

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CLIMATE ACTION TOOLKIT

ARUSHA CLIMATE + HSCA
CALGARY AB | 2023



WELCOME

This toolkit, produced by Jared Blustein, MA, of the [Arusha Climate Program](#), in collaboration with the [Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association](#) (HSCA), is designed to support Albertan Community Associations (CAs) to increase their environmental sustainability work, with a particular focus on the Calgary area. This will help our residents to take grassroots community action on climate change issues, in a contextually relevant and meaningful way.

CAs should acknowledge their presence and action on Treaty Territory whenever possible, and the responsibilities that we have as settlers to the original inhabitants of this land. In Alberta, this includes Treaty 6, 7, 8 and 10.

We hope to connect and honour our past, present and future through climate actions and community care for our collective home.

Our land acknowledgment focuses on Southern Alberta, as this is the territory that we inhabit:

'We would like to acknowledge the traditional territories and oral practices of the Blackfoot Nations land that we stand on, which includes the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai. We also acknowledge the Sarcee Dene of Tsuut'ina and the Stoney Nakoda of Morley which includes Bears paw, Chiniki, Wesley Nakoda First Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta'.

If your CA wishes to incorporate a more formal land acknowledgment or First Nation's connection for events and actions, please consider reaching out to the following organizations:

- [Cree8](#)
- [The Iniskim Centre](#)
- [Aboriginal Friendship Centre](#)
- [The Indigenous Gathering Place](#)
- [Elder Guidance Circle, Calgary Public Library](#)

CONTENTS

This toolkit is broken down into five major sections, outlining environmental action and outcomes on:

<u>FOOD SECURITY</u>	pg. 4 - 13
<u>ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY</u>	pg. 14 - 20
<u>WASTE STREAM MANAGEMENT</u>	pg. 21 - 28
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	pg. 29 - 33
<u>COMMUNITY & LAND ENGAGEMENTS</u>	pg. 34 - 41

It finishes by providing additional information on:

<u>CLIMATE ACTION PLAN</u>	pg. 42
<u>PUTTING THE TOOLKIT INTO ACTION</u>	pg. 43 - 44
<u>FUNDING SOURCES</u>	pg. 45
<u>REFERENCES</u>	pg. 46
<u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</u>	pg. 47

The best way to build a thriving community, and a sustainable future, is when communities take action on issues that matter most to them! We hope this toolkit helps you achieve your community goals.

If you have questions, or need support in realizing your community actions, please contact programs@arusha.org

FOOD SECURITY



Food security is intimately related to climate change. Not only does climate change directly impact and threaten our access to affordable and nutritious food, but the way we produce food also impacts the severity of climate change.

Agricultural emissions make up about 12% of total Canadian emissions today. By localizing our food production, limiting food miles, and using more sustainable production and storage methods, we work to actively lower Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, and create well fed, thriving communities.

Want to learn more about the food security projects your CA can realize? Read on!

GARDEN PROGRAMS

Community gardens reduce food miles, lower packaging needs, increase access to vegetables and fruits, and can allow for the use of dormant land, all of which lower GHG emissions and climate impacts, and directly support communities.

Community Gardens

CA activated community gardens are operated by residents, shared with the community, and used for sustainable food programming. They allows residents with minimal access to land to grow food, connect with one another, learn about sustainable gardening practices and support neighbours. Grow communities by growing gardens!

Garden Share Program

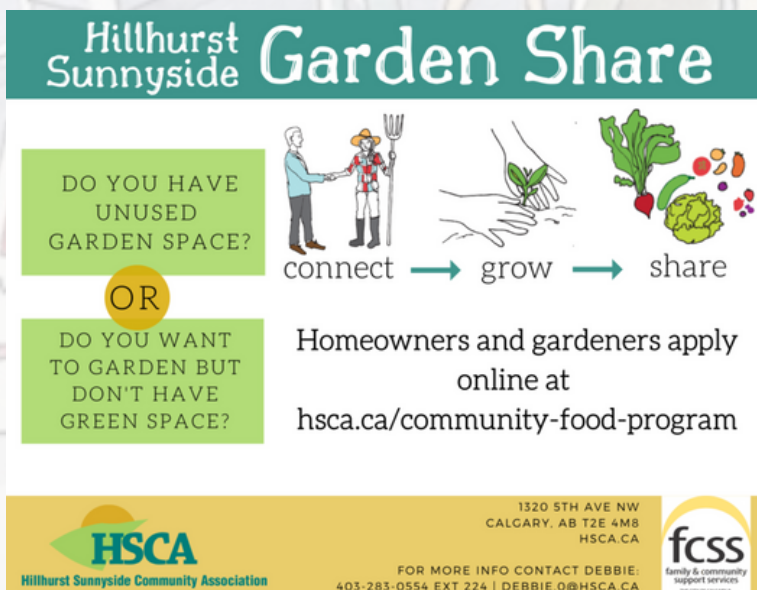
A garden share program connects gardeners to underused garden spaces in your community. Gardeners work with homeowners to improve local food security, activate green spaces, and build connections. In this way, unused space is converted into productive land for food production, and shared with the community.

ACTION

The HSCA **Community Garden** was founded by community residents who wanted to access garden space, and provide an opportunity to meet fellow residents with horticultural interests. They began by forming a Garden Committee, drafted a plan, constructed plots, and signed up interested neighbours.

A [Take Action Grant](#) can help fund these preliminary steps, and the Calgary Horticultural Society has created [this step by step outline](#) to support new community gardens. Plots can be rented to community members for a fee for the whole season. The volunteer committee manages the garden's budget and works with community gardeners to decide how to use funds.

Members of the garden committee can also set up a **Garden Share Program**. This can be done simply by creating a (online) signup sheet, identifying community members who are interested in contributing land, and those interested in gardening. Another signup sheet can be used to identify residents who want to access the food that is grown. The community center is then used as a produce drop off and pick up point, or this produce can be incorporated into other food security projects (outlined below).



Hillhurst Sunnyside Garden Share

DO YOU HAVE UNUSED GARDEN SPACE?

OR

DO YOU WANT TO GARDEN BUT DON'T HAVE GREEN SPACE?

connect → grow → share

Homeowners and gardeners apply online at hsca.ca/community-food-program

1320 5TH AVE NW
CALGARY, AB T2E 4M8
HSCA.CA

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT DEBBIE:
403-283-0554 EXT 224 | DEBBIE.0@HSCA.CA

fcss
family & community support services

SOLITA 2021

FARMERS' MARKETS

Farmers' Markets increase access to local nutritious food, decrease food miles, support healthy and connected communities, stimulate local economies, and help preserve rural livelihoods and farmlands.

HSCA Farmers' Market

The HSCA's farmers' market operates year-round on a weekly basis with 2 seasons - an Indoor Season (October to May) and an Outdoor Season (May to October). Attendance ranges from 300-700 customers depending on the season. Market vendors are Albertans who grow, make or bake their own products, or directly know someone who did.

ACTION

In order to start your own **Farmers' Market**, CAs must submit a formal application to the [Alberta Approved Farmers' Market Program](#), as well as an annual renewal application. Regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and Alberta Health Services, the farmer's market has to meet certain standards, as outlined [here](#).

Market vendors can submit an application form, and the CA Farmers' Market Manager oversees the vendor selection process, season schedule, market set-up, etc. CAs may charge vendor fees, as well as electricity and parking fees in order to raise revenue to fund staffing positions and offset costs.

CAs may also offer discounts to regular vendors. For example, at HSCA regular vendors pay a discounted fee of \$40 per table, while others pay \$50 (fees are reduced by \$10 in the winter season due to the reduction in market size and attendance).

