



CITY OF HAMILTON



20
23
DECEMBER

CLIMATE JUSTICE FRAMEWORK REPORT



Hamilton



CityLAB
HAMILTON

McMaster
University



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Land Acknowledgment

The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes (City of Hamilton, n.d.).

We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers (City of Hamilton, n.d.).

Our team acknowledges the vital role of the communities we've collaborated with, grounded in our recognition that this work would not be feasible without being on this land. We greatly appreciate the Indigenous peoples who generously informed us about their knowledge, stories, and experiences through the creation of this report.

Indigenous Voices in Climate Justice

Our report values insights from Canada's Indigenous communities on climate change, emphasizing inclusivity for a sustainable future.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

On behalf of our Project Team we would like to thank our CityLAB instructors, City Staff and Climate Experts for their insights and contributions to our final report.



A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT HELPED US ALONG THE WAY

- Extreme Heat, Health Surveillance, Heat Response Team
- Indigenous Services, Public Engagement Team
- Indigenous Services/Engagement/Consultation Team
- Climate Change Preparedness in Black Communities
- Climate Change, Equity and Climate Justice Team
- Public health, Health equity, Climate change Team
- Climate Justice and Climate Change Team
- Transportation and Community engagement Team
- Environmental Justice and Neighbourhood building
- Indigenous and Health Equity
- Gender Equity
- Climate Justice
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Office
- McMaster Sustainable Communities Office
- Climate Change Office
- Housing, Extreme Heat Office
- Academic Sustainability Programs Office
- Health Equity, Health Surveillance Office

CITYLAB SIR 23' TEAM

Individuals who played a key role in creating and organizing this report



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A special thank you to our community partners, the City of Hamilton's **Office of Climate Change Initiatives (OCCI)** for their continuous help and support in the creation of the Hamilton Climate Justice Framework Project of 2023.

WHO MENTORED US ALONG THE WAY?

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

1.1 INTRODUCTION

CityLAB, a partnership between the City of Hamilton, McMaster University, Mohawk College, and Redeemer University, aims to provide students with hands-on experience in addressing city challenges through real-world projects. Our project's goal was to create a Hamilton-specific Climate Justice Framework Report. This Framework will be used as an educational tool for city staff when developing new initiatives, implementing effective climate action strategies, and fostering connections with Hamiltonians moving forward. The Framework incorporated equity-based considerations and data from various sectors, industries, and communities. The OCCI will collaborate with community members, city experts, and practitioners to continue expanding on our Framework recommendations and improve its impact going forward.

1.2 FINDINGS

A preliminary literature review was conducted to understand the intricacies of climate justice in Hamilton. The review focused on five main research areas: Indigenous Justice, Land Use and Urban Planning Justice, Racial Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), Community Safety and Emergency Response. Interviews with experts and practitioners highlighted concerns about air quality, water pollution, heat island effect, mental health, and accessibility. Some themes overlooked in Hamilton's approach include meaningful community engagement, incorporating research without denying lived experiences, and changing existing systems. Participants stressed the importance of bridging gaps between residents and governing bodies as well as acknowledging unconventional modes of understanding.

To address identified issues and gain insights, our team organized the Hamilton Climate Justice Summit, a dialogue event on November 15th, 2023. The event brought together 16 city staff, community organization leaders, practitioners, and climate change experts for thoughtful discussion and activities. Four main climate issues in Hamilton were identified: Extreme Weather, Housing Affordability, Transportation, and Water Management. The team engaged in interactive activities to gather insights and recommendations on these issues which were crucial in shaping our Climate Justice Framework.

Executive Summary

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW:

STEP 1

Research Focus:

We studied frameworks from other cities and delved into Hamilton-based research, covering five key areas: Indigenous Justice, Urban Planning and Land use Justice, Racial Justice, EDI, Community Safety and Emergency Response

STEP 2

Interviews and Engagement:

We used specific research questions to conduct one-on-one interviews with over 15 climate practitioners.

STEP 3

Climate Justice Summit:

On November 15th, 2023, we hosted a dialogue event with 16 climate experts and practitioners, involving a case study, round table discussions, and Menti Meter word clouds.

STEP 4

Data Analyses

We collected information from interviews and our summit event. We analyzed the data and presented the findings in our report.

1.3 FRAMEWORK THEMES

Using the information gained from our primary literature review, one-on-one interviews, and dialogue event, our team analyzed all insights and implemented them to create Hamilton's first Climate Justice Framework. This Framework consists of five overarching themes and a list of 29 recommendations. The Framework acts as a starting point and guideline for city staff to ensure Climate Justice is integrated into all City of Hamilton's projects, planning, and initiatives. It will continue being refined and built upon by the OCCI going forward to create a climate-resilient future for the City of Hamilton.

CLIMATE JUSTICE FRAMEWORK MAIN THEMES



THEME 1 - INCORPORATING CLIMATE JUSTICE INTO PLANNING AND POLICY



THEME 2 - MEANINGFUL AND TRUSTFUL ENGAGEMENT



THEME 3 - EDUCATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION



THEME 4 - ADDRESSING PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS



THEME 5 - GENUINE COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS & ORGANIZATIONS

2.0 INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

2.1 INTRODUCTION TO CITYLAB

What is CityLAB?

CityLAB is an innovative hub established as a joint effort by the City of Hamilton and three affiliated institutions: McMaster University, Mohawk College, and Redeemer University. CityLAB offers students meaningful learning opportunities through practical experience in real projects that address relevant challenges confronting the City of Hamilton. The program enables students to develop professional skills and make a significant contribution to their community.

From September to December 2023, CityLAB students collaborated with various organizations around the city to create informative projects based on building a climate-resilient future. Working with the Office of Climate Change Initiatives (OCCI), our group was assigned to create a Climate Justice Framework, specific to the City of Hamilton.



2.2 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Who did we work with?

The City of Hamilton's Office of Climate Change Initiatives (OCCI) main priority is to safeguard the residents of our community, while also minimizing the expenses, duration, and negative effects on health. They seek to strengthen operations and improve community resilience in the face of environmental issues by beginning to understand diverse community viewpoints, concerns, and barriers.



2.4 PROJECT OVERVIEW

Background

Working alongside the OCCI, our goal was to create the design of a Hamilton-specific Climate Justice Framework Report. The Framework is intended to be used as a guide and educational tool for city staff as they implement climate actions and create new policies and plans. It can be used by city staff to continue building strong and trusted relationships with residents and organizations across Hamilton, specifically with equity-deserving populations, to help bring those underrepresented voices to the forefront of climate action.

A Climate Justice Framework should incorporate as many equity-based considerations as possible and include data from various sectors, industries, and communities. To do so, we conducted research, focused interviews with experts and practitioners, and a facilitated dialogue event. To formalize the design of the Framework for the city's use moving forward, the City of Hamilton will take this draft and continue building on it while engaging with other groups and key experts and practitioners in the process.



Problem Statement

Since 2019, Hamilton City Council declared a climate change emergency and is aiming to respond through Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy. While they outlined many important climate considerations, such plans exacerbate existing social equity challenges. A lack of climate justice initiatives within the city has led to increased impact from the urban heat island effect, pollution, and other environmental injustices, deterring the quality of life for many residents. Considering this, How might we develop recommendations to guide city staff using a Climate Justice Framework and help them better understand climate equity disparities?

2.4 PROJECT OVERVIEW

KEY GOALS

In the Hamilton community, just like in communities across the globe, climate change has set the course for immediate action for residents, community members, and policymakers. Increased temperatures and greenhouse gas emissions have heavily contributed to increased costs and illnesses, deterring quality of life. Through the creation of our project, we outlined a few guiding principles to be mindful of, including:

01

Research and understand the impacts of climate change from different perspectives, and ensure to include broad equity-based considerations

We researched and gained an understanding of climate change impacts from various perspectives such as EDI, Indigenous Justice, Land Use and Planning Justice, Racial Justice, and Community Safety and Emergency Response.

02

Investigate what a Climate Justice Framework is through research, literature reviews, and interviews with climate experts

By reviewing the literature and engaging in interviews with city practitioners we aim to deepen our understanding on how climate change effects the Hamilton population, and to investigate the benefits of a Climate Justice Framework and its implementation within the City of Hamilton.

03

Discuss with climate experts to understand the scope of climate justice within the Hamilton population

Our project involved discourse and dialogue with climate organizations and city practitioners from Hamilton (Ex. Acorn, HCBN, etc.), to develop an understanding of the climate justice issues faced by the city. Through our project, we incorporated the findings from these discussions into an accessible format, disseminating concepts of climate justice for Hamilton city staff.

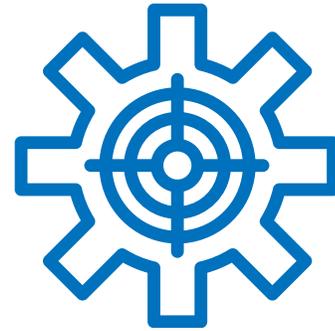
04

Investigate the need for a Climate Justice Framework and determine its importance within the City of Hamilton

The City of Hamilton does not yet have a Climate Justice Framework. Hence, it is important to include various perspectives when discussing climate justice issues while working to address both climate mitigation (reduction of greenhouse gas emissions) and climate adaptation (avoiding, reducing, and recovering from the impacts of climate change). Climate justice should take into account the barriers and issues that Hamiltonians currently face daily. By incorporating feedback from residents, city staff will be able to make key decisions and policies that will directly address these issues.

2.4 PROJECT OVERVIEW

SCOPE



In Scope

Initially, to build our report, a primary literature review was conducted by our team in 5 research areas (see *Section 3.2*). Next, we developed a list of interview questions and completed one-on-one interviews to actively engage with subject matter experts, practitioners, and climate organization leaders who regularly interact with equity-deserving populations. Subsequently, we organized a community dialogue event to foster collaborative conversation and gather a variety of interdisciplinary viewpoints through multiple discussion-based activities. Furthermore, we analyzed and culminated these findings into a comprehensive summary. Ultimately, this final research recommendation report was created based on the insights gained throughout the project.

Out of Scope

Considering this project had a four-month allocated timeline, there were a few limitations and out-of-scope objectives. Firstly, it was unfeasible to create a finalized Climate Justice Framework within this time restriction. Hence, our team was only responsible for creating a draft that the OCCI will continue building upon. Secondly, it was outside the scope of this project to directly engage with residents and vulnerable populations for the following reasons: conflicts of interest for the City of Hamilton; ethics approval and permits that require a lengthy approval process that is beyond our allocated timeline; unintended consequences when engaging with residents; limited capacity resources available for minority groups regarding their involvement in surveys due to language barriers.

