

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2024 LIVABLE CITIES FORUM

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**MULTISOLVING FOR A NET-  
ZERO AND RESILIENT FUTURE**

OCTOBER 23-25, 2024  
VANCOUVER, BC



Local Governments  
for Sustainability  
Les gouvernements locaux  
pour le développement durable

CANADA

# About the Livable Cities Forum

As the felt impacts of a changing climate intensify, communities across Canada are increasingly committed to advancing local resilience while transitioning to a net-zero future. At the same time, local practitioners are finding that they cannot work in isolation to advance this important work—dialogue, exchange, and cooperation across sectors is crucial.

The Livable Cities Forum (LCF) is Canada's preeminent event for municipal leaders and practitioners who want to create livable communities. The Forum uses interactive methods to foster hands-on peer learning to build communities that are prepared for current and future impacts of climate change, while moving toward a more sustainable, healthy, and equitable future. Delegates learn from colleagues and experts, share their knowledge and experiences, and participate in workshops, panels, and interactive sessions that showcase local innovation in climate action and resilience. LCF is widely known for its high-calibre practical sessions, diverse speakers, and meaningful networking opportunities.

LCF has been exploring local action to make our communities more livable since 2011. The core themes of energy transition, climate adaptation, and meaningful and inclusive engagement are interwoven throughout program sessions from year to year. Each LCF explores additional themes based on emerging trends and lessons learned through our ongoing work across Canada. The 2024 Forum put the spotlight on “multisolving”, i.e., collaborating to address multiple challenges with a single action as a way to maximize benefits without increasing budgets or resources.

Photography by [Laura Harvey](#).



# LCF 2024

LCF 2024 was a great success and a reminder of the importance of collaboration, prioritizing relationships, and the power of candid conversations. The event convened local leaders, urban professionals, and on-the-ground practitioners from across Canada to explore how to apply multisolving to achieve a net-zero and resilient future.



**Inspiring! An excellent opportunity to learn and connect with professionals and practitioners with a broad spectrum of expertise.**

– 2024 LCF Delegate

LCF 2024 took place on October 23-25, 2024 at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver, on the unceded and traditional territories of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skyxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation, and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation. The 2024 program themes were designed to help communities leverage multisolving to:

- Reach climate goals;
- Access innovative financing; and
- Address equity priorities.

This report provides an overview of these themes and other highlights from LCF 2024.



**Go to this if nothing else if you want to connect with people doing exciting and challenging work for the public good on the ground!**

– 2024 LCF Delegate

# 300

delegates attended

# 10

provinces or territories represented

Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, PEI, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon

# 68

governments and agencies represented

# 61

NGOs and private companies represented

# 12

academic institutions represented

# 35

sessions offered

- 9 immersive sessions
- 21 concurrent sessions
- 2 plenaries
- 1 side event
- 2 side meetings

# 10

networking breaks and events included in the program

# Climate Insight: Helping communities build low-carbon, resilient infrastructure

Extreme weather and climate change are no longer distant concerns. As a response to this new reality, Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada (HICC) and ICLEI Canada developed an online platform to increase the climate resilience of communities and better protect the public infrastructure and services that people rely on every day.

Climate Insight was launched at LCF 2024 as part of HICC's Climate Toolkit for Housing and Infrastructure. Delegates had the opportunity to learn about Climate Insight throughout the Forum, talk to Climate Insight team members at display booths during networking breaks, and attend a hands-on training session to learn how to use the platform's solution finder, map, and library to support their work.

"The library in itself offers so many articles, insights, and tools right at my fingertips that it will build capacity in my team, since we won't have to do Google searches that would take us hours. It is all right there! And knowing that the information has been vetted by ICLEI is a game changer."  
— LCF 2024 Delegate

"The Solutions Finder is so useable, giving me good options for specific examples. It is an action tool."  
— LCF 2024 Delegate

The platform launch marked the beginning of an exciting four-year journey of development designed with user feedback at the heart of the process. Climate Insight's features, functionality, and content will continue to evolve to meet the needs of community housing and infrastructure professionals.

Visit [ClimateInsight.ca](https://ClimateInsight.ca) to start using this platform today.



**Climate  
Insight**

Helping communities  
build low carbon, resilient  
infrastructure

*Climate Insight is delivered by ICLEI Canada with support from HICC. This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada.*

## Practical tools, resources, and best practices

LCF provides a space for discovering and sharing innovative ideas and actionable insights to support local climate action. Sessions showcase practical tools, cutting-edge practices, real-world examples, and diverse perspectives.

