

HOW CAN CALGARY UNPLUGGED: EARTH HOUR HELP YOU AND YOUR GROUP?



Art by
@reworksyyc



A Toolkit for Group Action on Climate

A Toolkit for Group Action on Climate



This toolkit helps groups increase their environmental sustainability through collaboration with the Calgary Unplugged Earth Hour event.

2

It will help you to identify and strengthen your organization while generating effective action on climate change. This toolkit is helpful for community associations, faith groups, businesses and culture groups in real-world and virtual activities.

Integrate Calgary Unplugged Into Your Work

Flexibility

There are many ways to connect Calgary Unplugged to your work



Covid-appropriate

Activities or delivery options which are Covid- adapted, virtually or with your cohort!



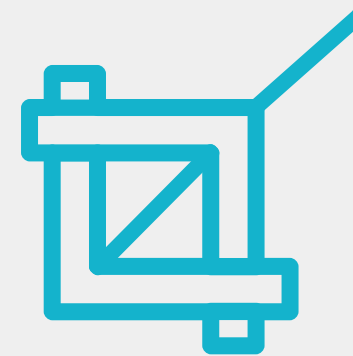
Promotion

Calgary and global Earth Hour promotions amplify your work



Scale Up!

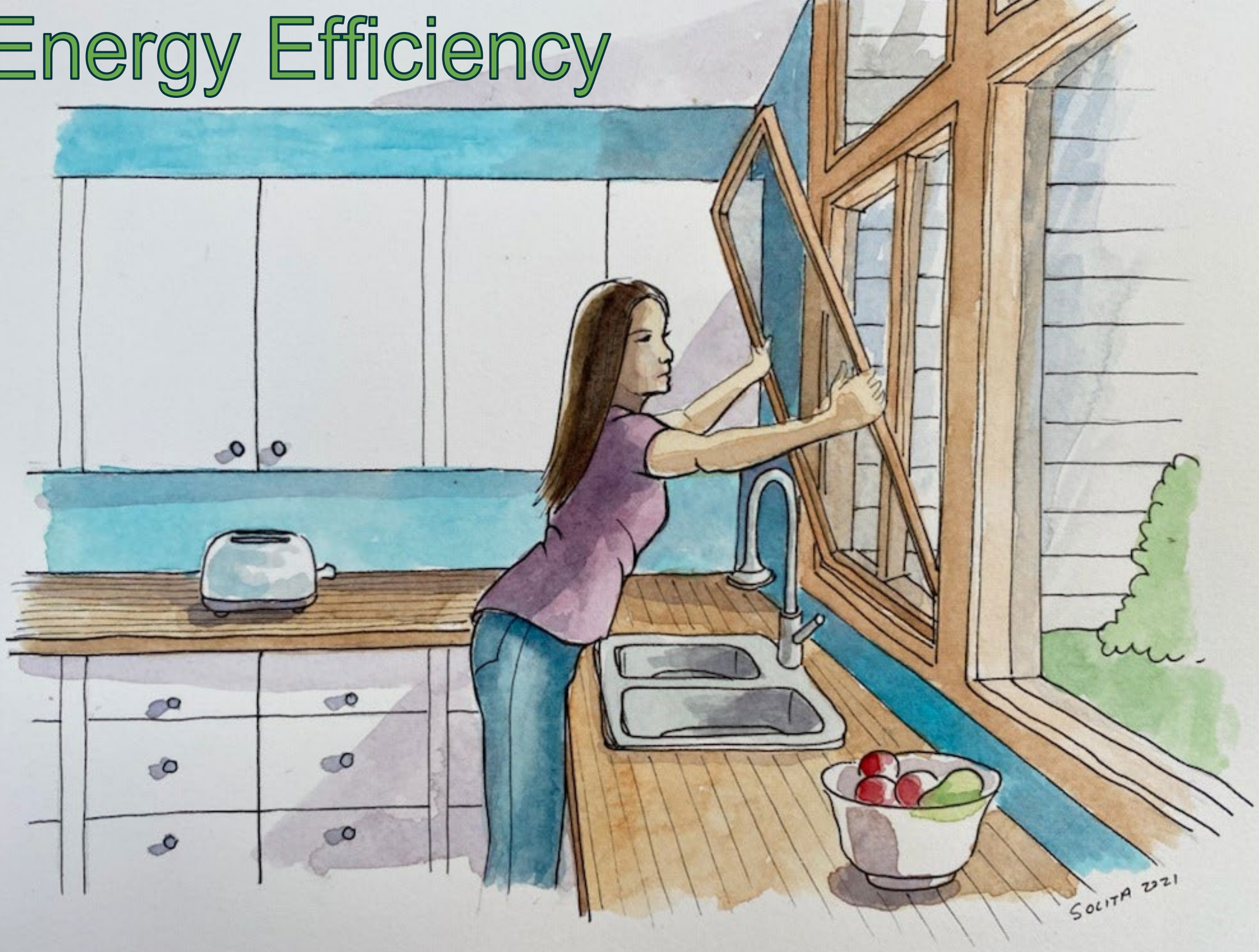
Connect your group to this City of Calgary-endorsed activity and participating business, landmarks and buildings.



