

# LANARK COUNTY'S CLIMATE NEWSLETTER

November 2022





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Look for these symbols to indicate updates or new information:



UPDATE



NEW

## 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 overall objective of the CAP is to reduce GHG emissions by targeting emissions 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 taking action to address 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 Action Plans
4. Implement the local action plans
5. Monitor progress and report on results

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## STATUS



Corporate: **Milestone 3** (*in progress*)

Community: **Milestone 2 & 3** (*in progress*)

## CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

In June 2021, Lanark County formed a **Climate Action Committee**. The committee provided strategic direction to the Climate Action Plan and aided in engaging stakeholders to provide input and recommendations to the Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Committee included representatives from all local municipalities in Lanark County and Climate Network Lanark.



The Committee has **completed their term as of November 2022**. You can find a summary of the Committee's work in the [summary and end of term report](#) from November 2022.

Climate Action Committee [Index](#) & [Index Report](#)

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## CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION TABLES



In December 2021, the Climate Action Committee developed a long list of climate actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Lanark County. In the spring of 2022, this list was prioritized and broken into two **climate action tables for corporate and community**. The climate actions tables were reviewed and **adopted by County Council** in October 2022. The tables include details about the goals such as difficulty, cost, who's responsible, funding, timeframe, and impact.

[Corporate Climate Action Table](#)

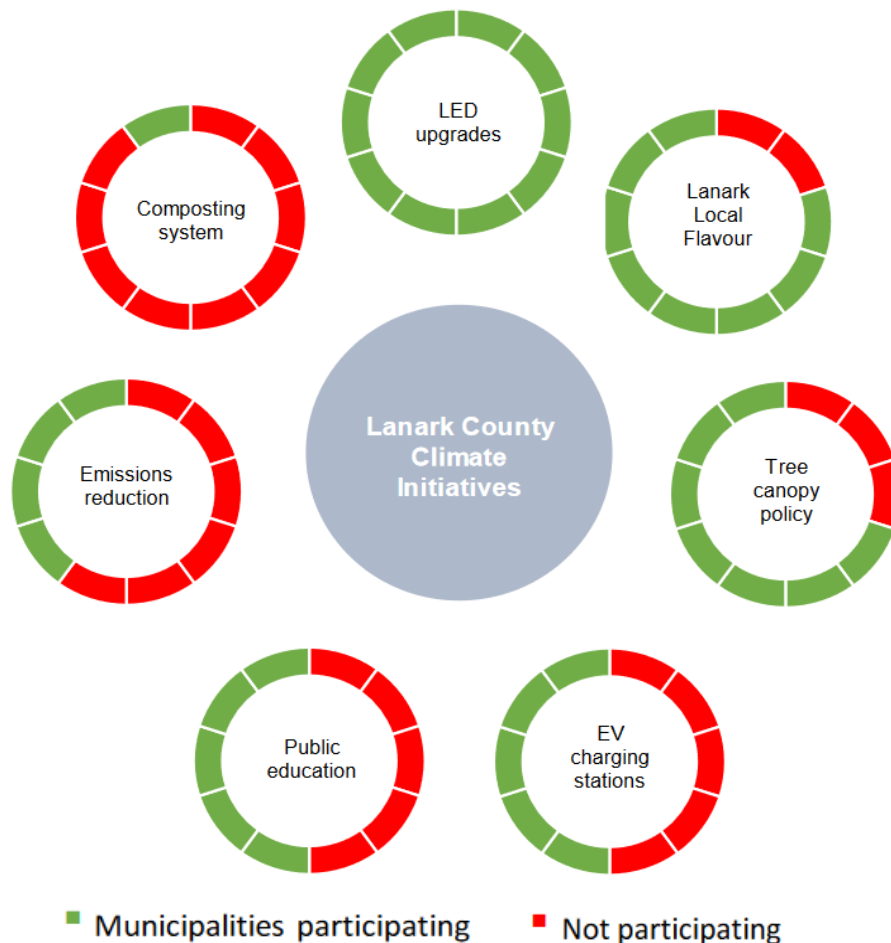
[Community Climate Action Table](#)

These tables are arranged using **six guiding principles**: *Create a Climate Conscious Culture; Eliminate Fossil Fuels; Maximize Energy Efficiencies and Increase Renewable Energy Generation; Reduce Waste; Increase Funding, Accessibility, and Education; and Sequester Carbon and Protect Natural Resources*. The **seventh guiding principle** is *Work with Indigenous Communities*.

