

## Driving the Energy Conversation

MNL Symposium 2023 Session Takeaways

### Since last we gathered...

MNL's 2022 Conference and AGM occurred just ahead of the release of Canada's [National Adaptation Plan \(NAS\)](#) and [Government of Canada Climate Action Plan](#). These documents provide plenty of signals respecting the kinds of project and program priorities that will increasingly influence local government through 2030.

This Symposium's climate action session is addressed to **energy-switching** and many of the resources that follow have been recommended by our presenters.



### Climate Action Notes

The **Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)** will see an infusion of \$530 million to the Green Municipal Fund in order to advance the NAS. There will be three new GMF streams (2024-2031) for adaptation capacity-building, planning and action programming, as follows:

- **Track 1:** Institutionalizing “climate” in asset management - Small asset management planning grants and implementation/staffing supports focused on small, rural and remote communities.
- **Track 2:** Accelerating climate adaptation - Various grants in aid of climate adaptation plan implementation.
- **Track 3:** Models for financing adaptation - Doing more to attract and leverage private sector investments.

The FCM is doing some sector consultation right now to inform this next round of programming. Their [Mapping Capital Project Lifecycle and Decision-Making](#) survey “*aims to identify and confirm the standard processes, tools, and decision gates public infrastructure professionals use to support lifecycle decision-making. The goal of this survey is to identify the optimal stages of municipal capital projects that support the inclusion of climate and equity considerations.*” Take the 15 minutes to fill this one out!



NAVIGATING EXTREME WEATHER IN  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

CLIMAtlantic's [Advancing Adaptation Action](#) workshop is coming up on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Still time to register for this in-person and online event.

The **Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS)** is inviting the public to a [free panel discussion](#) about weather-related emergencies on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2 p.m. Join in-person or online for an engaging discussion of the science behind predicting and tracking severe weather patterns along with practical advice and strategies for staying safe during extreme weather events.

## Energy Switching

Do you know how many of your residents and local businesses rely on oil heating? What about your municipal buildings? Have you been wondering whether it's time to install some local charging stations? Symposium presenters **Edmundo Fausto**, Sustainability Manager for the City of St. John's, **Kira Hanesly** of [Drive Electric NL](#) and **Peter Upshall** of Newfoundland Power have no shortage of ideas to help get you started on weaning your municipality off fossil fuels.

**Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro** and **Newfoundland Power's** [Take Charge](#) programs are likely to be the energy transition initiatives you're the most familiar with. Their [product rebates](#) offer a variety of small steps a municipality can take – change-overs to LED lights, exit signs, and the like - in town halls, fire stations and other buildings.

The **Provincial Government** is currently working with the Federal Government on a [new multi-year funding program](#) to expand their collective efforts for residential home heating rebates. The new program builds on the prior [Oil to Electric Rebate for Residents](#) effort and will support approximately 10,000 homeowners to transition their homes from oil to electric heating. The expanded rebate program will be available for low to high income ranges. Rebates will be a minimum of \$5,000 and may increase based on income level and the type of heating system installation. The program will continue to be administered by the province's electric utilities and will provide an option to pay the rebate directly to installers to help alleviate upfront costs to homeowners.

**Natural Resources Canada's** [Greener Homes Initiative](#) offers up to \$10,000 for a heat pump with no audit needed for low-income households meeting certain after-tax income tests (e.g. 1 person - \$30,400; 2 persons < \$64,000; 4 persons - \$114,000) and is stackable with provincial grants.

The **FCM** has numerous resources to assist with the energy transition, including:

- [Community Efficiency Financing](#) (CEF) funding – resources Edmundo has pursued with [econext](#) and [Fundamental Inc.](#) for the City of St. John's residential energy retrofitting pilot project. Consider reaching out and discussing the opportunities in your jurisdiction. Cooperative support will be key to expanding your community's access to energy coaching and other retrofit supports.
- FCM funding of 80% is available for a [feasibility study](#) of municipal building energy retrofits.

In 2021, the **Government of Canada** set a mandatory target for all new light-duty cars and passenger trucks sales to be [zero-emission by 2035](#). The electric vehicles produced to meet the ZEV mandate will need a network of charging stations.

Curious about what [bylaws for new charging infrastructure](#) look like? Kira recommends this example from British Columbia.

**Newfoundland Hydro** has a [commercial charger rebate](#) to help with the installation of charging infrastructure at workplaces. Summer 2023 will see Drive Electric NL staff traveling the province and working remotely to help municipalities and overnight stay locations plan and apply for these commercial EV charger rebates. **Drive Electric NL** looks forward to hearing from you. Email [info@driveelectricnl.ca](mailto:info@driveelectricnl.ca)



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**FRAMING OUR FUTURE**