Select the time that's right for you during the week leading up to Saturday March 27, 8:30-9:30pm or an "Unplugged" activity during Earth Hour.

Your Climate Pledge could win you \$500 for local shopping!

Energy Efficiency



Activity Ideas:

- Calculate your [Solar Potential on this map](#)
- Enjoy energy-saving fun, like a candle lit dinner, play acoustic music or [build a board game!](#)
- Watch a relevant documentary: [Green Energy Futures](#)
- Attend the 2021 Calgary [Virtual Climate Symposium](#)

Connect with Local Groups:

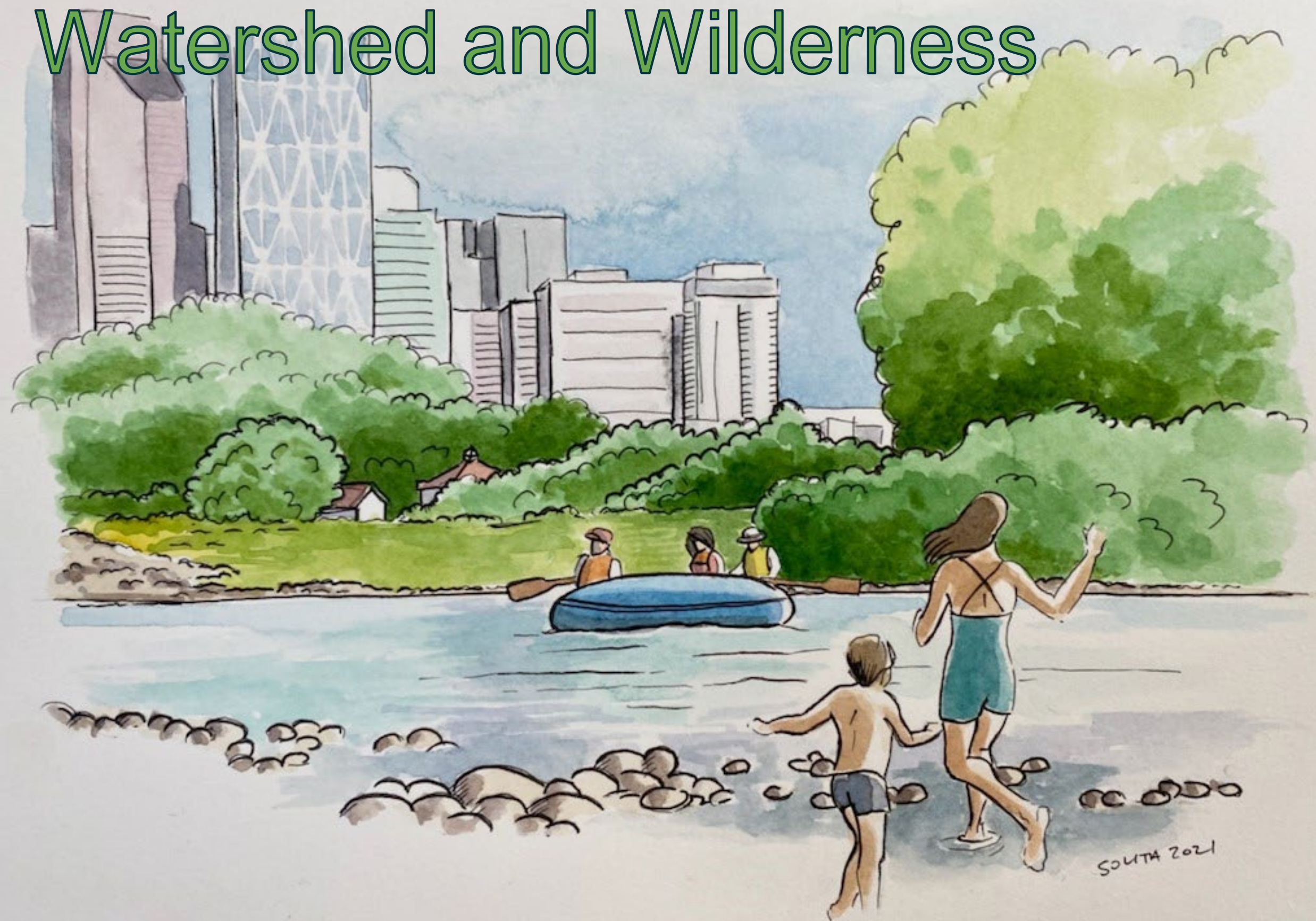
- [Alberta Cooperative Energy](#)
- [Skyfire Energy](#)
- [Open Streets Events](#)
- [Empower Me](#)

IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS ONE CLEAR WAY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND LOWER OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Action Ideas:

- Stand with oil sands workers for a just transition - [IronAndEarth](#)
- Demand [action](#) on orphan oil wells
- Improve your building energy performance: [Commercial Building Energy Benchmark Program](#)

Watershed and Wilderness



Activity Ideas:

- Organize a river walk or hike with your cohort
- Tour an interpretive park or water treatment centre
- Buy a rain barrel
- Host/attend a webinar on native plants

Connect with Local Groups:

- Friends of Fish Creek
- Ab Environment Network
- Parks and Wilderness Society
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS HELP TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND ARE IMPACTED BY HUMAN ACTIONS

Action Ideas:

- Take action on coal issues and protect our water
- Contact Sonya Savage, Minister of Energy, and express your concerns for our watershed

Food, Local Economy and Waste



Activity Ideas:

- Support local businesses!
- Make a pesticide-free community garden with your organization
- Watch: In Defense of Food or The New Corporation

Connect with Local Groups:

- Permaculture Calgary Guild
- Calgary Dollars
- YYC Growers
- Local Invest YYC
- Highfield Farm

OUR ECONOMY AND FOOD SYSTEMS DIRECTLY IMPACT CLIMATE AS A RESULT OF WASTE, PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION METHODS

Actions Ideas:

- Support microagriculture: e.g., backyard chickens & bee keeping
- Enroll in a CSA program: e.g., Blue Mountain Farms, or YYC Growers
- Offer primarily plant-based meals for your food program
- Create a sustainable purchasing policy and waste plan for your organization

Transportation and Housing



Activity Ideas:

- Go for a walk or bike ride with your cohort
- Learn about, and volunteer with one of the housing groups in our city
- Watch a documentary: Class Divide

Connect with Local Groups:

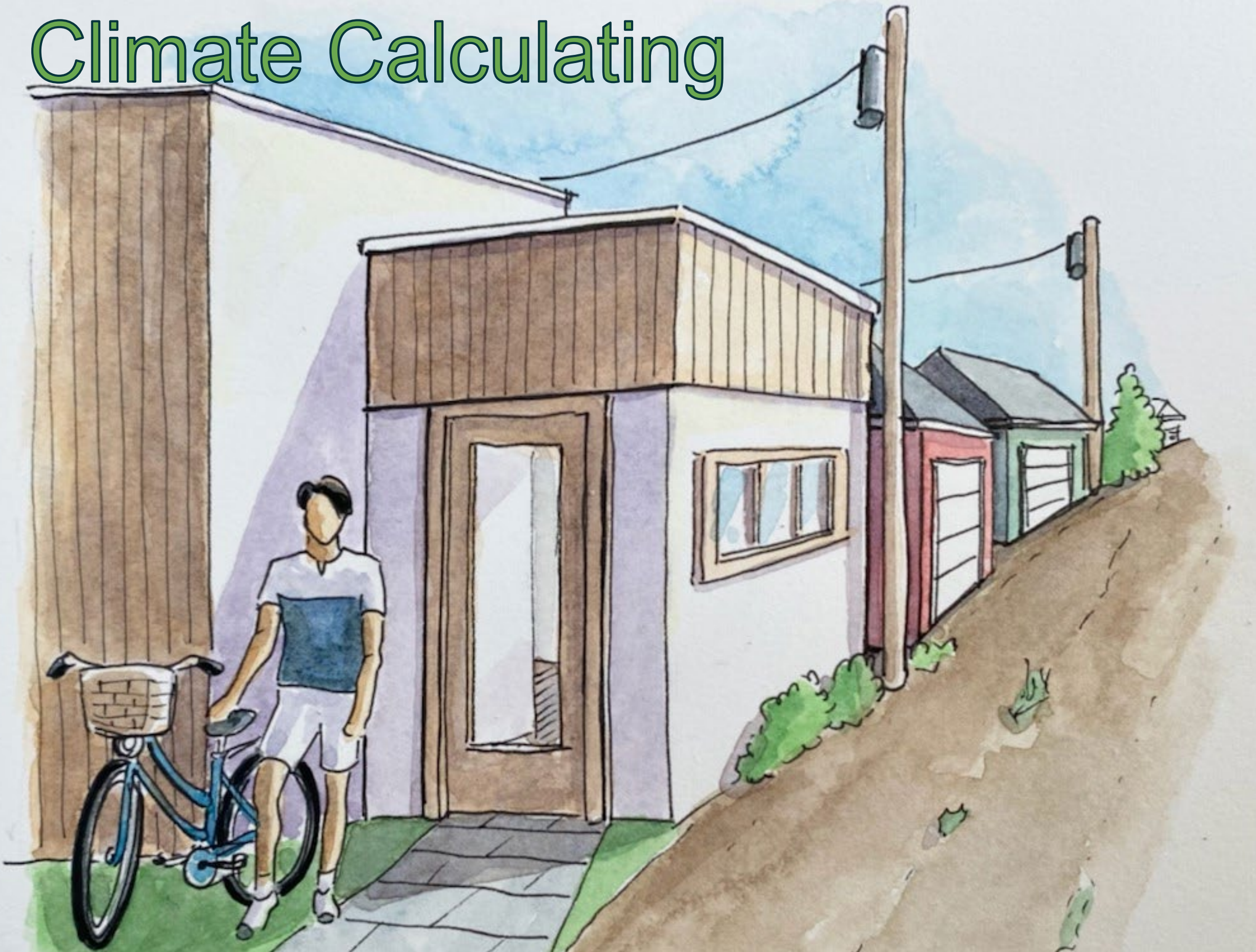
- Bike Calgary
- Smart Growth YYC

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND MORE EFFICIENT HOUSING LOWERS EMISSIONS AND CREATES HEALTHIER CITIES

Action Ideas:

- Support the Green Line
- Organize against urban sprawl with your group
- Scale up City of Calgary climate action for your group or office

Climate Calculating



Activity Ideas:

-Try one of these climate calculating tools, and determine what you can do to address your group's climate impact:

- [Ecological Footprint Calculator](#)
- [Carbon Footprint Calculator](#)

-Watch: [This Changes Everything](#)

Connect with Local Groups:

- [State of Our City Report](#)
- [Calgary Climate Hub](#)
- [Emissions Reduction Alberta](#)

KNOWING YOUR CLIMATE IMPACTS PRIORITIZES THE BEST WAYS YOU CAN HELP FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Action Ideas:

- See how the [City of Calgary's Climate Change Program](#) can help your group lower greenhouse gas emissions, and adapt to a changing climate
- Contact [Jason Nixon](#), Minister of Environment and Parks, and [Travis Toews](#), Minister of Finance, to share your thoughts on a just carbon tax

Health, Community and Wellness



Activity Ideas:

- Do yoga with your cohort
- Practice mindfulness, and meditate on the global community
- Learn about Indigenous cultures
- Learn about eco grief and the Alberta Narratives Project
- Watch: Making Treaty 7 videos

Connect with Local Groups:

- Indigenous Gathering Place
- Federation of Calgary Communities
- Wellness Through Mindfulness YYC
- YYC Fitness
- Calgary Alliance for Common Good

HEALTHY, CONNECTED PEOPLE MAKE A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM AND ALLOWS SOCIETY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

Action Ideas:

- Connect with and support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Organize your faith group or community to take clear steps to address climate change, put this toolkit to best use!

Take Further Action



CLIMATE ADVOCACY IS ESSENTIAL

Tell your representative what matters to you:

- [Municipal politician list](#)
- [Provincial politician list](#)

MAKE A CLIMATE PLEDGE AND YOU MAY WIN \$500

Use the hashtag **#500ClimatePledge**, make a social media post stating what your group will do for the climate before March 27th, and be entered to win a \$500 credit to be used at local businesses. Need some ideas? Check out [CPAWS climate pledge](#).

LET OTHERS KNOW WHAT YOU DO

[Open Streets Events](#) will promote your activities through email, press coverage and social media. You can use the Unplugged social media hashtags: [#earthhouryc](#) or globally at [#earthhour](#).

Here's the [Facebook Event](#).

Contact 403-270-3200
animate@openstreetscalgary.com