SUSTAINABLE FOOD PROGRAMMING

HSCA operates a sustainable food program every Monday from 4:00pm - 6:00pm, to support community access to nutritious food in a dignified manner. This program includes the following:

Fresh Routes Mobile Market

[Fresh Routes](#) is a weekly mobile grocery store that provides affordable food by bringing it into the community. They accept 100% [Calgary Dollars](#)!

Fresh Food Basket

For the Fresh Food Basket program, HSCA provides a \$10 discount to residents on the first Monday of every month, in order to shop at Fresh Routes.

Free Table

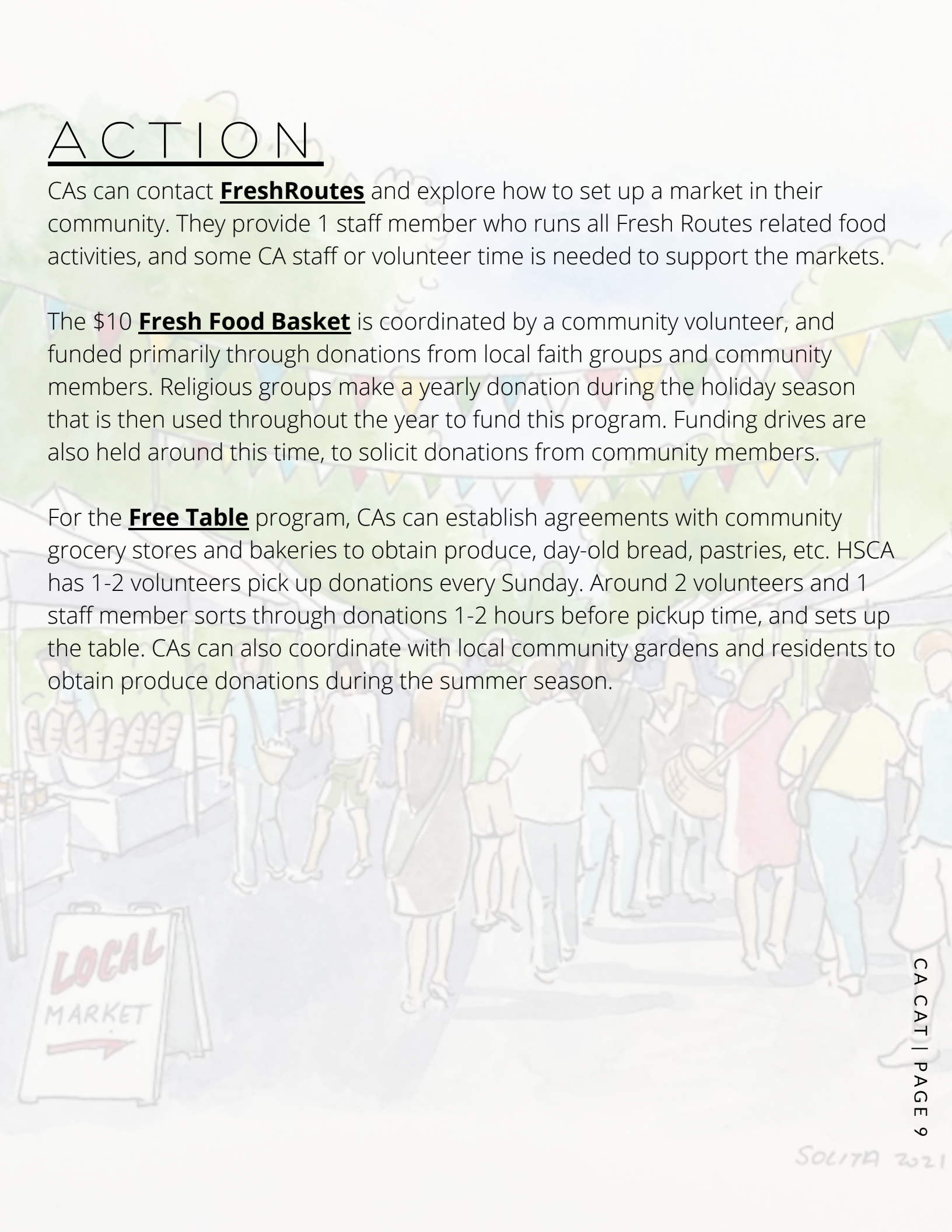
The Free Table program aims to make food more accessible to residents. Families receive free bread, dairy, eggs, and produce donated by the Leftovers Foundation, local grocery stores, community gardens, and Farmer Market vendors on a first-come, first-served basis.

ACTION

CAs can contact **FreshRoutes** and explore how to set up a market in their community. They provide 1 staff member who runs all Fresh Routes related food activities, and some CA staff or volunteer time is needed to support the markets.

The \$10 **Fresh Food Basket** is coordinated by a community volunteer, and funded primarily through donations from local faith groups and community members. Religious groups make a yearly donation during the holiday season that is then used throughout the year to fund this program. Funding drives are also held around this time, to solicit donations from community members.

For the **Free Table** program, CAs can establish agreements with community grocery stores and bakeries to obtain produce, day-old bread, pastries, etc. HSCA has 1-2 volunteers pick up donations every Sunday. Around 2 volunteers and 1 staff member sorts through donations 1-2 hours before pickup time, and sets up the table. CAs can also coordinate with local community gardens and residents to obtain produce donations during the summer season.



FOOD EDUCATION & ACCESS PROGRAMS

Providing food literacy and access programs can help to promote better eating habits, a greater connection with our food systems, and an increase in plant-based diets. HSCA offers the following:

Food Literacy Classes

Monthly 1-hour online cooking classes, where volunteer chefs come up with vegetarian meals and lead the class. 15 kits, including all ingredients and recipes, are given away to community members each month to participate.

Community Cookbook

A community-building cookbook was created with over 40 plant-based recipe submissions from the community, helping residents feel more connected during COVID-19, and promoting healthy, low carbon diets.

Good Food Box

The HSCA is a drop-off point for the Good Food Box program, operated by Calgary Community Kitchen. This 'hands-up' program allows residents to order a small, medium, or large box full of fresh and affordable produce on a monthly basis.

ACTION

HSCA obtained **Food Literacy** funding from the [Calgary Foundation Community Grants](#), for these programs. The funding was used to offer \$100 honorariums to the volunteer chefs, and to pay for the cooking kits. CA staff were also required to find volunteer chefs, shop for the meal kits, set up Zoom meetings, and advertise the program to the community.

In order to create a **Community Cookbook**, volunteer recipe submissions can be solicited through an online submission form, with the submissions then being transferred to a shared document. The finished cookbook can be distributed online to community residents, or printed using the above mentioned grant funds and distributed.

CAs can contact [Calgary Community Kitchen](#) to become a **Good Food Box** depot location. Once set up, interested residents can call the CA office to place their order and process payments, the CA will then submit the orders to Good Food Box. Good Food Box will then deliver the orders to the CA on a set date, where people can pick up their boxes. This can be volunteer or staff run, depending on resources and community interest.

ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY IMPACTS: FOOD SYSTEMS

Environmental Impacts

When investigating the environmental impacts from community food systems, 'local' alone cannot be used as a proxy or guarantee for lower GHGs.

As such, determining the carbon footprint of our food systems involves a consideration of a community's *foodshed* - the geographic region that produces food for a particular population, and includes:

- Food Miles
- Land Use
- Production Processes
- Storage and Packaging
- Diet

Community food production can directly reduce net GHGs compared with conventional food systems because of its potential to address these above areas (4).

