

Supporting a Resilient Recovery Through Climate Action



CENTRE FOR
CLIMATE CHANGE
MANAGEMENT
AT MOHAWK COLLEGE

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Introduction

The following resource was developed for the Mayor's Taskforce on Economic Recovery by the following partner organizations:

1. Bay Area Climate Change Council
2. Centre for Climate Change Management at Mohawk College
3. City of Hamilton, Air Quality and Climate Change Team

This document is meant to be a resource for Taskforce working groups. It provides an overview of climate change in Hamilton, the principles of a green and just recovery, and suggested actions by topic.

Contact Us!

Need advice or support for your working group? We're here to help!

E-mail us at climatechange@mohawkcollege.ca

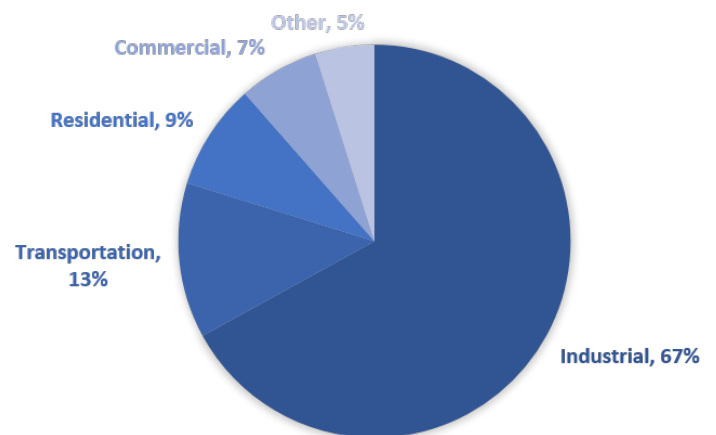
Hamilton's Climate Emergency

In March 2019, Hamilton joined 435 municipal councils across the world in declaring a climate emergency. This declaration recognizes the need for immediate action to achieve the transformative change required for our planet to prevent a global average temperature rise of 1.5°C and avoid the most severe impacts of climate change.

With the declaration, Hamilton established a multi-departmental Climate Change Task Force to create an action plan on how Hamilton can reach net zero carbon by 2050¹, which requires significant changes to our industry, buildings and transportation system as the biggest emitters.

Here in Hamilton we already see climate change impacts: flooding, extreme weather events, heat waves, erosion of the shoreline and escarpment, and more ice storms². Addressing climate change will prevent illness and deaths from extreme heat, new and increased disease vectors, and poor air quality. Like COVID-19, these impacts are felt more strongly by our city's most vulnerable.

HAMILTON GHG EMISSIONS BY SECTOR (2016)



Source: Hamilton GHG Inventory and Forecast

¹ Learn about [Hamilton's Community Energy Plan](#).

² See ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability Canada's 2016 report [The Science of Climate Change Report for Hamilton, Ontario](#) for more detail.

Supporting a Resilient Recovery Through Climate Action

Call to Action for a Green and Just Recovery

COVID-19 is an acute (short-term) global crisis. Climate change is a chronic (long-term) global health, economic, and social crisis that requires transformative action within the next 10 years to reduce its impacts. As Hamilton recovers, we have an opportunity to “build back better”, transforming our city, businesses and industries to be more sustainable, better prepared for future crises, and more equitable.

The recommendations in this document prioritize projects that help meet Hamilton's goal of becoming a thriving, zero carbon community by 2050, and reflect the following principles of a green, just recovery:



- 1) The measure **creates businesses or jobs, or draws investment that will create businesses and jobs.** These are anticipated to be lasting (e.g. not tied to one transient project) and substantial (i.e. wages and benefits will allow for decent housing and food).
- 2) It will **reduce carbon, make our communities more resilient to climate impacts, or both.** Carbon reductions will be appropriate in scale given proposed targets and timelines.
- 3) It **benefits residents, businesses or communities who have been historically disadvantaged**, with a preference for projects or programs that have the potential to substantially alter the community's social position (e.g. business ownership as well as job creation, management as well as entry-level jobs, adaptation projects with measures built-in to combat climate gentrification, etc.).