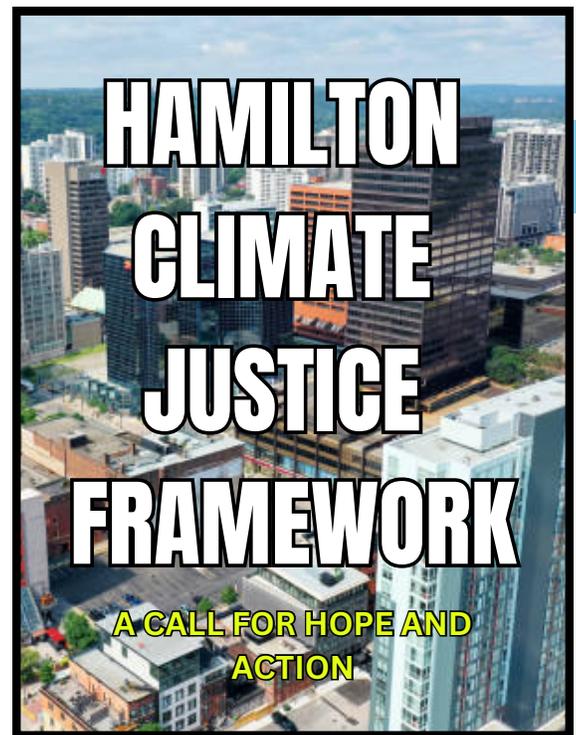
2.5 Defining The Framework

Defining the Framework:

A Climate Justice Framework recognizes that climate change is a collective, global crisis but its impacts are not felt evenly across the world, nor evenly between species and communities (Vancouver, 2022). Climate justice prioritizes the welfare and knowledge of those who are most affected by climate change to equally distribute the costs and benefits associated with mitigation and adaptation strategies. Tackling the climate crisis without climate justice will merely treat its symptoms, rather than its underlying causes. Moving forward, municipalities can communicate climate justice clearly to their residents by developing an iterative process for community feedback and developing effective outreach strategies. Furthermore, municipalities play a crucial role in fostering inclusive participation without necessarily relinquishing decision-making authority to residents. By prioritizing inclusivity and encouraging diverse community engagement, this Framework enhances the decision-making process by incorporating a broad spectrum of voices (Lazarus-Munnick et al., 2023).

This Framework is intended to be used as a tool/resource to:

1. Guide City decision-making and planning and apply where process-oriented issues are concerned, such as engagement methods, training materials, and resources.
2. Ensure decisions regarding mitigation and adaptation actions are made in a manner that promotes climate justice moving forward.
3. Encourage further discussions on broader intersecting themes and address the historical context of climate injustice.



How will this framework be used?

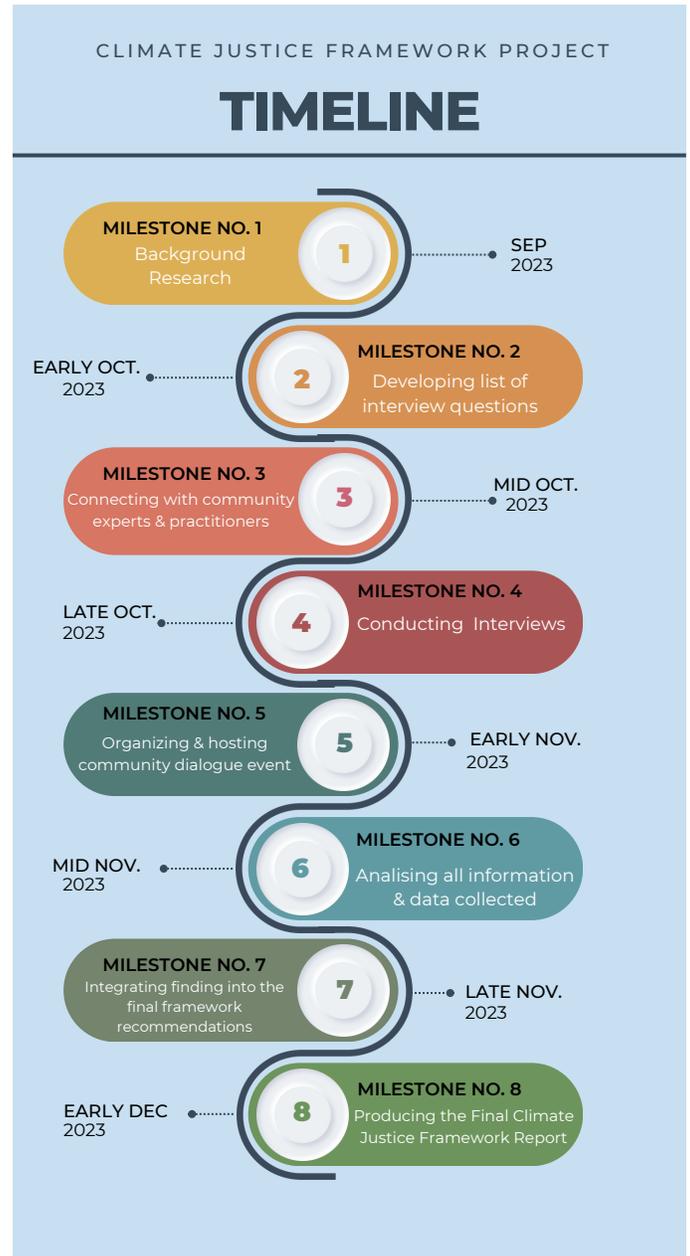
City Staff in the OCCI will look to implement the recommendations proposed in our Climate Justice Report. Additionally, they will continue building on the important conversations started during this project. Secondly, staff intend to use the information and recommendations internally, which includes: regulatory training across all city staff departments; ongoing cultural competency training (full-day workshop, modules), and implementing climate action policies for the City of Hamilton.

3.0 METHODOLOGY & FINDINGS

3.1 INSIGHTS INTO OUR EXPLORATION PROCESS

Through the process of developing the Climate Justice Framework for the OCCI, we first started with extensive background research on prevalent climate challenges that communities across North America face and researched additional climate frameworks developed by other Canadian municipalities. This information informed our interview questions for interview sessions with various community experts and practitioners to collect a pool of insights and opinions.

After hosting interviews and conducting research, we organized a facilitated dialogue event for community experts and practitioners to obtain their insights. The information collected, alongside the preliminary research and interviews, was integrated into our final Framework recommendations.



3.2 Research Focus Areas

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Our team completed a preliminary literature review. As climate justice is a difficult concept to fully grasp, completing background research helped us gain a deeper understanding of the different intersecting issues. Acquiring this broad understanding was crucial to guide the scope of our project, inform our interview questions, plan our dialogue event, and create our final framework themes and recommendation strategies. Through discussion with the OCCI Team, we focused on five initial research areas: Indigenous Justice, Land Use and Urban Planning Justice, Racial Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), and Community Safety and Emergency Response.

These areas were chosen to inform our initial research as they highlight relevant themes and barriers that a Climate Justice Framework should address. To conduct the literature review, we accessed various sources including related municipal Climate Justice Charters, municipal action plans, research conducted by relevant organizations, McMaster University's Library Services, PubMed, ProQuest, and Google Scholar.

RESEARCH FOCUS



INDIGENOUS JUSTICE



LAND USE AND URBAN PLANNING JUSTICE



RACIAL JUSTICE



EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (EDI)



COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE



INDIGENOUS JUSTICE

Indigenous communities, historically marginalized and facing the ongoing impacts of colonization, stand at the forefront of climate justice challenges (Borrows et al., 2020). Their unique perspectives, deeply rooted in traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), have positioned them as crucial stewards of their lands, embodying a harmonious relationship between cultural practices and sustainable environmental management (City of Vancouver, 2022). Through research, we explored the intricate interplay between Indigenous justice and climate justice.

The Vancouver Climate Justice Charter outlines the critical intersection of Indigenous justice and climate justice, emphasizing the importance of inclusive, community-led strategies to address environmental challenges. It advocates for the recognition of Indigenous perspectives in decision-making processes related to climate action, calling for respectful collaboration that acknowledges the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples and the issues they face. Specifically, project consultants of this charter spoke with people from Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil Waututh Nations to highlight Indigenous voices. The stories that emerged from these conversations around climate change highlighted key issues stemming from the negative impacts on Indigenous lives and cultures. For example, climate change is limiting access to traditional foods like salmon, crab, and mountain goat, affecting families, communities, cultural practices, and the ecosystems that depend on these species. Moreover, waterways are damaged as streams in the city have disappeared, the Salish Sea is polluted, mountain snowpacks are eroding, and there are fewer secluded spaces for imperative spiritual ceremonies and rituals involving water for Indigenous communities. Lastly, due to climate change effects, seasons are shifting, making it unpredictable to harvest seasonal foods and medicines, impacting cultural traditions closely tied to specific seasons. By acknowledging the unique vulnerabilities faced by Indigenous communities in the wake of climate change, the charter sets the stage for a comprehensive and equitable approach to climate justice (City of Vancouver, 2022).

In Hamilton, the Urban Indigenous Strategy recognizes the integral connection between land and identity, articulating the significance of incorporating Indigenous perspectives into municipal planning for climate resilience. This strategy acknowledges the profound impacts of historical injustices on Indigenous communities and underscores the importance of rectifying these imbalances. By weaving Indigenous perspectives into the fabric of municipal initiatives, the strategy seeks to foster a more inclusive and just response to the challenges posed by climate change (City of Hamilton, 2022).



INDIGENOUS JUSTICE

The Climate Justice Toolkit for Municipalities amplifies the call for engagement with Indigenous communities through the lenses of equity, justice, and collaboration. By providing practical guidance for local governments, this toolkit emphasizes the importance of building meaningful partnerships with Indigenous peoples. It recognizes that effective climate justice initiatives require a commitment to understanding and addressing the historical injustices that have disproportionately affected Indigenous communities. Through case studies, the toolkit illustrates how municipalities can actively collaborate with Indigenous communities, ensuring that climate action is both impactful and respectful of diverse perspectives (Sutherland et al., 2021).

Insights from the Canadian Climate Institute's report on Indigenous perspectives further illuminate the intricate relationship between Indigenous justice and climate justice. The report delves into the impacts of climate change on Indigenous communities, highlighting specific examples of environmental injustices. These include instances where extractive industries encroach on Indigenous lands without proper consultation, leading to environmental degradation and compromising the communities' ability to maintain their traditional ways of life. The report emphasizes the need for a rights-based approach, acknowledging Indigenous sovereignty and fostering partnerships that empower Indigenous communities in the face of climate challenges (Canadian Climate Institute, 2023).

Moreover, the critical elements for local Indigenous water management stress the importance of integrating traditional knowledge into comprehensive climate justice frameworks. Water, a vital resource intricately linked to Indigenous cultures, becomes a focal point in understanding the nuanced connections between environmental sustainability and Indigenous justice. By incorporating Indigenous water management practices into broader climate initiatives, there is an opportunity to not only address the immediate impacts of climate change but also to recognize and preserve the cultural significance of water for Indigenous communities (Latchmore et al., 2018).

In conclusion, the intersection of Indigenous justice and climate justice is a complex and multifaceted terrain and this brief overview underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to climate justice. By recognizing and respecting Indigenous perspectives, integrating traditional knowledge, and rectifying historical injustices, we can forge a path toward a more equitable and sustainable future that prioritizes the well-being of all, particularly those who have historically borne the brunt of environmental injustices.



LAND USE AND URBAN PLANNING JUSTICE

Land use planning can contribute to climate justice by providing a chance to redesign the built and natural ecosystems in areas most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. An example of one viable strategy for tackling these difficulties is home buyout programs, which seek to permanently transfer residents out of high-risk regions and turn the land into open space. Although buyouts cause major and long-term social disruption, they can provide a chance to reimagine more fair and productive land management practices in areas where retreat is required. However, these programs raise concerns about equity and justice, with studies suggesting blurred lines between mandatory and voluntary buyouts and potentially disproportionate harm to lower-value property owners. Moreover, Relocation outcomes from buyouts raise concerns about increased vulnerability among relocated households and limited impact on receiving communities (Dascher et al., 2023).

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report highlights the significant increase in air temperatures over land, nearly two times the global average. Poorer countries in the tropics will be hit harder than richer ones in temperate zones, driving increasing inequality between rich and poor countries. On a smaller scale, the same idea applies to low-income communities in our cities as they face larger impacts of climate change compared to high-income communities. Most pathways identified by the IPCC for limiting temperature rise to 1.5C involve costly bio-energy projects with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), which involve unproven technology and vast amounts of land (Norton, 2019).

