



CHASE

CANADIAN HEALTH ASSOCIATION
FOR SUSTAINABILITY & EQUITY

Making the Health Case for Climate Action

UofT Climate Health &
Sustainable Care Symposium
Kim Perrotta MHSc
Executive Director, CHASE
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Health Professionals & Climate Action

The Good News:

- ❑ Many of the actions needed to reduce GHGs will produce immediate and local health benefits
- ❑ Many of those actions can also reduce health inequities if directed at that intention



Health Professionals & Climate Action

Important Role for Health Professionals:

- ❑ Link health risks to Climate impacts
- ❑ Help public recognize climate action
- ❑ Identify immediate health co-benefits
- ❑ Identify potential health equity co-benefits



Reference: CHASE/CPHA/OPHA, 2023. Climate Change, Population Health and Health Inequity; Hatch, C. What do Canadians really think about climate change? Climate Access & Climate Narratives Initiative. March 2021

Health Arguments Support Climate Policies

One US study found that the public can be motivated to support climate solutions when presented with:

- ❑ health risks associated with climate change
- ❑ health benefits associated with climate solutions
- ❑ clear calls to action
- ❑ All 3 together - can influence people across the political spectrum

Climate Change Mitigation, Health & Health Equity

- ❑ Summarized health & health equity benefits - 5 local climate solutions
- ❑ 10 Brief Case Studies - Public Health Strategies
- ❑ 4 Brief Case Studies - Municipal/NGO Projects
- ❑ <https://chasecanada.org/public-health-addressing-health-health-equity-and-climate-change/>



CLIMATE CHANGE, POPULATION HEALTH AND HEALTH EQUITY

Public health strategies and five climate
solutions that produce health and health
equity benefits

November 2023



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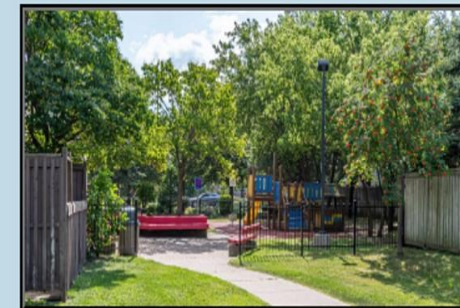
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Ontario Public Health Association
Association pour la santé publique de l'Ontario
Established 1988

Five Local Climate Solutions Selected

- ❑ 80% of E-related GHGs come from cities
- ❑ **Mostly - Transportation & Buildings**
- ❑ Public transit
- ❑ Walkable neighbourhoods
- ❑ Active transportation infrastructure
- ❑ Greener Buildings
- ❑ Green Space



Public Transit - Climate, Health & Health Equity

Public Transit:

- ❑ Reduces VKT & GHGs
- ❑ Increases Physical Activity
- ❑ Reduces Traffic-Related Air Pollution
 - ❑ 1200 deaths/year - \$9.5 Billion/year
- ❑ Increases access to jobs & services
- ❑ Reduces living costs
- ❑ Reduces vehicle-related deaths



Active Transportation Infrastructure - Climate, Health & Health Equity

Safe & Connected AT Infrastructure:

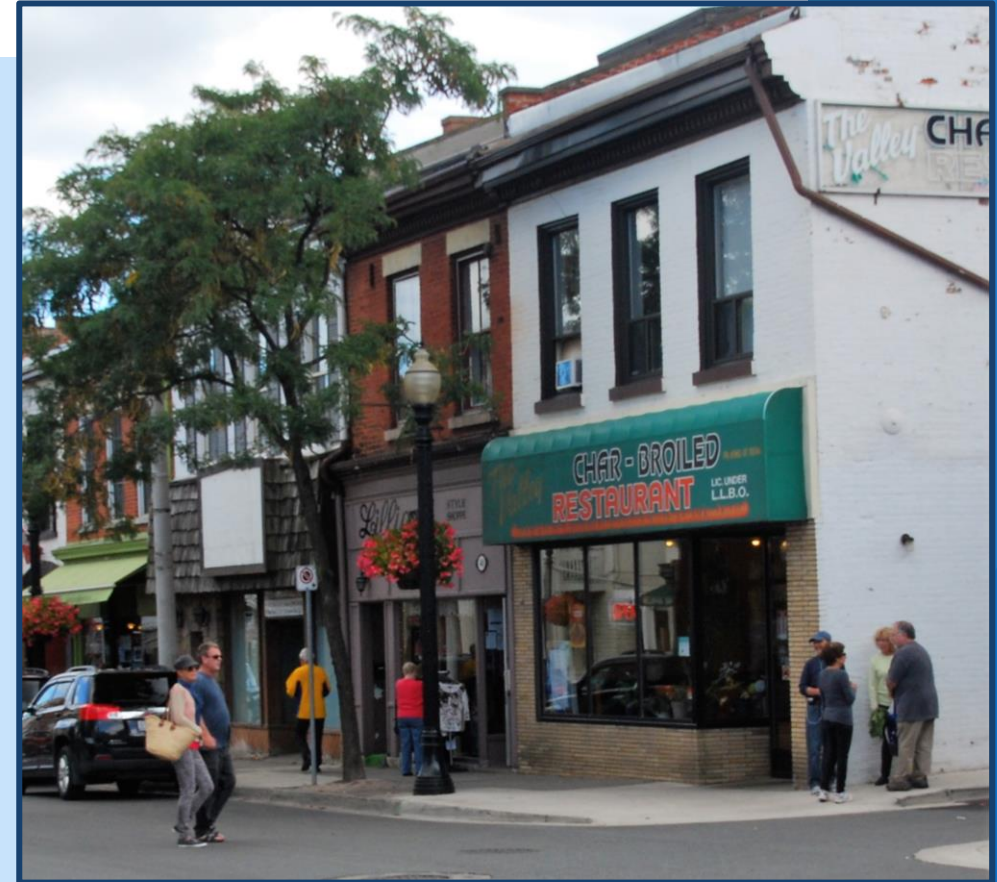
- ❑ Encourages walking & cycling
- ❑ Increases physical activity
- ❑ Increases safety of pedestrians & cyclists
- ❑ Reduces GHGs & air pollution
- ❑ Particularly important for women, older populations, & those with mobility challenges



Walkable Neighbourhoods - Climate, Health & Health Equity

Walkable - Density, Diversity, Design,
Destinations & Distance to Transit

- ❑ Reduce GHGs & air pollution
- ❑ Increase physical activity
- ❑ Reduces weight, diabetes, PDs
- ❑ Greater health benefits for low-income
- ❑ Improve access to essential amenities



Green Space - Climate, Health & Health Equity

Green Space:

- ❑ Acts as a carbon sink & reduces flood risk
- ❑ Cools & cleans the air
- ❑ Appears to improve mental health
- ❑ Associated with healthier births, healthier weights, reduced risk of diabetes & premature deaths from all causes
- ❑ Children & low-income populations appear to benefit the most



Green Buildings & Building Retrofits - Climate, Health & Health Equity

Green buildings & retrofits:

- ❑ Reduce GHGs & outdoor air pollution
- ❑ Improve indoor environments
- ❑ Stabilize temperatures
- ❑ Reduce energy costs & energy poverty
- ❑ **Cold Climate Air-Source Heat Pumps (ccASHP):**
 - ❑ Replace furnaces & air conditioners (-25C)
 - ❑ Use 70% less energy





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E-Mail: Kim@chasecanada.org
Website: <https://chasecanada.org/>
LinkedIn: [Kim Perrotta](#)