How can municipalities adapt to climate change?

- Infrastructure upgrades and storm water management, reduce hard surfaces, plant vegetation
- Relocate buildings and community assets to higher ground, out of flood zones, away from the coast
- Land use planning and policies (set backs, update building codes, mapping flood zones, etc.)

How can you adapt to climate change?

- Have a 72 hr emergency kit including medication and food, and a family flood plan
- Use natural approaches to address erosion such as *Living Shorelines*
- Reduce hard surfaces, plant vegetation
- Install backwater valves to reduce the risk of sewer backup in your home
- Install a sump pump with battery backup
- Move important items, electrical appliances and hazardous materials to higher ground and out of the basement
- Use a rain barrel
- Plant a rain garden (to help absorb storm water naturally with native plants)
- Fix cracks in foundations.

How is the Dorchester area adapting to climate change?

The Village of Dorchester, working with EOS Eco-Energy, Fort Folly First Nation and local residents, is developing a climate change adaptation plan. Public engagement sessions are planned to gather important community input. If you have any questions or would like to contribute to the plan, please contact EOS. EOS received NB Environmental Trust Fund funding for this project.

For more information on climate change adaptation:

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Climate Change
in the Dorchester Area

What is the impact?

How can we adapt?

What is climate change?

Climate is the average weather pattern over many years while weather is short-term. Climate dictates what parts of the planet tend to be warmer, colder, wetter, drier, and how often we see extreme weather events such a hurricanes. Global temperatures are rising which will lead to more severe climate changes in the future.

What is climate change adaptation?

Climate change adaptation describes how we adjust to future climate conditions. Adaptation involves making adjustments in our decisions, activities, and thinking, because of changes in climate.

How is climate change affecting the Dorchester area?

Rising Sea Levels and Storm Surges

The ocean has been rising over the past 100 years. In Saint John, sea level has risen by 24cm since 1920. It is now predicted to rise about 1m by 2100 around New Brunswick. Sea level rise is partly due to natural sinking of the land. Melting of the ice caps and glaciers, as well as the expansion of seawater due to heating, adds to a higher and faster rise in sea levels. Storm surges during storm events can increase sea levels even more and cause considerable damage. Major storm surges have hit many communities in New Brunswick. Dorchester's low lying sewage lagoon could be impacted by a storm surge.

More Severe Winter Storms

In the last decade there have been several serious storm events in the region, including severe winter storms and blizzards. Winter storms are especially dangerous when they result in power outages and road closures.

Changing Precipitation Patterns

More rain and snow are falling, but less often and in more severe events. An extreme rainfall event occurs when 50 mm or more rain falls over a 24-hour period. In recent years, many of these extreme precipitation events have cost millions of dollars in flooding damage to many communities in New Brunswick. Extreme rainfall can also lead to flooded roads around Dorchester stranding residents and making access to food, health care and gas stations challenging.