

# LANARK COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

*A climate change mitigation strategy*

2023 Report Card



PARTNERS FOR **CLIMATE PROTECTION**

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## Introduction

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, County Council adopted the Lanark County Climate Action Plan. This plan outlines how Lanark County aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the County while also building the resilience of our local communities.

The Lanark County Climate Action Plan is built around seven guiding principles:

- 1. Create a climate conscious culture and community**
- 2. Eliminate fossil fuels**
- 3. Optimize energy/water efficiency and increase renewable energy generation**
- 4. Advance the use of nature-based solutions in climate change management**
- 5. Sustainably manage waste towards a circular economy**
- 6. Collaborate with community stakeholders**
- 7. Increase funding, accessibility, and education**


The plan is divided into two main sections: 1) the Corporate Climate Action Plan, which consists of 29 goals under 7 themes to address greenhouse gas emissions from County operations, and 2) the

Community Climate Action Plan, which consists of 21 goals under 5 themes to address greenhouse gas emissions from the community as a whole.

## Priorities

To respond quickly and effectively to the climate crisis, Lanark County has prioritized eight major climate initiatives for the current Council term (2023 – 2026).

1. Advance transportation demand management programming and infrastructure.
2. Improve energy efficiency of existing buildings.
3. Optimize organic waste diversion.
4. Support the adoption of electric vehicles and equipment.
5. Transition to low-carbon transportation when electric is not a viable solution.
6. Sequester carbon and protect natural resources.
7. Increase the use of local and renewable energy generation and security.
8. Create a climate conscious community culture.

The eight major initiatives encompass four priority corporate goals and ten priority community goals, each of which are indicated with the  icon in the following section.

## Progress Summary

Since the approval of the Climate Action Plan in November 2023, Lanark County has made progress on a variety of climate goals. This report card provides a summary of the progress made as of December 2023. Each goal has been given one of the following progress statuses:

**Complete** = The goal has been implemented.

**Initial Stages** = Work on this goal has commenced but requires additional research and resources to implement.

**In Progress** = Work on this goal is underway.

**Ongoing** = This goal will be implemented on an ongoing or reoccurring basis.

**Future Action** = Implementation of this goal will start at a later date.

## Corporate

### Theme 1 – Education

Goal	Status	Notes
1.1 – Modify all Council reports to include a section for climate impact that uses the climate tool	In Progress	Lanark County staff were trained on how to use the climate lens tool to assess the climate impact of their decisions. A Climate and Sustainability Impact section was added to Council reports. Staff will review the trial period and make any necessary modifications to the process before officially adopting the Climate and Sustainability Impact section.

1.2 – Raise staff awareness of corporate climate initiatives through mini campaigns and training programs.	Ongoing	Raising staff awareness of climate initiatives through the regular internal newsletter, the <i>Lark of Lanark</i> .  Staff were trained on how to use the climate lens tool and Climate and Sustainability Impact section for Council reports.
1.3 - Launch an Off Nightly/Mini campaign to encourage staff to turn off computers, printers, and lights over night or when not in use.	Future Action	

### Theme 2 – Buildings and Energy

Goal	Status	Notes
2.1 - Plan for the rebuild or retrofit of all County buildings to be net-zero	Future Action	
2.2 - Conduct a building automation system maintenance/commissioning	Future Action	
2.3 - Install solar systems on municipal buildings where possible	In Progress	One 10 kW solar roof mount was installed on the Public Works Garage in Perth in 2015.
2.4 - Install motion sensors for indoor lighting and automatic timers on all equipment that can be turned off at night	In Progress	The Public Works and Administration buildings are both equipped with motion sensor lighting.
2.5 - Optimize heating and cooling efficiency in all County buildings to reduce energy consumption ★	In Progress	

### Theme 3 – Lanark County Housing Corporation (LCHC)

Goal	Status	Notes
3.1 - Encourage energy efficient practices by increasing tenant education (e.g., providing energy efficient tips through mailing list, posters in common spaces, reporting improvements to tenants, etc.)	Future Action	
3.2 - Complete energy audits to identify the most effective energy-saving opportunities and	Initial Stages	Exploring funding opportunities to support this goal.

