

Join the Sea Level Rise and Coastal Resilience Cohort

We invite you to apply to our **Sea Level Rise and Coastal Resilience Cohort**, designed to support BC Coastal communities in planning and implementing effective climate adaptation and resilience strategies specific to this topic.

What is this cohort?

This **free** cohort will bring together 5 or more communities or organizations in BC. These communities have already completed, to some extent, sea level rise assessments and/or flood hazard mapping and have identified the need to understand where neighbouring peers are on their respective journeys towards coastal climate resilience.

This cohort is delivered by the Community Energy Association (CEA) and is structured to support peer learning and practical problem-solving across communities navigating the same topic, from technical SLR findings to real policy and regulatory action, so participants can move faster, draw on each other's experience, and leave with tools and resources they can use immediately.

Drawing on feedback in scoping conversations with the community, CEA has designed an adaptive program that can change as sessions evolve. On current feedback, we expect this may look like:

Objectives & discussion points:

- Sharing and understanding peer progress on relevant topics; supporting peers through coastal resilience plan implementation
- Navigating Flood Construction Level adoption, including political, technical and procedural barriers
- Designing, championing and implementing coastal resilience projects, including working with community members, and procurement and oversight of third parties
- Developing, sharing and capturing key tools and resources to support communicating coastal flood risk and the case for coastal adaptation to senior leadership, council and the public
- Considering Indigenous perspectives and an equity lens within discussions

Expected co-created deliverable (to be agreed in Session 1):

- Community-specific briefing note to leadership and/or the public to support coastal resilience plan implementation

Key Dates

- **Application deadline:** July 17th
- **Expected cohort run:** July 2026 to January 2027

Who can Participate?

- Staff from local governments and Indigenous governments in BC.
- Staff from eligible supporting organizations (i.e. health authority).

Each community is welcome to participate in the cohort with just one representative, but if desired you can gather other staff from your organization and join as a team. Involving staff from different departments or roles (e.g., planning, engineering, emergency management, communications) can help strengthen internal coordination and build lasting capacity for climate adaptation.

Time Commitment

To maximize the benefits of this program, we ask that participants commit to a series of interactive sessions. The cohort will be held over **6 sessions**, each lasting **1.5 hours**. Participants will not be asked to create new presentation materials for sessions.

Participants will co-create output deliverables and so there may need to be some out-of-session time commitment to support (1-2 hours between sessions at most).

The sessions will run from approximately **late-July 2026 to January 2027**

What to Expect

- Sessions will combine input from guest speakers, technical experts and practitioners, alongside structured peer discussion and applied group exercises, designed to connect directly to the real work participants are already doing.
- CEA staff will provide guidance and facilitation support throughout the cohort, helping participants work through challenges, connect session content to their specific context, and make progress towards their goals

Why Participate?

By committing to this participatory process, you will:

- Build relationships with a network of staff from coastal local communities
- Contribute to and benefit from shared resources, including communications materials and visual tools for explaining coastal risk to the public and decision makers
- Help build regional consistency in how BC coastal communities' approach SLR policy and implementation

Questions?

Reach out to aharris@communityenergy.ca and mcastonguay@communityenergy.ca

This cohort is part of the **Adaptation Planning & Action Cohorts Program** delivered by the Community Energy Association. The program brings together communities working through similar stages of climate adaptation or shared challenges to support meaningful progress through collaboration, shared learning, and expert support.



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