A study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) identifies common misconceptions about land use and provides 10 core principles that can be used to develop more effective equitable and fair ways to use land to support sustainability. The core principles that form the truths explain to scientists, policymakers, practitioners, and societies why achieving sustainability in land use is so important and complex.



Figure 2: 10 Facts about Land Systems for Sustainability (Meyfroidt et al., 2022)



LAND USE AND URBAN PLANNING JUSTICE

— The “Ten Facts about Land Systems for Sustainability” article highlights that effective land management mandates a holistic approach that considers the multifaceted dynamics of land use, urban planning, and climate justice on a global scale (Meyfroidt et al., 2022). Effective land use management, urban planning, and climate justice require a nuanced understanding of the socially constructed and contested meanings and values attributed to land. Acknowledging the complexity of land systems is crucial, as interventions aimed at solving specific issues may lead to unintended consequences. Irreversible changes and interconnected global impacts underscore the need for comprehensive, long-term planning. The trade-offs inherent in land-use decisions necessitate value judgments, emphasizing the rarity of “win–wins.” Clearing land for various purposes, especially in cities, has significant but often underestimated global consequences. Additionally, the unequal distribution of land ownership and benefits, coupled with unclear land tenure and overlapping claims, raises justice concerns. Therefore, addressing these challenges requires recognizing diverse perspectives on social and environmental justice, encompassing indigenous rights, future generations’ well-being, and fair systems for prioritizing competing claims (Environmental Defense Fund, 2022).

The City of Hamilton should fundamentally shift its focus, making climate justice the unwavering and non-negotiable priority in all pertinent decision-making processes. This approach should pave the way for innovative developments in social structures, the economy, and urban planning. Additionally, the city must pledge to distribute the benefits arising from these new possibilities fairly, taking into account potential adverse effects on disproportionately impacted communities and actively working to mitigate such impacts.

Therefore, all levels of government should work cooperatively on addressing community concerns. On that note, the National Academy of Public Administration addresses key recommendations for Federal, provincial/state, and municipal levels of government to work accordingly and cooperatively on addressing public concerns and the environmental justice issues associated with land use planning and zoning (Prime Incorporated, 2003).



RACIAL JUSTICE

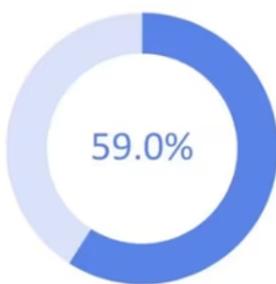
As climate change magnifies existing inequalities, the imperative lies in integrating racial justice principles into our strategies, ensuring an equitable and sustainable future.

A randomized phone survey done by the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council during the month of September 2021, delving into discrimination experiences sheds light on the most likely targets of bias.

The survey, encompassing 316 immigrants and visible minorities, 176 Indigenous people, and 293 white non-immigrants, unveiled stark realities. Disturbingly, 83% of Indigenous people, 59% of immigrants and visible minorities, and 48.5% of white non-immigrants reported experiencing discrimination in the past three years. Particularly concerning was the finding that in Hamilton, Muslims, Black, and Arab people faced some of the highest levels of racism in Hamilton (Sutter & Esses, 2021).

HAMILTON BASED RESULTS:

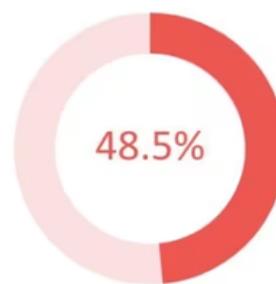
Figure 3: Percentage of Respondents Who Experienced Discrimination in One or More Contexts in the Past Year (Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council, 2021)



Immigrants & Visible Minorities



Indigenous Peoples



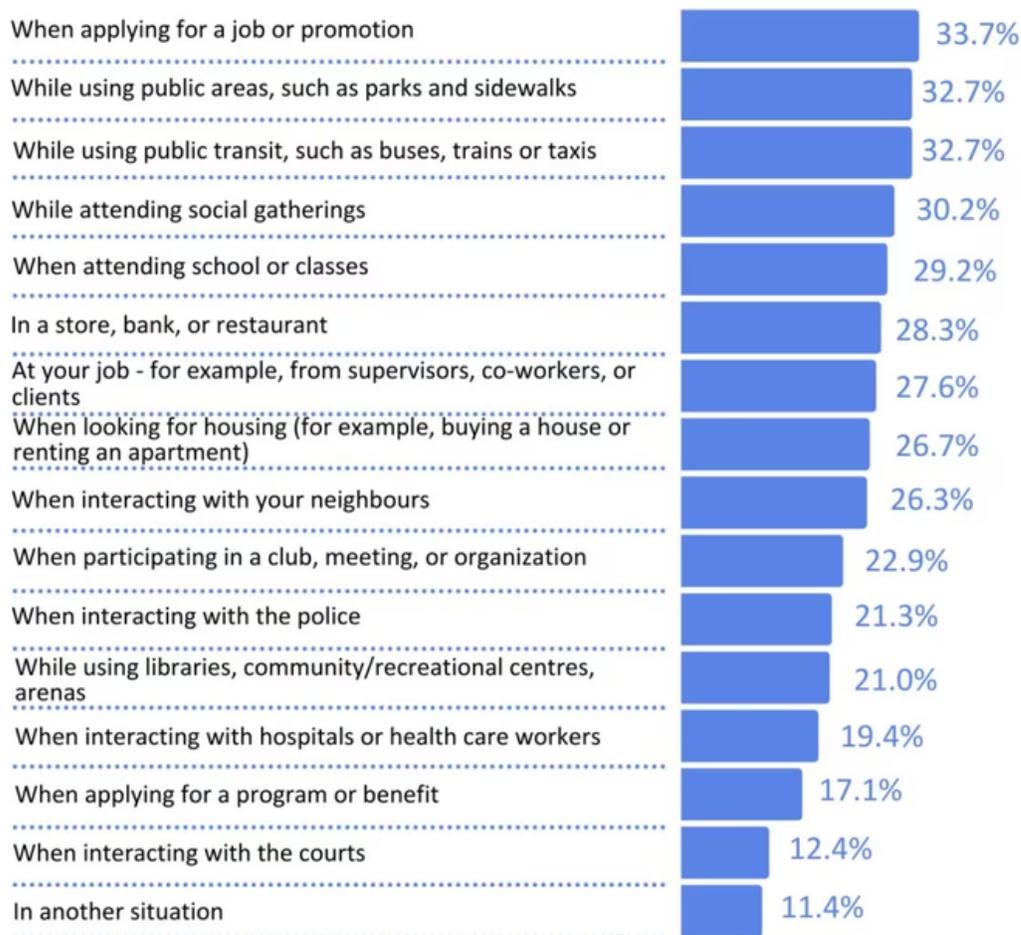
White Non-immigrants

Respondents linked discrimination to factors like race, skin color, ethnicity, culture, or accent. The report highlights that white individuals faced discrimination based on broader factors like age, gender, and appearance. This emphasizes the necessity of integrating racial justice into climate policies to address systemic biases linked to environmental challenges (Sutter & Esses, 2021).

In Which Settings Does Discrimination Manifest?

Through the same survey by the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC), they found out as seen in Figure 2 that the majority reported encountering discrimination during job applications, in workplaces, and public spaces such as parks, sidewalks, and transit. Notably, close to half of Indigenous participants emphasized discrimination in housing, affecting their experiences when buying a home.

Figure 4: Immigrants & Visible Minorities: Contexts in Which Discrimination Occurred
(Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council)



The HIPC results also identified inappropriate jokes, derogatory language, and verbal abuse as the most common forms of discrimination.

The report emphasizes that respondents, regardless of background, often feel discouragement, exclusion, and powerlessness more than shame, though all emotions are recognized. Indigenous Peoples, in particular, reported higher levels of these emotions. The survey also revealed that many individuals cope by ignoring discrimination, possibly leading to increased feelings of shame and depression—a potentially underreported aspect (Sutter & Esses, 2021).

Vulnerability Amplified: Impact on Marginalized Communities

Considering their existing vulnerability, once climate justice issues arise, they will be disproportionately impacted. We can observe this through a study by Professor Liton Chakraborty, a researcher with the University of Waterloo's Partners for Action and lead author of the study. Published in July in the peer-reviewed journal *Environmental Research*, the study examined data on regions across Canada at risk of flooding. It cross-referenced this data with census information on demographics and census boundaries to create a picture of the most flood-prone neighborhoods and who resides within them. The research found that socially disadvantaged groups in Canada, including Indigenous people, other visible minorities, the economically insecure, women, and those aged 65 years and older, are disproportionately affected by coastal and inland flooding (Chakraborty et al., 2022).



EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (EDI)

With their intrinsic link to social justice and fair treatment, equity, diversity, and inclusion are essential considerations when developing a climate justice framework. By incorporating EDI principles, the framework ensures that it recognizes past injustices, and actively addresses systemic disparities and unique vulnerabilities of diverse groups in the community. By embracing diverse perspectives, an EDI-focused framework can generate more comprehensive solutions to the needs of marginalized groups. Fostering resilience and encouraging inclusivity, contribute to the development of a more equitable and long-lasting strategy in addressing climate challenges.

A recent study that delved into how nonprofit organizations advancing the net-zero economy in Canada address practitioners from specific marginalized groups found that the majority of organizations that address the net-zero economy in Canada are not led by minority groups. Net zero economy in a Canadian context is defined by whether our economy either emits no greenhouse gas emissions or offsets its emission, with tools such as tree planting or carbon capture technologies to achieve that (Government of Canada, 2023). Out of the 348 organizations that were analyzed for organizational leadership, only 82% are conventional-led, while the remaining are led by marginalized individuals. The research highlights the significance for these organizations to actively work towards equity, offer representation to marginalized groups, and support inclusive policies and programs. It highlights the relationship between social justice and environmental justice and the need to take into consideration the diverse effects of climate change on various communities in order to successfully transition to a net zero carbon economy in Canada (Hoicka et al., 2022).

Neighborhoods occupied by marginalized groups and lower-income families are more susceptible to extreme heat due to less vegetation, higher population density, and more built-up areas (Amelie Benz & Anne Burney, 2021). Furthermore, residents who live in these “heat islands” are at risk of developing heat-related issues such as decreased productivity, increased risk of heatstroke, and premature birth (Rodriguez, 2021).

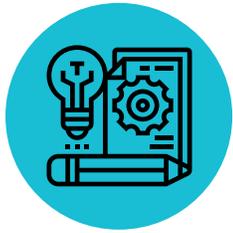


EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (EDI)

In recent times, further research has shown that gender inequality and climate change are interconnected. Women are more vulnerable to climate change compared to men due to social, economic, and cultural factors (UN Women, 2022). Not only does this pose threats to the security, health, and livelihoods of women, but it also exacerbates the challenges in addressing climate-related issues on a much broader scale. Moreover, research has shown that extreme heat increases the incidence of stillbirth, and climate change has led to the spread of vector-borne illnesses on a much wider scale, which are linked to worse neonatal and maternal outcomes (United Nations Population Fund, 2021).

To ensure that all women will be able to take part in the social, political, and cultural life of the city. The City of Vancouver has adopted a Women Equity Strategy framework since 2018 that 1. Address safety and violence against women, 2. Ensure access to quality child care, 3. Provide safe and affordable housing, 4. Ensure women's representation in the workplace, 5. Applying an intersectional lens to strengthen City processes and inform decision-making (City of Vancouver., 2018).

