

Halif**ACT** Acting on
Climate
Together

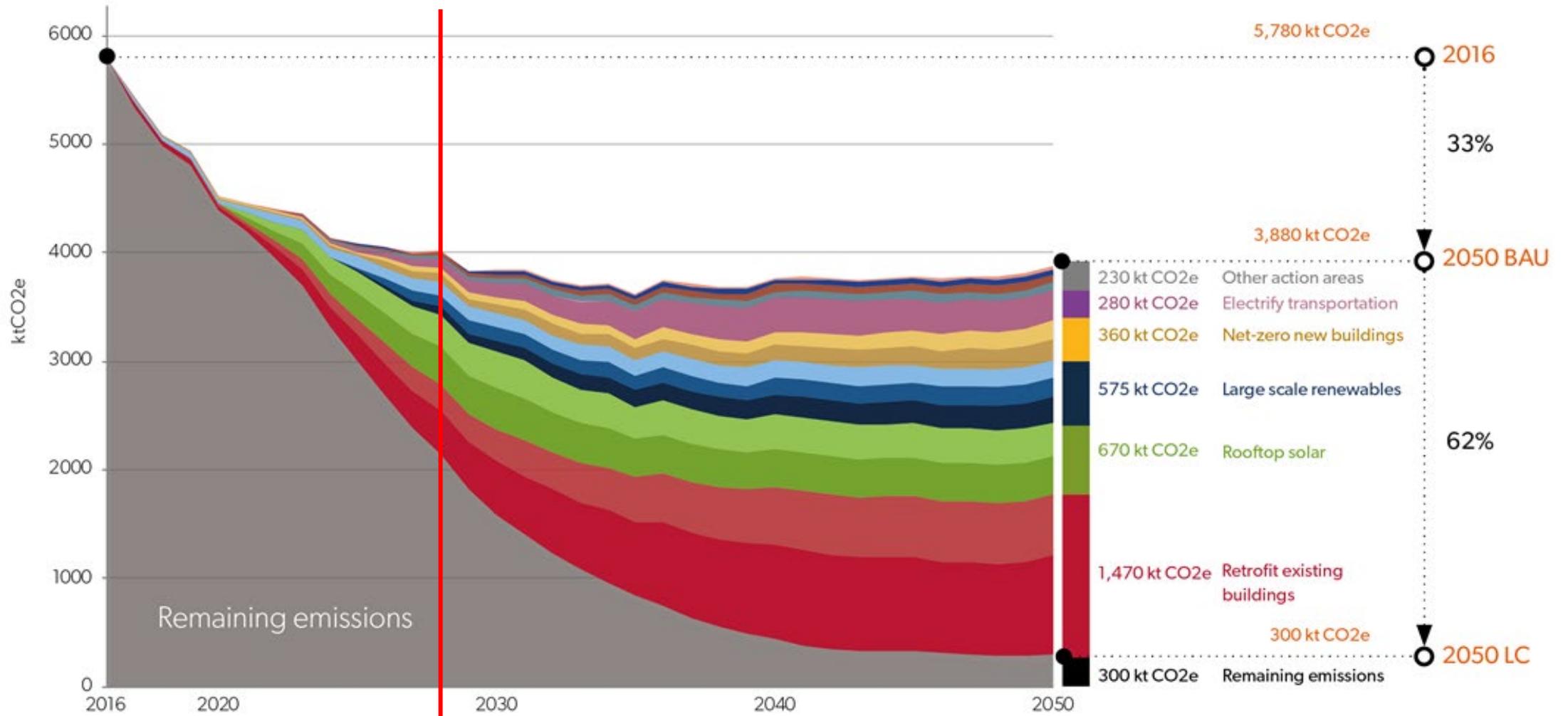


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<https://youtu.be/bDxFIA3xjd0>

**Women's Advisory Committee
February 3, 2022**

The Reduction Required



**COUNCIL
MOTION
June 23,
2020**

1. Authorize the direction contained in the HalifACT: Acting on Climate Together plan
2. Establish a target of net-zero municipal operations by the year 2030
3. Prioritize action in 7 critical core areas
4. Direct the CAO to return to Council with a **resource plan** for consideration in the 2021/2022 budget
5. Provide annual progress reports on the implementation of HalifACT



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7 Core Areas

- Retrofit and renewable energy programming
- Retrofit municipal buildings to be net-zero ready and climate resilient
- Develop an EV Strategy
- Net-zero standards for new buildings
- Risk and vulnerability assessments of critical infrastructure
- Capacity building for climate adaptation
- Develop a financing strategy to operationalize HalifACT over 30 years



