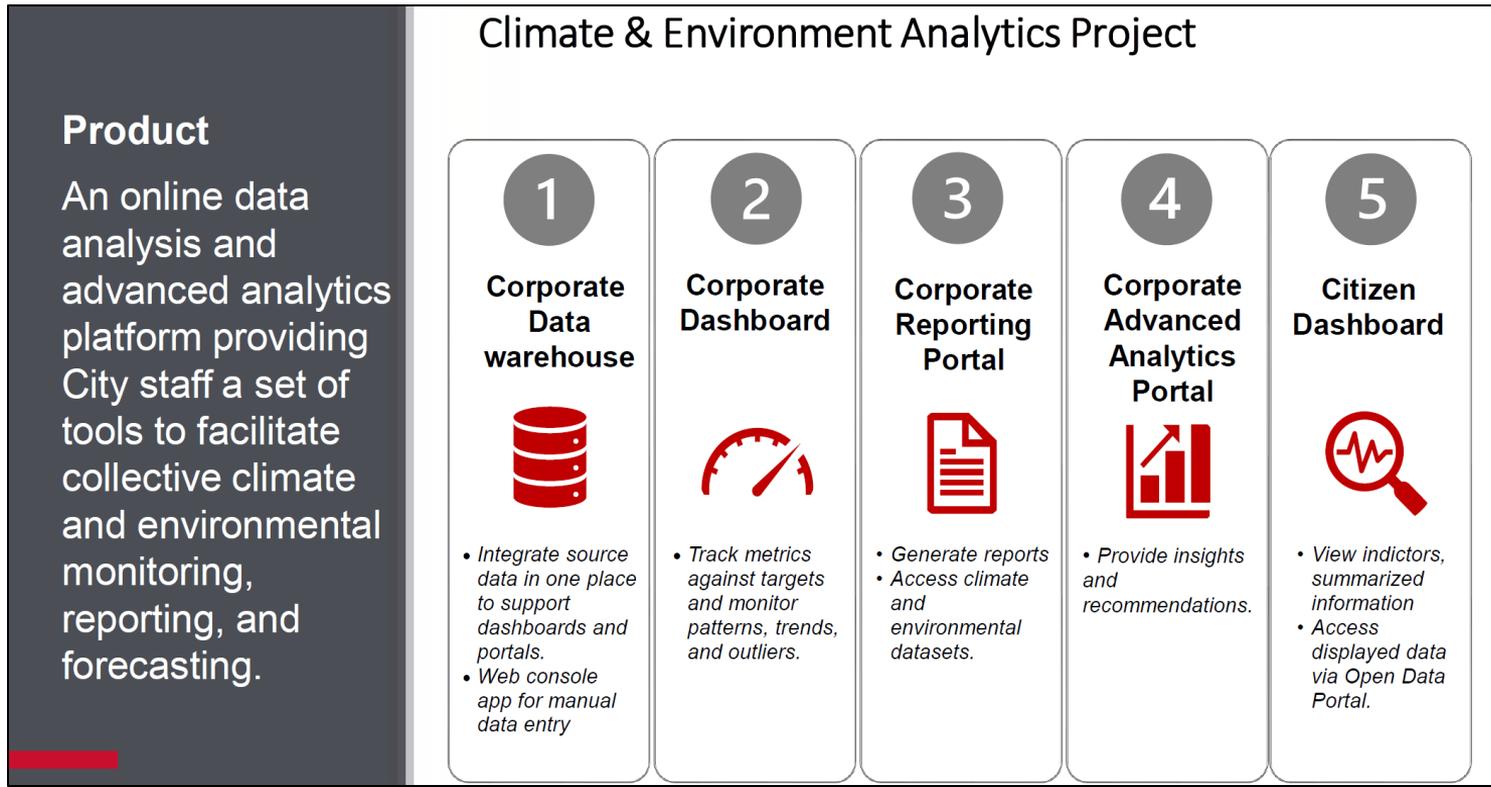
#### Internal & External



- City Auditor's Office

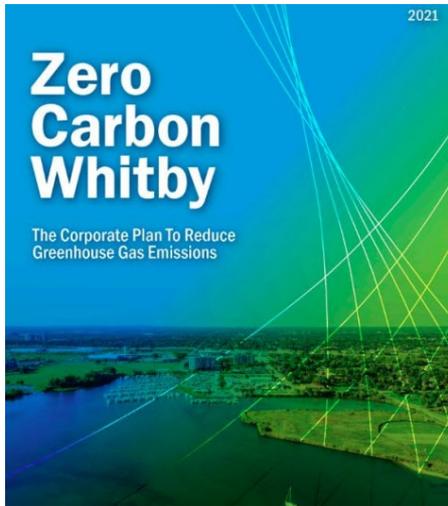


## 2. Climate Lens Application and Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting





## 1. Detailed action identification, lead responsible, and budget allocation



**Returns \$1.66 for every  
\$1 invested.**

### Revolving Reserve Fund

- Seed funding of \$34.8 million plus the energy, carbon tax and selected capital savings from plan can fund 100% of the incremental cost.
- \$31.3 million required by the end of 2025.
  
- Staff have already applied for \$41,750,000 in funding.