Priority Areas for Action

In addition to the full list of recommendations in this document, these key areas of action stand out as having the strongest potential for meeting Hamilton's climate change targets while supporting a green and just recovery:

- 1) Immediately establish a municipal **home energy retrofit (HERO) program** for homeowners, with a plan to extend retrofit support to commercial and multi-residential buildings in the future.
- 2) **Continue to advocate for the LRT** and invest in the **electrification and expansion of transit.**
- 3) **Help local manufacturers transition to a carbon-free future** through advancing waste heat recovery, and other energy efficiency practices, and a shift to alternative fuel sources such as hydrogen.
- 4) Champion **street closures & placemaking projects through all seasons** to help revitalize main streets and support local businesses through the winter months.
- 5) Support **investments in broadband internet services** to support working and learning from home beyond the crisis; this is especially important in underserved and rural communities.
- 6) Develop "shovel ready" **zero carbon affordable housing** projects. Support the "Hamilton is Home" proposal to provide 3,000 affordable housing units - but build for 2050, not 2020.

Small Businesses, Main Streets and Non-Profits

Introduction

Neighbourhood businesses and main streets are the cornerstones of walkable, livable communities.

A zero-carbon Hamilton will include many such areas so that residents can easily walk, cycle or take the bus to meet their daily needs. It is important to ensure that our existing small businesses, main streets and non-profits thrive through the COVID crisis so that they will be here and healthy as we move towards this future.

Respond (Quick Wins)

Action	Key Partner(s)
<p>Expand and replicate temporary street closures, such as the Saturday closures on Locke St., to support local businesses in opening their doors while residents can enjoy the area with maximum physical distancing and minimal carbon emissions.</p> <p>Collect data on these initiatives to use in future decisions on low/no traffic zones, road reallocation, and active transportation.</p>	<p>City, Tourism Hamilton, BIAs, galleries, artist organizations</p>
<p>Sponsor all-season socially distanced outdoor activities during, and after the COVID-19 crisis. Normalize outdoor gatherings in winter, while encouraging businesses to forgo outdoor heaters.</p> <p>Involve local artists and creatives in a design challenge to propose innovative, low carbon outdoor dining solutions that would allow outdoor dining to continue at restaurants and bars into the winter.</p>	<p>Economic Development, Tourism Hamilton, Hamilton Winterfest, BIAs, restaurants, breweries, galleries, artist organizations</p>
<p>Continue to expand and revise the COVID-19 mobility plan to improve safe pedestrian and cycling infrastructure – similar to programs in London, Toronto, and New York.</p>	<p>City, Metrolinx, Hamilton Bikeshare, mobility advocacy groups</p>
<p>Invest in shared mobility services like bikeshare to encourage safe, low carbon trips throughout the city during COVID-19.</p>	<p>Hamilton Bikeshare, City, mobility advocacy groups</p>
<p>Support local businesses in finding online customers, and connecting businesses with their former lunch-hour clients. Do this in a way that encourages walking and cycling to pick up items.</p>	<p>BIAs, Hamilton Business Centre, local ad agencies</p>
<p>Continue to support the HSR as an essential service, during and after the COVID-19 crisis.</p>	<p>HSR, City, Province, Federal government</p>

Small Businesses, Main Streets and Non-Profits

Recover (Short Term)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Continue to advocate for LRT as a shovel-ready, shovel-worthy project that will drive economic recovery and support Hamilton's climate goals.	City, Province, Federal government, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, LRT supporting organizations and businesses
Develop a Home Energy Retrofit (HERO) program that helps homeowners renovate to improve thermal and electrical energy savings. This will create hundreds of new job opportunities in construction and skilled trades, mostly for small businesses.	City, BACCC, Centre for Climate Change Management at Mohawk, local utility providers, home builders associations
Amend the Commercial Property Improvement Grant Program (CPIGP) to incorporate added support for improvements that incorporate energy efficiency measures that will lower energy costs.	Hamilton Economic Development, BIAs

Build (Long Term)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Adopt the guiding principle of the "15 minute city" in planning practices to ensure neighbourhoods can be walkable and bikeable – this supports sustainability, small businesses and urban vitality.	City
Support the development of a commercial buildings deep energy retrofit program to support energy efficiency and cost savings for businesses while creating jobs in construction and skilled trades.	City, real estate associations, builders' associations, construction industry partners, energy advisors

Small Businesses, Main Streets and Non-Profits

Considerations for a Just Recovery

- ❖ Low cost, reliable access to transportation options is critical for economic participation.
- ❖ Neighbourhood planning with climate and equity lenses can ensure transportation and planning reduce barriers to economic and social participation in neighbourhoods.
- ❖ Neighborhood resilience strategies can connect to mutual aid networks and supports that have developed in the wake of COVID-19, and collect data on gaps.

