

March 20, 2026: CAC Roundtable Discussion

Climate Action Planning 1.0

- CAP 1.0 was the initial phase of planning that focused on identifying energy and emissions baselines, securing mandates from Council for greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets, and creating broad "buckets" of actions
- **Lack of Prioritization:** Plans often featured long lists of actions (sometimes up to 100) without clear timelines or prioritization based on available resources
- **Ambiguous Reporting:** It was often unclear how implementation would be tracked, monitored, or reported over time
- **Authority vs. Influence:** Plans often failed to distinguish between actions the municipality has the direct authority to implement versus those it can only influence or where it must advocate for changes from higher levels of government

Climate Action Planning 2.0

- CAP 2.0 aims to evolve by focusing on action prioritization, defining the rationale and criteria for which battles to pursue in 3-to-5-year implementation windows
- A key goal is to improve climate accountability through frameworks like carbon budgeting and integrating climate considerations into all municipal plans, including strategic and official plans
- **Data Methodology Gaps:**
 - A potential challenge is the loss of Google Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) data, which many used for transportation inventories
 - To mitigate issues caused by staff turnover, there is a need to explicitly document the methodology used in GHG inventories
 - Because GHG inventories may not accurately reflect the impact of specific actions due to external factors, such as changes in the provincial electricity system, participants suggested using proxies to track progress. Examples of these proxies include tracking modal splits or EV uptake within the community.
- **Jurisdictional Clarity:** 2.0 should clearly quantify which emission reductions are the direct responsibility of the municipality to manage Council and public expectations, who may blame the municipality if broad community targets are not met due to factors beyond a municipality's control. Actions can be categorized based on the level of municipal control:
 - **Direct Authority:** Actions where the municipality has 100% control, such as its own corporate buildings and internal service areas.
 - **Influence:** Areas where the municipality can steer progress but does not have total control, such as community-wide initiatives.
 - **Advocacy:** Systemic barriers that cannot be addressed by the municipality alone and require action from provincial or federal levels of government.
 - Establishing pre-approved advocacy positions within the CAP 2.0 framework allows staff to participate in meetings with higher levels of government or provide briefing notes to organizations like AMO without returning to Council for approval each time.
- **Equity:** Equity and reconciliation were often underrepresented in 1.0 plans.

- While more recent plans include equity, they often fail to identify the connection to climate actions in a tangible way or clearly lay out how equity and climate policies will advance together.
- There is difficulty "layering in the equity component" and multi-solving can help climate initiatives gain better traction
- **Nature-based solutions:** Nature-based solutions and emissions associated with land-use change were identified as being significantly underrepresented in 1.0 plans, particularly in rural contexts.
 - These solutions were often passed over in favor of "technological fixes" because of the extreme complexity and lack of available data for quantifying the impact of nature-based or land-use issues.

Additional Resources

- [Climate Plan Updates Workshop Summary – Climate Action Planning 1.0 vs 2.0 Slide Deck](#)
- [Chapter X: The Need for Alignment and Collaboration Across Governments to Advance Climate Action Implementation](#)
 - A sample chapter developed for municipal staff to incorporate into their Climate Action Plans.

Contact Information

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

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