



Conservation  
**ONTARIO**  
*Natural Champions*

# Conservation**ONTARIO**

Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities

## Summary of Conservation Authority 2011 Regional Climate Change Adaptation Workshops

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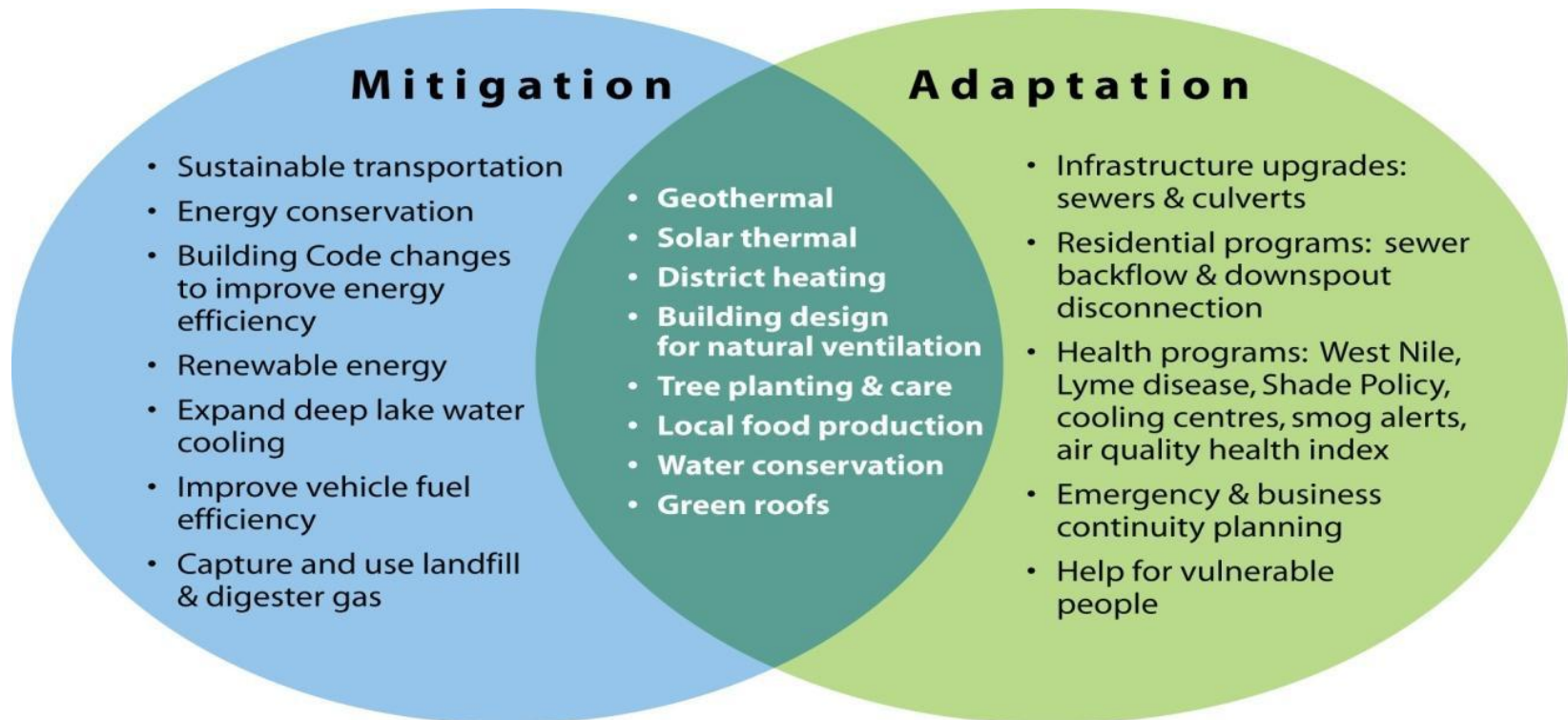


# CAs & CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

- Given their role as Ontario's watershed managers, Conservation Authorities will play a key role in building resiliency of local watersheds necessary to adapt to climate change impacts
- Many CAs have already begun to assess what climate change means to their business

# CAs & CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

- Doing so as a component of their overall business plans and informally at the program level.





