



A Year of Collaboration

Annual Report 2024/25

climatewest.ca



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ClimateWest's work occurs on the traditional land of Treaties 1 through 8, and 10. This area includes many Indigenous Nations. The ClimateWest office is located on Treaty 1 Territory, the historic meeting place of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Inninewuk, Anishininiwag, Dakota and Dene, and the Homeland of the Métis Nations.

Message from Our Chair



“We are proud to work with remarkable organizations that share our goal of building climate resilience and preparedness in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, and beyond.”

Elaine Fox, Board Chair

As I look back on the past few years, I am inspired by the achievements of ClimateWest and those within our network. Collaborative efforts and partnerships remain pivotal in building climate resilient communities across Canada that will thrive in our changed and changing climate. We are proud to work with remarkable organizations that share our goal of building climate resilience and preparedness in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, and beyond.

To align our annual reports with our fiscal year, this report highlights activities from January 1, 2024 through to March 31, 2025. During this period, the ClimateWest team has contributed to numerous initiatives from integrating climate considerations in asset and risk management to communications and engagement around climate adaptation. We were also pleased to welcome new members: Elizabeth Shearer as Network Coordinator, and Asha Nelson and Brooke Forbes as Project Coordinators. Their contributions have enabled us to further broaden and support our network and increase our impact and reach.

While we welcomed new faces, we also bid farewell to Kerra Chomlak, our inspiring Executive Director from September 2022 until March 2025. We are incredibly grateful for Kerra’s outstanding leadership and dedication during her time with the organization. Her contributions have been instrumental in shaping ClimateWest, and her passion and vision have been an inspiration to her team and others. We wish Kerra all the best and know she will continue to make a positive impact in her new endeavours.

We thank everyone who has supported and collaborated with ClimateWest throughout this period - project and event partners, sponsors, fellow board members, committee members, and past and present staff. Together, we are making strides toward a more resilient future, ensuring that our communities are not just prepared for change but thriving within it.

Elaine Fox, Board Chair

About ClimateWest

VISION

Communities, businesses, non-profits and governments across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba are equipped to thrive in the face of a changing climate based on decisions informed by the best science, expertise and training that is tailored to meet their needs.

MANDATE

To deliver credible, useful, and timely climate information, data, tools, and training tailored to the Prairie region in support of positive adaptation to a changing climate.

In 2021, ClimateWest joined a growing network of regional climate service providers dedicated to supporting Canadians to prepare for our changed and changing climate. ClimateWest helps people in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba understand the potential hazards and impacts of a changing climate, how to prepare for risks, and how to continue to thrive in the face of challenges. This is achieved through connecting people with credible, regionally relevant climate information and tools, and facilitating collaborations.

We work closely with Environment and Climate Change Canada through the [Canadian Centre for Climate Services](#) (CCCS), and the Governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba who provide both in-kind and financial contributions to support our vision and mandate.

ClimateWest is fortunate to have an engaged Board of Directors, and more recently an Advisory Committee appointed in November 2024 that brings together diverse perspectives from various regions, sectors, and communities to enhance our work.



ClimateWest Board

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Elaine Fox, Board Chair, Government of Manitoba
- Delaney Boyd, Board Vice Chair, Government of Saskatchewan
- Jessica Spina, Government of Alberta
- Heather Morrison, Government of Canada

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT STAFF

- Government of Manitoba: Alexandra Bourne & Ramon Sales
- Government of Saskatchewan: Colten Goertz & Jessica Vanstone
- Government of Alberta: Katie Peterson
- Government of Canada: Casey Clunas

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Dimple Roy, Committee Chair, International Institute for Sustainable Development
- Alison Roberts, Alberta Disaster Management Agency
- Amber Bennett, Re.Climate
- Augustina Osaseri, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
- Casey Clair, Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce
- Hailey Rose, Assembly of First Nations
- Jeff Zukiwsky, Associated Engineering
- Jenn Pylypiw, Otipemisiwak Métis Government
- Karina Cardona, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
- Samantha Kerr, Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds
- Stefan Kienzle, University of Lethbridge (retired)

SECRETARIAT

- Kerra Chomlak, Executive Director (until March 2025)
- Ailsa McKeen, Communications Officer
- Elizabeth Shearer, Network Coordinator
- Asha Nelson, Project Coordinator
- Brooke Forbes, Project Coordinator (September 2024 - June 2025)



Advancing Climate Adaptation Through Collaboration

As a non-profit organization providing climate adaptation services, collaboration is at the centre of ClimateWest's approach. We partner with organizations that share our vision in order to build climate resilience, together.

