



VISION 2016 – 2020

Conservation Ontario will be the leader in engaging Conservation Authorities in matters of common interest and in shaping effective policy related to Conservation Authorities

## Conservation Ontario Council Report

From: Jo-Anne Rzakki  
Date: June 16, 2016  
Subject: Climate Change Action Plan

### Summary

The Province of Ontario's 5 year Climate Action Plan was released on June 8<sup>th</sup>. This provided an opportunity for Conservation Ontario to respond regarding the important opportunities Conservation Authorities provide for the province to advance its Climate Change priority actions. Highlights of the Action Plan are provided with additional updates on the Cap and Trade Program. Conservation Ontario will continue to identify opportunities for CA engagement including the development and implementation of the forthcoming Climate Change Adaptation Plan, expected in 2017 and promotion of the CA role during CA Act Review discussions.

### Recommendation

***THAT Conservation Ontario Council receives this report.***

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### Background

Please see previous Council Agendas including December 2015 and April 2016 for detailed background

The province's new Climate Change strategy <http://www.ontario.ca/page/climate-change-strategy> was released on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. At that time the province announced it would be releasing a 5 year Action Plan in 2016.

The Climate Change Mitigation and Low Carbon Economy Act (Cap and Trade) Legislation was passed on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 <https://news.ontario.ca/ene/en/2016/05/ontario-passes-landmark-climate-change-legislation.html>

### Current Status

Ontario's Five Year Climate Change Action Plan was released on June 8<sup>th</sup>. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/climate-change-action-plan>. Conservation Ontario developed and

circulated a media release. [http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca/images/2016/MediaReleases/CO\\_media\\_release\\_CO\\_ClimateChangeActionPlan2016.pdf](http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca/images/2016/MediaReleases/CO_media_release_CO_ClimateChangeActionPlan2016.pdf)

Conservation Ontario continues to profile the role of CAs in Climate change mitigation and in the important need for adaptation initiatives.

Highlights of the Climate Change Action Plan include:

- Setting out how the province intends to use the anticipated \$6-8 Billion in cap-and-trade revenues over 2017-2020.
- Based on modelling of the various initiatives under CCAP, the province expects to reduce GHGs by 10 Megatonne (Mt), which is short of the 19 Mt of reductions required to meet the 2020 target.
- Province will report on progress against this action plan annually, and will develop a new 5-year action plan to detail actions over the 2021-2025 period.
- Initiatives of note include:
  - \$250-300 Million for a “Climate Change Challenge Fund” targeted at municipal sector
  - \$7 Million is set aside for a “Climate Change Partnerships” fund to support organizations that help find new initiatives to reduce GHGs (see page 84)
  - Climate Change Adaptation Plan to be developed by 2017 as a follow-up to Climate Ready (2011).

### ***Green Bank***

The Province intends to establish a new Green Bank for homeowners and businesses, modelled after organizations in Vermont (Efficiency Vermont) and New York’s Green Bank.

The Green Bank would help homeowners and businesses understand the scope of available grants and incentives for low carbon retrofits, and access low interest financing and would aggregate small projects to reduce risks for third-party financiers

### ***Agriculture and Forests***

Development of a land use carbon inventory, and a forest carbon policy framework, to support the development of a carbon offset market to work in conjunction with the cap-and-trade program. During recent Cap and Trade webinars offered by the province it has been noted there may be up to 13 offset types which will be developed over the next 18 months through ongoing consultations with stakeholders

### ***Land use planning***

The Plan will empower municipalities to set Green Development standards in areas other than building construction.

Government intends to consult and propose amendments to the Planning Act to make climate change a provincial interest, and make climate change mitigation and adaptation mandatory in official plans

Plan sets out intention to create a Challenge Fund or Program to support emission reduction projects proposed by municipalities that already have Carbon Efficiency Plans (CEPs) and GHG inventories in place. Projects will get matching funding, with a total of \$250-300m set aside for this new program starting in 2017/2018.

Support for collaborative data driven approaches to carbon reduction such as: district wide mapping of gas, electricity, heating/cooling, water, transport, etc. to enable district-wide decisions

### ***Actions not featured in the plan related to municipal land use planning***

Climate Change Planning Standards and guidance for integration into municipal programs and policies, and on best practices for developing GHG inventories and targets

Climate Change Partnerships to partner with community orgs, institutions and the private sector to find new and innovative ideas to reduce GHGs - \$7 Million set aside from Greenhouse Gas Reduction Account

### ***Status of Provincial Consultations***

The province has embarked on an ambitious plan to advance the Cap and Trade Program and invites stakeholders to ask questions and provide input on an ongoing basis. Over the past number of weeks Cap and Trade Webinars have been held for stakeholders and the information about these webinars have been circulated to CAs. Two Webinars have recently been posted:

1. Impact Modelling and Analysis of Ontario's Proposed Cap and Trade Program. <http://www.enviroeconomics.org/#!Impact-Modelling-and-Analysis-of-Ontario's-Proposed-Cap-and-Trade-Program/c1uze/573a64620cf23f57cc66dd05>
2. An update on the Greenhouse Gas Cap and Trade Program: Transition to Implementation June 13, 2016 which is posted below.

Webinars will continue over the coming months.

### **Conclusions**

Conservation Ontario staff will continue to identify opportunities for Conservation Authorities to engage as the province moves forward on its ambitious Climate Action plan as the framework for its Cap and Trade Program. CO will also be monitoring for opportunities to engage in the development and implementation of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan. The promotion of Conservation Authorities' roles in addressing Climate Change through integrated watershed management, delivering on multiple provincial priorities will be included in CA Act Review discussions.

### **Additional Resources for information only, not required for printing:**

[\*Greenhouse Gas Cap and Trade Program: Transition to Implementation\*](#)