## 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



## Climate Implications Repository

## Climate Accountability Toolkit: A Roadmap for Municipalities

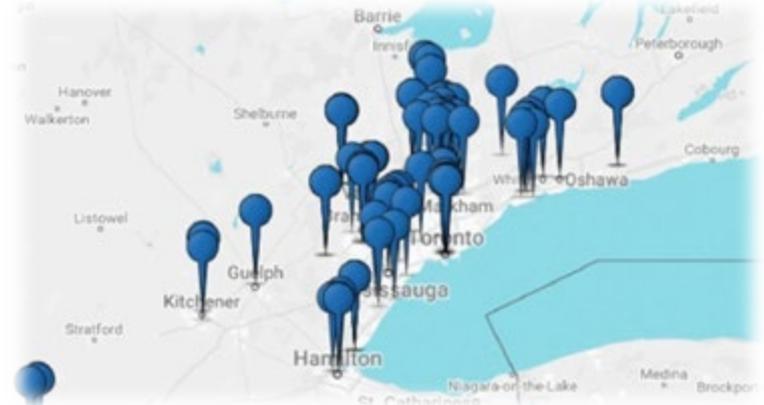




The Climate Policy Database tracks **climate-related policies**



The Climate Action Atlas tracks **implemented** ambitious mitigation **projects**





**Official plans**



**Strategic plans**



**Asset management plans**



**Water management plans**



**Transportation plans**

# Upcoming – Climate Lens 2.0



GHG Quantification Service –  
for all municipal projects





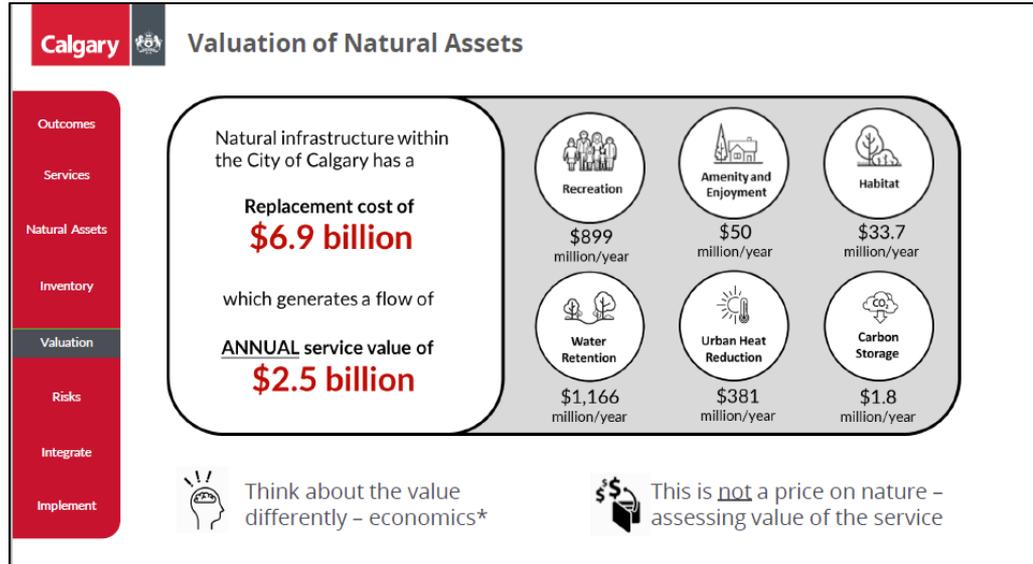
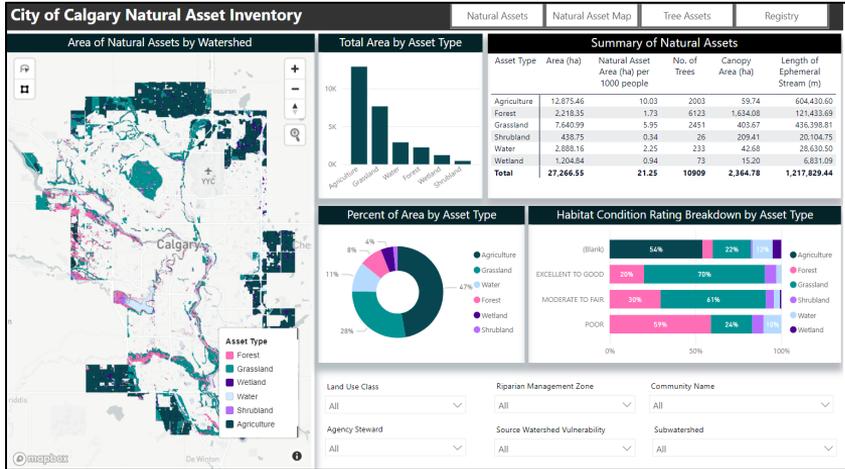
Where is the money going to come from to implement climate projects? How much is available?