Recent studies highlight the need for nonprofit organizations in the green economy to involve marginalized groups, and by incorporating the City of Vancouver's Women Equity Strategy, the City of Hamilton can implement multifaceted approaches ensuring representation, safety, and inclusivity for marginalized communities.



COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

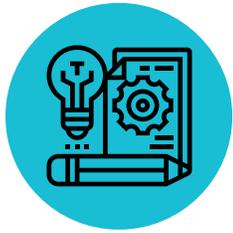
To gain an understanding of community safety and emergency response plans, a literature review was conducted on existing community safety and wellbeing plans across various municipalities and Hamilton organizations, as well as examining existing climate data within the City of Hamilton.

Engage Hamilton lists various climate change protections and future implementations for the City of Hamilton. Among their information, they compile summaries and list climate data from various climate models, surveys, and temperature data to put in Climate Science Reports. They highlight high-priority impacts on the population and outline measures to protect the community (Engage Hamilton, 2022).

Vancouver's Climate Emergency Action Plan outlines the necessity to dramatically reduce carbon pollution, educate, and prevent further warming to be carbon neutral by 2050. The plan outlines bold targets for action revolving around changing the ways they plan, move, and build while prioritizing maintaining healthy local ecosystems and supporting climate leaders. (City of Vancouver, 2020). They outline the great deal to uphold equity, describing it to be both an outcome and a process, and work towards uprooting systemic discrimination prioritizing those facing the greatest impacts to improve employment, affordability, and health (City of Vancouver, n.d.).

The City of Toronto has also outlined various community safety and wellbeing plans, one being SafeTO. This plan discusses ways to promote safety by envisioning well-being challenges and outlining action plans to address the root causes of community trauma, injustices, community violence, harm, and victimization. It also discusses the need to embed equity as a human rights approach and ensure trust, transparency, and accountability in their planning processes when discussing with residents, organizations, and various forms of government (City of Toronto, 2021).

Among Hamilton, there are already a few projected implementations to address decolonial practices, anti-oppression, hate incidents, stigmatization, substance use, and access to income. In their Community Safety and Wellbeing plan, they aim to identify and discuss local priority risks and long-term goals based on previous incident reports and recent survey data (HCCI, n.d.). This is to ensure that all individuals can meet their needs according to the social determinants of health (City of Hamilton, 2022).



COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

— Alongside this, goals to build capacity in individuals, foster meaningful inclusion, and address systemic inequalities and injustices have been outlined by Hamilton's Centre for Civic Inclusion. This organization has completed various community engagement workshops, info sessions, town halls, diversity audits, advocacy work, and others to build inclusivity among Hamiltonians (HCCI, n.d.). Ways to build capacity among communities include providing residents a platform to speak about the betterment of themselves and the community they represent, and promoting cultural humility. The proper fusion of census data and targets for implementing inclusivity, equity, and anti-hate measures can create a solid foundation for addressing climate justice in urban planning and design thinking processes.

3.3 INTERVIEW INSIGHTS SUMMARY



★ INTERVIEW METHODOLOGY

To better understand climate justice concepts in various Hamilton-specific communities and sectors, the CityLAB Team interviewed various experts and practitioners in climate justice-related areas. We aimed to garner perspectives from various backgrounds, including Climate Change, Indigenous Health and Reconciliation, Public Health, Environmental Justice, Housing, Transportation, Health Equity, as well as other important equity-based fields.

These interviews helped supplement our research findings and implementation strategies toward the creation of a Hamilton-specific Climate Justice Framework. This framework will have a focus on achieving as many equity-based objectives as possible while limiting unintended consequences. Engaging in these interviews helped improve our understanding of what sectors and industries may be lacking regarding climate justice considerations.

Through Microsoft Outlook and Microsoft Teams, the CityLAB and OCCI teams reached out to various practitioners in the field via e-mail. Of the list of potential interviewees, 12 respondents agreed to participate in one-on-one interviews. These interviews were conducted occasionally by two to three members of the CityLAB team or by all the members of the CityLAB Team. Team members rotated between facilitating the interview and asking questions, as well as note-taking insights from the interviewee's responses.

Over the CityLAB term, creating our interview questions has been an iterative process. Initially, we created a brief list of questions with a focus on understanding our interviewees' points of view on climate justice concepts, asking related questions

based on how a Climate Justice Framework may benefit themselves, the organizations they stand with, or the community as a whole (see Appendix A1).

These initial questions set the basis for our interviews during the beginning stages of our interview process. However, we found that as we asked these questions to interviewees, some found it confusing, or did not have a solid understanding of climate justice and climate justice concepts. In accordance, we aimed to hone our questions to include concepts of Appreciative Inquiry, which is a process that aims to frame questions in a way to promote positive and collaborative approaches to enact change, building onto existing strengths rather than only addressing issues (Stavros et al., 2015). This was done to ensure more engagement and discovery, utilize organizational capacity, and facilitate more positive change. Alongside this, we also aimed to consider the Social Constructivist Paradigm, stating that the types of questions we ask determine the types of answers we gain (Cooperrider et al. 1995; Cooperrider and Whitney, 2000).

As such, we reframed our questions to ensure the interviewees had background knowledge of climate justice, had a few specific questions related to the interviewee's field, and asked comprehensive questions to invoke deeper, more meaningful discussions about climate justice (see Appendix A2).

3.3 INTERVIEW INSIGHTS SUMMARY

★ INTERVIEW INSIGHTS & FINDINGS

Various key climate justice concepts were raised by the interviewees, such as concerns about Hamilton's air quality, water pollution, heat island effect, invasive species and movement affecting traditional plants, diverse community outreach considerations, street design, transportation, policy changes, education concepts, mental health, and accessibility.

From these concerns, a few key perspectives that the interviewees provided revolve around:

01. Conduct meaningful engagement with various community members
02. Change existing systems in society, looking at key inflections and flaws
03. Improve and embed education with underrepresented communities
04. Disaggregate data and approach solutions from an IDEA (inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility) perspective, including information from scientific data and lived experiences

These are a few themes that may be overlooked in Hamilton's current pursuit of implementing climate justice into practice. Interviewees voiced their concerns on fostering meaningful engagement, where there exists an evident gap in connection between community members and those in office. To circumvent this, interviewees also advocated for having acting liaisons to bridge gaps between communities and governing bodies, as well as respecting that there are other ways of knowing beyond the historically-established methods. Alongside this, a few interviewees noted the need for changing pre-existing systems in society through the examination of key inflections and flaws in infrastructures. They discussed the needed focus on how we define knowledge, and if lived experiences are also being incorporated within that definition, to ensure meaningful equity-based considerations in planning and policy.

A few interviewees also voiced that improving education with knowledge from lived experiences and underrepresented communities is important in embedding and improving existing sectors with an equity lens. To view things from an IDEA perspective, interviewees voiced their concerns on the disaggregation of general data, where data should include both evidence-based research and qualitative data from community members' lived experiences. Practicing cultural sensitivity and cultural humility is essential for obtaining research data to make informed decisions to address climate justice issues.

3.4 DIALOGUE EVENT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

After conducting numerous one-on-one interviews with a variety of practitioners, we realized that each interviewee had an important perspective to share in the larger conversation of climate justice in Hamilton. Each interviewee raised unique concerns and we felt that it was important to have an opportunity to bring everyone together so we could continue these conversations and address the issues identified as a collective, through thoughtful discussion. Hence, on November 15th, 2023, our team hosted the Hamilton Climate Justice Summit - a dialogue event wherein 16 city staff, community organization leaders, practitioners, and climate change experts attended.

During this event, our team provided context about the work we conducted. We commenced the event with a debrief for attendees including our project overview, who we worked with, what Climate Justice and a Framework are, and summaries of our 5 research areas.

After giving attendees this context it was important to highlight the purpose of them attending our event. We explained that through our research we identified 4 prevalent climate issues in Hamilton: Extreme Weather, Housing Affordability, Transportation, and Water Management. We further explained that each attendee contained unique experience from their diverse educational and professional backgrounds either with their knowledge of these issues specifically or how these issues may disproportionately affect residents they have engaged with. Hence, through three interactive activities (Real Word Example, Roundtable Discussions,)at this event, our goal was to provide an opportunity for attendees to share their knowledge, perspectives, and recommendations on these issues. The insights from the dialogue event heavily informed the development of our Climate Justice Framework.

Dialogue Event Interactive Activity List

Interactive Activity 1
Real-World Example

01

Interactive Activity 2
**Roundtable
Discussions**

02

Interactive Activity 3
Case Study

03

3.4 DIALOGUE EVENT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

Our first activity asked attendees for feedback on how our Framework addressed extreme weather issues. Specifically, regarding the issue of heating and cooling, our framework suggests city staff prioritize asking the following questions:

Interactive Activity 1 Real-World Example

01

1. Where are all the marginalized people densely located in Hamilton?
2. How can we use an IDEA (inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility) approach to meaningfully consult with vulnerable populations such as low-income, seniors, and people with disabilities?
3. How can we better learn and incorporate goals and objectives from existing strategies (e.x. Urban Indigenous Strategy) to achieve multiple equity-based objectives?

AFTER PRESENTING THIS TO OUR ATTENDEES, THEY PROVIDED A VARIETY OF INSIGHTFUL FEEDBACK:

“Consider increased consultation with a diverse range of groups affected.”

Moreover, monitor the result of change from their feedback. Identify the existing barriers that prevent change from being implemented.

“Heating and cooling is an issue that will get extremely extreme. Consider adding what we should do in the extremes.”

“Addressing racial justice is integral to effective climate change mitigation and adaptation”

Marginalized communities disproportionately bear the brunt of environmental impacts and systemic inequalities exacerbate climate vulnerabilities. Thus, consider adding an aspect of racial justice to the framework recommendations.

“Consider addressing more fundamental and systemic issues that have led to the issue of heating and cooling”

Once these are identified, recommendations can be made to ensure the system and protocols in place allow Justice for ALL!

“Consider how there can be more meaningful engagement.”

Landlords do not conduct basic maintenance checks with tenants and this is a huge issue. There needs to be city bylaws that address these power dynamics and mandates that regulate check-ins

Mitigation ensures we don't make the same mistakes as it focuses on prevention measures at the systemic level - *how can we ensure these injustices don't continue to happen?*

Low-income seniors with disabilities need the most help as they often have many health considerations and can not feasibly move to a better housing situation.

Additional groups of people disproportionately affected:

Unhoused individuals are most susceptible to this issue. They have nowhere to go during extreme cold or heat. **Consider adding more public space around the city that can be used for unhoused individuals.**

Adaptation helps solve existing disproportionate issues.

“Consider approaching the framework with both Adaptation and Mitigation goals in mind. We need both.”

3.4 DIALOGUE EVENT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

02

Interactive Activity 2
Roundtable
Discussions

The second activity at our event was a round table discussion. This activity featured 5 bristol boards around the room encompassing research-based climate justice prompts. Attendees interacted with each board through sticky notes and markers to share their perspectives and engaged in dialogue with our team and other attendees. There were 5 prompts spread across 3 tables. The specific prompts on each table can be found in the Appendix (see Appendix section B).

TABLE 1

For Table 1, we asked attendees to share lived experiences that they encountered as well as experiences they learned from residents attendees they have engaged with, concerning the effects of climate justice. The information gained from this activity highlighted many concerns that were crucial to incorporate into the Climate Justice Framework. Our team conducted a thorough analysis of all the sticky notes received and we aggregated the information into 8 overarching categories.

