



# Climate Considerations for the Waste Sector

Kerra Chomlak, Executive Director  
to Recycling Council of Alberta Conference Banff, AB  
October, 2024

# Acknowledgement

ClimateWest's work occurs on the traditional land of many Indigenous Nations and covers the Territories of Treaties 1 through 8, and 10.

The office space is located on Treaty 1 Territory, the historic meeting place of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Inninewuk, Anishininiwag, Dakota and Dene, and the Homeland of the Métis Nations.

# Who is ClimateWest?

	Amplifier
	Connector
	Collaborator
	Advocate
	Facilitator
	Translator



# Impacts in Canada



Canada is warming at **twice** the global average and three times as fast in the Arctic (Bush and Lemmen, 2019).

The provinces of AB, SK and MB are **one of the fastest warming regions in Canada** (Prairie Climate Centre., 2022).

# Heat

The number of hot days that exceed 30°C is expected to triple or even quadruple across the southern Alberta (PCC, 2022).

- **Workers:** air conditioning, cooling breaks, hydration, plan for lower productivity
- **Buildings:** heat pumps, ventilation for chemical storage
- **Equipment:** adjust time of day

# Extreme Rain & Wind

Floods, fires and droughts are all getting worse (Sauchyn et al., 2020).

- **Stormwater:** drainage, size ponds for future climate (IDF curves available online at [climatedata.ca](https://climatedata.ca))
- **Buildings:** design for future, not for past (local design values are available [climatedata.ca](https://climatedata.ca)), hurricane ties
- **Vehicles:** storage, plan for hail

# Smokey Days

- **Workers:** particulate masks, eye flushing, mental health supports
- **Buildings:** hepa filters
- **Equipment:** air filters

# Freezing Rain & Rain on Snow

- **Workers:** penguin walk, crampons
- **Vehicles:** winter tires
- **Equipment:** storage, covers

**Polar vortex:** lost productivity, workers, equipment



# Emergency Preparedness

- Have a plan for extreme weather scenarios (both for evacuations and for hosting)
- Have a plan for disaster debris management
- Power backup
- Water supply
- Emergency kits

# Adaptation Planning

## FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION – CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT

This project was funded through the [Climate Resilience Capacity Building Program](#)  
Community: Fort McKay First Nation

## TOWN OF CANMORE – CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

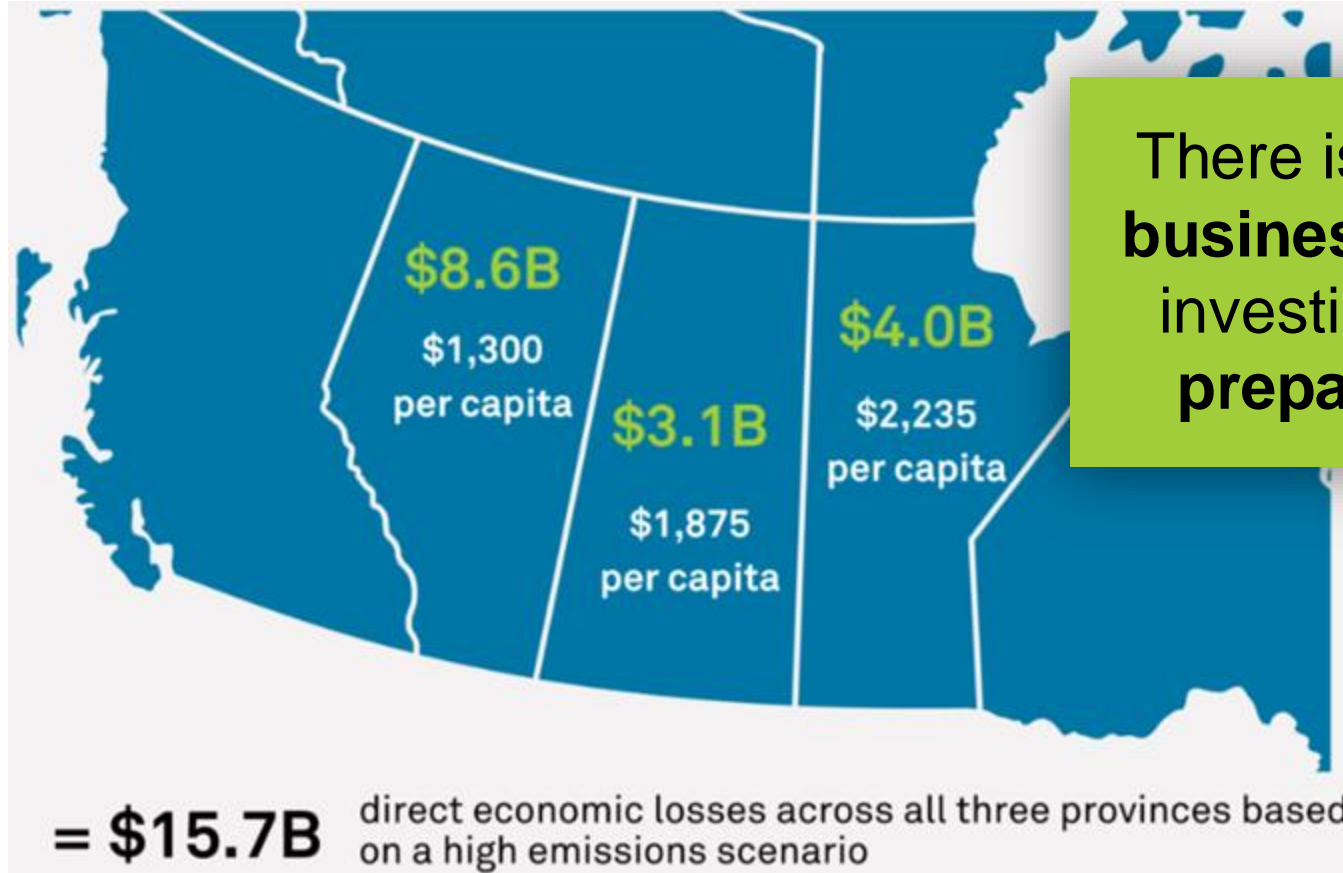
This project was funded through the [Climate Resilience Capacity Building Program](#)  
Community: Town of Canmore



Municipal  
Climate Change  
Action Centre

Approximately 50 Alberta municipalities and Indigenous communities have adaptation plans

# Costs of Climate Change in Alberta



There is a **strong business case** for investing now in **preparedness**

Boyd, R., 2023. *Costs of Climate Change on the Prairies*. Prepared by All One Sky Foundation for ClimateWest.

Ness, R., 2023. *Damage Control. Projecting the Future Costs of Climate Change in Canada*. ClimateWest Forum. May 2-3, 2023.

# Funding Opportunities

## Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM): Climate-Ready Plans and Processes

- Deadline **November 29, 2024**
- Municipalities, Indigenous communities, NGOs
- Contact: [gmfinfo@fcm.ca](mailto:gmfinfo@fcm.ca); 1-877-417-0550

**Reach out.** We can connect you with free data specific to your community.

**Help Desk:** 204-995-6514

**Email:** [info@climatewest.ca](mailto:info@climatewest.ca)

## Connect With Us

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