



# Halif**ACT** Acting on Climate Together

Community update

March 2023 | Issue 2

*The HalifACT Update provides the latest information about ongoing efforts to advance the goals set out in HalifACT – the municipality’s long-term climate action plan.*

**HalifACT is one of the most ambitious climate action movements in Canada and we’re committed to keeping residents informed of the ways we’re leading, collaborating and supporting the climate movement in the Halifax region.**

Since our last update in the fall, the municipality continues to navigate the impacts of Hurricane Fiona in September 2022, with approximately \$2.3 million spent to date on repairs and rebuilding from damage caused by the storm. Significant weather events such as this are a stark reminder of the urgency for climate action in our region.

As a community, we must continue to adapt and prepare for the impacts of climate change while protecting our natural environment and looking for ways to enhance our resiliency through green energy. We’re already taking action by transitioning to electric buses and fleet vehicles, retrofitting municipal buildings for energy efficiency, and investing in emergency preparedness, storm water protection, and food security. Learn more about recent efforts, as well as opportunities to get engaged and take meaningful steps to support HalifACT.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**The government of Canada released their National Adaptation Strategy: Building Resilient Communities and a Strong Economy.**

This plan will help Canada prepare and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

More information can be found **[on their website.](#)**

Community update

# Investments in the Halifax region



### E-bus test drive in Halifax

In early 2023, Halifax Transit began test driving the Nova Bus LFSe for the region's road conditions, hills and weather.

Electrifying buses will reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as operating costs for Halifax Transit by converting our buses to a low-carbon or zero-emission fleet.

An electric bus could save an estimated \$24,000 in annual operating costs per bus when compared to diesel. In 2028/29, the potential reduction in maintenance costs could surpass \$6 million annually for 210 battery electric buses.

For more information, visit the [website](#).



### Newly commissioned work on climate adaptation

Under the HalifACT Climate Action Plan, Halifax has committed to complete a Resilient Retrofit Study and Guidebook. These resources will support HalifACT actions both in our efforts to retrofit municipal buildings to be net-zero ready and in our efforts to enhance community climate resilience.

Staff have engaged the services of [Partners for Action \(P4A\)](#) at the University of Waterloo to support this work. P4A will conduct research and generate an index of interventions and best practices around building resilient retrofits, including structural approaches and nature-based approaches. The team will be considering climate hazards, including extreme heat, extreme wind, flooding (coastal and overland) and extreme precipitation. This will include retrofit interventions for municipal buildings and facilities as well as commercial and residential buildings. This work will support the creation of a Resilient Retrofit Guidebook in 2023-2024.

A **resilient retrofit** is a change made to a building or property to improve its ability to withstand and rebound from climate impacts

### Electric vehicle trial and charging stations

In the spring, the municipality will begin installing 18 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the Halifax region. These efforts support the [Municipal Electric Vehicle Strategy](#) and the decarbonization of transportation targets outlined in HalifACT. Installation of all 18 chargers will take approximately one year to complete.

The request for proposals for electric vehicle charging stations was released in February 2023, and should be awarded in April 2023.

Additionally, the HalifACT team promoted electric vehicles and the upcoming installation of charging stations at the [Spring Ideal Home Show](#) on March 25.



# Community action & engagement





**Names left to right and organization:**

**Anders Rasmusson**, FCM | **Carole Saab**, CEO of FCM | **Sera Thompson**, HRM | **Taneen Rudyk**, President of FCM, Mayor of Vegreville, Alberta, **Shannon Miedema**, HRM | **Mike Savage**, Mayor of Halifax

### Journey to COP27

In November 2022, Mayor Savage and key HalifACT staff attended the 27th Annual Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in Egypt. Municipal staff participated as part of the official Canadian Delegation with a focus on sharing Halifax's leading climate work and promoting the importance of municipal government in climate action while connecting with and learning from others from around the globe.

Watch a video summary of their trip [on Youtube](#).

**Staff represented HalifACT at the Liveable Cities forum as well as at the Standards Council of Canada and Climate Emergency Fund Learning Group.**

These opportunities enabled municipal staff to showcase their leadership in climate action and connect with other changemakers on climate-based solutions that advance HalifACT and our local efforts here at home.

