

CLIMATE TRANSITIONS COHORT

KEY READINGS
AND RESOURCES



TAMARACK
INSTITUTE

List of key readings and resources

This list has been compiled by the Community Climate Transitions team at Tamarack Institute for participants of the Climate Transitions Cohort. We will continue to update it throughout the program. If you have any questions, please contact jorge@tamarackcommunity.ca or laura@tamarackcommunity.ca.

Month 1: The role of communities in climate action & climate justice	3
Introducing collective impact and how it can support climate transitions	3
Examples of collective impact in action to advance a climate transition	3
Cities, communities and the climate crisis: some basics	3
Month 2: Developing a community plan for an equitable and inclusive climate transition	4
Multisolving	4
Climate justice	4
Leading examples of climate plans that take a holistic approach	5
Month 3: Foundations of collective impact	5
Getting started: Collective impact essentials	6
Creating your common agenda	6
Data, shared measurement and continuous learning	6
Building your backbone infrastructure	6
Dive deeper	7
Month 4: Community engagement	7
How to engage and who should be engaged	7
Overcoming challenges and evaluating impact	8
Community engagement & climate change	8
Month 5: Collecting baseline data & target setting	8
Setting ambitious, achievable targets	9
Data collection, conducting a GHG emissions inventory & vulnerability assessment	9
Month 6: Brainstorming actions and solutions	10
Month 7: Evaluating impact	10
What is evaluation and community-engaged evaluation and why do it?	10
Defining your desired changes	11
Designing evaluation questions, choosing indicators, collecting data & sharing results	11

Month 8: Climate communications & storytelling	11
Month 9: Financing your work	12
Month 10: Leading with care and hope	13

Month 1: The role of communities in climate action & climate justice

Introducing collective impact and how it can support climate transitions

- [PAPER | How to Develop a Common Agenda for a Collective Impact](#)
A 5-step guide to developing a common agenda when working on Collective Impact initiatives.
- [ARTICLE | The Promise of Collective Impact in Supporting a Just Transition at the Community Level](#)
Explores how the Collective Impact approach has been used to drastically reduce poverty across Canada and its potential in accelerating a just and equitable climate transition.
- For a shorter version of the above, see: [OP-ED IN HILL TIMES | We need whole-community leadership on climate change](#)

Examples of collective impact in action to advance a climate transition

- [WEBSITE | Halton Climate Collective](#)
A group of key actors in the Halton region formed a separate entity to collectively advance climate action. HCC is participating in the Climate Transitions Cohort.
 - See also: [WEBINAR | Halton Climate Collective: A whole-community climate response through collective action](#)
- [WEBSITE | ClimateActionWR](#)
Also a member of the Cohort, ClimateActionWR is a climate mitigation-focused collaboration between local organizations, governments and community members within Waterloo region.
- [WEBSITE | The Genesee-Finger Lakes Climate Collective](#)
A US-based example of a Collective Impact initiative to advance climate action.

Cities, communities and the climate crisis: some basics

- [WEBSITE | Cities on the Road to Glasgow](#)
This website, developed by Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, hosts many resources on the role of cities (specifically Canadian ones, though also global) in advancing climate action. It was prepared in the lead up to COP26.
- [WEBSITE | Climate Atlas: Cities](#)
The Climate Atlas of Canada is an interactive tool to learn about climate change in Canada, combining climate science, mapping, videography, and storytelling. This page on Cities is particularly relevant.

- [WEBSITE | Climate Reality Project's Community Climate Hubs](#)
Canada Reality Projects connects local climate initiatives to support coordinated efforts that can achieve greater impact.
 - The [Community Climate Hub Handbook](#) is an especially useful resource.

