

## **TransformWR Progress Dashboard:** **Frequently Asked Questions**

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#### **1. What is the TransformWR Progress Dashboard?**

As our community works hard at implementation of all the actions in TransformWR, it can get a little a little tricky to keep track of all the progress we are making. That is why ClimateActionWR would like to introduce you to our TransformWR progress reporting tool, called the **TransformWR Progress Dashboard**, that will show you a breakdown of all 78 actions in the TransformWR strategy and the most up to date progress publicly available all housed in one dashboard.

#### **2. How do I navigate the dashboard?**

Once you enter the tool you will see a home page listing all Six Transformative Changes within the TransformWR strategy. You may click on one of those to explore the sub strategies and then the actions within each.

You may also navigate the tool by clicking on any of the sub-pages: Transformative Changes, Actions, Indicators and About, to learn more about each.

Once you select an action you will be able to view the most up to date progress on that action that is publicly available. Some of this information includes:

- Action description,
- Progress of action,
- Responsible and participating organizations,
- Action priority and timeline,
- Completed tasks associated with the action and;
- Any related actions.

### **3. Where do the action progress updates come from?**

The action progress updates that you see throughout the dashboard are reported and submitted by each organization that has been designated as either responsible, supporting or participating towards each action. Organizations and community partners can use this tool to make updates as part of their communication strategies.

### **4. What does it mean if there are no updates for an action?**

If there are no updates for an action, that just means that there is no publicly available update at this time. Keep checking back as projects, planning and initiatives are completed and continuously updated onto the dashboard. If an action is indicated as “Not Started” this could be a potential opportunity for other organizations to step in to support where applicable.

## **5. How often does the dashboard get updated?**

Each action on the dashboard will be updated at least annually. However, as new and relevant information that contributes to an action becomes publicly available, organizations can make new updates on the dashboard at any given time.

The TransformWR Progress Dashboard is a dynamic tool, meaning that the tool and its content will be continuously updated, including the addition of new features as they are developed.

## **6. How do I submit an update for my organization?**

If you are an organization or community partner that has been doing climate mitigation work to support one of the actions in the TransformWR strategy and you want to make that known, then reach out to us at [connect@climateactionwr.ca](mailto:connect@climateactionwr.ca)

In TransformWR, 78 action items have been identified which must be completed by 2030 to set us on the path to success. In some cases, the first step forward is to identify the lead organization for the actions. Do you see an action in TransformWR that you or an organization you are associated with would like to become involved with? Let us know!

## **7. Who is ClimateActionWR?**

[ClimateActionWR](#) is a collaboration between local organizations, community members, and all eight municipalities within Waterloo Region and is co-led by Reep Green Solutions and Sustainable Waterloo Region. We focus on climate change mitigation in Waterloo Region by coordinating the activities of our community's climate action plans, measuring and monitoring progress on emissions reductions, and by engaging the community in climate action initiatives. Our community is now working together to achieve Waterloo Region's short-term community

target of a 50% greenhouse gas emission reduction by the end of 2030. This short-term reduction target is an important first step toward our long-term goal of an 80% greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reduction (based on 2010 levels) by 2050 (80by50).

## **8. What is the TransformWR Strategy?**

[TransformWR](#) is our community's climate action strategy and will help guide the community as we collectively do the work to transition Waterloo Region to a more equitable, prosperous, resilient low carbon community. It outlines our community's pathway to '80by50', and identifies 78 local actions that can be taken in Waterloo Region to reduce emissions 30% by 2030.

In 2018, all 8 area municipal and Region Councils approved the 80% by 2050 target. In 2021 all municipalities in Waterloo Region increased our community's interim target to 50% by 2030 and adopted [the TransformWR strategy](#), a new transformational climate action plan to drive beyond incremental change towards significant emissions reductions.

Need assistance or have questions? Reach out to us at [connect@climateactionwr.ca](mailto:connect@climateactionwr.ca)

## Frequently Used Terms

**Absolute Emissions:** Our targets are based on absolute emissions, or the total GHG emissions at a given time (CO<sub>2</sub>e).

**Adaptation:** Addresses climate change by addressing its impacts. Learn more about Waterloo Region's climate adaptation plans [here](#).

**Air-Source Heat Pumps:** The most common, drawing heat from outside air during the heating season and rejecting heat outside for cooling. These allow adequate heating even during cold weather.

**Backcasting:** A planning method which begins with imagining an outcome in the future, and moving backwards from the vision to the present day to understand what steps are needed to reach that outcome.