Resources

- ❖ [How to build back better with a 15-minute city](#), C40 Cities
- ❖ [The Main Street Design Challenge](#), Canadian Urban Institute
- ❖ [Mayor's Agenda for a Green and Just Recovery](#), C40 Cities
- ❖ [Winter Cities Institute](#)

Introduction

Manufacturing, particularly steel, is Hamilton’s main source of carbon emissions. Addressing this will be a particular challenge in the coming decades; however, technological innovations to reduce or eliminate these emissions have the potential to create jobs and businesses, and position Hamilton as a leader in a competitive and emerging field.

As a major part of Hamilton’s economy, the Life Sciences are a contributor of carbon emissions. Likewise, climate change will create an increasing burden for the health care system (e.g. increases in injuries from storms and accidents, Lyme disease, heat illness, chronic illness from poor air quality). Hamilton’s Life Sciences must both become part of the solution for climate change, and respond to its increasing impacts.

Respond (Quick Wins)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Support the Hamilton Anchor Institution Leadership (HAIL) Facilities Leadership Forum to enable public sector institutions to share information about energy conservation and adaptation to climate change.	City, Mohawk College, McMaster University, schools, hospitals
Prepare a list of priority, low carbon infrastructure projects for Life Sciences, Healthcare, and Industry that welcome federal investment.	City, hospitals, industry, Mohawk College, McMaster University
Advocate for expanded relief for those in “energy poverty” – especially for electricity bills soaring due to extreme heat .	City, local utility providers, anti-poverty groups, City Housing

Recover (Short Term)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Collaborate with the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and its partners to help local manufacturers transition to a carbon-free future through advancing waste heat recovery, and other energy efficiency practices, and a shift to alternative fuel sources such as hydrogen. Write a letter to upper levels of government requesting funding in support of this work.	Federal government, Province, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, HIEA

<p>Set green building standards for renovations or new healthcare facilities.</p> <p>Support healthcare facilities and regions to apply for green infrastructure funding to complete these updates and renovations.</p>	<p>FCM, City, Province, LTC providers, seniors and disabilities advocacy groups, hospitals, builders' associations</p>
<p>Develop "shovel ready" zero carbon affordable and supportive housing projects. Support the "Hamilton is Home" proposal to provide 3,000 affordable housing units - but build for 2050, not 2020. Building to zero carbon standards reduces maintenance and utility costs – especially for those in “energy poverty”.</p>	<p>City, Centre for Climate Change Management at Mohawk, BACCC, ENGOS</p>

Build (Long Term)

Action	Key Partner(s)
<p>Prepare for the transition to renewable infrastructure for industry, with an emphasis on supporting hydrogen for heavy industry and steel. Create a strategy to transform the industrial area's infrastructure. This will require major investments from multiple levels of government, but a strategy is needed now to support our 2030 and 2050 goals.</p>	<p>Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, HIEA,</p>
<p>Support the development of a clean tech supercluster in Hamilton to support manufacturing innovation in renewable energy.</p>	<p>City, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Mohawk College, McMaster University</p>
<p>Advocate for investments in hospitals to use innovative technologies such as waste heat recovery, renewable energy, advanced HVAC systems to improve health outputs and realize cost savings.</p>	<p>Hospitals, Province, Federal government</p>
<p>Support programs that train energy advisors and building and construction trades to be able to build, renovate, and operate green buildings and care facilities.</p>	<p>City, Mohawk College, building associations, architecture and engineering firms</p>

Considerations for a Just Recovery

- ❖ Labour and the City can partner in developing programs to support marginalized individuals and communities in developing businesses and creating jobs that support the City's decarbonisation targets.
- ❖ Market demand for building retrofits and renewable energy will provide well-paying jobs, but training and upskilling is needed. Low-cost and rapid training programs can help un/underemployed residents develop in-demand skills and find good jobs.
- ❖ Health care/life sciences should expand in-community care programs to support communities that are disproportionately affected by both COVID and climate change (e.g. low-income, homeless, racialized, etc).
- ❖ Need to ensure that local industry can be globally competitive in the low carbon economy - that means we need to transition to green steel to ensure that we are not priced out by carbon taxes.

