

Climate Network Lanark



Hello Friend,

Spring has sprung (minus the last few snowy days) and we are excited about outdoor activities, gardening, and sunshine. We have a lot of updates for you today, including multiple, upcoming in-person opportunities we're hosting and some much-needed clarity on recent topics in the news.

Will you be, safely, watching the solar eclipse on April 8th?

We are marking this year with our Wetlands focus and Electrify Lanark events. During the last Leap Year on February 29th, 2020, 120 of you helped launch CNL. Now, we are hoping to get *more* people out for upcoming events to show local commitment to action on the climate crisis.

We'd like to mention again that due to the new system we're using, those who were unsubscribed are now subscribed again. Please use the unsubscribe button at the bottom if you wish to unsubscribe again.

Our projects wouldn't be possible without your support and we will be forever grateful for that. If you'd like to donate to CNL, please use the Donate button at the bottom.

- The CNL Team

Natural Gas Expansion Pushback

There has been an important development with pushback against the expansion of natural gas in Ontario.

The Ontario government has introduced legislation to reverse a forward-thinking ruling by the Ontario Energy Board that would have caused residential developers to pay the full cost of bringing gas service to new builds right away, rather than having all gas customers bear the cost over 40 years, historically the practice. “The OEB is not satisfied that Enbridge Gas’s proposal will not lead to an overbuilt, underutilized gas system in the face of the energy transition,” the Board majority said. The new legislation also removes much of the independence of the OEB, giving more decision-making capacity to the government of the day.

For more on this, see The Narwhal’s story at <https://thenarwhal.ca/ontario-overrules-energy-board-enbridge/> and an opinion piece by CNL Chair Scott Hortop in the Mississippi Mills Millstone at <https://millstonenews.com/>

Carbon Tax and Rebate Discussion

There’s been a huge discussion over the carbon tax and rebate recently. In the interest of providing you with some facts to use in your discussions with others, one of our volunteers, science teacher Wade Leonard, helped us put this info together. We hope this helps.

- Carbon pricing covers about 22% of global GHG emissions as of 2021.
 - As of 2021, 64 countries or sub-national jurisdictions used carbon pricing instruments.
 - Carbon pricing can reduce emissions by up to 30% in high-income countries.
 - As a result of the carbon tax, in B.C., annual emissions are at least 5% lower than they would otherwise have been.
 - CO2 levels have reached 417 parts per million, the highest in over 800,000 years.
 - Over 190 countries, including Canada, have joined the Paris Agreement to combat climate change.
 - Canada aims to reduce its GHG emissions by 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030.
 - The last decade was the hottest on record, with global temperatures 1.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
 - Global sea levels have risen by about 20 cm (8 inches) since 1880, with rates doubling in the last two decades.
 - Climate change could reduce global crop yields by up to 30% by 2050.
 - The 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire in Alberta resulted in the evacuation of 88,000 people and was Canada’s costliest disaster at \$9 billion in damages.
 - The heat wave of 2021 in B.C. resulted in the deaths of more than 600 Canadians.
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Electrify Lanark Community Forum and Residential Workshops

In case you missed it, we released a **Save the Date** on our social media for our very exciting Spring/Fall initiative: Electrify Lanark.

To seriously address the climate crisis, we must end fossil fuel emissions and electrify our communities and homes. CNL has developed Electrify Lanark to explore, through the one-day Forum, how we do that, from the bigger-picture perspective of the whole county and, through workshops, from that of our own homes. The workshops are based on our successful Climate Concierge project, which we will bring back in the fall.

The Workshop dates and locations are:

- **Residential Solar Photovoltaics** on April 25th in the Perth Library
- **Outdoor Appliances** on May 25th at the Home Hardware store in Perth
- **Electric Vehicles, Chargers, and Bikes**, on June 8th at the Almonte Branch of the Mississippi Mills Public Library
- **Hot Water Heating Systems** on June 20th at the Smith Falls Arena
- **Heat Pumps** on September 19th at Beckwith Town Offices (with a tour of the new super-efficient building)
- **Home Resiliency** on September 26th at Carleton Place Arena
- **Indoor Appliances and Induction Stoves** on October 5th

Reserve a spot by getting a **free** ticket at <https://ticketsplease.ca/> Please note that each workshop has its own ticket.

