

## **CLIMATE ACTION IN NL COMMUNITIES**

Summary of outreach & engagement, Feb-Mar 2022

respondents

incl. 3 Indigenous communities & 19 one-on-one interviews with municipal staff & elected officials

\*https://municipalnl.ca/about/

**POPULATION OF COMMUNITY** 

% of respondents by

100 - 250 251 - 500 500 - 1000 20% 1001 - 3000 3001 - 6000 6001 - 10,000 10,001 - 20,000 More than 20,000

**GEOGRAPHIC** REGION 5% 2%

5%

% of respondents by

Climate change is at the forefront of our minds. We want to use our resources effciently and do things right, for the long term.

## implementing it 24% 10% We have a climate Mostly larger communities (more than 6,000 people)

27%

Climate action planning has begun

discussed, but no planning or action has been taken Mostly smaller communities . (less than 6,000 people)

plan and are actively

Climate change has been

**50%** 

Higher priorities for larger communities (more than 3,000 people)

RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTALLATIONS

(e.g. solar panels or wind turbines)

(e.g. switching from fuel heat to electric, increasing insulation)

48%

27%

34% **VEHICLE ELECTRIFICATION** 

VULNERABILITIES TO CULTURAL IDENTITY 27%

BUILDING ENERGY RETROFITS 48%

(e.g. protection of ways of life, traditions)

**39**%

respondents ranked a list of barriers from Very Significant to Not Significant Last year, flash rain caused washouts that cost more than our entire annual budget to fix... We're basically putting a band-aid on the problem because no one has the hundreds of thousands of dollars to come up with an assessment and

LACK OF STAFF TIME Ranked Very Significant by 57% of respondents and Somewhat Significant by 27%

> People generally agree that we have to take action on climate change, but there's a lack of understanding about exactly what that entails... the majority of the community seems to be afraid of change, especially if there's a cost involved.

LACK OF FUNDS

Ranked Very Significant by **75%** of respondents and Somewhat Significant by 18%

**UNABLE TO PRIORITIZE DUE** 

TO 'MORE PRESSING' ISSUES

Ranked Very Significant by 34%

and Somewhat Significant by 43%

private funding programs so we don't miss anything, that would be great.

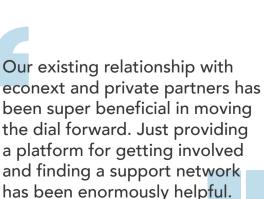
WATERSHED MODELLING SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS TO RETROFIT HOMES **ECO-ASSET MANAGEMENT SOLAR PV ON MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS** STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING

**GEOTHERMAL HEATING COMMUNITY GARDENS/GREENHOUSES FLEET ELECTRIFICATION** 

**SOLAR AREA LIGHTS** 

COMMUNITY OR REGIONAL COMPOSTING **MANDATORY RECYCLING** 

**MUNICPAL BUILDING ENERGY RETROFITS** 



**COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS** 

**COASTAL MONITORING & PROTECTION WIND ENERGY EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING** WETLAND STEWARDSHIP

win-win-win solutions...

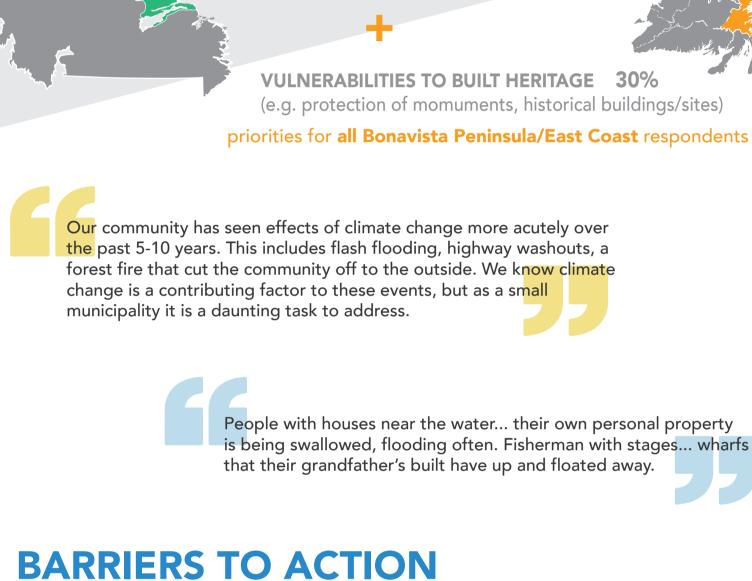
**BIKE LANES & TRAILS EV CHARGING STATIONS PUBLIC TRANSIT** 

