

What Can be Done:  
Every choice we make has an impact.

# Reduce, Rethink, Redesign



**Consume and Use Less Everything.**  
Reduce your energy, plastic, water, and other resource use.

**Plant Trees.** Increasing forest cover is one of the most effective things we can do to combat climate change.



**Drive and Fly Less** whenever possible.



**For Municipalities:** Complete a Corporate Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory.

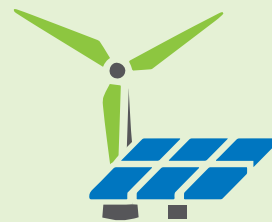


**Conserve Home Energy.** Adjust your thermostat for less use in every season, and take advantage of home retrofit programs to improve energy efficiency.



**For Municipalities:** Complete a Regional Community Energy Plan which includes:  
a) a greenhouse gas emission inventory  
b) energy and emission targets, and  
c) an action plan.

**Use and Invest** in renewable energy.



**Eat for a Climate-Stable Planet.** Eat less meat, eat local, reduce food waste, backyard compost.

**Prepare Your Family and home** for a changing climate.



## Learn More Here:

**Essex Region Conservation Authority**  
[www.essexregionconservation.org](http://www.essexregionconservation.org)

**Windsor Climate Change Adaptation Plan:**  
[www.citywindsor.ca/residents/environment/Environmental-Master-Plan/Documents](http://www.citywindsor.ca/residents/environment/Environmental-Master-Plan/Documents)

**Windsor Community Energy Plan:**  
[www.citywindsor.ca/residents/environment/climate-change-mitigation/community-energy-plan](http://www.citywindsor.ca/residents/environment/climate-change-mitigation/community-energy-plan)

**Climate Atlas of Canada**  
<https://climateatlas.ca/>



## Climate Change

- 97% of scientists\* agree the climate is changing and we are the cause. More than 82% of Canadians\*\* are very concerned about the impacts of a changing climate.
- People in Windsor-Essex care about climate change. The Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee unanimously approved a Climate Emergency Declaration for the region, recognizing the threat climate change poses to everyday life.
- This is not a problem or situation that requires attention for 'future generations'. It is happening right now and we all have the opportunity and responsibility to take action.
- The climate determines almost everything about how we design, build and live in our communities, and Ontario is warming faster than the global average. Action must be taken now to protect the safety, prosperity and livability of our region.

# Climate Change

— In Windsor-Essex —

"Climate change is here. It affects us now."

- Dr. Diane Saxe, Former Env. Commissioner of Ontario

The Windsor Essex Climate Change Collaborative, a partnership between ERCA, municipalities, the County of Essex, the Windsor-Essex Health Unit, the University of Windsor, and others, was established to address regional issues and the multitude of climate change vulnerabilities and risks facing different sectors. Additionally, the collaborative is building on work from the City of Windsor to develop a county-wide community energy plan will help advance regional priorities around energy conservation to achieve lower emissions.

This fact sheet contains examples of how life has changed in Windsor-Essex and what we can do to combat these effects.

## Contact Us

Windsor-Essex Climate Change Collaborative

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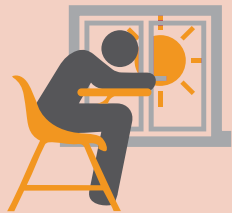
\* (American Association for the Advancement of Science Board Statement of Climate Change, 2014)

\*\* (Abacus Data, 2019)

# Climate Change Realities

We are feeling the effects of climate change, right now.

## Warmer



**Threats to human health and safety.** More days over 30 degrees put our most vulnerable people (children, seniors and New Canadians) at risk. Mental health impacts. Food-borne illnesses are likely to increase.

**Invasive species and new diseases.** Black-legged ticks, lyme disease, mosquito species that can carry Zika; fungal and bacterial explosions.



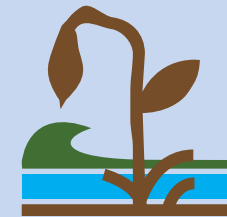
**Disappearing ways of life.** Disappearance of skating ponds and backyard rinks. Kids kept indoors at recess. Increased harmful algal blooms impact swimming and other water-based activities.

## Wetter



**Infrastructure damage.** Flooded shoreline homes and risks to low lying areas. Significant erosion, road closures, overwhelmed sewer systems.

**Disrupted farm cycles and ecosystems.** Failed crop cycles, more expensive food, and threatened agriculture. Harmful algal blooms, toxic waters, and disrupted seasons.



**Costs and Insurability.** Flood events cost millions to clean up each time. Some homes are no longer insurable.

## Wilder



**Unpredictability.** More wild, destructive, 'surprise' storms and chaotic weather seasons, coupled with the inability to predict extremes from one year to the next.

**Overload.** Infrastructure damage and stress on municipal systems, such as breakwall breaches from surges that overrun engineered limits.