prioritize projects when possible ★		
3.3 - Improve building envelope performance to reduce demand on heating and cooling systems, reduce energy loss, and increase tenant comfort (e.g., increase existing insulation, replace windows and doors with high efficiency models as needed)	Ongoing	Lanark County accepted the terms of the National Housing Co-Investment Fund and has entered into an agreement with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to support the repair and renewal of units in the LCHC over three years from 2024 to 2026.  Performed envelope repairs (i.e., caulking, insulation, air sealing, window replacement) on over 200 units.
3.4 - Improve domestic hot and cold water system efficiency to reduce energy costs and losses (e.g., upgrading to high efficiency systems when system is at end of life, installing pipe insulation and tank insulator blankets etc.)	Ongoing	Upgraded 80% of low-efficiency hot water systems to high-efficiency models including power-vented tanks and indirect-fired tanks. Upgraded 24 boilers to above 96% efficiency.
3.5 – Replace appliances beyond their service life with Energy Star models	Ongoing	Appliances are replaced with Energy Star models as needed. 85 old fridges have been replaced with Energy Star models.
3.6 - Construct new buildings to be energy efficient	Future Action	
3.7 - Consider electric heat pumps in the replacement of electrical baseboards and gas furnaces/boilers at end of life	In Progress	Pending Council approval, 125 heat pumps and 750 kW of solar panels will be installed in Social Housing Family Units starting in 2024.
3.8 - Explore the conversion of areas to pollinator habitat or food production on managed properties	Future Action	

#### Theme 4 – Transportation and Equipment

Goal	Status	Notes
4.1 - Upgrade 16 gas and 3 diesel fleet vehicles to electric vehicles by 2030 when electric vehicles are available/vehicles reach end of life ★	In Progress	Public Works replaced a gas fleet truck with a Ford F-150 Lightning and are planning to replace another in 2024.
4.2 - Install electric vehicle charging stations at the County buildings for County fleet charging and for staff, councillors or the public to use	In Progress	Preparing an application for the EV ChargeON program to receive funding for two public electric vehicle charging stations at the Lanark County offices in Perth.

		Electric vehicle chargers for County fleet were installed at the Public Works garage in 2022.
4.3 - The procurement of new or replacement equipment or power tools be electric, unless an electric option is not available ★	Ongoing	Public Works are testing the use of different electric equipment and power tools (e.g., chainsaws, trimmers, mowers).

#### Theme 5 – Natural Heritage and Resources

Goal	Status	Notes
5.1 - Increase the tree canopy on County properties (e.g., LCHC properties, County offices etc.)	Ongoing	Since 2020, nearly 14,000 trees have been planted on County-owned property through our 1 Million Trees Program in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.
5.2 - Increase carbon sequestration and pollinator habitat on County properties and road allowances	Ongoing	Since 2019, Lanark County has partnered with the Canadian Wildlife Federation to create pollinator habitat along County rights-of-ways.  In 2023, Lanark County partnered with the David Suzuki Butterflyway Rangers to create two pollinator gardens outside the County offices in Perth.
5.3 - Explore approaches that incorporate natural systems and green infrastructure into site improvements, greenspaces, and stormwater management (e.g., rain gardens, trees etc.)	Future Action	

#### Theme 6 – Waste Diversion and Management

Goal	Status	Notes
6.1 - Join the Blue Communities Project and phase out the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities and at municipal events	N/A	To be discontinued in the next revision of the Climate Action Plan as Lanark County does not sell bottled water and water coolers are replaced with refill stations (see Goal 6.2).
6.2 - Install water refill stations in all municipal buildings to replace water coolers	Complete	Three water coolers in Lanark County offices were replaced with water bottle filling stations.
6.3 - Launch an enhanced recycling program for plastic, glass, metal and food waste (e.g., TerraCycle 25% of waste)	Initial Stages	Exploring the feasibility and effectiveness of TerraCycle recycling programs for County offices.


6.4 - Purchase 100% recycled paper and enact policies and procedures to reduce the overall use of paper	Initial Stages	<p>OT Group’s technical team and manufacturers discourage the use of recycled paper in the County’s photocopiers due to issues related to performance and reliability.</p> <p>Exploring options to reduce paper use in County offices.</p>
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**Theme 7 – Planning**

Goal	Status	Notes
7.1 - Revise the Asset Management Plan to include natural assets (e.g., watersheds, wetlands, forests, lakes etc.)	In Progress	Partnering with the Municipal Natural Asset Initiative and Intact Insurance to complete a natural asset management roadmap in 2024.
7.2 - Update Emergency Plan to include protocols for major natural disasters and weather events (e.g., evacuation routes, shelter locations, etc.)	Future Action	
7.3 - Create an inclusive adaptation plan that captures Lanark County's risks and vulnerabilities to climate change (e.g., health, food security/sovereignty, environmental hazards, improved land-use, safety measures)	Initial Stages	Preliminary research. To be a work item of the Municipal Climate Intern in 2024.