01. CLIMATE-INDUCED ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

- Rising costs of food coupled with decreased access to local providers and affordable alternatives increase income inequality.
- Recognize the need to create jobs in response to environmental issues. For example, extreme weather affects employment in the agricultural sector.

03. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EMPOWERMENT

- There is increased anxiety over the perceived lack of opportunity to make a direct impact on climate initiatives.
- Communication issues exist like language barriers. We must identify ways to understand these barriers better and learn how to mitigate them.

05. SYSTEMATIC ISSUES

- Systematic issues, such as income disparities, limit residents' access to more developed areas with fewer climate issues.
- An increase in urban heat islands calls for the need to update city-wide heat maps

07. SOCIAL EQUITY & VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- Disparities in the effects of climate issues on underfunded schools, communities, and those on social assistance were mentioned as disproportionate impacts on Hamiltonians.
- Difficulties in adapting to climate impacts for new residents and immigrants.
- Mobility challenges for seniors and anxiety among youth regarding climate change impacts.

02. PUBLIC HEALTH

- Air quality issues, often exacerbated by factors like increased industrial emissions and extreme weather, lead to increased air pollution.
- Rising health concerns due to poor air quality strains our healthcare system and perpetuates issues like long wait times, staff shortages, and lack of resources.
- Unhoused people face the brunt of these issues

04. ACCESSIBILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Recognize the importance of green spaces such as parks, trails, and areas for spiritual practice. Increasing the amount of available and accessible green spaces was a commonly reported lived experience.
- Issues such as wheelchair accessibility, sidewalk quality, and curb cuts for active transportation were all mentioned as infrastructure challenges.

06. ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

- Explore the potential of AI in addressing environmental and climate-related challenges.
- Assess the threshold and capacity for utilizing AI in climate response initiatives.

08. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & SAFETY

- There is concern regarding the inability to evacuate buildings during emergencies due to a lack of formalized safety measures and accessibility accommodations for people with disabilities.
- Residents have increased fear of environmental impacts on health and uncertainty about emergency response services.

3.4 DIALOGUE EVENT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

02

Interactive Activity 2
**Roundtable
Discussions**

PROMPT 1

What are ways to address the climate justice issues surrounding **Transportation**?

TABLE 2

INSIGHTS:

The responses highlighted comprehensive strategies to address climate justice issues in transportation, covering various aspects.

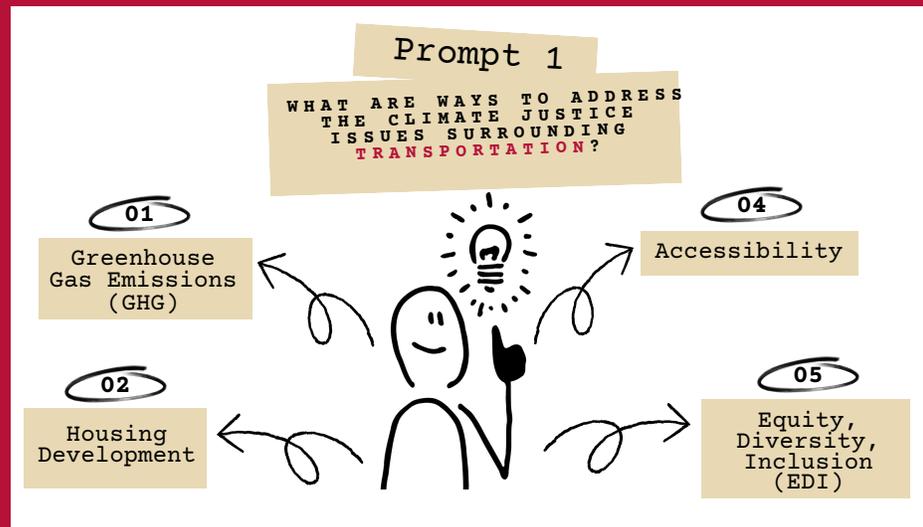
Regarding EDI, attendees felt it was important to emphasize incorporating knowledge from lived experiences and leveraging the work of grassroots organizations to inform transportation policies. This ensures a more inclusive and community-centered approach.

In regard to Housing and Development, responses suggested advocating for creative policies and procedures to push the boundaries of traditional urban development. Moreover, we must encourage city staff to leverage municipal acts, and planning acts, and collaborate with organizations like the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). Additionally, we need to focus on addressing the root causes of income inadequacy, amending building codes to mandate green building practices, and creating walkable and bikeable communities.

Regarding Accessibility, prioritizing walkable communities with modern and accessible sidewalks clearing for width, and reducing obstacles for individuals with varying abilities was a suggestion favored by 88% of attendees. Moreover, 19% of attendees wanted city staff to consider the distance to transit stops, the affordability of transit, and the need for free transit options in order to possibly offset cost barriers like higher parking fees and tolls. Finally, it was recommended to explore alternative uses for buses and the Hamilton Street Railway (HSR), such as mobile cooling centers.

For Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, 50% of attendees wanted city staff to encourage green retro-fits, heat pump adoption, and favor the approval of housing units with environmentally friendly features like balconies. Other suggestions included: Providing incentives and rebates for the use of electric vehicles (EVs), both new and used, and promoting collective solutions like public transit to reduce overall vehicle use thereby lowering GHGs.

94% of attendees emphasized the need for community design that supports walkability and bike-ability, reducing reliance on personal vehicles. Additionally, one important consideration highlighted was urban and rural Indigenous communities' unique need for public transportation to ensure safety and cultural connection through ease of travel. In summary, the responses advocate for an intersectional and holistic approach to addressing climate justice issues in transportation, encompassing considerations of equity, urban development, accessibility, environmental sustainability, and cultural relevance. These insights collectively suggest a multifaceted strategy that integrates diverse perspectives and leverages existing frameworks for more effective and equitable outcomes.



3.4 DIALOGUE EVENT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

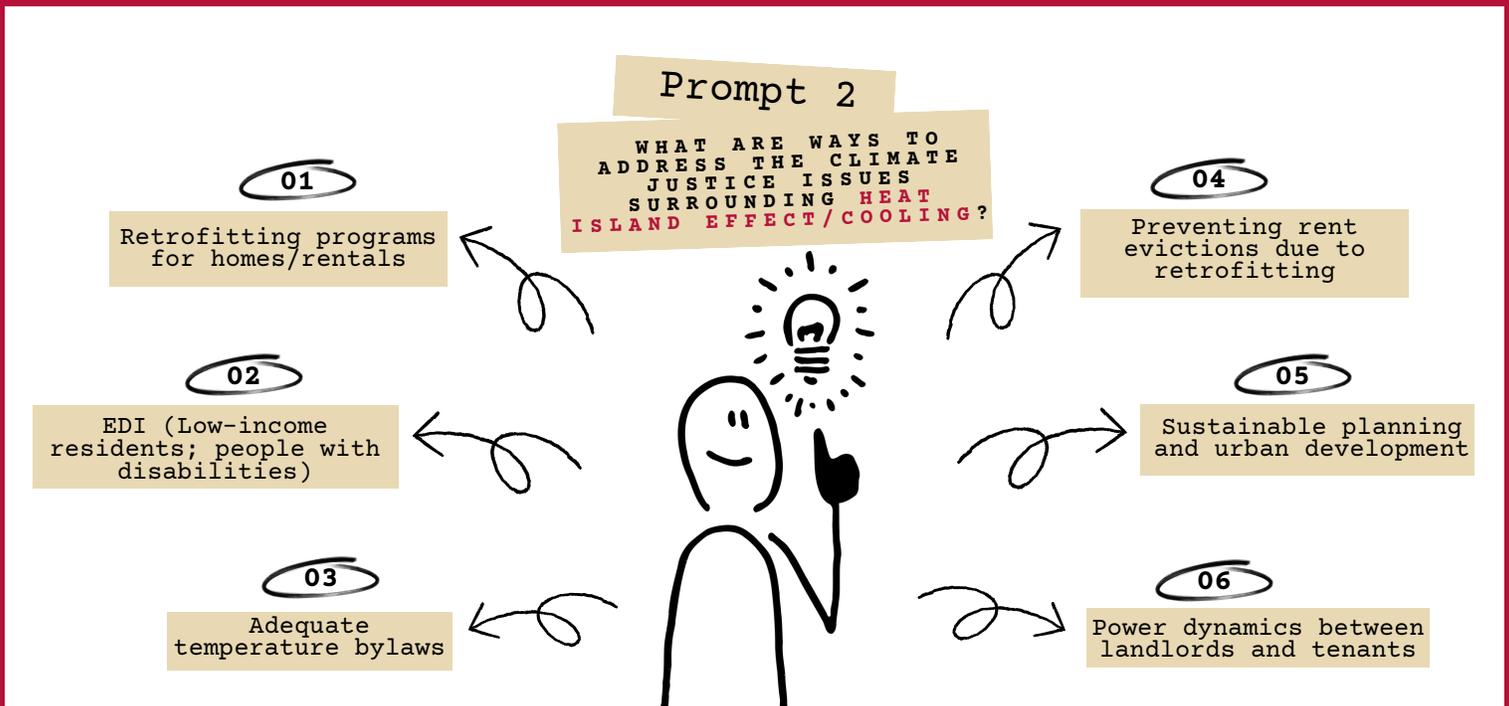
02

Interactive Activity 2
Roundtable
Discussions

PROMPT 2

What are ways to address the climate justice issues surrounding **Heat island effect/cooling**?

TABLE 2



INSIGHTS:

In addressing climate justice issues associated with the heat island effect and cooling, the responses converged around several overarching themes. **In the realm of EDI**, 50% of attendees suggested directing energy efficiency funds to low-income housing populations, implementing shade structures in areas where trees couldn't be planted, integrating traditional ecological knowledge from Indigenous communities into solutions, advocating for increased funds for retrofitting, and promoting the use of free transit. **Sustainable Planning and Urban Development** emerged as another key theme. Attendees emphasized the need to compel and localize communities, enhance walkability in low-income neighborhoods, reduce industrial heat sources, ensure accessible green spaces, and make energy-efficient housing programs widely accessible. **Addressing power dynamics between landlords and tenants** was another important issue to address in the context of heating and cooling. 38% of attendees recommended formulating and enforcing relevant bylaws and policies. **Strategies to prevent rent evictions during retrofitting** included the use of Low Impact Development (LID), advocating for lower taxes on utilities, and encouraging the development of electrical buildings equipped to manage excess heat. **Adequate temperature bylaws were also addressed**. 56% of attendees recommended increasing tree planting initiatives, regulations on apartment owners to ensure units are kept below maximum temperatures, incentives for cooling measures, tailored programs for vulnerable populations (health concerns, seniors, low-income residents, etc.), and the establishment of respectable public cooling stations and water refill stations. **Overall**, these recommendations, grounded in different approaches, collectively aimed to mitigate the adverse effects of the heat island phenomenon, reflecting a commitment to climate justice and resilient urban development.