Working to redirect food from landfills and into kitchens also directly lowers GHGs by minimizing waste and ensuring use of harvested produce. An estimated 1/3rd of all food produced ends up in landfills, and about 6 - 8% of all human caused GHGs could be reduced by addressing this food waste.

In the U.S. alone, food waste GHGs equate to the same emissions produced by 32.6 million cars (1).

A plant based diet can also significantly lower GHGs, when compared to an omnivorous diet. As an example, total GHG emissions from lentil production are approximately 1/30 those of beef, on a per-kilogram basis (2).

Community Impacts

While localizing food sources may not ensure food security, it clearly contributes to increased nutritious food access and community stability.

In terms of economic sustainability, selling via short supply chains into local markets directly benefits local farmers, and also helps guard against climate related shocks, price volatility, and changes in the global market.

Moreover when production and processing occurs locally, it is influenced by local heritage and consumption patterns, contributes to the revitalisation of rural areas, provides new job opportunities, and helps create relationships between the rural and urban areas. This can all help to promote community development and increased trust and social capital, which in turn generates a sense of local identity and community, and contributes to social inclusion (3).

Lastly, by prioritizing 'hand-up' rather than 'hand-out' food security programming, we actively work to create empowered, healthy and connected communities, increasing dignified access to, and choices for, fresh and affordable food.

ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY

A watercolor-style illustration of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a purple top and blue pants, standing in a kitchen. She is looking out a large window with wooden frames. In the foreground, there is a white double sink with a faucet, and a white bowl filled with red and green fruits sits on the wooden countertop. The background shows a window with a view of a blue sky and a white building.

In Canada, about 81% of our emissions come from our energy systems, due in part to our extreme temperatures, dispersed populations and vast landscapes (5).

While renewable energy sources make up 66% of Canada's electricity mix, about 89% of electricity in Alberta is still produced from fossil fuels – approximately 36% from coal and 54% from natural gas (6).

Increasing the consumption of community owned, renewable energy sources has huge environmental and community benefits, and directly reduces our GHG emissions.

Alberta is rich with renewable energy options. It's time to make the switch, for our economy, workers and environment!

CA RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS

Taking a leading role in promoting and supporting local, community owned renewable energy systems is a clear and immediate way for your CA to act as a climate champion.

HSCA Solar Array

HSCA installed solar panels on their community building in 2016 with the help of the ENMAX Community Solar Fund, a joint partnership between the City of Calgary and ENMAX, which allowed for a lease to own arrangement. Minimal maintenance costs are borne by HSCA on an as needed basis.

Information on HSCA's solar panel energy production & use can be found [here](#).

ACTION

Set up a team of community volunteers to research, coordinate and execute your **Solar Array** or renewable energy project

Interested community associations can find more information on the Community Solar Fund [here](#). CAs will need to meet certain criteria surrounding the building's solar access, structural capacity, roof condition, and community support/interest.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE & ENERGY EDUCATION

Action groups and energy education programs help community members understand the importance and availability of renewable energy systems, and the practical steps to turn that understanding into meaningful action.

HSCA Sustainability Committee

This committee is comprised of board and community members, and aims to bring in people with subject matter expertise in order to help guide capital projects and sustainability goals at the community centre. This task force was particularly instrumental in the 2016 solar panel project. More on this committee can be found on the HSCA [website](#).

Energy Education Programs

Providing (annual) energy education workshops can support community members in making smart, renewable energy choices. This can explore methods for lowering your electricity costs and climate impacts through improved household management, energy retrofits, and by supporting community owned, Albertan sources of renewable energy, with a focus on wind, solar and geothermal. Examples of such renewable energy providers include:

Alberta Co-operative Energy (ACE)

This is an energy co-op that offers fixed, variable, and fusion rates as well as options for green energy consumption with their partnership with SPARK. As a co-op member, consumers can attend board meetings and make their voices heard, increasing their democratic power. Programs and rates [here](#).

Skyfire Energy

A certified B corporation, and member of the Amicus Solar Cooperative, [SkyFire Energy](#) is an employee-owned, leading solar contractor. They have designed and installed grid-connected and off-grid solar power systems throughout Canada, and their experience includes the design and installation of hundreds of residential systems and many of the largest and most complex commercial photovoltaic systems in Western Canada.

Foothills Energy Co-op

The [Foothills Energy Co-op](#) markets electricity, natural gas and internet to the residents of Alberta at competitive rates, with the express purpose of retaining revenues for use in the communities that they serve.

ACTION

CA staff can take the lead to set up a **Sustainability Committee**, by engaging interested community and Board members. This committee can outline and prioritize CA capital projects that promote community owned renewable energy sources, and other climate focused retrofits and engagement.

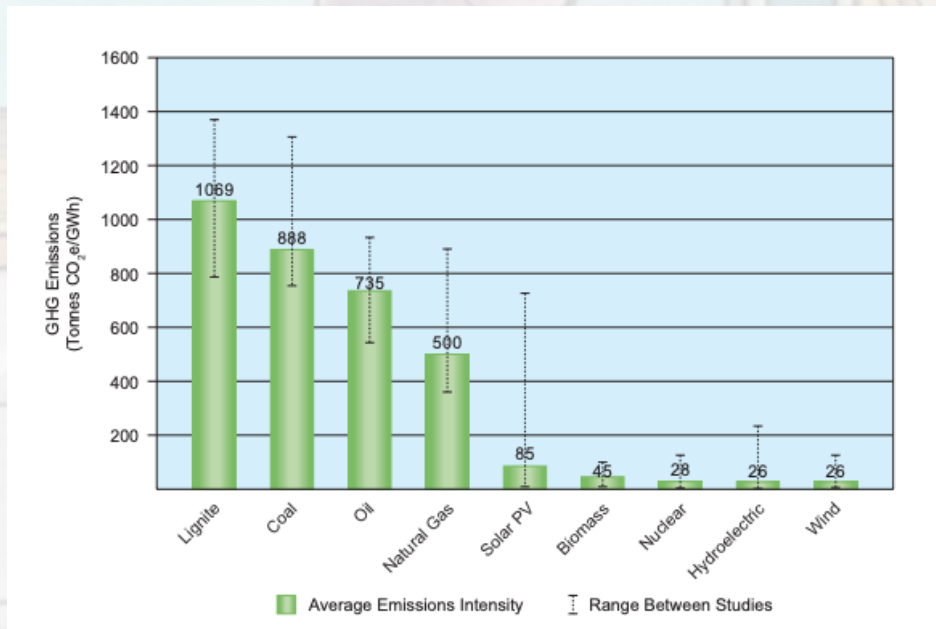
Have your volunteer based Sustainability Committee create the content for an annual (or more frequent) **Energy Education Day**, supported by CA staff. This can focus on local renewable energy sources, energy retrofits, group MLA letter writing and political actions, energy education and more! Provide incentives for community members to attend, such as prize draws, entertainment and food.

Connect with local organizations to support these initiatives, such as [Arusha Climate](#), [Green Calgary](#), [Energy Efficiency Alberta](#), [Skyfire Energy](#), [Alberta Cooperative Energy](#), [Empower Me](#), and more!

ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY IMPACTS: ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental Impacts

A renewable energy boom is underway in Alberta, which now has some of the largest solar and wind farms in the country, not to mention massive geothermal potential. As the chart below demonstrates, switching to renewable energy systems can have significant GHG reduction and climate benefits:



(7)

Community Impacts

Supporting community owned renewable energy systems helps generate even greater impacts in your neighbourhood, beyond climate care.

Key benefits of community-owned renewable energy projects include:

- Increased localized economic benefits
- Increased employment options and stability
- Reduced energy costs
- Community support for the renewable energy sector
- A reliable, local energy supply (energy security)
- Community control and ownership (energy autonomy and democracy)
- Increased human capacity in the community
- Proactive energy education and training in the community

Energy education days allow for greater community connections and cleaner neighbourhoods!

