

Climate Change Action Plan Update

October 16, 2019
Planning Advisory Committee
Teresa Cline, Program Manager, Climate Change



#9908507

Provincial Legislation and Policy Updates

- Municipal Act - Climate Change by-laws
- Planning Act - Provincial interest
- Provincial Plans - Mitigation, Adaptation and Resiliency

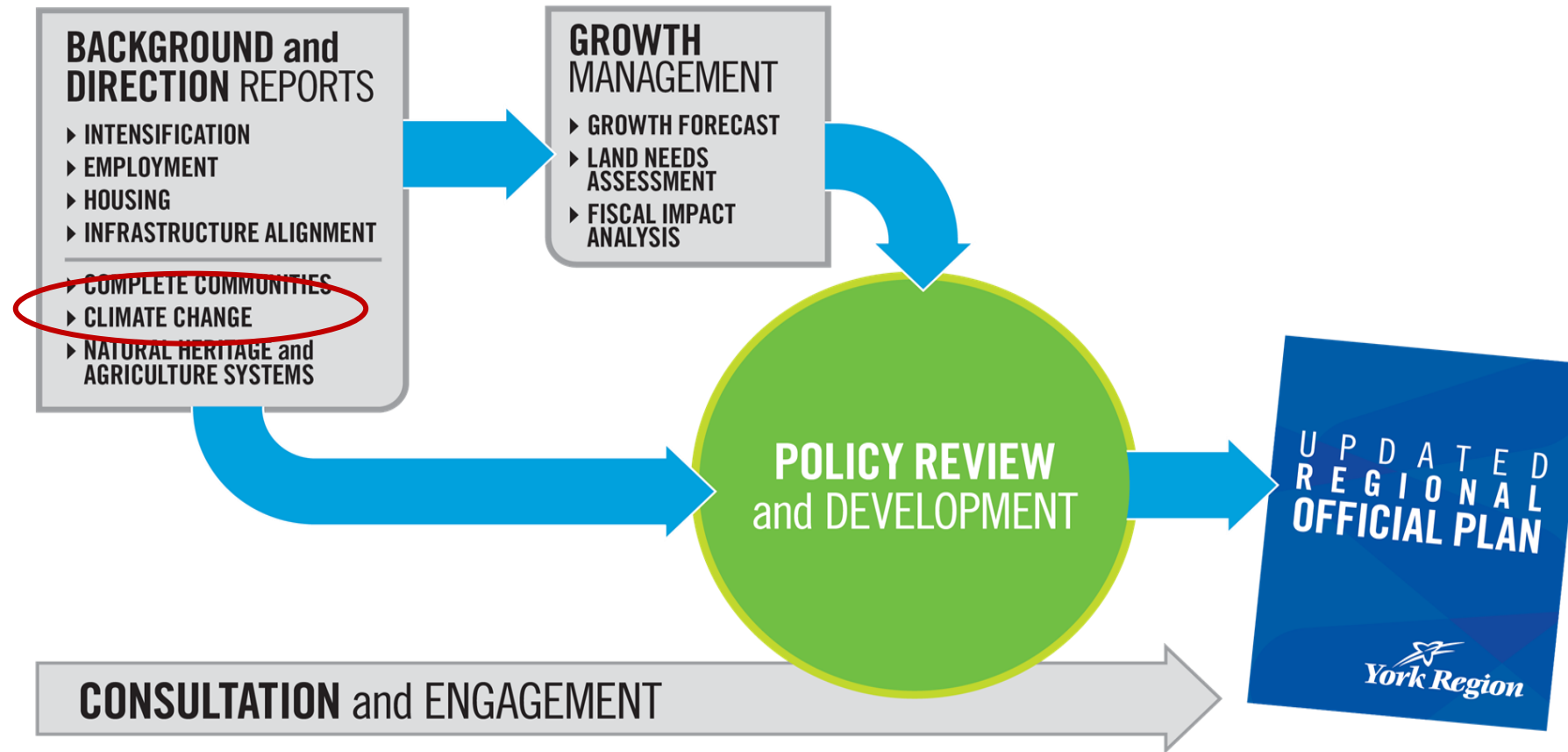


York Region Official Plan Review



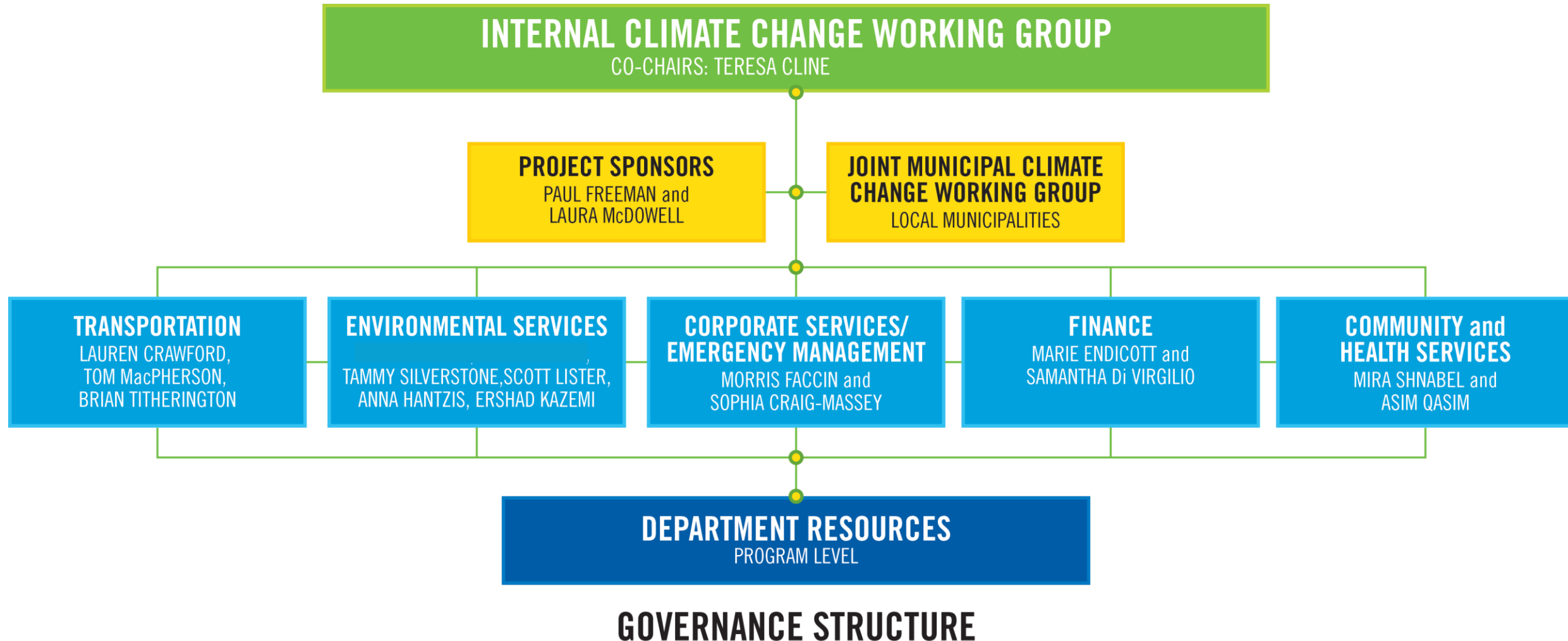
- Climate change policies
 - Urban Form
 - Stormwater Management/LID
 - Agriculture
 - Energy
- GHG reduction targets
- Climate adaptation goals

Alignment with the Municipal Comprehensive Review



Council endorsed development of a climate change action plan in Q4 2017

Developed through cross-departmental collaboration



Consultation And Engagement

- Joint Municipal Climate Change Working Group
- Jurisdictional Scan and Benchmarking
- Community Stakeholder Workshop April 2019