## Engaging sessions

Sessions are uniquely designed to go beyond presentation-style delivery. LCF 2024 included World Café and Fishbowl-style sessions, interactive and engaging workshops, trainings, and panel discussions over the three days. Half-day immersive sessions allowed delegates to dive deep into energy transition, net-zero buildings, climate communication, and more through on- and off-site workshops in Vancouver and the surrounding regions.

## Experts, leaders, and practitioners from across Canada

LCF delegates learn from and collaborate with climate experts, leaders and policymakers, urban professionals, and on-the-ground practitioners. Opportunities for networking are purposefully included in the program to allow delegates to share experiences and lessons learned, have candid conversations, create and strengthen relationships, build support networks, and make connections.

## Peer-to-Peer Exchanges

Delegates consistently express how much they learn from one another at LCF. The Forum is designed to foster networking and opportunities to deepen connections between the experts, local practitioners, policymakers, and leaders in attendance.



# Indigenous Perspectives and Voices

Truth and Reconciliation is fundamental to achieving net-zero, climate-resilient communities. At ICLEI Canada, we endeavour to listen to and learn from Indigenous Peoples in the process of our work, including at LCF. This year, Elder Bob Baker of the Squamish Nation and the Spakwus Slolem (Eagle Song Dancers) welcomed delegates to Vancouver and set the tone for the Forum with powerful remarks and a moving performance. During the “Talking Trees and Salish Seas: Learnings from First Nations teachings” immersive session, delegates

heard stories of how shíshálh (Sechelt) Coast Salish & Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) People have been utilizing the land for food, medicine and technology for thousands of years, and how Talaysay Tours, an Indigenous-owned and operated tour business, study climate change and its impacts on lands and ocean. During the “Indigenous Knowledge and Climate Action” plenary, delegates heard Janna Wale, Indigenous Research & Partnerships Lead, and Hetxw'ims Gyetxw (Brett Huson), Author, Knowledge Keeper & Artist share insights from their work, and how to work with Indigenous communities to incorporate essential knowledges into climate policies. Delegates also had the opportunity to hear and learn from Indigenous speakers throughout the Forum during various interactive sessions and networking breaks.

## Eagle Song Dancers

Elder Bob Baker and the Spakwus Slolem (Eagle Song Dancers) took the stage at LCF 2024 to welcome delegates and share songs and dances from the Squamish Nation.



## Talaysay Tours

Talaysay Tours is an Indigenous-owned and run company that uses tours to share stories of how Indigenous Peoples have been utilizing land for thousands of years.

# Local Artists and Artisans

LCF 2024 featured several local artists who performed throughout the Forum. Musicians Rachel Gia Cambrin and SIESKI performed on Wednesday, setting the tone for a fun, lively few days. The Wednesday evening reception featured a live painting by Taka Sudo who created a backdrop that was used for the plenary sessions. The second day opened with a welcome and performance by the Eagle Song Dancers. On the second and third days of the Forum, delegates enjoyed live music during meals and networking breaks by Luke Lovemore and Daniel Lew. Furthermore, local wares were on display throughout LCF at the Coast Salish Nursery booth.

# Spotlight on BC

Climate action in BC municipalities was highlighted through immersive, concurrent, and plenary sessions. Topics ranged from the twin crises of housing and climate, to natural infrastructure solutions. Immersive sessions showcased real-world examples of multisolving in Vancouver, Surrey, North Vancouver, and the District of North Vancouver, led by city representatives and local initiatives like Happy Cities and Sea2City. Talaysay Tours, an Indigenous-owned business, also guided a session in Stanley Park, sharing stories of the shíshálh (Sechelt Coast Salish and Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish) Peoples.

## Taka Sudo

Taka Sudo created a live mural during the LCF opening reception, which hung in the plenary room throughout the Forum. Its depictions of tree-lined city skylines and BC fauna in a style that evokes street art grounded plenary discussions.



## Coast Salish Nursery

The Coast Salish Plant Nursery brings together Indigenous knowledge, sustainability, and community. It reconnects people with land, plants, and traditions, while working toward sustainability and knowledge sharing.

# Actionable Insights

LCF 2024 provided a space to discover and exchange innovative ideas and actionable insights to support local climate action. Sessions showcased practical tools, resources, practices, cases, learnings from real-world examples, and diverse perspectives.

