

Tantramar Climate Imagination Sessions Report



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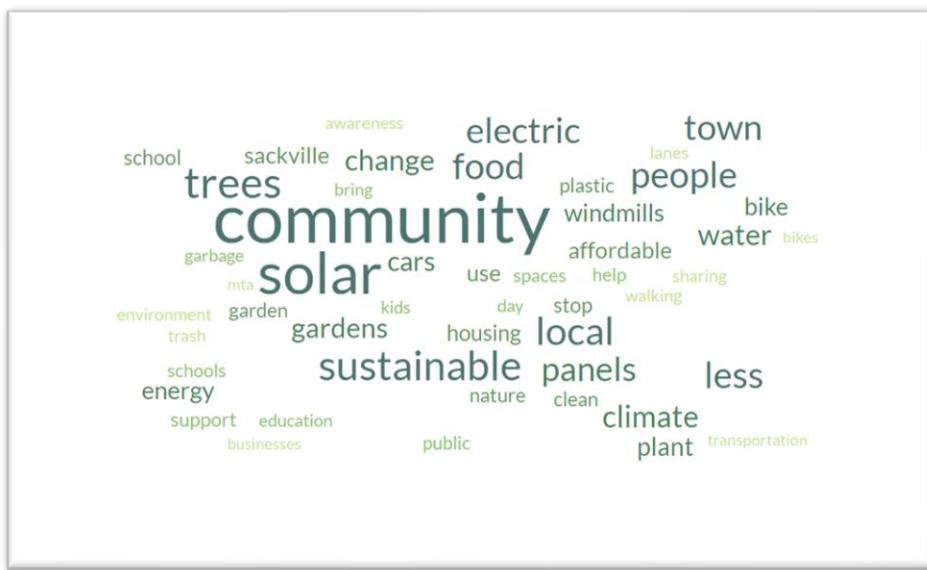
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Introduction

The Climate Imagination Sessions are part of an EOS Eco-Energy Climate Anxiety to Action Workshop Series supported by funding from the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund. The Climate Imagination Sessions were created with the dual goals of developing a collective vision for a sustainable future for the community, and building local momentum for climate action. Sessions were delivered for all grade 6-8 students at Marshview Middle School, and sessions held in Dorchester and Sackville were open to the broader community. Each climate imagination session involved an educational presentation about climate change and sustainability frameworks, followed by an invitation for attendees to “imagine what a sustainable Tantramar would look like,” capturing their ideas on chart paper in small groups. Participants were told to dream big and consider the intersectionality of sustainability. In addition, pop-up imagining sessions were held at community events such as the farmers market, Canada Day celebrations, and Sappyfest, to gather on-the-spot input from those who could not make it to the Sackville or Dorchester sessions. In total, over 640 ideas were gathered, and the project engaged roughly 300 local citizens.

Ideas Word Cloud

The following image is a word cloud generated from the ideas of the community members, using the direct wording from climate imagination session participants captured on the pages. The larger the word, the more frequently it appeared in the suggestions. “Community” stands out as by far the most frequently used word.



Results

This report organizes and summarizes the ideas gathered from the community and is intended to aid in informing the development of Tantramar’s strategic plan. As a means of categorizing the ideas, five pillars from Moncton’s strategic plan have been adopted: Environmental, Social, Cultural, Economic, and Governance. Given the environmental focus of the sessions, there are more ideas pertaining to the environment pillar. Following categorization by pillars, the 640+ ideas were consolidated into 35 topics that bring together similar ideas.

There are five tables below representing the five pillars. Related ideas are grouped and expressed under the bolded topics. The first column indicates the number of ideas related to each topic. The checkmarks in the middle seven columns indicate which entities are involved in implementation. Within each topic, the box that is highlighted green represents the entity that is best positioned to take the lead on implementation. The final column provides an estimation of the effort required to implement the topics, ranking ideas as either easy (E), moderate (M), or hard (H).

