



Clean Air Partnership

Annual Report 2020



Letter from our Executive Director



Gabriella Kalapos
Executive Director



2020 created unprecedented changes to how we at Clean Air Partnership advance our vision of sustainable, healthy, and resilient communities. While COVID-19 created challenges, migrating to the virtual realm provided us with a unique opportunity to engage a wider geographic stakeholder base, while reinforcing existing relationships with our partners and stakeholders. In 2020 we delivered an astounding 82 webinars and workshops, engaging over 4,600 participants across all provinces and territories. Our team at Clean Air Partnership proved to be positive, nimble and flexible in responding to this exceptional challenge.

Furthering our goal of advancing the implementation of Canada's low carbon future, in 2020 we created several new practitioner networks, we welcomed new Clean Air Council members including Northumberland County, Dufferin County, and the City of Kingston, and we created Canada's first online municipal climate lens tool. Our COVID and Climate Series of webinars was a timely collective effort to ensure climate was considered in our COVID response.

Responding to a renaissance in walking and cycling, The Centre for Active Transportation provided guidance to municipalities, including working with the City of Toronto on the ActiveTO and Vision Zero programs, delivering the Making Space Webinar Series, and incubating suburban cycling with our Markham Cycles program.

While we will be quite happy to see the back of 2020, the chaos that COVID wreaked on our society has presented us with opportunities including reframing our societal need to be physically present in the workplace, our transportation mode choices, and how we build and design our cities. Once we have left COVID behind us, let us not leave behind these opportunities and advancements.

Onwards and upwards!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Kalapos".



Letter from our Board Chair



Daniel Carr

Chair of the Board of Directors



The year 2020 will surely go down in the history books. It was a year that showed us the extreme impacts to our social and economic structures, as well as the unique and varied implications to each and every person living through the pandemic. At the same time, other trends were more constant, though this constancy is by no means positive: the climate continued to set records with the warmest weather on record, and the implications for life on earth were powerful. As the climate crisis is unfolding, many people recognize that efforts to confront it need to be just as active as the actions taken to help confront the pandemic.

Federal and provincial governments will be making bigger investments in Canadian communities to help stimulate economic growth and support the transition to a low-carbon economy. CAP is well positioned to play an important role by working with all three levels of government to advocate for and develop solutions. New development standards, building retrofits and the transition to a transportation system that is increasingly electric and active all play an important role in helping Canadian communities prepare for and succeed in an uncertain future.

As a result, we will continue to advance CAP's mission by working with local governments to help them play the essential leadership role in their communities. We look forward to working with our partners to explore how CAP can serve them in new ways, and to be a voice for this sector that will help us achieve even greater results while also adapting to the changes that the future is bringing.

I'd like to congratulate and thank Gaby and the team at CAP for a very successful 2020 despite the many challenges that this exceptional year posed. We have all had to learn new skills; and our ability to persevere has demonstrated the strength of the organization and the critical work that CAP staff do every day.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Carr".



Our Vision

**Canadian
communities
are sustainable,
healthy and
resilient.**



Our Mission

Clean Air Partnership enables communities to improve air quality, advance active and sustainable transportation options, take bold climate action, increase community resilience to climate impacts and accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy.



Our Approach



Convene Networks

We bring together experts to share their experiences, minimize redundancy and maximize use of resources.



Lead Research & Knowledge Transfer

We deliver timely research and distill emerging knowledge into accessible formats for decision-makers.



Catalyze Transformative Action

We advance the scale-up and implementation of climate action.



2020

At a glance

82 webinars and workshops

> 3,600 participants

9 reports, tools and resources

**6 municipal networks
and communities of practice**

**> 1,000 members of the public engaged on
topics including road safety, home energy
retrofits and active transportation**





CONVENE NETWORKS

Clean Air Council

The Clean Air Council (CAC) brings together over thirty municipalities and health units to share best practices, policies, programs and technical solutions for climate challenges.