# Interactive Format

Each year, the LCF motto is “Nothing that could have been a webinar!” In other words, LCF sessions go beyond presentation-style delivery. They vary in length and format—from half-day, off-site immersive sessions, to hands-on trainings, Fishbowl discussions, and panels—to provide delegates with a variety of ways to learn and engage with core topics.



I would recommend it for the good balance of a variety of sessions/topics, opportunity to network, great food, and really good facilitation during sessions.

– 2024 LCF Delegate

# Relevant Topics

Concurrent sessions explored the themes such as reaching climate goals; accessing innovative financing; and addressing equity priorities through the lens of multisolving. They were designed to speak to the topics that are top-of-mind for local practitioners across the country.



# Full Program & Presentations

Speaker presentations are available on the LCF website. Sessions were designed to go beyond presentation-style delivery and included a variety of interactive elements and, as a result, some sessions have few or no presentations.

[Download Presentations](#)





# A Bilingual Event

To make the Forum more accessible to delegates in both official languages, Wordly (an AI translation software) was used to offer simultaneous French and English translations throughout the conference. This allowed delegates to follow along with speakers in their preferred language and enabled speakers to present in English or French, using instantly translated text or audio.



Great opportunity to learn from other municipalities, share resources, and build relationships.

– 2024 LCF Delegate

# Real World Examples

Immersive sessions offered the opportunity for delegates to explore real-world examples of climate action on- or off-site. A variety of session topics and transportation modalities—including walking, cycling, Seabus, and e-bus—were featured.



“It is an action-oriented conference with networking opportunities galore. There is always so much to learn and take in. I have found LCF to be a very valuable conference and I highly recommend it!”

– LCF 2024 Delegate



# 4.2/5

overall event rating

# 80%

would like to attend the next Livable Cities Forum



# Hosted by ICLEI Canada

**ICLEI Canada** plays a pivotal role in the planning and delivery of LCF each year. Through our extensive network and connections, we bring together experts, speakers, practitioners, and professionals from across Canada to inspire and enable local climate action at scale. We create a space for delegates to connect with one another, build and strengthen relationships, learn from colleagues and experts, share their knowledge and experiences, and participate in workshops and panels showcasing local innovation related to climate action and resilience. LCF 2024 was hosted by ICLEI Canada and undertaken with the financial support of **Environment and Climate Change Canada**.



## Platinum Sponsors

**Co-operators** brought their expertise regarding financing mitigation and adaptation initiatives to several sessions and plenaries.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' **Green Municipal Fund (GMF)** hosted the "Multisolving Through Adaptation Implementation and Equity" and "Leveraging Asset Management Practices to Build Climate Resilience" sessions, as well as an LCF side event, which used an interactive workshop format to shape two upcoming Communities of Practice.



# Partners

**Evergreen Canada** contributed its unique expertise in placemaking and public spaces. The “Public Spaces as Multisolving Marvels” and “Child-Friendly Approaches to Create Climate-Ready Public Spaces” sessions were brought to the Forum in partnership with Evergreen. **Happy Cities** led an immersive session tour of “Our Urban Village”, a co-housing lite project that prompted delegates to explore multisolving through housing design, and hosted the “Leveraging Multisolving in Housing to Foster Sustainability and Social Well-Being” session.



# Supporters

LCF 2024 was a bilingual event thanks to the **Secrétariat du Québec aux relations canadiennes**, who provided funding to support contributions from French-speaking participants. We received contributions from several speakers and delegates from Quebec and were able to offer simultaneous translation during all plenaries and in numerous concurrent sessions throughout the Forum.

Further support was provided by **Partners for Action**, a research initiative based at the University of Waterloo that advances equity-informed flood resilience.

The area where we convened is home to countless examples of climate action through multisolving. These were on display in several immersive sessions led by the **City of Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, City of North Vancouver**, and the **City of Surrey**. The **Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC)** also brought its experience accelerating climate action solutions in Metro Vancouver and British Columbia to LCF 2024.

## Join us at the next LCF

LCF 2025 will take place on October 6-8, 2025 in Halifax! We look forward to the next Forum and hope you can join us. Sign up for ICLEI Canada’s email list to be the first to know when LCF 2025 registration opens, and to learn about other upcoming events and opportunities. You can also contact us to get involved as a sponsor or partner.

[Sign-up for our mailing list](#)

**HALIFAX**



# Connect With ICLEI Canada Online



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Email List



LinkedIn

ICLEI Canada's work happens across Turtle Island which has traditionally been and is home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples since time immemorial. We endeavour to listen to and learn from Indigenous Peoples in the process of our work.



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