

Community Heat Response Strategy Action List

Action Number	Strategy	Description	Lead	Activities in 2024	Proposed Future Activities 2025
1	Education and Outreach	Distribution of cooling items to educate and encourage individual heat adaptive behaviours. Engage public about risks of extreme heat and preventative measures. Distribution of educational materials. Education on how to prepare for extreme heat events. Information line provides resources available through telephone to general regarding risk and safety information. Distribution of water bottles and access to drinking water.	Public Health Services	748 Cool Kits Distributed	Continue Cool Kit Distribution
				13 Focus Groups	Continue engagement with community
				1643 Promotional Items Distributed	Continue to distribute Promotional Items
2	Heat Warning Notification	Alerts issued to public to advise of heat warnings and extended heat warnings with heat safety tips.	Public Health Services	4 Heat Warnings/Extended Heat Warnings	Continue to track Heat/Warnings/Extended Heat Warnings
				12 days in Heat Warning/Extended Heat Warning	Continue to track Heat/Warnings/Extended Heat Warnings

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3	Cool Places	Air-conditioned public spaces as well as public swims and spray pads to provide respite during heat warnings. Expansion of services to highest-risk population during heat warnings.	Recreation, Hamilton Public Library	<p>#Cooling locations 9 Community Partners 11 Recreation Centres with Indoor Pools and Cool Places 4 Recreation Centres with Cool Place 7 Indoor Pools 10 Outdoor Pools 71 Spray Pads 5 Wading Pools 6 Municipal Service Centres 23 Libraries</p> <p>Free admission to Open Swims during heat warnings and extended heat warnings</p> <p>24,431 free swim admissions recorded over 4 heat events</p>	Continue to provide cool spaces to the community
4	Cooling and Energy Efficiency Support	a) Subsidies and/or rebates for improving energy efficiency in homes or buildings. (i.e. Better Homes Hamilton Project Supports this).	PED (OCCI)	Better Homes Hamilton Pilot Program intake period ran from early Dec 2023 to Feb 1, 2024, and 50 homeowners were ultimately selected to participate in the program.	During 2025, OCCI staff continue to provide 'concierge/ coaching' support to project participants. A progress update on the pilot will be provided to City Council in Q3 2025. Exploratory work is also underway to determine how best to scale up residential retrofit efforts in Hamilton.

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4	Cooling and Energy Efficiency Support	b) Advocacy to other levels of government to provide affordable and accessible cooling (e.g. application for an air conditioner) for at-risk people who qualify (e.g., based on income status and/or a prescribed medical need).	Ontario Works, Government Relations	Support available for future advocacy available	TBD
		c) Development of draft "Adequate Temperature By-Law"	Licensing and By-Law Services	Not in place at this time	TBD
		d) Free air conditioning units based on income status and/or a prescribed medical need	Ontario Works	140 air conditioner benefits were issued to eligible households in 2024.	Ontario Works Program Ontario Disability Support Program Low Income residents

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5	Vegetation Cover Expansion and Maintenance	Reducing artificial surfaces, through increasing vegetation in parking areas, alleyways, streets, and other infrastructure.	Public Works	<p>6775 trees planted with the Community Planting Program</p> <p>500 Trees in partnership with NPCA as Community Planting</p> <p>5491 trees planted through the Street Tree Planting Program</p> <p>5003 Native trees given away to Hamilton residents to plant on their private property</p> <p>2 Depave projects converting 958.76 square meters to soft surface</p>	Same as 2024, similar targets for accomplishments
			Planning and Economic Development	<p>OCCI - continued during 2024 to administer funding to community partner Green Venture to undertake depaving projects in Ward 3. OCCI also established and continues to administer an internal Green Infrastructure Working Group, with staff representatives from across a number of relevant divisions. This group initiated an effort in 2024 to pursue an innovative signature green infrastructure project, using a \$350K Climate Change Reserve allocation, with a vision to leverage that funding to access external funding sources for the project.</p>	<p>During 2025 work will continue, through the Green Infrastructure Working Group, to move forward with a signature multi-objective green infrastructure project. Part of this effort is about determining how City divisions need to work together to make these projects happen. Plans are in place in 2025 to pursue external funding applications to support this effort.</p>

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*6	Wellness Check-Ins	Leveraging emergency and community services to assist at risk populations during heat events to provide welfare calls/check-ins.	Paramedics Housing Focused Street Outreach Team	<p>Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program increase outreach and wellness checks to clients during periods of extreme heat</p> <p>During the heat events last year, we had an average of 10 workers out each day. This equated to 4-5 different teams out each day between the hours of 8am-8pm. During the heat events, the various teams visited an average of 21 sites per day. During these events, the team had an average of 163 non-unique interactions each day, about 90-100 of which were goods distributed (i.e. water bottles and heat-related supplies). The team also provided items like water bottles and heat-event care packages to folks not necessarily in encampments (panhandlers, those hanging out at popular locations downtown, etc.).</p>	<p>Same as 2024, but exploring a special team for Heat Alert days</p> <p>Continue same program in 2025</p>
*7	Shade Structures	Installation of shade structures in areas identified using heat and equity mapping.	Public Works (Environmental Services)	3 shade structures installed at: Victoria Park Meadowlands Park Woodlands Park	Installation of 9 shade structures

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8	Heat-Related Illness Population Health Surveillance	Real-time surveillance of local population health data during the extreme heat season (i.e. Acute Care Enhanced Surveillance, Paramedic Data).	Public Health Services (Epidemiology and Evaluation)	Surveillance reporting from Epidemiology and Evaluation completed	Continue Surveillance reporting from Epidemiology and Evaluation Team
*9	Misting stations	Installation of misting stations in identified priority locations.	Public Works (Environmental Services)	0 installed in 2024	0 planned for 2025
10	Transportation	Free or discounted transportation during heat warnings and extended heat warnings to cool places.	Public Works (Transit)	1512 of Bus Tickets Distributed	Distribution of Bus Tickets through 2025 Cool Kits

*Pending Deliberations from GIC Committee