



Green Communities

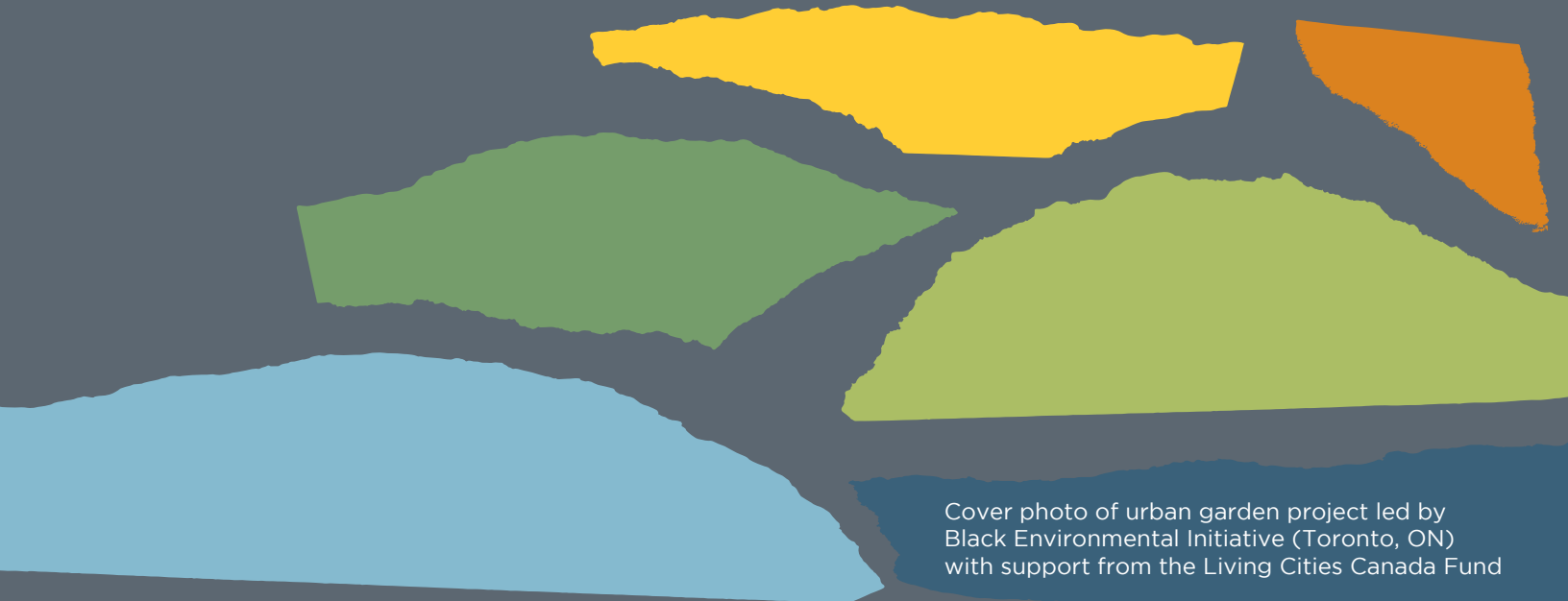
CANADA

COLLECTIVE IMPACT REPORT

2024-2025

CONTENTS

- introduction
- programs
- mitigation
- resilience
- engagement
- equity



Cover photo of urban garden project led by
Black Environmental Initiative (Toronto, ON)
with support from the Living Cities Canada Fund

about

GREEN COMMUNITIES CANADA

Communities are at the heart of climate justice solutions.

At Green Communities Canada, it is our privilege to work with non-profit, Indigenous, and municipal partners to increase climate resilience, address environmental inequities, and protect human and ecosystem health.

We ensure that communities have the capacity for transformative change by providing funding and support to grassroots organizations. To do this, we lead shared grants and partner with governments and foundations to deliver strategic locally-led programs. We also offer accessible training courses, peer learning opportunities, and practitioner tools to accelerate lasting change.

We are stronger when we share resources, knowledge, and a sense of purpose. Our work reflects our commitment to nurturing a greener and better future for all.