Early Successes - Mitigation

- ✓ Funding:
 - ✓ Net-zero Mill Cove ferry design, purchase of 60 e-buses and electrification of Ragged Lake Transit Facility expansion
 - ✓ \$175,000 grant received from FCM to support retrofit program development
- ✓ Approvals:
 - ✓ EV Strategy, Deep Energy Retrofit Pilot, Administrative Order mandating net-zero corporate builds all approved by Halifax Regional Council
 - ✓ Halifax signed on to Cities Race to Zero



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Early Successes - Mitigation

- ✓ Retrofits and Renewable Energy:
 - ✓ Expression of Interest submitted to NS Green Choice Program to purchase clean energy
 - ✓ \$18 million in solar energy systems installed through the Solar City Program
 - ✓ Dartmouth North Community Centre undergoing Deep Energy Retrofit and solar installation
 - ✓ Corporate Retrofit Roadmap under development
- ✓ Climate account funded e-bikes for parking services, electric ice resurfacer for community rinks, solar installations
- ✓ A third of the Regional Centre All Ages and Abilities Bike Network is completed



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Early Successes - Adaptation

- ✓ Climate account funded a refrigerated truck to support vulnerable communities during emergencies, Prince Albert Road rain garden, and \$275,000 worth of trees to support the Urban Forest Master Plan
- ✓ Application for Natural Infrastructure Funding to improve the resilience of Shore Road in Eastern Passage – \$5M project
- ✓ Acquisition of 1.25 acres of land in addition to providing \$750,000 for the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes land acquisition



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Early Successes - Adaptation

- ✓ Centre Plan was approved, extending the vertical coastal setback requirements to commercial and industrial use
- ✓ Contract issued to localize new global climate predictions and begin creating climate hazard maps for flood risks
- ✓ Emergency back-up generators were installed at four community locations to provide emergency comfort centres during extreme weather events
- ✓ Natural asset inventory completed in partnership with the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative (MNAI)



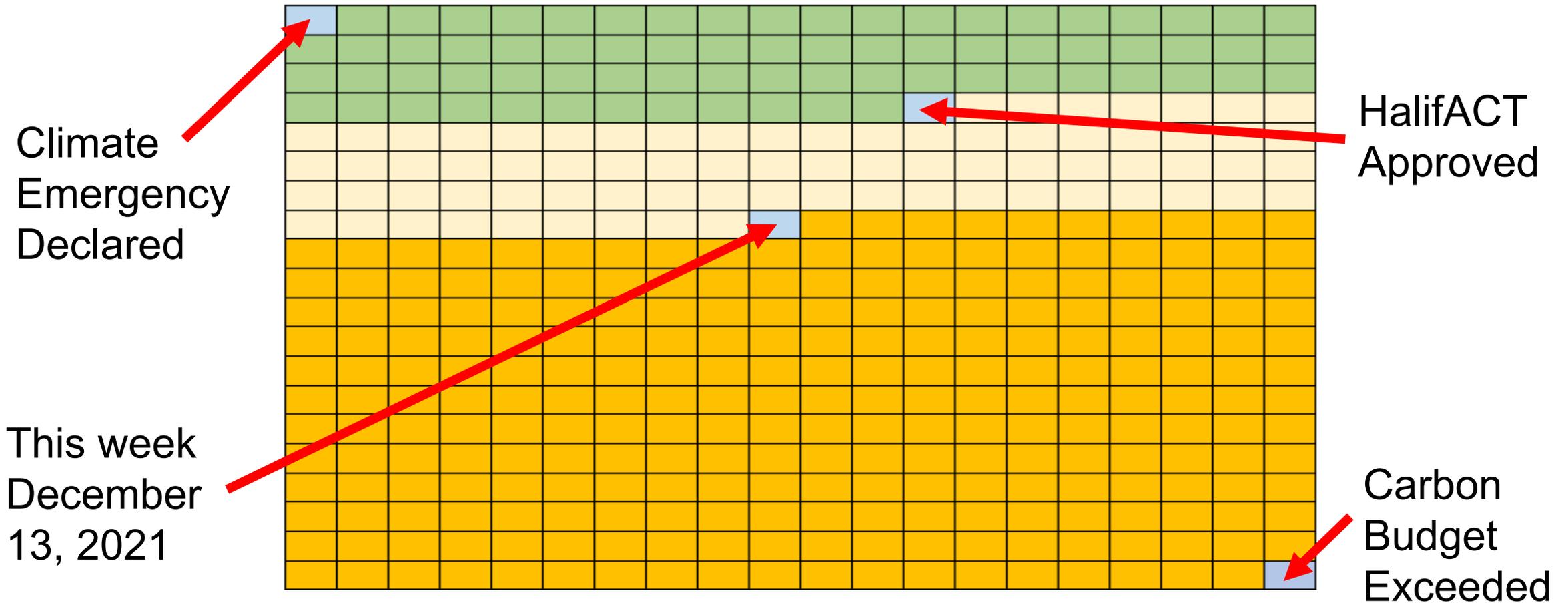
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Progress To-Date