**Community**

**Theme 1 – Transportation**

Goal	Status	Notes
1.1 - Increase electric vehicle uptake and local charging infrastructure for public access 	In Progress	<p>Preparing an application for the EV ChargeON program for funding for two public electric vehicle charging stations at the Lanark County offices in Perth.</p> <p>Participating in the Regional EV Charging Network with representatives from 9 regional municipalities including the City of Ottawa, Leeds and Grenville, Renfrew County, and Prince Edward County.</p>
1.2 - Electrify municipal and community fleet vehicles as	Ongoing	Lanark County 2023 Electric Vehicle / Organic Waste Fund provided up to \$10,000 per lower-

part of their replacement cycle ★		tier municipality for projects related to electric vehicles and/or organic waste diversion.
1.3 - Explore the use of low-carbon fuels (e.g., biodiesel blends) in suitable municipal fleet vehicles ★	In Progress	Completing preliminary research and assessing the feasibility of biodiesel or renewable diesel use in County fleet vehicles.
1.4 – Update the Transportation Master Plan to include active transportation ★	In Progress	Developing the Terms of Reference for the Transportation Master Plan update, which will include active transportation assessments and recommendations. Request for Proposals will be posted in 2024.
1.5 - Reduce single occupancy automated vehicle trips by providing local transit, carpooling and ridesharing solutions suitable for rural communities ★	In Progress	In partnership with the counties of Frontenac and Lennox and Addington, Lanark County supported the development of the <a href="#">Community Carpool</a> website for residents to share rides.  County Council allocated \$26,400 from the Contingency Reserve to support a transportation feasibility study to be organized by the Lanark County Rural Transportation Working Group.

Theme 2 – Buildings and Energy

Goal	Status	Notes
2.1 - Develop and support the delivery of a local home energy retrofit program including those offered by partner non-profits and private companies ★	In Progress	Completed the feasibility study and program design for the proposed home energy retrofit program, Better Homes Lanark, for which County Council approved a \$5 million capital contribution. Completing the Community Efficiency Financing application in 2024.
2.2 - Establish a campaign to increase energy/water retrofits within the industrial, commercial, and institutional sector ★	Future Action	
2.3 - Establish green building standards that enforce climate resilient and adaptive building designs to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Future Action	
2.4 - Encourage solar photovoltaics (PV) developments where suitable (for net metering and	Future Action	



microgrids) and solar thermal for domestic hot water use		
2.5 - Explore opportunities to utilize other renewable energy sources and technologies ★	Initial Stages	Attending IESO public consultation sessions to stay informed of new and current opportunities.

### Theme 3 – Natural Heritage and Resources

Goal	Status	Notes
3.1 - Increase the managed forested area and tree canopy within Lanark County ★	In Progress	Since 2020, nearly 485,000 trees have been planted in Lanark County through our 1 Million Trees Program in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.
3.2 - Protect the carbon sequestration and climate resilience value of wetlands, greenspaces, and other naturalized areas within the County ★	In Progress	Various projects are underway to support this goal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosting a wetland workshop for municipal staff in partnership with Climate Network Lanark and local conservation authorities.</li> <li>• Supporting and providing funding to ALUS Lanark.</li> <li>• Completing a natural asset management roadmap in partnership with the <a href="#">Municipal Natural Asset Initiative</a> and Intact Insurance.</li> </ul>
3.3 - Include the use of green infrastructure and natural heritage to serve local needs as the County continues to develop	Future Action	
3.4 - Allow cooperative farming and community gardening on suitable County-owned lands and encourage local farms to produce more food for local consumption	Future Action	
3.5 - Promote the adoption of sustainable livestock and crop management practices	In Progress	Supporting and providing funding to ALUS Lanark.
3.6 - Promote biogas energy recovery for use in aerobic digestion - combined heat and power (AD-CHP) systems on farms	Future Action	

## Theme 4 – Waste Diversion and Management

Goal	Status	Notes
4.1 - Identify sustainable solid waste and recycling solutions for municipalities	Future Action	
4.2 - Optimize organic waste diversion ★	In Progress	Lanark County 2023 Electric Vehicle / Organic Waste Fund provided up to \$10,000 per lower-tier municipality for projects related to electric vehicles and/or organic waste diversion.
4.3 - Explore utilizing organic waste and treated biosolids for 3rd party Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) production ★	Future Action	
4.4 - Advance combined heat and power in anaerobic waste and water treatment facilities	Future Action	

## Theme 5 – Planning

Goal	Status	Notes
5.1 - Incorporate climate change into County and municipal plans.	Initial Stages	Initial work is underway to incorporate climate change considerations in future revisions of the Transportation Master Plan, Asset Management Plan, Official Plan, and Emergency Plan.

## Looking Forward

2024 will be the first full year with an approved Lanark County Climate Action Plan. As we embrace the implementation stage of the Plan, these are some of the major climate actions planned for 2024:

- Complete the Community Efficiency Financing application for Better Homes Lanark
- Conduct a feasibility study into local transportation options
- Collaborate with local municipalities to advance their Climate Action Plans
- Develop a Climate Adaptation Plan
- Launch a Community Climate Grant
- Create a natural asset management roadmap

To see the full list of planned climate actions, please visit our [2024 Climate Action Workplan](#).