



CLIMATEFAST NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2022

The ClimateFast newsletter shares information about the Climate Crisis that may interest our readers and does not necessarily reflect the views of ClimateFast members. If you would like to share an event or resource, you may email it to newsletter@climatefast.ca.

ClimateFast Reflections 2021

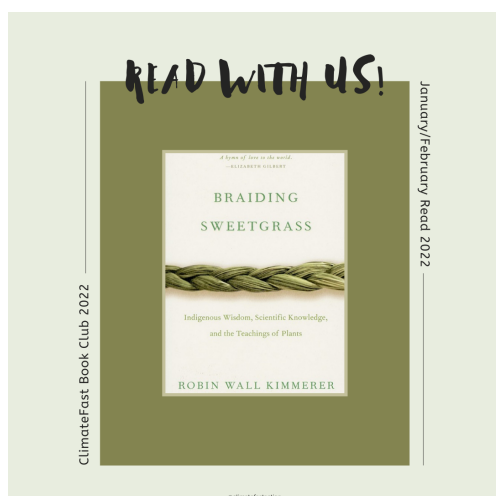


Read about the accomplishments and challenges of ClimateFast in 2021 in this [excellent blog](#) by volunteer Susan Bakshi.



Watch this [beautiful collage of ClimateFast activities](#) in 2021, created by volunteer Colleen Lynch.

ClimateFast Social Media Book Club



ClimateFast is excited to announce the start of an on-line book club that will be taking place on our social media channels! To kick-off our book club we will be reading Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Over the next 6 weeks, we'll be sharing insights, prompts, questions, and reflections. All you need to do is start following us on [Instagram](#) and/or [Facebook](#) and check out our weekly posts on the book each Friday. And we would love to hear from you in the comments sections and hope you'll read alongside us!

[Read about Braiding Sweetgrass and Robin Wall Kimmerer.](#)

CALLS TO ACTION

LAST CALL!

Public Consultation on the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act Participate in the federal government's public consultation for their first ever federal emissions reduction plan - the deadline has been extended to January 21st! The [Climate Messengers Consultation Toolkit](#) is a great help!

Let's put Climate in the Budget! Toronto - 2022 - Sign up now to depute!& recording link

You need to sign up by Friday Jan 21st to speak on Jan 24th or 25th on what we need to see in Toronto's 2022 budget to ensure action on the Net Zero by 2040 plan moves forward with the funding it needs. Submissions can also be submitted in writing by the 25th. Write to buc@toronto.ca to secure your speaking spot, or to submit your thoughts to the committee. ClimateFast held a training on Jan 19th with speakers Councillor Mike Layton and Kathryn Tait, climate campaigner from Toronto Environmental Alliance, and Lyn Adamson on deputation tips. [Watch the recording here](#). You can also read [Deputation Tips](#) by Lyn Adamson and view Kathryn Tait's [2022 Toronto Budget - Analysis of Climate Funding](#) slides.

If you'd like to connect with others from your ward to lobby your councillor before the budget vote on Feb. 17th, please email lyn@climatefast.ca and include your ward and phone number.

This is an election year - so it's an especially important time to make sure councillors know we care about climate, that big actions are needed to reach the 2030 target, and that we want to know they support the needed funding and staffing, and a climate lens applied in all departments.

Stop the "Big Sprawl"

Land use decisions are crucial for a liveable climate. Urban sprawl has been called '[Ontario's tar sands](#)' for its impact on emissions. [Compact cities](#) and inter-city transit are ways to reduce emissions rather than increase them. You may send a message to your MPP using this Environmental Defence [letter against the Big Sprawl](#).

Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass

The Ontario government is planning two mega-highways in the GTA, the 413 and the Bradford Bypass, despite opposition from regional and local municipal councils, environmental organizations, and many citizens. These highways will pave over farms, forests, wetlands and a portion of the Greenbelt and cost taxpayers billions. It will also add over 17 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Write a letter demanding that the provincial government stop Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass. You can use the [letter template](#) provided by Environmental Defence.

To learn more about these issues read [this explainer from the Narwhal](#).

Petition against the Bradford bypass

Go to [e-3766 Environment](#) to call upon the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to designate the Bradford Bypass project for a full federal impact assessment. The petition is open until Feb.6, 2022:

Protect the National Experimental Farm

Sign this [petition halt the destruction of the 41 acres of the Central Experimental Farm](#) and 12 acres of the NCC parkland at Queen Juliana Park. Help us get to 7,500 signatures!

