Resilient Rurals’ Interactive Adaptation Roadmap has been developed alongside the *Community Water Planning: Case Studies and Recommendations* to assist rural communities in implementing a range of strategies and measures to proactively mitigate the impacts of climate-driven water shortages.

**Using the Roadmap:** Policy-makers, municipal staff and water-conscious residents alike can use the table below to workshop ideas for water-conserving adaptation strategies and tactics that can be applied within their communities. The recommendations in the Roadmap are the same as and/or complimentary to those listed in the Guide, and range from soft and hard policy measures, to public programs and educational campaigns. Adopting even one of the recommended measures can make a meaningful difference in advancing a community’s climate resilience.

| **Climate champions and change-makers exist in every corner of the country. We hope the Roadmap is a tool that assists them in uplifting their communities for a water resilient future.** |
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**Additional Resources**

* The [Resilient Rurals *Resource Hub*](https://www.resilientrurals.com/) hosts a variety of communication materials about water-saving options for rural residents and business owners, and potential policy options for municipal decision-makers. Any of the hub’s materials can be used to learn and share information that can help your community become more climate resilient.
* [Climate Atlas](https://climateatlas.ca/map/canada/plus30_2030_85#city=466) and [climatedata.ca](https://climatedata.ca/) are two open-source databases offering detailed projections for temperature, precipitation, and other climate variables for communities and regions across the country.
* Sections 4.3 and 4.4 in [Chapter 4 of the Regional Perspectives Report](https://changingclimate.ca/regional-perspectives/chapter/4-0/#:~:text=The%20provinces%20of%20Alberta%2C%20Saskatchewan,Ecozone%20(see%20Figure%204.1).) detail how floods, drought and wildfires are getting worse across the Canadian prairies and how collaborative water management can reduce negative impacts. Other chapters of the report focus on other regions of the country, and may provide further details on drought in the context of those geographical areas.

| **Quick Prairie Water Supply and Drought Facts** |
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* Climate projections suggest an increasing risk of drought across the Prairies, specifically in summer and fall. *(Regional Perspectives Report, Chapter 4)*
* The worst-case future scenario for the Prairie provinces is the reoccurrence of consecutive years of severe drought. *(Regional Perspectives Report, Chapter 4)*
* Changes in precipitation location, duration and intensity may impact agricultural viability in some regions.

| **Recommendation: Develop a Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Plan** | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tactic** | **Roles and Responsibilities** | **Est. Costs** | **Est. Timeline** | **Resources** | **Priority** |
| Review the framework of a Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (CEP) Plan in developing water-conserving policies in the community |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assemble a water conservation task force |  |  |  |  |  |
| Audit water sources and major users |  |  |  |  |  |
| Set use reduction targets |  |  |  |  |  |
| Select hard and soft conservation measures for the community |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner with stakeholders |  |  |  |  |  |
| Engage with agricultural producers |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Recommendation: Implement measures for water conservation in Municipal, Residential and Commercial landscaping** | | | | | |
| **Tactic** | **Roles and Responsibilities** | **Est. Costs** | **Est. Timeline** | **Resources** | **Priority** |
| ‘Ecoscape’ and naturalize with drought-tolerant plant species in municipal landscaping projects |  |  |  |  |  |
| Encourage residents and businesses to use drought-tolerant native plants for residential and commercial landscaping |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reduce grass lawn coverage on residential, commercial and municipal properties through using and promoting alternatives |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reduce grass lawn coverage on residential, commercial properties by offering rebates for private owners |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Recommendation: Transition the community to water efficient appliances and fixtures** | | | | | |
| **Tactic** | **Roles and Responsibilities** | **Est. Costs** | **Est. Timeline** | **Resources** | **Priority** |
| Establish rebate programs for residents and businesses to update indoor and outdoor fixtures and appliances with water efficient alternatives (i.e., low-flow toilets, washing machines, taps, shower heads, dishwashers) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Establish a rebate program to subsidize rain barrel purchases |  |  |  |  |  |
| Create a bylaw for new construction requiring builders to install low-flow fixtures before they can acquire an occupancy permit |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Recommendation: Utilize public communications materials and mechanisms to increase awareness of water conservation efforts and drought risk** | | | | | |
| **Tactic** | **Roles and Responsibilities** | **Est. Costs** | **Est. Timeline** | **Resources** | **Priority** |
| Adopt a colour-coded drought categorization system to communicate water scarcity and drought risk |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dedicate a section of the municipal website to water conservation |  |  |  |  |  |
| Develop a guide, or a series of info sheets for how residents can voluntarily reduce their water usage, or use what is currently available from other communities or Resilient Rurals |  |  |  |  |  |
| Promote the rebate programs available to residents for curbing water use online, in the newsletter and through public engagement events |  |  |  |  |  |
| Encourage stewardship through messaging, focusing on region-specific water conservation messaging during periods of drought as well as throughout the year |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Recommendation: Develop an action plan in the case of water supply shortages or emergency water shut-off** | | | | | |
| **Tactic** | **Roles and Responsibilities** | **Est. Costs** | **Est. Timeline** | **Resources** | **Priority** |
| Develop an Emergency Response and Contingency Plan (ERCP) (see the pg. 30 of the Guide for elements of an ERCP) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Communicate with the local water supplier on the steps that would need to be taken in the case of a water shut-off |  |  |  |  |  |

**Resilient Rurals began as a partnership between the towns of Bruderheim, Gibbons, and Lamont for a regional climate adaptation and resilience project in Alberta’s Industrial Heartland. It is a new approach—created by small towns, for small towns.**

In 2015, the Town of Bruderheim was selected for participation in a one-day Climate Resilience Express workshop with All One Sky Foundation. The Town was provided with a Climate Resilience Action Plan that outlined a number of actions to promote resilience in a changing climate.

The plan was a unique opportunity—a launching point from which to build a regional collaborative framework with neighbouring municipalities with similar sized populations (under 3,500) in Alberta’s Industrial Heartland. The towns of Gibbons and Lamont agreed to partner with Bruderheim, and Resilient Rurals was born.

With Bruderheim as the lead, the group has worked to identify shared priority risks, opportunities for collaboration, and develop communication and education resources for staff and residents.

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