# CAs & CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION - examples

- Mitigation measures (within own operations): 'green buildings', fleet vehicles, operating policies
- Developing science & monitoring to track impacts of climate change
- CA programs areas incorporating cc: watershed planning, source protection, flood control, natural heritage, stewardship and communications



# CONSERVATION ONTARIO CA WORKSHOPS

- Collaboration between Conservation Ontario, Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts & Adaptation Resources (OCCIAR)
- 3 workshops: Kingston, London, Hamilton
- Help Ontario's Conservation Authorities to address the challenges associated with climate change



# OBJECTIVES

- The objectives of the workshops :
  - Raise awareness of climate change and its implications to CA business
  - Provide an update on provincial perspective and initiatives (MOE and MNR)
  - Provide opportunity for CAs to share current CA climate change initiatives
  - Discuss challenges and approaches for incorporating adaptation and mitigation into CA programs

# OUTLINE OF WORKSHOPS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Part: Series of presentations made by experts in field of climate change adaptation, Conservation Authority case studies
- 2<sup>nd</sup> part: Discussion and suggestions – Conservation Authorities were asked to comment on
  - short & long term priorities,
  - how can CAs work together to address priorities,
  - how engage the province,
  - what role should CO play and
  - next steps

# WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

- Results of this workshop series
  - workshops provide important insights
  - will inform and support further adaptation planning and action at Conservation Authorities



# KEY THEMES WE HEARD

- **Need enhanced communication and education** is needed to share information, knowledge and approaches
- **Need enhanced monitoring of climate & weather and modeling of the interactions of climate & ecosystem components** - Data provides the science for informed watershed management decisions

# KEY THEMES WE HEARD

- **Require human, financial & educational resources** in order to keep pace with growing watershed management responsibilities
- **Need to continue to build local support** for climate change initiatives
- **Need to mainstream climate change** into existing CA programs and policies

# KEY THEMES WE HEARD

- **Need to educate the public** about their role in adapting to climate change impacts
- **Provide a venue** for Conservation Authorities to share successes and challenges related to climate change
- **Develop tools** to help with adaptation planning. CAs need resources such as guidelines and tools to aid adaptation planning at the watershed level



# KEY THEMES WE HEARD

- **Build upon what is already happening** – don't need to completely re-invent the wheel
- **Leverage** Conservation Authorities' resources & working groups by developing joint partnerships with governments and agencies



# SPECIFIC SHORT TERM PRIORITIES

- ✓ Share CA strategies, models and matrixes
- ✓ Develop a Forum or Venue to share information
- ✓ Develop climate change education & communication materials specific to Ontario watersheds and Conservation Authority programs
- ✓ Undertake local modelling. Collect & compile local watershed climate data - Develop the story.
- ✓ Identify critical partners (Province? Municipalities? Which Agencies?)
- ✓ Develop climate change white papers to garner support from sr management & CA Boards

# SHORT TERM PRIORITIES

- ✓ Begin to develop individual Conservation Authority strategies & tools
- ✓ Assess how Conservation Authority operations can incorporate climate change considerations themselves



# LONG TERM PRIORITIES

- **Build the Science**

- Enhance monitoring and tracking for climate change impacts
- Use common climate change data collection systems at watershed scale
- Evaluate current modelling to see if it is sufficient



- **Address aging flood program**

- Work with province to improve flood plain mapping, IDF curves, flood forecasting & detection/communication



# LONG TERM PRIORITIES

- Promote incorporation of climate change into provincial policy
- Identify budget implications for climate change adaptation – develop guidance
- Begin work on specific issues: shoreline, water levels, stewardship planting, natural heritage studies, stormwater management, regulations, etc.
- Assess how climate change adaptation is incorporated into CA IWM plans

# LONG TERM PRIORITIES

- Develop risk management framework
- Identify and set up training modules for CA staff
- Identify opportunities : e.g. tourism/outdoor





# CONSERVATION ONTARIO'S ROLE

- Advocacy – link climate change and Integrated Watershed Management & contribute to definition of climate change responsibilities
- Central Hub for Information – CO to facilitate information sharing
- Education & Awareness
  - Among provincial/federal stakeholders
  - Provide communication support to CAs (resources, presentations, etc.)
- Promote consistency among CAs



# CONSERVATION ONTARIO'S ROLE

- Partnership Development – identify and facilitate new partnerships around climate change
- Identify areas where CAs can leverage resources
- Facilitate training/workshops for CA staff
- Keep CAs informed on developments around climate change initiatives

# CONSERVATION ONTARIO'S ROLE



- Facilitate development of guidance documents
- Solicit and provide input to climate change initiatives on behalf of Conservation Authorities

# NEXT STEPS

- **June 27 – Council meeting**
  - Looking for agreement on CO's response to Province's Climate Ready document
  - Presenting series of next steps around communication/education; training, guidance documents, information sharing forum.

# NEXT STEPS

- Posting all this information online and circulating to Conservation Authority staff  
<http://www.conservationontario.ca/>
- Links to OCCIAR's website for presentations made at workshop



Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts  
and Adaptation Resources

<http://www.climateontario.ca/>