Support Conversion to Heat Pumps

[Send a message to Ontario Energy Minister Todd Smith](#) to establish a no down payment, zero-interest loan program to help electrically heated homes convert to air source heat pumps for home energy savings up to \$2,000 per household

NEWS

Human Rights Watch World Report 2022



Human Rights Watch's [World Report 2022: Canada](#) is critical of Canada's performance in 2021. While acknowledging that the federal government has made efforts on advancing rights issues, it has fallen short on addressing Indigenous inequality, tackling climate change, overseeing Canadian mining operations overseas and assisting Canadians trapped in Syria. Also, Canada is a top G7 greenhouse gas emitter, and the world's top financier of fossil fuel producers. *"Canada is contributing to the climate crisis taking a growing toll on human rights around the globe".*

216 Million Climate Refugees Projected by 2050

According to the article [“Environmental disasters are fuelling migration — here's why international law must recognize climate refugees”](#), by Daniel L. Huizenga, University of Toronto, the World Bank estimates that without radical and concerted efforts to slow climate change, 216 million people will be displaced within their own countries by 2050. According to the [Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#), climate change impacts the human rights to life, self-determination, development, health, food, water and sanitation, adequate housing and cultural rights. International refugee and human rights law must be urgently overhauled to recognize deadly environments as sites of persecution. The [United Nations Refugee Agency](#) has already established links between climate change and persecution, but it is only a first step towards recognizing that people displaced by climate change are, in fact, refugees. For more information read [Protecting Climate Refugees](#) by the Environmental Justice Foundation or view [Climate Refugees - The Film](#).

EVENTS



Join ClimateFast's Letter-Writing Bees



Get together with others (over Zoom) to craft our letters together.

*You can attend the next bee on either
Tuesday, January 25th from 8:00 -9:00 p.m. or
Sunday January 30th from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.*

The issue: Stop Highway 413

For more information or to sign up, contact
volunteer@climatefast.ca

Future Leaders in Politics

Saturday, January 22 · 9:00am – 4:00pm

FLIP 2.0 is a virtual summit for aspiring environmental leaders and advocates working to drive change through our political systems. FLIP is a GreenPac event.

[More Information and registration.](#)

Country-wide Community Care Check-In

Tuesday January 25

7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. EST

Climate justice activism, like any other form of labour, can be emotionally draining. With the current wave of COVID-19 on top of many other crises, prioritizing mental health and checking in on our collective wellbeing is more important than ever. The Countrywide Community Care Check-In is a guided discussion to help navigate through these emotions and provide space to share emotions and discuss strategies for self-care, community care and building more resilient movements.

[ZOOM REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Hosted by:



WHO'S DOING WHAT
ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE →
Meet ClimateFast Monday
Jan. 31, 2022 - 7:00 PM EST



Come and get to know about ClimateFast, a well-established environmental group in Toronto

that is actively making a difference by working towards solutions for climate change and environmental challenges.

Meet Lyn Adamson, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of ClimateFast, and a life-long environmentalist, along with other ClimateFast volunteers who are spearheading key ClimateFast actions. Watch how ClimateFast evolved over the years, from 2012 to 2021, and the calls for action in 2022! A Q&A session with audience participation will follow.

This is an opportunity for everyone to find out more about volunteer opportunities in ClimateFast! We have several working committees and we would love to have you join us! So please come and find out more. Send a note to: lyn@climatefast.ca and we will provide the event link to you on the 31st.

Youth for Climate Justice

February 3, 2022, 4:00 p.m. EST

This is the kick-off event in the Climate + Justice + Cities Speaker series. Youth are leading the discussion on climate justice in our cities and on the world stage. How do young leaders maintain hope while facing the defining challenge of our time? Listen and learn from

internationally recognized youth advocates in the fight for climate justice. This event is organized in partnership with Fridays For Future Toronto.



[More Information](#)

[Register](#)

Provincial Kitchen Table Climate Conversation Training

February 16, 2022 and March 2, 2022, 7-8:30 p.m.



An Ontario provincial election approaches! As it does, it is clear we need actions that protect our health, build strong communities and create a climate just future. What can we do to help ensure that happens?

Raising awareness of climate impacts and the actions and solutions that can move us closer to a healthy future, is one of the big things we can do! Together, we can hold those elected to office on June 22nd accountable for the just, green province

we want to see.