Jiimaan'ndewemgadnong project led by GreenUP (Peterborough, ON) with support from Green Communities Canada

This report reflects the contributions of more than

100

member and partner organizations -- twice as many as our 2023 report!



about this

COLLECTIVE IMPACT REPORT

The collective impact of local climate action is and should be an essential part of our national climate narrative, but often these stories remain local. In 2022, we worked with our member organizations (listed on the back cover of this report) to establish shared metrics that we can use to evaluate and communicate our impact. We published our first collective impact report in November 2023. This follow-up report builds the story of grassroots impact on a national scale: showcasing vital progress and conveying the urgent need to advance this work. It is an honour to celebrate the work of climate champions from across Turtle Island.

a note from our **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

This report is being published at a time of intensifying climate and humanitarian crises. Canada is falling short on commitments adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, standards in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other international agreements intended to combat injustice and environmental degradation. The need for coordinated action is urgent but progress is slow and too easily undermined.

And yet, within our communities, there are individuals, organizations, and local governments that are working together to accelerate change. They are planting new forests in their cities, transforming streets into safe places for children, and retrofitting social housing to net zero. Perhaps most importantly, they are showing us what is possible when we act locally and collectively. At Green Communities Canada, we are fortunate to work alongside many of these changemakers and activists, and this national report gives voice to their impact and ours.

Taking action, even seemingly small actions at home, seeds hope and possibility. This is my tenth year as an Executive Director in this sector, and these seeds have never felt more important. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to all of the people and organizations that are reflected in this report, including the staff and board at Green Communities Canada - the just and sustainable future you are nourishing is a gift for generations to come.



Brianna Salmon
Executive Director



a commitment to **RECONCILIATION**

Tree planting project led by Snuneymuxm First Nation, BC with support from the Living Cities Canada Fund

Green Communities Canada acknowledges the treaty and traditional territories of Indigenous Nations across Turtle Island. We are grateful for the continued work of many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples who are the original caretakers of the Land and Waters. In our work, we have a responsibility and a desire to respect Indigenous perspectives and elevate Indigenous voices. As Treaty People, we will acknowledge our histories, honour our commitments and sovereignty, and do our best to care for each other and for all of creation.

about our
NATIONAL PROGRAMS



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The Living Cities Canada Fund enables community-based organizations, Indigenous governments, and municipalities to grow support for green infrastructure and engage citizens in the planning, design, and implementation of local green infrastructure action projects.



The National Mini Forest program transforms under-natured sites into thriving urban forests using an innovative tree-planting method. This program contributes to Canada's goal to plant 2 Billion Trees by 2030 to address climate change and biodiversity loss.



SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

The National Active School Streets Initiative creates car-free zones in front of schools at the start and end of the day. These playful spaces reduce emissions, alleviate traffic congestion, improve safety, create community connection, and increase rates of active travel for children.



The Canadian Electric School Bus Alliance aims to electrify all 51,000 school buses across Canada by 2040. This program seeks policy commitments at all levels of government to accelerate the transition to healthier and more sustainable student transportation.



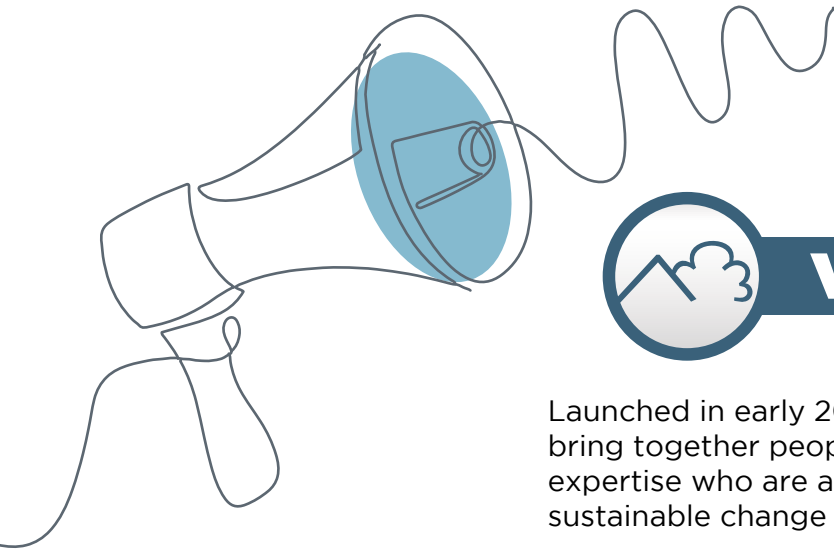
ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Deep Energy Retrofits Canada program builds the capacity of homeowners, tenants, and industry professionals to accelerate deep home energy retrofits. This program contributes to Canada's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions goal of net-zero by 2050.



