

# IMPACT REPORT 2021-2024



## COMMUNITY CLIMATE TRANSITIONS

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### Executive Summary



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Three years of collaboration shows growing community capacity and an emerging movement to mitigate and adapt to climate change through local partnerships.

Since 2021, Tamarack’s Community Climate Transitions (CCT) has been using a collective impact approach to build the capacity of communities to adapt to and mitigate climate change at a local level.

To date, 73 communities from across Canada and one in the U.S., both English and French speaking, have participated in CCT’s interactive learning and action Cohorts. They are learning about multi-sector approaches to advancing just and equitable climate transitions and putting ideas into practice locally.

Members have collaborated with diverse partners in their own communities and networked with like-minded individuals across North America. They have learned from experts and peers, shared resources, successes and challenges; and have used their learnings and relationships to leapfrog to deeper impact and an accelerated pace of change.

## CCT member outcomes 2021-2024

Past and present CCT members have reported 82 instances of change since engaging in the network. These include broader public, non-profit and political support for environmental activities; increasing capacity amongst residents, associations and organizations to lead climate change actions; changes in policies; and a small but growing number of impacts for the environment.

Reported Changes	Instances of Change (#)
<b>Community Leadership and Capacity:</b> Launched or advanced a collaborative initiative together	23
<b>Community Leadership and Capacity:</b> Grew partners, deepened relationships and/or trust, increased collaboration	14
<b>Awareness and Will Raised:</b> General community	12
<b>Awareness and Will Raised:</b> Increased general community will/ behaviour change	9

<b>Awareness and Will Raised:</b> Increased political will/ behaviour change	5
<b>Community Leadership and Capacity:</b> Increased human resources (i.e. staff, volunteers)	5
<b>Systems Change:</b> Policies	4
<b>Community Leadership and Capacity:</b> Increased financial resources or submitted collaborative funding proposal	3
<b>Impact:</b> For the environment	3
<b>Community Leadership and Capacity:</b> Built or mobilized physical infrastructure for collaboration	2
<b>Systems Change:</b> Practices	2
<b>Systems Change:</b> Relationship Dynamics – Collaboration on multiple issues	1

### **Tamarack’s CCT network is a field catalyst for change.**

These changes are the result of *many* people in each community partnering towards a common climate change goal. Tamarack has also played an important role in most instances. On average, members ranked Tamarack and the CCT network’s contributions to their community changes as a 4/5 (1 = no contribution; 5 = the primary driver of the change). Common ways that Tamarack and the CCT network helped to catalyze change in communities, included:

- Persuaded, engaged, connected or helped members to persuade, engage or connect local stakeholders in their own communities to support climate actions (6)
- Seeded an idea or provided a new framework (5)
- Helped apply an idea to the local context or provided practical examples (5)
- Inspired and boosted confidence of members to persevere in their work (4)
- Offered advice and troubleshooting to overcome specific local challenges (3)
- Provided financial support or helped to find more financial support for their work (2)
- Built changemaker skills (1)

### **CCT will continue to align changemakers, accelerate the pace of change and amplify results in 2024 and beyond.**

Ways in which CCT is committing to evolve support for member communities and learners include:

1. **A Roadmap** – Developing a sample journey for members to map the phases of collaboration, identify milestones, establish a baseline, and track their progress.
2. **TEN Guide** – Producing a guide summarizing evidence-based ideas, examples, and resources for advancing climate equity through collaboration.
3. **Community Innovation Fund** – Providing funds for members to build capacity to seed, sprout or scale a community innovation or other niche initiatives.
4. **Single Membership** – Merging Tamarack’s four learning networks into a single membership which will better integrate issues and learning around poverty reduction, building youth futures, building belonging, and climate transitions.
5. **Regional Approach** – Investing in connecting and strengthening ties between members in specific regions, with funders and provincial/territorial governments.
6. **Peer Matching Pilot** – Matching members with one another based on their collaborative’s phase of development, topics of interest, and local context.
7. **Community Contributions Fund** – Providing stipends for people with lived experience of climate injustice to engage and to lead place-based climate work.
8. **Policy and Systems Change** – Identifying the most impactful policy and systems levers or assets that Tamarack and CCT can contribute to the climate movement.

The first three years of CCT have primarily focused on building or strengthening relational infrastructure in member communities. The ability to collaborate across sectors and leverage the many assets that exist in a community is the foundation of creating change.

Early results being reported by members are promising. Change at scale often takes several years and sustained investment to achieve; so, while the local and national landscape continue to change, Tamarack is committed to working in partnership with communities through the ups and downs of changemaking, and to being a voice and support for community-led climate transitions.

## Success stories

**Central Kootenays** have spent one year building relationships and deepening trust amongst partners from multiple sectors. On a scale of 1-7, they moved from a 3 (sharing information) to a 6 (systematic collaboration on a shared goal, with shared resources and shared decision-making).

As a result of this trust and relationships, the collaborative is getting ready to launch a low-energy multi-modal active transportation network, which will support the community to reduce their collective carbon emissions.

**Prince Edward Island** is empowering the next generation to become resilient to climate change and to take environmental action. They have engaged students of one school, in nearly every grade from K-9, in environmental learning and activities in the classroom and through extracurriculars.

Since September 2023, they have run 10 initiatives providing age-appropriate learning and have sampled approximately 25-30% of students' attitudes towards climate change and action. Their goal is to get students interested in climate issues or activities, who can help make climate action 'cool' and get their peers interested as well.

The collaborative is also engaging parents, teachers and 20 community organizations within the school's district, to create an environment supportive of young people acting on climate change.



Photos: Members at a 2024 planning session in PEI.