OUR CITY. OUR FUTURE.



Resilient St. John's Community Climate Plan What We Heard – Initial Community Conversations

March 2021



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Disclaimer

- This document provides a summary of what was heard from participants during the first round of engagement of the planning process. It is not meant to reflect the specific details of each submission word-for-word.
- The City produces a What we Heard document for every city-led public engagement project. This collected commentary is shared with the community to ensure we heard you correctly.
- The full scope of commentary including individual submissions and comments, as well as the What we Heard document is used by city staff and Council to help inform recommendations and decisions.



Background

- The City of St. John's Declared a Climate Emergency in November 2019 and is committed to developing a Climate Plan to guide its actions to address Climate Change.
- The planning process is expected to produce a draft for Council by end of summer 2021.
- The Resilient St. John's Community Climate Plan will identify a 30year Climate Action Strategy to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, while re-enforcing efforts to stabilize energy costs by supporting energy efficiency. It will also provide strategies to further prepare the City to address the challenges and opportunities presented by the impacts from climate change.



Temperature



Increase of 2.7°C by 2050s 4.6 °C by 2100



By 2100 maximum summer temperature of 30.4 °C



20% longer growing season by 2050s From approx. May 20 - Oct 24 To approx. May 11 - Nov 4



20% less demand for heating 97% more demand for cooling



Warmer winter by 3.4 °C with 25% less icing days by 2050s (icing days = days that don't go above 0 °C)



50 less days with frost (days with temperatures below zero)

Changes in Climate in St. John's

Precipitation



Little change in average annual rainfall 5% but change in seasonal patterns



Higher likelihood of intense storms and flooding Summer 31% Fall 19% (90th PCTL)



Increased frequency of 7% dry days



Tropical storms are likely to be stronger and bring higher intensity rainfall



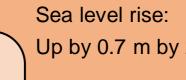
Wetter winter with 60% less snow depth by 2050s

From St. John's Climate Trends Report

Sea Level Rise and Coastal **Hazards**



Increased ocean temperatures and coastal erosion



Up by 0.7 m by 2100

Up by 0.51 by 2080



2010 baseline (source: DFO's CAN-EWLAT tool)



Purpose of Engagement

- To initiate the discussion and help identify views on how climate change impacts St. John's; what is important to residents to bounce back; and what greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) mitigating actions are occurring within the community
- To engage with the public on their current experiences, observations, and suggestions related to GHG mitigation and resilience which can help inform the plan.
- Provide educational materials and discussion opportunities to create a shared understanding of what the City is doing, why it is doing it, and how the community is impacted today and in the future.



Promotion

What is Climate Change?

Climate has changed on all time scales throughout the

arth's history. Some things about the current change

are not unusual, however, many observed changes a





Addressing Clima

We need your input to tackle one of biggest challenge of our generation - Climate Change At the City of SL John's, we are developing a "Restlent SL John's Ran." The plan will support the community to: - reduce the emission of greenhouse gases;

- stabilize energy costs to residents by supporting energy efficiency; and
- prepare the OIty to address the impacts from climate change.

It is important that the strategies in the plan represent community perceptions and ideas. How informed are you about climate change risks and greenhouse gases sources in SL ishtrs? Werke invittie readers to strate their vision of a realisers? JL, John's and To learn more on our new engagement page al engagestohns;ca

Learn more about Sustainability at: stjohns.ca >Uving in SL John's >Your City >Sustainability

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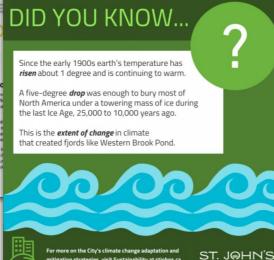
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Impacts on our Econc

We know that climate change has environm initial, but of dy solution with them are also for than ened to be addressed to ensure the stat extromety². The World Economic Forum, Fluencial Stabil Balo de Canada, and the fluences of the startes Highlighted the mild of hord addressing climat the brendth of accounts good and the startes highlighted the mild of hord addressing climat the brendth of accounts good and the startes of startes of the startes of the startes of the energy of startes and the balo of this of the energy good generation or startes that and good generations.

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Resilient St. John's Climate Plan



City Website News

- <u>Oct 13</u> "Understanding Climate Change"
- Oct 22 "Climate Change and the Economy"
- <u>Nov 4</u> "Public Engagement Session"
- St. John's City Guide Winter 2021
- <u>Engagestjohns.ca</u> project page (848 unique visitors)
- Three e-mail newsletters delivered through engagestjohns.ca reaching about 2,831 users each
- City's social media sites:
 - Facebook (reach: 25,480; engagements: 382)
 - Instagram (reach: 11,113; engagements: 213)
 - Twitter (impressions: 93,701; engagements: 1,093)
- Media interviews/coverage Interviews with councillors and media coverage of momentum actions related to the plan.



