

Climate Change Adaptation Case Study

CERIU's climate change adaptation case study sheets showcase inspiring municipal projects that offer concrete solutions to address climate change.

Municipality

Edmundston



16,437

residents
(2021 census)



Geographic context



Urban



Forested

Primary hazards



**Flooding, severe storms and high winds,
drought and heat waves.**

Adaptation approaches examined

- › Strategy development
- › Adaptation plan
- › Vulnerability assessment
- › Construction of resilient infrastructure
- › Changes to maintenance activities
- › Changes to operations

Climate Change Adaptation Pathway Through Planning

What have been the major milestones from the first environmental projects to current adaptation initiatives?

For more than two decades, Edmundston has placed the environment and sustainable development at the heart of its actions. Initially focused on trees, green spaces and natural environments, its initiatives have gradually been integrated into municipal policies and plans. The City now takes GHG emissions into account, along with the impacts of climate change on its infrastructure, services and ecosystems. This evolution led, in 2026, to the adoption of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan to strengthen community resilience and guide future decisions.

What factors, events or needs triggered or accelerated the City's consideration of climate change? What have been the outcomes?

The increasing frequency of extreme events on its territory accelerated the integration of climate change into the City of Edmundston's planning. These events include heavy rainfall (2018, 2019, 2023), spring flooding, heat waves and droughts (2025). Combined with provincial adaptation requirements, they prompted the City to incorporate climate risks into its urban planning and to collaborate with numerous partners to integrate nature-based solutions into its projects.

This approach raised collective awareness and strengthened the municipal administration's commitment to advancing an ecological transition.

What concrete measures have been implemented to reduce climate vulnerabilities and improve the resilience of infrastructure, municipal services or natural environments?

To shift from a reactive to a proactive approach, Edmundston has relied on land-use planning aimed at reducing its vulnerability to climate change.

This planning is based on the following plans

- › The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which includes a local action plan structured around seven areas (*Built Infrastructure and Energy • Flooding and Stormwater Management • Drinking Water Resources • Environment • Biodiversity and Forests • Community Health and Well-being • Emergency Management • Governance*)
- › The Environmental Action Plan
- › The Urban Forestry Master Plan

Through these various plans, the City has recognized the importance of integrating nature-based solutions alongside grey infrastructure, particularly to assess and protect natural assets and to conserve and restore certain wetlands and water environments.

What lessons learned, best practices or success factors emerge from the City's experience in adapting to climate change?

The success of such an approach depends first on public support, meaningful public consultation and strong partnerships with experts, researchers and regional stakeholders. These elements help ensure that decisions are based on the best available knowledge. It is also essential to make use of available funding sources and to ensure that the plans developed are accompanied by concrete actions, clear timelines and monitoring indicators consolidated in a dashboard. The dashboard makes it possible to track implementation and adjust actions as needed.

Find out more

about the City of Edmundston project



Plan régional d'adaptation aux changements climatiques

Why is it important to continue, strengthen or structure these adaptation measures over the coming years?

Climate risks will continue to evolve and lead to intense weather events. Edmundston must protect its municipal infrastructure, essential services and residents' property while reducing future costs associated with damage and service disruptions. Continuing these measures will also help preserve the natural assets that protect the community, while integrating climate risks into future decisions related to development, stormwater management and the protection of sensitive areas. The adaptation plan therefore provides a structured framework, opens funding opportunities and helps improve residents' quality of life, health and sense of security.

What motivated the development of a regional climate change adaptation plan, and what municipal-level benefits are expected from this initiative?

The regional adaptation plan was developed in response to increasing climate risks, the need to coordinate efforts across the region and the need to better guide public investment. For Edmundston, the expected benefits include improved planning, reduced vulnerabilities, greater protection for infrastructure and residents, and more effective regional collaboration in addressing future climate challenges.

Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Communities of Northwestern New Brunswick

The regional adaptation plan is a collaborative initiative involving five municipalities, one rural district and one First Nation. Approved by all partners and adopted by the City of Edmundston in 2026, it is based on the principle that climate change does not stop at administrative boundaries and therefore requires a collective response at the regional level.

A regional adaptation committee will be established and will meet once a year, with one representative from each municipality and the First Nation. The regional plan thus establishes a shared vision and common directions that serve as a framework.

In addition to the regional plan, each community receives a local action plan tailored to its specific circumstances and implementation capacity.

Find out more
about the City of Edmundston project



Plan régional d'adaptation aux changements climatiques