Strategic Pillar: Environmental

- The environment pillar contains the most ideas (232), organized into thirteen topics. The top three topics with the most ideas are solar panels (34 ideas), sustainable energy (26 ideas), and electric vehicles (23 ideas).
- This table also indicates the entities involved in the implementation of each topic. Within the environment pillar, the municipality is involved in every topic, citizens are involved in all but one, and organizations are involved in all but two.
- Excluding the federal level and institutions, there is an opportunity for each entity to take the lead on at least one topic. The top three entities identified as well-positioned to take leading roles are the municipality (3 topics), citizens (3 topics), and organizations (3 topics).
- In terms of effort, most topics fall into the medium effort category (6 topics), with five easy topics and only one hard topic.
- The relative low effort combined with collective responsibility and diverse leadership indicates plenty of opportunity to make rapid progress in implementing the topics under the environment pillar.

Topic	Entities Involved in Implementation							Effort
	Citizens	Organization	Institution	Business	Municipal	Provincial	Federal	
Ideas Count								
1. Solar panels: more solar on residential, municipal, and commercial buildings.								
34	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	M
2. Sustainable energy: exploring alternative energy sources, such as geothermal and hydropower, as well as seeking to reduce energy consumption. Ensuring buildings, schools, homes are energy efficient.								
26	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	M
3. Electric vehicles: incentivise electric vehicles, improve charging infrastructure, electric vehicles for the municipal fleet, electric school buses, police cars, and electrified public transit.								
23	✓				✓	✓	✓	M
4. Waste sorting: waste sorting in apartment buildings, student housing, local businesses, better education around how to sort your waste, community compost.								
22	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	M
5. Littering: clean up days, more trash cans, discourage littering.								
21	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		E
6. Windmills: developing wind power in Tantramar.								
17		✓		✓		✓	✓	H

Topic	Entities Involved in Implementation								Effort
	Ideas Count	Citizens	Organization	Institution	Business	Municipal	Provincial	Federal	
7. Personal waste reduction: information on how citizens can reduce their waste, incentives for bringing your own utensils, mugs, and reusable items.									
17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			E
8. Plastics: zero single-use plastic community, no plastic at municipal events, reducing plastic use in local businesses.									
17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			M
9. Protecting wildlife: swallow boxes, bat boxes, pollinator gardens, no illegal hunting, bird-safe town, wildlife corridors, fight invasive species.									
16	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			E
10. Involvement: more environment clubs, community groups and gatherings, opportunities for people to get involved.									
12	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			E
11. Water: water clean-ups, water fountains, rain collection, wetland health.									
12	✓	✓				✓	✓		M
12. Reduce electricity use: encourage people to turn off lights, minimize unnecessary heating and air conditioning, use clotheslines.									
9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E
13. Sustainable housing: net zero ready, affordable, suitable, walkable, flexible, sustainable materials.									
6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H

Strategic Pillar: Social

- The social pillar contains the second-most ideas (203), organized into nine topics. The top three topics with the most ideas are plant trees (32 ideas), active transit (29 ideas), and environmental programming (26 ideas).
- Within the social pillar, organizations and the municipality are involved in every topic, and citizens are involved in all but one.
- The top three entities identified as well-positioned to take leading roles are the municipality (4 topics), citizens (2 topics), and organizations (2 topics).
- The social pillar contains the highest number of hard topics in terms of effort to implement (4 topics), as well as 2 moderate and 3 easy.
- The relative high effort reflects the scale of the issues being addressed in the social pillar, and the importance of making progress on these topics.

Topic	Entities Involved in Implementation								Effort
	Ideas Count	Citizens	Organization	Institution	Business	Municipal	Provincial	Federal	
1. Plant trees: plant trees locally, especially downtown, reduce clearing of trees.									
32	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	E
2. Active transit: encouraging walking, biking, skateboards, and scooters, better sidewalks, bike lanes, bike affordability, giveaways, rentals, e-bike rental program.									
29	✓	✓				✓	✓		E
3. Environmental programming: summer camps, activities, and clubs for youth and people of all ages focused on environmental issues and taking action, nature walks for families, focus on reducing screen time and getting kids outside.									
26	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			E
4. Parks: more parks and green spaces for community members to use, expanding on our current assets with the Waterfowl Park and Dorchester trails.									
22	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		M
5. Food accessibility: expand the Farmers Market, make it open more than once a week, have a food mobile with local produce, support and advertise Open Sky's bulk food order, ensure access to quality, healthy food, less meat.									
21		✓			✓	✓			M
6. Intersectional goals: gender equality, poverty reduction, anti-bullying, better healthcare.									
21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H
7. Public transit: bus, train, shuttle services.									
20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H
8. Affordable housing: seek to develop new and accelerate current affordable housing initiatives.									
17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H
9. Sustainable recreation: multi-purpose community/rec centre with free, by donation, or pay-what-you-can programs and drop-ins (especially in Winter when it is harder to build a sense of community).									
15	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		H

