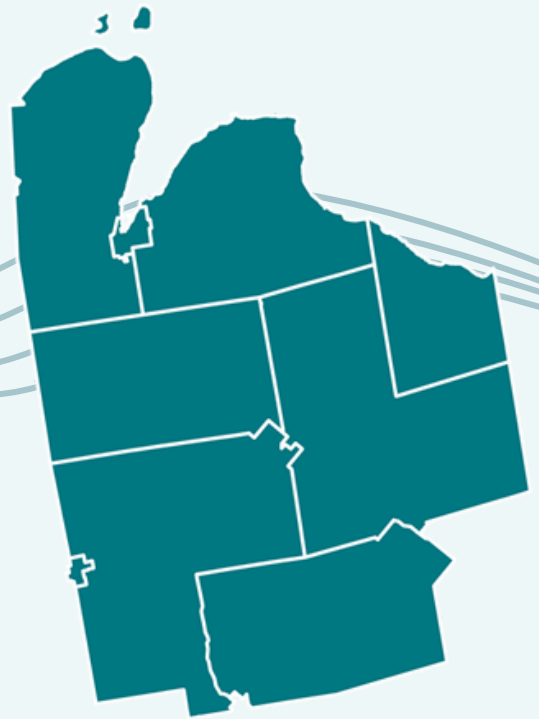




RESILIENT GREY

Grey County's
Climate Change Adaptation Plan

What We Heard Summary June 2025

Preparing today to protect tomorrow

PLANNING FOR GREY COUNTY'S CHANGING CLIMATE

Grey County is developing a community climate change adaptation plan to identify how changing weather patterns are impacting our region, the most impacted infrastructure and services, and prioritized actions to increase resilience. To date, the County has completed several key steps to understand local climate risks and develop this plan:



HOW WE COLLECTED PUBLIC INPUT

From April 10 to May 20, 2025, Grey County hosted public engagements to:

- Confirm priority impacts and other planning work completed so far.
- Identify and understand the greatest local concerns.
- Gather feedback on the types of actions residents want prioritized.

145 online survey responses

The survey was promoted through grey.ca, postcards, newsletters, ads, social media, targeted text messaging, and community groups

12 climate conversations with 200+ total participants

Based on a conversation guide, these focus groups were facilitated either by Grey County staff, community groups, or individuals. Some included the use of real-time virtual polls.

16 community events resulting in 240 booth interactions

County staff connected with residents local events, such as the Kemble Maple Tour, Earth Day, Saugeen Ojibway Mothers' Day Market, and the Home & Cottage Show.

Learn more at
grey.ca/adapt:



WHAT WE HEARD FROM THE COMMUNITY

TOP PLACES OF CONCERN

When asked about **where** adaptation action should be focused, 5 key location types emerged. The following shows how many times each location type was mentioned, in surveys and conversations.

96

Waterways, Wetlands, and Water Bodies

Rivers, lakes, and wetlands, including the Pottawatomi River, Townsend Lake, Bells Lakes, and Beaver River.

78

Trails and Forests

Conservation areas, such as Bruce's Caves, Hibou Park, and the Niagara Escarpment.

63

Shorelines and Waterfront

Natural shorelines, such as the Georgian Bay shoreline and Northwinds Beach.

53

Residential Buildings, Homes, and Private Properties

Homes, basements, backyards, particularly in Owen Sound.