In 2020, the CAC focused on three key areas:

- Low carbon buildings
- Low carbon transportation
- Climate action and equity

We advanced two Communities of Practice for municipal fleet and energy managers to explore opportunities for transitioning to low carbon. We hosted a webinar series on Net Zero Energy Communities, and we identified specific challenges municipalities are facing when it comes to incorporating equity in their climate action planning.

35 workshops
& webinars,
with **over 1,000**
participants in
2020

Skeena Residence, at UBC Okanagan campus in Kelowna, BC, houses 220 students and is certified as a Passive House.



CONVENE NETWORKS

Residential Energy Efficiency Retrofit Training Network

This new network was convened in 2020 to bring together colleges, universities, contractor associations and organizations involved in advancing the residential energy efficiency retrofit market. Goals include identifying:

- *actors involved in training, certification and supports for existing and needed workforce*
- *actors who can advance the contractor network*
- *gaps and strategies for scaling up*

Members collaboratively developed a roadmap to identify barriers within the net zero and retrofit market and are working to address them individually and collectively.

40 members participated in ten meetings in 2020, and developed a roadmap for addressing industry barriers.

**Deep energy retrofit
at Fanshawe College,
London, Ontario**



CONVENE NETWORKS

Municipal Building Retrofit Program Community of Practice

This new Community of Practice was convened in 2020 to build a collaborative effort towards advancing building retrofit programs. These programs will make it easier for members of the public to retrofit their homes and access energy and cost savings, while reducing their carbon footprint. The Community of Practice's goals include:

- Exploring common program elements
- Addressing gaps to increase program uptake and offerings

CAP hosted
**10 meetings
with over 40
stakeholders**
from
municipalities,
colleges
and trade
associations



CONVENE NETWORKS

Partners for Climate Protection

As a Regional Climate Advisor, CAP provided local expertise and resources to Ontario's 135 municipalities participating in FCM-ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection (PCP).

While funding for the advisor role is now concluded, CAP will continue to assist municipalities with climate change planning and implementation through the Clean Air Council.

CAP responded to over **350 queries** from municipalities and supported them in advancing their GHG reduction initiatives.

Kingston, Ontario has completed all five PCP milestones and joined the CAC in 2020.



Lead Research & Knowledge Transfer COVID & Climate Series

As COVID-19 upended our lives in spring 2020, CAP spearheaded a collective effort with the CAC to explore opportunities for alignment between our COVID response and climate actions. Over a series of discussions and webinars, the following promising areas emerged:

- Green space
- Urban agriculture and food security
- Road re-allocation and active transportation
- Telecommuting
- Energy efficiency retrofits

Over **250 participants** in 10 discussions and webinars.

The [Working Together to Plan for COVID](#) resource has been accessed **over 300 times**.



The closing of public spaces, such as this playground in Vaughan, raised equity questions around access to green space.



Lead Research & Knowledge Transfer Making Space Webinar Series



With work-from-home becoming the norm, a reduction in motor vehicle travel, and continued hesitancy around transit, COVID-19 led to a walking and cycling renaissance.

The Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) partnered with Share the Road Cycling Coalition to research municipal active transportation responses to COVID-19, both here at home and around the globe, and share these strategies through the Making Space webinar series. Topics included:

- *Making Space for Physical Distancing in Ontario*
- *Biking out of the Pandemic*
- *Global Perspectives on Pandemic Mobility*
- *Moving Beyond Rapid Response*

Pylons create an expanded sidewalk in New Westminster, British Columbia

Over 1,000 participants and 20 speakers in six webinars.

Recordings and resources available at [Active Transportation Actions in Response to COVID-19](#)



Lead Research & Knowledge Transfer **ActiveTO Intercept Survey**



*Bayview Avenue
during one of the
weekend road
closures*

On weekends between May and October 2020, Toronto closed portions of Lake Shore Boulevard East and West, Bayview Avenue and Yonge Street to give people more space to walk and cycle safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) assisted the City of Toronto with the evaluation of this initiative by conducting intercept surveys at two locations. A companion evaluation was conducted on Danforth Avenue, led by Park People.