If you have money, which action would you implement?

What is “low hanging fruit” in terms of actions so that implementation can happen even when budget or resources are limited?

What are the best mechanisms found for implementing and evaluating adaptation measures at the municipal level (beyond the planning phase)?

# Adaptation and Resilience Implementation





## Financing

What is lacking in existing mechanisms to fund your climate action?

Hypothetically, if you have all the money you need, how will you spend it? What will be your priorities?

What is “low hanging fruit” in terms of actions so that implementation can happen even when budget or resources are limited?

## Carbon

How do you allocate resources effectively to implement carbon reduction initiatives?

## Other

What do you wish to implement in 2024?

From what you heard, what is applicable in your municipality?

What other questions you might have to CAP or to the CAC network related to climate implementation?

**\*please write the name of your municipality with your answer**



# Funding Municipal Climate Actions: Lessons Learnt

Presenter:  
**Devanshi Kukadia**





- Financing climate action is frequently cited as a barrier to implementation.
- Reliable, dedicated, and long-term funding is crucial to implement actions at the scale and pace required.
- We will run through some federal funding opportunities and dive into other ways through which municipalities are funding their climate action





Funding generally covers 50 % to 80 % of eligible project costs. Includes grants for feasibility studies, and loans for capital projects

## **2024 funding areas:**

- ✓ Sustainable Municipal Buildings – Community Building Retrofits Stream
- ✓ Community Energy Systems - Community Efficiency Financing (CEF) Stream
- ✓ Organic Waste to Energy – Waste Reduction and Diversion Stream
- ✓ Municipal Fleet Electrification – Fleet Management Funding Stream
- ✓ Flexible funding for multi-solving projects
- ✓ Strengthening planning and operational capacity for tree planting projects



Last year we saw two adaptation funding streams open up.

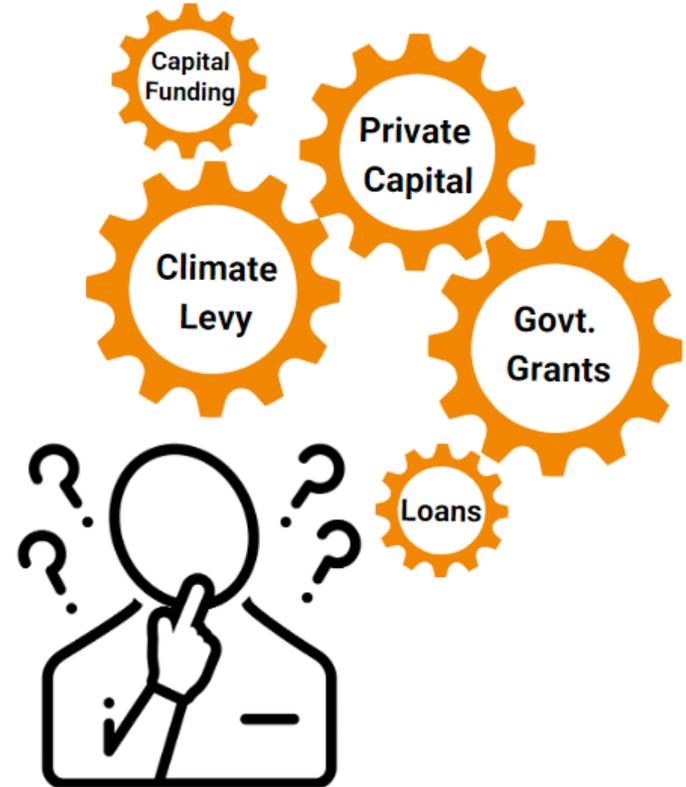
2024 Federal Funding Opportunities:

- Zero Emission Transit Fund (accepting applications)
- Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program (will re-open in Spring 2024)





- Municipalities need get creative to fund local actions and to seek matching funds for these other funding programs.
- In 2022-23, we learnt about different approaches used by municipalities to fund climate action plan implementation.
  - Climate Levy
  - Capital Funding
  - Private Capital
- We have identified some additional examples to explore in 2024





- Implemented a Climate Change Reserve to fund all climate projects that don't have funding commitment from other departments
- 0.25% added to the annual property tax bill
- \$426,400 annually
- Withdrawals are reported to and approved by Council
- **Funded projects** – EV charging stations, alternative transit fuel study, net-zero fire hall project, a staff position and more



Other Climate Mitigation and Adaptation actions are funded through:

- **Sustainability Fund** – matching funds for funding proposals (< \$100,000)
- **Climate Change Action Plan Fund** – implementation of projects such as Green Economy Peterborough Hub (\$200,000 - \$250,000)
- **Flood Reduction Master Plan** – rain gardens, flood mapping, rain and stormwater monitoring (\$2 million+)

Other – forestry, energy, flood mitigation and waste projects funded by municipal departments

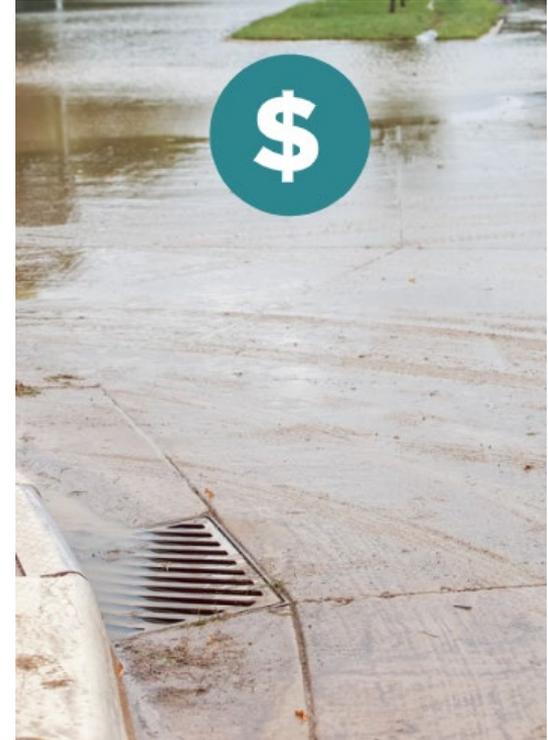


- 3% tax on top of property tax bill for 10 years (2022-32)
- \$18 million/year
- Money allocation – corporate building retrofits, EV strategy, critical infrastructure, electrifying transit
- For the first year, expenditures include – 9 new staff positions and electric buses



