

MOPC Climate Change Action Engagement Results



The Municipality of Pictou County (MOPC) Council's Climate Change Advisory Committee hosted a series of eight public engagement meetings in January 2025. The meetings were an important step in the development of a Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP) that the Advisory Committee is overseeing.

The objectives of these meetings were to share with participants the key results of research on climate impacts on Pictou County and the preliminary actions we are proposing to mitigate and adapt to those impacts, and to receive their feedback on what they heard. From Merigomish in the east to River John in the west, and from Caribou in the north to Eureka in the south, some 175 citizens that participated in the meetings provided their views on the importance of the proposed actions and suggested other climate action ideas for consideration. A copy of the slide deck presented at the meetings can be found at <https://munpict.ca/council/climate-change/>.

The following table illustrates the feedback received on the level of importance of the proposed actions that were presented.

Proposed Climate Change Actions	Percentage of Participants Who Viewed the Action to be of High Importance
Creating measures for ensuring the safety of citizens that are impacted by climate disaster events	91%
Enhancing the annual MOPC Tree Planting Program	87%
Developing an online tool to analyse the risk of damage from impending storm surge and flooding events	86%
Developing an online tool to analyse the risk of damage from wildfire events	86%
Assessing and modifying the MOPC infrastructure that is vulnerable to climate change impacts	86%
Replacing emission-generating energy sources within MOPC buildings with zero-emission sources by 2035	74%
Replacing MOPC transportation fleet with zero-emission vehicles by 2035	62%

Community members were invited to share additional ideas for climate action in the County. The most popular action topics and idea examples in the feedback received from participants at the eight meetings were:

- *Wildfire Management / Fiona Cleanup* (e.g., Develop a wildfire management strategy, Organize a program for clearing of trees and windfalls close to homes, Develop a Fire Smart

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program, Create fire guards between high risk areas and properties and planned ignitions, Employ selective cutting and preventing monocultures to help reduce blowdown and wildfire risk)

- *Food Production* (e.g., Provide young farmers with funding and other kinds of help for growing multi-crops, Encourage gardens, fruit trees, vegetable markets and promote Nova Scotia First, Develop classes for growing home gardens)
- *Education / Communication* (e.g., Use social media, more radio ads and videos for schools to educate on climate change, Develop a one-stop MOPC website with resources that will help Pictou County residents who are dealing with climate impacts, Create an email address for feedback/ communication about climate change action)
- *Coastal Erosion Control* (e.g., Provide discounts/funding for homeowners to plant native plants/ weeds/roses and trees with fast growing roots along the shoreline, Limit the type and size of buildings near the shoreline to reduce damage loss amounts, Develop more stringent zoning and regulation to ensure that new construction is built to new standards that accommodate new climate threats, In the Land Use Planning program restrict development in high risk areas and have mandatory shoreline setbacks)
- *Evacuation / Vulnerability* (e.g., Develop a seniors' registry for evacuations, Work with MOPC citizens to develop emergency and evacuation plans, Develop water escape routes for residents close to the Northumberland Strait, Provide generators for gas stations and small businesses)

The Advisory Committee team that is developing the Action Plan is planning to table its recommendations with the MOPC Council in late Spring 2025. The important feedback received from the engagement meetings will allow the team to enhance their action proposals. While not all the ideas can be included in the initial MCCAP, the plan will be a living document, with ongoing assessments and additional action recommendations to the Council annually. Climate change education and engagement will continue to be a principal component of MOPC climate change action planning.

The Advisory Committee is very thankful for the citizen participation in the Climate Change Action Engagement Meetings. The MOPC Climate Change Advisory Committee is committed to furthering the objectives outlined in our climate planning efforts and incorporating the feedback of community members. We will be sharing our progress through the County's monthly newsletter, website, and social media platforms.