Month 2: Developing a community plan for an equitable and inclusive climate transition

Multisolving

- [WEBSITE | Multisolving Institute](#)
The Multisolving Institute is home to a host of tools and resources on how to address climate change through a holistic lens that also advances justice and equity, community wellbeing, health and resilience.
- [TOOL | LCR: Advancing the Co-Benefits of Climate Action](#)
Action on Climate Change (ACT) developed this Low Carbon Resilience, or LCR, tool as an integrated climate action planning and decision-making approach that connects climate action with co-benefits related to health, equity, biodiversity and economics.
- [GUIDE | 10 – A Guide for Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals in Your Community](#)
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is an important framework for communities to consider, and ideally align with, in their work to advance climate action and equity.
- [CASE STUDY | Alternative economic models are helping cities thrive: How the 'Doughnut' is transforming Nanaimo, Victoria and cities around the world](#)
This case study explores two additional frameworks –Doughnut Economics and One Planet Living– for simultaneously advancing social and planetary wellbeing, and how they are being applied in two BC communities.

Climate justice

- [TOOL | Power Wheel](#)
This wheel, originally developed by the Canadian Council for Refugees, helps individuals understand the power and privilege they possess, as well as the notion of intersectionality.
- [ORGANIZATION | Indigenous Climate Action](#)
ICA works to inspire, connect and support Indigenous Peoples as climate leaders, through several pathways including tools and resources. ICA also has an excellent [podcast](#).
- [TOOLBOX | Youth Climate Lab](#)
A host of resources and workshops that support youth to leverage their lived experience as expertise and take action on key climate issues.

- [TOOLKIT | Climate Justice Toolkit for Municipalities](#)
Produced by BCCIC, this guide shares best practices for centering equity and justice in local climate action. It focuses on the BC context but is relevant far beyond.
- [REPORT | 1.5-Degree Lifestyles: Towards A Fair Consumption Space for All](#)
Developed by the Hot or Cool Institute, this report explores how we can allocate the remaining carbon allowance in a manner that is fair while drastically reducing our carbon footprints.

Leading examples of climate plans that take a holistic approach

- [CASE STUDY | TransformTO: Multisolving in Action](#)
This case study explores how Toronto’s climate plan, *TransformTO*, seeks to meet aggressive environmental targets while also contributing to social equity, health, and the local economy.
- [CLIMATE PLAN | Vancouver](#)
Vancouver’s *Climate Emergency Action Plan* is a leading example of an ambitious plan for achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 while centering equity.
- [CLIMATE PLAN | Montreal](#)
Montreal’s *Climate Plan 2020-2030* outlines 46 actions to help it become carbon neutral (by 2050), resilient and inclusive.
- [CLIMATE PLAN | Nelson, BC](#)
Nelson Next is a climate plan that tackles both adaptation and mitigation at the same time, under the banner of “Low Carbon Resilience.”

The basics of developing a local climate plan

- [WEBSITE | Partners for Climate Protection program’s 5-step Milestone Framework](#)
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability offer the PCP program to Canadian municipalities. The 5-step Milestone Framework and associated resources are useful for municipal and non-municipal actors alike.
- [GUIDE | Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning](#)
UN Habitat developed this guide covering the basics of climate action planning at the local level, including organization and participation, the planning process, and strategies and actions.
- [GUIDE | Guide for Municipal Climate Change Staff](#)
This FCM guide provides practical information, resources, checklists and templates aimed at municipal climate staff but relevant to others advancing climate action at the local level.

Month 3: Foundations of collective impact

Getting started: Collective impact essentials

- [TOOL | Five Conditions of Collective Impact](#)
The five conditions that together can help lead to alignment and results.
- [TOOL | 5 Framing Questions for CI](#) (White House Council)
Assess whether Collective Impact is the right approach for you and your community partners.
- [TOOL | Collaboration Spectrum Tool](#)
A useful tool for engaging diverse leaders to explore – and map – the degree of collaboration they believe is necessary to address their shared issue.
- [TOOL | The Collective Impact Self-Assessment and Planning Tool](#)
Help your collaborative leadership group take stock of progress made.

