

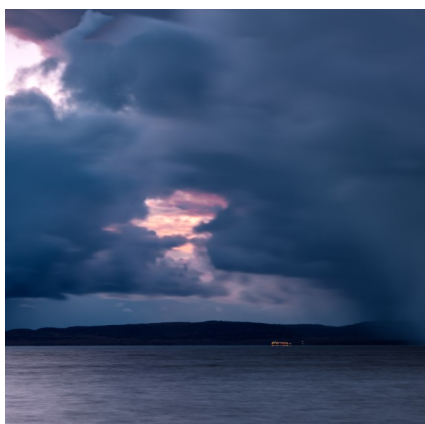


LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

CLIMATE CHANGE



LAKEHEAD WATERSHED



As we know, climate change is happening and it is human caused.

But **how exactly are we seeing and feeling the changing climate here** and now in the Lakehead Region?

There is already a measured **increase in average air temperature and water temperatures**. This results in an increase in evaporation and then perceptible water in the warmer atmosphere.

We also see an **increase in frequency and intensity of storms** resulting in flooding and erosion.



In the winter we are seeing less ice cover, both the depth and the length. **More winter precipitation both as snow but now, more frequently as rain**. This results in less snowpack which affects plants, animals and spring runoff.

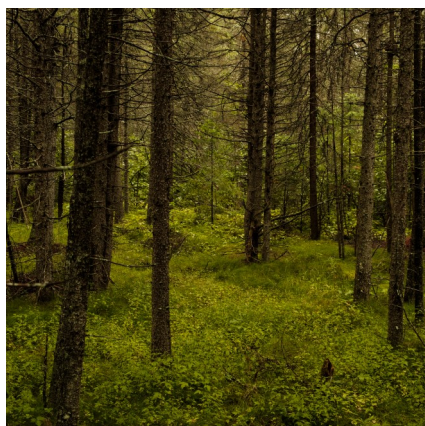
Finding out more about what the impacts are in all the ecosystems in our region and on our lives is an essential starting point. Luckily there is a lot of good data available on places like www.climatechangetbay.com.

Because climate change is such a large and **complex problem** it can feel like the consequences seem far off in the future, that they are happening to someone else, that someone else will do something about solving it, and that there will be huge costs. This collection of factors can make it feel like we are doomed and not able to do anything. However this is exactly where many of us start from and as we step forward there are many ways **we can each take action**, whether big or small, on our own or together with friends and our community.

Did you know that **simply talking about climate change** and sharing your worries, fears, hopes and challenges is an important part of taking action? Letting others know how you feel, what you see or what you are doing is how we can encourage others to think about this problem and take action.

You may have heard the phrase 'you only care about what you know'. We here at the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority are pleased to provide the **opportunity to everyone get out and explore** at our Conservation Properties. When you get outside you are getting to know the place you live and appreciate all its beauty and intricacies. While in nature not only do we immediately benefit by feeling mentally and physically better but we are actively experiencing the values of nature.





Natural areas provide many services to humans and the biodiversity within the ecosystems. Processes like natural water management, including reduction in erosion and flooding, and improvement and moderation of air, water and soil pollution, quality and temperature.

Our natural ecosystems, made up of forests, wetlands, water sources, plants and animals, and provide multiple goods and services that contribute to a healthy economy, environment and people. A **healthy watershed** provides wildlife habitat, provide carbon sequestration, contribute to climate change adaptation, provide shade and wind breaks, provide opportunities for recreational fishing and hunting, provide resources for manufacturing goods, clean drinking water, and attractive and livable communities that are relaxing and walkable.



You can **contribute to the science** needed to better understand the impacts of climate change by reporting through apps like iNaturalist which track species sighting or CoCoRaHS for reporting daily weather.

On the home front there are many ways for you to take action and reduce your ecological footprint and the amount of energy and resources you use.

Asking yourself daily questions like:

How can I conserve tap water?

How can I turn down the heat or turn off the air conditioner?

How can I get to point B using less or no gas?

Do I need to buy that new thing?

Do I have space to plant more native species?

Am I disposing of all liquids and solids appropriately when I am finished with them?

Can I get food that is grown and made closer to me or that has less of an energy demand?

Once you find some ways to take action you can **scale things up** and get more people involved. Get creative and find new solutions while you look to keep improving on your successes.

Whether planting native trees and shrubs, implementing low impact development on your property or educating yourself about the best ways improve water quality, it is all of our responsibility to be Watershed Stewards. **We are all connected and it's time to get engaged with our climate.**