During 2024/25, we worked with partners specializing in climate adaptation to develop regionally relevant tools, resources, and training opportunities that help communities, organizations and various sectors to integrate climate considerations into planning and decision-making processes.

Through our Adaptation in Action Program, we have committed to support six regional organizations on impactful adaptation and resilience projects in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Launched in December 2023, ClimateWest invited proposals from communities,

non-profits, research centres, businesses, and other organizations with diverse perspectives for projects that build resilience to the effects of a changing climate. A total of \$300,000 in funding was available, with up to \$50,000 per project. Successful recipients were announced in March 2025.

“With nearly 50 applications submitted, it’s clear that there is growing recognition of the necessity for preparedness and adaptation in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. We are thrilled to support six communities and organizations who are championing climate adaptation and share our vision of a more climate resilient future.”

Elaine Fox, Board Chair of ClimateWest

Adaptation in Action Recipients



ALUS

Project Name: Advancing Regenerative Agriculture as a Climate Adaptation Tool to Build Community and Landscape Resiliency in the Prairies

Location: Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta

Project Summary: ALUS aims to improve knowledge transfer in regenerative agriculture in the prairies by promoting engagement and education. This project seeks to enhance understanding and adoption of sustainable practices through the creation of four videos with regenerative agriculture participants, local research for the Bird-Friendliness Index, and extended training, peer support, and support materials.



CITY OF SASKATOON

Project Name: Economic Value of Natural Assets in a Changing Prairie Climate

Location: Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Project Summary: This project focuses on Saskatoon's natural assets—trees, wetlands, forests, grasslands, and the river—and their economic benefits in urban prairie contexts. It will assess climate risks and ecosystem services of these assets, establishing a methodology applicable to other natural assets in the region. The findings will support land use planning for prairie municipalities by demonstrating the value of natural assets under a range of climate scenarios and justifying their protection and investment in restoration and management.



FORTWHYTE ALIVE

Project Name: Nature-based Climate Adaptation Education Project

Location: Winnipeg, Manitoba

Project Summary: This project will develop a climate change adaptation education program for prairie educators, including a one-day workshop and accompanying virtual resources. A new Climate Science Interpreter position will ensure educational materials reflect current research on climate adaptation. FortWhyte Alive is a 660-acre urban green space currently serving over 35,000 students annually. The new resources will continue to impact many more educators and students beyond the funding period, and will also be shared widely with educators across the prairie region.



NORTH SASKATCHEWAN

WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Project Name: A Needs Assessment for Drought Resiliency in Treaty No. Six First Nations Project

Location: Treaty No. Six, Northern Alberta, Northern Saskatchewan

Project Summary: This project aims to enhance the abilities of First Nations in Alberta to adapt to changing climate conditions through drought planning and collaboration. This project will draft a Drought Planning Needs Assessment that reviews existing materials and gathers insights from First Nations within Treaty 6 territory to build awareness and enable collaboration on drought response among First Nations and with neighbouring municipalities.



PRairie CLIMATE CENTRE

Project Name: Climate Analogues Tool

Location: Winnipeg, Manitoba

Project Summary: Spatial analogues, maps which highlight regions with current climates similar to the future climate for a given location and season, effectively visualize future climate information and aid in adaptation planning. By understanding which climate we may have in the future, innovative policies and resilient communities can be developed. The Prairie Climate Centre has created monthly, seasonal, and annual spatial analogue maps for 79 locations in the Prairie Provinces using station data. This project aims to expand upon the initial Climate Analogues project funded by ClimateWest in 2022 and build out the application as a featured add-on to the [Climate Atlas of Canada](#).



RESILIENT RURALS

Project Name: Resilient Rurals Model

Location: Bruderheim, Alberta

Project Summary: This project will develop an innovative model and toolkit to help small, rural, and Indigenous communities build diverse regional partnerships to address their significant and unequal vulnerabilities to climate change. Through engagement across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba with various key stakeholders, including Indigenous advisors, municipalities, and local organizations, this project aims to empower under-resourced communities to share knowledge and resources effectively. The toolkit will document the process and partnerships developed to enhance community resilience in the face of climate change.

Advancing Climate Adaptation Through Collaboration

ClimateWest is committed to expanding knowledge and awareness in several key areas through collaboration.

CLIMATE READY PRAIRIES PROJECT

Project partner: Re.Climate

Supported by: Natural Resources Canada's Climate Change Adaptation Program

The Climate Ready Prairies project seeks to overcome behavioural, social and cultural barriers to climate change adaptation action in the region. Structured as both a training program and a research study, participants gain practical skills in strategic communications and engagement while also helping to inform the development of a communications and engagement training guide specific to the Prairie Provinces. An updated version of the guide will also be made available for broader application across Canada.