Creating your common agenda

- [TOOL | Community Vision for Change](#)
What is our community vision and what changes are needed to realize it?
- [TOOL | The Common Agenda Planning Canvas](#)
Get clarity about the shared issue you want to address.
- [TOOL | Mapping our Ecosystem](#)
Map your issue's ecosystem to identify larger systemic issues and problems at play.
- [TOOL | Building a Plan-on-a-Page](#)
A Plan on a Page is a concise, one page synthesis of the key design elements of the collective impact approach. Helpful for effective communication between partners and externally.

Data, shared measurement and continuous learning

- [TOOL – Shared Measurement Mapping](#)
Generate an initial set of benchmarks or targets for the work of your collaborative.
- [TOOL | Outcomes Diary](#)
Track both individual and cumulative results.

Building your backbone infrastructure

- [TOOL | Collaborative Governance Framework](#)
Determine an effective leadership structure for your Collective Impact initiative.

- [TOOL | Gives, Gets & Constraints](#)
This tool helps your Collective Impact initiative's Leadership Table and/or Action Teams to transparently share the contributions, needs and constraints each partner has.
- [TOOL | Establishing Values and Principles for Working Together](#)
Identify values and principles for your collaborative, which will be useful in your collective work – particularly when dealing with conflict.

Dive deeper

- [RESOURCES | Collective Impact Toolkit](#)
A one-stop shop for dozens of resources (tools, papers, webinars, case studies, articles) on collective impact.

Month 4: Community engagement

Understanding the role of the community and why you are engaging

- [PAPER | The Context Experts](#)
Ideas for how to increase the authenticity of community engagement and eradicate tokenism through the meaningful involvement of context experts.
- [TOOL | Creating Principles for Engagement](#)
Make explicit the kind of relationship you want with the communities you are engaging and align on values with your colleagues and the community.
- [TOOL | Community Engagement Planning Canvas](#)
An essential tool for working through the main considerations when planning to engage any segment of your community.
- [PAPER | Understanding Community-Led Approaches to Community Change](#)
'Community-led' approaches are promising, but we need to be intentional about what this means so that communities are empowered and not inadvertently acted-upon.

How to engage and who should be engaged

- [TOOL | Index of Community Engagement Techniques](#)
A comprehensive list of community engagement techniques that can be selected based on the level of engagement you are conducting.
- [WORKSHEET | Who Should We Engage?](#)
Key questions to ask to determine who should be engaged in your project.

- [TOOL | Top 100 Engagement Tool](#)
Brainstorm and prioritize influential leaders to engage in your Collective Impact Initiative.
- [BLOG | The Opposite of Boring](#)
Eight things to care about when hosting a community consultation.
- [PAPER | Turf, Trust, Co-Creation & Collective Impact](#)
The intricacies of trust, how to build it, and what to do when trust is broken.

Overcoming challenges and evaluating impact

- [TOOL | Community Engagement: Challenges, Vulnerabilities, and Unintended Outcomes](#)
Common challenges that should be anticipated and planned for accordingly.
- [PAPER | Creating the Culture for Engagement](#)
Unpacking the role of fear in the engagement process, providing practical strategies for transforming and applying fear in community engagement.
- [WEBINAR | Overcoming Power and Privilege in Community Change](#)
George's Aye of Greater Good Studio shares the mechanics of power and how to wield it with care in our community change efforts.
- [WEBINAR | Evaluation Tools for Community Engagement](#)
Tools for evaluating the impact and outcomes of your community engagement, such as the Outcomes Diary, Community Engagement Scorecards, and Most Significant Change.

Community engagement & climate change

- [REPORT | Public Engagement for Net Zero: A Literature Review](#)
Centre for Public Impact report on effective ways to engage the public on meaningful behaviour change towards a net zero future.
- [Can Public Participation Accelerate the Transition to Net-Zero?](#)
A report by Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue to support governments and practitioners in their climate engagement work.
- [NEWS | Urgency in climate change advocacy is backfiring, says Citizen Potawatomi Nation scientist](#)
In this National Observer piece, an Indigenous scientist and climate change expert asserts that relationships, based on consent and reciprocity, are vital to lasting solutions.

