

Niagara Adapts Year-in-Review 2019

Partnership Overview

Climate change has been called the defining challenge of our time. Niagara Adapts is a partnership designed to build innovative climate solutions right here in Niagara. By leveraging resources and expertise from seven municipalities across the Niagara Region and Brock University's Environmental Sustainability Research Centre, this partnership is designed to support collaborative climate change adaptation assessment, planning, and implementation.



Collaborative Workshops 1 - 3



This year afforded us the opportunity to come together for three collaborative workshops. In June 2019, Dr. Jessica Blythe (Brock University) and Dr. Ryan Plummer (Brock University) introduced the foundational concepts in adaptation planning. Next, Deanna Allen (Climate Change Coordinator for the Town of Pelham), Rob Andrew (Engineering Technologist for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake), Shannon Fernandes (Climate Coordinator for the Town of Lincoln), Mark Green (Manager of Environmental Services for the City of St. Catharines), Marvin Ingebrigtsen (Infrastructure Planning & Development Supervisor for the City of Welland), James Sticca (Manager of Environmental Services for the City of Niagara Falls), and Sarah Sweeney (Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture for the Town of Grimsby) presented on the climate change impacts being experienced in their communities. In August 2019, Dr. Brad May (Brock University) led us through an introduction to climate change impact and risk assessment. In September 2019, we ranked climate change vulnerability indicators that informed our community surveys.



Short Film

In June 2019, Brock TV filmed a short video about the Niagara Adapts partnership. Featuring Deanna Allen, Dr. Jessica Blythe, Shannon Fernandes, Mark Green, Marvin Ingebrigtsen, Victoria Steele (Community Engagement Coordinator for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake), James Sticca, and Sarah Sweeney the video outlines our collective hopes for the partnership and is publicly available on the @BrockUESRC YouTube Channel.



Knowledge Mobilization Activities

Celebration of Nations

Presentation at the Celebration of Nations by Deanna Allen, Dr. Jessica Blythe, Shannon Fernandes, Mark Green & Marvin Ingebrigtsen

September 7, 2019



In September 2019, Deanna Allen, Dr. Jessica Blythe, Shannon Fernandes, Mark Green, and Marvin Ingebrigtsen were honoured to present about the Niagara Adapts partnership at the Celebration of Nations. Celebrations of Nations is an annual gathering of Indigenous arts, culture and tradition in downtown St. Catharines. This year's theme was 'Empathic Traditions - Honouring Mother Earth'.

Photo Credit: Zoe Archambault, The Brock News

Community Surveys

Fall 2019



Following our third workshop, we launched a community survey to collect data that will help us better understand climate change vulnerability and adaptive capacity across the region. With the help of representatives from each municipality, we completed more than 1,000 surveys with residents from across Niagara. Community involvement in adaptation planning is considered a best practice in the field. The data we collected will be critical for informing our adaptation planning in Year 2 of the partnership.

Formal Partnership Launch & Film Screening

November 27, 2019

We ended the 2019 year by formally launching the partnership with a sold out screening of the climate change documentary *Resilience: Transforming our Community* at the Film House of the First Ontario Performing Arts Centre. The evening began with a welcome from Dr. Gervan Fearon (President of Brock University), Dr. Jessica Blythe, and Dr. John Anderson (climate advocate and film maker). Following the screening, Dr. Marilyn Jollineau (Brock University) led a facilitated discussion with Deanna Allen, Shannon Fernandes, Alex Marino (Climate Change Coordinator for the Town of Welland), Victoria Steele, James Sticca, and Sarah Sweeney. The evening concluded with a community reception.