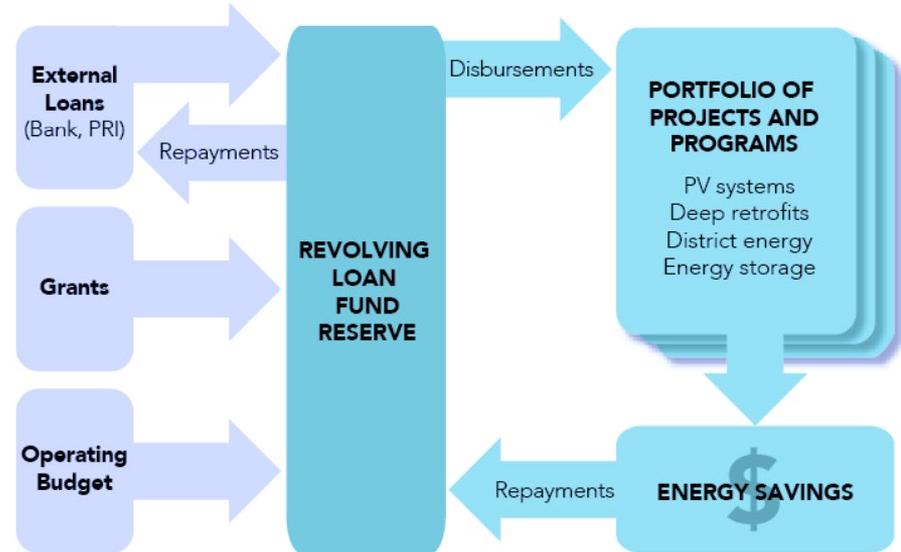


- The Town of Ajax charges a Stormwater Fee for residential and non-residential properties.
- A flat fee of \$48 per residential unit on the property tax bill.
- Non-residential properties - \$0.25 per m<sup>2</sup> impervious area, per year.
- Expected to generate \$2.7M in revenue in year one
- Opportunity to use the funds for climate action by supporting flood protection measures and expanding green/natural infrastructure.





- Tapping into Revolving Loan Funds to address incremental costs to implement Zero Carbon Whitby
- It reduces overall capital requirements by recycling capital.
- Energy savings generated through program implementation -> Revolving fund reserve -> Repay external loans





- The Centralized Climate Fund (CCF) was approved as part of Calgary's capital budget to support the GHG and climate risk reduction measures.
- \$30 million over the 2023-26 business cycle from various funding sources (mix of Municipal Sustainability Initiative Grant, Canada Community-Building Fund and Pay-as-you-go)
- Each funding source has different eligibility and reporting requirements which will be managed by the CCF Program Team as part of the project application and evaluation process.



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**In 2024...**



- The City owns its electrical utility.
- Since January 2020, a climate levy of 3.5% has been added to utility bills. The charges add an average of \$1.25 per month or \$15 per year/customer.
- Generates around \$500,000 annually.
- Funds have been allocated towards implementing city's corporate energy and emissions reduction strategy (CEERS).



Launched a brand-new Climate Action Tax Exemption (CATE) Program in January 2024

Incentivizes the replacement of fossil-fuel (i.e. natural gas) space heating and domestic hot water systems with electric systems

Owners of residential MURBs can receive a municipal tax exemption of up to 100% of project costs, after accounting for other rebates, for a maximum of 10 years.

Commercial building owners can receive a tax exemption valued between 50-80% of project costs, for a maximum term of 3 years.



- Partnership between Co-operators Insurance and ICLEI
- Working with 10 municipalities to develop a suite of municipal infrastructure project prospectuses that private investors could fund.

Participants include:

- Saanich, BC • Port Moody, BC • Grand Prairie, AB • Canmore, AB
- Saskatoon, SK • Timmins, ON • Mississauga, ON • Laval, QC
- Fredericton, NB • New Glasgow, NS • Halifax, NS

# Questions?





## Financing

What is lacking in existing mechanisms to fund your climate action?

What other approaches would you like us to explore in 2024?

Hypothetically, if you have all the money you need, how will you spend it? What will be your priorities?

What is “low hanging fruit” in terms of actions so that implementation can happen even when budget or resources are limited?

How much money was approved for mitigation vs adaptation? What is going toward resilience, and what is going toward mitigation?

**\*please write the name of your municipality with your answer**



### Carbon Budget

What data sources are available for accurate carbon measurement? How do we ensure the reliability of the data collected?

How do we allocate resources effectively to implement carbon reduction initiatives?

What tools and systems will be used to monitor ongoing emissions?

**\*please write the name of your municipality with your answer**



### Open Questions:

What other questions come to your mind when thinking of climate implementation – resilience and adaptation projects?

From what you heard, what is applicable in your municipality?

What do you wish to implement in 2024?

What is the one takeaway from this workshop?

**\*please write the name of your municipality with your answer**