Month 5: Collecting baseline data & target setting

Setting ambitious, achievable targets

- [GUIDE | How to Set Emissions Reduction Targets](#)
Guidance from FCM on setting community and corporate greenhouse gas reduction targets.
- [PAPER | Zero Carbon Sooner – Revised case for an early zero carbon target for the UK](#)
This paper derives a ‘fair remaining carbon budget’ for the UK and makes a case for the UK setting a target for new zero carbon emissions no later than 2035, noting that Sweden has a net zero target for 2045, Finland for 2035 and Norway for 2030.
- [NEWS | Canadian Town First to Pledge Net Zero Emissions by 2030](#)
In November 2021, Halton Hills (pop. 60K) became the first municipality in Canada to commit to such an ambitious target. The town approved a Low-Carbon Transition Strategy that outlines a path towards carbon neutrality.
- [NEWS | Net Zero By 2040: City Council Adopts Ambitious Climate Strategy](#)
In December 2021, Toronto City Council adopted a new strategy, building off TransformTO, to achieve net zero by 2040 – 10 years earlier than initially planned.
- [TOOL | Downloadable context-based metrics](#)
A tool (initially for businesses but it has been adapted for municipalities) developed by the Centre for Sustainable Organizations for setting targets and assessing performance against equity-sensitive (“fair share”) and science-based (IPCC modelling) criteria.
- [COALITION | Cities Race to Zero](#)
An initiative of C40, ICLEI, Global Covenant of Mayors and other partners to mobilize a coalition of cities committed to setting science-based targets and taking inclusive and resilient climate action. See the Canadian municipalities that have joined [here](#) (26 as of Dec 2021).

Data collection, conducting a GHG emissions inventory & vulnerability assessment

- [REPORT | Partners for Climate Protection \(PCP\) Protocol](#)
Developed for PCP members, this tool provides useful information on developing GHG inventories and forecasts (for corporate and community emissions).
- [INITIATIVE | Climate Reality Project’s National Climate League](#)
An annual project (released in February/March) to track progress in select cities across Canada against a set of sustainability indicators. The 2020 Standings are based on 325 new data points submitted by 45 municipalities.
- [BLOG | Municipal Carbon Budgets: Important Tool to Achieve Net Zero Emissions](#)
This blog post by the Urban Climate Alliance shares how adopting a carbon budget, as Windsor has done, can help reduce emissions while promoting data transparency and accountability.

- [TOOL | Climate Adaptation Maturity Scale](#)
A tool by FCM to help measure your progress as you develop and implement a local climate adaptation plan.

Month 6: Brainstorming actions and solutions

- [TOOLKIT | Climate Caucus Councillor's Handbook](#)
This toolkit for local elected leaders and their allies offers extensive actions and ideas for initiatives in the areas of transportation, buildings, zero waste, nature-based solutions, food security, and more. It also has resources that are specific to rural and smaller communities.
- [TOOLKIT | BC Climate Leaders Playbook](#)
Big moves that contribute to limiting global warming to 1.5C and strategies for achieving them. Created for the BC context but useful in other jurisdictions as well.
- [WEBSITE & BOOK | Regeneration](#)
A comprehensive list of solutions to the climate crisis, by Paul Hawken, author of *Drawdown*.
- [GUIDE | Climate Action in Small and Rural Communities](#)
An FCM guide on strategies for overcoming climate-related challenges and reducing GHG emissions in small and rural communities.
- [GUIDE | Community Energy Implementation Framework](#)
QUEST Canada has a host of resources to help communities move Community Energy Plans from vision to implementation, organized around 10 strategies. Taking the [readiness survey](#) is a good starting point to access curated resources and strategies.
 - If your community has more capacity, the [Smart Energy Communities Benchmark](#) is recommended. The [assessment](#) (downloadable in English and French) will take about a day of work to complete.

Month 7: Evaluating impact

What is evaluation and community-engaged evaluation and why do it?

- [DEFINITIONS | What is Evaluation?](#)
A set of key definitions related to evaluation, by the Canadian Evaluation Society.
- [PAPER | The Common Foundations of Impact Measurement](#)
Information on the five essential practices for how to do impact measurement.