Broader public consultation will be undertaken through the MCR

Risks York Region is already facing due to Climate Change

Significant costs due to infrastructure damage



Higher demand social supports



More disruptions to critical services



The need to manage and educate the public



Greater and more complex demands on emergency services

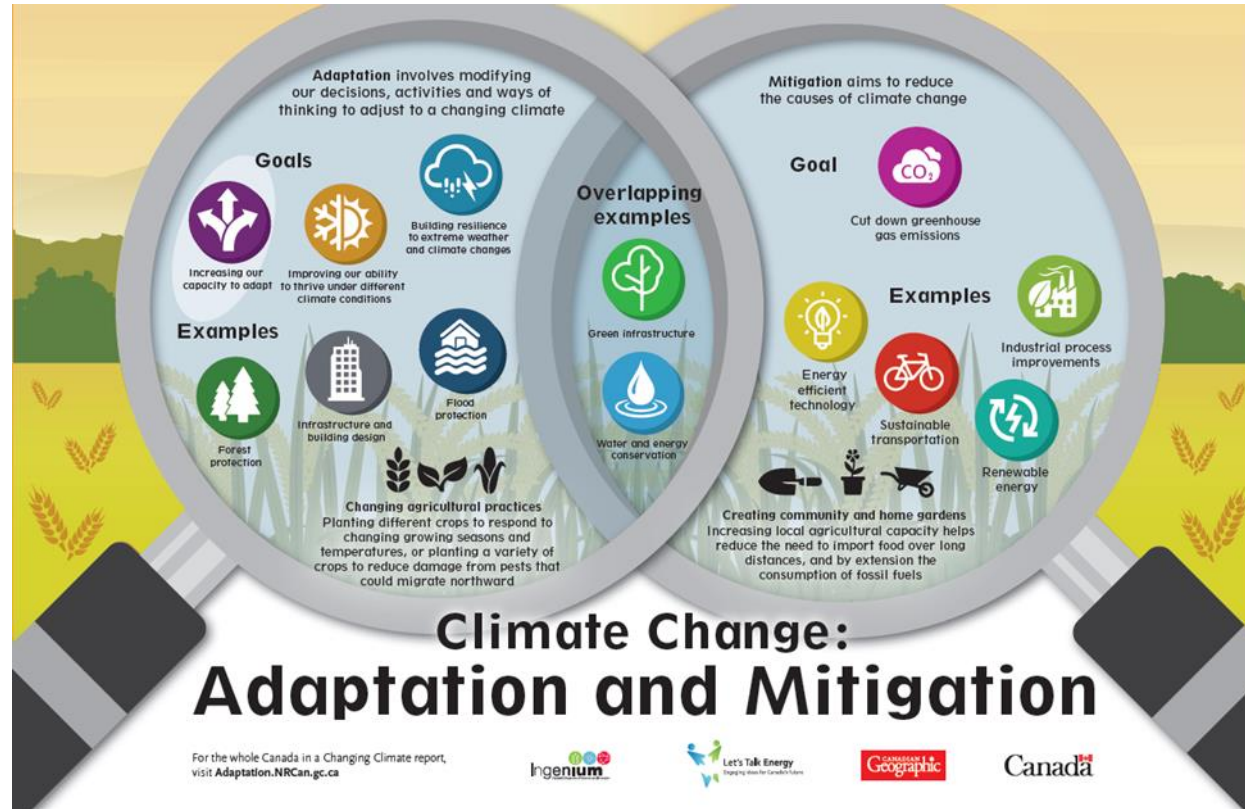


Increased liability risks, insurance costs and borrowing costs



Impacts likely to increase over time as climate continues to change

What is the Climate Change Action Plan?



**CORPORATE
Mitigation**

**COMMUNITY
Mitigation**

**CORPORATE
Adaptation**

**COMMUNITY
Adaptation**

Comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach required

The Action Plan will build on a solid foundation



Vision 2051 and the ROP set strategic direction

Are we resilient now and are we set up to be resilient tomorrow?

Goal

- York Region endeavors to create strong, caring and safe communities that will work together to continue to thrive under changing climate conditions.

