

# LANARK COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

*A climate change mitigation strategy*

2024 Report Card



PARTNERS FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION

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# Introduction

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, County Council adopted the Lanark County Climate Action Plan. This plan outlines how Lanark County aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the County while also building the resilience of our local communities.

The Lanark County Climate Action Plan is built around seven guiding principles:

- 1. Create a climate-conscious culture and community**
- 2. Eliminate fossil fuels**
- 3. Optimize energy/water efficiency and increase renewable energy generation**
- 4. Advance the use of nature-based solutions in climate change management**
- 5. Sustainably manage waste towards a circular economy**
- 6. Collaborating with community stakeholders**
- 7. Increase funding, accessibility, and education**

The plan is divided into two main sections: 1) the Corporate Climate Action Plan, which consists of 29 goals under 7 themes to address greenhouse gas emissions from County operations, and 2) the Community Climate Action Plan, which consists of 21 goals under 5 themes to address greenhouse gas emissions from the community as a whole.

# Priorities

To respond quickly and effectively to the climate crisis, Lanark County has prioritized eight major climate initiatives for the current Council term (2023 – 2026).

1. Advance transportation demand management programming and infrastructure.
2. Improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings.
3. Optimize organic waste diversion.
4. Support the adoption of electric vehicles and equipment.
5. Transition to low-carbon transportation when electric is not a viable solution.
6. Sequester carbon and protect natural resources.
7. Increase the use of local and renewable energy generation and security.
8. Create a climate-conscious community culture.

The eight major initiatives encompass four priority corporate goals and ten priority community goals, each of which is indicated with the  icon in the following section.

# Progress Summary

Lanark County has made some incredible progress on the Climate Action Plan during its first full year of implementation. Some major highlights of 2024 include:

- Being approved for funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Community Efficiency Financing program to launch a home energy retrofit financing program, Better Homes Lanark, in 2025.

- Being approved for up to \$150,000 through the Ministry of Transportation’s Electric Vehicle ChargeON program for two public electric vehicle charging stations.
- Joining ICLEI’s Building to Net Zero Cohort to adopt a building energy performance framework over the next four years.
- Providing funding for a diverse range of climate-related projects in each of our 8 lower-tier municipalities.
- Updating the corporate and community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory for the year 2023.
- Advancing research on the development of an Adaptation Plan and Natural Heritage System.

This report card provides a summary of the progress made on each goal as of November 2024. Each goal has been given one of the following progress statuses:

**Complete** = The goal has been implemented.

**Initial Stages** = Work on this goal has commenced but requires additional research and resources to implement.

**In Progress** = Work on this goal is underway.

**Ongoing** = This goal will be implemented on an ongoing or reoccurring basis.

**Future Action** = Implementation of this goal will start at a later date.

**On Pause** = Awaiting new developments or technology to support this goal.

## Corporate

### Theme 1 – Education

| Goal  | Status      | Notes  |
|---|-------------|--|
| 1.1 – Modify all Council reports to include a section for climate impact that uses the climate tool | In Progress | <p><b>2024.</b> “Climate and Sustainability Impact” was added as a section to the Council report template. In 2024, 44% of reports to Council included this section. Staff are working interdepartmentally to encourage the use of the climate lens tool and completion of the Climate and Sustainability Impact section.</p> <p><b>2023.</b> Lanark County staff were trained on how to use the climate lens tool to assess the climate impact of their decisions. A Climate and Sustainability Impact section was added to Council reports. Staff will review the trial period and make any necessary modifications to the process before officially adopting the Climate and Sustainability Impact section.</p> |

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|--|----------------|--|
| 1.2 – Raise staff awareness of corporate climate initiatives through mini campaigns and training programs.                             | Ongoing        | <p><b>2024.</b> The Lark of Lanark continues to be published semi-annually to provide staff with updates on climate initiatives. Information about climate and environmental initiatives was shared at various staff events, including the Health and Safety Luncheon and Tradeshow, the Emergency Management Training, and a wetland information session.</p> <p><b>2023.</b> Raising staff awareness of climate initiatives through the regular internal newsletter, the <i>Lark of Lanark</i>.</p> <p>Staff were trained on how to use the climate lens tool and the Climate and Sustainability Impact section for Council reports.</p> |
| 1.3 - Launch an Off Nightly/Mini campaign to encourage staff to turn off computers, printers, and lights overnight or when not in use. | Initial Stages | <p><b>2024.</b> Investigating a mini campaign series in collaboration with IT to reduce staff energy consumption.</p>  |

