



# LANARK COUNTY'S CLIMATE NEWSLETTER

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## THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Lanark County is developing a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to reduce corporate and community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This plan will engage with the community and a variety of stakeholders to help prepare everyone for a changing climate. This plan represents the first step in creating an integrated approach to mitigating the impacts of climate change throughout the County of Lanark. The final objective of the CAP is to reduce GHG emissions by targeting emissions on multiple levels both within the corporation and the community.

## THE MILESTONE PROCESS

Lanark County has joined the [Partners for Climate Protection](#) (PCP) Program in partnership with the [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#) (FCM). PCP is a network of over 450 Canadian municipal governments that have committed to reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) and acting on climate change. The Climate Action Plan is developed through PCP's five-step milestone framework:

1. Establishing a GHG inventory and forecast
2. Set emissions reduction targets
3. Develop Climate Change Action Plans
4. Implement the local action plans
5. Monitor progress and report on results

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### STATUS:

Corporate: **Milestone 3**

Community: **Milestone 1**



## CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

Lanark County has formed a Climate Action Committee. This committee will provide strategic direction to the Climate Action Plan, and aid in engaging all stakeholders to provide input and recommendations for the Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Committee includes a representative from all lower-tier municipalities and Smiths Falls, as well as two PCP and Climate Network Lanark representatives.

## CLIMATE ACTION OUTREACH

### FACEBOOK PAGE

Lanark County has a Facebook page to provide information on the Climate Action Plan and related initiatives surrounding plastics, sustainability, climate, and the environment. Follow the **Lanark County Climate Action Information Page** on Facebook today!

For more information on the CAP please email [climate@lanarkcounty.ca](mailto:climate@lanarkcounty.ca).

### LUNCH AND LEARN: CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Lanark County provided businesses with information about climate programs and initiatives during a webinar hosted in collaboration with the Carleton Place Chamber of Commerce on April 1, 2021. This webinar provided an overview of the Climate Action Plan, sustainably.eco, One Million Trees program, plastic reduction campaign, and reusable bag promotional stickers.

### CLIMATE NETWORK LANARK (CNL)

The [Climate Network Lanark](#) (CNL) was established in 2019 by the Lanark County Stewardship Council. CNL is an affiliation of 200 people and local organizations promoting climate action in Lanark County and Smiths Falls. CNL has provided information about PCP, assisted with data collection for the county, worked with the county on climate projects, and has provided advice for the Climate Action Plan. The

county and the Climate Action Committee are working in collaboration with CNL and will continuously throughout the process to develop Lanark County's Climate Action Plan.

## CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMS

### ONGOING PROGRAMS:

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#### **SUSTAINABLY.ECO**

Lanark County has joined the Sustainably.eco Strategic Associate Program as part of its climate action strategies. [Sustainably.eco](#) aims to connect conscious businesses and people committed to sustainability by promoting sustainable actions and products through their platform. Businesses can apply for and be awarded for 12 badges upon fulfilling the requirements. Lanark County began with 5 program participants and has since increased memberships to 9.

Current nine (9) members: Top Shelf Distillers, Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, The Good Food Co., The Up Wellness Market, The Granary, Copper Line Alpacas, K. James Construction, Natures Apprentice Farm and TWIG.

Lanark County is also a [sustainably.eco member](#). Since starting the program, Lanark County has earned three (3) badges: sustainable transportation, community, and carbon footprint.

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#### **LANARK COUNTY ONE MILLION TREES PROGRAM**

This program aims to plant one million trees in Lanark County over the next ten years in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). Trees are effective in capturing carbon, cleaning the air, and building ecosystems. Planting more trees will aid in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Over 60,000 trees were planted in Lanark County in 2020, including 10,000 trees in county forests. As part of the program, Lanark County is hosting tree giveaways in

Date: June 2021

partnership with the RVCA. In June of 2020 Lanark County gave out 1,100 seedlings. This spring, 2,700 trees from the cancelled spring tree giveaway were planted along the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail and on municipal land across the county. Stay tuned for details about the next tree giveaway this fall in Perth.

