

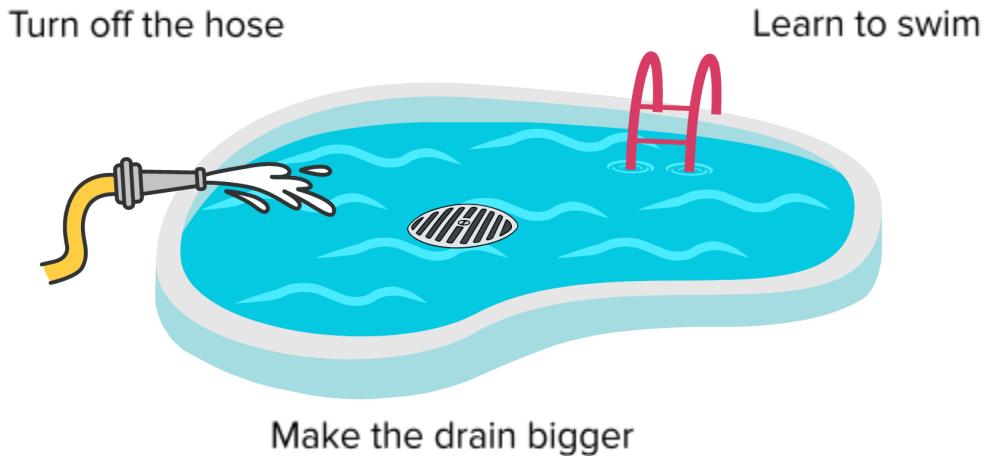


FACTSHEET: The role of climate action in creating sustainable communities

April 2024

How are you preparing your community to live in the 21st century? Climate change is making the role of community foundations more challenging by exacerbating inequalities and challenging your efforts to create safe, thriving, accessible, and equitable communities that foster a high quality of life for all.

By applying a climate lens to your work, you can amplify your impact. In these challenging times, your solutions can - and must - do double or triple duty. For example, consider how building retrofits led by social contractors can provide decent work for people facing barriers to employment while also preventing climate pollution and protecting residents from dangerous heat waves.



1. Turn off the hose: Stop climate pollution by supporting the transition away from fossil fuels

More than 80% of climate pollution comes from burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. We can't address climate change without transitioning away from fossil fuels used in driving, heating our buildings, making stuff, and creating electricity.

A role for community foundations:

- Implement actions across the seven pillars of The Canadian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change
- Align endowments with climate goals
- Support climate action initiatives
- Climate pollution from your operations will only account for a small portion of your overall impact. However, internal climate action can demonstrate leadership and help employees, board members, and partners develop their climate literacy.

2. Make the drain bigger: work with nature to draw down carbon

We can't wait for future technology to capture carbon. Plants and algae already sequester atmospheric carbon through photosynthesis. Nature-based solutions can take us a third of the way to meeting our global carbon reduction targets.

A role for community foundations:

- Support urban nature and local food justice initiatives
- Advocate for Indigenous-led conservation
- Promote and enable regenerative farming practices

3. Learn to swim: build resilience

Helping communities adapt to extreme weather means having infrastructure and systems in place to limit the physical effects. It also means building up social resilience before disaster strikes.

A role for community foundations:

- Support climate resilient initiatives
- Foster strong social cohesion
- Uplift the voices of frontline communities
- Advocate for Indigenous sovereignty

Takeaways:

- Climate change impacts us all, but particularly those in our communities who face structural barriers to equity.
- To address climate change, we need to get off fossil fuels, restore nature, and support community resilience.
- Community Foundations are already doing essential climate work by fostering community belonging and wellbeing!
- Take it further by applying a climate justice and multi-solving lens.
- Community Foundations are uniquely positioned to convene diverse partnerships, centre frontline wisdom, and shift power.

Community Foundations of Canada is grateful for the collaboration of [Project Neutral](#) in creating this factsheet for community foundations. This factsheet was written by Katie Harper.