## Theme 2 – Buildings and Energy

| Goal   | Status        | Notes  |
|--|---------------|--|
| 2.1 - Plan for the rebuild or retrofit of all County buildings to be net-zero  | Future Action | <p><b>2024.</b> Exploring funding opportunities to support this goal.</p>  |
| 2.2 - Conduct a building automation system maintenance/commissioning   | Future Action |  |
| 2.3 - Install solar systems on municipal buildings where possible  | In Progress   | <p><b>2024.</b> A 40 kW solar panel array was installed on a Lanark County Housing Corporation residential building.</p> <p><b>2023.</b> One 10 kW solar roof mount was installed on the Public Works Garage in Perth in 2015.</p> |
| 2.4 - Install motion sensors for indoor lighting and automatic timers on all equipment that can be turned off at night | In Progress   | <p><b>2023/2024.</b> The Public Works and Administration buildings are both equipped with motion sensor lighting.</p>  |
| 2.5 - Optimize heating and cooling efficiency in all County buildings to reduce energy consumption ★                   | In Progress   |  |

### Theme 3 – Lanark County Housing Corporation (LCHC)

| Goal   | Status        | Notes   |
|--|---------------|---|
| 3.1 - Encourage energy efficient practices by increasing tenant education (e.g., providing energy efficient tips through mailing lists, posters in common spaces, reporting improvements to tenants, etc.)   | Future Action |   |
| 3.2 - Complete energy audits to identify the most effective energy-saving opportunities and prioritize projects when possible ★  | In Progress   | <p><b>2024.</b> Energy audits have been completed in 16 residential family units to identify the most effective energy-saving opportunities. These audits were funded in part by the Home Efficiency Rebate Plus (HER+) program.</p> <p><b>2023.</b> Exploring funding opportunities to support this goal.</p>  |
| 3.3 - Improve building envelope performance to reduce demand on heating and cooling systems, reduce energy loss, and increase tenant comfort (e.g., increase existing insulation, replace windows and doors with high efficiency models as needed) | Ongoing       | <p><b>2024.</b> Deep energy retrofit designs are being completed for two residential buildings within the LCHC.</p> <p><b>2023.</b> Lanark County accepted the terms of the National Housing Co-Investment Fund and has agreed with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to support the repair and renewal of units in the LCHC over three years from 2024 to 2026.</p> <p>Performed envelope repairs (i.e., caulking, insulation, air sealing, window replacement) on over 200 units.</p> |
| 3.4 - Improve domestic hot and cold water system efficiency to reduce energy costs and losses (e.g., upgrading to high-efficiency systems when the system is at the end of life, installing pipe insulation and tank insulator blankets, etc.)     | Ongoing       | <p><b>2024.</b> Installed 6 new hydronic space heating boilers above 95% efficiency. Installed 10 new indirect-fired hot water tanks, improving the efficiency from 60% to above 80%.</p> <p><b>2023.</b> Upgraded 80% of low-efficiency hot water systems to high-efficiency models including power-vented tanks and indirect-fired tanks. Upgraded 24 boilers to above 96% efficiency.</p>  |
| 3.5 – Replace appliances beyond their service life with Energy Star models   | Ongoing       | <p><b>2024.</b> Lighting fixtures have been updated in 41 units. 30 old fridges have been replaced with Energy Star models.</p>   |

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|--|---------------|--|
|  |               | <b>2023.</b> Appliances are replaced with Energy Star models as needed. 85 old fridges have been replaced with Energy Star models.   |
| 3.6 - Construct new buildings to be energy-efficient   | Future Action |  |
| 3.7 - Consider electric heat pumps in the replacement of electrical baseboards and gas furnaces/boilers at end of life | In Progress   | <p><b>2024.</b> County Council approved a contract for the installation of cold climate heat pumps for various Lanark County Housing Corporation (LCHC) properties to Climate Works.</p> <p>As of October 2024, 50 heat pumps have been installed in residential family units. Another 75 are planned to be installed by the end of 2024.</p> <p><b>2023.</b> Pending Council approval, 125 heat pumps and 750 kW of solar panels will be installed in Social Housing Family Units starting in 2024.</p> |
| 3.8 - Explore the conversion of areas to pollinator habitat or food production on managed properties                   | Future Action |  |

