



February 2026

Adapting Forestry Programs to Climate Change: 2025 Progress

The Adapting Forestry Programs to Climate Change report had several key performance indicators used to assess the progress towards making these changes at the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. This report will go through each key performance indicator and assess the progress for 2025.



Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority



Table 1. Progress on addressing key performance indicators in 2025 related to each climate adaptation category.

Category	Key Performance Indicator	2025 Progress
Climate Resilient Planting	<p>1) Report on proportions of stock sourced from seed zone each year, targeting 50% local seed zone (Z34), 25% seed zone to the south (Z32) and 25% seed zone south of that (Z37).</p> <p>Note: may pivot to Seed Transfer Policy in 2030.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Conservation Authority purchased 58,350 seedlings in 2025 to support its afforestation programming. 33,400 (57%) were sown from the local zone (Z34) and the remaining 24,950 (43%) were sown from seed collected in southern zones 32, 37 and 38. This is less than the targeted 50% but is subject to limited nursery inventory and availability. Nurseries often give priority of southern stock to southern clients and weather can cause issues with production, which further limits the available stock.
Climate Resilient Planting	<p>2) Quantify Carolinian stock planted. Ensure a minimum of 50 or 1% (whichever is smaller) of planting stock is composed of Carolinian species. Applying the Climate Resilient Planting list for suggested resilient species.</p> <p>Note: revisit this target in 2030 to potentially increase Carolinian stock.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the 58,350 seedlings purchased, 750 (1.3%) were Carolinian species. The Conservation Authority planted a further 850 potted Carolinian trees out of a total of 6,235 (12%). This exceeds the goal of 50 plants or 1% of the total stock.

Category	Key Performance Indicator	2025 Progress
Climate Resilient Planting	3) Qualify consultation with nurseries about seed sourcing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Authority staff attended a stock viewing day and nursery tour with presentations to learn about different stock types and seed zones. Forests Canada's annual general meeting always contains a session on stock, which forestry staff attend.
Increasing Forest Cover	1) Report on number of trees/shrubs planted per year to support woodland protection, restoration and creation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2025, the Conservation Authority planted 53,735 trees and shrubs and distributed a further 10,850 across the watershed.
Increasing Forest Cover	2) Report of site visits, and site visits that resulted in planting projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Conservation Authority conducted over 45 site visits yielding 35 planting projects.
Tree Risk Management	Provide a brief update about annual progress related to the Tree Risk Management Strategy (e.g. in 2025, a draft of the tree risk management strategy incorporated future climate risks).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Conservation Authority removed hundreds of dead or dying trees near trails and other infrastructure. The newly updated strategy is in draft form and next steps are being determined.
Forest Management Strategy	Report on progress on creating a forest management strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of other organizations' forest management strategies has been initiated, and a very rough outline has been produced. Further work will occur in 2026.

Category	Key Performance Indicator	2025 Progress
Knowledge Transfer Between Practitioners	1) Number of in-person knowledge sharing events (workshops, conferences, presentations).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Authority forestry staff attended and/or hosted 24 workshops/presentations. Examples include: the York Region Urban Forestry Forum, York Region Invasive Species Technical Working Group, and Technical Working Group meetings for the York Region Urban Forest Studies.
Knowledge Transfer Between Practitioners	2) Which Conservation Authorities, Registered Forest Practitioners, Municipalities/First Nations, and/or other organizations were consulted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The forestry team worked with six Conservation Authorities, York Region, Durham Region, Simcoe County, the Town of Ramara, the Town of East Gwillimbury, the Town of Georgina, the Town of Newmarket, and the Ontario Heritage Trust.
Public Engagement	Number of public communications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Conservation Authority created twelve e-blasts which reached 5,250 people. A further 19 social media posts were created which reached an additional 58,000 people. These communications helped educate watershed residents and promote Conservation Authority programs and services.
Planning and Timing of Operations	Hire contractors. Revisit as necessary. Qualify additional/new practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed. In 2025 no new practices were employed. Contractors were hired externally to ensure faster completion of the spring planting program. No harvesting was completed in 2025.

Category	Key Performance Indicator	2025 Progress
Tree Planting Site Maintenance	Report of the number of hectares maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately five hectares were mowed and/or manually trimmed in 2025.
Internal Climate Change Training	<p>Check box annually if completed.</p> <p>Review Adapting Forestry Report and attend climate change training by the Climate Change Specialist.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was identified in 2025 as a priority, so it will be initiated by the Climate Change Specialist starting in 2026.