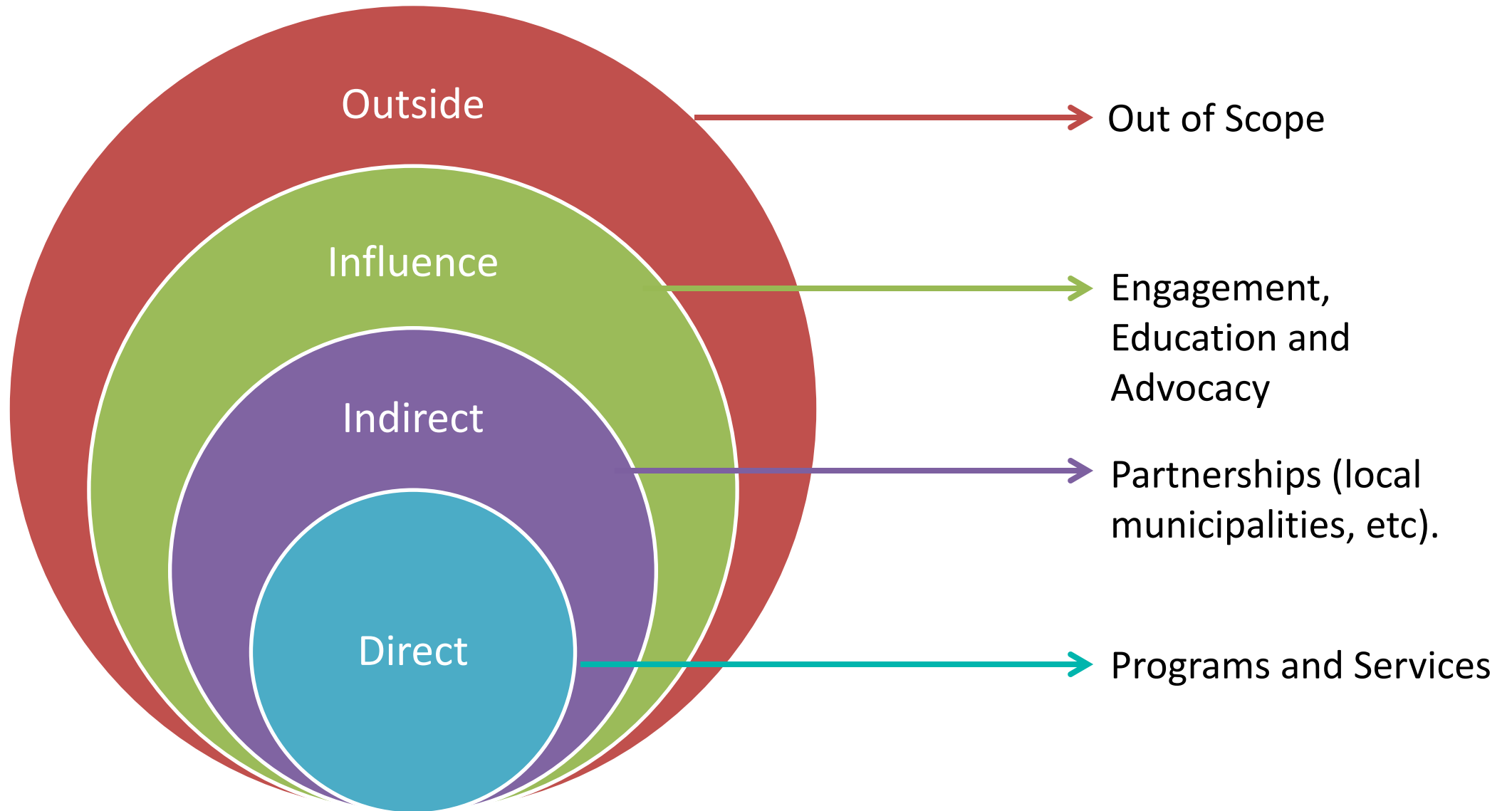
Pillars

- Equitable and Just Transition
- Resilient Communities and Robust Infrastructure
- Low Carbon Living

Principles

- Evidence-based
- Leadership and Innovation
- Partnership
- Synergy and Multiple Benefits

How do we define the Regional role?