But you better hurry, spaces are limited! You can read more about our workshops and get more information on each subject on our [website](#).

The **Electrify Lanark Forum** will take place on May 18 at the Perth branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. It's a full-day event (lunch will be provided).

The Forum will explore where we get the electricity from that we will need to electrify everything. While Ontario has plans to add additional natural gas plants which will result in higher emissions from electricity, there is still an opportunity to influence the development of Ontario's electricity system. We will discuss the alternatives to fossil fuels, the importance of the modernization of the electricity systems, and how to increase and store electricity.

We hope you can join us for this important event. You can get your tickets on ticketsplease.ca

The cost of the ticket for the full-day event will include lunch from a local restaurant.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, please fill out a volunteer form on our [website](#).

If you'd like to make a donation to our Electrify initiative, please [donate here](#) and leave a note about "Electrify" on the form!

CALL OUT for EV owners and drivers to join us at the Almonte EV Workshop. To let us know if you would like to bring your car, please fill out the form listed above on our website.

Nature-Based Climate Solutions: A Natural Heritage Systems Plan

Over the past few years, CNL has worked with local environmental organizations, conservation authorities, and Lanark County on Nature-Based Climate Solutions (NBCS) in the County, specifically the protection of our extensive wetlands because they are such enormous carbon sinks. About a year ago, the County asked us to advise them on how to conserve and protect wetlands, a key recommendation in their Climate Action Plan.

Unfortunately, at the same time, the provincial government was eroding provincial regulations, evaluation systems and mechanisms for protecting natural systems. The County can replace some of that loss by developing a Natural Heritage Systems plan (NHS) to protect wetlands, forests, and rivers, and to embed that plan in the County's Official Plan which is soon to be revised and with which all lower-tier municipalities in Lanark County must comply. Lanark County is one of only a few counties not to have such a plan.

This Spring, CNL will host an NHS Summit for County Councillors, providing them with a deeper understanding of the role natural systems play in addressing climate change and the tools for protecting critical natural systems.

Key messages are that an NHS plan is a tool for informed decision-making, it can support smart development, and it may allow us to go beyond provincial guidelines based on science.

We have some big ideas for this Summit, so stay tuned for more updates. If you wish to [donate](#) to our NBCS initiative, make sure to write wetlands or NHS as a note and receive a charitable receipt.

This is **not** a public event but we will be hosting a public event later in the year!

Composting

International Compost Week is coming up May 5-11th, 2024.

Want to help the climate? Try composting! If you are looking for the most simple, inexpensive way to help the climate locally, this is it.

When organic waste is buried in landfills,, anaerobic bacteria (bacteria that do not require oxygen) cause it to rot and produce methane. When organic waste is instead, composted, aerobic bacteria (bacteria that require oxygen) break it down into usable material producing only small amounts of greenhouse gases.

Organic waste put into our landfills is one of the top emitters of emissions in Lanark County. By accessing the various ways to compost our household organic waste, we keep such materials out of our local landfills and reduce the total emissions from the County. Composting also reduces your garbage and makes it easy to manage since it doesn't smell, isn't wet and doesn't attract insects or critters and it produces a great soil amendment for gardens and lawns, eliminating any need for expensive fertilizers. Composting is an opportunity to practice good environmental stewardship and provides meaningful learning opportunities for people of all ages.

Make sure to check out our [composting resources here](#).

Earthfest

2nd Annual EARTHFEST

When: Saturday, April 20th, 11am-3pm, presented by the Carleton Place Environmental Advisory Committee.

Main Event Site: 7 Beckwith St., at the Market Square

A Free event for all ages! Enjoy music, theatre, and a sustainable marketplace with all kinds of local artisans.

There are Workshops for all:

- Gardening
- Composting
- Food preserving
- Supporting our natural environment
- EV TEST DRIVES

Special events for children include:

- Workshops on puppets and carving from soapstone
- Paddling Puppeteers out of Peterborough hosted by the Town of Carleton Place.