44

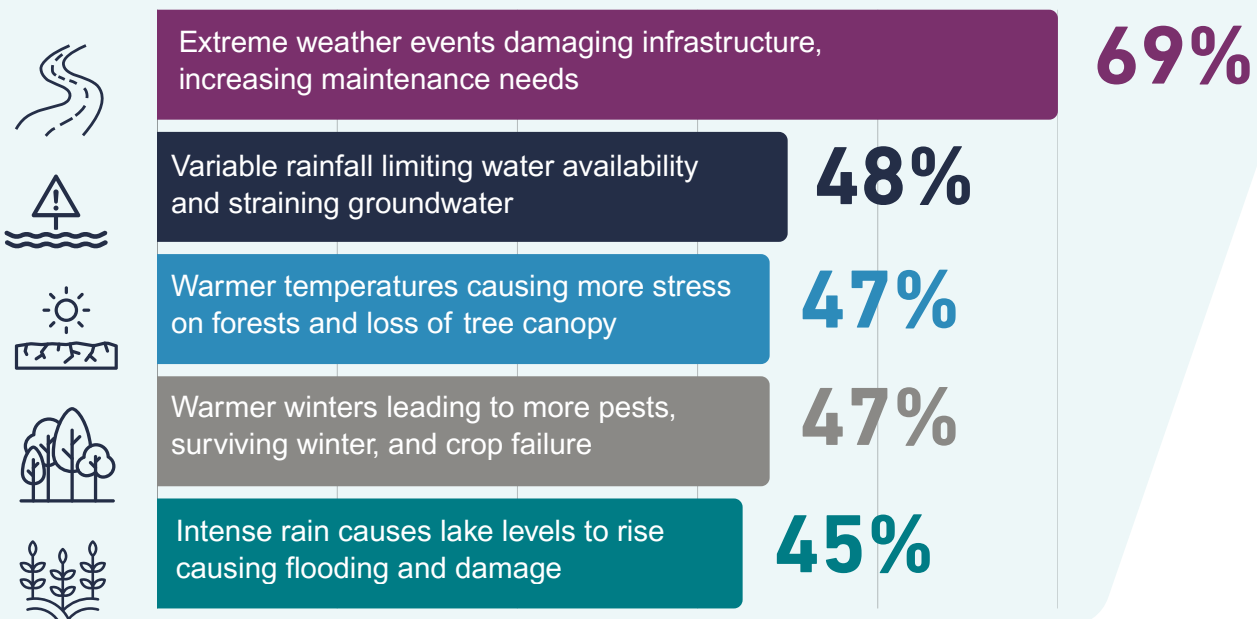
Agriculture Lands and Gardens

Farmlands, gardens, and orchards, particularly **apple orchards**.

MENTIONS

TOP CLIMATE CONCERNS

Survey data included which climate impacts respondents were most concerned about. The following climate risks were of greatest concern and what percentage of respondents were concerned about this impact.



GOVERNMENT-LED ACTIONS



Some government-led actions emerged as particularly important in **surveys** and **community conversations**.



66%

Considered important

Green Infrastructure

Develop, protect, and enhance wetlands, parks, and green spaces to manage heavy rainfall and reduce flooding.

5

mentions

53%

Considered important

Policy Development

Continue to create and implement land use planning and operational policies that address climate risks.

17

mentions

51%

Considered important

Preparing Public Infrastructure

Improving flood mapping and strengthening roads, bridges, and culverts to prepare for extreme weather.

13

mentions

44%

Considered important

Community Support

Set up or support programs to help vulnerable populations during extreme weather events or power outages.

4

mentions

43%

Considered important

Community Education and Engagement

Develop educational initiatives that promote good practices for environmental stewardship and foster public involvement.

20

mentions



COMMUNITY-LED ACTIONS

Survey respondents most frequently considered the following 3 community-led actions as 'very important/important'. 'Home Energy Efficiency and Resiliency' actions were frequently referenced in climate conversations as well.



Protect Your Home Against Flooding

Develop, protect, and enhance wetlands, parks, and green spaces to manage heavy rainfall and reduce flooding.

70%
Considered
important



Home Energy Efficiency and Resiliency

Upgrade insulation, windows, and heating/cooling systems to reduce energy consumptions and improve comfort during extreme weather.

70%
Considered
important



Naturalization and Community Gardens

Convert hard surfaces to native vegetation, plant trees, and start or participate in community gardens for food security and social connection.

64%
Considered
important

A few participants also emphasized the importance of individual responsibility in climate conversations, highlighting actions such as **connecting** with their communities, using **public or active transportation**, **reducing waste**, **shopping locally**, and **planting trees**.

“Plant more and more trees”.

“Install heat pumps. Insulate your home”.

~ From community
conversations

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- From a total 585 participants, from surveys, conversations, and community, the findings suggest that climate adaptation and resilience is a local priority and there is a desire for meaningful action.
- Consistent themes emerged in both surveys responses and community conversations.
- Participants recognized the role for everyone to play in climate adaptation, however there was particularly strong support for continued leadership from local government.