

# What We Heard

A summary of community responses to climate questions from HalifACT at Halifax Public Libraries in February 2023.

## What's Your Climate 101?

### Question 1: What do you want to know about climate action?

#### What is Halifax/government doing?

- What is Halifax doing to fight climate change? How can it improve its strategy?
- I want to know that my government is taking care of the future of my earth
- Where have we succeeded in making a change? (Ozone holes, acid rain, etc)
- Where is the money from taxes going?
- Governments and officials must be held fully liable for all harm from fossil fuels and environmental harms they permit or fail to stop !

#### What can I do? / How can I get involved?

- People tell me how other people make change but I want to know how I can (signed, 12 year old)
- Let us know how to get involved in acting on climate change
- How can I get involved?
- What steps can I take to make our beautiful earth better?
- How can I make my community aware of climate change?
- Steps to take to counteract
- How to talk / deal with conspiracy theories?
- How to prevent or reverse it?

#### Big Companies / Corporations Need to be Held Accountable

- What is the city doing to hold corporations responsible for their contributions to the climate crisis?
- 70% of climate change is produced by big companies
- How to keep mega corporations accountable for their emissions?
- I want to know why we are letting a few corporations pillage our one and only planet?
- Individual action is important but not enough. We need significant, systemic change: cities, provinces, feds, industry ASAP like yesterday
- Fossil fuel companies should be held accountable for all harms from fossil fuels. No excuses! No immunity!
- Profits from climate harming activities should be seized and used by poor citizens as compensation, mitigation and restoration

### **Fear, Heartbreak**

- These changes are scary
- I wish climate doesn't change. Humans are destroying it.
- Earth is dying
- I want to live until I am 40 !!!
- The most dramatic way I see climate change in my life is the stress/depression/sadness from watching these impacts (and much worse on a global scale) at the same time leaders are not acting with the urgency that's needed.

### **Is it too late/ is change possible?**

- How is meaningful and dramatic climate action possible in late stage capitalism where corporate profits are prioritised over the survival of our planet???
- Is it still not too late to make changes?
- Why is nobody actually important taking it seriously?

### **Denial of Climate Change / Resistance expressed toward this project**

- Earth natural cycles through warm and cold periods
- Climate guilt is harmful

### **Reduce Reliance on Cars**

- What is our plan for reducing reliance on cars?
- We need better public transit
- Walkable schools for our new neighbourhoods
- Large vehicles should be taxed, I love my air  
*Also re: SUVS: I love my SUV, I deserve it*

### **Reduce Waste of Resources**

- Stop using paper plates and disposable cutlery
- Don't buy wasteful products
- Resources are becoming limited

### **Survival Information**

- Facts that could save our life one day

### **Sequestering CO2**

- What sustainable ways can we sequester CO2?

### **Community Gardens, Food**

- Community gardens to help food security
- Naturalization of our medicines
- How can we plant more trees with fruit for the birds?

### **Protect our Green Spaces**

- The City is cutting our trees in our parks
- Why are we not protecting natural spaces more?

### **Renewable Energy**

- We need more solar factories
- Can we use geothermal power in NS and HRM? Would it help?
- Affordable solar energy

### **Need Lower Heating Costs**

- Are we going to see lower heating costs?

## Question 2: How are you seeing climate change in your community?

### Winter

- No snow
- Unpredictable winter weather (13 degrees one day, -25 degrees the next), Extreme cold then no cold
- My heating systems could not cope with the extreme cold
- Plants blooming when they are not supposed to (shrubs, spring perennials, bulbs, pussywillow, trees, green grass)
- Seeing more animals in the winter (deer in my neighbourhood, bees, geese not going south, birds changing colour earlier)
- No ice skating in the pond this year
- There used to be snowbanks taller than my head. Now we are lucky to get snow taller than my boot.
- Bigger storms but outside of those, stays warmer longer
- Harbours are not freezing over!
- Not enough ice in our inlets to fish!

### Spring

- Changes in bird patterns (hummingbirds arriving earlier, fewer flocks of birds)
- I can plant outside in late April, early May and not harvest the tomatoes until late Oct. Growing seasons [are] changing.
- Too much wind

### Summer

- Extreme heat - we did not used to have this
- Dry Spells, Dry Wells
- Changes in animals (birds, more ticks, animal ranges are changing)
- Low, low water levels (not sea, but lake, wells)
- Hard to grow plants, they are not growing as they typically did
- In our community garden we are consistently seeing damage from extreme weather events, plus it becomes difficult to work for weeks at a time due to heat.

### Fall

- More frequent and destructive storms (3+ Hurricanes in 2 years)
- Storm surges, road washouts
- Coastal erosion
- We don't have to wear winter coats while trick or treating anymore
- Longer growing seasons (later last frost)
- Seems to be more flooding
- Extremes in weather
- The autumn leaves are shorter time due to high winds and expanding mould. Spores in the season they are normally dormant
- Losing trees during hurricane Fiona
- Too much wind