**CLIMATE INITIATIVES DASHBOARD**



Check out the [Climate Initiatives Dashboard](#), a guide to local climate initiatives in Lanark County and Smiths Falls (*updated November 2022*). The dashboard **summarizes local climate initiatives** into key sectors, and includes local climate initiatives such as public education, active transportation, and setting emissions reduction targets. The dashboard can be used to locate electric vehicle charging stations and multi-purpose trails throughout Lanark County and Smiths Falls.



**CLIMATE ACTION OUTREACH**



**CLIMATE ACTION SEMINAR SERIES**

Check out this **free online climate action seminar series** presented by Lanark County. To register for these seminars email [climate@lanarkcounty.ca](mailto:climate@lanarkcounty.ca) or call 613-267-1353.

**How to Take Climate Action at Home** (ONLINE)

22 Nov 2022, 10:30 am – 12 pm

Learn more about improving home energy efficiency, tiny home energy efficient design, how to manage food waste, and electric vehicles.

**Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture** (ONLINE)

24 Nov 2022, 2 – 4 pm

Learn more about local programs and grants through ALUS Lanark, Rural Clean Water program, the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Cleanfarms agricultural materials recycling and benefits of fungal dominant composting.

**Climate Action Information Session** (IN PERSON)

29 Nov 2022, 5 – 6:30 pm

Learn about climate action in Lanark County, Climate Network Lanark (CNL), and how you can get involved. Join us in person for an opportunity to talk with County staff, CNL coordinators and working group members on a variety of topics. Privately-owned electric vehicles (EV) will be stationed outside for anyone who has questions for EV owners. A portion of the session will be live streamed on Lanark County’s Facebook page.





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### CLIMATE NETWORK LANARK (CNL)

[Climate Network Lanark \(CNL\)](#) was established in 2019 by the Lanark County Stewardship Council. CNL is an affiliation of more than 200 people and local organizations **promoting climate action in Lanark County and Smiths Falls**. CNL has several working groups that meet monthly to share, learn, plan and take action on:

- Buildings and Transportation
- Communications
- Compost and Waste Reduction
- Farms
- Forests and Nature-Based Solutions
- Local Government
- Youth Climate Action

You can **sign up** to participate with these working groups on CNL's [website](#).

CNL has provided information about PCP, assisted with data collection for the county, worked with the county on climate projects, and provided advice for the Climate Action Plan. Lanark County and the Climate Action Committee are collaborating with CNL, and will continue to do so, throughout the development process of Lanark County's Climate Action Plan.

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### FACEBOOK PAGE

Lanark County has a Facebook page to provide information on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and other initiatives related to sustainability, climate, and the environment. Follow the **Lanark County Climate Action Information Page** (@LCClimateAction) on Facebook today!

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

### FRONTENAC ARCH BIOSPHERE (FAB) EXPERIENCES

With the rise of ecotourism, the Frontenac Arch Biosphere (FAB) Network is launching a new **online platform called [FAB Experiences](#)** this fall. This hub will promote the UNESCO-recognized FAB and the surrounding counties of Frontenac, Leeds and Grenville, and Lanark, creating an internationally sought-after sustainable tourism location in our backyard. FAB Experiences will also support and encourage tourism businesses to become more **environmentally sustainable** through a series of upcoming workshops and webinars, and training to adopt and promote sustainable initiatives in their operations.

The platform will feature an **interactive map** listing remote and rural businesses to provide a central location for tourists to discover a variety of interesting, environmentally friendly destinations in and around the FAB. This platform was created through a partnership between Lanark County, Frontenac County, Parks Canada, and the St. Lawrence Parks Commission. **Local small businesses can [register](#) with FAB Experiences** to be certified as sustainable tourist attractions, with the benefits of reaching new markets, drawing more tourists, and meeting sustainably-minded travellers.





## CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMS

**ALUS LANARK**

**[ALUS Lanark](#) is official!** ALUS (previously an acronym for Alternative Land Use Service) Lanark is supported by a partnership between **ALUS, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA)**, and **Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA)**. The Conservation Authorities act as the lead organization and are building on existing stewardship programs. As a founding partner, Lanark County's role is to help promote the program benefits, future successes, and offer any other support.