WASTE STREAM MANAGEMENT

Our waste management systems have a direct impact on our environment, and resulting GHG emissions. Working to lower the production of waste by consuming less, and supporting proper recycling, upcycling, reusing, and composting practices has notable climate and community benefits.



WASTE EDUCATION & ACTION PROGRAMS

Creating waste diversion programs and community education events is one immediate way to limit climate impacts in your area.

HSCA Zero Waste Night

HSCA hosts events around recycling and waste reduction practices. Past 'Zero Waste Night' events included presentations by the [City of Calgary Waste and Recycling](#) division, [BluPlanet Recycling](#), a BYOC (bring your own container) free refill station of household products (supported by [Canary Goods](#) and [Sunnyside Natural Market](#)), zero waste refreshments, zero waste activities for families, and waste reduction ideas, such as supporting [Buy Nothing Days](#) in your community.

Annual Waste Workshop Event

Create a community waste event once a year, teaching your community about municipal solid waste management and the waste hierarchy. This could include the following:

Waste Hierarchy



[City of Lethbridge Waste Hierarchy Graphic & Activities](#)

The Waste Hierarchy allows us to examine ways to best minimize and manage the production of waste. Of course, the easiest way to limit our waste is not to make any, and this is best achieved by limiting our consumption and purchasing habits! However, extending the life of items through reusing or repairing is also a great way to support climate action. The landfill is always the last resort!

Municipal Solid Waste Management

Educate your community on proper disposal practices. What can be recycled, what can be composted, what to do with residual and hazardous materials.

Connect with [Green Calgary](#) to learn more about their Community Presentations, Community Waste Exploration program, and community (vermi)composting.

Create a monthly Waste Day, where residents can drop off residual waste products, such as chemicals, electronics, pharmaceuticals, etc. and volunteers take the items to the proper disposal centres.

Not sure what goes where? Visit the City of Calgary [website](#) for all the answers!

Community Articles and Contributions

Another way communities can take climate action around waste issues is to write guest columns or blog posts on sustainability issues. For example, an HSCA resident wrote a blog entitled ["3 Things We Can Do to Reduce Waste Now"](#), which is posted on the HSCA website.

Repair Cafes

Once again, diverting items from landfills is a direct way to lower emissions and ensure the responsible and extended use of consumer goods.

HSCA is beginning to host repair cafes where community members can bring in broken items to be repaired for free on designated drop-off nights. Volunteers pick up the items that suit their fixing skills, and a Zoom meeting is set up between the "fixer" and "fixee", where they meet online to watch or help fix the item - connecting community members and sharing skills.

ACTION

Community volunteers can support the design and delivery of **Waste Education and Action Programming**. Incentivizing participation with prizes, games, or food is an effective way to better ensure community involvement. CAs can reach out to local recycling and zero waste businesses in order to collaborate on waste reduction events.

Such groups include: [Ciclomanias](#), [Green Calgary](#), [Use It Again](#), [Blue Planet Recycling](#), [Canary Goods](#), [Circular Economy Club](#), [Plastic Free YYC](#), [Zero Waste Canada](#), and the [City of Calgary Education Resource](#)

Community volunteers and CA staff can coordinate a (annual) **Waste Workshop Event**. CA's can apply to the Calgary Foundation [Stepping Stones Grant](#) or The Arusha [Take Action Grant](#) for minor funding to support this work.

CAs can also apply for [FCM's Green Municipal Fund](#), to conduct feasibility studies of initiatives that address specific waste stream challenges (e.g. household hazardous waste, textiles, furniture, diapers, etc.). This funding helps Canadian cities and communities of all sizes improve their waste stream management.

CAs can request volunteer writers for **Community Articles** through their own newsletter, social media channels, posters and through word of mouth, outlining upcycling, refusal, and [circular economy practices](#).

The HSCA received a [Take Action Grant](#) from the Arusha Centre for the **Repair Cafe**, and paid the volunteer fixers C\$ honorariums. CAs will

need to identify volunteers who are willing to lend their repair skills, as well as a staff member or volunteer willing to advertise the program, organize online sign-up forms, and Zoom or in-person meetings between volunteers and community members.

At HSCA, 'fixers' were recruited through their email newsletter, website, social media sites, and printed newspaper booklet: The Voice. HSCA began recruiting Fixers a few months before choosing a start date for the Repair Cafe, in order to ensure enough volunteers to support the fixable items. More info about repair cafes can be found [here](#).

Do you need help fixing a household item?
**HSCA is hosting a
REPAIR CAFE!**

A Repair Café is an event where people in our community can bring broken items to be repaired by volunteers, for FREE!

WE HAVE A TEAM OF VOLUNTEER 'FIXERS' WHO ARE EXCITED TO HELP GIVE NEW LIFE TO:

- ELECTRONIC, MECHANICAL, WOOD & METAL ITEMS
- SMALL APPLIANCES (LIKE COFFEE MACHINES)
- SMALLER PIECES OF FURNITURE
- TOYS & TEDDY BEARS
- CLOTHING & ZIPPERS
- LEATHER GOODS
- BIKES

Drop off dates: 2-7pm
Nov 22nd & 23rd

For more information and to book a repair visit the Community Connections Program tab at www.hasca.ca

To adhere to COVID protocols owners will drop off and pick up their items at the HSCA, and meet with the 'Fixer' online through Zoom.

HSCA

**RIDLEY'S
CYCLE**

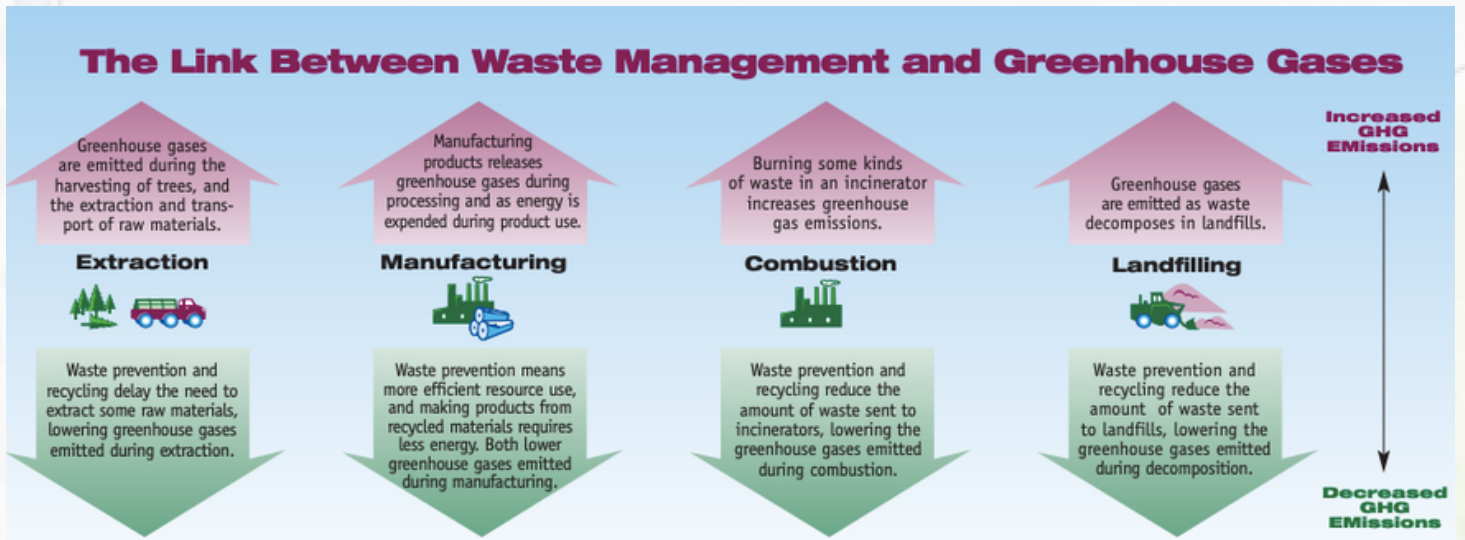
ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY IMPACTS: WASTE STREAM MANAGEMENT

Environmental Impacts

By limiting our consumption, and improving our waste stream management to ensure that less items end up in landfills and incinerators, we directly reduce overall GHG emissions and climate impacts.