Over **350**
participants in
the survey.

Full report:
[ActiveTO Major
Road Closures
Intercept
Survey
Evaluation
Report](#)



Catalyze Transformative Action

Climate Action Support Centre



CASC's Implementation Teams advance tangible climate actions in key areas where the "planning to implementation" gap exists.

In 2020, together with our Municipal Implementation Teams, we created a range of products covering the greening of municipal fleets, municipal corporate energy, and leveraging local improvement charges.

CASC 2020 Resources:

- [Green Fleets Business Case Series](#)
- [Municipal Corporate Energy Planning Guide](#)
- [Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Local Improvement Charge Pilot Programs](#)



Catalyze Transformative Action Municipal Climate Lens Tool



Municipalities across Canada have declared climate emergencies. A key component of these declarations is the inclusion of climate considerations in all aspects of municipal decision-making.

To respond to this need, the Municipal Climate Lens Tool was developed by Clean Air Partnership in conjunction with PCP municipalities.

The tool provides a preliminary, qualitative understanding of whether a municipal decision will affect climate (through the production of greenhouse gases) or be affected by climate (through extreme temperatures or precipitation).

The [Municipal Climate Lens Tool](#) has been viewed 972 times and has **informed 121 municipal decisions.**



Catalyze Transformative Action Incubating Suburban Cycling



In this community-based project, The Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) builds bike culture beyond the downtown through suburban community bike hubs.

In 2020, TCAT's focus was on Markham, and its [Markham Cycles](#) program was adapted to operate safely during COVID-19.

In collaboration with the City of Markham, tune-ups were offered as part of Markham's first ever Open Street. A new partnership was formed with the Centre for Immigrant and Community Services to offer a virtual "earn-your-bike" program to newcomer youth. Online repair workshops were offered through the library, and a photo scavenger hunt by bike encouraged people to explore their city in a new way.

A Markham Cycles volunteer gives a child's bicycle a safety check.

Over 500 visits to the Markham Cycles bike booth.

Over 60 bicycles refurbished and given away.

Over 800 participants in virtual workshops.

Over 500 photos submitted to the Markham Cycles More photo scavenger hunt.



Catalyze Transformative Action

Vision Zero Senior Safety Zones



Older adults are one of seven emphasis areas in Toronto's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan. The Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) is assisting the City of Toronto in reviewing ten Senior Safety Zones spread across Toronto.

In 2020, TCAT conducted small group walks, pop-ups, and virtual workshops to collect feedback on road safety issues from seniors and senior allies living or working in these zones. In 2021, we will report back to these communities on changes proposed by the City to address their concerns and make their streets safer.

Engaged **140 older adults and senior allies** about road safety issues in ten safety zones.

A pedestrian watches for traffic as they cross midblock in a Senior Safety Zone on Sheppard Ave. E.



Catalyze Transformative Action

Active Neighbourhoods Canada



In April 2020, the Active Neighbourhoods Canada network unveiled a [platform](#) that documents its impact in creating a movement for co-designing green, resilient, active and engaged communities. The Centre for Active Transportation at Clean Air Partnership led the network's activities in Ontario, alongside the Montreal Urban Ecology Centre in Quebec, and the Sustainable Calgary Society in Alberta.

Funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada for over a decade, this ambitious project demonstrated that many communities are actively looking for solutions to create climate-friendly and healthy neighbourhoods.

Engaged close to **6,000 residents** and **65 partner organizations** in co-designing **24 neighbourhoods** across three provinces

14,000 people reached through conferences, courses, workshops and webinars

8,200 downloads of our co-design tools from our [participatory planning portal](#)



Catalyze Transformative Action

Electric Vehicle Adoption



Increasing the capacity of communities, businesses and individuals to make the transition to low emissions vehicles is critical to help mitigate the effects of climate change, reduce energy use and costs and improve air quality.