Resources

- ❖ [A Healthy Recovery](#), Canadian Association of Physicians (CAPE)
- ❖ [Roundtable: Building Back Better by Greening Industry](#), Corporate Knights
- ❖ [Roundtable: Paying steel and cement to go green could generate huge carbon savings](#), Corporate Knights

Introduction

Agriculture is highly affected by changes to our climate, and has the potential to implement key solutions (for example, carbon sequestration with some perennial crops). As well, impacts to the agricultural sector affect everyone through rising food prices, with greater impacts to lower-income communities.

While waste is not a high-emissions sector, the production of new materials (as opposed to recycled or reused) does generate more emissions; a zero-carbon future will maximize the potential to position what are seen as “wastes” today into feedstocks and materials (including for energy generation, where appropriate).

Respond (Quick Wins)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Set a firm urban boundary to protect agricultural lands, natural resources, and prevent sprawl that drastically increases greenhouse gas emissions and infrastructure costs.	City, Provincial government
Create incentive program for residents to convert front yard to urban agriculture and/or rain garden that builds off Hamilton’s Conservation Authority grant program.	City, Hamilton Conservation Authority, neighbourhood associations, ENGOS
Continue to move forward on Hamilton’s food strategy to support local food security for low income families.	City, Food Advisory Committee
Expand food skills and employability programs, particularly for vulnerable groups.	St. Charles, Indwell, Hamilton Community Food Centre
Build, retrofit, or re-purpose community and neighbourhood infrastructure to support food initiatives, such as community kitchens, food markets, community gardens, etc.	City, Hamilton Community Food Centre, church associations, Food Advisory Committee
Expand marketing efforts to focus on Hamilton’s local food and farming sectors, while enhancing culinary tourism to promote local food businesses and events	City, Greenbelt Fund, agriculture organizations, BIAs

Recover (Short Term)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Update City of Hamilton procurement policies to include life cycle and embodied carbon of products.	City, Sustainable Hamilton Burlington
Provide financial support for securing additional natural heritage lands and marginal agricultural lands held by the City, HCA and other conservation groups. Promote the naturalization of publically held lands. Increase buffers to water courses and create storm water features and wetlands to slow the path of water.	City, Hamilton Conservation Authority, ENGOs
Create a program that provides local farmers with “food forward” contracts wherein farmers grow for local food banks, to provide fresh local food for the thousands of Hamiltonians now experiencing food insecurity.	Emergency food providers, Sustain Ontario, local farm networks and associations

Build (Long Term)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Continue to support the actioning of Hamilton’s Food Strategy to promote healthy, local and culturally appropriate food for all.	City, Food Advisory committee, anti-poverty groups, local food activists
Create an implementation plan to grow urban and peri-urban agriculture in the City of Hamilton, with a focus on serving vulnerable areas of the City to access healthy food.	City, emergency food providers, anti-poverty advocates, neighbourhood associations, Hamilton Community Garden Network, Food Advisory Committee

Considerations for a Just Recovery

- ❖ Providing access to local, low-cost food is crucial to improving food security for Hamilton's low-income residents.
- ❖ Supporting good jobs in agricultural will keep local food competitive, encourage young people to stay or embark in careers in farming, and keep agricultural lands productive.

Resources

- ❖ Building Back Better Agriculture and Natural Capital, Corporate Knights
 - [Article: Seeding climate action on Canada's farms](#)
 - [Article: It's time to start planting forests \(not just trees\) to grow Canada's climate solutions](#)
- ❖ [Saltfleet Conservation Area: Building an Economic Case](#), Greenbelt Foundation
- ❖ [A better future starts on the farm: recommendations for recovery from COVID-19 in Canadian agriculture](#), Équiterre

Introduction

Creative industries and cultural organizations are foundational to creativity, and drive innovation and entrepreneurship. This sector is important to the city’s vitality as well as citizen engagement and retention. Arts can also help us engage citizens in climate action by creating words, images and performances that teach citizens about climate change, and provide us with a vision for a thriving, net-zero carbon city.

