

# Climate Action Plan

Introducing the Draft Plan



# Why develop the CAP?

- Climate change has devastating impacts on our natural environments and ecosystems, community health and well-being, and significant economic costs.
- The County plays an important role in reducing our emissions and promoting resiliency at a corporate level, while also encouraging community efforts.

# The County's Approach

1. Developing the Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan.
2. Research and data analysis.
3. Connecting with staff.
4. Engaging and learning from the community.
5. Developing the plan.



# About the CAP

- Roadmap to help the County advance three important goals:
  - (1) Mitigation
  - (2) Adaptation
  - (3) Environmental Sustainability
- Actions are grouped into seven categories and divided into short, medium, long-term and ongoing implementation timelines.
- The CAP is intended to be a living document that is reviewed annually and updated every five years at minimum.



# Buildings and Infrastructure

**Objective:** Support energy efficient, sustainable, and resilient buildings and infrastructure to reduce GHG emissions and encourage climate adaptation.

## Targets:

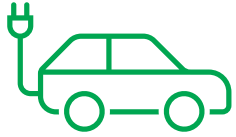
- ❑ Reduce emissions from County owned and operated facilities by 40% by 2035 from the baseline year of 2013.
- ❑ Reduce emissions from County owned and operated facilities by 60% by 2040 from the baseline year of 2013.
- ❑ Offset 50% of electricity used at corporate facilities through generation of renewable energy by 2040.



# Buildings and Infrastructure

## **Actions:**

- Sustainable and resilient building standard for County buildings.
- Strategic retrofitting strategy.
- Renewable energy roadmap.
- Learning resources for renters and homeowners.
- Evaluating a PACE program.
- Exploring green development standards.



# Transportation

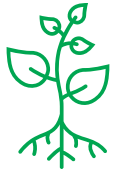
**Objective:** Reduce GHG emissions by supporting sustainable transportation and bolstering energy efficiency.

## Targets:

- ❑ Replace a minimum of 10 gas- or diesel-powered vehicles with hybrid/EV alternatives by 2035.
- ❑ Add 5 new EV charging stations in high priority areas throughout the County by 2030.

## Actions:

- Use tech to understand emissions.
- Optimize fleet and transition to EV and hybrid alternatives.
- Business case for electric maintenance equipment.
- Add EV infrastructure, explore anti-idling tactics, and encourage active transportation.



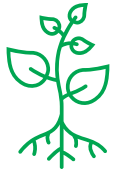
## Nature

**Objective:** Create a more resilient community and reduce or offset carbon emissions through preserving and supporting our green assets and ecosystems. Increase naturalization and ecological diversity, protect natural habitats, wetlands, and green spaces, and support tree planting.

### Targets:

- Plant 55,000 trees throughout the County of Brant (public and private land) by 2035.
- Plant 110,000 trees throughout the County of Brant (public and private land) by 2045.
- Increase tree canopy in the County of Brant to a minimum of 30% by 2050.
- Add more naturalized areas on County property by reducing mowing requirements by 5% by 2035.

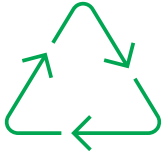




# Nature

## Actions:

- Protect, maintain, and improve natural and agriculture areas through advancing sustainable land use planning and the policies within the Official Plan.
- Invest in efforts to reduce GHG from maintaining natural spaces.
- Design resilient parks and outdoor spaces.
- Encourage biodiversity on County property.
- Develop Community Forestry Strategy.
- Support naturalized lawns, boulevard planting, and programs offered by local conservation authorities (Rural Water Quality Program).



# Waste

**Objective:** Reduce and prevent waste, enhance waste diversion, and promote a more circular economy.

## Targets:

- ❑ Reduce solid waste disposed in landfills by 20% from 2023 levels, by 2035.

## Actions:

- Prioritize waste prevention, reduction and diversion through the Solid Waste Management Master Plan (SWMMP).
- Complete a Corporate Waste Audit and enhance waste diversion at County facilities.
- Expand backyard composting program.



# Economic Development and Tourism

**Objective:** Create an environment that supports sustainable and resilient businesses, manufacturing, agricultural, and tourism practices.

## **Actions:**

- Remove barriers to encourage more businesses that support green technology, a circular economy, and innovation.
- Explore supporting large indoor spaces to accommodate large events.
- Support businesses to become more sustainable and adaptable.
- Help local farmers access resources to support sustainable agriculture.
- Support sustainable events and tourism .



# Safety and Emergency Preparedness

**Objective:** As climate change continues to result in more extreme weather events, the County is encouraged to strengthen community preparedness.

**Actions:**

- Invest in additional infrastructure and equipment to promote effective responses to weather emergencies.
- Explore ways to encourage neighbourhood emergency preparedness and resiliency.



## Data, Outreach, and Education

**Objective:** Become a climate leader and incorporate climate change considerations across the County. Encourage improved community understanding and involvement in climate action.

### **Actions:**

- Enhance data collection, monitoring, and reporting to better understand corporate and community emission level.
- Develop internal climate change working group.
- Develop learning opportunities for Council, staff, and the community.
- Incorporate climate change considerations into reports, policies, strategies, and procurement practices.
- Create an energy and climate change page on the County website.

# Implementation

- Resources are required
  - Staffing
  - Leadership support
  - Funding
- Implementation plan
  - Staff have created a rough timeline to guide implementation of short-term action items from 2025-2028.

# Next Steps

- Post the draft CAP on Engage Brant to provide time for community review and feedback.
- Staff to review feedback and bring final CAP for Council approval on November 26, 2024.



# Appendix

---



# Getting to Net Carbon Neutral

2023		2035		2040		2050	
Corporate	3,352	Corporate	2,716	Corporate	2,148	Corporate	2,148
Community	258,646	Community	285,423	Community	252,994	Community	198,546
Offset	198,072	Offset	198,630	Offset	199,743	Offset	203,973
Net Emissions	63,926	Net Emissions	89,509	Net Emissions	55,399	Net Emissions	-3,279