

Climate Action Consultancy: Information for Partners

Please visit www.cachamilton.ca for more information about the Climate Action Consultancy.

What is the Climate Action Consultancy?

The Climate Action Consultancy (CAC) is a grassroots organization that seeks to bridge the gap between the community and researchers in pursuit of a sustainable future. The Consultancy relies on collective action to pursue and enact changes at the local, regional and national level. The CAC seeks to gather passionate, intelligent and forward-thinking individuals under a singular movement: integrating and initiating green initiatives across a wide array of sectors and harnessing university knowledge of both science and business.

To achieve this, the CAC provides free environmental consultation to the community. For local residents, this includes assessments of expenses and return on investment of green initiatives such as solar panels and electric vehicles, as well as information-sharing online and via social media. The Consultancy aims to partner with local businesses to advise them on government subsidies for sustainable development, determine the financial viability of environmental projects, and establish resources to promote these undertakings. The CAC also seeks to inform municipal policy with respect to climate change.

Who are we?

We have a team of 25 undergraduate students at McMaster University selected for their expertise in finance, environmental science, and advocacy. Our team is subdivided into interdisciplinary project groups which are assigned individual stakeholders to consult for. The organization has an executive board which oversees all of the CAC's publications and stakeholder reports.

What services do we provide?

- *Free environmental consulting:*
 - Taxes and Subsidies: We have a number of staff dedicated to researching municipal, provincial, and national incentives related to green initiatives. By determining which of these opportunities are applicable, our team can minimize the costs of projects like solar panel installation, energy efficiency retrofitting, and more.

- Expenses: CAC researchers also investigate the total expenses of proposed projects by evaluating service providers and products. We can provide cost estimates which will determine the feasibility of projects.
- Return on Investment: A major component of our analyses is return on investment for green initiatives. Our reports include a proposed ROI and a cost-benefit evaluation to improve the decision-making process.
- *Assistance with the implementation of green initiatives:* Our staff can assist with choosing contractors, applying for grants, and assessing finances to implement initiatives.
- *Information-sharing campaigns:* The CAC also endeavours to improve understanding of climate issues and solutions among residents of the community. We bridge the gap between science researchers and the community by providing written resources on our website and social media campaigns.
- *Climate policy:* The Consultancy advocates for municipal-level changes which are beneficial to the community and address environmental concerns. The CAC endeavours to campaign to the municipal government to make simple, yet effective, community decisions. Our research team examines successful policy implemented by other municipalities, such as Toronto's climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy.
- *Residential consulting:* We consult with homeowners and residents to provide free professional-quality information and planning regarding the implementation, financing and viability of green initiatives.

Why do we provide these services for free?

Our student researchers are willing to devote their time and expertise to addressing climate issues in the community because they are passionate about reducing the community's environmental impact. As students, our consultants benefit from gaining practical experience with environmental issues in a professional setting.

What are the benefits of consulting?

- Reduced costs of electricity, natural gas consumption, and water consumption
- A report tailored to your business assessing cost-saving measures and areas for sustainable improvement
- Assistance with the implementation of green initiatives and application for grants and subsidies
- Access to a team of student consultants assigned to your business
- Increased awareness of the resources available to businesses to encourage sustainability
- Grow your business into a community leader in pursuit of a more sustainable future