3.4 DIALOGUE EVENT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

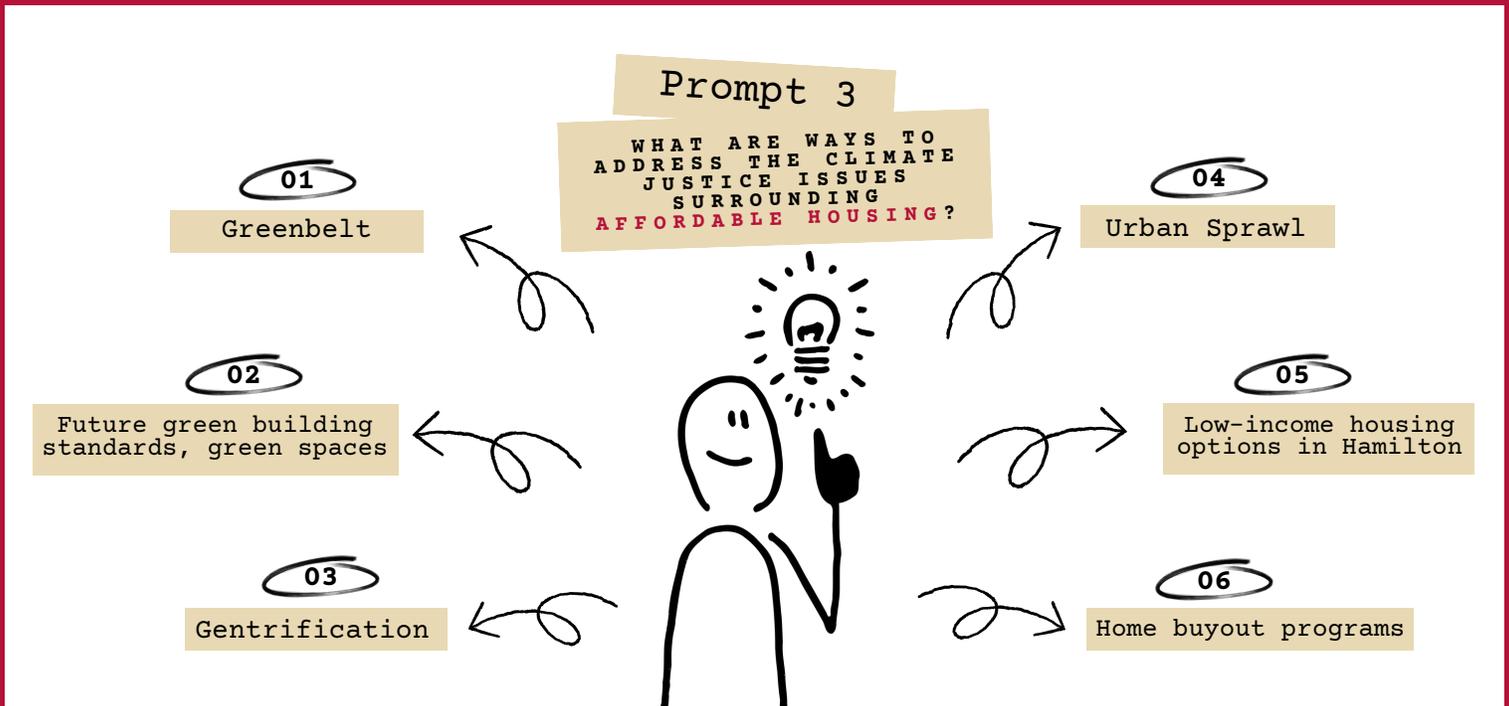
02

Interactive Activity 2
Roundtable
Discussions

PROMPT 3

What are ways to address the climate justice issues surrounding **Affordable Housing**?

TABLE 2



INSIGHTS:

In addressing climate justice issues surrounding housing affordability, participants provided valuable insights and recommendations during the event. The collective recommendations were summarized into several key themes. Firstly, attendees noted a significant victory over Doug Ford's plan to develop in the Greenbelt, underscoring the importance of preserving natural spaces for climate resilience. Concerns about low-income housing options in Hamilton were highlighted, with an emphasis on the need for coordinated support in areas vulnerable to climate impacts. Attendees also advocated for a diverse range of affordable housing options distributed strategically across the city. In combating urban sprawl, recommendations centered on promoting walkability, transit-oriented development, and accessible green spaces, making green building standards more affordable for lower-income households. Additionally, the importance of prioritizing existing communities and preserving their history in the face of gentrification emerged as a crucial focus, emphasizing comprehensive community development before embarking on new projects. Moreover, attendees stressed the need to ensure that future green building standards apply to low-income housing and populations. Caution was expressed regarding the impact of home buyout programs on renters, urging consideration of the financial implications for those forced to relocate. These recommendations, derived from diverse perspectives, now form a valuable part of the final report and climate justice framework, contributing to a comprehensive approach to addressing housing affordability through the lens of climate justice.

3.4 DIALOGUE EVENT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

02

Interactive Activity 2
Roundtable
Discussions

TABLE 3

NEXT STEPS FOR OCCI

Since our current Climate Justice Framework is a version that will be refined and built upon, the Bristol Board on Table 3 allowed attendees an opportunity to voice the next steps for the OCCI to consider going forward. The prompt provided to attendees during the dialogue event can be found in the Appendix (see Appendix section B).

INSIGHTS:

Several key suggestions were made by our dialogue event participants for the OCCI to consider when building upon our team's current Climate Justice Framework.

NEXT STEPS

1 FIRST AND FOREMOST,

Attendees deemed it essential to ensure buy-in and support across various organizations involved in climate initiatives. This involved helping these organizations understand the significance of this work and explaining how it aligns with their respective missions.

2 SECONDLY,

Meaningful key performance indicators (KPIs) must be developed to monitor the Framework's progress and impact. Attendees stressed that the Hamilton community should play a crucial role in defining what success and unsuccessful impacts are for them. This is imperative to not only measure the Framework's strengths but also the unintended consequences it may cause. Alongside this, public consultation should not only be prioritized but integrated into the review process of initiatives, to allow for adaptability and responsiveness to community needs. Moreover, attendees suggested the OCCI recognize the challenges that may hinder public participation. Efforts should be made to make the participation processes more accessible to all residents, accounting for time constraints, social, and economic barriers. For instance, virtual town hall meetings and streamlined public consultation programs, were some of the strategies suggested.

3 THIRDLY,

Acknowledging and managing public expectations was another important consideration going forward. For instance, recognizing that residents will want to know who the major contributors impacting climate change are, like the OCCI. Moreover, Hamiltonians would want to know that the OCCI (and other major climate groups) can and will function as agents of change in more meaningful ways than individuals alone.

4 FINALLY,

The OCCI must take steps to establish enforceable accountability measures across the city as well as specific targets for climate justice goals. It was also emphasized to increase transparency by quantifying and publicizing any steps being taken by the OCCI to incorporate climate justice in Hamilton.

3.4 DIALOGUE EVENT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

Interactive Activity 3
Case Study

03

CASE STUDY

Our third activity of the dialogue event was a case study regarding water management systems in Hamilton. The purpose of this activity was to provide an opportunity for attendees to engage in a meaningful dialogue to brainstorm and collaborate as a team to address the case study discussion questions. All attendees were divided into 2 groups.

Although both groups discussed the same problem, each group was designated a different set of discussion questions to ensure they approached this case study from different, but equally important viewpoints. Group 1's discussion questions focused on addressing social equity impacts and public engagement. Group 2's discussion questions focussed on incorporating climate justice into city staff work, as well as training and capacity building. A detailed description of the discussion questions for each group can be found in the Appendix (see Appendix section B).

All participants were provided with a physical copy of the case study's background, objectives, and their respective discussion questions. Our team helped facilitate the dialogue within each group and ensured everyone had equal opportunities to voice their opinions. Our team analyzed the discussions for both groups and aggregated participants' responses into recurring categories. Overall, the case study discussion reflected a multi-faceted approach to integrating climate justice into water management in Hamilton, highlighting key elements such as equity considerations, community engagement, effective communication, accessible knowledge translation, and sustainable infrastructure planning.

INTEGRATING CLIMATE JUSTICE INTO HAMILTON'S WATER MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

Hamilton, a growing city, faces challenges related to water management systems, including aging infrastructure and increasing demands from new development. To address these issues, the city has traditionally relied on asset management and growth-driven planning. However, recognizing the urgency of climate change and the need to prioritize social equity, Hamilton is now taking steps to incorporate a climate justice framework into its water management processes.

By integrating a climate justice framework into water management systems, Hamilton aims to achieve more resilient and equitable water infrastructure, reduce neighborhood flooding, and promote inclusive procurement practices. Continuous engagement with stakeholders, ongoing training, and transparent communication are key factors in successfully implementing a climate justice framework in water management systems. Additionally, a flexible and adaptive approach is necessary to respond to evolving community needs and changing climate conditions. Overall this will contribute to a more sustainable and just future for the city and its residents.

OBJECTIVES

1. To integrate climate justice considerations into decision-making for water infrastructure repair, replacement, and expansion.
2. To mitigate flooding in combined sewersheds, particularly in neighbourhoods disproportionately affected by climate-related events.
3. To ensure that procurement processes align with social equity goals in water management projects.

3.4 DIALOGUE EVENT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

Interactive Activity 3
Case Study

03

SOCIAL IMPACTS & PRIORITIZING AT-RISK AREAS

Challenges in asset management planning included regulatory and environmental constraints, conducting cost-benefit analyses, addressing deteriorating assets, and planning for growth. Development charges and the availability of underground real estate were also discussed, along with capital constraints and potential solutions for vulnerable areas. Challenges in stormwater management included Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) affecting neighborhoods and sewer gases backing up due to inadequate maintenance. Participants discussed the importance of addressing these infrastructure challenges to ensure equitable water access and exploring alternatives like bioswales to reduce water runoff. Additionally, participants raised concerns about flooding risks, insurance issues, and mold mitigation. Advocacy for inclusive insurance coverage, especially for renters, was stressed.

MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Attendees highlighted the need for meaningful community engagement strategies that address logistical barriers. Early involvement with the community, especially those most impacted and at risk, was recommended. Attendees recommended using an intersectional approach to acknowledge insurance issues and the lack of resources available for vulnerable populations to recover from water damage, along with the implementation of social procurement policies. Some effective engagement methods that were suggested include community BBQs, partnerships with relevant organizations, and ambassador programs. Moreover, the need for effective communication strategies was considered. Attendees suggested city staff develop clear criteria for feedback when consulting with community members. Additionally, participants highlighted various concerns regarding language barriers, knowledge translation, accessibility of information, and the diversity of resident's involvement in public meetings. Suggestions included a hotline team with proficiency in multiple languages to address language barriers. To ensure

everyone understands complex information, attendees recommended exploring the possibility of Artificial Intelligence for knowledge translation purposes. Furthermore, it was suggested to collaborate with smaller organizations that have pre-existing trusting relationships built with underserved populations. Forming these partnerships would help city staff gain access to such organizations's public engagement information. This can increase the diversity of perspectives considered when discussing water management system solutions.

ASSET & STORM MANAGEMENT

Attendees discussed the different social impacts of water management issues. For example, lack of insurance coverage for vulnerable communities affected by flooding, and housing disparities as low-income neighborhoods with outdated infrastructure are more susceptible to flooding. Attendees suggested using the Ontario Marginalization Index (ON-Marg), a census- and geographically-based index that can be used for planning and needs assessment, resource allocation, monitoring of inequities, and research. The index considers factors like housing and income stability, which could help identify and prioritize vulnerable populations living in high-risk areas. Additionally, participants emphasized conducting interviews with various residents who experienced flooding, to capture the varying impacts across Hamilton. The discussion also addressed the need for protection against climate gentrification through subsidized infrastructure updates and integrating infrastructure planning with social equity impacts in mind. Moreover, attendees stressed the need for comprehensive datasets to identify and understand the impact on marginalized and at-risk communities. This included assessing historical changes, understanding community cultures, and utilizing data to locate and address disproportionate impacts. To do so, participants recommended green infrastructure initiatives like creating more permeable ground on Barton Street and data mapping the city's green assets.

