



# Clean Air Partnership

Annual Report 2021



# Letter from our Executive Director



**Gabriella Kalapos**  
Executive Director



2021 was quite the year! Despite the pandemic bringing sustained challenges, Clean Air Partnership continued to engage municipalities and stakeholders and made progress on important actions to address our environmental challenges. Witnessing Canadians struggle through heat domes, unprecedented flooding, and massive wildfires provides us all with an added impetus to address the climate challenge before us.

This past year we successfully delivered 74 webinars, engaging over 3,800 participants. Our Team welcomed new members, who enhanced our capacity to take on more projects and tackle new challenges. Furthering our vision to build sustainable, healthy, and resilient communities, we welcomed new Clean Air Council members across Ontario, including the City of St. Catharines, Municipality of Chatham-Kent and City of Cornwall.

Our Equity Webinar Series explored strategies to bring equity considerations into climate action and planning. Our Climate Lens Tool is now being used by municipalities across Ontario, as they apply climate considerations to municipal decision-making. The Active Transportation boom that began during the pandemic showed no signs of abating in 2021. The Centre for Active Transportation held cycling webinars and continued working with the City of Toronto on Vision Zero and Active TO programs to make our communities more equitable, safe and healthy. Our Markham Cycles program adapted to a hybrid in-person and online programming model, increasing cycling in Markham by removing barriers and building an inclusive cycling community.

As we look to 2022, Clean Air Partnership will continue to drive climate action in our communities. We will continue to advance collective efforts by calling on our strong commitment to share innovative best, and emerging practices to tackle the climate crisis. Building a sustainable, equitable and resilient society is an exciting challenge, and we look forward to building it with you!

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 2021 was a stunning combination of highs and lows for our communities and our planet. While we saw the light at the end of the tunnel, reopening borders and rolling out mass vaccination programs, we continued to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic as new variants brought new peaks of infection, morbidity, and mortality. New revelations of the shameful history of our residential school systems brought sadness, shame and a surge of national awareness of the importance of developing more equitable Indigenous-settler relations in Canada, accompanied by our first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

For our climate, 2021 was similarly a year for crossing frontiers into unfamiliar territory. Across Western Canada, a never-before-seen heat dome resulted in temperature records established for nearly every community. Just a few days into summer, we observed

the highest temperature ever recorded above 45° latitude, when Lytton, BC saw temperatures of 49.6°C. The ensuing wildfire burned 90% of the town to the ground the following day, resulting in the displacement of its 1,200 community members. On June 30th, Fort Smith, Northwest Territories reached 39.9 °C, the highest temperature ever recorded north of latitude 60°. BC recorded almost 600 heat-related deaths during this heat dome episode, with Alberta reporting almost 200 more heat-related fatalities. Over 650,000 farm animals also perished in this extreme heat.

On November 13th, almost 200 countries gathered in Glasgow, Scotland to participate in COP-26, agreeing to cut emissions to keep global temperature rise to within 1.5°C. On that same day, we once again experienced nature's power taking new forms. An unprecedented rainfall event resulted in precipitation of 300mm in BC, breaking over 40 daily rainfall records, resulting in loss of lives, the displacement of over 15,000 people and the deaths of 1.3m farm animals.

Suffice to say, in 2021 climate change became a very present and undisguised phenomenon for Canadians, striking us with new appreciation of what "the new normal" means for life on Earth. The global mean temperature in 2021 is estimated to be 1.21°C above the 1850-1900 period, a standard baseline for climatological comparisons. At COP-26, delegates noted that current international pledges would result in warming of 2.4°C by 2100. Given we have already witnessed what 1.21°C can do to Canada, a stable and well-developed nation, we can only imagine what 2.4°C would mean for our country, and for less fortunate regions of our planet.



## Letter from our Board Chair contd.

*While Canada's COP-26 climate commitments are established by our federal government, the bulk of our emission reductions will happen at the municipal level. CAP's work in advancing climate action at the municipal level has never been as important. We face a monumental task ahead of us, moving from ambitious planning to concrete implementation of climate action. As if the task were not great enough, the invasion of Ukraine presages a potential future with greater international conflict and demonstrates yet another reason to accelerate the transition off of fossil fuels. As we embark into this new year and new era, our Board and Staff are committing anew to achieving this task, working with both new and existing stakeholders to support our existing projects while also developing new opportunities for our communities to thrive in this world of unpredictable change.*



# About Us

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Headquartered on the traditional unceded territories of first nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples also known as Toronto, Canada. Clean Air Partnership was founded in June 2000. Clean Air Partnership (CAP) is a charitable environmental organization that works in partnership to promote and coordinate actions to improve local air quality and reduce greenhouse gases for healthy communities.



