

Adaptation Planning

County of Wellington Climate
Adaptation Plan

July 22nd, 2026



1

Recap: May 22nd Vulnerability and Risk Knowledge Summit



May 22nd : Vulnerability and Risk Knowledge Summit

Engaged residents, public health, social services, emergency management, conservation authorities, and County staff.

- ✓ Assessed vulnerability based on sensitivity and adaptive capacity.
- ✓ Evaluated risk by considering the likelihood and consequences of climate impacts.

The assessment provides a clear understanding of where climate change poses the greatest risks to County services, infrastructure, natural assets, and residents, helping prioritize areas for adaptation



County of Wellington Climate Change Adaptation Plan
Vulnerability and Risk Worksheet
May 20, 2025

The focus area for this worksheet is **Community Services & Systems**. Explore vulnerabilities, impact statement below. Think about your own lived experiences. Can you recall times when these hazards and/or climate events? (Please refer to the primer sheet for detailed instructions)

Impact Statement	Vulnerability		Consequence					Rationale/ Experience
	Sensitivity	Adaptive Capacity	Public Safety	Local economy & growth	Community and Lifestyle	Environment and Sustainability	Public Administration	
Storm and extreme rainfall events may disrupt power and telecommunications, resulting in reduced access to emergency information and delayed response times.	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	
Increasing frequency of extreme weather events may reduce recovery time between incidents, resulting in cumulative strain on emergency management systems.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Flooding events may disrupt emergency response routes, resulting in delays to emergency services and reduced response effectiveness.	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	
Seasonal variability may create unpredictable service demands, resulting in increased pressure on municipal operations and service delivery.	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	
Drought may reduce water supply availability, resulting in increased pressure on municipal water systems and potential service restrictions.	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	

County of Wellington Climate Change Adaptation Plan
Vulnerability and Risk Worksheet
May 20, 2025

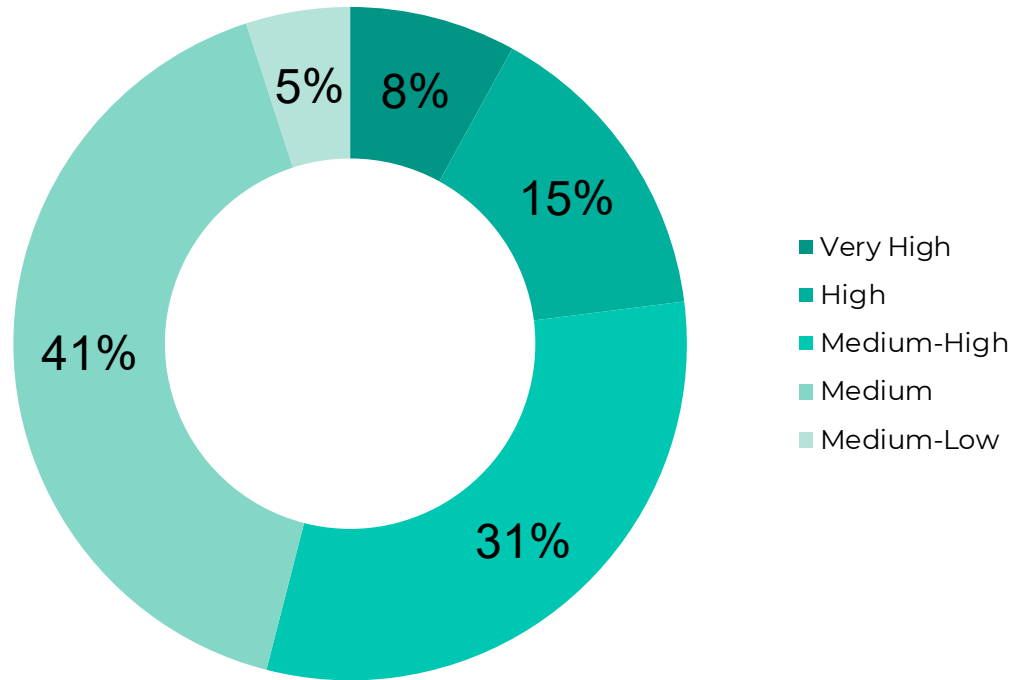
The focus area for this worksheet is **Built Environment**. Explore vulnerabilities and consequences for each statement below. Think about your own lived experiences. Can you recall times when you were impacted by hazards and/or climate events? (Please refer to the primer sheet for detailed instructions)