Proposed Actions

Prepared and Responsive York Region

- Update York Region's risk registry process to include the most severe and likely climate-related risks across the organization and community
- Integrate future climate information and adaptation planning into York Region's Emergency Preparedness Plans and Business Continuity Plans
- Identify strategies York Region and its partners can undertake to increase community resilience and emergency preparedness

Economic Development

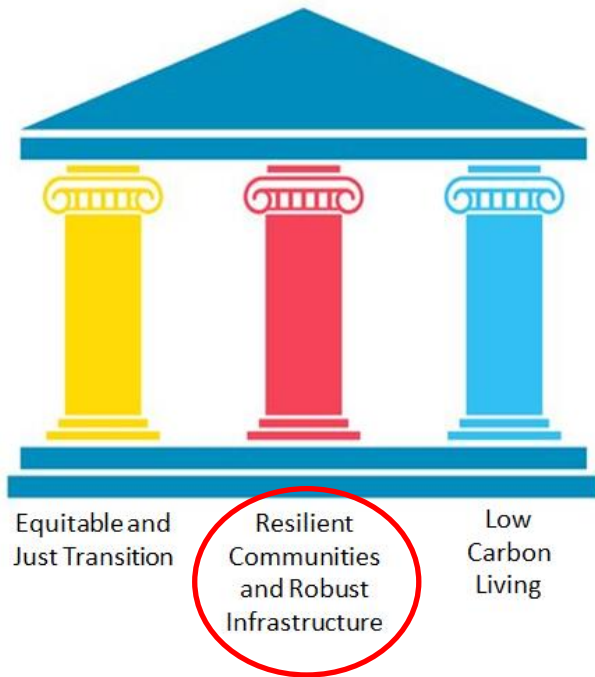
- Work with vulnerable economic sectors and business to increase resiliency to climate change impacts
- Partner with academia and the private sector to support the circular-economy in alignment with the Smart Living Plan
- Update existing procurement policies to specify climate-related performance targets
- Recognize and support the transition to a low-carbon economy

Equity & Vulnerability

- Complete the York Region Health Vulnerability Risk Assessment
- Develop climate resilience plans across key Regional social services (e.g. paramedics, public health, emergency housing and long term care) to the shocks and stresses of climate change
- Support actions to advance equity in mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Continue to build relationships with Indigenous communities around resilience
- Build staff capacity for enhanced operational resilience to climate change impacts and develop a plan to ensure safety during extreme weather events



Proposed Actions



Robust Infrastructure

- Undertake climate change vulnerability and risk assessments on all regional infrastructure, systems and assets using a common methodology
- Using the asset management framework to include climate vulnerable areas and populations when prioritizing infrastructure and asset repairs and renewals
- Adopt emission reduction targets and guidelines for low-carbon infrastructure construction practices

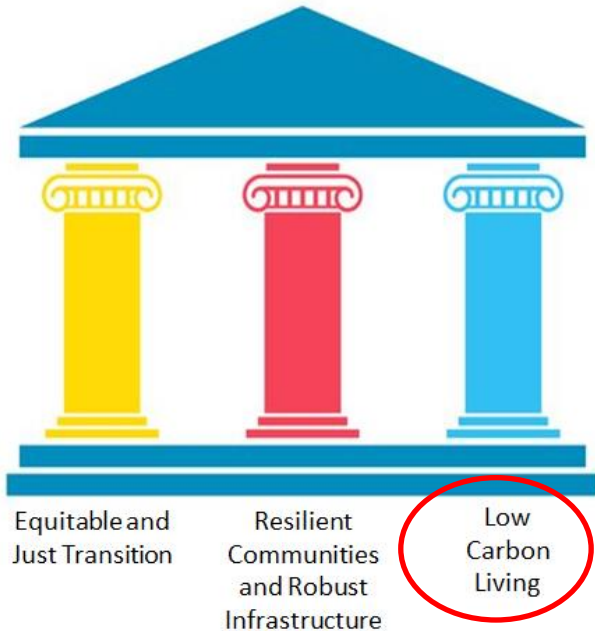
Land Use Planning, Urban Design & Green Buildings

- Enhance building energy and water performance through targets and benchmarking at the community-scale
- Integrate climate change into existing and new municipal planning tools

Natural Systems

- Recognize and assess the role the Regional Greenland System plays in mitigating and adapting to climate change

Proposed Actions



Emissions Reduction

- Establish community-wide greenhouse gas emission reduction targets
- Support community adoption of electric and low-emissions vehicles