The **[ALUS program](#)** helps farmers to **produce valuable ecological services** on Canadian farmland. The program provides an opportunity for communities to adapt to the changing climate and improve ecosystem services provided by farmland. Most projects are established on land that is marginally productive, inefficient for farming, or ecologically sensitive. Projects include reforesting areas, planting windbreaks and riparian buffers, creating and expanding wetlands, creating pollinator habitat, and establishing other ecologically beneficial projects. ALUS provides **per-acre annual payments** to participants to recognize their dedication to managing and maintaining projects on their land.

ALUS is a non-profit organization, meaning they rely on **donations** and funding from other sources such as private foundations, government programs and grants, and partnerships with organizations like environmental groups or corporate social responsibility programs. If you are interested in making a private donation, please visit the **[ALUS website](#)** to donate.

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[ALUS Lanark](#) formed in January 2022 with a local partnership advisory committee (PAC) to oversee the program's implementation. The PAC is made up of local farmers (at least 50% of the members), community stakeholders, and members of other non-governmental organizations. **This year's goals were to create two acres of new wetlands and**

**enhance five acres of existing wetland habitat**, for which ALUS Canada had allocated \$60,500. More information can be found in a recent [media release](#).

ALUS Lanark currently has **three projects underway** in the county to reach these goals. The **first project** is to create two new wetlands on a dairy sheep farm near the Rosedale Creek at low, wet spots in a hay field. Both will be approximately one acre in size and fenced off from livestock to protect the sensitive riparian habitat. This project is in partnership with Ducks Unlimited.

The **second project** is to create a new half-acre wetland along the Rosedale Creek on a beef farm. This wetland will act as a pairing pond for a nearby wetland, previously created by Ducks Unlimited.

The **third project** is to enhance five acres of a large 47-acre wetland on a livestock farm, along the Black Creek and Swale Wetland near the Rideau River. This project is especially important as it is located within a Source Water Intake Protection Zone for the town of Smiths Falls. Livestock fencing was recently installed in partnership with the Rural Clean Water Program, and RVCA plans to complement the project by planting vegetation.

An **official launch event will be held in 2023** to celebrate this development. One of the three project locations will be chosen to showcase the results and emphasize the partnership between ALUS and local farmers.

## 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 healthy ecosystems. Planting more trees will aid in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.



To date, just over 265,000 trees have been planted in Lanark County with 127,000 trees planted in 2022. A summary for the last three years can be found in the following table.


[RVCA's tree planting](#) program allows landowners to receive **subsidized rates** for large orders for tree planting projects. To qualify, landowners must have a minimum of **one acre** of land available and order a minimum of **1000 trees**. RVCA provides **full-service planting** at a cost of 15¢/tree. Contact Ian Cochrane at 613-692-3571 (toll-free at 1-800-267-3504 x1120) or [ian.cochrane@rvca.ca](mailto:ian.cochrane@rvca.ca) for more information about RVCA's tree planting program.

YEAR	PLANTING LOCATION	NUMBER OF TREES
2020	Private Property (RVCA)	50,000
	County Forests	10,000
	Tree Giveaway	1,100
2021	Private Property (RVCA)	71,350
	OVRT & Municipal Land	2,700
	Tree Giveaway	3,000
2022	Private Property (RVCA)	113,700
	Local Municipal Land & Tree Giveaways	10,300
	Tree Giveaway	3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>265,150</b>

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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 climate-conscious businesses and people committed to sustainability by promoting sustainable actions and products through their platform. Businesses can apply for and be awarded twelve badges, starting with the carbon footprint badge, upon fulfilling specific climate action requirements, ranging in scope and difficulty. Lanark County began with five program participants and has since increased memberships to nine.

 Current members include the following: Top Shelf Distillers, Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, The Good Food Co, The Up Wellness Market, The Granary, Copper Line Alpacas, K James Construction, Nature's Apprentice Farm, and The TWIG Store.

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

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## INSULATE LANARK

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

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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.



## CLIMATE ACTION INITIATIVES

 **SPONGY MOTH UPDATE**

The spongy moth (previously known as the European gypsy moth) is an invasive and destructive pest that severely defoliated trees throughout Lanark County in the last few years.