Through our EnerGuide Service Organization, we provide organizations from across the country with technical training resources and tools that build critical capacity for energy advisors and other trades professionals. This includes our newly launched Heat Pump Right-Sizing service.





VOICES FOR ACTION

Launched in early 2025, Voices for Action is a series of events that bring together people with diverse lived experiences and professional expertise who are advancing transformative, equitable, and sustainable change in Canadian communities.

The goal of these events is to share knowledge, resources, ideas, and to connect practitioners across Canada, creating a national network of innovation and collaboration that elevates our collective impact.

Tree planting project led by Hope Blooms (Halifax, NS) with support from the Living Cities Canada Fund



community INVESTMENTS

Through our programs, we invest in local communities. In 2024 & 2025, we granted

\$3.25M

to our member and partner organizations.



This investment is more than

50%

of our annual budget.

In 2024, Green Communities Canada and our members had a combined revenue of

\$38,400,000

This funding is reinvested directly into local employment and climate programming.

mitigation

residential **ENERGY RETROFITS**



In Canada, more than
11 Mil

homes need to be retrofitted to achieve Net Zero Emissions. To achieve widespread and equitable change, communities require skilled tradespersons, trained EnerGuide advisors, and financial supports to ensure that households experiencing energy poverty are not left behind.

In 2024, our members delivered 10,750 EnerGuide Audits across Ontario. Completed retrofits resulted in a reduction of

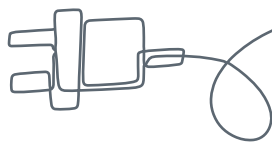
50,032,720 kg

in fossil fuel emissions per year! However, only

5% of retrofits reduced energy usage by 50 per cent or more. We need greater incentives and supports for Deep Energy Retrofits.

going **ELECTRIC**

6 out of 10 homeowners participating in the Canada Greener Homes Grant program installed a heat pump. However, half of the heat pumps installed in 2024 were undersized. That means that homeowners must continue to rely on fossil fuels. In 2025, Green Communities Canada launched a new Heat Pump Right-Sizing service and we are now working with contractors across the country to level up the industry and ensure maximum efficiency.



An EnerGuide Energy Advisor from Goldfinch Energy (Toronto, ON)

energy retrofit **SPOTLIGHT**



EnviroCentre's Retrofit Accelerator (Ottawa, ON)

EnviroCentre's Retrofit Accelerator is helping affordable housing providers in Eastern Ontario transform their homes with deep energy-saving upgrades. They're working to reduce energy use in social housing by 50 per cent and greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent, all while keeping retrofit costs under \$30,000 per unit. By setting these high targets, they demonstrate that significant energy savings and emissions reductions can be achieved—without displacing tenants. This initiative is about more than buildings; it's about improving lives and fostering a healthier, greener future for everyone.

To learn more visit envirocentre.ca

A School Street event in Mississauga, ON delivered with support from Green Communities Canada



school **SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY**

Only 21 per cent of Canadian children walk or wheel to and from school. Driving contributes to increased traffic volumes on residential streets, poor air quality, fewer opportunities for physical activity, and unsafe environments in school zones.

In 2024, our members coordinated programs that increased active transportation to school. Participants walked or biked

745,080 km

reducing fossil fuel emissions and creating safer school zones.



75%

of mobility programs delivered by our network focus on children. This ensures that the next generation has the skills and healthy habits to carry into adulthood.

streets

TRANSFORMED

In 2024, Green Communities Canada received funding to launch the National Active School Streets Initiative with 25 participating cities.