**Financial Strain.** Local budgets are shifted to cover disaster relief and repair costs, which pulls money away from other vital needs.

**50%** Decrease in average ice cover on Lake Erie between 1973 and 2010

**~9,000** Reports of flooding in Windsor between 2016 and 2017

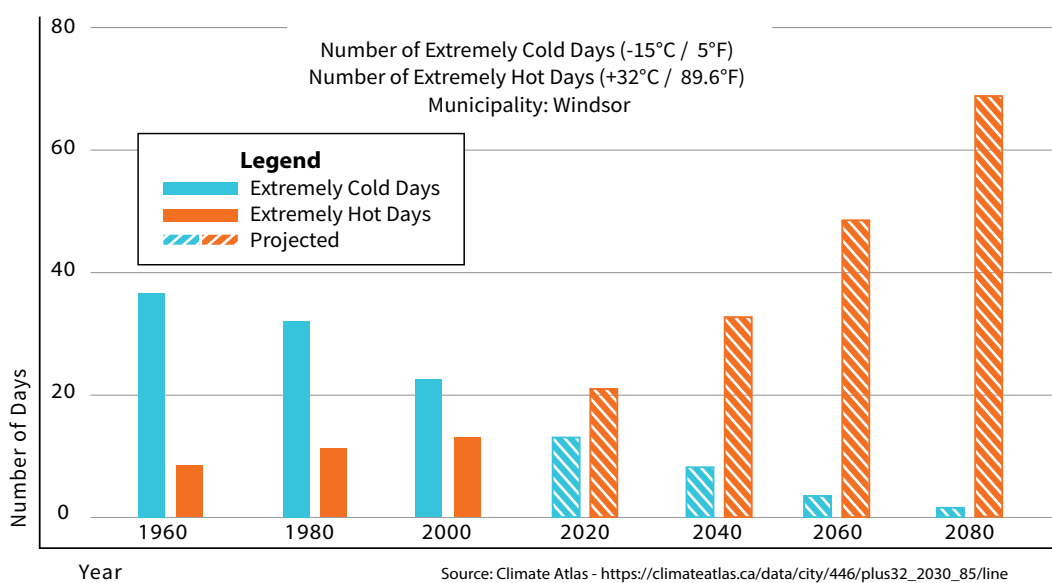
**250** Million in insured losses from storms between 2016 and 2017

**189** Days of Flood Watch in the Windsor-Essex region: from April 10 to October 15

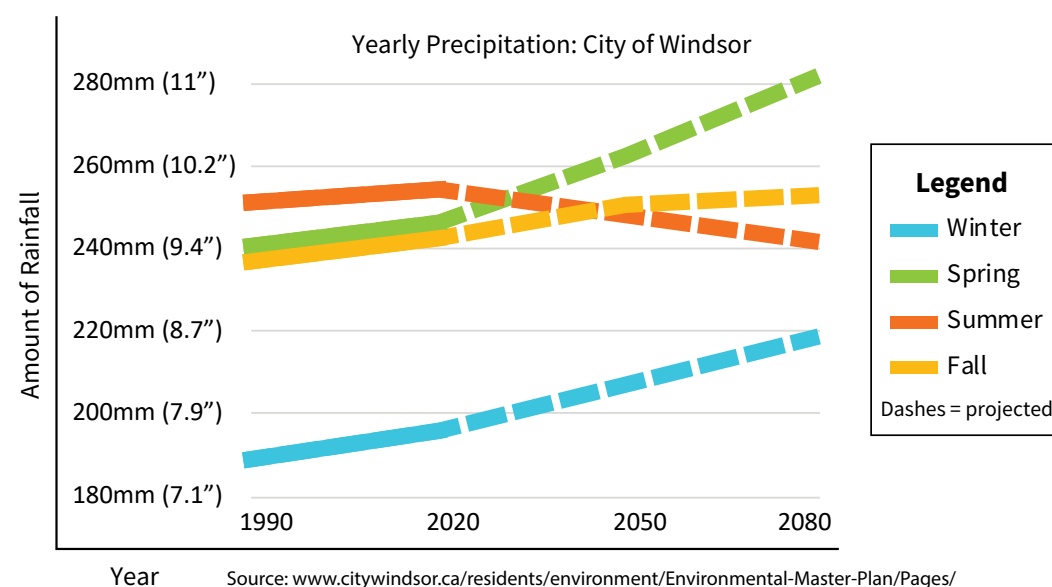
"While we might not see more storms, we're seeing more intense and unpredictable storms, and extreme weather is costly. These effects can happen anywhere. Thinking 'It's never happened here before' isn't good enough anymore."

- Richard Wyma, General Manager, ERCA

### HOT AND COLD DAYS PER YEAR



### FLOODING AND HIGH WATER



### EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

