



Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC)

Cities Becoming Climate Resilient: Examples of Canadian Cities Taking Action
November 22, 2016 | 2016 Public Sector Climate Action Leadership Symposium



•I.C.L.E.I
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

About ICLEI Canada

- Established in 1990 more than 200 local governments from 43 countries convened at World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future at the United Nations in New York
- Largest international association of local governments focusing on sustainability
 - 1200+ cities, towns, metropolises in over 65 countries

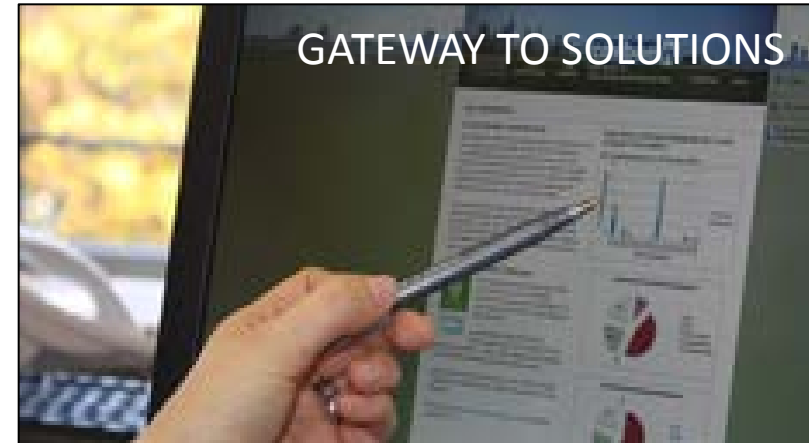
CONNECTING LEADERS



ACCELERATING ACTION



GATEWAY TO SOLUTIONS





ICLEI Canada Programs and Tools

Biodiversity

- Awareness raising
- Networking
- Resource development

Mitigation

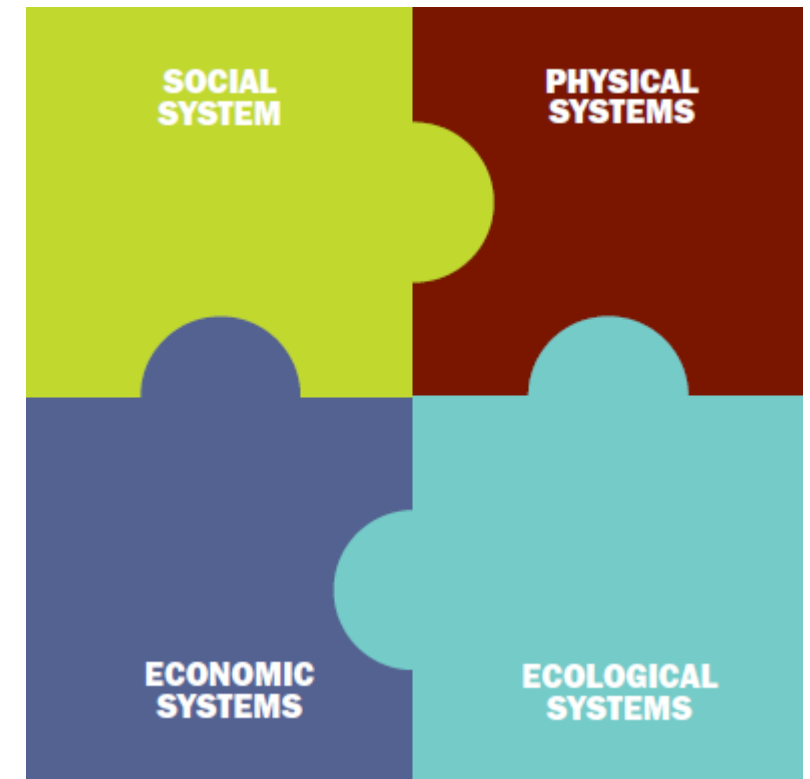
- Partners for Climate Protection (PCP)
- Greenhouse Gas inventories
- Consulting

Adaptation

- Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC)
- Resource development
- Consulting

Applying systems thinking

- Climate change impacts will be cumulative and synergistic
- They will affect physical, social, economic and ecological systems
- Interconnectivity - change in one area of a system can adversely affect another area
- Majority of services and stakeholders will be directly or indirectly affected by climate change



Four Principles for Climate Change Adaptation

- Balance of immediate and long-term needs
- Interaction must be supplemented with action
- Commitment to act in the face of uncertainty
- Recognize existing work



Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities

- Developed from the Changing Climate, Changing Communities planning framework
- One-year consultative process with municipalities across the country
- Launched in 2010 as the Adaptation Initiative, expanded and rolled out broadly as BARC in 2012
- Initial funding leveraged through contributions from Natural Resources Canada



Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities

- Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) Program
- National program for Canadian communities
- Helps build local, in-house capacity
- Respond to the impacts of climate change
 - Protect the people, property, and prosperity of your community
- Municipalities apply a **comprehensive methodology** to climate change adaptation
- Develop and implement an adaptation plan
 - Receive guidance through ICLEI's proven adaptation planning process
 - Support through tools, training, and resources
- One-on-one assistance from our expert staff
- A **flexible** five milestone framework
- Supported with an online tool and other resources – guides, toolkits, etc.





