

Niagara Adapts Year-in-Review 2020

Partnership Overview

Niagara Adapts is a regional partnership focused on climate adaptation. By leveraging resources and expertise from seven municipalities across the Niagara Region and Brock University's Environmental Sustainability Research Centre, Niagara Adapts supports collaborative climate change adaptation assessment, planning, and implementation. In this Niagara Adapts Year-in-Review, we celebrate the accomplishments we have made over the last twelve months.

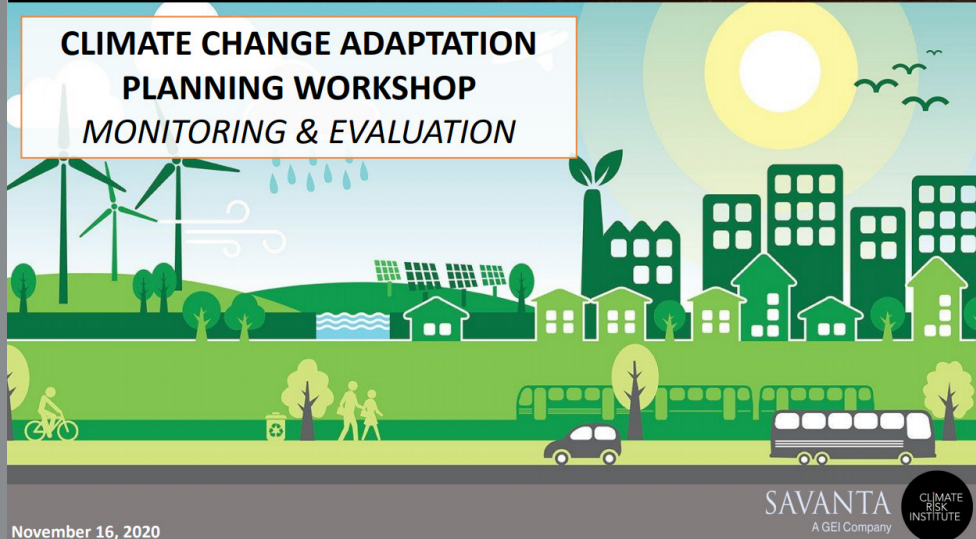


Town of
Grimsby



Collaborative Workshops 4 - 7

- In February 2020, we met on campus for our 4th workshop, called "Interpreting the research". The Brock team shared the results of the climate vulnerability surveys and we began looking forward towards the second half of the adaptation planning process. After the onset of the covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, we moved our collaborative partnership online!
- In May, we met for our 5th (and first virtual!) workshop, called "Identifying adaptation options".
- In August, we began exploring best practices for stakeholder engagement in our 6th workshop.
- In November 2020, Shelley Hazen and Glenn Milner, climate experts from Savanta, led our 7th workshop called "Monitoring, evaluation, and learning".

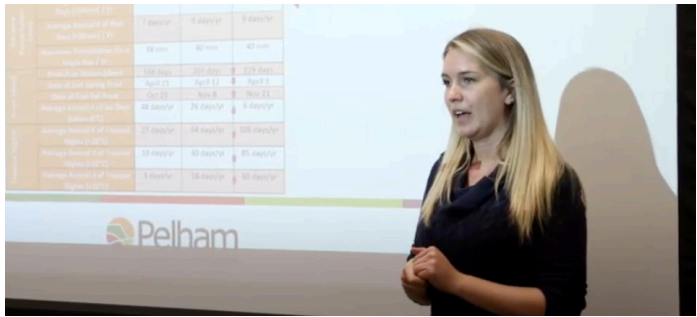


Experiential Education Opportunities for Brock Students

- We were thrilled to be successful in a grant application to the Dean’s Special COVID-19 related call for proposals (Project title: Supporting municipal climate adaptation planning in Niagara during COVID-19), which has supported a full-time Research Assistant (co-op) position for Michaela Jennings throughout the Fall of 2020.
- On November 16th, 2020, members from the ESRC presented virtually to Master of Sustainability students in their Foundations of Sustainability Science course about their seven innovative community partnerships, including Niagara Adapts. The presentation focused on how the partnerships allow Brock students, faculty, and staff to collaborate with partners to move knowledge into action to make an impact within the community.

Climate Change Coordinators Share Lessons with Graduate Students

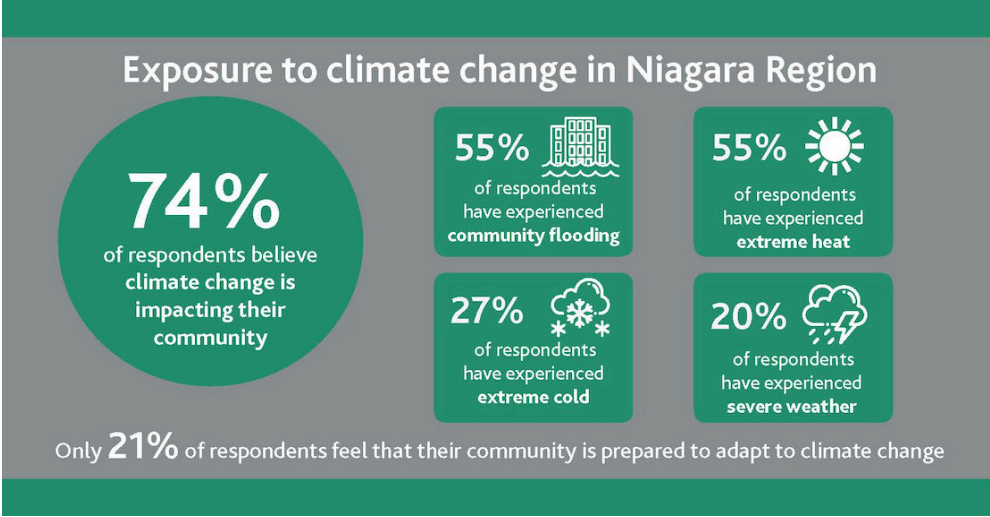
On February 25, representatives from the seven municipalities who are participating in Niagara Adapts came together to present to the current Master of Sustainability graduate students about the impacts climate change is having here in Niagara. This was an invaluable opportunity for graduate students to engage with climate experts in the Region. The presentations are available on ESRC’s YouTube channel [here](#).



Knowledge Mobilization Activities

Understanding Climate Vulnerability in Niagara

The findings from our climate vulnerability surveys were shared during Niagara Adapts’ fourth workshop on February 25, 2020. From these surveys, a [Climate Vulnerability Factsheet](#) resource was created for each municipality to help inform municipal climate change adaptation plans. Results from all respondents were also consolidated to provide a regional climate vulnerability overview. Of the 1087 people surveyed, an overwhelming 87% believe humans have the capacity to address climate change and 85% support municipal resource being used to climate change adaptation.



Stakeholder Engagement Surveys

Aligning with the goals of Workshop 6 and best practices for stakeholder engagement, we created online surveys to solicit feedback from municipalities and residents about the draft adaptation plans. The surveys became available on November 19th and will be completed in December 2020. The results will be available to participating municipalities in January 2021 and will inform the development of adaptation plans.