[RVCA's tree planting](#) program allows landowners to receive subsidized rates for large tree planting projects. To qualify, landowners must have a minimum of 1 acre and order a minimum of 1000 trees. RVCA provides full-service planting at \$0.15/tree. Contact Ian Cochrane at 613-692-3571 (or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1120) or [ian.cochrane@rvca.ca](mailto:ian.cochrane@rvca.ca) for more information about RVCA's tree planting program.

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### **LOCAL MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE PROGRAM**

Electric vehicles offer a great solution to a greener, cleaner future. Electric vehicles have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by up to 90% compared to vehicles that use fossil fuels. Lanark County is providing funding for lower-tier municipalities to purchase one electric or hybrid vehicle by December 31, 2022.

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### **INSULATE LANARK**

Properly insulated homes benefit the environment by reducing emissions and decreasing the amount of energy needed for heating. The Insulate Lanark Program provides homeowners with a grant to assist with new insulation projects that improve the condition and energy efficiency of the home. For more information about eligibility or to apply for the program, please visit our [website](#).

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### **FUTURE PROGRAMS:**

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### **ALTERNATIVE LAND USE SERVICE (ALUS)**

Date: June 2021

The [Alternative Land Use Service \(ALUS\) program](#) helps farmers to produce valuable ecological services on Canadian farmland. The program provides an opportunity to respond to the climate change crisis and help improve ecosystem services on farmland.

ALUS helps farmers and ranchers restore wetlands, reforest, plant windbreaks, install riparian buffers, manage sustainable drainage systems, create pollinator habitat, and establish other ecologically beneficial projects on their properties. ALUS provides per-acre annual payments to ALUS participants to recognize their dedication to managing and maintaining all the ALUS projects on their land.

The proposed “ALUS Lanark” program would run in partnership with the Mississippi and Rideau Valley Conservation Authorities. The Conservation Authorities would act as the lead organization and build on existing stewardship programs. As a founding partner Lanark County’s role would be to help promote the program benefits, future successes, and offer any other support.

## CLIMATE ACTION INITIATIVES

### PLASTIC REDUCTION

Lanark County is banning plastic bags and straws starting July 1st, 2021. During the pandemic compliance is voluntary. A complete plastic bag and straw ban will align with the [Federal Government’s single use plastic ban](#) planned for the end of 2021. The Federal single use plastic ban will include plastic bags, straws, stir sticks, six-pack rings, cutlery and food ware as part of their plan to achieve [zero plastic waste](#) by 2030.

In February and March 2021, Lanark County launched a Plastic Reduction Campaign, aimed to provide education and awareness about the negative effects of single use plastics. The campaign was launched on Lanark County’s Climate Action Information Page on Facebook. You can support the campaign by sharing posts and following our Facebook page.



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**BRING YOUR REUSABLE BAG (BYRB) STICKER**

Lanark County is providing interested businesses with a free bring your reusable bag (BYRB) sticker. This window sticker can be placed on businesses windows or doors to remind customers to bring their reusable bags when shopping. The BYRB sticker promotes the use of plastic alternatives to help reduce the amount of single-use plastic bags being used in Lanark County. To receive a free BYRB window sticker, email [climate@lanarkcounty.ca](mailto:climate@lanarkcounty.ca).

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**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT POLLINATOR HABITAT**

As part of Lanark County's [Integrated Vegetation Management Plan](#), Lanark County is promoting and restoring native pollinator habitat to roadsides following wild parsnip eradication. Native plants have much deeper roots that store more carbon on roadsides than traditional turf grasses. Promoting pollinator habitat on roadsides benefits pollinators and stores more carbon in the soil.

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**BICYCLE MONTH**

Lanark County promotes active transportation throughout the month of June by participating in Bicycle Month. Promoting biking more frequently encourages citizens to choose a healthier and greener mode of transportation that improves physical and mental health.

Lanark County participates in the [Silver Chain Challenge](#) during the month of June. Citizens can enter their kilometres biked to show how active we are as a community and to compete with neighbouring municipalities across Eastern Ontario.