



**Municipal Climate Change
Frontrunners:
Environmental Leadership**

Introduction to Mahone Bay

Founded: 1754

Incorporated: 1919

Population (2021): 1,064

Size: 3.13 km²

From the preamble to the 2024 update to the Town's Municipal Planning Strategy, commenting on public input received:

There is an overwhelming consensus about the importance of the environment in Mahone Bay; it is foundational to the very nature of the town. The community holds the harbour, watercourses, forests, and the trails within the town's boundary in high regard.



2021-25 Strategic Plan

Environmental Leadership

1) Mitigation

Reduce
Community
Greenhouse Gas
Emissions

2) Adaptation

Adapt Community
Infrastructure to
Climate Change

3) Stewardship

Practice
Stewardship of Our
Natural Environment

1) Reduce Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Community GHG Reduction Action Plan
- Mahone Bay runs on 80%+ Renewable Energy
- All Municipal buildings are now off fossil fuels





2) Adapt Community Infrastructure to Climate Change

- Coastal Flooding - Edgewater Street Living Shoreline
- Inland Flooding & Stormwater Management
- Climate risks in Asset Management Planning



Living Shoreline

- 2013 Climate Change Action Plan
- 2016 Coastal Flooding Report
- 2022 Shoreline Pilot Project
- PROJECT PARTNERS



- PROJECT FUNDERS



Living Shoreline

Components of the Living Shoreline



Rock Sill



Tidal Marsh



Vegetated Bank



<https://www.mahonebaylivingshoreline.com/>

How has Mahone Bay been successful with our shoreline project?

- Climate & Energy Program Manager
 - Forming Partnerships
 - Securing Funds
- 2025: Moving to construction



3) Practice Stewardship of Our Natural Environment

- Urban Forest Management
- Watershed Management
- Celebrating our Natural Environment



Partnerships

- Partnerships for the Living Shoreline and beyond
- Support and capacity building
- Great things happening in our own backyard







Community Engagement

- Incredible local talent
- Climate & Environment Committee
- 2025-29 Strategic Plan



Resident Participation

Our residents are participating by:

- Planting and donating trees
- Volunteering with Coastal Action and other organizations
- Forming engaged community groups such as Talking Trees
- Joining Communities in Bloom for the first time last year
- Maintaining and improving naturalized lands for public benefit
- Taking action on stormwater and wildfire mitigation
- Transforming their own properties into contributors to our local ecosystem



2021-25

Lessons Learned



**Invest in
capacity**



**Build and
maintain
relationships**



**Adaptation
requires a whole
community
approach**

Looking Ahead

- Mapping Climate Hazards
 - Inland flooding
 - Wildfires
 - Invasive species
- Integrating Natural Assets into Asset Management
- Engaging residents and private properties in climate adaptation



THANK YOU



townofmahonebay.ca