In 2020, CAP worked with Plug'n Drive to advance EV uptake through rebates on second hand EVs and launched an Internal Combustion Engine scrappage rebate offering.

1,033 people participated in an EV information session and **597 rebates** were granted for second hand EVs



Catalyze Transformative Action Better HomesTO

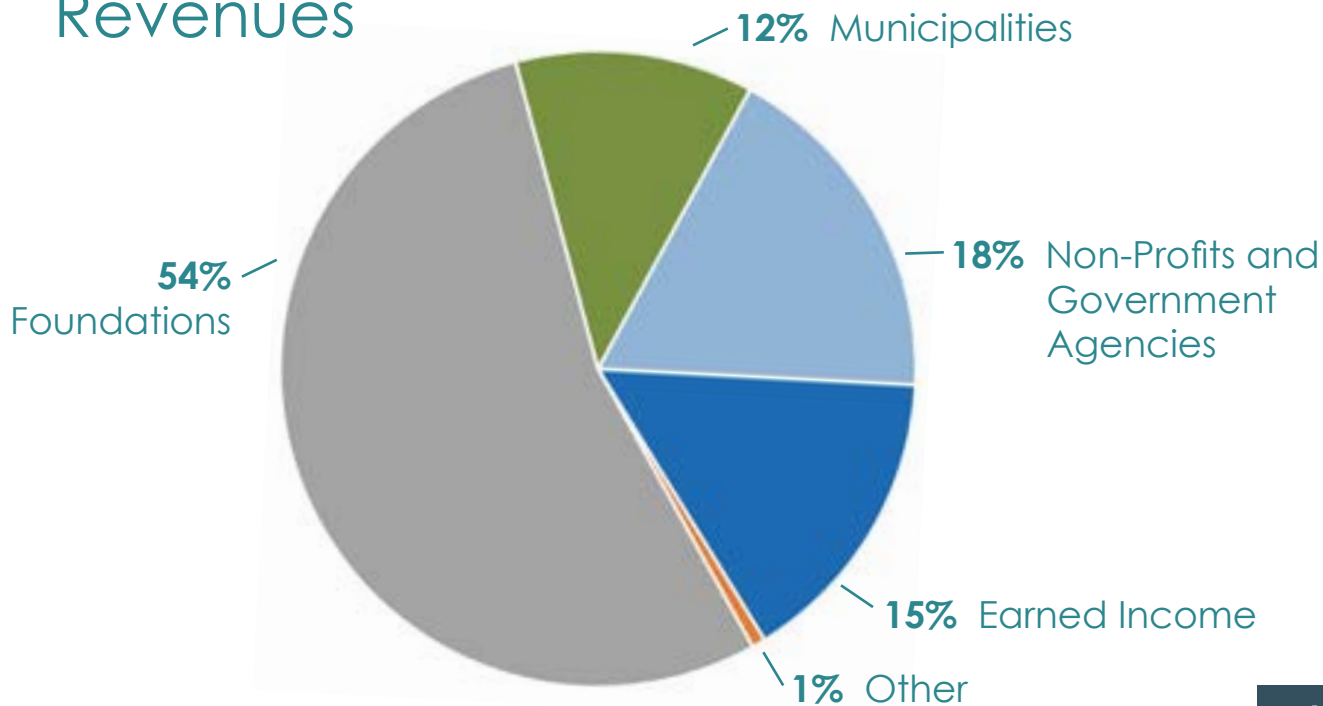


Homes and buildings account for over 50% of Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions. In 2020, Clean Air Partnership partnered with the City of Toronto's BetterHomesTO team to present a weekly webinar series guiding Toronto homeowners through renovations to make their homes more comfortable, healthy and reduce harmful emissions to the environment.