(Source: <http://www.naturalstep.ca/backcasting>)

**Biofuels:** An energy source made from organic matter or waste. They can be replenished quickly, and the organic matter captures carbon during its growth.

**Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e):** This is a term used to describe different GHGs in a common unit. Greenhouse gases like methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), each have different impacts on climate change. For example, 1 tonne of methane has the same impact on climate change as 25 tonnes of carbon dioxide, so it is expressed as 25 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

**Carbon Footprint:** The amount of greenhouse gases emitted by something (such as a person's activities or a product's manufacture and transport) during a specified period of time.

(Source: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/carbon%20footprint>)

**Carbon Neutrality:** see Net-zero.

**Carbon Offsets:** A reduction in carbon dioxide or other GHG emissions made in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. They are sold to enable the purchaser to claim the GHG reductions as their own.

**Coefficient of Performance (COP):** For heating and cooling equipment is found by dividing the power output of the equipment by the power input, both in kWh. The higher the COP, the more efficient the equipment is.

**District Energy Systems:** Instead of producing heat for space and water on-site (such as your furnace or hot water heater), district energy systems produce heat in a single location and use a network of insulated pipes to deliver hot water or steam to buildings. This is often much more efficient than individual on-site heat generation.

**Embodied Carbon:** A measurement of the carbon used in the manufacturing and transport of a good or service, before it is even used. This includes carbon emitted into the atmosphere during the growth, mining, extraction, harvesting, transport, manufacturing, and distribution of materials.

**Emissions Factor:** The rate of emission per unit of activity (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). For example the rate of CO<sub>2</sub>e per kWh of electricity.

**Equity-deserving Groups:** Refer to members of society who experience barriers to equal access, opportunities and resources due to historical disadvantages and discrimination and are often underrepresented in key decision-making positions. These are groups that deserve recognition, a reduction in burdens, and fairer access to societal benefits. Groups that are actively seeking social justice and reparation are referred to as equity-seeking groups (Canada Council for the Arts, n.d.). The following are examples of relevant equity-deserving and seeking groups in the Canadian context: low-income, racialized groups, immigrants, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, Indigenous groups (who are also seeking sovereignty in addition to equity), 2SLGBTQIA+, women, youth, seniors, refugees, and workers affected by green transitions.

**Geo-exchange (ground-source heat pumps):** One of two types of heat pumps used for heating and cooling. Depending on the season, it transfers heat from the ground or water through a building, or transfers heat from a building back into the ground or water. Horizontal systems use shallow pipes in the ground over a large area. Vertical systems, which use pipes drilled deep into the earth, can be used in some locations where it will not disrupt our groundwater.

**Green Hydrogen:** A clean burning fuel that uses renewable energy to split water into its component elements of hydrogen and oxygen. It has several applications including as an energy source for vehicles.

**Greenhouse Gases:** Sometimes written as 'GHGs', greenhouse gases are gases (such as carbon dioxide and methane) that trap heat from the sun inside of Earth's atmosphere. As more greenhouse gases are released into our atmosphere (largely through the burning of fossil fuels), more heat is trapped by them. This raises the temperature of the air, ocean, and water, changing our living conditions and increasing the likelihood of extreme weather events both globally and locally.

**Ground-Source Heat Pumps:** An energy source that used the earth, ground water, or both as the source of heat in the winter, and as a reservoir to reject heat from the home in the summer. These are less common than air source heat pumps. Some of these applications require drilling deep holes, and can only be used where they will not disrupt our groundwater.

**Mitigation:** Mitigation addresses climate change by addressing the causes of it, working to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases at the source of their production. ClimateActionWR's actions and action owners work towards climate change mitigation locally. Mitigation is often contrasted with adaptation.

**Net-zero:** Refers to achieving an overall balance between GHGs produced and GHGs reduced or offset by renewable energy.

**Regenerative Land Management:** A set of principles and practices that reverse current trends of degradation in soil, water and air quality by enhancing the soil ecosystem and restoring its biology. This helps mitigate climate change: reducing dependence on chemicals and pesticides resulting in more nutrient dense food, and generating greater economic viability for farmers. It also greatly assists with climate change adaptation: drawing carbon into soil and increasing resilience against drought, floods, and extreme weather events (Regeneration Canada, 2021).

**Solar walls:** A technology used to absorb solar heat and passively heat a building.

**15-minute community:** Where people can meet their daily needs for goods, services, and employment using active transportation, within a short walk, bike ride, or roll.