4.0 FRAMEWORK THEMES & RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 OVERVIEW OF FRAMEWORK THEMES

Using the information gained from our primary literature review, one-on-one interviews, and dialogue event, our team analyzed all insights and implemented them to create Hamilton's first Climate Justice Framework. This Framework will serve as a starting point for the OCCI to continue developing and building upon. The Framework consists of 5 overarching themes along with 29 recommendations, acting as a guideline and tool for city staff to utilize ensuring Climate Justice is rooted in all City of Hamilton's projects, planning, and initiatives going forward.



THEME 1 - INCORPORATING CLIMATE JUSTICE INTO PLANNING AND POLICY



THEME 2 - MEANINGFUL AND TRUSTFUL ENGAGEMENT



THEME 3 - EDUCATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION



THEME 4 - ADDRESSING PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS



THEME 5 - GENUINE COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS & ORGANIZATIONS



THEME 1 - INCORPORATING CLIMATE JUSTICE INTO PLANNING AND POLICY

Description of Theme 1

Climate Justice centers on weaving principles of fairness, equity, and social inclusivity into the fabric of climate change strategies. This not only means integrating the concerns of marginalized communities into policy formulations, but involving their voices in planning (educational, municipal, & urban) processes, aligning with our framework's core commitment to advance climate justice practices in Hamilton.



Theme 1 - Incorporating Climate Justice into Planning and Policy

THEME 1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Create a standardized definition of what climate justice is and looks like for the city of Hamilton.

Creating a unanimously recognized definition of climate justice will help city staff better grasp the cause and identify ways to conduct projects with these Framework themes in mind.

1.2 Recognizing that systemic foundations have unintended consequences.

Addressing climate justice involves recognizing the foundational systemic issues within the city of Hamilton. Ensuring equitable and long-lasting outcomes requires acknowledging and reviewing institutional practices, balances of power, and policies established in Hamilton's governing bodies. This requires understanding between city staff, lawmakers, urban planners, and community residents to dismantle inequalities and give a voice to underrepresented communities.

1.3 Draw, reflect, and recognize intersectionalities from various perspectives and backgrounds.

Actively engage in and recognize the complex relationships between the impacts of climate change and the social injustices that many communities experience, from factors such as geography, gender, class, and race. Identifying these interconnected issues, allows us to reflect on how urban planning and law enforcement policies and practices may disproportionately impact underprivileged communities. Developing more inclusive and equitable policies that address climate concerns and advance fairness and equity for all communities can be facilitated by recognizing these intersectionalities. For example, developing targeted community support programs for disproportionately burdened groups like new residents, seniors, and youth to help them adapt to climate challenges better.



Theme 1 - Incorporating Climate Justice into Planning and Policy

1.4 Create a focus towards centering Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility into Planning and Policy.

To investigate inequities that exist within systemic operations, we must utilize an intersectional approach to understand the key flaws that exist within current operations that are exacerbated by climate change.

Incorporating a focus on EDI and Accessibility principles, actively engaging with communities to include their voice in decision-making processes, building capacity, and educating staff members are a few actions to create meaningful incorporation of climate justice concepts. For instance, to incorporate inclusive urban planning approaches, city staff can ensure parks, recreational areas, green spaces, and overall urban infrastructures are designed with accessibility accommodations in mind.

1.5 Address anti-racism and community safety among residents and departments.

To address anti-racism and community safety, implementing education programs, encouraging attendance in anti-racism conferences, and anti-racism staff training can help foster inclusivity. Understanding how racism may exist in existing practices and planning diverse events in the city will build a greater sense of community safety within the population.

1.6 Integrate Indigenous reconciliation efforts into municipal work, to foster trust-based relationships.

Embed Indigenous reconciliation efforts into municipal work by acknowledging historical injustices, incorporating Indigenous knowledge, and actively collaborating with Indigenous communities. Incorporating Indigenous perspectives into municipal processes can build trust and demonstrate an active step towards reconciliation and decolonization.

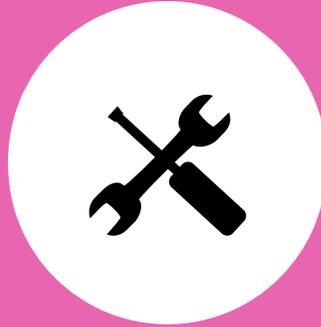


Theme 1 - Incorporating Climate Justice into Planning and Policy

1.7 Engage with diverse, underrepresented organizations and residents
Involve underrepresented groups in decision-making processes. By reaching out to diverse organizations and residents the city can understand and address the unique needs of the entire community, promoting inclusivity and equity.

1.8 Identify indicators to track climate justice strategies and results.
Anticipate, plan, and have appropriate measures in place to track the outcomes, both positive and negative, of climate justice strategies. This is crucial to understand the unintended consequences that arise and increasingly harm vulnerable populations. This will require analysis and data collection for several factors/metrics including census data, demographic data and public health data.

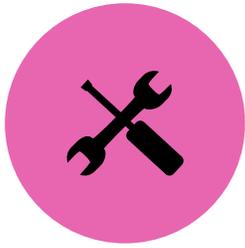
1.9 Conduct monitoring processes and impact assessments to assess inequalities, using qualitative and quantitative methods.
Examine how various factors intersect to influence the distribution of inequalities. To comprehensively assess impacts, a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods should be employed. Additionally, incorporate storytelling and Indigenous knowledge-sharing approaches to gain deeper insights into the disparities exacerbated by environmental effects.



THEME 2 - MEANINGFUL AND TRUSTFUL ENGAGEMENT

Description of Theme 2:

Theme 2 involves the development of purposeful projects, plans, and activities with the goal of encouraging sincere, trustful, and meaningful relationships between residents, climate organizations, and city staff. With the aim of creating genuine connections and engagement, this theme emphasizes the understanding of one's needs and interests, to foster inclusive, cooperative, and reciprocal relationships.



Theme 2 - Meaningful and Trustful Engagement

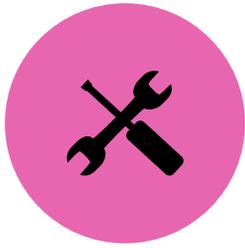
THEME 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Recognize the value of engaging with marginalized communities.

Engaging with marginalized communities is crucial as their unique perspectives will enrich discussions and initiatives, enforcing a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and a development of cultural humility in city staff's engagement efforts. Engaging with these communities sets the course for improved approaches to planning and policy, while upholding social justice in creating effective sustainable strategies. Conducting outreach programs with the aim to understand marginalized communities perspectives can help build trust between municipal employees and residents.

2.2 Having open, accessible discussions between organizations and residents, to ensure equitable environments for all

To address the unique needs and goals of each individual, it is essential to create a safe-space atmosphere in which organizations and residents can thrive collectively. By sparking climate justice discussions with the community in an approachable, inclusive manner, the importance of climate justice can be brought forward. For example, creation of placemaking activities and in-person spaces through public art events and monthly townhalls can be beneficial steps towards fostering community connections.



Theme 2 - Meaningful and Trustful Engagement

2.3 Develop creative and accessible methods of engagement to engage residents with climate-related information.

Effective engagement with residents is imperative. City staff should aim to obtain insights and feedback using less conventional methods of engagement. Examples can include creating day-to-day activities or operations with a purpose to engage with broader audiences. Furthermore, community members can have acting representative liaisons, so real-life stories and lived experiences can be incorporated into city staff community engagement guidelines to foster more meaningful relationships with residents.

2.4 Establish the creation of a dedicated, diverse Hamilton climate justice advisory committee

Ensure that all voices - especially those from underrepresented groups with differing socioeconomic statuses, ethnicities, genders, and abilities - are actively recognized and heard by City staff. For example, this can be accomplished via a specialized advisory committee for climate justice that allows residents to share their unique perspectives.

2.5 Implement a sustainable process for inclusive community feedback

Implement a process that allows residents to provide feedback on city staff's climate justice initiatives. This process needs to consider barriers to participation by planning convenient outreach locations and offering incentives to encourage and sustain participation among community members. For example, providing free childcare, travel reimbursement, free parking, or promotional items (e.g. travel mugs and pins) can secure commitment from the general public and serve as a gesture of appreciation.



THEME 3 - EDUCATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Description of Theme 3:

To provide education and training towards city staff and bring awareness to the public audience, it is critical to establish that proper education and knowledge are equally provided among various communities and backgrounds. This theme aims to ensure that Hamiltonians have easy and equitable access to information that they can understand to ensure broad equity-based considerations.



Theme 3 - Education and Information Dissemination

THEME 3 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Raising awareness towards systemic discrepancies that affect residents' daily lives.

Implementing campaigns and accessibility measures across various platforms and community engagement motives can help foster understanding, capacity building, and collective efforts to build up equity among communities. This can be achieved by locating underrepresented communities and providing informative campaigns to break down systemic discrepancies.

3.2 Improve accessibility of information through various mediums, while addressing language barriers (ex. Minority groups, people with disabilities).

Improving accessibility to climate justice information can be achieved by utilizing translation materials, having liaisons for community representation, using various modes of information platforms, and use of audio-visual content. This will help ensure that concepts can be disseminated to lay audiences, valuing understanding and reachability to Hamiltonians.

3.3 Engaging with public education and outreach programs to integrate concepts of climate justice into the curriculum.

Effective collaboration between various schools, institutions, and outreach programs to implement climate justice concepts into the curriculum can help foster seamless integration of climate justice equity concepts for students to know and understand. This is beneficial as climate change effects span various sectors of expertise, and with a climate justice background in curricula, students can develop early, informed solutions to address systemic injustices and achieve longevity.



Theme 3 - Education and Information Dissemination

3.4 Incorporating lived experiences of diverse, unrepresented communities into policy creation.

It is important to actively engage and involve diverse and underrepresented communities and their lived experiences. To strengthen decision-making processes and amplify marginalized voices, it is important to ensure that policies are made to address the realities faced by those underrepresented populations. This will help foster cultural sensitivity and humility, build rapport, and provide venues for authentic representation among Hamiltonians.

3.5 Developing a call to action for local and higher-level government authorities and organizations.

To prioritize and engage with climate justice initiatives, it is important to have provincial and federal notice, emphasizing the need to implement and develop equitable and sustainable actions to address climate change issues and create climate justice. With effective advocacy among the population and the municipality, the City of Hamilton can garner increased notice from federal and provincial authorities to address Hamilton's specific needs in creating a climate-resilient future, such as allocating resources and increasing support.



THEME 4 - ADDRESSING PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Description of Theme 4:

This theme focuses on addressing public health challenges and environmental impacts associated with climate change. It also emphasizes specific health interventions for vulnerable populations, ensuring tailored support and resilience in adapting to climate impacts. Overall, this theme aims to create a balance between environmental sustainability and public health, fostering resilient communities.



Theme 4 - addressing Public Health and Environmental Impacts

THEME 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Address public health challenges stemming from air quality issues, extreme heat, and rising food costs.

Focus on implementing policies and interventions to address health issues associated with poor air quality, extreme heat events, and the impact of rising food costs, ensuring the well-being of disproportionately affected communities and individuals.

4.2 Alleviate anxiety and safety concerns among residents by enhancing emergency preparedness and communication strategies.

This involves developing clear and accessible emergency communication channels, robust emergency preparedness plans, and community drills to address residents' fears and uncertainties regarding environmental impacts on health and safety during emergency response.