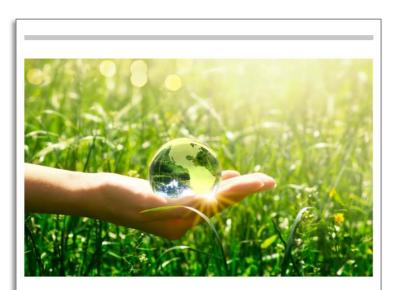
Points of Engagement

Online at <u>engagestjohns.ca</u>:

- An interactive map for the public to input past related hazards they may have experienced (6 locations/events)
- Two Quick Polls:
 - What is your confidence level in discussing climate change risks and greenhouse gas sources in the community? (46 votes)
 - What is your level of awareness of climate change risks in St. John's? (31 votes)
- A ranking tool asked:
 - Which criteria is more important to consider when selecting actions for St. John's clean energy transition? (4496 votes)
 - Which action do you think the community should prioritize to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions? (1458 votes)
- A Q&A Section (received and responded to 8 questions)
- A virtual public session held in November 2020 (14 attendees)

Points of Engagement

To support our community leaders with local information about climate change



DIY Community Climate Workshop

For Community Groups and Citizens of St. John's 2020

ST. JOHN'S

 A toolkit was developed to support community leaders in hosting conversations about climate change and to provide early feedback.

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- Two train-the-trainer style public sessions were held for anyone interested in using this tool (Oct 28 and Oct 29, 2020)
- The sessions trained 7 members in our community
- Two feedback forms have been provided to the City by the public from community group virtual events using the toolkit



Points of Engagement

St. John's Multi - Stakeholder Sustainability Team (MSST)

Detailed planning workshops are held with the MSST

Membership includes over 30 stakeholders from organizations in the community selected by the City's Environmental and Sustainability Expert Panel

The launch of the Multi-Stakeholder Sustainability Team provided early perceptions to complement other engagement efforts.



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Two early "quick polls" helped the City understand the existing level of awareness and knowledge to help scope subsequent engagement materials.

Engagestjohns.ca Quick Polls showed:

- 39% of respondents considered themselves "Very" to "Extremely" aware of climate change risks in St. John's
- 54% are "Somewhat knowledgeable but feel they have a lot to learn"
- 37% are "Very Knowledgeable" and "Follow the latest research and information"
- 2% don't believe in climate change

At the various sessions, the Public and the Stakeholder Team were asked to describe a "Climate Ready" St. John's



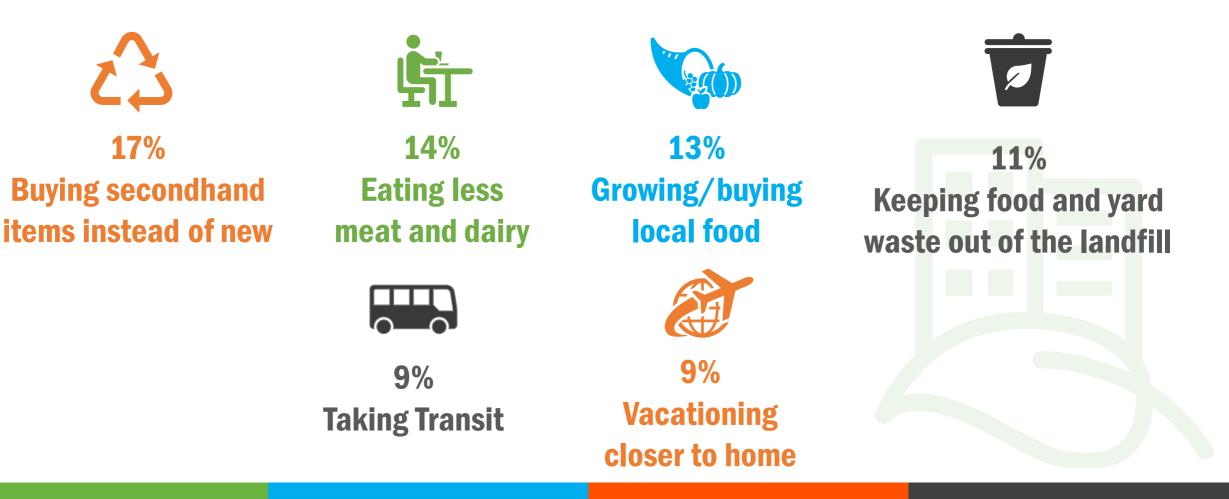
In a word cloud the most prominent words were mentioned most often.

In order of most mentioned:

- Plan (well planned)
- Active transportation
- Energy efficient
- NetZero
- Resilient
- Accessible
- Electrified
- Adapted
- etc....