To ensure the respectful inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and priorities in this project, ClimateWest and Re.Climate are working with Indigenous Engagement Consultant, [SeyGen Consulting](#), to help facilitate direct engagement with First Nations, Métis and Inuit organizations and communities across the region.



3-YEAR
PROJECT



3 IN-PERSON
WORKSHOPS



3 VIRTUAL
TRAININGS



6 COMMUNITY
OF PRACTICE
SESSIONS



40 PARTICIPANTS
PER PROVINCE

120*

TOTAL
PARTICIPANTS

*estimated



Climate Ready Prairies Training, Manitoba



WESTERN FLOOD MAPPING CONFERENCE

Project Partner: Natural Resources Canada

Uniting Minds, Mapping Futures: Collaborative Solutions for Western Flood Mapping

ClimateWest partnered with Natural Resources Canada and the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions to host the Western Flood Mapping Conference on February 19 and 20, 2025. As flooding is Canada's most costly and frequent natural hazard, the development and use of effective flood maps is key to building flood resilience and protecting communities.

The Western Flood Mapping Conference brought together invested parties from all related sectors to address key challenges concerning flood hazard mapping methodologies specific to Western provinces and territories including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Attendees had the opportunity to hear presentations from leading flood mapping professionals and practitioners, offering insights into the latest advancements and challenges in the field.



Western Flood Mapping Conference, Alberta



SUBSIDIZED ASSET MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Project partner: NAMS Canada

Supported by: Green Municipal Fund's (GMF) Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation initiative

NAMS Canada is offering subsidized training to help communities proactively manage climate risks and protect infrastructure. ClimateWest is supporting course content development which encourages Canadian municipalities to integrate low-carbon resilience, sustainability, and equity considerations into their long-term infrastructure and financial planning processes.



PRairie Agriculture, Water and Climate Project

Project Partner: Canadian Water Network and University of Regina's Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative

Supported by: RBC Tech for Nature

This innovative research project considers how agricultural lands—and specifically crop distribution and productivity—may evolve with a changing climate. The goal of the research is to develop tools and information in support of adapting agricultural systems to manage climate risks under a scenario of shifting suitability of soil landscapes for annual crop production, and associated changes in supplies and demand for agricultural water. The outcome of the proposed research will be a decision-support tool that decision-makers can use to consider future agriculture and water management challenges and opportunities.

Building a Network

ClimateWest creates relevant networking opportunities throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, fostering cross-sector and inter-provincial collaboration on climate resilience and preparedness. Our network values the opportunities we provide for sharing knowledge and building connections at in-person and virtual gatherings.

CLIMATEWEST 2024 FORUM, EDMONTON

Building Climate Resilience: Being prepared | Working together | Creating change

On May 8 and 9, 2024, the 2nd annual ClimateWest Forum brought together a network of diverse individuals and organizations with one common goal – building climate resilience across Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and beyond. Over 130 in-person guests and 100 virtual participants joined us to hear the voices, stories, and work of those at the forefront of climate adaptation and resiliency action in the Prairie region. Participants learned about the state of knowledge on climate resilience and explored inclusive and collaborative approaches to building stronger, more climate resilient communities.

Over two days, 18 knowledgeable speakers and panelists covered a range of topics including weaving Indigenous Knowledges, observed change and future climate projections, youth engagement, climate change impacts on mental health, emergency preparedness, climate communications, and more.

"The ClimateWest Forum is one of Canada's pre-eminent climate-related conferences, and I enjoyed it immensely. This conference is especially noteworthy within the Prairie Provinces, where the conversation on climate is distinctly different than elsewhere in Canada. The ClimateWest Forum is unique in that it brings a distinctly personal touch, making it stand out within the vast array of conferences available. There were captivating speakers, ample networking and considerable learning opportunities, and I would recommend it to anyone working within this space."

Nathan Schaper, ICLEI Canada





Supporting People on the Prairies

From webinars and training, to supporting the development of new tools and resources, ClimateWest continues to support people in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba in understanding what to expect from our future climate. Our mission extends beyond awareness; we aim to empower communities to prepare for climate change hazards and opportunities and continue to thrive in both the present and future climates.

During 2024/25, ClimateWest has collaborated on the following projects and activities.



SERVICE: Climate Ready Infrastructure Service (CRIS)

Project partner: Canadian Urban Institute

ClimateWest, as the regional delivery partner for the [Climate Ready Infrastructure Service](#) (CRIS), helps to connect municipalities with leading climate experts at no cost to support climate-resilient infrastructure projects. The Climate Ready Infrastructure Service is delivered by the Canadian Urban Institute and funded by the Government of Canada.