Compared to 2021, the summer of 2022 saw a considerable decline in spongy moth population across Lanark County. There are three reasons for this year's population collapse. First, you may have noticed pin holes in egg masses this spring from a parasitic wasp. **Egg parasites** (a species of wasp) reduced the viability of what healthy egg masses were laid last fall, which greatly reduced the number of caterpillars that hatched this spring. Second, caterpillar mortality was caused by **a fungus and a virus** that infect spongy moths. The fungus (*Entomophaga maimaigi*) and virus (*Nucleopolyhedrosis virus* or NPV) increased last summer and peaked this spring resulting in poor caterpillar development causing feeding to end early this season. Third, weather conditions may have also contributed to the decline. This year's **cool, wet spring** was ideal for the fungus, leading to infection (and death) of any surviving caterpillars. Cold weather in January 2022 may have also killed off some of the egg masses above the snow line. As a result, the spongy moth **infestation was greatly reduced this year** in Lanark County.

Spongy moth infestation levels are **expected to stay low in 2023**, and for a few years until the next outbreak. See below for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's [map](#) of forecasted spongy moth defoliation across Ontario in 2022.

More information on the spongy moth can be found on our [website](#).

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## POLLINATOR HABITAT RESTORATION

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



by filtering water, reducing erosion, and lessening flooding impact from increased water absorption.



In 2022, nearly **3000 m<sup>2</sup> of pollinator habitat** was restored outside of Perth on Rideau Ferry Road (CR1) near Wildlife Road. More pollinator habitat restoration projects are planned for 2023. Also in 2022, nearly **5kg of native pollinator seed mix** was given away to residents and to a local seed library to promote pollinator habitat and gardens on private property.

Lanark County's **native wildflower seed mix** can be found on our [website](#).

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## SUSTAINABLE KINGSTON INNOVATION AWARD

Lanark County is one of six organizations, businesses, and individuals recognized by the **2021 Sustainable Kingston Awards** for hard work in mitigating the climate emergency and fostering a culture of sustainability in their community.

Lanark County received the **Sustainable Kingston Innovation Award** for developing a bold climate action plan in partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Partners for Climate Protection Program, and for helping local businesses reduce

their carbon footprint by funding Sustainably.eco memberships for nine small businesses. For more information about the award, please visit Sustainable Kingston's [website](#).

### ELECTRIC CORPORATE FLEET

The corporate fleet, which includes gas and diesel vehicles, is the largest source of GHG emissions within the corporation of Lanark County. To reduce these emissions, **Lanark County has committed to replace sixteen gas and three diesel vehicles with electric vehicles by 2030**. The switch to electric vehicles will be part of Lanark County's Corporate Climate Action Plan to reduce GHG emissions.

### CABINSCAPE PROJECT SINKHOUSE

Lanark County's Community Services Committee approved staff to move forward with a partnership with **Cabinscape**. Cabinscape's Project Sinkhouse proposal is to build **two tiny homes on county-owned land in Perth** that would be energy-efficient and carbon negative thanks to advanced construction methods. Green municipal funding from FCM will cover most of the development costs. The cost to the county would be less than \$95K for both units, a step towards solving the affordable housing crisis. These units are geared towards non-senior singles, an underserved portion of the homeless community.

### FOODCYCLER



**FoodCycler** is a fast-acting electric countertop composter, which transforms a bucket of food waste into a rich soil amendment in one cycle, requiring roughly three hours. [FoodCycler](#) is an energy-efficient tool for diverting food waste from the municipal solid waste stream. A pilot program is currently ongoing in [Carleton Place](#) and [Smiths Falls](#).



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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.

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## PLASTIC REDUCTION

Lanark County has **banned plastic bags and straws**. The ban started July 1, 2021 but compliance is voluntary during the pandemic. A complete plastic bag and straw ban in the county will align with the [federal government's single-use plastics ban](#), which will come into effect **at the end of 2022**. The federal single-use plastic ban will include plastic bags, straws, stir sticks, six-pack rings, cutlery, and takeout containers as part of their plan to achieve [zero plastic waste](#) by 2030.

In January 2022, Lanark County launched **No Plastic January** on Lanark County's Climate Action Information Facebook page. Tips were shared on how to reduce plastic at home, at the store, at work, and at school. People were asked to pick one plastic item to refuse for the month of January and use [10,000 Changes](#) to make a commitment and learn about ways to switch habits and reduce plastic waste.

### Some easy commitments you can make:

- ☑ Use reusable bags at the grocery store
- ☑ Buy bulk foods to eliminate unnecessary plastic packaging
- ☑ Use a travel mug for your coffee

In February and March 2021, Lanark County launched a **Plastic Reduction Campaign** to provide education and awareness about the negative effects of single-use plastics. The



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campaign 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)