Just Good Compost will collect food waste from the event and promote their compost pick-up service in Carleton Place and Almonte. CNL will assist with event greening activities, directing recycling and diverting waste.

If you are interested in volunteering with Climate Network Lanark's green team, please reach out to hello@climatenetworklanark.ca

Please bring your own insulated drink container to reduce waste, a carry bag for any purchases, and a non-perishable item for the Lanark County Food Bank.

More information [CPEAC EarthFest 2024](#)

Stewart Park Festival Green Waste and Recycling Depot

Climate Network Lanark will take part in the Stewart Park Festival again this year on the third weekend of July (19th-21st). If you would like to volunteer for a few hours while listening to some great music and learning and teaching about recycling and composting, please fill out the [form on our website](#) and select "Live Events"

You can get more information about the festival on the [SPF website](#).

Calling All Photographers

Calling all professional and amateur photographers! We would love to showcase your amazing work on our website. We are looking for Spring photos of our beautiful Lanark County. With your permission, we will share the pictures you send us, giving you credit.

Please include your name, any social media handles you want tagged, and the location of your photo. Send your submissions to: hello@climatenetworklanark.ca

Nurturing Climate Consciousness: 4 Years of CNL

In a candid conversation with Sue and Gord, the visionary minds behind Climate Network Lanark, we explored the roots and branches of their impactful environmental journey.

Sue, who is deeply passionate about the environment, shared her personal connection to nature: "I grew up canoeing and camping, walking and sitting in the woods. Being humbled and grounded by nature, I am astonished daily by the intricate and dependent relationships of life on this planet. We humans are a part of this."

Sue reminisced about the early days when CNL was still finding its identity. "We juggled names like Climate Action Committee and Community Action Lanark before settling on Climate Network Lanark," she chuckled. These naming debates were symbolic of the organization's evolving nature, constantly adapting to best serve its mission.

Gord fondly recalled CNL's humble beginnings, especially the pivotal workshop in 2020 that drew 120 eager attendees in Perth. "It was a spark of enthusiasm right before Covid hit," he reflected. The shift to virtual platforms like Zoom unexpectedly added a social dimension, connecting individuals across the County, passionate about climate change despite physical barriers but recognizing that there was so much to be done locally, especially since half of our greenhouse gases are managed right here in our decisions about housing, transportation and waste.

Amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic, CNL found unexpected blessings. "Covid forced us to innovate," Sue noted. "Instead of folding, we embraced virtual meetings, a move that wouldn't have been feasible otherwise." This adaptation not only sustained their momentum but also broadened their reach beyond geographic limitations. Gord expressed his vision for CNL, aspiring for it to become a household name: "We aim to mobilize great swaths of the community and have them turn to us and others to create solutions and become engaged in creating solutions."

Regarding the upcoming initiatives for 2024, the Natural Heritage Systems Summit and the Electrify Lanark Forum and Workshops, Gord and Sue eagerly shared their ideas and objectives.

Gord shared insights into CNL's future objectives, particularly regarding the development of an NHS plan and wetlands conservation efforts. He emphasized key objectives such as monitoring the implementation of the NHS plan, working with landowners to appreciate and protect nature, and using nature as a gateway for all people to engage in broader climate change issues and actions.

Sue outlined specific goals she would like to see accomplished by the Electrify Lanark project:

- Educating and preparing 15 municipal and community leaders to engage IESO and Hydro One in improving power generation, line capacity, distributed power, and system resilience in Lanark County.
- Helping 40 home and building owners develop plans for deep electrification retrofits and electrification measures, including adding solar to their properties.
- Facilitating 5 participants in taking on new volunteer leadership roles in CNL to further develop CNL's Engagement Organizing process.
- Creating recordings of presentations to spread messages to larger audiences.

As CNL celebrates its four-year journey, Sue and Gord emphasized the importance of strategic outreach and communication. Sue highlighted their diverse messaging approach, from children's theatre emphasizing forests to pragmatic discussions on saving money and improving health. This nuanced strategy aims to engage a wide spectrum of audiences, ensuring no one is left behind in the climate action conversation.