Emissions from Canadian landfills account for 23% of national methane emissions, and Methane is 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide over 20 years in terms of its global warming potential (8).

Improving waste streams can also help return nutrients to the soil, improve the ability for soil to retain water and thus decrease runoff. Such actions can also help to reduce the presence of leachate, toxic runoff from waste that threatens groundwater.



[USA EPA Waste Management Graphic](#)

Community Impacts

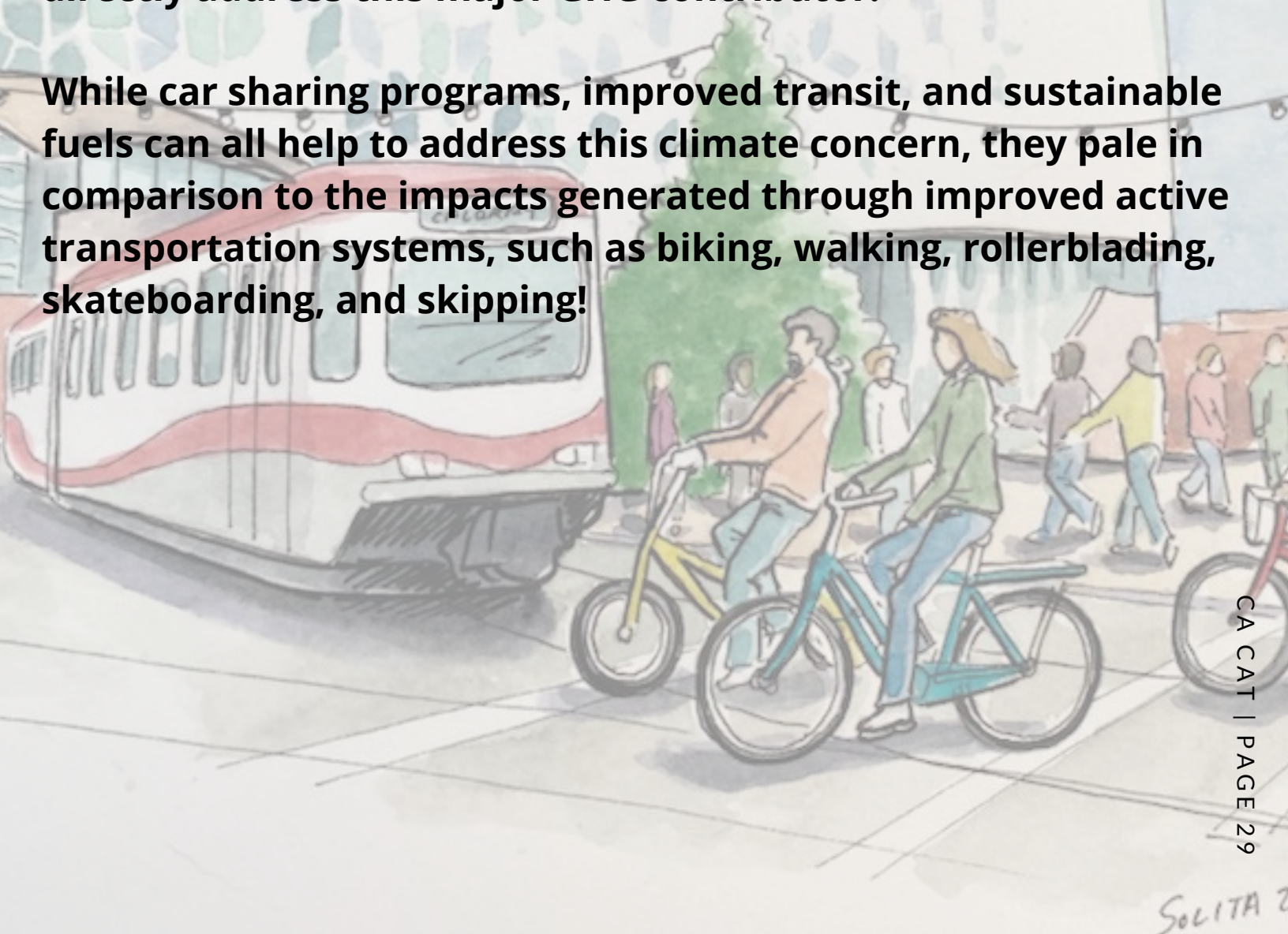
Improving community waste stream practices not only helps to create clean and enjoyable communities, but also directly connects community members, and supports the sharing of skills and knowledge. This climate action can also help reduce waste removal costs, promote a healthy local economy, and can be a visible community commitment to sustainability and environmental care, promoting the adoption of this behaviour amongst neighbours.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

The transportation sector contributes approximately 12% of Alberta's annual GHG emissions, making it the third largest contributor after oil and gas, and electricity (9).

By reducing dependency on personal vehicles, and increasing active transportation options in our communities, we begin to directly address this major GHG contributor.

While car sharing programs, improved transit, and sustainable fuels can all help to address this climate concern, they pale in comparison to the impacts generated through improved active transportation systems, such as biking, walking, rollerblading, skateboarding, and skipping!



PLANNING COMMITTEES & ARP ENGAGEMENTS

HSCA has generated notable successes in this area through their volunteer based Planning Committee, and specifically through their Mobility Subcommittee.

Mobility Subcommittee under the Hillhurst Sunnyside Planning Committee (HSPC).

The HSPC communicates Area Redevelopment Plans (ARPs) to residents for feedback on specific campaigns such as:

- Traffic petitions
- Using the [Global Street Design Guide](#) & [Global Designing Cities Initiative](#) to support active transportation and smart neighbourhood arrangements.
- Acting as stakeholders on, and providing input and community requests to the City of Calgary's traffic calming projects (eg. sidewalk expansions, speed limit reductions, creating more walkable communities, etc.)
- Providing comments to [City Council](#) on transportation issues

Some specific HSPC transportation and urban planning outcomes have included:

- Sidewalk expansions on Kensington Rd & 10 St NW, promoting improved pedestrian mobility.
- Speed limit reductions on 2nd & 7th Ave NW
- Pedestrian enhancements and traffic calming on Gladstone Rd.

ACTION

Community associations can assemble their own **Planning Committees** by recruiting interested volunteers who want to be informed on ARPs, and advocate for their community to city council. CAs can use the [Global Street Design Guide](#) & [Global Designing Cities Initiative](#) to help inform action. CAs can also participate in the upcoming citywide Active Transportation Summit which will involve all the active transportation sub-committees being run by CAs, the City of Calgary and local bike advocacy organizations. This summit is expected to take place in spring of 2022.

Identifying and requesting the construction of bike lanes connecting surrounding neighbourhoods and the urban core is one direct action all CAs can take to make a significant climate impact today.