**Theme 4 – Transportation and Equipment**

| <b>Goal</b>  | <b>Status</b> | <b>Notes</b>  |
|--|---------------|---|
| 4.1 - Upgrade 16 gas and 3 diesel fleet vehicles to electric vehicles by 2030 when electric vehicles are available/vehicles reach end of life ★    | In Progress   | <p><b>2024.</b> The county purchased its second Ford F-150 Lightning.</p> <p><b>2023.</b> Public Works replaced a gas fleet truck with a Ford F-150 Lightning and is planning to replace another in 2024.</p>   |
| 4.2 - Install electric vehicle charging stations at the County buildings for County fleet charging and for staff, councillors or the public to use | In Progress   | <p><b>2024.</b> Through the EV ChargeON program, Lanark County was approved for up to \$150,000 to install two level 3 public electric vehicle charging stations at its Perth office. Installation will commence in 2025.</p> <p><b>2023.</b> Preparing an application for the EV ChargeON program to receive funding for two public electric vehicle charging stations at the Lanark County offices in Perth.</p> <p>Electric vehicle chargers for the County fleet were installed at the Public Works garage in 2022.</p> |

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| 4.3 - The procurement of new or replacement equipment or power tools be electric unless an electric option is not available ★ | Ongoing | <b>2023/2024.</b> Public Works is testing the use of different electric equipment and power tools (e.g., chainsaws, trimmers, mowers). |
|---|---------|--|

## Theme 5 – Natural Heritage and Resources

| Goal   | Status         | Notes  |
|--|----------------|--|
| 5.1 - Increase the tree canopy on County properties (e.g., LCHC properties, County offices, etc.)  | Ongoing        | <p><b>2024.</b> Approximately 450 trees were planted on County property.</p> <p><b>2023.</b> Since 2020, nearly 14,000 trees have been planted on County-owned property through our 1 Million Trees Program in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.</p>  |
| 5.2 - Increase carbon sequestration and pollinator habitat on County properties and road allowances  | Ongoing        | <p><b>2024.</b> Lanark County monitored and maintained existing pollinator habitat. An internal Pollinator Habitat Restoration Strategy is being created to ensure informed and effective pollinator habitat creation in the future and share lessons learned across municipalities.</p> <p><b>2023.</b> Since 2019, Lanark County has partnered with the Canadian Wildlife Federation to create pollinator habitats along County rights-of-ways.</p> <p>In 2023, Lanark County partnered with the David Suzuki Butterflyway Rangers to create two pollinator gardens outside the County offices in Perth.</p> |
| 5.3 - Explore approaches that incorporate natural systems and green infrastructure into site improvements, greenspaces, and stormwater management (e.g., rain gardens, trees etc.) | Initial Stages | <p><b>2024.</b> Lanark County is in the early stages of various projects to support this goal, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in ICLEI’s Building to Net Zero Cohort</li> <li>• Researching the development of a Natural Heritage System</li> </ul>   |



## Theme 6 – Waste Diversion and Management

| Goal  | Status         | Notes   |
|---|----------------|---|
| 6.1 - Join the Blue Communities Project and phase out the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities and at municipal events | N/A            | <b>2023/2024.</b> To be discontinued in the next revision of the Climate Action Plan as Lanark County does not sell bottled water and water coolers have been replaced with refill stations (see Goal 6.2).   |
| 6.2 - Install water refill stations in all municipal buildings to replace water coolers   | Complete       | <b>2023.</b> Three water coolers in Lanark County offices were replaced with water bottle filling stations.   |
| 6.3 - Launch an enhanced recycling program for plastic, glass, metal, and food waste (e.g., TerraCycle 25% of waste)            | Initial Stages | <b>2023/2024.</b> Exploring the feasibility and effectiveness of specialized recycling programs for County offices (e.g. TerraCycle).   |
| 6.4 - Purchase 100% recycled paper and enact policies and procedures to reduce the overall use of paper                         | On Pause       | <b>2023/2024.</b> OT Group’s technical team and manufacturers discourage the use of recycled paper in the County’s photocopiers due to issues related to performance and reliability.<br><br>Exploring options to reduce paper use in County offices. |

## Theme 7 – Planning

| Goal   | Status         | Notes  |
|--|----------------|--|
| 7.1 - Revise the Asset Management Plan to include natural assets (e.g., watersheds, wetlands, forests, lakes, etc.)                                | Initial Stages | <b>2024.</b> Completed a natural asset management workshop and roadmap through the Municipal Natural Asset Initiative.<br><br><b>2023.</b> Partnering with the Municipal Natural Asset Initiative and Intact Insurance to complete a natural asset management roadmap in 2024. |
| 7.2 - Update Emergency Plan to include protocols for major natural disasters and weather events (e.g., evacuation routes, shelter locations, etc.) | Initial Stages | <b>2024.</b> Started a vulnerability and risk assessment with various stakeholders for a Climate Adaptation Plan. Collected vulnerability and risk data from Community Emergency Management Coordinators (CEMC) and Executive Management Team (EMT) through various workshops. |
| 7.3 - Create an inclusive adaptation plan that captures Lanark County's risks and vulnerabilities to climate                                       | Initial Stages | <b>2024.</b> Completed a scan of existing Canadian adaptation plans to develop a guiding framework. Investigating options to create a  |

