

CASE STUDY: HAMILTON COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Client: City of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

OVERVIEW

The City of Hamilton has engaged with the community on climate change since 2008. It is the first municipality with a Community Climate Change Action Charter – a voluntary commitment by individuals and organizations to address climate change. In October 2013, Council endorsed development of the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) with a new target of 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2006 levels by 2050 and the identification of adaptation activities to reduce the local impacts and vulnerability of climate change.

SERVICES

Lura Consulting provided a suite of services to support development of the CCAP. A collaborative planning approach was applied in support of the City's efforts to ensure that the broader community could take ownership of the Plan. Lura's services included:

- Development of an Engagement and Communications Strategy;
- Creation of project branding and messaging for the “Let’s Talk About the Weather” engagement campaign;
- Design and facilitation of multi-sectoral Steering Committee and Task Force meetings;
- Hosting a public launch event and series of Climate Conversation engagement events;
- Development of a Workshop in a Box toolkit;
- An assessment of current initiatives and projects;
- Adaptation research and planning;
- Development of a vision, goals, actions, and recommendations for implementation; and
- Preparation of the draft and final CCAP.

RESULTS

The Action Plan establishes long-term goals and directions within nine theme areas to guide the Hamilton community in taking action on climate change. A number of potential actions have been identified within each theme to help achieve each goal, including ten priority actions to be undertaken within the first 1 to 3 years. The development of the CCAP included multiple avenues for collaboration with the community and engaged approximately 1,200 individuals throughout the process.

