



Subject: *Municipal Climate Change Action Plan Update - Council Workshop Request*
To: Regular Meeting of Council
Date Prepared: August 11, 2026
Related Motions: N/A
Prepared by: Anne Warburton, Sustainability Coordinator
Approved by: Adam Clarkson, Director Corporate Services

Summary

An update to the Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP) is a key priority under Council's Strategic Plan and the 2026-27 workplan. Developing the MCCAP Update has provided an opportunity for staff to collectively assess how climate-imposed stress and risk are considered in decision making and incorporated in Municipal operations and services. Through this work, staff have identified practical actions to strengthen the resilience of the Municipal organization and the community we serve.

Because there is a great deal of information that underpins the MCCAP Update, and its inter-connectivity to work across multiple departments, staff would like to provide Council with the opportunity to become familiar with the data, methodology, and proposed actions prior to staff bringing the completed MCCAP Update forward for consideration in winter 2026-27.

This report puts forward a request for a brief Council Workshop in October or November 2026 to review and discuss proposed actions in draft MCCAP Update.

Financial Impact Statement

Not applicable.

Recommendation

Staff recommend a Council Workshop be scheduled for one of the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 14, 2026
- Monday, November 9, 2026
- Monday, November 23, 2026
- Alternative date suggested by Council

Recommended Motion

Move that the Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommend that Council direct staff to schedule a Council Workshop on <<>> to support development of the Municipal Climate Change Action Plan Update: Roadmap to Resilience.

Background

MCCAP Update

The current Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP) was developed in 2013 as part of the 2010-2014 Municipal Funding Agreement. Since its development, the Municipality has taken steps to address a number of the priority projects identified in the Plan. Since 2013, however, the MCCAP has not been revised or updated. An updated MCCAP is frequently a requirement of provincial and/or federal funding opportunities.

To update the MCCAP, staff have been synthesizing locally relevant climate data, Council input (April 2025 workshop), community input, and staff and external expertise to identify amplifying climate risks in East Hants. Council's request was to be updated along the way. In February of 2026 Council was presented with a "What We Heard So Far" report summarizing a public climate survey which confirmed support for climate-wise planning and action. The workshop requested is the next 'check in.' It will review the risks to operations and services that have emerged in the process, as well as a drafted list of prioritized actions to reduce risk and strengthen corporate and community resilience.

The MCCAP Update provides a practical framework for identifying and monitoring evolving vulnerabilities to climate hazards, and guiding municipal action and investment toward initiatives that have the greatest cost-to-value potential to help the Municipality manage or avoid costly climate impacts. The MCCAP Update will also identify a path toward improving energy efficiency across the municipal built portfolio in a manner that stabilizes costs and lessens the greenhouse gas emissions associated with Municipal operations.

A final draft of the MCCAP Update: Roadmap to Resilience, is anticipated to be formally presented to Council in January, 2027.

Discussion

Goal of the Requested Council MCCAP Workshop

This report requests a Council MCCAP Workshop be hosted in October or November 2026 to give Council ample time to become familiar with MCCAP's findings to-date, ask questions, and provide feedback to staff prior to completion of the final draft.

MCCAP Purpose

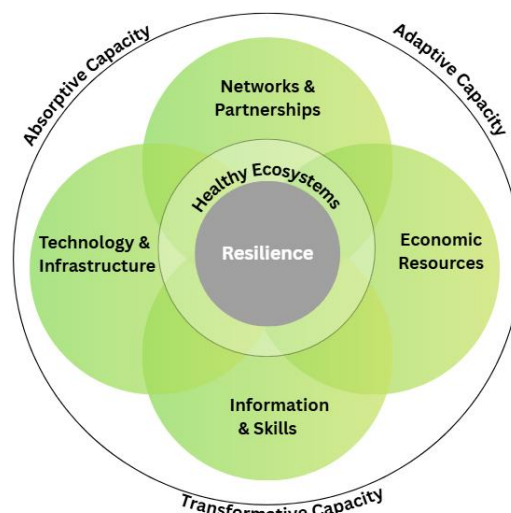
The purpose of the MCCAP Update is to strengthen the Municipality's capacity to keep East Hants safe and prepared in our rapidly changing climate. The MCCAP Update assesses how exposed and vulnerable East Hants' communities are to sudden events like wildfires, floods and heatwaves. It also considers how prepared the Municipality is to respond to changes that are happening more slowly, like increasingly frequent droughts, rising sea levels, and shifting ecosystems.