Impact Statement	Vulnerability		Consequence					Rationale/ Experience
	Sensitivity	Adaptive Capacity	Public Safety	Local economy & growth	Community and Lifestyle	Environment and Sustainability	Public Administration	
Extreme heat may accelerate deterioration of roads and built infrastructure, resulting in increased maintenance costs and reduced asset lifespan.	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	
Extreme weather may create hazardous travel conditions, resulting in accidents, road closures, and limited mobility across rural areas and creating transportation barriers.	4	3	4	2	3	3	3	
Increased precipitation may flood homes, businesses, and infrastructure, resulting in property damage, insurance costs, and long-term housing impacts.	4	2	3	2	3	3	3	
Increased precipitation and frequency of storms may damage transportation infrastructure, resulting in road closures and reduced access to services, particularly in rural areas.	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	
Flooding in high-risk areas may occur more frequently, resulting in repeated property damage and the need for land-use changes or relocation.	3	4	2	3	2	3	2	
Increased freeze-thaw cycles may damage roads, bridges, and underground infrastructure, resulting in higher maintenance costs and reduced asset performance.	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	



Climate risk is widespread and several systems need near-term action

Distribution of assessed climate risks



What the assessment found

72% of assessed risks are Medium-High or greater

9 priority risks require near-term adaptation action

MOST SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS

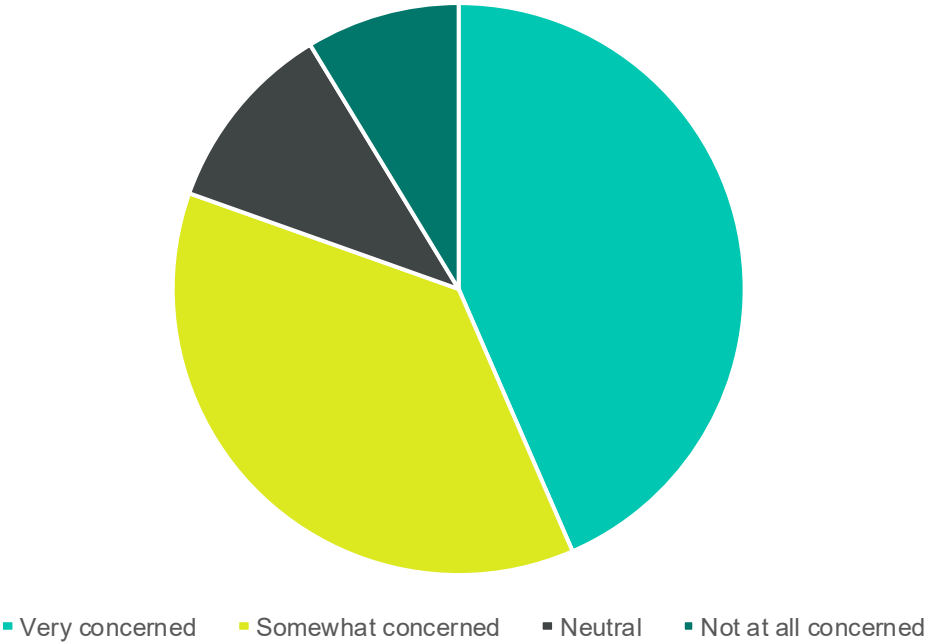
Extreme heat • Drought • Flooding

HIGHLY VULNERABLE SYSTEMS

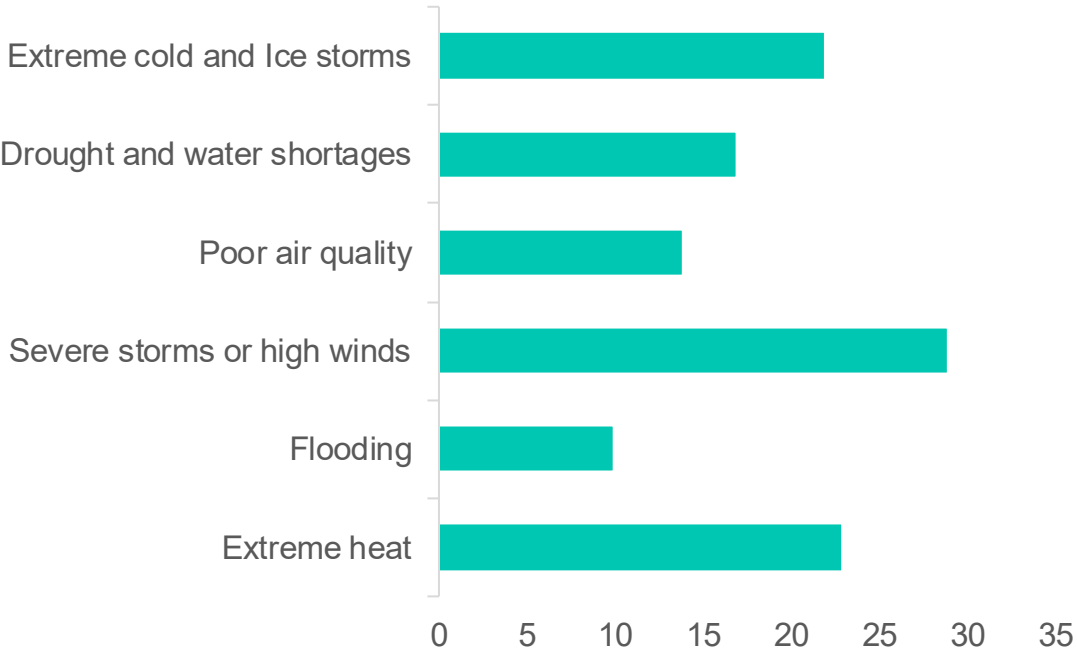
- **Health and community services**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Emergency management**