Over the next 3 years, we will support up to

40

School Streets!

These events will generate nationwide momentum for School Streets and will lead to lasting changes in several communities.

waste reduction **SPOTLIGHT**

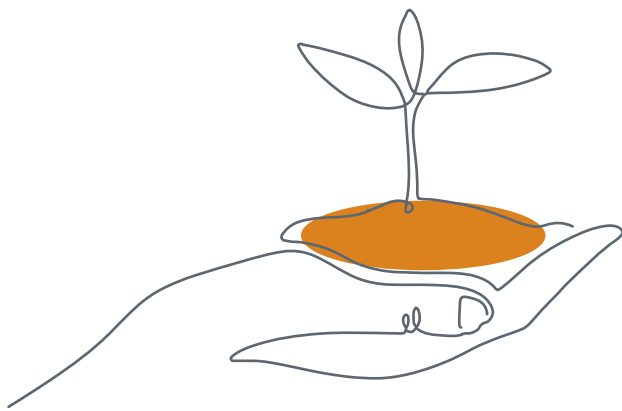
Green Action Centre's First Nations Waste Minimization Program (Manitoba)

Green Action Centre's First Nations Waste Minimization Program assists remote, winter-road First Nation communities to remove stewardship and non-stewardship material in Manitoba. 2025 marks the 6th year of Green Action Centre involvement in back-hauling materials from participating First Nations. In total, 26 semi-trailer loads of material were removed from 7 communities! This program also includes in-community education workshops and support for waste management planning. This ensures that sensitive northern ecosystems are protected from the dangers posed by hazardous waste seeping into the ground, lakes, and rivers.



To learn more visit greenactioncentre.ca

resilience



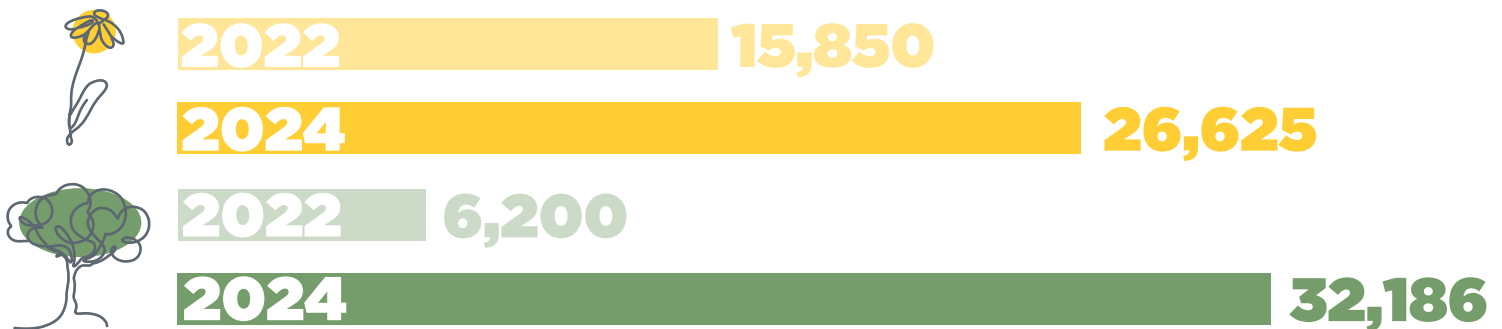
growing **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

Communities are already experiencing the impacts of climate change. Our green infrastructure programs address key risks, reduce local vulnerabilities, and help cities adapt. Projects include Mini Forests, tree planting, depaving, rain gardens, food gardens, Indigenous medicine gardens, and shoreline restorations.

In 2024, our members and the Living Cities Canada Fund project partners, restored

27,271 m² of urban land with green infrastructure -- nearly double the area restored in 2022!

The number of perennials and trees planted in cities across Canada also increased significantly:



70% of projects were led by or directly engaged equity deserving groups.

many, mini **FORESTS**

The expansion of the National Mini Forest Project directly led to the increase in urban trees planted. In 2024, Green Communities Canada funded 16 Mini Forest projects and 5 tree planting projects.