Strategic Pillar: Cultural

- The cultural pillar contains 92 ideas, organized into four topics. The top three topics with the most ideas are community garden (41 ideas), environmental education (27 ideas), and community qualities (14 ideas).
- Within the cultural pillar, organizations, institutions, and the municipality can be involved in the implementation of every topic. Additionally, every topic can involve nearly every entity in some capacity.

- There is an opportunity for citizens to take the lead on two topics, and for the municipality and the province to take leading roles in one topic each.
- In terms of effort, most topics fall into the easy effort category (3 topics), with one medium effort topic and no hard topics.
- This pillar contains the easiest to implement topics. This indicates an opportunity to make rapid progress toward achieving the topics brought forward under the cultural pillar.

Topic	Entities Involved in Implementation								Effort
	Ideas Count	Citizens	Organization	Institution	Business	Municipal	Provincial	Federal	
1. Community garden: encouraging gardening for citizens, drawing attention to the existing community garden, expanding community gardening into more municipal and private land.									
41	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E
2. Environmental education: develop an appreciation for nature among young kids, land-based learning, teach about climate change in schools, incorporate into all classes as well as direct climate education, teach about the intersectionality of climate change and other social justice issues.									
27	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	M
3. Community qualities: safe, happy, vibrant, loving, peaceful, beautiful, green, zero-carbon community.									
14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			E
4. Community events: more things to do in Tantramar to encourage people to stay, local festivals, arts and culture walks, skills-sharing workshops, community meals.									
10		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		E

Strategic Pillar: Economic

- The economic pillar contains only one topic, with thirteen related ideas. It is recognized that this was not the primary focus of the Climate Imagination Sessions.
- Within the economic pillar, the involved entities include citizens, businesses, and the municipality.
- The municipality has been identified as the entity best positioned to take the lead on implementation.
- In terms of effort, this topic falls into the medium effort category.
- The local nature of this topic means it should be easy to begin making progress. There are many opportunities to support local businesses and encourage their sustainability.

Topic	Entities Involved in Implementation								Effort
	Ideas Count	Citizens	Organization	Institution	Business	Municipal	Provincial	Federal	
1. Local businesses: partnerships with local businesses, more second-hand shops, more trading and bartering and support for initiatives like Budz Trading Zone, attract tourists interested in sustainability (focus on experiences rather than material goods).									
13	✓				✓	✓			M

Strategic Pillar: Governance

- The governance pillar contains 103 ideas, organized into eight topics. The top three topics with the most ideas are guiding principles (25 ideas), town vision (19 ideas), and governing principles (17 ideas).
- Within the governance pillar, the municipality is involved in every topic, citizens and organizations are involved in all but one, and institutions and businesses are involved in all but two.
- There is an opportunity for four of the seven entities to take the lead on at least one topic. The top entities identified as well-positioned to take leading roles are the municipality (3 topics), and organizations (3 topics).
- In terms of effort, most topics fall into the medium effort category (4 topics), with 2 easy topics and 2 hard topics.
- The relative medium effort of the topics in the governance pillar reflects the fact that most of them have fairly broad objectives that involve all entities at the local level. Entities can work collectively to introduce these guiding concepts into their work and decision-making, with a few entities leading the way and demonstrating how this can be done.

