

MC2 Discussion – a Climate knowledge journey

Learnings

1. Mulmur Community Energy Plan
2. DC Climate Action Plan
3. FCM Climate Leadership Course
4. Ontario Climate Caucus
5. Sustainable Communities Conference

The “Ah Ha” moments

1. Diane Saxe: Keynote address at NVCA AGM
<https://www.nvca.on.ca/Shared%20Documents/Highlights%2001-21.pdf>
2. Seth Klein: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzDxVyEOrNQ&feature=youtu.be>.

Challenges



Next steps and actions: What can and should we do?

1. Mulmur Community Energy Plan

The CEP process evaluates a community's existing energy use and greenhouse gas (GHS) emissions in order to:

1. Determine community-wide energy consumption and GHG emissions.
2. Identify and Implement solutions to improve energy efficiency and conservation.

Develop a set of guidelines that will help the community and its municipal government to:

1. Improve energy efficiency.
2. Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Study the impact of future growth on energy needs.
4. Foster renewable energy production and economic development.

Recommendations:

1. Update Municipal Infrastructure: Fleet, Contractors, Community Centre, PV Solar, Tree Planting program, Requirement for new building standards, Promotional Program.
2. LIC program (Local Improvement Charge)
3. Develop a municipally led financing program for home energy retrofits to encourage and make the uptake of deep energy retrofitting and energy efficiency measures in residences more accessible for residents.
4. Accelerate the transition to low-carbon transportation by developing an electric vehicle charging network across Dufferin and neighbouring municipalities.
5. Empower the community to take climate action by institutionalizing climate action in municipal planning and supporting community awareness, education, and knowledge sharing initiatives.
6. Support climate-resiliency initiatives in agricultural and natural systems to enhance food security, support local farmers, and protect natural systems.
7. Create green development standards to ensure new development is environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable.

2. Dufferin County Climate Action Plan

During the next 5 years, Dufferin County will focus on 5 priority actions. This will allow the County to shift away from business as usual and build a solid foundation from which to continue to respond quickly and effectively to the climate crisis.

1. **Develop a municipally led financing program for home energy retrofits** to encourage and make the uptake of deep energy retrofitting and energy efficiency measures in residences more accessible for residents.
2. **Accelerate the transition to low-carbon transportation** by developing an electric vehicle charging network across Dufferin and neighbouring municipalities.
3. **Empower the community to take climate action** by institutionalizing climate action in municipal planning and supporting community awareness, education, and knowledge sharing initiatives.
4. **Support climate-resiliency initiatives** in agricultural and natural systems to enhance food security, support local farmers, and protect natural systems.
5. **Create green development standards** to ensure new development is environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable.

3. FCM Climate Leadership Course:

Module One: Engaging and improving communication to advance municipal climate action:

We will look at strategies for having better conversations around climate action and the importance of working collectively to achieve our goals.

Module Two: How and why to incorporate a climate lens:

This module focuses on the major actions and opportunities available to elected officials to make their communities healthier, more liveable, and resilient to climate change.

Module Three: The Climate Leaders Playbook: Solutions for a zero-carbon community:

Resource designed specifically for local government elected officials who want to lead and support bold, timely climate action in their community.

4. Ontario Climate Caucus <https://www.climatecaucus.ca/>

Climate Caucus serves as:

- a meeting place for elected representatives to connect
- a collective force to advocate at the provincial, territorial and federal levels of government (here are *some of our achievements*)
- a centralized location for municipal climate action & policy throughout Canada

5. Sustainable Communities Conference Oct 2020

Opportunities for Mulmur and Dufferin County

Reduce sources of carbon

1. Support the development of carbon-free recreation via cycling routes, forest trails, and tourism initiatives.
2. Support the further development and expansion of an electric charging stations network.
3. Implement actions suggested in our Community Energy Plan, Ex: Support the transformation of municipal buildings and residential homes towards low carbon outputs via an LIC program.
4. Incorporate a climate lens into the asset management plan.

Support creation/expansion of carbon sinks

1. Protect and restore eco-systems (forests, wetlands, meadows, etc.)
2. Support local farmers and CSA's.
3. Promote tree planting – both municipal and residential.
4. Develop an inventory of programs and contacts available.

Consistent and collaborative communications

1. Work with other municipalities to generate consistent climate messaging and solutions and harmonized communication processes (monthly newsletters for ex.)
2. Ensure residents understand their opportunities and accountabilities.
3. Promote appropriate climate action resource capacity It is essential that climate action be recognized as priority 1 and that Dufferin support increased resources to address our responsibilities.