- While we can be proud of our accomplishments to-date, they do not meet the scale and speed required to achieve our 2030 and 2050 targets.
- HalifACT is **20%** on track and **14%** adequately resourced
- Requires further resources, major systems change, mainstreaming climate action, education & awareness, collective action by all.

Carbon Budget

- 150 weeks since Regional Council declared a Climate Emergency
- 264 weeks until we surpass our Carbon Budget in BAU scenario



Climate Vulnerable People & Equity

- Not all people will be affected equally by climate change.
- Some groups, communities or populations will be disproportionately affected due to their increased exposure and sensitivity to climate risks, or lack of adaptive capacity to deal with the impacts.
- Not all will be able to contribute to the significant action and investment required to decarbonize.
- Given limited resources, we must prioritize action for the most vulnerable, many of whom are already suffering from a range of challenges.

Impacts on Women Globally

- Climate change deepens existing inequities. Women make up majority of the world's poor.
- Poor communities globally depend on natural resources for their livelihood that are under threat from the impacts of climate change.
- Women do a disproportionate amount of unpaid work. Food scarcity and health impacts from climate change add to the burden on women in the home.
- Women have less influence on decision-making for climate adaptation.
 - Despite efforts, women still underrepresented in UN decision-making roles.
 - Varies by sector, organization, place, etc.
- Women globally have less access to essential resources required to adapt
 - Including income and access to technology.
 - Canadian women make 89 cents to the dollar compared to men!

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Impacts on Women in North America

- Local impacts from extreme weather events
- Problem worsens considerably for women of colour
- In New Orleans more than half the poor families in the city were headed by single mothers reliant on community networks for everyday survival and resources.
 - The displacement that happened after Katrina essentially eroded those networks, and places women and their children at much greater risk.
- Study found that half of lone-parent families in BC live in poverty, with 85% of these families being female-led
- Food insecurity is experienced by 1 in 3 Canadian women who are solo-parenting
 - 1 in 6 Canadian children under the age of 18 is affected by household food insecurity
 - Children who live in single parent families are more than 3x more likely to live in poverty than children in two-parent families
- Climate anxiety & reproduction hesitation



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Women's Role in Climate Action

- Long history of women advocating for environmental and social wellbeing.
- Women as decision makers, stakeholders, educators, caregivers and experts are leading the way to more equitable and sustainable solutions – increasing climate resilience and overall well-being.
- Many women in climate action locally but need more representation in politics, senior decision-making, certain sectors, etc.

Christiana Figueres

Diplomacy

After heading a climate-change nonprofit for eight years, **Christiana Figueres** took on leadership of the UNFCCC, the body responsible for international climate-change negotiations, at the agency's lowest point. Just five months earlier, the world failed to reach an agreement at the 2009 Copenhagen summit. She injected a unique sense of optimism, attempting to remove the talks from what she calls "the political trash can." It worked: Figueres successfully steered world leaders to reach the Paris Agreement in 2015. Along with a number of other women involved in the negotiations, Figueres was successful in shedding an important light on the gender dimension of climate change. She's now writing a book about what the world needs to do in the next 10 years to combat climate change. —*Jennifer Duggan*



Illustration by Jacqui Oakley for TIME

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Darren Calabrese, Canadian Press

Social Opportunity

- Reduce climate impacts on vulnerable populations
- Build resiliency to improve lives
- Reduce energy poverty
- Reduce the burden on future generations



Economic Opportunity

- A low carbon future is a lower cost future
 - Investments generate financial returns
 - Net benefit of 22 Billion over 30 years
- Mitigation savings from:
 - Avoided energy costs, O&M costs
 - Avoided carbon pricing costs
 - Increased energy generation revenues
- Adaptation savings:
 - Every \$1 spent saves \$6 in future impact costs
- Economic recovery from COVID-19 pandemic
 - A unique opportunity to do things differently
 - Funding opportunities for a green transition



Opportunities going forward

- Job and sector growth
 - Energy audits
 - Building retrofits
 - Home navigators
 - Education and awareness
- Citizen engagement
- Community action and climate advocacy
- Politics...

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