

Lanark County Climate Action Plan

In recent years, climate change has become increasingly visible in Lanark County and across the globe. The impacts are being felt close to home as we experience long-lasting heat waves, the destruction of severe thunderstorms, powerful ice storms, and unprecedented wildfire seasons. These extreme weather events put strain on our infrastructure, economy, and environment, and have serious consequences for the livelihood of our residents.

The effects of climate change are becoming increasingly more prominent in Lanark County.

Some impacts we can expect to see include:

- Higher temperatures and drought, impacting local water supply and agricultural practices
- More ice days, threatening safety and damaging infrastructure
- Damage to infrastructure, risking critical water, sanitary, and power systems
- Loss of biodiversity and habitat, increasing the introduction of invasive species, pests, and disease
- Mental health challenges caused by climate change stressors
- Illness and disease due to increased heat stress and poor air quality
- Increase in zoonotic and vector borne diseases
- Disruptions to the economy as infrastructure and assets are threatened
- Soil erosion and nutrient loss, impacting local agricultural systems
- Increased risk of flooding and fire

Climate Change in Lanark County

In response to the growing threat of climate change, in 2023 Lanark County issued a [Climate Action Plan](#), (CAP) developed to recognize the urgent need to reduce our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, prepare for climate change impacts, and become a regional leader in climate action. The CAP outlines the goals and strategies Lanark County will take to reduce the environmental impact of our buildings, transportation, waste, and land use, while also providing opportunities for local climate action.

High levels of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions have long been directly associated climate change and Lanark County and its municipalities have recognized the need to reduce the levels. As such Lanark County has identified eight priority initiatives that will support a reduction in GHG emissions.

1. Support the adoption of electric vehicles
2. Transition to low-carbon transportation when electric is not a viable solution
3. Advance transportation demand management programming and infrastructure
4. Increase the use of local and renewable energy generation and security
5. Improve energy efficiency of existing buildings
6. Sequester carbon and protect natural resources

7. Optimize organic waste diversion
8. Create a climate conscious community culture

In 2025 Lanark County Council unveiled a comprehensive climate action workplan for climate and environmental initiatives alongside the 2025 budget. The plan includes launching the Better Homes Lanark program, starting a study for a natural heritage system, and advancing the building to Net Zero (BNZ) project.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Boldt, Climate and Environmental Program Coordinator, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3105.

In the upcoming municipal election it is important to understand your own municipality's climate priorities in support of this plan and gauge your municipal candidate's knowledge and support of the Lanark County Climate Action Plan priorities.

Question that can be asked:

1. Do you know about the offer of home retrofit financing through the Better Homes Lanark program and its continued offer low-interest loans and community workshops for home energy efficiency improvements?
2. Do you support enhancing nature-based solutions, such as the 1 Million Trees Program (spring and fall seedling giveaways), living snow fences (trialing the use of trees) and the Tiny Forest Pilot Project (to increase urban tree canopy)?
3. Would you support applying for municipal climate action grant through the county's Municipal Climate Grant, which offers \$7,500 per municipality for climate-related projects.
4. Are you in favour of Lanark County continuing to offer a Climate Grant for up to \$5,000 for non-profit organizations for climate-related projects that align with the Climate Action Plan.
5. Will you support the development of a Climate Adaptation Plan in your municipality?
6. Do you understand and support the county's development of a Natural Heritage System through Lanark County to better understand the county's natural heritage?
7. Will you promote Net-Zero development in your municipality?
8. Do you support the adoption of programs and initiatives focused on maintaining/improving water quality.