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| change (e.g., health, food security/sovereignty, environmental hazards, improved land use, safety measures) |  | County-wide adaptation plan. See Goal 7.2 for more information.<br><br><b>2023.</b> Preliminary research. To be a work item of the Municipal Climate Intern in 2024. |
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## Community

### Theme 1 – Transportation

| Goal  | Status      | Notes   |
|---|-------------|---|
| 1.1 - Increase electric vehicle uptake and local charging infrastructure for public access ★              | In Progress | <b>2024.</b> Through the EV ChargeON program, Lanark County was approved for up to \$150,000 to install two level 3 public electric vehicle charging stations at its Perth office. Installation will commence in 2025.<br><br>The electric vehicle charging station inventory in Lanark County was updated.<br><br><b>2023.</b> Preparing an application for the EV ChargeON program for funding for two public electric vehicle charging stations at the Lanark County offices in Perth.<br><br>Participating in the Regional EV Charging Network with representatives from 9 regional municipalities including the City of Ottawa, Leeds and Grenville, Renfrew County, and Prince Edward County. |
| 1.2 - Electrify municipal and community fleet vehicles as part of their replacement cycle ★               | Ongoing     | <b>2024.</b> Lanark County's 2024 Municipal Climate Action Grant provided up to \$11,500 per lower-tier municipality for climate-related projects. One local municipality installed public charging stations at a municipal office through this grant program.<br><br><b>2023.</b> Lanark County 2023 Electric Vehicle / Organic Waste Fund provided up to \$10,000 per lower-tier municipality for projects related to electric vehicles and/or organic waste diversion.   |
| 1.3 - Explore the use of low-carbon fuels (e.g., biodiesel blends) in suitable municipal fleet vehicles ★ | On Pause    | <b>2024.</b> A feasible option for low-carbon fuels in municipal fleet vehicles has not been identified.  |

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|  |             | <b>2023.</b> Completing preliminary research and assessing the feasibility of biodiesel or renewable diesel use in County fleet vehicles.  |
| 1.4 – Update the Transportation Master Plan to include active transportation<br>★  | In Progress | <b>2023/2024.</b> Developing the Terms of Reference for the Transportation Master Plan update, which will include active transportation assessments and recommendations. Request for Proposals will be posted in 2025.   |
| 1.5 - Reduce single occupancy automated vehicle trips by providing local transit, carpooling and ridesharing solutions suitable for rural communities<br>★ | In Progress | <b>2024.</b> Lanark County was approved for funding through the Rural Transit Solutions Fund to undertake a Rural Transit Feasibility Study.<br><br><b>2023.</b> In partnership with the counties of Frontenac and Lennox and Addington, Lanark County supported the development of the <a href="#">Community Carpool</a> website for residents to share rides.<br><br>County Council allocated \$26,400 from the Contingency Reserve to support a transportation feasibility study to be organized by the Lanark County Rural Transportation Working Group. |

**Theme 2 – Buildings and Energy**

| <b>Goal</b>   | <b>Status</b>  | <b>Notes</b>  |
|---|----------------|---|
| 2.1 - Develop and support the delivery of a local home energy retrofit program including those offered by partner non-profits and private companies ★ | In Progress    | <b>2024.</b> Lanark County is preparing to launch its home energy retrofit financing program, Better Homes Lanark, in 2025.<br><br><b>2023.</b> Completed the feasibility study and program design for the proposed home energy retrofit program, Better Homes Lanark, for which the County Council approved a \$5 million capital contribution. Completing the Community Efficiency Financing application in 2024. |
| 2.2 - Establish a campaign to increase energy/water retrofits within the industrial, commercial, and institutional sector ★                           | Future Action  |   |
| 2.3 - Establish green building standards that enforce climate-resilient and adaptive  | Initial Stages | <b>2024.</b> Lanark County was selected as one of 13 Canadian municipalities to participate in ICLEI’s Building to Net Zero (BNZ) project. Over   |

|   |                |   |
|---|----------------|---|
| building designs to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions  |                | 4 years, Lanark County will work with ICLEI to adopt building energy performance frameworks aligned with national model energy codes. |
| 2.4 - Encourage solar photovoltaics (PV) developments where suitable (for net metering and microgrids) and solar thermal for domestic hot water use | Future Action  |   |
| 2.5 - Explore opportunities to utilize other renewable energy sources and technologies ★  | Initial Stages | <b>2023/2024.</b> Attending IESO public consultation sessions to stay informed of new and current opportunities.                      |