BARC Program Quick Facts:

24 communities

5 provinces

1 territory

Largest: Metro Vancouver

Smallest: Iqaluit



Cities are leading the way!

Cities can lead on climate change to build a resilient future

Vancouver mayor, Gregor Robertson, explains how a price on carbon is helping his city become the greenest in the world

American Cities—Small and Large—Take Action

Boston to order builders to adapt to climate change

By John Upton

Smaller Ontario communities are leaders in adapting to climate change

FLOOD PROOFING

Creative solutions fight flood vulnerability

CHRIS ATCHISON

Paris Climate Summit: Cities Lead Fight Against Climate Change

City of Surrey

- 2008 British Columbia Sustainability Charter committed City of Surrey to developing a climate change mitigation and adaptation plan
- Long-standing and leading work on storm-water management
- Joined BARC in late 2010
- Surrey Community Climate Action Strategy – comprised of a Community Energy and Emissions Plan and Climate Adaptation Strategy



**Community Climate
Action Strategy**
Reducing Emissions and Adapting to Climate Change



City of Hamilton (Ontario)

- Direction from community for municipality to address climate change adaptation
- “Let’s Talk About the Weather” campaign
- Joined BARC in January 2015
- Working across all City departments, and closely with Conservation Authority and McMaster University
- Status: Early stages of Milestone 2
 - Moving on to vulnerability assessment and risk assessment this fall



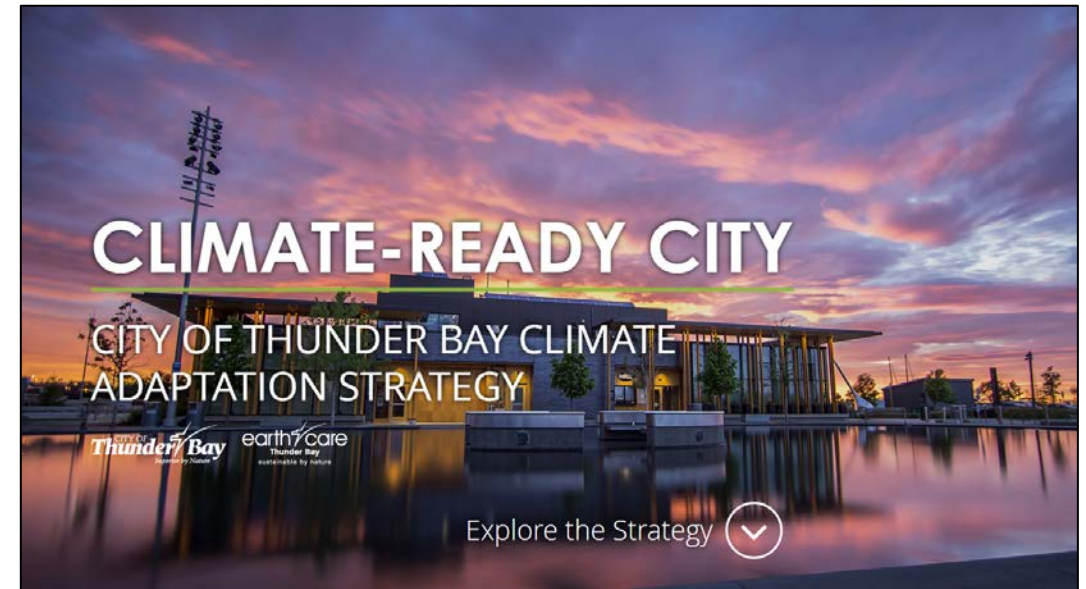
District of North Vancouver

- Joined BARC in 2014
- Local Government Infrastructure Planning grant from Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development to fund Milestone 3
- Communications strategy designed to keep Council and external stakeholders updated on the BARC process
- Key focus is integrating actions into ongoing operations and day-to-day work plans
- Adaptation Team made up of managers and directors of multiple service areas, plus created an internal working group composed representatives from every municipal department
- Status: Currently on Milestone 3: Planning



City of Thunder Bay (Ontario)

- Joined BARC in 2013
- Leveraged momentum through the EarthCare municipal/community interface
- Key focus is having adaptation work be: cross-departmental, involving community partners, and engaging citizens
- Vision was *To build community resilient to reduce the risks inherent in climate change and take advantage of opportunities while building upon existing adaptive actions*
- Status: Currently on Milestone 4: Implementation





Mobilizing Municipal Action: Opportunities and Challenges

Challenges

- Staff and time commitment
- Financial resources
- Champions
- Managing uncertainty
- Translating science and data

Opportunities

- Growing network of organizations
- Reinforcing collaboration and capacity building
- Flexible approaches that recognize regional differences and unique communities
- Partnerships and co-operation with other institutions, organizations, and local communities



Thank you!

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www.icleicanada.org/BARC



The Adaptation Library

www.adaptationlibrary.com

Developing **knowledge** and **tools** to reduce risk and maximize opportunities arising from climate change.