# Our Vision

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Canadian communities are sustainable, healthy and resilient.

# Our Mission

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Our mission is to enable communities to improve air quality, advance active and sustainable transportation options, take bold climate action, increase community resilience to climate impacts, incorporate equity in climate action planning and accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy.



# Our Approach

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## 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.*



# 2021

## At a glance

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**74 webinars and workshops**

**> 3,800 participants engaged on topics including bringing equity considerations into climate planning, supporting EV infrastructure and advancing climate accountability**

**5 briefing notes on new and emerging topics**

**779 rebates issued for second-hand Electric Vehicle(EV) adoption**

**> 1600 people engaged in active transportation initiatives through intercept surveys, webinars, group rides, pop-up booths and workshops**







# CONVENE NETWORKS

## Clean Air Council



**Green Development Standards can help municipalities accelerate towards a low carbon future.**

*The CAC brings together over thirty-five municipalities and health units to work collaboratively and share best practices, policies, programs and technical solutions for advancing climate action.*

*In 2021, the CAC focused on three key areas:*

- *Bringing Equity Considerations into Climate Action and Planning*
- *Advancing Climate Accountability*
- *Exploring Low Carbon Opportunities in New Developments*

*We expanded our CAC network and welcomed three new members - the City of St. Catharines, Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the City of Cornwall.*

**45** webinars,  
with **over 2,000**  
participants in  
2021



## Lead Research & Knowledge Transfer **ActiveTO**



*The Active TO program is designed to create attractive street space and support the City of Toronto's economic recovery and response to COVID-19*

*In 2020, the City of Toronto launched the ActiveTO program in response to increased cycling demand and the need for outdoor recreational space during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a part of this initiative, TCAT evaluated the Complete Streets Pilot project along Danforth Avenue to inform future transportation enhancements.*

*In 2021, TCAT continued their relationship with the ActiveTO program, partnering with Park People to evaluate the safety impacts of a complete street redesign on Yonge Street, as well as the public health benefits to the Major Road Closures programs along Lakeshore Boulevard. TCAT completed bike counts, focus groups, and more than 750 public intercept surveys to gauge how these programs impacted people's sense of safety, belonging, and social connections.*

Based on TCAT's recommendations, Toronto City Council made the **Danforth Complete Street and six others permanent** in December 2021. This is an important step in striving towards healthier and safer roadways for all.



# Lead Research & Knowledge Transfer EV Costing Study



*Future-proofing our new buildings by providing access to safe and reliable EV charging infrastructure is critical to advance community adoption of EVs.*

*In 2021, CAP worked on the project to evaluate EV charging infrastructure installation costs at the time of construction of buildings versus retrofitting post-construction.*

This study found a **significant economic and logistical benefit of adopting 'EV Ready'** charging capabilities for buildings at the time of construction through municipal site plans or parking/zoning by-laws

*To make EV chargers more accessible and affordable, municipalities, building developers, and electrical-equipment suppliers must integrate charging infrastructure into standard building-design plans*





# Catalyze Transformative Action Incubating Suburban Cycling



*Through this community-based project, TCAT builds a bike culture beyond the downtown core by setting up suburban community bike hubs.*

*In 2021, TCAT's Markham Cycles program adopted hybrid programming to operate safely during the pandemic while supporting an increased interest in cycling. TCAT will be expanding this project in 2022 and opening a new hub in Newmarket.*

**Markham Cycles  
group ride, 2021**

**800 visits** to 31  
community pop-  
up bike booths

**60 donated  
bicycles** were  
refurbished and  
returned to the  
community  
through  
newcomer and  
school cycling  
programs

**26 virtual  
workshops** and  
webinars with **700  
live attendees**

**11 group rides**  
with over 70  
participants




# Catalyze Transformative Action

## Vision Zero Senior Safety Zones

*Older adults are one of seven emphasis areas in Toronto's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan.*