In celebrating CNL's remarkable four-year journey, Sue and Gord's dedication shines through as a beacon of hope and resilience. Their ability to adapt and innovate, especially during challenging times, is a testament to the power of determination and vision. As they look towards the future, their unwavering commitment to environmental education, community engagement, and sustainable solutions continues to inspire us all. In a world where the need for environmental action has never been more urgent, let us join hands with them and countless others working towards a greener, more sustainable future for generations to come. Together, we can turn challenges into opportunities and make a meaningful difference in our world.

A Local Group Taking Climate Action: *Active Perth*



Active Perth is a community-based group of active transportation enthusiasts and advocates. Their goal is to advocate and create more, and better, options for walking, biking and rolling in Perth.

Anyone living or visiting Perth with a mobility challenge deserves access to all the wonderful places and spaces in Perth. Improving access for all makes Perth a more inclusive community.

Active Perth believes that everyone should have safe and convenient options for replacing car trips whenever they choose. Active transportation is a healthier choice and it's great for the environment.

You can get more information on the [Active Perth](#) website or follow them on [Facebook](#).

If you or your organization or business want to be featured on our newsletter, please fill out [this form](#) our website.

Volunteer of the Month: Chandler Swain



I grew up west of Toronto in what was a pretty, small town on the shore of Lake Ontario. Now it's just a part of the concrete highway, urban sprawl and mall land called Mississauga.

When the GO train was established in 1967, the world opened up for me as a teenager and being able to get into Toronto and into the vibrant scene of art and music at the time was transformative. Another thing was that Toronto was full of and influenced by a lot of American Draft Dodgers. Many of my teachers in Art College were from this cohort of Americans. In this era, it was hard to miss the big social upheaval caused by the war in Vietnam and The Civil Rights Movement as well as the Back to the Land craze. This really resonated with me and formed my mindset. It also changed what I studied in the art world toward craft and I became a potter - very earthy and all.

What brought you to the climate change issue in general and to CNL in particular?

The Cultural pushback of the late 60s into the 70s included awareness of environmental destruction which was rampant: Growth (economic and otherwise) was (and crazily still is) the byword: I was an art student living in England in the early 70s when there was a big international oil shortage and everyone became very conscious about energy use and pulled together to help out with that. This was an eye opener and made me aware of connected issues like pollution etc. It was so obvious to me that I had, we all have, a part to play in helping rein in environmental destruction. So when CNL started, and was addressing the climate crisis locally, as a concerned citizen and a grandmother, I was really happy to volunteer.

What inspires you to be a CNL volunteer?

My grandkids (everyone's grandkids) mostly. Also I'm very impressed with the amazing number of fantastic experts in the various areas of climate and environment that are involved with CNL: it makes the organization so impressive and credible. I learn a lot and am inspired by the remarkable tenacity and energy of these folks to work on issues of huge import against big, frustrating odds. I feel grateful to be able to do my bit.

What vision do you have for our community?

Well I guess I see everyone putting down their phones and slowing down. More walking, less driving, living in closer proximity in denser walkable neighborhoods.

As well, we would all be very respectful of all the wild spaces and work together to preserve them while keeping our farms sustainable with less use of chemicals and more food grown locally: not just soybeans and corn. I'm so inspired by the small organic farms growing such great food to keep us healthy. More of that please.

Tell us about activities, kinds of things, hobbies you do for fun, for wellbeing?

I enjoy puttering in my garden and having my studio, which I love, right by the house in the garden. We live by the Mississippi River and love all the activities related to that plus walking in the woods and trails near us with our dogs. I love supporting my local CSA organic food producers so we eat great local food. We are lucky to have so much great life-enhancing stuff in our neighbourhood, especially a good, diverse, interesting group of friends who are all attracted like us to live and work in Lanark.

Our Projects Need Your Support

Want to support our Nature-Based Climate Solutions? Or what about supporting Electrify Lanark?

Please consider donating today for these projects! **We need your help!**

We offer **charitable receipts** for your donation through our partnership with the Salal Foundation. Monthly donors receive an annual receipt in time for tax season.

If you wish to donate to a specific project, please let us know in the "note" section on the donation form.

Donate Today



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