

How Ontario Cities Battle Climate Change



“Many Ontario municipalities have already been forced to adapt to rising global temperatures and the resulting extreme weather. In 2012, Hamilton experienced a so-called 1,000-year storm when 150 mm of rain fell in three hours. The following year, a month’s worth of rainfall poured onto Toronto in one evening, causing nearly \$1 billion in damage.

And communities all along the Great Lakes basin are experiencing a sustained water level drop since the late 1990s, threatening tourism and industry.

Unusual and unpredictable weather can happen anytime, but scientists say rising global temperatures are causing an upsurge of intense storms. Even if the COP21 United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Paris leads to a significant worldwide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, climate change is already here and cities in Ontario and across the world will face a more hostile environment for years to come.

Heavier rains may require building new storm sewers. A different freeze-thaw cycle may put added strain on roads and buildings, forcing the adoption of new construction practices and materials. And longer heat waves can require extra resources to take care of populations vulnerable to extreme temperatures, such as seniors [and] children. Heavier snowfall, increased flooding and heat waves are the main concerns for Ontario communities, but no two will face the same climate change challenges.

Oakville has already developed and approved a climate change strategy based on a predicted average temperature increase of 2.6 degrees and a 5.1 per cent increase in rainfall by 2050. Other Ontario communities that have adaptation plans in place

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or are in the process of putting them together include Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Guelph, Windsor, Essex, and Thunder Bay. Cities are also drawing up plans to help slow climate change by reducing their carbon footprint. For example, installing efficient LED lights, developing public transit and land use policies.”

Source: <https://www.tvonews.com/article/how-to-build-ontario-first-nations-need-clean-water>