Would you like to help raise awareness? Are you interested in holding conversations in the months before the provincial election? We are holding two sessions to help people feel more comfortable talking about climate justice.

Register at the Eventbrite links below and stay informed as plans progress!

Talking Climate in Ontario

When: February 16, 7-8:30pm

Where: On zoom! Sign-up to receive a link before the event.

What: How to talk about climate justice & What a provincial KTCC could look like. Overview and facilitated breakouts.

Whether you'd like to feel more confident talking to someone you bump into at the supermarket or are ready to hold a more structured conversation, this training is designed to help you feel more confident, informed, and empowered.

[Sign up here!](#)

Ready to Talk Climate in Ontario?

When: March 2, 7-8:30pm

Where: On zoom! Sign-up to receive a link before the event.

What: Hosting the conversation: "Who and Where?" & Facilitating the conversation: "What and How?" with facilitated working breakouts.

After the workshops, we hope to offer continued, targeted support to those who want to host or facilitate conversations in their networks and neighbourhoods ahead of the provincial election.

[Sign up here!](#)

Come be part of the provincial Kitchen Table Climate Conversation!

Fighting for the Future

A 3-part series: Youth Organizing for Climate Justice



Join youth leaders in conversation about their organizing successes, along with hard-hitting political analysis on what it takes to win a better world for and as young people. These sessions are geared toward Canadian youth who want to organize for climate justice in their communities; and non-profit organizations that are looking to

deepen their work with youth organizers. This series is organized by [Dogwood](#) and hosted by the [Sustainability Network](#).

Session 1 - Feb 10, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. EST

Session 2 - Feb 17, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. EST

Session 3 - Feb 24, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. EST

[Information and Registration](#)

RESOURCES

Good News Report

Despite the intensification of the climate crisis, the disappointments of COP26 and the on-going impacts of pandemic, there was actually a lot of progress made in 2021.

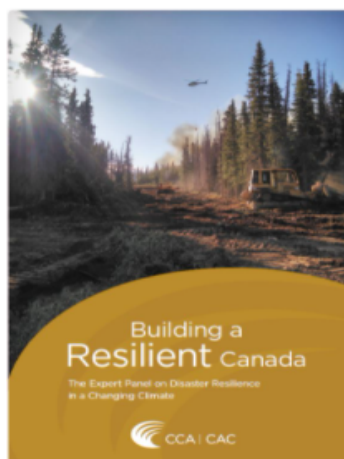
Read [What went right in 2021: the top 26 good news stories of the year](#)

Climate Science - in just 6 charts

In order to better understand the policies and impacts of global warming, it's useful to understand the science behind it. Betsy Weatherhead, an atmospheric scientist, has provided [6 slides for a better understanding of the science of climate change](#).



The International Energy Agency (IEA) has released [Canada 2022 Energy Policy Review](#), a detailed compendium of the country's energy resources and climate policies. It gives a positive assessment of Canada's plans and commitments. However, the oil and gas sector remains a major source of greenhouse gases and there needs to be improvements in energy technology innovation for the deep decarbonisation that is needed in oil and gas production, as well as in the transport and industry sectors. Strong action is also needed to curb methane emissions. Read the [press release](#).



Around the world, disasters are becoming more frequent and severe — a trend that is only expected to intensify as the climate changes in the coming decades. [Building a Resilient Canada](#), a report recently published by the Council of Canadian Academies, examines current practices and emerging actions to reduce vulnerability and exposure to natural hazards through the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.



Check out this new professional networking platform for climate leaders. EarthNet is all about collaboration, using social network technology to bring people and organizations together in order to

share information and inspire action. Find people, projects and organizations working on climate and ecological action. You can also ask questions and share information on almost any climate change related topic.

[Learn more](#)



[An Analysis of the Potential for Air Source Heat Pumps to Reduce Energy Costs and Greenhouse Gas Pollution](#)

This report by the Ontario Clean Air Alliance finds there is a strong financial and environmental case for the installation of air-source heat pumps in homes that currently rely on electric heating (e.g., baseboards or electric furnace).



To stay on top of climate and energy news, subscribe to [The Energy Mix](#)



ClimateFast participants are volunteers; your donation will be used for expenses such as mailings, flyers, room rental and transportation. Your support is very much appreciated!

You may donate [online](#) or by cheque, made payable to:

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and mail c/o Lyn Adamson
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