

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

The Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre is a social service organization based in Cambridge, Ontario, providing an array of services and programs to their local community. Programs include teen drop-ins, ESL clubs, women's support groups, low-cost childcare, support for seniors, support for low-income parents, vaccine clinics, nurse clinics, and food markets. Through their programming, they cater to the needs of their community which may be affected by gender inequality, ageism, hunger, poverty, healthcare barriers, and experience language difficulties.

INTERSECTIONAL PROGRAMMING

Although Greenway is in its preliminary phase of integrating climate change impacts into its operations, they continue to add more environmental initiatives into the programs they offer. Initiatives include recycling and composting onsite and purchasing more reusable materials for their events. Additionally, their youth programs have taken an environmental approach with events such as community clean-ups, micro forest tree-planting, and conversations about composting and resource consumption. A community garden program called "Greenway Can Grow" was also established and runs in tandem with edible home gardening webinars.

However, internal changes have been kept to a minimum due to a shortage of staff and resources. The main challenge for Greenway-Chaplin is in promoting and articulating their potential sustainability initiatives to funders, donors, and community members. In the future, Greenway-Chaplin aims to create and distribute climate education resources to community members and to celebrate sustainability work across the non-profit sector.

The Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre is taking the critical first step in implementing climate change into its programming by recognizing the impact, creating environmental-related programming, and collaborating with other environmental groups. By taking the steps to include climate education and mitigation strategies in their programming, Greenway-Chaplin can begin to protect their client base, most of whom are vulnerable to the impacts climate change can have on their lifestyles.



Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre's 2021 Backyard Garden (Greenway Chaplin, 2021)