The arts industry creates emissions through operation of buildings, use of electricity and the transportation of consumers/audiences. But funding for renovations of arts buildings is generally not available and incomes are not high enough to support these renovations independently.

What would a zero carbon Supercrawl look like? How can Hamilton’s artists and creatives be engaged in envisioning the healthy, resilient, zero-carbon Hamilton of the future?

Respond (Quick Wins)

Action	Key Partner(s)
<p>Support Hamilton artists in reaching audiences online, or in outdoor physically-distanced spaces.</p> <p>Expand and replicate projects, such as the Saturday traffic closures on Locke St., to support local businesses in opening their doors while residents can enjoy the area with maximum physical distancing and minimal carbon and emissions.</p>	<p>City, Tourism Hamilton, BIAs, galleries, artist organizations</p>
<p>Involve local artists and creatives in a design challenge to propose innovative, low carbon outdoor dining solutions that would allow outdoor dining to continue at restaurants and bars into the winter.</p>	<p>Economic Development, Tourism Hamilton, Hamilton Winterfest, BIAs, restaurants, breweries, galleries, artist organizations</p>
<p>Support online cultural experiences that elevate a diverse groups of voices.</p>	<p>City, Tourism Hamilton, galleries, artist associations and businesses</p>
<p>Engage the City’s artists, performers and creatives in creating stories and projects around climate change, to engage residents and businesses in imagining our City’s future.</p>	<p>City, Tourism Hamilton, galleries, artist associations and businesses</p>

Recover (Short Term)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Support for arts facilities (theatres, galleries etc.) to pursue energy efficiency renovations.	City, Provincial government, local utility providers
Grants or funding through CEH to support artists in exploring the impacts of or response to climate within Hamilton; platforms to share these with residents and incorporate into City engagement and outreach plans.	City, Tourism Hamilton
Grants or funding for Hamilton artists to participate in renovation projects.	City, Local utility providers, home builders associations
Public works program to beautify bus terminal/transportation hubs, and bus ads.	City, HSR, local artists and art organizations
Build capacity in the local arts community around climate change knowledge: what impacts will climate change have in our city, with the aim of creating urgency and skill in telling climate stories.	City, Tourism Hamilton, art organizations (e.g. Grit Lit)

Build (Long Term)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Ensure that the community energy plan includes a vision for a zero carbon arts community with zero carbon facilities and zero carbon transportation available to audiences. This will need to be considered in the City's long-term climate action plans and CEP.	City, arts organizations
Partner with local artists and writers on a campaign to bring awareness and education on local climate change issues, including story-telling about the zero-carbon city of our future	City, local artists

Considerations for a Just Recovery

- ❖ Target arts funding to applicants from diverse backgrounds, and encourage applications from underserved communities.
- ❖ Provide paid opportunities for artists during the economic downturn to help protect our arts and creative economy.

Resources

- ❖ [The Arts and Climate Change](#), Canada Council for the Arts
- ❖ [How the arts might help us grapple with climate change](#), CBC Radio
- ❖ [A just and green cultural recovery](#), Julie's Bicycle (UK)
- ❖ [Winter Cities Institute](#)

Introduction

Tourism and hospitality are among the hardest hit sectors globally. Without support, forecasts suggest they will be slow to recover. Regaining visitor confidence and positioning these sectors to reopen within restrictions will be challenging.

Tourism is a challenging industry to decarbonize as it is reliant on carbon-intensive travel patterns. The Port, Airport, province and federal government, as well as zero-carbon transportation industry partners will need to be engaged in a long-term effort to enable Hamilton’s visitors to come to the city and explore our tourist attractions without carbon emissions.

Respond (Quick Wins)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Develop a campaign to promote “staycations” in the region, which supports the local economy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions associated with travel.	Tourism Hamilton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, City, restaurants and hospitality groups
Support virtual engagement with arts and tourism facilities (e.g. “AGH at home”).	Tourism Hamilton, arts organizations and businesses
Expand and replicate projects, such as the Saturday traffic closures on Locke St., to support local businesses in opening their doors while residents can enjoy the area with maximum physical distancing and minimal carbon and emissions. Collect data on these initiatives to use in future decisions on low/no traffic zones, road reallocation, and active transportation.	City, Tourism Hamilton, BIAs restaurants, galleries, artist organizations
Sponsor all-season socially distanced outdoor activities during, and after the COVID-19 crisis. Normalize outdoor gatherings in winter, while encouraging businesses to forgo outdoor heaters. Involve local artists and creatives in a design challenge to propose innovative, low carbon outdoor dining solutions that would allow outdoor dining to continue at restaurants and bars into the winter.	Economic Development, Tourism Hamilton, Hamilton Winterfest, BIAs, restaurants, breweries, galleries, artist organizations