*TCAT is assisting the City of Toronto in reviewing ten Senior Safety Zones spread across Toronto by holding workshops and pop-up kiosks to understand the safety issues and barriers to active transportation older adults face in the area and identify safety improvement opportunities.*

In 2021, TCAT provided input on potential **road safety improvements to 9 senior safety zones** and other high danger traffic corridors in the City of Toronto



*Through Vision Zero project, TCAT is helping cities better understand the safety issues and barriers to active transportation older adults face, and identify safety improvement opportunities*





# Catalyze Transformative Action Electric Vehicle Adoption



*Clean Air Partnership,  
in collaboration  
with Plug'n Drive,  
offered up to \$2,000  
incentive on used  
electric vehicle  
purchases in Ontario*

*Increasing capacity of communities, businesses and individuals to make the transition to low emissions vehicles is critical to mitigating climate change, reducing energy use and costs, and improving air quality.*

*In 2021, CAP collaborated with Plug'n Drive to advance EV uptake by providing rebates on second-hand EVs.*

**1575 people** participated in **32 EV information sessions**, and **779 rebates** were granted for second-hand EVs



# Catalyze Transformative Action Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program Market Analysis

CAP is working with seven Ontario municipalities to create market analyses for their home energy efficiency retrofit programs. This project is delivered in partnership with Lightspark Inc. and funded by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Key steps in this project include the execution of data sharing and non-disclosure agreements between project partners, municipalities and various data custodians.

On completion of this task, data collection, cleaning and analysis takes place. The primary output of this exercise is a Market Analysis Report for each of the participating municipalities, Clarington, Kawartha Lakes, Tay Valley Township, Dufferin County, Barrie, Huntsville and London.

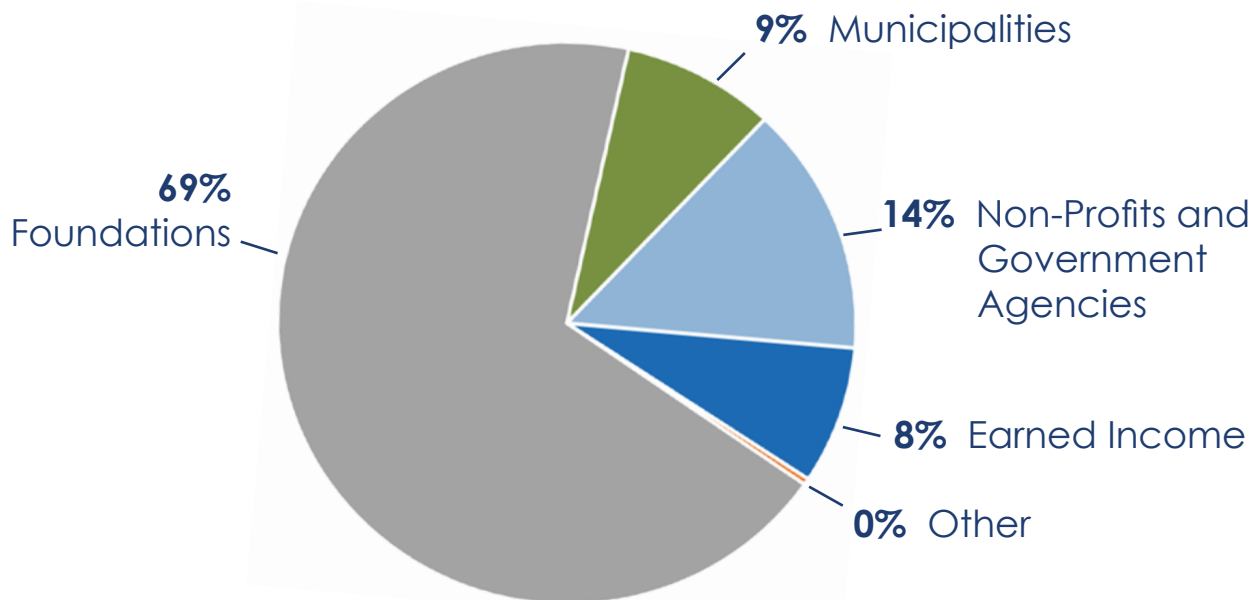
These reports will form the **first step in the creation of retrofit programs** for these municipalities. Additionally, CAP is creating a Market Analysis and Uptake Scenario Guide to document the process and provide guidance on potential issues before they arise