4.3 Implement specific health interventions to address challenges faced by vulnerable populations in adapting to climate impacts.

Emphasize the need for targeted health programs to support and assist vulnerable populations, recognizing and addressing their unique challenges in the face of climate-related impacts.



THEME 5 - GENUINE COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS & ORGANIZATIONS

Description of Theme 5:

Embrace the power of collective action and collaboration, to amplify city staff's impacts in implementing climate justice initiatives. This theme focuses on fostering cooperation among various departments, leveraging existing relationships with external partners, and cultivating a shared team mindset.



Theme 5 - **Genuine Collaboration** with Partners & Organizations

THEME 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Implement Liaison Programs.

City staff have connections to various environmental organizations that have already conducted meaningful engagement with residents. These organizations have built relationships with respect and trust. City staff can offer partnership liaison programs with various community organizations for consultation on future projects. With this program in place, liaisons from these organizations can speak on behalf of the residents they've already engaged with.

5.2. Establish Cross-Departmental Working Groups.

Create interdisciplinary teams within city staff administration that bring together representatives from various departments. These working groups can pool diverse expertise, ensuring a comprehensive approach to climate justice issues. For instance, include members from environmental, social services, and urban planning departments to address both environmental and societal aspects.

5.3 Forge Partnerships with Academic Institutions.

Collaborate with local universities and research centers to tap into academic expertise and research capabilities. Establish joint projects or internship programs that allow students and faculty to contribute their knowledge to climate justice initiatives. This partnership can bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and research-backed solutions to the table. For example, city staff can partner with the Differential Attainment REsearch (DARe) Group Collaborative, who focus on anti-racism and equity work to eliminate the racial attainment gap in healthcare.



Theme 5 - **Genuine Collaboration** with Partners & Organizations

5.4 Foster Inter-Municipal Collaboration.

Strengthen ties with neighboring municipalities, such as Mississauga and Waterloo, to form a regional coalition for climate justice. Establish regular meetings, share best practices, and collaborate on initiatives that have a collective impact. A united front among municipalities can enhance resource sharing, coordination, and the ability to address regional challenges more effectively.

5.5 Engage with Community-Based Organizations.

Reach out to a diverse range of local climate organizations and groups that work closely with marginalized populations. Collaborate on community engagement initiatives, ensuring that climate justice efforts are inclusive and address the specific needs of vulnerable communities. This can involve co-hosting events, workshops, or awareness campaigns tailored to the unique challenges faced by different groups.

5.6 Develop a Shared Data and Information Platform.

Create a centralized platform for sharing climate-related data, research findings, and successful case studies among city departments, academic partners, and collaborating municipalities. This platform can serve as a knowledge hub, fostering transparency, enhancing communication, and streamlining information flow. A shared repository can facilitate evidence-based decision-making and ensure that all collaborators are well-informed.

5.7 Integrate Climate Justice Initiatives into Municipal Budget Planning.

Embed climate justice priorities into the municipal budgeting process. Allocate specific funds to support collaborative initiatives that align with Hamilton's climate justice goals. A dedicated budget demonstrates a tangible commitment to addressing climate-induced disparities collaboratively. This also encourages accountability and provides the necessary financial support for effective implementation, fostering long-term sustainability. Regularly review and adjust the budget to reflect evolving needs and the success of collaborative efforts.

4.2 Monitoring for Effectiveness & Scale-up

Potential Future Scale-up

- **Building Awareness and Support:**
 - Ensure buy-in across organizations by emphasizing the importance of the work and its relevance to their missions.
 - Highlight the impact of 'big players' in addressing climate change to garner public support and confidence.
- **Community Engagement and Consultation:**
 - Incorporate community input into key performance indicators to measure progress, ensuring that indicators are meaningful to the community.
 - Make consultations an integral part of the review process for initiatives to adapt and address community concerns effectively.
 - Increase accessibility of participation through measures such as virtual meetings to overcome barriers.
- **Accountability and Measurement:**
 - Enforce accountability by establishing measurable targets for goals.
 - Develop plans to identify and overcome special barriers in implementation.
 - Publicize quantitative changes and measurable steps taken to demonstrate progress to the public.
- **Equity and Inclusivity:**
 - Recognize that some groups may be disproportionately affected by climate change and take targeted actions to avoid leaving them behind.
 - Prioritize community needs and concerns in the consultation progress to ensure inclusivity and fairness.

Final Statement: *These recommendations serve as a standard to discuss, disseminate, and implement climate justice concepts for residents and city staff members. The most crucial next steps for the OCCI should be training city staff members to apply the framework and designating action item responsibilities. Each Framework recommendation must be operationalized by placing accountability on different city staff departments. These departments should be equipped with the resources and skills to appropriately oversee and implement the Framework recommendations. Additionally, this places the responsibility on many city staff departments to engage in interdepartmental collaboration, to effectively monitor both positive and negative impacts of the Framework. Through actionable efforts among staff members, implementing these strategies are the keystones to incorporating climate justice into city operations and future projects.*



CLIMATE JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

CONCLUSION

Hamilton is currently addressing environmental issues through the Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan. However, the city must necessitate a focus on climate justice to effectively recognize the disproportionate impacts faced by communities in which climate change exacerbates. Climate justice calls for action from local leaders and organizations to not only focus on the aspect of infrastructure adaptations, but to build resilience within Hamilton’s neighborhoods, marginalized communities, and those most affected by climate change impacts.

Climate justice initiatives must dismantle inequalities, be rooted in reconciliation, anti-racism, and eliminate oppressive systems. Questioning the systems governing our current actions and policies is essential to move towards a future Hamilton that is equitable for all residents and communities.

Through our Climate Justice Framework, our team aimed to provide an initial step to begin the onset of climate justice implementations into city strategies. Our conducted research, interviews, a facilitated dialogue event, and Framework themes provide the stepping stones for implementation to create a more sustainable Hamilton.

This project has identified numerous areas for Hamilton to implement climate justice into city processes. However, considerable room for improvement remains. Hamilton should strive to ensure that climate justice is embedded within their strategies. Alongside acknowledging disparities, actions must be taken to empower voices of residents, address systemic barriers, and demonstrate a commitment to weave equity, resilience, and justice as foundational principles for a climate resilient future.

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6.0 APPENDIX

6.0 Appendix

Appendix A1. Initial Interview Questions

1. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear "climate justice?"
2. What are some considerations/recommendations that you want to see implemented in the final Climate Justice Framework that we are currently building?
3. If you wanted to include 1 thing in the climate justice framework to help you better understand how to tackle a certain issue what would it be?
4. What is a project you're currently working on that you believe would benefit from having a climate justice framework? How?
5. What are some potential barriers to current activities that plan to incorporate a climate justice lens into account?
6. What obstacles do you face in safeguarding the well-being and safety of the groups you interact with and/or Hamilton residents?
7. How can the city's assets and resources be better used as tools for positive change?
8. What measures can be taken to update the policies and remove barriers that may impede access to public services?
9. What services have been impacted in your daily lives due to the effects of climate change?
10. In terms of engagement and communication, how do you go about initiating outreach efforts? What factors or considerations influence their outreach strategies?

6.0 Appendix

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9. What services have been impacted in your daily lives due to the effects of climate change?
10. In terms of engagement and communication, how do you go about initiating outreach efforts? What factors or considerations influence their outreach strategies?

6.0 Appendix

Appendix A2. Revised Interview Questions

1. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear "climate justice?"
2. What do you feel are the 3 most important climate change issues in Hamilton right now?
3. If you wanted to include 1 thing in the climate justice framework to help you better understand how to tackle a certain issue what would it be?
4. How can a climate justice framework benefit a project you are currently working on?
5. Applying the framework to real-life experiences might be confusing or daunting. The five sections in our Climate Justice framework will be the following: Indigenous Justice, EDI, Land Use, Racism and Violence, Community Safety and Emergency Response. Here is a real-life example of how our framework might address Hamilton-related issues:
 - Issue: Heating & Cooling
 - i. Using the framework, how should this issue be tackled?
 - ii. From a racism and violence lens, where are all racialized people densely located in Hamilton?
 - iii. From an EDI lens, how can we approach this with IDEA? → prioritize connecting with low-income, elderly/seniors, and those with disabilities
 - iv. From an Indigenous lens, consult the Hamilton Urban Indigenous Strategy
 - Does this inspire any recommendations from your expertise, experiences, knowledge, and communities you work with/represent?

6.0 Appendix

Appendix A2. Revised Interview Questions

6. How can we ensure that marginalized and vulnerable communities in Hamilton are actively prioritized in the climate justice framework?
7. Are there any obstacles that you face in ensuring the well-being and safety of Hamilton residents/groups you are involved with?
8. In terms of community engagement, how do you initiate outreach efforts? What factors or considerations influence your outreach strategies?
9. What do you think is the most relevant climate justice issue that needs to be addressed in a Hamilton-specific framework?
10. How can the Climate Justice Framework support and help bridge knowledge gaps and translate action items into effective policies?
11. What mechanisms can be put in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the framework in achieving climate justice goals over time?

6.0 Appendix

Appendix B1. Dialogue Event Interactive Activity 2 - Roundtable Discussion Prompts 1 & 3

Table 1 Prompt:

In recognizing the far-reaching implications of Climate Justice on communities around the city, it becomes increasingly apparent that behind the data and statistics lie deeply human stories that shape our understanding of the issue. Within your professional capacity, we invite you to share any lived experiences you have personally encountered, or those of the individuals you represent and/or serve, concerning the effects of Climate Justice.

Table 3 Prompt:

Given the limited timeframe assigned to this project, we acknowledge the importance of other critical considerations that the Climate Justice Framework should encompass. It is imperative to delve deeper into these issues and formulate strategies to address them effectively.

In light of this and considering your valuable perspective, we seek your guidance to prompt and help the Office of Climate Change Initiatives (OCCI) towards the NEXT STEPS in advancing the Climate Justice Framework.

Our objective is to forge a sustainable future for the City of Hamilton by integrating and analyzing essential elements and undertaking initiatives that contribute significantly to achieving climate justice. We appreciate your professional insights in guiding us through the pivotal steps needed for the successful progression of this framework.

6.0 Appendix

Appendix B2. Dialogue Event Interactive Activity 3 - Case Study Discussion Questions

The following discussion questions were used to guide the dialogue in Group 1:

Assessing Social Equity Impacts

1. What are the potential social impacts of our water management decisions on vulnerable communities, for example, flooding, clean water access, and sewer water management?
2. How can we identify and prioritize neighborhoods that are most affected by combined sewer flooding and water infrastructure challenges? For example, which areas in Hamilton experience the most flooding? Which has the worst water infrastructure? This could be in regards to geography, SES, etc.

Engaging Stakeholders

1. Which community stakeholders should be engaged in the decision-making process to ensure their perspectives are considered?
2. How can we facilitate meaningful dialogue with these stakeholders to gather input on water management projects?

The following discussion questions were used to guide the dialogue in Group 2:

Incorporating Climate Justice into City Staff Work

1. How can the city ensure equitable access to clean and safe water for marginalized or vulnerable communities in policy designs?
2. What would you want to see in our climate justice framework to address Hamilton's stormwater, rainwater, and flood relief issues?

Training, Monitoring, and Capacity Building

1. What training and resources should be provided to staff involved in water management decision-making to ensure they understand how to apply a climate justice framework when approaching water management issues?
2. How can we implement climate justice awareness measures and commitment among city staff?

6.0 Appendix

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The following discussion questions were used to guide the dialogue in Group 1:

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The following discussion questions were used to guide the dialogue in Group 2:

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