Equally important to assessing climate risk, is the establishment of an iterative MCCAP framework—an evidence-based process—that will support East Hants' ability to monitor climate impacts and protect its agency to respond for decades to come. Commitment to this iterative framework will ensure East Hants has the information, skills, partnerships, financial resources, climate-wise infrastructure, and technology in place to realize community wellbeing in spite of shocks, stresses, and uncertainty. In essence, the MCCAP framework empowers East Hants' resilience. Resilience is a reflection of an organization's capacity to respond to and recover from events (Absorptive Capacity), demonstrated flexibility and willingness to adjust processes and resources to deal with changing circumstances (Adaptive Capacity), and attention to systemic conditions that cause or increase people's vulnerability and exposure to climate risks (Transformative Capacity). The climate actions—all of which are practical and actionable—identified as part of the MCCAP Update will collectively serve as a roadmap to strengthen East Hants' resilience.

MCCAP Content

The proposed Council MCCAP Workshop will touch upon the many layers of the MCCAP Update.

- Climate data and projections: The Municipality synthesized data from climatedata.ca to better understand and confirm the climate profile created for East Hants by the Nova Scotia Department of



Environment and Climate Change. This was further vetted by the Sustainability Solutions Group (SSG), a consulting cooperative hired by East Hants to add value to the MCCAP Update and funded by the Municipality's successful award of \$70,000 from FCM's Climate Ready Plans and Processes funding stream. The Municipality also worked with climate science experts within the CLIMAtlantic network to ensure the MCCAP framework aligned with the most locally relevant and up-to-date climate projections available.

- **What We Heard Report:** Community engagement has been ongoing since Autumn of 2025. Through surveys, focus groups, stakeholder meetings and community events, the Municipality has been able to garner which climate risks concern East Hants residents the most, geographical differences in these concerns based on geography and climate hazard exposure, and assess their appetite for a variety of types of climate action. Findings will be summarized in the MCCAP Update.
- **Risk Assessments:** Staff identified which municipal assets and operations, valued community places (built and natural), and settlements are generally exposed to select climate hazards given ongoing climate trends (e.g., warming temperatures). The likelihood (probability) of the hazard(s) causing harm/damage was then assessed, along with the severity of the potential consequences. These risk assessments were rigorously vetted by SSG.
- **Climate Exposure and Vulnerability Mapping:** Maps were created to reveal where in East Hants people and/or valued community assets may be exposed to, or are particularly vulnerable to geographically definable climate risks. This mapping process combined many layers of existing data, including but not limited to: flood mapping, Statistics Canada Social Diversity Index and Social Connectivity Index, the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables fuel data (component of wildfire risk), location of key community assets, and much more.
- **Historical events:** Recorded information about historical impacts from severe weather events will be summarized to help provide a frame of reference for impacts we could expect to happen again if adaptive measures are not taken.
- **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Measures:** Simultaneous to the climate risk assessments, Corporate Services participated in Efficiency Nova Scotia's Roving Municipal Energy Program to conduct high level energy audits of Municipal buildings, resulting in guidance for energy efficiency improvements. Simultaneously, the Municipality participated in the Province's Low Carbon Communities Fund to take advantage of a heavily subsidized program to create a Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP), managed by QUEST Canada. East Hants was one of 15 communities across the Atlantic region accepted into this program. Program deliverables included both a Corporate and a Community Greenhouse Gas emissions profile, and the identification of opportunities to reduce or offset greenhouse gas emissions associated with municipal operations.
- **Draft Climate Actions:** The MCCAP will propose a list of practical climate actions that have been identified by Staff and through community engagement. All actions were subject to a cross-departmental prioritization workshop, and vetted with members of the Community Service Providers Network, and through focus groups with the Community Health Board Northern Zone and Public Health. The proposed Council MCCAP Workshop allows staff to touch base with Council on the climate actions that have emerged as highest priorities. Note that Council has already deemed one drafted climate action to be a priority—*Develop a Water Scarcity and Drought Resilience Plan (C26(208))*—with immediate focus on a Water Conservation Assistance Program (C26(209)).

MCCAP Timeline

- The proposed Council Workshop is in October or November 2026
- The MCCAP Update: Road to Resilience is anticipated to be presented to Council on January 19th, 2026.

Approval of the MCCAP Update by Council means that the Municipality accepts the concept that working towards plausible scenarios of a sustainable and just future for all of East Hants requires consideration of climate scenarios and incorporates this thinking into proactive strategies and actions that not only mitigate climate-related risk, but also enhance our capacity for response and recovery. The individual actions listed

within the MCCAP Update will be brought before Council as separate initiatives when it is time to seek Council's approval to put them into effect.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The Municipal Climate Change Action Plan update aligns with the Municipality's key strategies of Sustainable Infrastructure and Strong Communities, and is a key project in Council's Strategic Plan.