The trees planted in 2024 will absorb

706,015 kg of carbon dioxide per year!



A Mini Forest planting led by the City of Richmond, BC, with support from the Living Cities Canada Fund

resilience

communities

TRANSFORMED



In 2023, Green Communities Canada launched the Transform Stream of the Living Cities Canada Fund. This provided organizations with the funding and supports to develop large-scale, equity-embedded green infrastructure projects in neighbourhoods with the greatest environmental and social need. In 2024, 2,500 sq.m. of under-natured urban areas were transformed into biodiverse greenspaces that increase climate resiliency and community wellbeing.

community orchard SPOTLIGHT

One City Peterborough is an organization dedicated to supporting those who have experienced homelessness, marginalization, or criminalization. Guided by the structured Transform Stream of the Living Cities Canada Fund, GreenUP led One City in a robust engagement and co-design process to bring the community's priorities and goals into focus. This process engaged staff, volunteers, and guests to create a more accessible and welcoming space for the community. The plan included planting a community orchard and rain garden boxes, enhancing stormwater management and food security, and creating shaded areas.

To learn more visit greenup.on.ca

GreenUP's One City Project (Peterborough, ON)



food & medicine garden SPOTLIGHT



RainscapeTO's Humber River Lodge (Toronto, ON)

Humber River Lodge, known as the Memtigwaake Kinomaage Maawnjiding, supports the urban Indigenous community in reclaiming land for cultural practices. This project, led by RainscapeTO, engaged 148 volunteers and community members. Together, they cleared out invasive species and restored the local ecology by planting native flora for food and medicine. The project included cultural ceremonies and concluded with a community dinner. Long-term site care will be managed by local volunteers and the Memtigwaake Kinomaage Maawnjiding Advisory Circle, ensuring sustainability through native species suited to the area.

To learn more visit rainscapeto.ca

engagement



270,000

people participated in direct climate action projects led by Green Communities Canada and our members.

32%

were children or youth.

catalyzing a **GRASSROOTS GROUNDWELL**

Local organizations have strong relationships with their communities and are uniquely positioned to mobilize and sustain citizen action. Green Communities Canada and our members are guided by local needs and deliver inspiring climate solutions that are close to home.

A Mini Forest planting led by Bagida'waad Alliance (ON) with support from the Living Cities Canada Fund



Green Communities Canada and our members reached

10Mil

people through social, online, and print media.

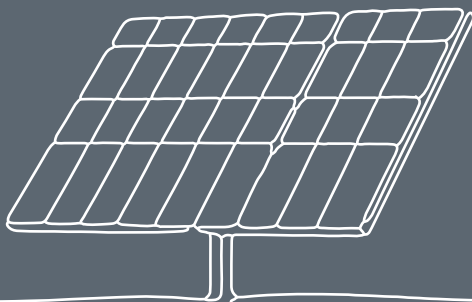


Our members operate in 325 cities across Canada and serve

70%

of the national population and 9 of the 10 largest municipalities.

capacity building **SPOTLIGHT**



London Environment Network's Nonprofit Resiliency Project (London, ON)

The Nonprofit Resiliency Project (NRP) supports local non-profit organizations that are at risk of being left behind in Canada's transition to an electrified economy. These organizations, many of which provide housing accommodations for low-income and vulnerable groups, often face barriers to accessing retrofit supports and funding for their unique building types. The NRP works with clients to implement sustainable upgrades across multi-unit residential buildings to transform them into more efficient, comfortable, and resilient spaces. In 2024, Community Living London partnered on a major retrofit toward Net Zero!