**Over 500
Torontonians**
participated in
12 webinars

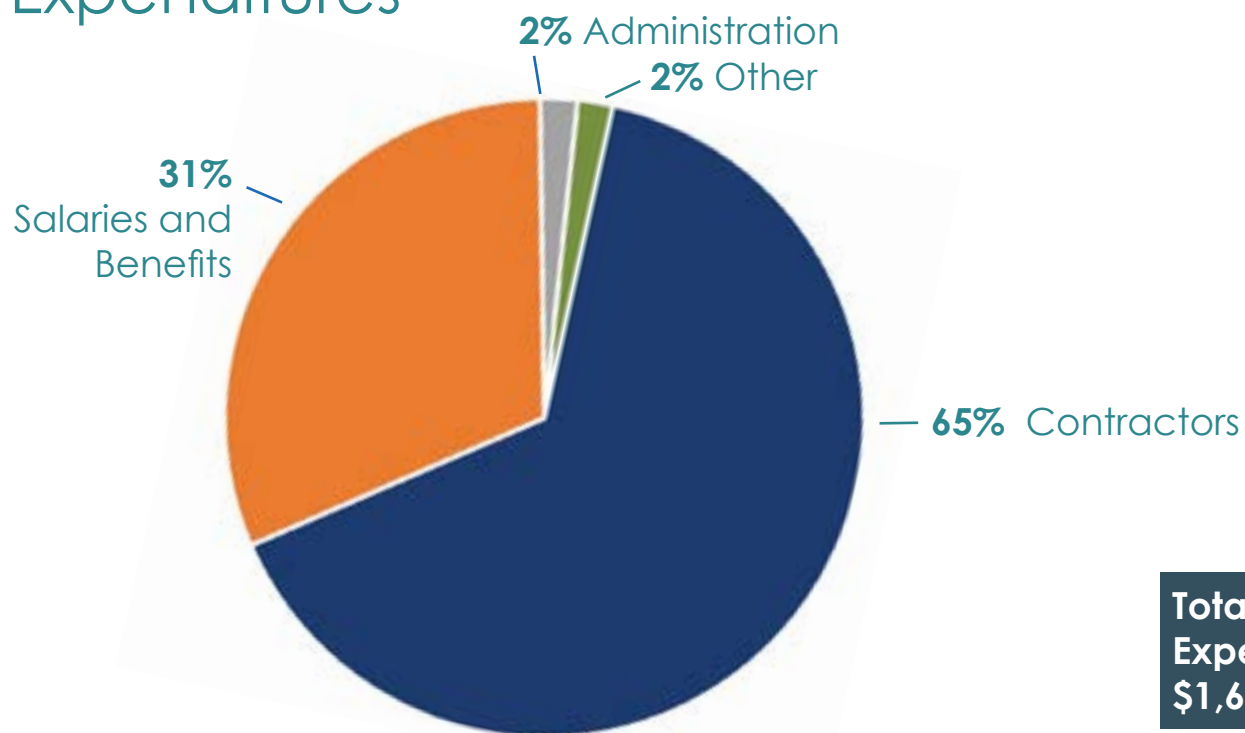
Financial Summary

Revenues



**Total
Revenue:
\$1,983,238**

Expenditures



**Total
Expenditures:
\$1,654,646**

Funding Partners

> \$1 million

M.H. Bringham Foundation

> \$200,000

Federation of Canadian Municipalities
City of Toronto

≥ \$20,000

Environment and Climate Change Canada
York Region
Montreal Urban Ecology Centre
City of Markham
MLSE Foundation

≥ \$10,000

Halton Region
Region of Peel
Region of Durham
City of Mississauga
Canada Helps
TD Friends of the Environment
ECHO Foundation

< \$10,000

City of Brampton
City of Hamilton
Waterloo Region
Park People
TAF
City of Peterborough
City of Vaughan
City of London
Peel Multicultural Council
CultureLink Settlement Services
City of Windsor
City of Burlington
Northumberland County
Town of Richmond Hill
Town of Oakville
GreenUP
City of Oshawa
City of Guelph
Town of Whitby
Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit
City of Kingston
Town of Ajax
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