**Municipalities are supporting residential energy efficiency retrofits that achieve GHG emissions reductions**

# Financial Summary

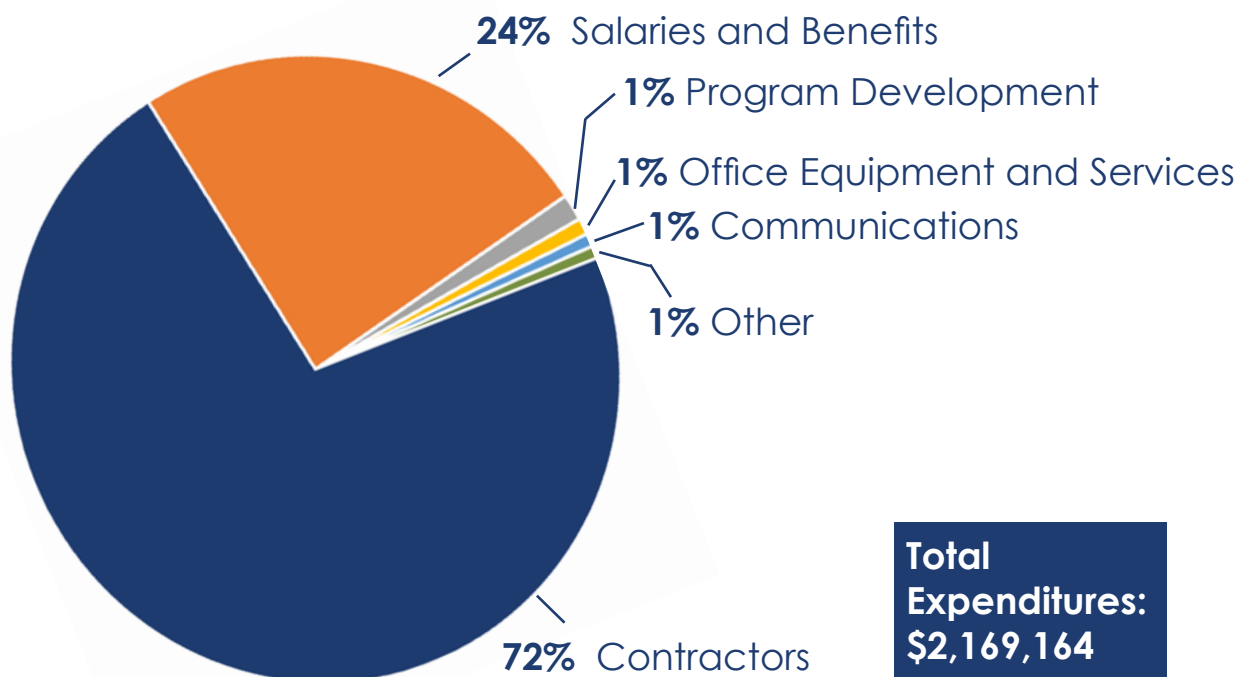
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## Revenues



**Total  
Revenue:  
\$2,134,392**

## Expenditures



**Total  
Expenditures:  
\$2,169,164**

# Funding Partners

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## > \$1 million

M.H. Brigham Foundation

## > \$100,000

Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
City of Toronto  
Trotter Foundation  
Ontario Trillium Foundation  
The Atmospheric Fund

## > \$10,000

Halton Region  
Markham, Corporation of the City  
Region of Durham  
City of Mississauga  
University of Toronto

## < \$10,000

Ontario Home Economics Association  
Caledon, Town of  
London Environment Network  
Whitby, Town of  
Oshawa, City of  
Oakville, Town of  
Richmond Hill, Town of  
Windsor, City of  
Cornwall, City of  
King, Township of  
Halton Hills  
Ryerson University  
St Catherines, City of  
Vaughan, City of  
Aurora, Town of  
Newmarket, City of  
Pickering, City of  
Clarington, Municipality of  
Dufferin County  
Ajax, Town of  
Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit  
Guelph, City of  
Hamilton, City of  
Burlington, City of  
London, City of  
Peel, Regional Municipality of  
Waterloo, Region of  
York, Regional Municipality  
Brampton, City of  
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