To learn more visit londonenvironment.net

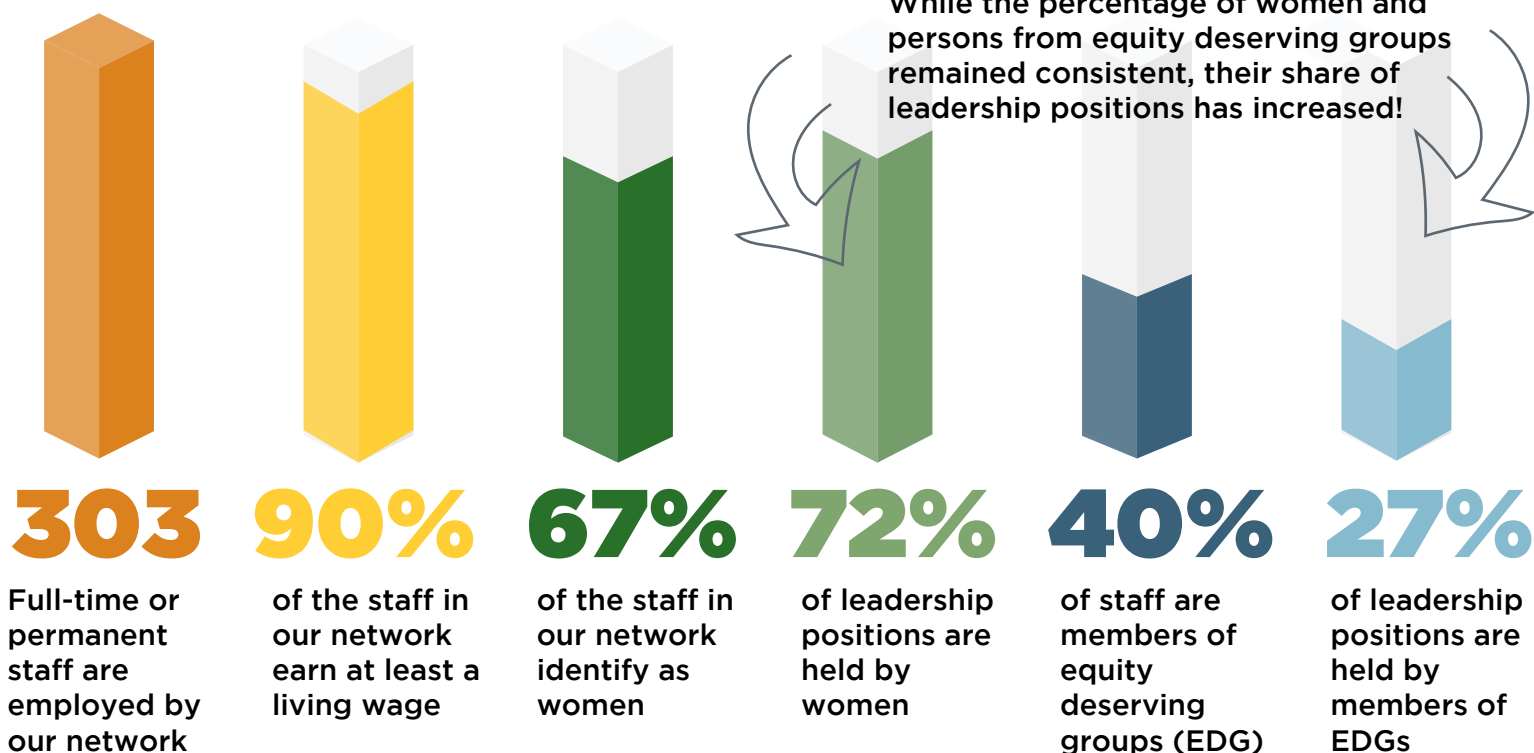
mobilizing for **CLIMATE JUSTICE**

Climate justice is the greatest human rights challenge of our time. It affects rights to health, food, water, and housing, as well as Indigenous rights. The non-profit sector should be an inclusive movement for change. This starts from within, by ensuring we reflect the experience and knowledge of groups and communities most affected by the climate crisis.



A Mini Forest planting led by EnviroCentre (Ottawa, ON) with summer from the Living Cities Canada Fund

Between 2022 and 2024, the number of staff in Green Communities Canada's member network grew by 30 per cent. While the percentage of women and persons from equity deserving groups remained consistent, their share of leadership positions has increased!