TOOL: Climate Insight

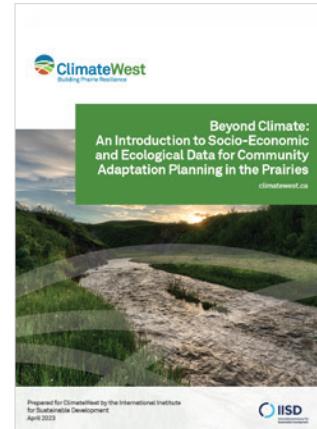
Project partner: ICLEI Canada

ClimateWest supported the development and promotion of the [Climate Insight](#) platform that brings together multiple levels of climate adaptation data, projections and solutions to help small- to mid-sized communities looking to access information related to housing, infrastructure and climate change.



RESOURCE: Beyond Climate: An Introduction to Socio-Economic and Ecological Data for Community Adaptation Planning in the Prairies

Project partner: International Institute for Sustainable Development



ClimateWest released a user-friendly guide to help communities in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba identify and source socio-economic and ecological data. The goal of the guide is to help users find existing data from easily accessible sources, such as statistical platforms hosted by governments. View the [publication library](#) on the ClimateWest website for help in understanding, preparing, and adapting to climate change.



WEBINAR SERIES: Natural Infrastructure on the Canadian Prairies

Project partner: Natural Infrastructure for Water Solutions

ClimateWest moderated a webinar series on the benefits of natural infrastructure in climate adaptation, which featured municipal perspectives of the value in natural infrastructure alongside traditional infrastructure solutions, and specific project examples.

Manitoba Climate Resilience Training

Project partner: Government of Manitoba

ClimateWest facilitated a three-webinar series which guided participants through the climate adaptation planning journey, featuring free tools and resources developed under the [Manitoba Climate Resilience Training \(MCRT\) Program](#). This series provided an overview of the current state of knowledge on climate change, and the core concepts behind climate change adaptation.

SERVICES AND RESOURCES

In addition to these collaborations, ClimateWest provides a number of services and resources to support people in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba:



The ClimateWest Help Desk supports people in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba with their climate adaptation needs and questions. Whether it's assistance with locating the most relevant data, understanding its implications, or guidance on integration of climate data into decision-making, we are here as a free, public resource.



Our website curates and hosts free, capacity-building materials such as province specific training videos and resources, publications to support the case for climate adaptation, and relevant blogs.



We build awareness of climate adaptation through presentations that cover a range of topics such as the benefits of early adaptation action, climate data sources, climate adaptation considerations, ClimateWest services, and more.



Recycling Council of Alberta Conference, Banff

CONTACT OUR HELP DESK

204-995-6514

info@climatewest.ca

climatewest.ca/help-desk

Financials

ClimateWest operations are supported with financial and in-kind contributions from the Governments of Canada, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

REVENUE

FUNDER	2023-2024 CONTRIBUTION	2024-2025 CONTRIBUTION
Environment and Climate Change Canada	\$250,000	\$250,000
Government of Alberta	\$200,000	\$200,000
Government of Manitoba	\$170,000	\$170,000
Total Revenue	\$620,000	\$620,000
 IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS		
Government of Alberta	\$30,000	\$30,000
Government of Saskatchewan	\$50,000	\$50,000
Government of Manitoba	\$40,000	\$50,000
Total Contributions	\$120,000	\$130,000

EXPENSES

CATEGORY	2023-2024	% OF EXPENSES	2024-2025	% OF EXPENSES
Secretariat and Board Operations	\$282,501	73%	\$512,010	64%
Communications	\$5,715	2%	\$13,408	2%
Projects and Knowledge Products	\$96,767	25%	\$269,316	34%
Total Expenses	\$384,983		\$ 794,734	

ClimateWest Project Partners



Canadian
Urban
Institute

Institut
Urbain du
Canada



Canadian
Water
Network



EVERGREEN



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada



Canada



Prairie
Climate Centre

Re.Climate
COMMUNICATING FOR CHANGE



ClimateWest 2024 Forum Partners



Municipal
Climate Change
Action Centre



CONNECT WITH US

We want climate adaptation knowledge to reach as many people as possible across the region to ensure Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba thrive in the face of a changing climate. Creating resilient communities needs an all-of-society approach. Connect with us, grow your knowledge, and help spread the word! Sign up for our newsletter, engage with us on social media, attend an event or simply read one of our blogs. Every little bit helps.