Recover (Short Term)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Encourage tourist and hospitality businesses to adopt an emissions and/or waste reduction plans in line with City targets by providing supports and incentives to local businesses.	Sustainable Hamilton Burlington
Adopt sustainability standards aligned with the publicly available, internationally approved minimum criteria for sustainable tourism practices maintained by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) for both industry and destinations.	Tourism Hamilton, restaurants and hospitality groups

Build (Long Term)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Develop a commercial retrofit program that supports facilities to undertake deep energy retrofits to reduce energy needs.	City, local utility providers, City, real estate associations, commercial real estate companies
Incorporate low carbon tourism supports in the City's Community Energy Plan and climate action plans.	City, Tourism Hamilton, local arts and tourism organization, restaurant and hospitality groups

Considerations for a Just Recovery

- ❖ Workers in the hospitality industry are more likely to be from disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately affected by both COVID and climate change. Improvements to facilities and wages and working conditions over time will improve the resilience of these communities to future impacts.
- ❖ Supporting low carbon tourism opportunities can support urban vitality and job creation.

Resources

- ❖ [Six Guidelines to a Sustainable Recovery for Hotels Post-COVID](#), Hospitality Net
- ❖ [The Future of Tourism Coalition](#)

Introduction

Many companies are re-examining their real estate expenditures and workplace infrastructure in this new world, with a new focus on opportunities for broadband capabilities and the growing remote worker environment. Buildings are a major source of carbon emissions in Hamilton, as is commuting. Renovations and transitioning to low-carbon transportation have considerable potential for economic growth.

Respond (Quick Wins)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Support investments in broadband internet services to support working and learning from home beyond the crisis; this is especially important in underserved and rural communities.	City, Federal government, Provincial government, local utility providers
Provide incentives and supports to businesses who develop and maintain telecommuting policies through Smart Commute Hamilton.	City, Smart Commute Hamilton, Metrolinx
Provide supports and incentives to “bike friendly” businesses to support safe, active transportation options during the pandemic.	City, Hamilton Bikeshare, cycling advocacy groups, BIAs, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

Recover (Short Term)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Develop a commercial building retrofit program that improves energy efficiency and implement “smart building” solutions that can reduce power consumption based on occupancy.	City, local utility providers, Mohawk College applied research, NRC
Provide workplace incentive programs in the 6-months after the post-COVID-19 to ride the bus (such as discounted staff passes for large employers), to encourage previous and new ridership.	City, Smart Commute

Build (Long Term)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Implement “15-minute city” and complete streets planning solutions: creating residential communities with services and necessities within active commuting distance of the home office to further reduce the demand for driving and support employment in diverse neighbourhoods.	City, neighborhood associations
Commit to providing broadband access as part of infrastructure upgrades.	City, Provincial government, federal government

Considerations for a Just Recovery

- ❖ Research through the pandemic has shown that telecommuting is primarily available to upper-income, white Canadians, while lower-income, racialized Canadians continue to work in essential industries outside the home. Workplace renovations for carbon reductions can also make workplaces safer and more comfortable, with cleaner air and improve thermal comfort among other benefit.
- ❖ Implementing a “15-minute City” principle will help residents live and work locally, providing opportunities to underserved and marginalized communities.

Resources

- ❖ [How to build back better with a 15-minute city](#), C40 Cities
- ❖ Build Back Better Homes and Workplaces Program, Corporate Knights
 - [Article: Building back better with a green renovation wave](#)
 - [Roundtable: Building back better post-COVID](#)
 - [Article: How to ready Canada’s buildings for the climate of tomorrow](#)

Introduction

Transportation and buildings are two of the largest sources of carbon emissions and will need to be transformed within the next three decades; infrastructure is a main vulnerability to climate impacts and will need to be rebuilt to cope with climate change (e.g. increased storm flows, freeze/thaw cycles, etc.). But improving our transportation and infrastructure will generate employment, business creation, and improve the lives of residents.