Representation across our network exceeds the Government of Canada's 50-30 Challenge.

capacity building **SPOTLIGHT**

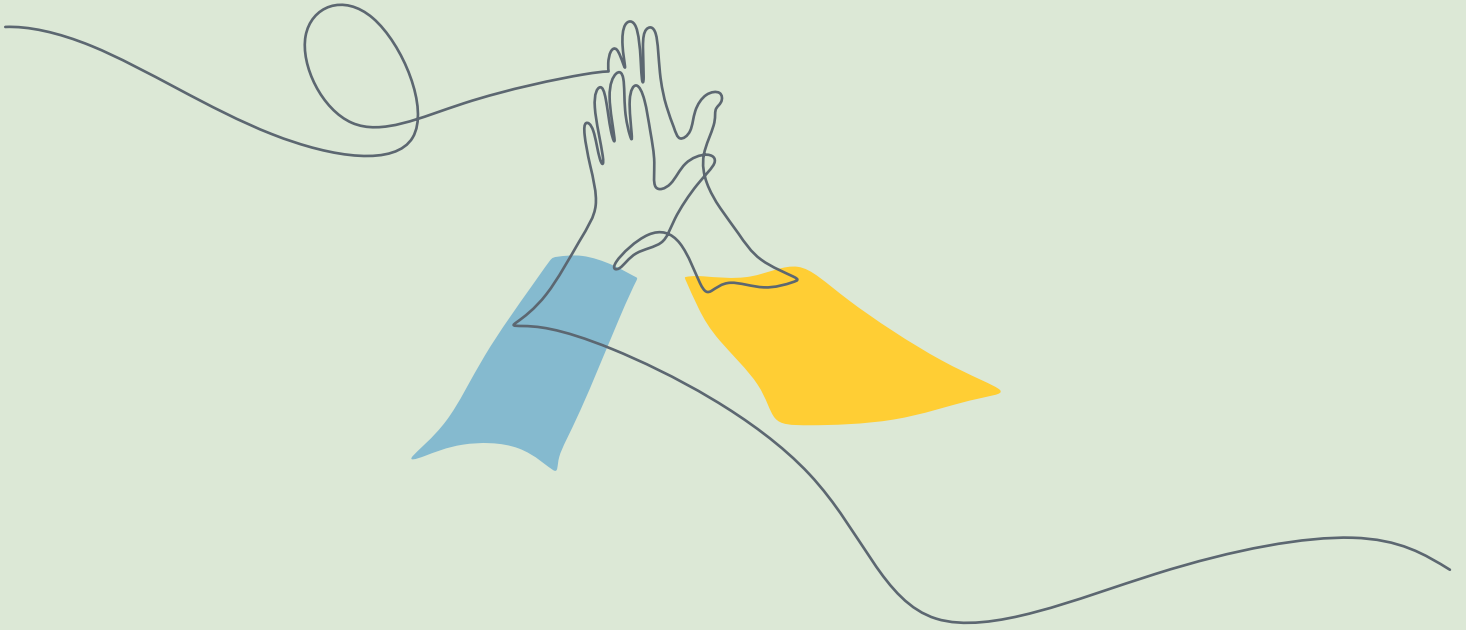
Green Community Canada's Network-wide EDI Leadership

In 2023 and 2024, Green Communities Canada led 21 of our member organizations through a process of shared learning, reflection, and action to advance Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Reconciliation within organizations and across the sector. This included the development of individual board-approved EDI strategies, group training, and collective accountability monitoring. Green Communities Canada provided support throughout this project, including regular workshops and coaching, the facilitation of peer-to-peer learning, and the development of a supportive resource library.

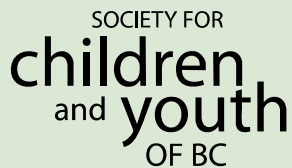


To learn more visit greencommunitiescanada.org

At Green Communities Canada we do not work alone. Our projects are successful because of the vital contributions made by organizations across the country. To each of our partners and members, we say **Thank You, Merci, and High Five!**



DELIVERY PARTNERS



NETWORK MEMBERS



envirocentre



CityGreen



FUNDING PARTNERS



definity.

Canada



McConnell



BALSAM FOUNDATION



Our work is made possible thanks to our committed staff and Board of Directors.
To learn more about our people and our projects, visit

greencommunitiescanada.org