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Attendees to the public session were asked to identify actions they are personally participating in to lower the community's greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)





Attendees to workshops and public sessions opinions on the opportunities to reduce GHGs and Energy Use in our Community

Most agreement on:



Improvements to public transit



Supporting the availability of local food and products



Retrofit of existing residential buildings to reduce energy

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Supporting electric/hybrid vehicle use

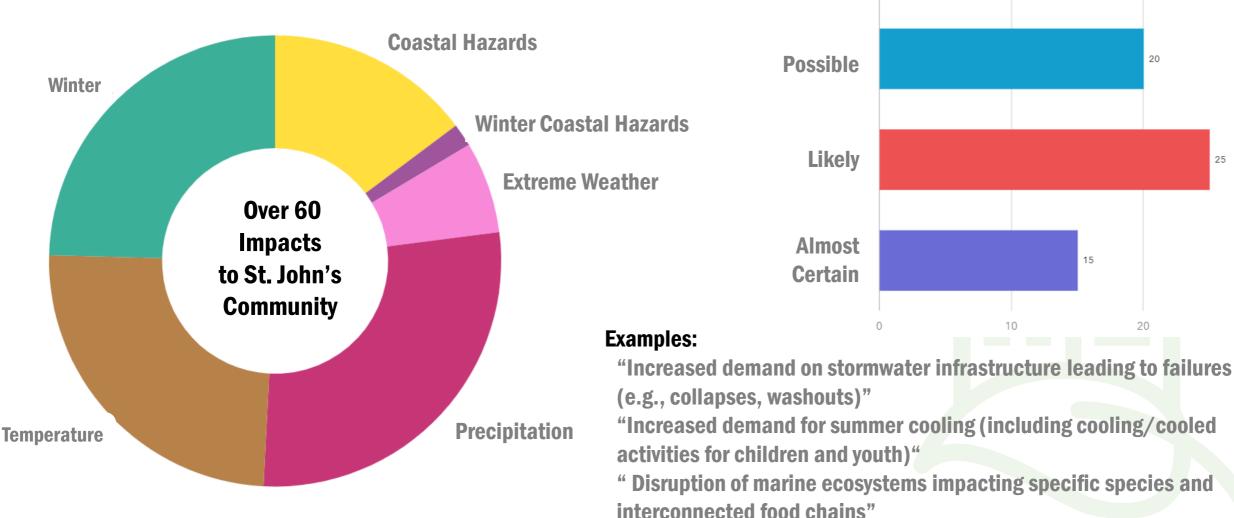
Attendees to workshops and public sessions were asked to identify the changes in climate already affecting St. John's (in order of agreement)

Changes to Freeze-thaw cycles More Inland Flooding More Coastal and River Bank Erosion Longer/Warmer Summers Changes in Land Ecosystems More Coastal Flooding Changes in Marine Ecosystems Longer Growing Season

Less Winter Ice (sea ice and pond ice)

More/heavier Rain Storms

Impacts and their likelihood to our Structural. Ecological and Socioeconomic Systems



Unlikely

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Ranking Tool Results:

Which actions do you think our community should prioritize to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions? in order of priority (4496 votes)

Support micro-grid neighbourhood energy sharing (e.g., heating, solar, wind)

Improve public transit infrastructure

Support local food availability

Develop solar/wind farms

Improve (residential and commercial) buildings' energy efficiency through passive measures first (airtightness, insulation, triple glazing)

Develop neighbourhood energy plans (addressing how energy can be saved and/or generated at the neighbourhood level)

Expand the landfill gas collection system to reduce the gas impact on climate change by about 30X

Improve active transportation (e.g., trails, bike paths, etc.)

Retrofit existing homes and businesses to improve their energy efficiency

Install solar, wind, and/or passive heat systems on commercial buildings



Ranking Tool Results:

Which criteria is more important to consider when selecting actions?

in order of priority (1458 votes)

CLEAN WATER, impact on water pollution

PUBLIC HEALTH, impact on chronic diseases and injuries and support for a physically and mentally healthy population

CLEAN AIR, impact on air pollution

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, impact on GHG reductions

RESILIENCE, impact on capacity to survive, adapt and grow despite chronic stresses (e.g., seasonal change) or acute shocks (e.g., natural disasters).

BIODIVERSITY, impact on the variety of life locally or internationally

ACCESS TO GREEN SPACE, impact on opportunity for citizens to experience parks and green spaces

ENERGY SECURITY, impact on a stable and reliable energy generation and delivery system

QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING, impact on safe housing options in various price ranges

MOBILITY, impact on affordable, convenient access to key destinations for all community members through transportation options

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Attendees to workshops and **public sessions** identified the following opportunities and co-benefits from climate action and the changes in climate in St. John's

Improved maintenance practices		Improved housing design		Increased local food production		Opportunity to grow crops that we were/are not able to	
Improving uptake of healthy public policies and practices		Increased vegetation growth		Energy savings		Better water management policies	
Better Buildings (resilient/energy efficiently/comfort)		Development and application of new technologies		More diversity of species		More resilient new infrastructure	
Alternative energy sources (e.g., propane, biofuels)		Improved land use for our assets and construction activities		Commercial opportunities in forestry		Incorporating economics of ecosystem services in decision making	
Improved Land Use			Improve and qual			avings :unities	



 Identify and rank consequences for each of the identified impacts to finalize the Climate Change Risk Assessment to prioritize adaptation on impacts of most consequence to our community

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- Incorporate insights, ideas and criteria in Community Energy and GHG model to evaluate impact of actions in our Community to ensure an equitable and economically viable plan (e.g., GHG reductions, energy savings, household cashflow)
- 2021 Engagement will be focused on the strategies and actions and their priority developed with the Multi-Stakeholder Sustainability Team and the Environmental and Sustainability Expert Panel
- To stay informed about this project, visit <u>engagestjohns.ca</u> and register to receive emails.