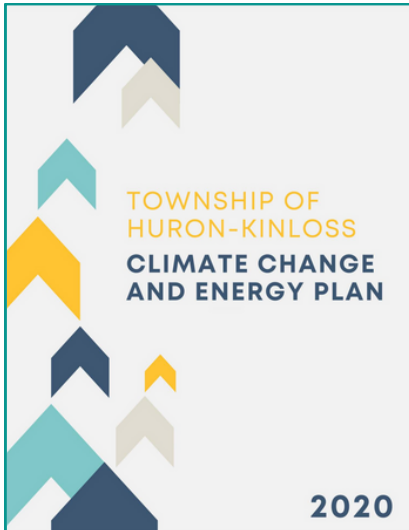




Township of Huron-Kinloss Climate Action Working Group Meeting



Background & Objectives

In 2020, the Township of Huron-Kinloss released the Climate Change and Energy Plan (CCEP). With the support of the Ontario Resource Centre for Climate Adaptation (ORCCA) in 2024, interviews were held to discuss the CCEP actions and a Working Group meeting was held to pilot an annual action status review process. **The Working Group meeting in late 2024 brought together the Mayor, 14 staff, and an external collaborator from a conservation authority to share their perspectives and progress on adaptation action items for Huron-Kinloss.** This summary highlights the activities and outcomes from the 2024 Climate Action Working Group meeting. An expanded Interview Report and Working Group Meeting Report are also available.

Working Group Meeting Activities

This meeting was held at the Ripley Community Centre on November 6th, 2025 from 9am-1pm

Presentation

The meeting opened with remarks from Mike Fair, Director of Community Services, and a presentation on the local climate change context from Haley Anderson, ORCCA Project Coordinator. This presentation served to **create a shared understanding** and prime participants for the activities that followed. In future meetings, this presentation time will be used to highlight progress on action items.

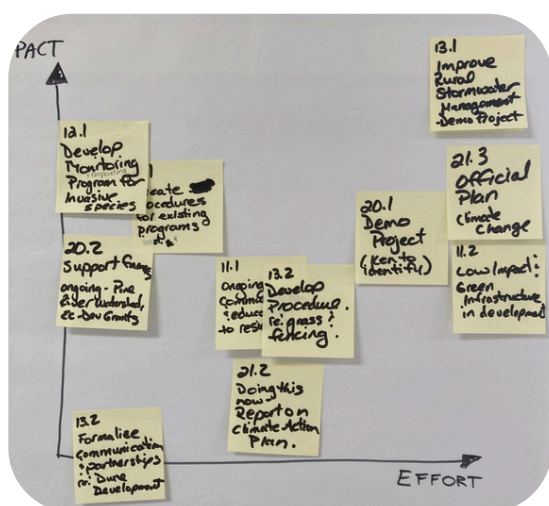
Breakout Groups

To maximize available time, action items were grouped into three themes. Participants were assigned to review 'themes' based on their area of expertise. Themes included:

- Built Environment
- Socio-Economic
- Natural Environment

In the future, groups may be self-selected. Alternatively, future working group meetings may decide that all actions can be discussed by the full group.





Resilience in Action

The meeting concluded with a site tour, grounding the meeting activities in a real-life context. Jon Yungblut led a site tour of the **Bruce Beach drain (1)** from high ground down to the lower ground. Mike Fair discussed with the group goals for seeking funding for improving **Heritage Park's (2)** infrastructure, tree, and native species planting. This visit served as both a celebration and a look at the future.



Key Take-Aways

- 8 Standard Operating Procedures(SOP) to be created or updated
- 4 new actions
- Areas for developing communications and leveraging partnerships were highlighted
- Insights into the future format of the annual Working Group meeting process

For more, refer to the *Action Update Spreadsheet and the Extended Working Group Summary*.

Action Prioritization Results

Quick Wins – Prioritize for 2025	Major Projects – Get Started in 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.2 – Identify critical functions that are vulnerable to power outages and develop priority response and power restoration protocols. • 9.2 – Increase the community's uptake of household emergency kits. • 11.1 – Explore and expand tree planting, streetscaping, and other strategies to increase shade and cooling, including the planting of strategic plant species (e.g. native grasses, shrubs, trees, and pollinators, etc.) on private and public land. • 12.1 – Develop an invasive species response strategy, including funding for these efforts and guidance materials for private landowners. • 20.2 – Support farmers and the agricultural community in their existing and future efforts to adapt to risks from climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10.1 – Implement warming and cooling centres outside of normal business hours. • 11.2 Encourage the incorporation of Low Impact Development (LID) features and green infrastructure into new development and redevelopment projects. • 13.1 Improve flood-prone riverbanks by implementing natural, rural stormwater management measures upstream. • 17.1 Improve winter travel conditions for pedestrians. • 20.1 – Investigate innovative drainage techniques for managing flooding and runoff issues on agricultural lands. • 21.3 – Incorporate climate change considerations into the Township's Official Plan.
Fill-Ins – If there is time, address.	Thankless Tasks – Revisit in 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1 – Investigate the feasibility of increasing home resilience measures (e.g. backflow valves) and educate community members on flood risk reduction methods. • 13.2 – Promote and support dune development along backshore of beach and include planting dune grasses and sand fencing to induce settling of wind-blown sands. • 21.2 – Monitor and track implementation of the Climate Change and Energy Plan and report on progress annually. • NEW – Communicate environmental education through Social Media & Webpage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.2 – Investigate the feasibility of implementing a downspout disconnection program. • 6.1 – Investigate the feasibility of increasing the resilience of electricity distribution infrastructure to extreme weather events through strategic planning and retrofits.

Meeting Feedback

A survey was shared with attendees after the meeting. The feedback gathered will help inform future Climate Action Working Group meetings. *Below is a summary of the results.*



86% of participants shared feedback on 2024 working group meeting.

Participants from the following departments were present: Community Services, Administration, CAO, Public Works, Clerks, Emergency Management/Health and Safety, Treasury, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, and the Mayor.

When asked who was missing in the 2024 meeting and should participate in future meetings, participants said: Lake Huron Coastal Centre, Drainage Superintendent, Economic Development Officer, Manager of Environmental Services, more Council participation, and Interested community members.



100% feel that the actions in the Plan are helpful & important to implement.

92% agree that the plan has contributed to a more resilient Township and felt that updating the actions would aid in implementing the plan.



When asked whether an annual Working Group meeting would help move climate change action forward, **83%** agreed, **8%** were unsure, and **8%** said no.

50% were interested in formalizing the Working Group with a Mandate or Terms of Reference, and **50%** were not.

67% felt there was enough opportunity to collaborate across groups and learn what others were working on, while **25%** did not, and **8%** were unsure.



'Learning about the Adaptation Plan & planning process' & 'Being able to provide input on the action items' were ranked #1 most valuable reasons for attending the meeting.

Next Steps for Climate Change Adaptation

- Develop SOP for annual working group meetings.
- Update action items and track progress over 2025.
- Plan to meet with the Climate Change Working Group in Fall 2025.

For more details, or to receive a copy of the full Working Group Summary or Action Spreadsheet please reach out to Mike Fair mfair@huronkinloss.com.