

February 20, 2026: CAC Roundtable Discussion

Energy Managers and Asset Managers Network

- AMONTario and Climate Action Partnership are collaborating to bring together municipal asset and energy managers across Ontario. Aligning asset and energy management is a critical step in achieving cost savings, reducing emissions, and meeting long-term decarbonization and service delivery goals. Through this partnership, we will highlight Ontario case studies that showcase collaboration between energy and asset management teams.
- Webinar 1: March 10, City of Kingston to share their journey of merging their asset and energy management departments. [Register here](#)
- Webinar 2: April 28, Peel Region case study (Details to come).
- In-person Workshop: June 18 (Details to come).

Low-Carbon Energy Planning training program

- This course is designed for municipal climate, planning, and energy staff who want to build practical understanding of how energy planning takes place in new developments. While much of the course content is built around examples from Ontario, many of its themes and insights are transferrable to municipalities across Canada.
- In this course, we'll connect the dots between technical options, financial considerations, and the policy tools that can help support low-carbon uptake in new construction.
- On March 17, 2026, 10:00-11:30 am we are providing an exclusive practical training for CAC members municipal staff on low carbon energy options in new developments. Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/WNtYdqw_TReKOKX06MjldQ

New CAC Resources

- [Municipal Training Strategies for Empowering Climate Leadership](#)
- [Strategies for Integrating Climate Change into Municipal Decision Making](#)

CAC Roundtable Updates – 2026 Upcoming Projects and Priorities

City of Guelph

- [Corporate Climate Action Plan](#): Council unanimously approved a corporate energy plan update earlier this year. The 10-year plan identifies a \$270 million investment requirement to achieve emissions targets, though current projections suggest targets may not be met until 2035. In this plan, the baseline state-of-good-repair costs and the premium for reaching net-zero performance are not itemized independently; instead, they are presented together as a single sum.
 - [Staff Report](#)
 - [Attachment 2: Strategic Corporate Climate Action](#)
- Active Construction: The city is starting construction on an electric transit facility in June and is finishing the Zero Carbon Building Design Standard for the South End Community Center and Baker Library.
- Community Focus: Guelph is moving forward with an energy equity action plan developed with community stakeholders, which will go to Council in June.

Wellington County

- The county is implementing its new building development policy for the first time during the design of a new corporate garage. The project includes geothermal heating and envelope improvements.
- The county has initiated an adaptation plan, a midterm mitigation plan update, and a Pathway to Net Zero for 12 buildings.
- Despite internal messaging challenges, the CAO is advocating for climate-conscious decisions based on their "rightness" and commitment to the mitigation plan, rather than solely on budget math.

City of Burlington

- The city's 2026–2031 Climate Action Plan (mitigation focus) is awaiting final Council approval, expected by March 2nd.
 - [Committee of the Whole - February 09, 2026](#)
- The fourth progress update for Climate Resilient Burlington (adaptation focus) was recently posted, highlighting 32 actions and their funding sources.
 - [Council Information Package - February 20, 2026](#)
- A new policy for EV charging stations, including a recommendation to begin charging user fees for fuel, is slated for committee review in March.

City of Mississauga

- The city is two years into a five-year renewal of its Climate Change Action Plan. The process has been slowed by a deep dive into modeling and requests from leadership for further research before seeking approval.
- To streamline implementation once approved, the team is building a carbon accounting framework directly into the final plan package.
- Mississauga is gearing up for zero-emission bus pilots featuring both hydrogen and electric buses.

Town of Oakville

- Oakville is placing a RFP to begin a combined corporate and community Climate Action Plan update that will place a heavy emphasis on adaptation work.
- The town is conducting a corporate fleet electrification study to determine infrastructure upgrade costs and are finishing in-house climate risk assessments with internal departments.
- Staff are starting an exercise to apply a "climate lens" to their 10-year capital asset management plan to plan for future decarbonization costs.

Town of Caledon

- Caledon is launching a review of its Climate Action Plan with a strategic focus on reframing messaging.
- The team is moving away from technical terms like "net zero," which they find do not resonate with leadership, and instead focusing on energy and housing affordability, district energy, and local economic development.

Additional Resources and Action Items

Messaging that resonates with leadership

Theme	What to Emphasize	Resources
Housing Affordability & Climate (Canada)	<p>Climate framed as affordability (energy + housing)</p> <p>Community well-being and local benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP's Addressing-Housing-Policy-Brief • ReClimate: Communication messages • Tamarack Institute Housing Affordability & Climate Action (Canada-Focused)
District Energy Messaging	<p>Viability and infrastructure benefits from local systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP's District energy Briefing Note • The State & Local Clean Energy Implementation Messaging Guide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Best for:</i> Communication techniques—clear narrative framing, storytelling, public-facing tactics, and tone guidance
Economic Development & Global Trends	<p>Climate action to avoid falling behind globally</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD: The Climate Action Monitor 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Best for:</i> Comparative data on how 97+ jurisdictions are using market-based instruments and policy stringency to drive growth. • C40 Cities: Research & Analysis - The Economic Case <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Best for:</i> Case studies on "green jobs" and the high ROI of urban climate adaptation (e.g., the "Focused Adaptation" report).

Action items	Responsibilities
Compiling training materials on "Council Climate 101" presentations and others	1) CAC municipal members to send to CAP (Desi) 2) CAP provides links to the repository
Incorporating upcoming research from Eco Analytics on how the public in Ontario and the Greater Vancouver Regional District responds to building performance standards and retrofit policies (to support messaging/communication)	CAP (Desi) to invite in a CAC meeting/webinar (expected fall 2026)
Share Sample Resolutions and Staff Reports with the Ontario Climate Caucus to encourage top down advocacy and wider municipal adoption and securing staff mandate.	CAP (Gaby) preparing materials and presenting to OCC

Contact Information

Please reach out to us at any time with questions, input, or for additional information.

Desi Stefanova, Program Manager: dstefanova@climateactionpartnership.ca