Connect with [Bike Calgary](#) & the [Active Transportation Network](#) for support and more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY IMPACTS: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Environmental Impacts

It is estimated that bicycle and pedestrian improvements can provide GHG reductions of 8-14% when implemented on a regional scale (10).

Shifting to active transportation methods could save as much as a quarter of personal carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from transport.

Those who switch just one trip per day from car driving to active transportation reduce their carbon footprint by approximately 0.5 tonnes over a year, which is a substantial share of average per capita CO₂ emissions. If just 10% of the population changed travel behaviour, the emissions savings would be around 4% of lifecycle CO₂ emissions from all car travel (11).

Community Impacts

Improvements in bicycle and pedestrian safety not only help reduce overall collisions, but also help to reduce health care costs related to inactivity by as much as 15%. Reducing the average body mass index (BMI) can lead to significant health care savings, which can be achieved through increased active transportation practices.

Moreover, investments in active transportation networks can increase local home values and support local economies. Active transportation projects create more jobs per million dollars spent than road- only projects. (10)

Lastly, decreased road traffic can have the added bonus of creating happier and more connected communities. Say goodbye to traffic!

COMMUNITY & LAND ENGAGEMENTS

Developing connected, supported communities, and advocating for smart land use will further support sustainability commitments and actions, and a welcoming and united neighbourhood.



SOLITA 2021

COMMUNITY

ENGAGEMENTS

CA supported neighbourhood programs and services work to create greater community cohesion, and can have direct climate outcomes.

Daycare Programs

The Hillhurst Sunnyside Daycare Program (HSDP) is a fully licensed and accredited Alberta program that aims to provide each family with an extraordinary childcare experience. It operates Monday to Friday, 7:15am - 5:45pm, and is closed on holidays. They implement the [Play, Participation and Possibilities, an Early Learning and Childcare Curriculum Framework for Alberta](#), through a partnership with Grant MacEwan University.

As a Community Association Program, it is essential to purchase a Community Association Membership. The fee is \$30, and must be renewed every 12 months. All new families pay a one-time registration fee of \$30, and \$25 to receive a key card. The enrolment process involves filling out an online application, meeting with the Daycare Manager (a paid staff position) for a one on one orientation, and payment, and is on a first come first serve basis.

Daycare fees are structured as follows:

Full Time Care

19-35 months old: \$1,305.00

3-5 years old: \$1,245.00

3 Days Per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday): \$915.00

2 Days Per week (Tuesday & Thursday): \$620.00

Drop in Daily Fee: \$75

Morning and afternoon snacks and lunch are provided, in addition to programming and field trips. Subsidies for childcare can be applied for through the [Government of Alberta website](#).

Flea & Antique Market

HSCA has operated a flea market for 35 years. It is organized by one person, with a paid position entirely dedicated to this program. Revenue for this position is primarily generated through vendor table fees (\$27 / table). Vendors can be solicited through social media, newsletters and word of mouth. Facility attendants support set up and tear down. A volunteer was recently added to support COVID procedures, and receives an honorarium in Calgary Dollars.

SOLITA 2021

Complementary Currency (CC) Programs

CCs help to create local and robust economies, as well as connected communities. [Calgary Dollars](#) is a local CC system that has been operated by the [Arusha Centre Nonprofit Society](#) since 1996, and is funded in part by the City of Calgary. It has a value of 1:1 with the Canadian dollar, and is accepted by over 1500 users and 200 local businesses.

HSCA accepts a percentage of C\$ for annual membership fees, vendor tables at the Farmer's Market and Flea & Antique Market, and pays honorariums to community volunteers with C\$.

ACTION

Set up a **Community Association Day Care Program**. Reach out to community members to gauge interest, and potential resident capacity or skills to activate. Revenue generated through this program will pay for programming and operation costs. Businesses operating as a child care service do not require a City of Calgary license. They are governed by the province of Alberta. Please contact Calgary Family & Child Services at 403-297-6100 or calgaryareacfsa.info@gov.ab.ca.

Set up a **Flea Market** at your CA! Identify a community member who is interested in taking the lead to organize this monthly event. Create a set of policies to govern your market (such as, no new items are to be sold). Advertise through community newsletters, social media, posters and road signs. Implement table fees for revenue generation.

Reach out to The Arusha Centre Nonprofit Society to enquire about ways your CA can get involved in the [Calgary Dollars](#) complementary currency program by calling 403.270.3200, or emailing info@calgarydollars.ca. There is no cost to get involved!

LAND ENGAGEMENTS

CAs can take a proactive role in community planning, construction and development to support climate action and broad GHG reductions.

Hillhurst Sunnyside Planning Committee (HSPC)

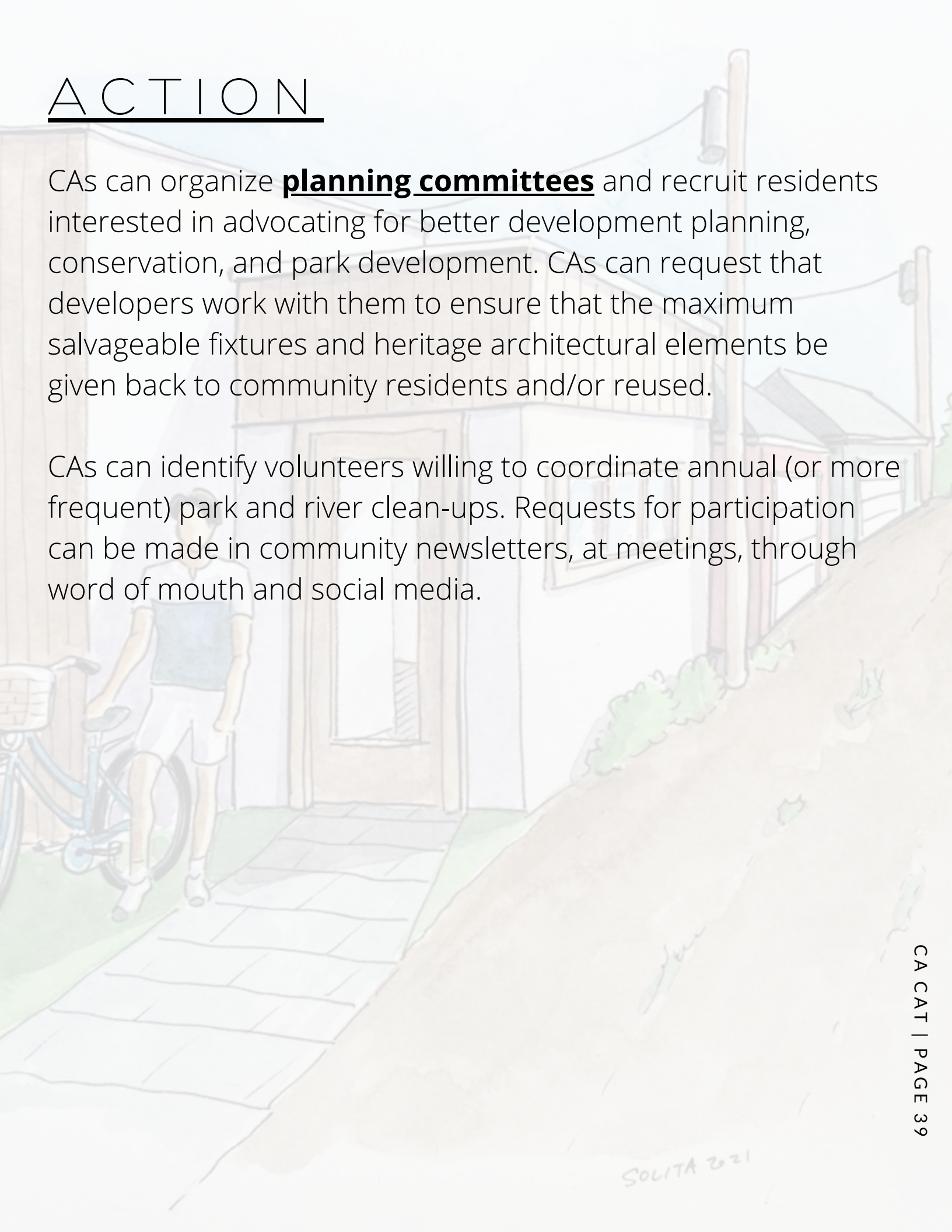
The HSPC is a volunteer committee, with a board member serving as chair, and community volunteers supporting. HSCA has a part-time paid staff to support this committee, and a total of 20 community resident members. They meet monthly (online during COVID), and are primarily focused on applying for grants for public realm improvements. All meetings are open to the public.