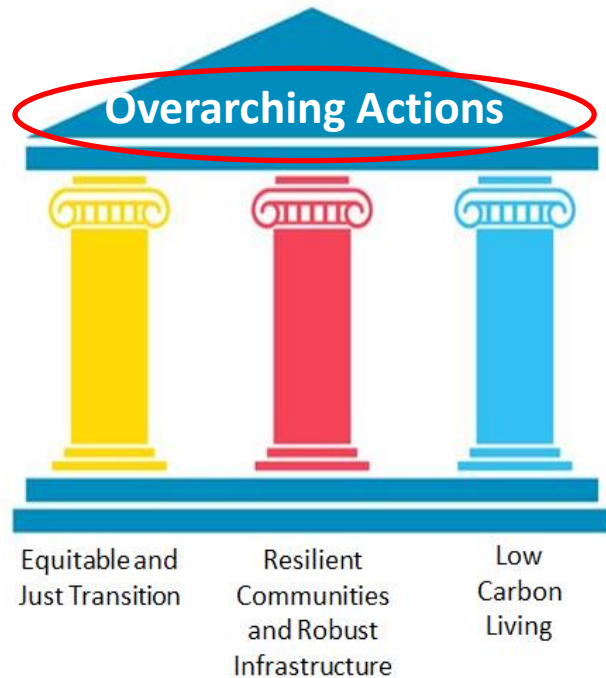
Food Systems

- Promote a sustainable and resilient food system

Zero Waste

- Boost the transition to a circular economy and zero waste
- Identify funding sources and show program alignment to support regional and local climate mitigation and adaptation projects

Proposed Actions



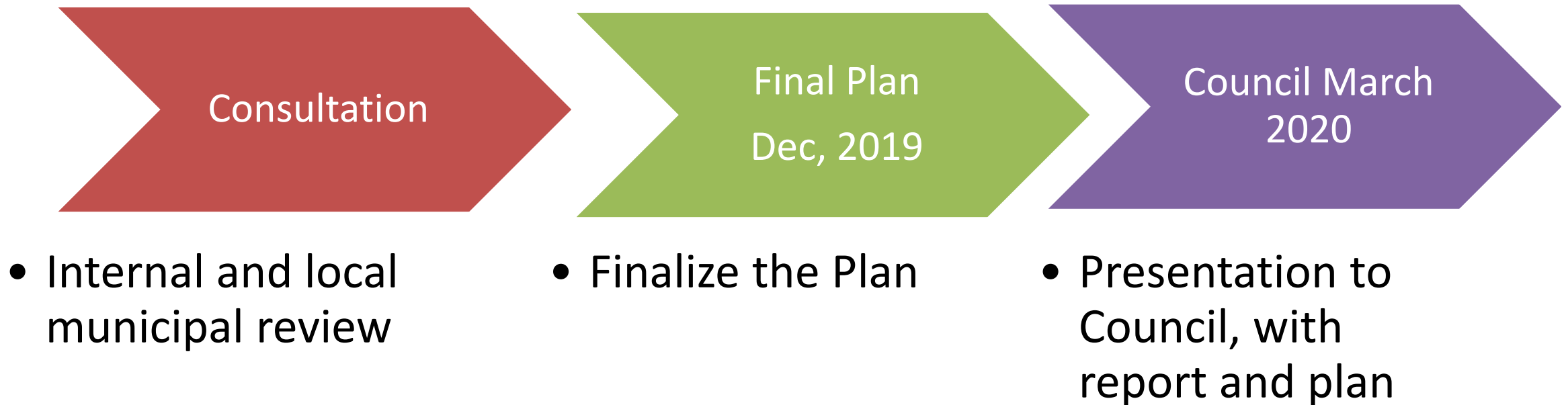
Plan Implementation

- Establish governance for collaborative and distributed actions on climate change
- Undertake cross-cutting partnership activities
- Develop or acquire the data and information needed to integrate climate change considerations into decision-making
- Develop performance indicators to track climate change indicators, greenhouse gas reduction, adaptive action and implementation of this plan

Climate Education & Engagement

- Establish targeted programs for communicating the impacts of climate change and strategies for increasing resiliency

Climate Change Action Plan – Next Steps



Will also inform review of climate-related policies in the ROP

Thank you!

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