



Adaptation Close To Home

Developing a climate adaptation action plan for Sturgeon County to help build local climate resilience.

THE CHALLENGE

Climate change has effects at the global and local scale. In Sturgeon County, it is projected that climate change will lead to **longer and hotter summers, shorter and milder winters, cause changes to agriculture and result in more extreme weather**. This affects and will continue to affect the local economy, environment, and the well-being of people who live and work in the county.

THE SOLUTION

Risk assessment considers the impacts that climate change could have on a community in the future and **action planning** aims to reduce the direct, negative impacts. This approach builds climate resilience in a proactive and measured way. To develop a climate adaptation plan for Sturgeon County, climate science research was completed and cross-referenced with local knowledge and expertise, identifying specific climate impacts that could affect the county.

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DOWNLOAD

[Sturgeon County's Climate Adaptation Action Plan](#)

bit.ly/3ablyI2



Sturgeon County is a 2,100 km² municipal district in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region. Located on Treaty 6 territory north of the City of St. Albert, the county is primarily comprised of rural farmland, residential acreages, and industrial developments. It is home to over 20,000 residents and the Alberta Industrial Heartland, a regional hub for petrochemical and oil and gas development.

Impacts that negatively affect the community are called **climate risks**, whereas those that offer benefits are called **climate opportunities**. The majority of climate change impacts are negative, however there are some opportunities foreseen, such as increased agricultural productivity as a result of warmer weather and changing precipitation.

Considering the climate impacts under consideration, 26 priority actions were identified. These actions can be implemented by the County to support community-wide resilience.

Climate Adaptation Challenge in Sturgeon County

OUTCOMES

The Climate Adaptation Challenge produced:

- [Sturgeon County Climate Adaptation Action Plan](#).
- List of Sturgeon County policies, plans, programs and bylaws relevant to adaptation planning, which will help the County ensure adaptation planning is integrated into their strategic documents.
- A public survey on actions that can be taken to adapt to climate change.
- Eight workshops where County staff and local stakeholders collaborated to develop climate resilience strategies.
- Increased awareness among County staff, council members, and local stakeholders of the potential local influence of climate change.

LESSONS LEARNED

Working together, virtually: Despite COVID-19 preventing in-person meetings with County staff and local stakeholders, communication technology supported meaningful consultation and effective collaboration. Using the online platform Miro for workshops allowed successful interaction, voting and brainstorming of ideas by participants.

Identifying external and internal stakeholders:

Creating a climate adaptation plan required collaboration amongst municipal staff, local stakeholders, All One Sky Foundation, and the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre. Adaptation planning is not done in isolation; it requires the effort of many, and benefits from a variety of different perspectives. It is interdisciplinary in nature, and considers the input of a variety of departments, climate scientist and community members.

Prioritization based on community needs:

There is an extensive range of possible adaptations to climate change, covering both very simple and very complex actions. Some are practical, while others may be too financially or socially burdensome. Financing can be a significant restraint on adaptation planning. Deciding which actions to recommend required consideration of many aspects of the benefits and costs, including but certainly not limited to economic value.

Public engagement and demonstrating municipal leadership:

Public concern over climate change is rising and local governments are giving more consideration to building climate resilience.

THE CLIMATE ADAPTATION CHALLENGE

The Climate Adaptation Challenge provided free support for Alberta municipalities to understand the local impacts of climate change and to address the forecasted changes.

Using the [Climate Resilience Express](#) planning guide as a framework, participating communities received direct support identifying climate risks and opportunities, projecting future impacts, and prioritizing actions to build climate resilience.

Delivered by All One Sky Foundation and the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre, a partnership of Rural Municipalities of Alberta, Alberta Municipalities and the Government of Alberta.

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