The HSPC also advocates for: smart urban densification to encourage walkable communities and limit sprawl; the preservation of older buildings in the community; the reuse and repurposing of architectural elements when historic homes are razed, by working with developers prior to project approvals, as well as; community tree preservation, the increase of public parks and green spaces (eg. Bow to Bluff park), and the organization of the annual Bow River Clean-up.

ACTION

CAs can organize **planning committees** and recruit residents interested in advocating for better development planning, conservation, and park development. CAs can request that developers work with them to ensure that the maximum salvageable fixtures and heritage architectural elements be given back to community residents and/or reused.

CAs can identify volunteers willing to coordinate annual (or more frequent) park and river clean-ups. Requests for participation can be made in community newsletters, at meetings, through word of mouth and social media.



SOLITA 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY IMPACTS: COMMUNITY & LAND ENGAGEMENTS


Environmental Impacts

Centralizing community resources such as daycares allows for a reduction in potential GHGs by reducing travel needs and individual consumption of resources.

Flea Markets typically involve upcycling or reusing practices, which have clear GHG reduction impacts. Complementary currency systems can be used to incentivize community climate actions, help localize our economy and promote inter-resident trading outside of the formal economy, which can further promoting upcycling and reusing practices, all of which directly helps limit GHG impacts.

The production and transportation of building materials accounts for 82 - 96% of total CO₂ emissions in new constructions (12). Reusing existing materials is one clear way to reduce this carbon impact.

Urban forests mitigate climate change by capturing and storing CO₂, reducing air and water pollution, lowering household heating and cooling costs, and countering the [urban heat island effect](#). They also help buffer high winds, control erosion, and reduce drought.



Canada's urban canopy, estimated at 27%, sequester 2.5 million tons of CO₂ annually, or the equivalent of taking 450,000 Ford F-150s off the road (13).

Community Impacts

Community operated daycares help neighbors meet one another, create bonds between local children, create a greater sense of belonging and pride of place, and allow for the affirmation of a neighbourhood's values and intentions surrounding child rearing.

Flea Markets are not only good economic engines for local resilience, but also represent a key gathering space for the development of community. Such markets also provide expanded income opportunities for community members with little available capital. Community markets also have notable secondary impacts. As one study demonstrated, around 60% of market customers visit surrounding neighborhood stores, and typically only visit those stores on market days (14).

Complementary Currency systems are a direct driver of community cohesion. They support residents to meet one another, reduce isolation, increase support networks, access to resources and create robust local economies.

Trees can improve physical and mental health, strengthen social connections, and are associated with reduced crime rates. Trees, community gardens, and other green spaces get people outside, helping to foster active living and neighborhood pride, and increase overall real estate values (15).

CA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Now that you have familiarized yourself with some of the steps that your CA can take to support community climate action, why not make an action plan?

A Climate Action Plan allows you to identify your major goals, the tasks involved, and the funding necessary to achieve those goals. You can solicit resident input through flyers, emails or newsletters.

Some suggested components include:

1. Identify your priorities area (food, energy, waste, etc.).
2. Assess the major GHG contributor in that priority area.
3. Outline 1-3 clear actions your CA can take to begin addressing the issue or area of interest.
4. Draw out a timeline of activities, clearly indicating what needs to be done to achieve these actions, and who will take the initiative (staff, volunteers or an outside party).
5. Identify costs, labour needs, and potential obstacles.
6. Identify potential funding sources.
7. Create a signup sheet, and divide tasks appropriately.
8. Have regular check-ins with this 'Climate Committee', to ensure you are on track, and that no one is feeling left behind or overwhelmed.

PUTTING THE TOOLKIT INTO ACTION

Ready to get started? To activate your own climate action projects, start with filling out the Community Climate Action Assessment Worksheet. Also take a look at these resources that can help with thinking through ideas and the resources you might need!

Chaordic Stepping Stones

[The Chaordic Stepping Stones](#), short for chaos and order, is a guide that provides space to think about big topics with enough direction to bring your big ideas down to earth. Flip through the document and you may find that it will help you think about your ideas in completely different ways.

Defenders, Educators, Builders

Which one are you? This activity helps you think through your own skills and the skills of your team members. Create three areas on the floor, and have the individuals in your group move to which one they think they are in their life, their role in your group, and with their project idea (if there are several!). Have everyone explain why they chose to stand where they did. Then after discussion ask people if they'd move positions and why.

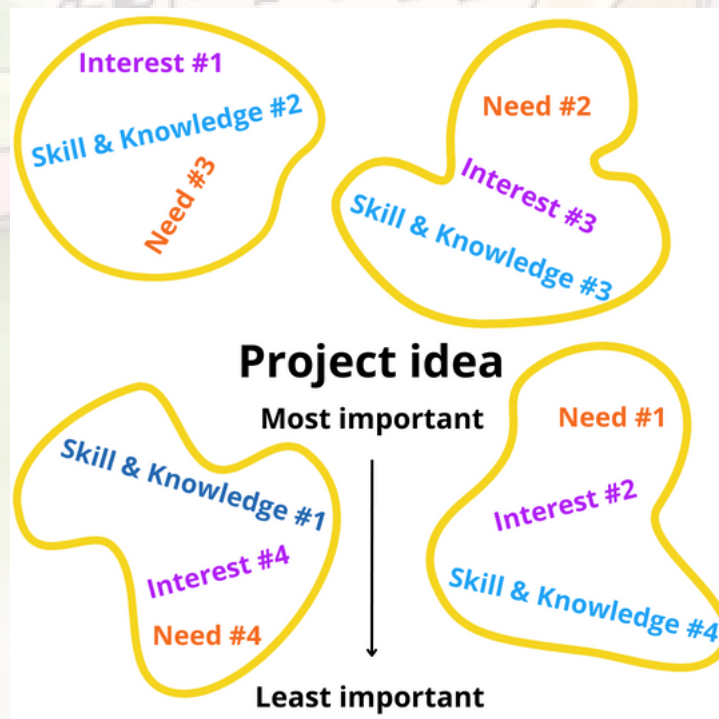
Resource Mapping

Make a 'mind map' that asks the following questions:

- What are your interests?
- What are your skills and knowledge?
- What do you need?

Steps:

1. Start with your name in the middle
2. Ask each question above, one at a time. Each question gets its own colour. Chart it out like a web, the things that are most important to you, have the most skills in and need the most, being closer to the middle, the less important things moving further away towards the outside of the page.
3. Once you have a relatively complete map, start to connect things together by drawing a circle around various parts of the map.
4. Have everybody go around and add their own skills/knowledge to see what skills and knowledge are available in the group.



FUNDING SOURCES

[Take Action Grants](#) - Micro grants of up to \$1000 and C\$1000 for social, environmental or economic justice projects. Applications due on the 15th of every month!

