

# RESEARCH AND INFORMATION GATHERING ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

Project Update



May 2015

## Research Purpose

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The purpose of this project is to provide the most up-to-date linkages between land use planning and actions to mitigate (including greenhouse gas reductions and carbon storage and sequestration) and adapt to climate change in southern Ontario.

The team will examine land use planning best practices from leading comparable jurisdictions (city regions), including key land use indicators, land use planning objectives, key information needs, planning tools, policies and performance measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The team will compare identified best practices to Ontario's existing land use policy framework for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (i.e. the Growth Plan for, the Greenbelt Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Niagara Escarpment Plan, and the Provincial Policy Statement 2014).

This policy analysis will lead to (1) policy recommendations for the Greater Golden Horseshoe land use policy framework to support climate change mitigation and adaptation, (2) a performance measurement framework, and (3) a narrative description of climate resilient and low carbon communities to help provide a potential future vision for Ontarians.

## Context

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There is an important link between land use planning and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The linkages are sometimes obvious, and in other cases involve complex interactions and tradeoffs. Some policies tend to support both mitigation and adaptation, such as increasing forest cover and reducing energy use, while others can involve tradeoffs, for example between protecting natural heritage and discouraging leap-frog development, if limits on greenfield development, adequate public transportation options and incentives for intensification are not in place.

Because of the high contribution of land use planning-related sectors to Ontario's GHGs and the increasing number of Ontarians calling the GGH home every year, Ontario will need to make some important decisions if it hopes to develop in a way that reduces its climate change impacts and improves its adaptation.

## Project Background

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The Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) has been given a mandate to ensure that efforts to fight climate change are incorporated into the plans, policies and actions of other government ministries such as urban planning and infrastructure decisions. In this regard, the MOECC is looking for information on the most up-to-date linkages between land use planning and actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change in Ontario. This information will inform potential amendments to the provinces' land use plans for the Greater Golden

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Horseshoe (GGH), including the Greenbelt Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

## Deliverables and Timelines

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<b>Task 1</b>	Compile information on the most up to date linkages between climate change mitigation and adaptation and land use planning at various scales	
	<b>Deliverable 1:</b> Literature Review, Jurisdictional Scan of Best Practices	
<b>Task 2</b>	Undertake a review to provide direction and implementation support on addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation through land use planning	
	<b>Deliverable 2:</b> Review & Analysis of Existing Provincial and Municipal Policies	
<b>Task 3</b>	Identify and outline best practices, tools/implementation approaches, and performance measures used at the provincial/state and municipal/local scales	
	<b>Deliverable 3:</b> Provincial Policy Recommendations, Community Narrative, Performance Measurement Framework	
<b>Task 4</b>	<b>Deliverable 4:</b> Final Report and Presentation of Results	<b>End of May</b>

## Project Participants and Funders

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The MOECC selected an OCC-led partnership with the York University Faculty of Environmental Studies, Zizzo Allan DeMarco LLP, and the Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources (OCCIAR).

## Key Audiences (Users)

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Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

## Contact

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