



AT A GLANCE

TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

Dufferin's Climate Adaptation Strategy

2023

Around the world, the climate crisis is intensifying and Dufferin County is already experiencing the impacts of climate change.

Complimenting the Dufferin Climate Action Plan (2021), the goal of the Dufferin Climate Adaptation Strategy is to proactively identify opportunities to advance climate resilience in Dufferin’s social, economic, built, and natural systems.

THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE

Local climate projections show that Dufferin can expect warmer year-round temperatures, including more frequent days with extreme heat. Annual precipitation is expected to increase with more frequent and intense rainfall and snowfall events.

Without intervention, a changing climate threatens the social, environmental, and economic well-being of current and future generations of Dufferin County.



Key climate impacts that Dufferin County will experience include:

- Extreme heat and droughts
- Loss of native biodiversity
- Illness and disease
- More ice days
- Mental health challenges
- Infrastructure damage
- Disruptions to the economy
- Soil erosion and nutrient loss

PLANNING FOR CHANGE

The Strategy was created through intensive research, and meaningful engagement with the Climate Adaptation Working Group (CAWG) to capture the needs, desires, and priorities of Dufferin’s rural and urban communities. Strategy development was supported by Dufferin County’s participation in ICLEI Canada’s Advancing Adaptation program and guided by the Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) framework.

VISION

Dufferin County is a healthy and resilient community for all that is equitable, socially connected, economically diverse, and has a flourishing environment for current and future generations.

TAKING ACTION

Taking climate action can create healthy and equitable neighbourhoods, enhance agricultural and natural systems, drive the local economy, and protect public health and safety. The Dufferin Climate Adaptation Strategy is organized under 5 Focus Areas:

Buildings and Infrastructure	Actions to minimize incidences of damage and wear on municipal and private infrastructure
Energy and Economy	Actions to support the maintenance and hardening of energy infrastructure and exploring alternative energy systems to increase system resiliency
Agriculture and Natural Environment	Actions to manage, rehabilitate, and enhance climate resilience in natural systems and increase resilience in the agriculture sector
People and Health	Actions to minimize the direct and indirect human health impacts of climate change
Enabling Actions	Actions to increase municipal capacity to respond to extreme weather events, effectively engage with and communicate risks to the public, and build financial capacity

IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

Dufferin County will adopt seven implementation strategies to maximize the positive environmental, social, and economic impacts of climate measures:

1. Building community relationships
2. Leveraging funding
3. Increasing staff capacity
4. Institutionalizing climate action
5. Strategic prioritization
6. Centering equity
7. Mobilizing a culture of climate action

Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Dufferin Climate Adaptation Strategy is critical to reaching our adaptation goals. Dufferin County will establish an annual report card on the progress of the Dufferin Climate Adaptation Strategy.

Further, the strategy will be reviewed and updated every 5 years to report on progress, set next steps, and ensure that climate planning continues to align with community priorities.

FIRST PRIORITY ACTIONS

In order to respond quickly and effectively to high-risk climate impacts, five actions will be prioritized for implementation over the next 5 years.

- 1. Create framework for adopting a Green Development Standard** to build resiliency and complete communities (e.g. low-impact development, flood mitigation measures, access to green space, enhanced tree canopy). (BH.3)
- 2. Encourage homeowners and property owners to improve climate resilience** of residential and private property through upgrades and/or retrofits. (BH.1)
- 3. Establish and enhance emergency preparedness communications and programs** for residents to strengthen personal resiliency to climate impacts. (PH.3)
- 4. Increase uptake of regenerative agricultural practices** in partnership with farmers to increase soil organic matter, reduce soil erosion, and improve water security. (AN.3)
- 5. Incorporate a climate lens** into asset management, capital planning, and budgetary processes. (BH.4)



YOUR CALL TO ACTION!

The solution to climate change is community. Climate change effects everyone and everyone has a role to play – if we work together, we can accelerate climate action and transform our community vision into reality.

Discover how you can support climate action in your community.

[VISIT DUFFERINCOUNTY.CA/CLIMATECHANGE](https://www.dufferincounty.ca/climatechange)