Climate Action Grants - Micro grants of \$2000 to activating socially-just, local, climate action in Calgary. For more information contact the [Arusha Centre](#).

[Calgary Foundation Community Grants](#) - supports initiatives that engage citizens and that strengthen charities. Applications typically open in December, and are due in February.

[ENMAX Community Solar Fund](#) - A one-time contribution to community associations to help install solar photovoltaic systems on their buildings. While the funding has been allocated, The City of Calgary would still like to here from interested parties.

[Calgary Foundation Stepping Stones](#) - encourages active citizenship by helping grassroots community groups undertake small creative projects that build a sense of inclusive belonging in local communities. Offers grant support of up to \$1,000 for project expenses. Applications are ongoing.

[FCM Green Municipal Fund](#) - provides funding to support municipalities and partners to implement innovative and proven sustainability practices.

[TD Friends of the Environment](#) - is a national charity that funds environmental projects across Canada, such as community gardens, park revitalization projects, science initiatives and more.

REFERENCES

- (1) <https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/fight-climate-change-by-preventing-food-waste>
- (2) <https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/234/62936/Guide.pdf>
- (3) <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41130-021-00148-w>
- (4) <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0169204616301323>
- (5) https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/sites/nrcan/files/energy/energy_fact/2021-2022/PDF/2021_Energy-factbook_december23_EN_accessible.pdf
- (6) <https://www.cer-rec.gc.ca/en/data-analysis/energy-markets/provincial-territorial-energy-profiles/provincial-territorial-energy-profiles-alberta.html>
- (7) http://www.world-nuclear.org/uploadedFiles/org/WNA/Publications/Working_Group_Reports/comparison_of_lifecycle.pdf
- (8) <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/01/government-of-canada-seeks-feedback-on-new-measures-to-reduce-pollution-from-canadas-landfills.html>
- (9) <https://www.alberta.ca/climate-change-and-transportation.aspx>
- (10) https://www.saferoutespartnership.org/sites/default/files/resource_files/pnw_active-transportation_ghg1.pdf
- (11) <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/02/210208104624.htm>
- (12) <https://www.mdpi.com/1996-1944/14/20/6094/pdf>
- (13) <https://climatechoices.ca/2-billion-trees-to-go-please/>
- (14) <https://www.pps.org/article/nov2003feature>
- (15) <https://www.fs.usda.gov/ccrc/topics/urban-forests-and-climate-change>
- (16) <https://harvardpolitics.com/climate-change-responsibility/>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Funding for the production of this Climate Action Toolkit was received in part through a TD Friends of the Environment grant.

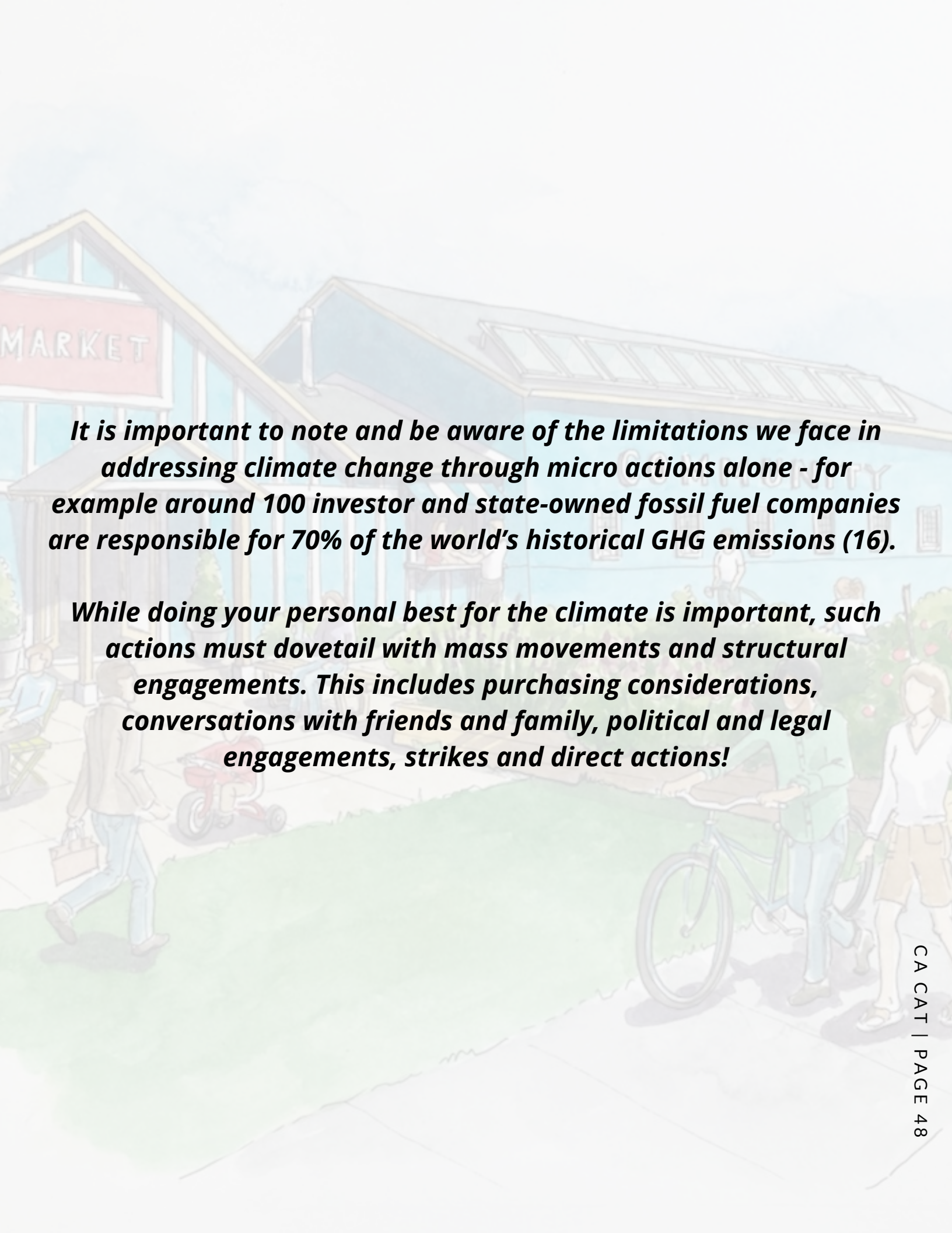
Thank you to the HSCA Staff, Board and community for all your contributions and support!

This document was chiefly produced by Jared Blustein, MA, of the Arusha Staff Collective, with help from University of Calgary Social Work Practicum Students.

Original water colour paintings produced by [Solita Works](#).

Does your CA have a community or climate action plan? A GHG reduction practice that's not listed here? Please share it with programs@arusha.org so we can include it in the next edition of the CA CAT.

This is a living document that will hopefully continue to inspire and be updated for many generations to come.

A light-colored illustration of a market scene. In the background, there are buildings with signs, one of which says 'MARKET'. In the foreground, a man in a brown jacket and blue pants walks with a briefcase. To his right, a woman in a green jacket and blue pants pushes a red stroller. Further right, a woman in a white top and brown skirt walks next to a man in a green jacket who is pushing a bicycle. The scene is set on a sidewalk next to a grassy area.

It is important to note and be aware of the limitations we face in addressing climate change through micro actions alone - for example around 100 investor and state-owned fossil fuel companies are responsible for 70% of the world's historical GHG emissions (16).

While doing your personal best for the climate is important, such actions must dovetail with mass movements and structural engagements. This includes purchasing considerations, conversations with friends and family, political and legal engagements, strikes and direct actions!