Applying a climate lens that prioritizes mitigation and adaptation will ensure that infrastructure investments prepare Hamilton to cope and thrive during the age of climate change.

Respond (Quick Wins)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Continue to advocate for LRT as a shovel-ready, shovel-worthy project that will drive economic recovery and support Hamilton's climate goals.	City, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, LRT supporters, Provincial government, Federal government
Create funding and incentives to accelerate the uptake of relevant initiatives from Hamilton's Community Energy Plan Actions Catalogue and (when released) the low-carbon scenario.	City, Federal government, local utility providers, ENGOs, Sustainable Hamilton Burlington
Expand and replicate projects, such as the Saturday traffic closures on Locke St., to support local businesses in opening their doors while residents can enjoy the area with maximum physical distancing and minimal carbon emissions. Collect data on these initiatives to use in future decisions on low/no traffic zones, road reallocation, and active transportation.	City, Tourism Hamilton, BIAs, galleries, artist organizations
Continue to expand and revise the COVID-19 mobility plan to improve safe pedestrian and cycling infrastructure – similar to programs in London, Toronto, and New York.	City, neighbourhood associations, mobility advocacy groups
Invest in shared mobility services like bikeshare to encourage safe, low carbon trips throughout the City during COVID-19.	Hamilton Bikeshare, City, mobility advocacy groups
Provide supports and incentives to "bike friendly" businesses to support safe, active transportation options during the pandemic	City, Hamilton Bikeshare, BIAs, mobility advocacy groups

Recover (Short Term)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Develop a Home Energy Retrofit (HERO) program that helps homeowners renovate to improve thermal and electrical energy savings. This will create hundreds of new job opportunities in construction and skilled trades, mostly for small businesses.	City, BACCC, Centre for Climate Change Management at Mohawk, local utility providers, home builders associations
Maximize purchase of electric transit vehicles, with focus in the short term on monitoring federal government subsidies and incentives for such purchases as part of their COVID economic recovery strategy.	City, Federal government, Plug n' Drive, ENGOS
Increase cycling and active transportation infrastructure and links with transit, with a focus on creating 15-minute neighbourhoods.	City, neighbourhood associations, mobility advocacy groups
Provide workplace incentive programs in the 6-months post-COVID-19 to ride the bus (such as discounted staff passes for large employers), to encourage previous and new ridership.	Smart Commute
Develop a strategy or pilot project to electrify transportation services that welcomes federal investment in EV infrastructure and public transportation.	HSR, City, Province, Federal government
Implement a big data strategy to collect traffic information by travel mode to understand post-COVID-19 changes to the way residents are moving and commuting.	City, McMaster or Mohawk College, data companies

Build (Long Term)

Action	Key Partner(s)
Develop a green building standard that requires EV infrastructure in all new and retrofitted commercial buildings and parking facilities	City
Adopt the guiding principle of the "15-minute city" in planning practices to ensure neighbourhoods can be walkable and bikeable; this supports sustainability, small businesses and urban vitality.	City, neighbourhood associations, mobility advocacy groups
Support the development of a commercial buildings deep energy retrofit program to support energy efficiency and cost savings for businesses while creating jobs in construction and skilled trades.	City, commercial building owners, real estate associations

Considerations for a Just Recovery

- ❖ Public transportation is an essential service to thousands of Hamiltonians who live and work within, and outside, of the city. Providing consistent, convenient service is essential to supporting employment and access to opportunities, and meeting our climate goals.
- ❖ Disadvantaged communities are often subjected to and hit hardest by pollution (e.g. air quality, traffic, noise, waste). This increases poor health outcomes and often causes disability and pre-mature death. Green infrastructure can rectify this by moving towards clean energy, waste reduction, and access to mobility services and good jobs.

Resources

- ❖ [Building Back Better with a Green Mobility Wave](#), Corporate Knights
- ❖ Build Back Better Homes and Workplaces Program, Corporate Knights
 - [Article: Building back better with a green renovation wave](#)
 - [Roundtable: Building back better post-COVID](#)
 - [Article: How to ready Canada's buildings for the climate of tomorrow](#)
- ❖ [How to build back better with a 15-minute city](#), C40 Cities