



Climate Change Framework

2020

Purpose

To focus Richmond Hill's climate change mandate and ensure a coordinated approach to taking climate action by:

- Outlining the City's official **climate change priorities**, and
- Recommending **potential actions to address gaps, and ensure coordination.**

Vision

Richmond Hill will become a low-carbon, resilient community.



Mission

The City will be a leader in transitioning Richmond Hill to a low-carbon resilient future.

We will undertake this mission by:

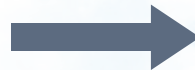
- **applying a climate change lens** to City activities,
- **creating climate change action programs**, and
- **fostering collaboration and innovation** by engaging with stakeholders within and beyond city government.

Existing Systems of the City

To complete the mission effectively, we will **align goals with existing systems of activities and responsibilities.**



Applying a climate change lens
























Creating climate change action programs



Fostering collaboration and innovation



Priority Actions

System	Why?	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
 <p>Corporate Governance</p>	A coordinated and integrated approach is needed so that the City can respond efficiently and effectively to the more frequent and severe events the City will face.	 Integrate climate change considerations throughout corporate policies and frameworks.  Define a formal process for alerting divisions and making decisions during major climate events.		
 <p>Land-use Planning</p>	Land-use planning is the main tool available for influencing on-the-ground changes in development patterns, transportation systems, buildings and site design.	 Update planning policies, regulations, standards and specifications to incorporate climate change considerations.  Measure climate change progress achieved through the land-use planning process.		
 <p>Asset Management</p>	Numerous city assets are affected by and contribute to climate change which means we can find opportunities for improvement and long-term cost savings/avoidance.	 Coordinate update of standards and specifications, incorporating a climate change lens.  Determine feasibility of converting fleet and equipment to electric power.	 For each asset type, create standard list of possible interactions with climate events and impacts	
 <p>Community Risk Mitigation</p>	Climate change adds another layer of risk which requires the City to demonstrate due diligence and minimize liability by sharing information and understanding where and how threats can be lessened.	 Create a Risk-Sharing Forum to coordinate approaches and risk thresholds.  Improve data collection, tagging, and analysis to inform further action.  Develop a formal program to identify and manage critical infrastructure across divisions.	 Develop formal Enterprise Risk Management Program.	
 <p>Green Infrastructure</p>	It will help the City address climate change while preserving and enhancing greenspace and green assets in our urbanizing community.	 Develop construction guidelines for low-impact developments (LID).	 Draft a program to monitor and properly maintain LIDs.  Develop a Natural Heritage Strategy to increase the quality, connectivity, integrity, and diversity of the natural heritage system.	
 <p>Engagement and Innovation</p>	Climate change awareness and education (inside and outside the corporation) is key to changing behaviour and empowering action. It will help the City leverage and encourage innovation through best practices, citizen-led actions and promotion of green industries.	 Provide formal support to departments and divisions on how to apply a climate change lens.  Coordinate all education, engagement, and outreach activities to ensure consistent climate change messaging.		