Disclaimer - Potential data bias: communities that have begun to think about or act on climate change are more likely to participate in related engagement opportunities such as this survey **CLIMATE PRIORITIES** % of respondents that selected as a community priority 80% **COASTAL FLOODING** (e.g. sea level rise, erosion, storm surge concerns) 80% **IN-LAND FLOODING** (e.g. stormwater management) **WASTE REDUCTION & DIVERSION** (e.g. composting and recycling programs) **FOOD SECURITY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC EDUCATION** (e.g. surrounding climate change, personal action, community initiatives, etc.)

(e.g. wetland and forest conservation) WILD FIRE

**GREEN SPACE & ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION** 

(e.g. public charging stations, fleet EV procurement) **PUBLIC & ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION** (e.g. bus systems, ferry systems, bike lanes) LOSS OF SEA ICE 9% priorities for all **Labrador respondents** 



## Bigger barriers for smaller communities (less than 3,000 people)

LACK OF CLIMATE CHANGE

**AWARENESS/UNDERSTANDING** 

Ranked Very Significant by 27%

LACK OF STAFF EXPERTISE

Ranked Very Significant by 43%

and Somewhat Significant by 36%

proper plan... I have a feeling this is going to be

another messy year.

and Somewhat Significant by 55% LACK OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT Ranked **NOT** Significant by 48% and Somewhat Significant by 37%

**PROGRESS + DIRECTION** Respondents provided examples of projects they have completed, are working on, or would like to implement. For most of the projects listed, all three apply - a community has done it, another is trying, and another wants to. **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION INVENTORIES** 

Awareness and training is fantastic, but communities need planned actions and money to go after them. We can do studies forever, but what comes next?

BETWEEN COMMUNITIES Ranked Very Helpful by **61%** and Somewhat Helpful by 32% **ASSISTANCE WITH PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS** Ranked Very Helpful by 60% and Somewhat Helpful by 25% **SHARING OF CASE STUDIES** ASSISTANCE WITH INTERPRETATION Ranked Very Helpful by 48% OF CLIMATE SCIENCE AND PROJECTIONS and Somewhat Helpful by 45%

Ranked Very Helpful by **60%** and Somewhat Helpful by 23% All of these supports were generally considered more helpful by smaller communities (less than 10,000 people) and communities outside of urban centers (outside the Avalon and the West Coast) If municipalities had a one-stop-shop to find all the federal, provicinal, and

LACK OF STAFF/COUNCIL SUPPORT Bigger barrier on the Avalon Peninsula Ranked **NOT** Significant by **59%** (40% of Avalon respondents ranked as and Somewhat Significant by 27% Somewhat Significant, 15% Very Significant) SUPPORTS NEEDED respondents ranked a list of supports from Very Helpful to Not Helpful at All **SHARING OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES** (ie. email notifications, an online portal) Ranked Very Helpful by 84% SUPPORT FOR COMPLETING and Somewhat Helpful by 14% **FUNDING APPLICATIONS** Ranked Very Helpful by **61%** and Somewhat Helpful by 32% **FACILITATION OF CLIMATE ACTION-RELATED TRAINING FACILITATION OF PARTNERSHIPS FACILITATION OF CONNECTIONS WITH CLIMATE EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS** and Somewhat Helpful by 27%

We have a climate action Climate change has never been discussed action plan but have not implemented any actions yet 45%

**CURRENT LEVEL OF CLIMATE ACTION** % of respondents

**33** unique communities self-identified 9 anonymous respondents There are 276 incorporated municipalities in NL\* This survey sample captures 12-15%

econext

**WATER CONSERVATION** Municipalities have a very wide range of significant, urgent problems with hyper-constrained resources. But lots of problems means lots of opportunities for Climate action can pursue multiple objectives at the same time.

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