Topic	Entities Involved in Implementation								Effort
	Ideas Count	Citizens	Organization	Institution	Business	Municipal	Provincial	Federal	
1. Guiding principles: Mindsets – engaged, urgent, hopeful, can-do attitude. Change individualism, share more, shift focus from materialism (stuff) to experiences (services). Decolonizing, localizing, changing the way we expect people to help out in the community, emissions reductions targets in line with the Paris Agreement.									
25	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			M
2. Town vision: town known as a sustainability leader, transition town, organic town, blue community, hyper-localized economy.									
19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			M
3. Governing principles: working with other municipalities and levels of government, collaborating with Mount Allison, budget for climate action, full-time climate change coordinator, dismantling policy barriers to local action, transferable goals.									
17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			M

Topic	Entities Involved in Implementation								Effort
	Ideas Count	Citizens	Organization	Institution	Business	Municipal	Provincial	Federal	
4. Communication: communication as basis for increasing engagement in sustainability initiatives, increase support for local media (CHMA), Tantramar podcast for local issues, bring in experts, sustainable Tantramar directory of information, tools, community "champions" for different topics used to connect people.									
12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			M
5. Bans: creating and enforcing policies to ban harmful substances and activities, such as certain pesticides and chemicals, clearcutting, and littering.									
11						✓	✓	✓	H
6. Advocacy: pressure corporations, institutions, and higher levels of government to act, lobby NB Power to allow municipal energy generation, encourage MTA to divest, hold MTA accountable.									
8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E
7. Housing approach: intergenerational living, fewer single-family dwellings, cooperative housing model.									
6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H
8. Emergency preparedness: heating and cooling centres, neighbourhood emergency response groups.									
5	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		E

Topics sorted by lead responsibility and effort

The following table displays the number of topics sorted by lead responsibility and effort. For example, the municipality would be positioned to take the lead on twelve topics: three of which are easy, seven moderate, and two hard. There are thirteen easy topics, which can be undertaken at the municipal (3), organizational (4), and citizen (6) levels. The hard topics are relatively evenly distributed across the various entities, whereas the moderate and easy topics are more concentrated in terms of lead responsibility. Overall, effort and lead responsibility are well distributed such that there can be a balance of immediate and mid to long-term projects.

Entity	Easy	Moderate	Hard	Total
Municipal	3	7	2	12
Organization	4	3	1	8
Citizen	6		1	7
Provincial		3	1	4
Business			2	2
Federal			1	1
Institution		1		1
Total	13	14	8	35

Top 5 topics by number of ideas

- **Community Garden (41):** encouraging gardening for citizens, drawing attention to the existing community garden, expanding community gardening into more municipal and private land.
- **Solar Panels (34):** more solar on residential, municipal, and commercial buildings.
- **Plant Trees (32):** plant trees locally, especially downtown, reduce clearing of trees.
- **Active Transit (29):** encouraging walking, biking, skateboards, and scooters, better sidewalks, bike lanes, bike affordability, giveaways, rentals, e-bike rental program.
- **Environmental Education (27):** develop an appreciation for nature among young kids, land-based learning, teach about climate change in schools, incorporate into all classes as well as direct climate education, teach about the intersectionality of climate change and other social justice issues.

Conclusion

This report has provided a summary of the EOS Eco-Action Climate Imagination Sessions run throughout the summer of 2024 in Tantramar, NB. The 300+ participants in the climate imagination sessions envisioned a sustainable future for the community, capturing their ideas on paper. This report categorized the 640+ ideas into general topics, then further organized the topics by strategic pillar, indicating entity involvement, lead opportunities, and estimated effort for each topic.

Moving forward from the sessions, the next step needed is the development of an action plan to chart the path forward for implementation of the ideas. Each of the seven entities should identify their role, assess their capacity, and collaborate with one another to ensure efficient and thorough action on as many of the topics as possible. Most of the topics outlined in this report involve several entities. This suggests there is plenty of opportunity for working together. Every entity has at least one topic for which they can take the lead for implementation, which will distribute the heaviest responsibility. Action can begin immediately on many of these ideas and, given the urgent nature of climate change, this immediate engagement should be encouraged.

Intersectionality was a common theme discussed at the Climate Imagination Sessions. It is clear that the topics and ideas brought forward have connections across pillars. For example, a community garden would have positive environmental, social, and cultural benefits. Because of these intersections, it is imperative that entities do not work in isolation on these topics.

A focus on building community resilience incorporates environmental, social, cultural, economic, and governance actions. A community strong in each of these pillars is a community that will be able to respond to the threats of climate change, emerge as a progressive leader among Canadian municipalities, and attract tourism, business, new residents, and opportunities. The 300+ citizens involved in the Climate Imagination Sessions envisioned this future for the community of Tantramar and will support actions that seek to make this future a reality.