### Theme 3 – Natural Heritage and Resources

| Goal  | Status         | Notes  |
|---|----------------|--|
| 3.1 - Increase the managed forested area and tree canopy within Lanark County ★   | In Progress    | <p><b>2024.</b> In 2024, approximately 96,000 trees were planted in Lanark County through our 1 Million Trees Program in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. At our annual Tree Seeding Giveaway, approximately 3,700 trees were given away to more than 255 households in Lanark County.</p> <p><b>2023.</b> Since 2020, nearly 485,000 trees have been planted in Lanark County through our 1 Million Trees Program in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.</p>   |
| 3.2 - Protect the carbon sequestration and climate resilience value of wetlands, greenspaces, and other naturalized areas within the County ★ | Initial Stages | <p><b>2024.</b> Various projects are underway to support this goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff hosted a wetland workshop for local municipal planners and a public wetland information session to discuss options.</li> <li>• Researching the development of a County-wide Natural Heritage System.</li> <li>• Providing funding to ALUS Mississippi-Rideau (previously ALUS Lanark) and the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust to preserve ecologically sensitive land.</li> </ul> <p><b>2023.</b> Various projects are underway to support this goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosting a wetland workshop for municipal staff in partnership with</li> </ul> |

|   |                |  |
|---|----------------|--|
|   |                | <p>Climate Network Lanark and local conservation authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting and providing funding to ALUS Lanark.</li> <li>• Completing a natural asset management roadmap in partnership with the <a href="#">Municipal Natural Asset Initiative</a> and Intact Insurance.</li> </ul> |
| 3.3 - Include the use of green infrastructure and natural heritage to serve local needs as the County continues to develop                                  | Initial Stages | <b>2024.</b> Researching the development of a County-wide Natural Heritage System.   |
| 3.4 - Allow cooperative farming and community gardening on suitable County-owned lands and encourage local farms to produce more food for local consumption | Future Action  |  |
| 3.5 - Promote the adoption of sustainable livestock and crop management practices   | In Progress    | <b>2023/2024.</b> Supporting and providing funding to ALUS Mississippi-Rideau (previously ALUS Lanark).  |
| 3.6 - Promote biogas energy recovery for use in aerobic digestion - combined heat and power (AD-CHP) systems on farms                                       | Future Action  |  |

**Theme 4 – Waste Diversion and Management**

| Goal  | Status        | Notes  |
|---|---------------|--|
| 4.1 - Identify sustainable solid waste and recycling solutions for municipalities | Future Action |  |
| 4.2 - Optimize organic waste diversion ★  | In Progress   | <p><b>2024.</b> Through the 2024 Municipal Climate Action Grant, Carleton Place residents can access Just Good Compost services at a subsidized rate. Just Good Compost is a locally operated composting program that recently expanded to provide services to residents in Almonte and Carleton Place.</p> <p><b>2023.</b> Lanark County 2023 Electric Vehicle / Organic Waste Fund provided up to \$10,000 per lower-tier municipality for projects related to electric vehicles and/or organic waste diversion.</p> |

|   |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| 4.3 - Explore utilizing organic waste and treated biosolids for 3rd party Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) production<br>★ | Future Action |  |
| 4.4 - Advance combined heat and power in anaerobic waste and water treatment facilities                               | Future Action |  |

## Theme 5 – Planning

| Goal  | Status         | Notes  |
|---|----------------|--|
| 5.1 - Incorporate climate change into County and municipal plans. | Initial Stages | <b>2023/2024.</b> Initial work is underway to incorporate climate change considerations in future revisions of the Transportation Master Plan, Asset Management Plan, Official Plan, and Emergency Plan. |

## Looking Forward

After a successful first full year of implementation of the Climate Action Plan, Lanark County is looking forward to progressing the plan further in 2025. Some major climate actions planned for 2025 include:

- Launching our home energy retrofit financing program, Better Homes Lanark.
- Participating in ICLEI’s Building to Net-Zero (BNZ) program to create a roadmap for developing a building energy performance framework.
- Progressing Lanark County’s Climate Adaptation Plan.
- Advancing the development of a County-wide Natural Heritage System.
- Collaborating with local municipalities to advance their Climate Action Plans.

To see the full list of planned climate actions, please visit our 2025 Climate Action Workplan.