### Halifax Bikeway Network pop-up event

In honour of Winter Bike-to-Work Day, Active Transportation staff hosted a pop-up at the Halifax Central Library on Feb. 7 to share updates about bikeway projects happening in 2023. After a short presentation on the status of the AAA Regional Centre Bikeway Network, attendees were able to talk with staff about upcoming bikeway projects as well as get tips and route planning advice for cycling in winter.

The goals of HalifACT rely on the successful implementation of the [Integrated Mobility Plan](#), which includes an increase in active transportation.

For more information about winter cycling, [visit the website](#).

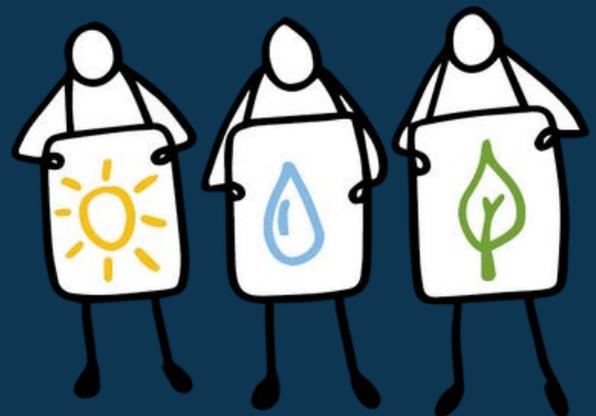


### HalifACT & Halifax Public Libraries pop-up engagement series

**In partnership with Halifax Public Libraries, the municipality launched public engagement activities to gain feedback on climate action in our communities.**

Now until May 2023, residents are invited to attend pop-up engagement sessions hosted by municipal staff at all 16 library locations across the municipality over the coming months. Additionally, residents can share their thoughts through an [online idea board](#).

Through this engagement, residents will have an opportunity to engage in conversation about climate change and share their thoughts, questions, concerns or solutions on local climate impacts and actions. Feedback collected will be used to inform how we act on climate together and move the [HalifACT plan](#) forward.



**Have an interest in sharing your feedback on climate action?**

Visit your local library or post your thoughts to our online idea board.

## HalifACT & Dalhousie engagement series

In fall 2022, the Dalhousie Faculty of Architecture and Planning, in collaboration with the Clean Foundation and HalifACT, hosted an engagement series that brought together experts, interested members of the public and practitioners to find new ways forward.

Watch all four sessions online to expand your climate knowledge:

- [Engaging Climate with Netukulimk-Mi'kmaq Partnerships and Wisdom](#)
- [The Human Element of Climate-How We Change](#)
- [Climate and The Built Environment-Planning a net zero and climate resilient future](#)
- [Unsticking Our Systems to Respond to a Climate Emergency](#)



### DID YOU KNOW?

**The Province of Nova Scotia have released their climate adaption plan.**

Our Climate, Our Future: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth has 68 actions that were framed by the new provincial climate change risk assessment, conversations with Nova Scotians and opportunities to reduce emissions.

The actions build on the goals in the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act.

The plan will guide climate change work across 15 provincial departments over the next five years, require collaboration with municipalities, industry and other partners, and will set Nova Scotia on a path to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets and prepare for a changing climate.

For more information, [read the plan](#).

# Government, business & community partnerships



## Second Climate Action Challenge complete

HalifACT, in collaboration with the [Halifax Innovation Outpost](#), placed two open calls in 2022 for organizations or teams to develop and test solutions to accelerate climate action in Halifax. Fourteen teams were supported with:

- Learning and mentorship in rapid-action prototyping
- Coaching to help to sharpen and test their ideas with potential customers, users and/or partners
- Funding of up to \$5000 for project costs
- Participation in a pitch event with an opportunity to showcase ideas and receive feedback and support from advisors in their sector
- Connection to larger grants to scale up promising solutions

More information can be found on [the website](#).

## Senate recognition of HalifACT

In October 2022, the Honourable Mary Coyle recognized HalifACT as a Clean50 project aware winner in the Cities category, and a Top Project overall for 2022.

The Clean50 awards recognize leaders from across Canada who have done the most to advance climate action and develop climate solutions. The municipality won the Clean50 Top Project of the year for all of Canada. Additionally, Shannon Miedema won a Clean16 award as a leader for exceptional contributions to the clean economy.

**Climate Change Leaders Award**  
HalifACT received a **Climate Change Leaders Award** for its Municipal Electric Vehicle Strategy at the recent Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities fall conference at the Westin Hotel in Halifax.



**HALIFAX**