

Glossary

Adaptation

Actions in response to actual or projected climate change impacts which reduce the vulnerability of social, environmental, physical and economic systems.

Asset Management

According to the City of Mississauga's Asset Management Policy, Asset Management is the coordinated activities of an organization to realize optimal value from its assets. It involves balancing costs, opportunities and risks against the desired performance of assets to achieve the City's objectives.

Air Quality

The degree to which the air in a particular area or geography is pollution-free and suitable for inhabitants including humans, animals, or plants to remain healthy.

Cleantech

Any process, product, or service that reduces environmental impacts through: (1) environmental protection activities that prevent, reduce, or eliminate pollution or any other degradation of the environment; (2) resource management activities that result in a more efficient use of natural resources; or (3) the use of goods that have been modified or adapted to be significantly less energy or resource intensive than the industry standard.

Climate

The prevailing weather conditions including temperature, precipitation, and wind patterns in an area over a long period of time, extending from months to thousands of years.

Climate change

Climate change refers to any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity. Climate change is any systematic change in the long-term statistics of climate elements (such as temperature, sea level, precipitation, humidity, or winds) sustained over several decades or longer.

Environment Community of Practice

An internal group within the City of Mississauga that provides a forum where a variety of environmental practitioners and other interested City staff can come together to learn, share, connect, and innovate to help green the Corporation and the community.

Extreme weather

Extreme events refer to meteorological conditions that are rare for a particular place and/or time, such as an intense storm or heat wave and are beyond the normal range of activity. They can be the result of sudden and drastic changes in temperature, precipitation and sea-level or they may be the result of a more gradual, but prolonged, shift in temperature or precipitation that is beyond the normal range.



Greenhouse Gas (GHG)

Greenhouse gases are generated by the burning of fossil fuels: gasoline, diesel fuel, natural gas, or propane. Burning of fossil fuels generates CO₂ which effectively absorbs thermal infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, by the atmosphere itself due to the same gases, and by clouds.

Green Infrastructure

An infrastructure asset consisting of natural or human-made elements that provide ecological and hydrological functions and processes and includes natural heritage features and systems, parklands, stormwater management systems, street trees, urban forests, natural channels, permeable surfaces and green roofs (Per Ontario Regulation 588/17).

Green Leaders

A group of volunteer City of Mississauga staff who promote environmental awareness in the corporation, with the aim of achieving environmental sustainability in the workplace.

Mitigation

Measures that contribute to the stabilization or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Resilience

The ability of systems and communities to absorb the impacts of climate change and maintain an acceptable level of functionality and service.

Weather

The local state of the atmospheric environment and precipitation patterns on a day-to-day basis, or over a short period of time.