- [PAPER | Strengthening Evaluation Literacy](#)
Demystifies participatory and collaborative approaches to evaluation.
- [RESOURCE | Rainbow Framework](#)
Provides different options that can be used for each task in an evaluation.

Defining your desired changes

- [RESOURCE | Theory of Change Summary Sheet](#)
This article by TIESS explores the basics of developing a Theory of Change.
- [VIDEO | Theory of Change \(3 mins\)](#)
Short explainer video by Nesta on how the Theory of Change tool can help define goals and a path to reach them.

Designing evaluation questions, choosing indicators, collecting data & sharing results

- [PAPER | The Art of Powerful Questions](#)
A resource to support you throughout your evaluation process, including the choice of evaluation questions.
- [TOOL | Outcomes Diary](#) (also included in Month 3)
This tool can help you track both individual and cumulative results.
- [TOOL | Most Significant Change](#)
A tool to help guide you through the Most Significant Change technique to participatory monitoring and evaluation.
- [ARTICLE | Criteria for Selection of High-Performing Indicators](#)
A useful checklist by Better Evaluation for selecting the right indicators for your project.
- [TOOL | Hosting a Data Walk](#)
Created by the Urban Institute, Data Walks are an interactive way of sharing data and research with diverse stakeholders for a shared sense-making process.

Month 8: Climate communications & storytelling

- [REPORT | Climate Messaging That Works](#)
Climate Access and Climate Narratives Initiative developed this framework and set of recommendations to help communicators effectively engage Canadians on climate issues.
- [BLOG | What Do Canadians Really Think About Climate Change?](#)
The key findings of a 2021 report by Climate Access based on public opinion research on climate change in Canada.

- [WEBINAR | Pathways to Zero: Action & Communications](#)
This Climate Action Network (CAN-Rac) webinar on climate communications features speakers from Climate Reality Project, Climate Caucus, The Energy Mix, and West Kootenay EcoSociety.
- [RESOURCES | Climate Access](#)
An excellent source of resources on climate communication and engagement for a range of different audiences.
- [TRAINING | Climate Reality Leadership Corps](#)
Climate Reality's free training offers activists an opportunity to gain confidence in effectively communicating key challenges and solutions related to climate change.

Month 9: Financing your work

- [PROGRAM | FCM's Green Municipal Fund](#)
The Green Municipal Fund offers [funding opportunities](#) for municipal environmental projects, including both grants and loans. For example, new funding has been made available for the following initiatives:
 - [Community Efficiency Planning](#)
 - [Sustainable Affordable Housing](#)
 - [Community Buildings Retrofit initiative](#)
- [PROGRAM | FCM's Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program - Transition 2050 partners](#)
In 2019, FCM provided grants to 13 organizations to help 90+ participating municipalities of all sizes – from all regions in Canada – to reach significant carbon reductions.
- [TOOL | Collective Impact Initiative Budget](#)
This tool helps Collective Impact initiatives to develop budgets, for both resources and expenses, and discusses the benefits of engaging in multiple funding streams.
- [TOOL | Financing tools for local climate action](#)
This toolkit by the Partners for Climate Protection program explains how municipalities can leverage private and community investors to help take local climate action.
- [GUIDE | BC Community Climate Funding Guide](#)
This is specifically for local governments and Indigenous communities in BC to find funding for their climate action projects.

Month 10: Leading with care and hope

- [PODCAST | Facing It](#)
This podcast series by Jennifer Atkinson explores the emotional burden of climate change, often referred to as eco-grief or eco-anxiety, and how to move from despair to action.
- [TED TALK | How to Turn Climate Anxiety into Action](#)
Climate psychologist Renée Lertzman discusses the emotional effects of climate change and offers insights on how psychology can help us discover the creativity and resilience to act.
- [TRAINING | Active Hope Foundations Training](#)
A free video-based online course to nourish and strengthen your capacity to act for positive change in the world.

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