Community priorities show where adaptation should begin

How concerned are you about the impacts of changing weather patterns and climate change in Wellington County?



Looking ahead, which weather-related challenges concern you most in Wellington County? (Select up to 3)



WHAT WE HEARD Residents are concerned about overlapping impacts especially extreme heat, severe weather, outages, smoke and flooding.

Today's Objectives

- Review and Refine Adaptation Solutions

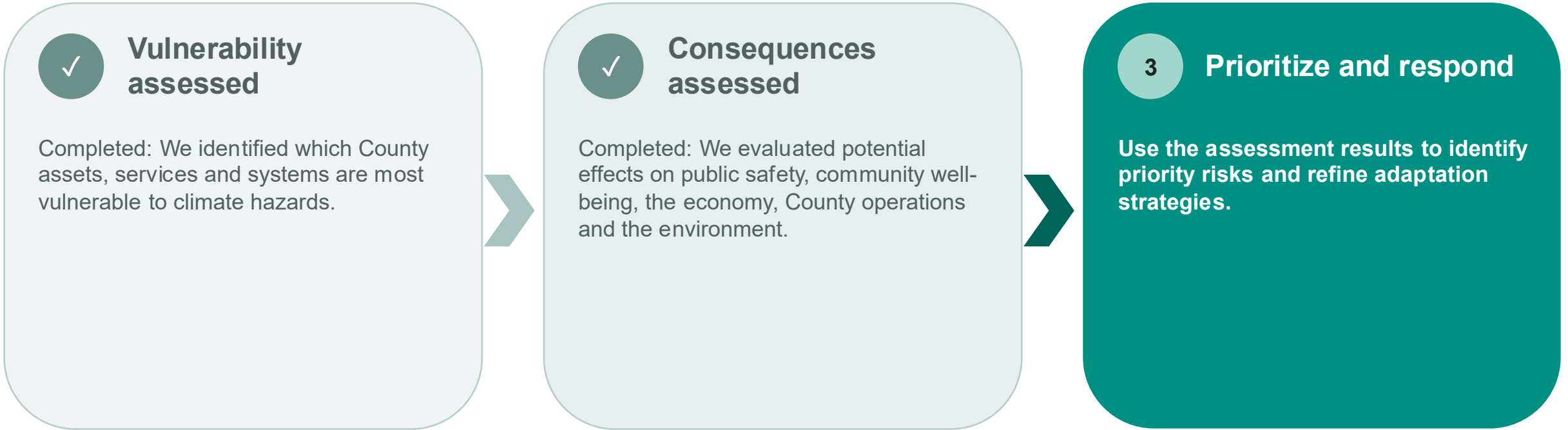


1

Approach to Adaptation



Moving from Assessment to Action



2

Break Out Activities



Breakout Activity

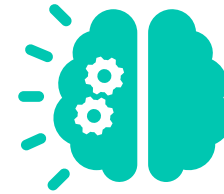
Help refine and strengthen Wellington County's adaptation actions by sharing your expertise and local knowledge..

Activity 1: Review the Proposed Actions

For each action, consider:

- Does it address the identified climate risk?
- Is the action practical and achievable?
- Are there emerging risks or local concerns not reflected in the plan?
- Are there additional actions the County should pursue?

Tips for Success



Think Critically

Consider whether the action will effectively reduce climate risk and build resilience.

Look for Opportunities

Identify partnerships, programs, or initiatives that could strengthen implementation



Be Practical

Focus on actions that are realistic, implementable, and aligned with County responsibilities

Understanding the Adaptation Action Template

Action Item		
Action Description	Adaptation Strategy	The proposed action(s) to reduce climate risk and improve resilience.
	Current Practice	Existing programs, policies, projects, or initiatives already underway.
	Next Steps	Recommended activities needed to advance implementation.



Use your local knowledge, and expertise to:

- Confirm or refine the proposed adaptation outcome.
- Identify additional actions that are not addressed.

Next Steps

- Thank you for your participation. We will integrate your feedback and develop Wellington County's Climate Adaptation Plan



Thank you!

